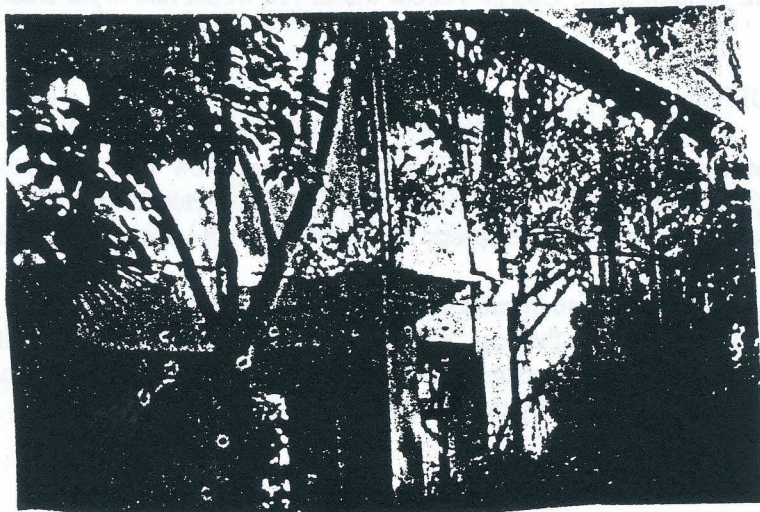
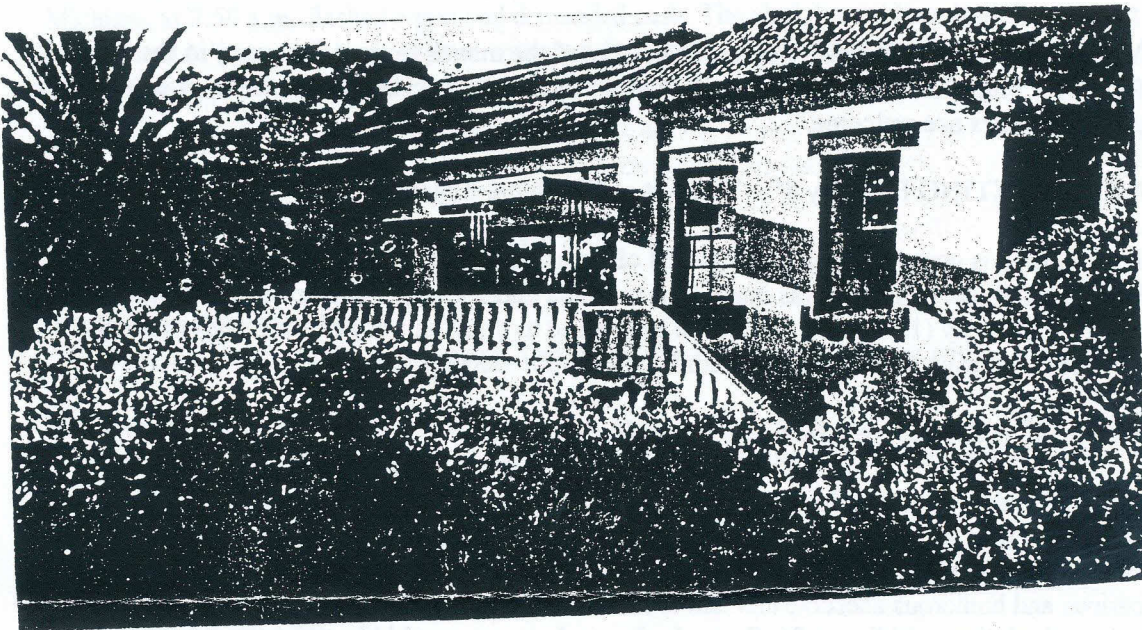


St George Historical Society Inc. Bulletin

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2000 EDITION



HASTINGS HOUSE - FEBRUARY 2000

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Meetings are held 8 PM every second Tuesday of the month (except January) in the Meeting Room 1st Floor, Rockdale Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale. Members, please bring a plate. Visitors are welcome.

NEXT MEETING February 8th – The Art of Cloisonné Enamels

Joan Fairhall is going to speak about the art of cloisonné dating back to at least the 14th century. Legend has it that cloisonné was introduced to China under the foreign rule of the Monguls during the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368 AD). Joan has agreed to bring part of her extensive jewellery collection featuring superb cloisonné craftsmanship for viewing on the night.

