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workers and was the dominant commercial force in the region, printing his own bank notes, which could be cashed at any bank in the colony of Western Australia. The timber blocks he exported were used to pave the roads of London and Melbourne. His firm was the contractor for the rebuilding of Princes Bridge in Melbourne, the Cape Leeuwin lighthouse and the railway from Adelaide to Melbourne. He acquired large pastoral holdings in the district of Katanning and, in 1881, expanded his holdings to the Kimberley region in the northwest of the colony.

On 24 March 1858 at the age of twenty-three, Davies had married Sarah Salom. Their children were Leama 'Robert' Judah (1 May 1859), Esther Hannah, who died at the age of six months in Adelaide on 11 June 1861, Katherine (Levi), (8 May 1864), Herbert (21 June 1865), Walter David 'Karri' (14 June 1867), Arthur Louis (6 December 1869), Miriam Florence (27 September 1872), Philip Vivian (22 February 1874), and Frank Benjamin (8 March 1875). Notable among his children was 'Karri' Davis, who settled in Natal Province in South Africa and became a (British) hero in the Boer War. He was captured at the siege of Mafeking, and later refused a knighthood and the Victoria Cross on the grounds that he was simply 'doing his duty'.

M. C. Davies died at his home on St George Terrace, Perth, Western Australia, on 10 May 1913 at the age of seventy-seven. His sister was Dinah Tartakover of Sydney.

B. F. Hamling. Maurice Coleman Davies of Karridale and Liveringa, Pioneer Builder and Pastoralist 1835–1913; 'M. C. Davies—Timber Tycoon', Landscape, vol. 2, no. 1 (1967), pp. 10–15; Material held by the Augusta Museum (WA).

DAVIES, Michael John (DAVIS)

b. London, 1788-1873

Florentia (2), 1830; Convict; Sentenced to 7 years, Kent Quarter Sessions, 1830. Married; Attorney's clerk; Height: 164.5 cm; 8 children.

Ruddy complexion. Dark brown to grey hair (bald). Hazel grey eyes. Mole on right cheek. Small scar on right side of forehead. Literate. Michael Davies was the son of Isaac Davis, and at twenty-two had married Hannah (née Benjamin) (q.v.). He worked in a lawyer's office in Fenchurch Street, London. He was sentenced at Maidstone on 15 July 1830 to seven years transportation for obtaining goods under false pretences. He was the father of Ann (1810), who married Thomas Jones, a fruiterer at Covent Garden, John (q.v.) (1813), Edward (Davis, q.v.) (1814), Frances (1820), David (q.v.) (1823), George Louis Asher (q.v.) (1834), Jane and Sophia.

Michael John Davies arrived in New South Wales on 15 December 1830 and worked as an assigned servant to Mr Richard Smith in Sydney until he 'misbehaved' and was sent to the *Phoenix* hulk. He was among fifty-nine 'invalids and idiots' sent on to Port Macquarie in 1832, though Davies is described as 'a special'.

MASTINGS LIBRARY

FROM THESE ARE THE NAMES.

LIVES IN AVSTRALIA SY JOHN. S. LEVI

He was moved to Port Macquarie and soon set up in business for himself. His wife, Hannah Davies, and four of their children came out from England in 1832 and were able to join him at Port Macquarie. Their son David died there in 1836.

By 1838 Davies had begun to buy land at Port Macquarie and Newcastle. He held a publican's licence at Currabella in the District of Liverpool Plains, and applied for a publican's licence in Sydney. The Sydney licence, for the Family Hotel in George Street, was granted in 1839 and was transferred to a house in Pitt Street when his lease expired. A daughter of Michael John Davies and Hannah died on 16 June 1839 and was buried in the Devonshire Street Jewish Cemetery, Section D.

Davies moved to Newcastle and established a retail store at the corner of Watt and Scott streets. He 'bought' the *Victoria*, a steamer, with a promissory note worth £15, and in December 1840 was fined when Davies hit the owner of the ship when it was repossessed. Davies was in constant trouble—a great deal of which was self-inflicted. His application for a female assigned servant was refused by the magistrate, the Rev. C. P. N. Wilson, 'on the grounds of morality and public decency and propriety'. He lodged a complaint about the quality of the flour supplied to convict workers by a commercial rival. George W. Jackson wrote to the police magistrate in Newcastle, defending himself, and charging that Davies:

is a trebly convicted scoundrel, who was turned out of Port Macquarie for repeated bad conduct—his son is the notorious Bush-Ranger lately captured by Mr Day, and it is more than suspected that Davis's house was a fence for those depredators—his house is also a Brothel by which he gains some support by the prostitution of his own daughters—is also a sly grog shop to the annoyance of many families here besides myself.

