



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER NO. 102

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DATE: 23 September 2003

**HYAM MOSES JOSEPH
(1835 - 1912)**

Hyam Moses JOSEPH was born in Sydney on the 26 June 1835. His parents Moses and Rosetta JOSEPH were Jewish Merchants in Sydney Town. Hyam received his early education at the Sydney College under Rev. Dr. Woodward and the latter part at Goulburn under Mr. Patterson. On completing this education he travelled to England with the intention of studying for the Medical Profession but necessity compelled him to forgo this ambition and he returned to Sydney in 1856 at the age of 21 years to take charge of his father's business. Shortly afterwards he went into business for himself as a merchant and an importer. In 1857 he went to New Zealand for two years.

Hyam's father, Moses Joseph in March 1826 was tried at Warwick, England and was sentenced to transportation for life, to the Colony of New South Wales, traveling in the Ship ALBION arriving in Sydney Cove in 1827. He was assigned to Messrs Cooper and Levey and was taught the trade of a Merchant.

Prior to leaving England he had been acquainted with a young lady Rosetta NATHAN. In 1832 a petition was made to Governor Bourke seeking approval of Moses Joseph and Rosetta Bourke to be married and a 'Ticket of Leave or Exemption' was issued and they were subsequently married, possibly in 1832.

In June of 1860 Hyam Moses Joseph married Rachel Moses (formerly of Goulburn) in Sydney and from this union produced four children, Elizabeth S. - Edward Merton Hyam Moses and Louis.

Moses Joseph and his sons Hyam and Arthur with their families travelled to Eden by ship then loaded their goods and chattels on a horse drawn wagon and climbed the mountain to Bombala about 1860 where Moses Joseph purchased the station known as Maharatta (70,000 acres) from Mr George Hebden, where they ran sheep, cattle and had a dairy factory producing cheese. Hyam lived in the township of Bombala and was the business man of the family and took care of the business side of the property and became deeply involved in the civil and charity activities of the township of Bombala.

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In 1861 Hyam Joseph became involved with Charles Henry Baddeley a past master. They decided to petition the Provincial Grand Lodge of England to establish a Lodge in Bombala. The Grand Master approved, Baddeley became the Worshipful Master and Hyam Joseph the foundation Senior Warden of the Mountain Lodge No.920 of the English Constitution. (Later under the United Grand Lodge of NSW, The Mountain Lodge became No 190).

Baddeley became a noted businessman in the Bombala township and district. He was made a Justice of the Peace for New South Wales and Victoria and presided over the local court matters. At that time he was also the Chairman and Treasurer of the new Stock Board, Chairman of the Licensing Board, Chairman of the School Board, Vice President of the Agricultural Society, President of the Jockey and Athletics Clubs and Chairman of the Hospital Committee.

To top it off, in 1891 he became the original father of the Bombala Municipal Council and the first Mayor of the Bombala Borough. It might be also noted that of the first nine elected council members, five were local Masons.

The coat of arms for the new council were Blue over Green with Yiddish script and five sheaves surmounted by a sun with face and rays, the motto 'Et Decus Et Pretium Recti'. MDCCCXCI (1891)

BOTH THE DIGNITY AND THE VALUE OF THE RIGHT

The first meetings of the Mountain Lodge were held in the School of Arts Lodge Room. Meetings continued to be held there until in 1892 considerable interest was shown for the Lodge to purchase its own land and erect its own Temple.

Land was donated by Hyam Joseph. Bro Hopson, Deputy Grand Master, Brother Toomey, Deputy Grand Secretary and several brethren from Cooma and Pambula as well as some 30 members of the Mountain Lodge took part in a ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone. After mustering at the School of Arts between 40 and 50 Masons headed by the Bombala brass band 'did the block' to the site of the new Masonic Hall, where about 150 persons were assembled.

Wor. Brother H.M. Joseph presented the Deputy Grand Master with a silver trowel in commemoration of the event. A bottle containing copies of local papers, a list of the Officers of the Lodge and other particulars was deposited under the foundation stone, then the stone was set and declared to have been 'well and truly laid'.

At the time of opening the new Masonic Centre, money was very short. H.M. Joseph being very financially sound, himself purchased and installed the organ and other basic lodge furniture which included the magnificent marble pillars erected each side of the Master and Wardens chairs. Years later the upper level was added to the centre.

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Under the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales the petition for the new Warrant was signed by: Hyam Moses Joseph (PM) Emanuel JONAS (PM) Maurice EMANUEL(PM) Frank MACKENZIE (JW) John CORONEL (MM) John MORGAN (MM) & Jacob PHILLIPS (MM).

The first meeting of the Mountain Lodge, U.G.L. was held on the 7 February, 1890 when an occasional Lodge was opened in the School of Arts. Wor Bro. J.A. Cooke of the Monaro Lodge, Cooma was deputed by Grand Lodge to dedicate the Mountain Lodge and install its' Officers. Hyam Moses Joseph was installed as the Master.

The first meeting was held without receipt of its Charter owing to 'The Neglect of the Railways Authority'. However the minutes book tell us that a telegraphed message was received from the Grand Secretary as follows: "To Jacob Phillips, Secretary, under special circumstances the Grand Master grants dispensation for the Lodge to be opened without the warrant"

The regular meetings of the Lodge were always held on 'every Monday or Tuesday, each month nearest the full moon and on the respective festivals of St. John. This was no doubt done so that members could travel home in their horse and buggies with the aid of the light from the moon.

Hyam Joseph was indeed a committed Mason. He was fully dedicated to the principals of Charity and Benevolence, the corner stone of Freemasonry. He cared for the sick, injured and needy, particularly the children of the area. On the birthday of Queen Victoria, the 24 May, he would picnic at the local school as well as supplying the food and prizes for the activities conducted there.

Hyam Joseph is recorded as being an'Enthusiastic man and a tower of strength to the Lodge'. He is known as the 'Father of Freemasonry' in Bombala

Hyam Moses Joseph life ends on a sad note. After a long illness spanning about 20 years he finally passed to the Grand Lodge above on the 19 January 1912. A Masonic tribute was held at his grave side in the Jewish section of the Bombala Cemetery on the 22 January, 1912. A Lodge of Sorrow was also held for him.

MASONIC HISTORY:

Hyam Moses JOSEPH was initiated into the Zetland Lodge No. 941 E.C.

1 Certificate No. 194 Prov G.L. of England.

Initiated: 14 July 1857 Passed 25 August 1857 Raised 23-9-1857

Called Off: 10 December, 1857

Foundation Senior Warden: The Mountain Lodge 920 E.C. 23 August 1862

Wor. Master E.C. 1863 1866 1875 1877

U G L 1890 1891 1892 1899

Royal Arch Chapter ZETLAND No. 548 E.C.

Advanced: 7 February, 1859

Member No. 99

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Minute Books of The Zetland Lodge 941 E.C.

Records: Supreme Grand Chapter R.A. Masons

Minute Book and other records The Mountain Lodge 190

Assistance of W.Bro A. Garnock, Historian The Mountain Lodge 190