March 14th – St. George's Denizens Down Under

Hurstville Family History Society members Mrs. Jean Jehan and Mrs. June Lane will address the meeting on their recently published book on pioneers buried in the former churchyard of St. George's Church Hurstville (since converted into a carpark). Our speakers have unearthed many a curious and humorous anecdote and laid to rest some longstanding legends. Perhaps you have ancestral relations residing at St. George's about whom you would like to learn more – come along and find out!

FROM THE EDITOR...

I trust that all members had a safe but fulfilling Christmas and New Year. I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the Year 2000. To Mrs. Pamela Herrick and Mrs. Eardley I extend the Society's and my best wishes for a speedy recovery following your recent illnesses.

It would be wonderful to see more members at our monthly meetings, please make an effort to come to even one meeting during the year. The guest speakers always deliver an interesting talk on their area of knowledge. I would also implore members to support Dora Lenane and Joan Fairhall by attending the outings organised by these ladies.

There is always room in the **What's On** section of the Bulletin to advertise outings organised by members or their associates, so please make use of this facility.

Once again I thank Bettye Ross for her article on Lydham Hall's *Bellingham Painting*. Thank you also to Helen-Lorain Rasko O.A.M. for her article on Jewish Pioneers in the St. George area. As always, additional articles are most appreciated.

Kind regards,

The Editor

Hapless Criminals cont.

Karen Lee Joachimmi, 20, was arrested in Lake City, Florida for robbery of a Howard Johnson's motel. She was armed with only an electric chain saw, which was not plugged in.

The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 7.50 a.m, flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man frustrated, walked away

Source: The Internet

TRANSLATIONS GONE WRONG

In a Bucharest hotel lobby:

"The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable."

In a hotel in Athens:

"Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 11 a.m."

In a Vienna hotel:

"In case of fire do your utmost to alarm the porter."

In a Paris hotel elevator:

"Please leave your values at the front desk."

In a Mexican hotel:

"The manager has personally passed all the water served here."

Source: Mark Caruana, Regional Community Liaison (Multicultural) Met West region at an Inservice course for Bilingual Officers and School Community Officers held at the Blacktown DSP Centre in May, 1992.

SIR JAMES JOYNTON-SMITH AND THE BUILDING IN LYDHAM HALLS'S BELLINGHAM PAINTING

The lovely scene in S.R. Bellingham's painting of Coogee Bay, painted circa 1882, and hanging on the left hand side of the Dining Room fireplace has a story behind it. To begin with Sid R. Bellingham is referred to in a number of Art Encyclopaedias as an artist of unknown background or "very little known about this Artist." Very disconcerting when one wants to know from where he came, what else he painted and what eventually became of him. One thing is certain, he was neither born, married nor died in New South Wales between 1788 and 1945, just as he left no Probate up to 1982 in New South Wales, however he did write a small book around 1920, held in the Mitchell Library, which he named "*Ten Years with Palette, Shotgun and Rifle in the Blue Mountains.*"

So let us put Mr. Bellingham aside as we have no alternative and concentrate on the building standing high on the hill above the northern cliffs in this painting. This historic home was built circa 1862, at approximately the same time as *Lydham Hall*, for Mr. Charles Moore. It was designed by the well - known architect Thomas Rowe. Moore became Mayor of Randwick in 1863, later Mayor of Sydney and was responsible for preserving the Sydney Common, subsequently named Moore Park in his honour. He named his home *Ballamac*, apparently derived from his birth place Ballymacarne in Ireland

By 1875 this mansion had become *Baden Baden Hotel* and one of its proprietors was Louis Franks an artist who painted many local scenes. Baden Street is to its east. In 1912, millionaire and entrepreneur, Sir James John Joynton-Smith purchased the property, now named *Hastings House*, and lived there until his death in 1943 aged 89 years.

Joynton-Smith as this gentleman was familiarly known, had been born at Hackney in London, the eldest of twelve children of James Smith and Jane Ware. His father was a master brass finisher, gasfitter and ironmonger. Joynton-Smith was baptised as James John but by at least the mid 1890s was known as Joynton-Smith. At the age of twelve years he worked for a pawnbroker and then a stationer before becoming a cabin-boy on a steamer sailing to Italy. He was then engaged as Third Cook making for New Zealand in 1874.

His next employment was as a steward on a coastal vessel. Then in hotels, eventually becoming an Hotel licensee in Wellington. He married in Auckland in 1882 but the marriage did not last. In 1886 he returned to England where he lost his savings gambling. This was a hard lesson by which to learn. A little later he returned to Wellington and was founding secretary of the Cooks' and Stewards' Union.