The accusations were unsubstantiated and the authorities took no action. It was certainly true that a man named Henry Denny, a business associate of Michael John Davies, was charged with having harboured the gang and that Denny was sent to Norfolk Island for fourteen years. However, Davies had been the Newcastle correspondent of Sydney's Commercial Journal, and on 31 October 1840 he had sent an article praising the bushranging gang just three weeks before his own son had joined the outlaws. Davies wrote: 'The "gentlemen" conducted themselves in the most courteous manner possible—one rebuking another on passing any indecent observations, particularly in the hearing of females'.

On 19 February 1841, 'M.D. of Sydney' wrote to the *Sydney Gazette* advocating clemency for the six convicted bushrangers. The publication of the letter was delayed until 11 March 1841. Davies cleverly described the behaviour of the judge as 'beyond all praise'. He wrote:

I was present this evening in the crowded court house when the awful sentence of death was passed upon the six convicted bushrangers, whose depredations on the Hunter have been so alarming and notorious. There are redeeming circumstances in the career of these men; they carefully in all their desperate proceedings, abstained from personal violence; their object was plunder. The Chief Justice, Sir James Dowling, whose general character and conduct is beyond all praise, and is approved

of by the whole colony, will not be offended at the petition of humanity, which cries out against the commission of six more murders as a useless retribution for one. The wholesale execution of these men will be a disgrace to our society; it would certainly not take place in London.

Following the public execution of his son, Davies moved to Melbourne and later to Hobart Town. Davies became an original member of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, joining in April 1845 but failed to pay his dues. He was listed as a 'clothier' of Elizabeth Street in 1845, and worked for Michael Cashmore (q.v.). On 22 October 1845 Mr J. Davies informed 'the settlers of Port Phillip that he has fitted up the "Union Hotel" near the wharf at Campbell St, Hobart Town'. In that first year of the Hobart Synagogue's life, Mr M. J. Davies rented seat no. 47. He pledged fourteen shillings, which he failed to pay.

That year, Davies moved back to Melbourne and became the licensee of the Shakespeare Hotel in Collins Street, providing it was run as a family hotel. On 25 August 1847 forty members of the Jewish community of Melbourne held a festive dinner at the hotel to celebrate the laying of the synagogue's foundation stone. Business in general was poor and by the end of the year he was in financial trouble. He was arrested as he attempted to leave the colony for Hobart Town while still owing a Mr E. M. Lord £38 10s. He returned to Sydney in 1847 and in 1853 became the owner of a shop at 181 Pitt Street, which sold china and glass. In 1859, *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* described him as 'The celebrated patriot and orator and crockery dealer'.

Davies is said to have published *Devotions for Children and Private Jewish Families* (Greville and Co., Bridge Street, 1867). The only recorded copy of this book is listed in the Mitchell Library, but appears to have been misplaced. Davies retired in 1883 and in 1888 purchased the *Australian* newspaper of Windsor, New South Wales, and appointed his son George to be editor. Hannah died in Sydney on 15 April 1866, 'after a long and painful illness' (*Hobart Mercury*, 25 May 1866). Michael John Davies, whose profession was given as 'newspaper proprietor', died at Windsor at the home of his son George. He was buried at the Devonshire Street Jewish Cemetery by the Rev. A. B. Davies on 27 December 1873, and his tombstone, 'erected by his affectionate daughter Fanny Wright', is now to be found at the Rookwood Cemetery. His Hebrew name was *Michael ben Ya'akov*. He was survived by three children, Frances Hannah Wright of Wright's Wharf, Sydney, Mrs Sophia Palmer of the Royal Standard Hotel, Grafton Wharf, Sydney, and George Davies of the *Australian* office, Windsor. Five of his children had predeceased him.

Florentia (2) Indent 4/4016, 30-2239; Prisoners to Port Macquarie 4/3897, p. 418; CP 45/372, in 2/7839; AOT 67/75, 68/95, 4/3897, p. 418; Commercial Journal, 31 October 1840; CSO 20/3/88, 27 October 1845; CS Out Letters 40/9662; CS In Letters 40/12928, 41/259; Sydney Morning Herald, 4 January 1859, 29 December 1873; Australasian Chronicle, 8 December 1840; Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer, 28 March 1856, 8 January 1859, 8 August 1859; Supreme Court of New South Wales, Probate Office Register, series 2, no. 1217; Sydney Gazette, 14 March 1839; Mercury, 6 January 1874; Sydney Morning Herald, 5 September 1843; Information on the early connections with the bushranger gang from research by Colin John Roope, Newcastle; AG, ch. 18, p. 242f.