1890 saw Joynton-Smith in Sydney working as a calligraphist on illuminated funeral descriptions. For four years from 1892, he managed the Great Central Coffee Palace Hotel in Clarence Street, and then leased the Imperial Arcade Hotel (dropping the word Imperial and naming it the Arcadia) between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets. This was in 1896 and he conducted it as a residential hotel. By 1924 he owned the entire arcade, and later the Hotel Astra at Bondi and the Carlton in the city.

In 1911, Sir James Joynton-Smith purchased The Carrington Hotel in Katoomba (previously known as the Great Western and originally Crushers). He already owned the Hotel Imperial at Mount Victoria. The Carrington with permission, was named thus by the previous owner in 1886 in honour of Lord Carrington who was then Governor of New South Wales. Today many pieces of the silverware at The Carrington bear engravings of JSMT (Joynton-Smith Management Trust), Hotel Imperial and Hotel Arcadia.

In 1901 Joynton-Smith was made a Justice of the Peace. He established the first electric light plant in the Blue Mountains and purchased two theatres at Katoomba, leased the Hydro Majestic at Medlow Bath, built the Log Cabin at Penrith and a tearoom on the way up to the mountains.

Also in 1901, he leased Brighton Racecourse at Rockdale and owned and drove many trotters. Two years later he leased land at the 'swamp end of Glebe', renovated it and renamed it Epping, sub-letting the course to the New South Wales Trotting Club. Taking up the option to buy the racecourse in 1911, he then sold it to the Trotting Club, and it became Harold Park in 1929. He had in 1908 opened Victoria Park racecourse at Zetland which became the first course to cater for ladies by providing retiring rooms. This very modern showplace closed down in 1944.

Joynton-Smith's interest in sports resulted in him financing football matches between the Wallaby (Rugby Union) team and the Kangaroos (Rugby League) team in 1909, with the proceeds going to the (Royal) South Sydney Hospital which he founded, and of which he was President in 1910. He was at one time a director of this Hospital and the Queen Victoria Home for Consumptives at Wentworth Falls and the first president of the Picton Lakes T.B. Soldiers and Sailors' Settlement.

In 1912 he was nominated to the Legislative Council but was never active and retired in 1934. He was an independent alderman of the Sydney Municipal Council for Bligh Ward 1916-18 and supported by Labor was elected Mayor. He was tireless in his efforts to raise war loans and the Red Cross used the basement of *Hastings House* for the war effort, making camouflage nets, knitting for the forces and other innovative works. The basement contained a large well which he made safe by securing its coverage for the voluntary workers.

His patriotic and charitable works brought him a knighthood and he became K.B.E. in 1920. Two years earlier, he launched a newspaper presenting his views. This was called *Smith's Weekly* and in 1923 Smith's Newspapers Ltd published the *Daily Guardian* and from 1929 the *Sunday Guardian*. He was proprietor from 1930-9 of the *Referee* and *Arrow*, selling the two *Guardians* to Sir Hugh Denison in 1930, remaining Chairman of Smith's Newspapers until the middle of 1939.

He was known as a fluent and logical speaker, generous with time and money for community causes as reflected by his purchase of a rare exhibit for the University of Sydney in 1914. He backed Sydney's first radio station 2SB (2BL) in 1923. He was a man who enjoyed his wealth and time, not only with what has been so far noted but also as a practical joker, conjurer, singer of Cockney songs and playing the concertina. He was noted for his *pince-nez* or monocle (having lost an eye in his youth), his moustache and very sleek hair-do.

Joynton-Smith owned another mansion at Warrawee called *Mahratta*, built it was at *Hastings House* (portrayed in Bellingham's Coogee Bay painting) that his death took place on 10th October, 1943. He was survived by his third wife, Gladys Mary (nee Woods), a daughter and a son J. Joynton-Smith. *Hastings House* today has been divided into apartments but remains unaltered externally.

Bette Ross

Sources:

Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1891-1939 Vol. 8

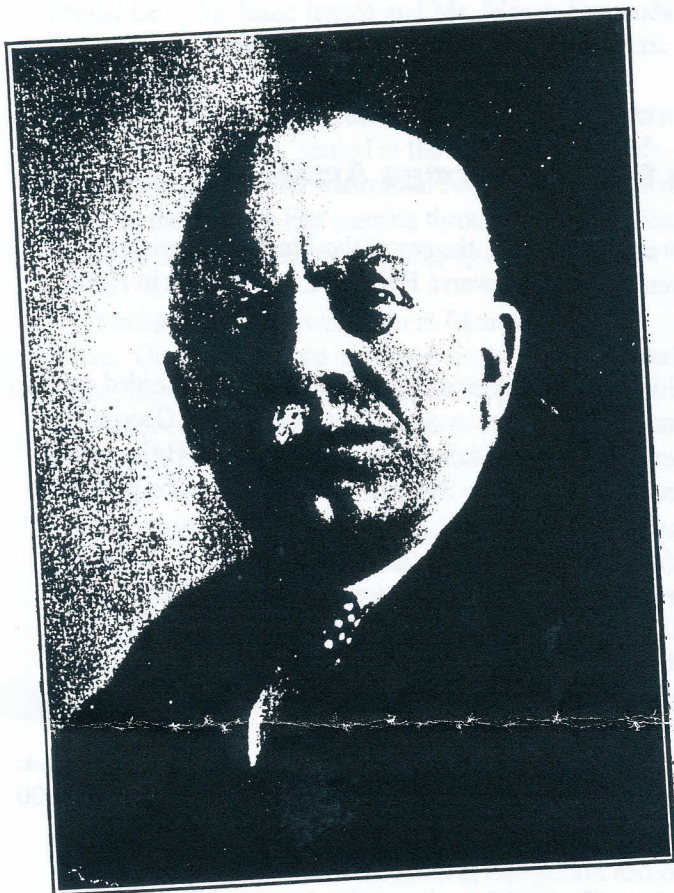
Australians from 1939, Press, Radio and Television

Randwick and District Historical Society

Randwick Ramble, 5th edition (Part 1: Coogee and Clovelly)

Sydney Morning Herald 23.11.1861, 11.10.1943, 12.10.1943

The Carrington Hotel, History Notes.



THE RIGHT HON. J. JOYNTON SMITH, M.L.C., LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY, 1918.

Joynton Smith



C. Moore.
(Mayor, 1863.)

Some proverbs to ponder:-

"All ask if a man be rich, none if he be good":

"As princes fiddle, subjects must dance":

"A little too late is much too late":

"A swarm in May is worth a load of hay, a swarm in June is worth a silver spoon, but a swarm in July is not worth a fly": and

"He that is not gallant at twenty, strong at thirty, rich at forty or experienced at fifty, will never be gallant, strong, rich or experienced".

Early Jewish Pioneers in the St. George Area

My topic concerns the early Jewish settlement in this area, the era of the Illawarra Jewish Association of the 1930s and the establishment of the Illawarra Hebrew Congregation in April, 1943.

In the 1930s, the Great Depression raged. King George V and Queen Mary were succeeded on the throne by Edward VII, who abdicated after 11 months and was in turn succeeded by George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States, Hitler ruled Germany, Mussolini ruled Italy and Stalin ruled Russia, the Spanish Civil War was the prelude to World War II.

The names Scullin, Lang, Lyons and Stevens dominated Australian politics. Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen, after 29 years as Chief Rabbi of the "Great", died in 1934, succeeded in office first by Rabbi Ephraim Levi and in 1940 by Rabbi Dr. Israel Porush (I was Rabbi Porush's first Bar Mitzvah in Australia.)

A steam train ran from Kogarah to Sans Souci, replaced by trolley buses in 1937. The railway line was electrified to Sutherland in 1926. Sydney had just a million people and there were only 24,000 Jews in Australia in a total population of seven million.

The Jews of the St. George area were, in the main, British or Australian born and their earliest organization was the Illawarra Jewish Association (1931-5). The names of the pioneers of the 1930s live on with their descendants in our Shule of today; the names Belinfante, Haneman, Kahana, Morley and Stone for instance. The Solomon family (Esther Tooler's parents) were also among the pioneers.

The *Illawarra Jewish Association* held many functions, including:

- (1) Meetings and socials at the Allawah Hotel ("Mine Host" was association member Jack Shaw);
- (2) Communal Seders at the Masonic Hall – well attended. Picnics at Como;
- (3) Arranged right-of-entry scripture classes at Hurstville and Brighton-Le-Sands schools. These were taught by the Late Abe Rothfield, M.C., M.A;
- (4) The "younger set" organized dances, socials and even fielded a cricket team in the Jewish Sports Association competitions.

The minutes show that a letter of congratulations was sent to Sarah and Joseph Morris on the birth of their daughter Dawn (now Dawn Kahana). Patrons of the Association included Judge Cohen, Sir Daniel Levi, Sir Isaac Isaacs and Mr. Morris Symonds. The names Steenbohm, Shaw, Barr, Israel, Benjamin, and Biermann also appear as office bearers. The Association folded up in 1935.

In the period leading to World War II, Polish and German Jews who were able to get out of Europe before World War II, settled in the area. By 1943, Mr. Haneman was able to bring together the established British and Australian Jews and the newcomers and start a congregation in this area. Because the railway line passing through the area is the Illawarra line, the congregation adopted as its name "*Illawarra Hebrew Congregation*".

Mr. Nathan Haneman was born in Memel, Lithuania, where he attended *yeshivot*. He later went to Mainz, Germany, before moving to Italy where he lived for 19 years. His wife, Malke, was born in Libau, Latvia (known these days as Liepaja). They had three children, Ben, Eugenia (Jean) and Aliza (Joyce). Mr. Haneman wrote to Rabbi F.L. Cohen, the then "Great". Rabbi Cohen painted such a picture of prospects in Australia that the Haneman family settled here in 1928.

Rabbi Cohen had a "thing" about Jews forming "ghettos" in this very Anglo country and persuaded Mr. Haneman to go to the suburbs. Mr. Haneman established a business and home in the Kogarah – Carlton area. He sought out and found Jews in the area, and at the beginning of 1943 decided the time was ripe to establish a Jewish congregation.

At a meeting held at Mr. Haneman's home on 21st February, 1943, Messrs. Haneman, Stone, Kahana, Bratt and Liachowski decided to form a Hebrew congregation. The inaugural meeting was held on the 4th of April, 1943 and attended by 18 people. Elected to office were: President, Mr. Nathan Haneman, Hon. Secretary, Mr Phillip Stone, Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. May Solomon. As far as I know, our congregation was the first in Sydney to have a lady on the board (and this was in 1943!) Membership fees were fixed at one pound and one shilling per annum.

Friday evening services were held in a small room adjoining the St. George Technical College and later in a room at the Kogarah School of Arts. A *chazan* was engaged for the High Holy Days' services, assisted by Mr. Haneman and Mr. Bratt (our two Friday night readers). A *Sefer Torah* was lent to the congregation by the "Great". Our services were modelled on those of the "Great" which is still our "mother congregation" Alma Mater. At our social functions, we were often entertained by pianists Raymond Fischer and Albert Landa.

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During the war years, we had a spirit of togetherness, that we have not known since. We urgently needed the company, companionship and understanding of fellow Jews. The candles, alight on Friday evenings in the *shtibl* at the School of Arts, had a magic of their own.

I remain ever grateful to my teacher, Mr. Haneman, who took me to the "Great" every *Shabbat* morning for seven years and taught me Hebrew at his home on *Shabbat* afternoons. He never took a cent from me. It was his *mitzvah*.

Article by H.L. Kahana.

WHAT'S ON.....

LYDHAM HALL MUSEUM FOUNDATION DAY

DATE: Sunday 27/02/00.

VENUE: Lydham Hall, Lydham Avenue Bexley

TIME: 12.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

This annual event is a must for our Society to celebrate. This will be the 29th anniversary of the opening of Lydham Hall as a house museum. A number of the Society's members have volunteered their services for the day, however other members and friends assistance would be greatly appreciated. Members can help with manning the rooms, escorting visitors through the house or serving afternoon tea (tea/coffee/ordial and biscuits).

COST: Entry and afternoon tea \$3.50 adults, \$2.50 concession and children 14 and under free.

CONTACT: Dora Lenane on telephone number 9181 2121 or Joan Fairhall on telephone number 9546 5555

AUDREY HEPBURN – A WOMAN OF STYLE

DATE: Friday 10/03/00.

VENUE: Powerhouse Museum.

MEETING POINT: Bus stop outside Electricity House (opposite the Town Hall in George St, Sydney)

TIME: 10.30 a.m. at the bus stop.

This outing will afford members and friends with an opportunity to view some of this screen icon's extensive wardrobe and never before seen old photographs and screen memorabilia. The exhibition will highlight Audrey's personal style and her influence on fashion

COST: No charge but a donation would be appreciated.

CONTACT: Dora Lenane on telephone number 9181 2121 or Joan Fairhall on telephone number 9546 5555