

THE SUPPOSED MURDERS AT NEW BENDIGO

The 30th July 1858 edition of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser 'ran a heading "Murders near New Bendigo". At the time I wondered where New Bendigo was and as I glanced over the article I could vaguely remember the name Raphael Caro from something else I had recently read. Raphael appeared to be one of the murder victims, so I printed off a copy to read at my leisure.

Much later, a couple of years later in fact, I finally read the article thoroughly and found the previously remembered reference to the name of Raphael Caro. The book Permanent Addresses ⁱⁱ mentions the grave of Raphael Caro in the Maryborough Cemetery of interest as the date inscribed on the headstone is in the Jewish year of reckoning.

When next at the cemetery I found the grave of Raphael Caro and the inscription referred to his murder. The Hebrew inscription reads "Martyred by Highwaymen"ⁱⁱⁱ as there is no Hebrew word for bushrangers.



***Here lieth the
mortal remains of
Raphael Caro
Who was
murdered
On the West
Charlton Run and
interred on
the 26th August in***

the year 5618"

With no skeletons in the cupboard on my own tree, none at least that I knew about, and had hit another wall, I thought this sounded intriguing and set about to find all I could about the Murders. As with all research of this nature it will never be complete as there will always be another avenue that becomes available or another lead to follow. So here is the story so far of Raphael Caro and Soloman Levi

The Story unfolds

Jacob Caro had last heard from his brother Raphael by letter dated 1st December 1857 ^{iv}from Castlemaine and delivered to him in Melbourne the next day. Raphael was a hawker who had left Melbourne for the bush in the company of a boy named Solomon Levi who was in his employ. They had with them a dark-coloured pony, and a large Sydney-built spring cart painted green on the outside and a dark slate colour inside, with a strong axle. Both shafts had been broken and were repaired with iron plates and bound over with patent leather. A broken front panel was repaired or replaced with shingle. The hawkers had with them about £300 worth of property and a considerable sum of cash. The stock of goods consisted of drapery and jewellery comprising wedding and signet rings, ear rings, bracelets and brooches, as well as a few watches. Jacob reported his brother Raphael and his servant Soloman Levi overdue to the authorities and a notice appeared in the Victorian Police Gazette on 16th April 1858 asking for the whereabouts of the two Jewish traders, last heard from in Castlemaine and last seen in Echuca

Around the end of June 1858 a man named Rowe rode into Clarke's Station, West Charlton Run, from Cheerup outstation and informed Mr James Gregory, the overseer, that he had found two skeletons just off the main track. Rowe had seen a skull near the road side and picked it up and found it to be human and then made a search and found, under a tree about 30 yards from the roadside the body of a man and the remains of another. Mr Gregory then informed Mr Searville the Superintendent who instructed the overseer to go with Rowe and take another man named Smith and inter the bodies, which they did after searching them. The property they found consisted of a few articles of no real value.

The Inventory of Articles found beside the Bodies of two men near New Bendigo: consisted of

One tin containing some Coffee, One old hat brush, One tin match box

One Pannikin, One Pocket ink stand (old), One large sharp knife

One Old razor, illegible scratching like "Standrs" on side of handle

One Razor the words "Smith" scratched on one side of the handle, 24 and other figures on other side of handle

One burnt cutty pipe, in tin box "McDougall Glasgow" maker

One piece of board like the back of a looking glass

One piece of knit thread work like a piece of a knit thread shirt.

One old chamois, One shaving box and brush,

Two long narrow strips of leather, One brass chain tweezers and ear cleaner attached, One jet bracelet, One old bag,

One four bladed knife, bone handle (a place for name to be engraved in handle)

One old coral necklace, One Summer coat (very old brown color) One brown walking coat (old),

One bag of tobacco (lying near where the bodies were found), One leather travelling bag (in pieces) looks like as if cut open with a knife),

Pieces of a book (like a Hebrew prayer book), Part of a pocket book

*One piece of an old newspaper like Mount Alexander
One piece of paper with the name of mail-Soloman Levi and other
writing on it.*

Some two months previous Mr Gregory had found a coat about 70 yards from where the bodies were found but threw it down after looking at it. The coat has been since identified as belonging to Raphael Caro.

The Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser first reported the finding of the bodies of Raphael Caro and Soloman Levi in the 20th July 1858. Edition. Several other articles appear over the next few months regarding the discovery of the bodies, the investigation and the Coroners Inquest.

An account of some details appeared in the edition of 20th July 1858 and reads in part *“Dr Laidman received information from New Bendigo, respecting the two bodies found at Clarke’s Station about 70 miles from the Avoca, by a splitter, supposed to be a man and a boy, the latter apparently torn by wild dogs. The features of the man are pro-served, he was lying in his back, with his coat off, one waistcoat pocket turned out, and pockets torn off trousers. They are supposed to be identical with two German Jews who had called at Clarke’s Station with a black horse and painted spring cart, hawking about last January. The bodies were found a short distance from a road to one of Clarke’s out-stations. The track of a cart was followed by an aboriginal through the scrub, when no further indication of it could be seen. There seemed to be no mark of violence about the man’s face. Among a quantity of trifling articles, the following have been found-one Jewish breast-plate, one leather bag torn at bottom and side, two incomplete letters, two Hebrew books, one bit of a jeweller’s box-broken, a seal bearing the impression of “R. H. Caro”, in German text letters.*

Word was sent from Avoca that there was little doubt but that the deceased died of thirst, but supposing the facts stated are correct, there seems to be reason rather to believe that they had been murdered. In support of this, we learn from another source that there were three men in the cart that called at Clarke’s station. We trust to be in a position to give further particulars by next issue. It seems very doubtful whether the deceased were found in the Dunolly or the Maryborough districts, and which Coroner should hold the inquest. The bodies have been removed to the nearest hotel.

Since writing the above, we learn that the bodies were interred by order of the overseer of the station. It is needless to point out the necessity of having them disinterred, and a proper enquiry made as to the cause of death.”

Through out these articles there is much criticism and dissatisfaction shown by the writer of the articles toward the Inspector of Police of the Maryborough District, a Mr Langley and the way in which the investigation, in fact , the whole matter was being handled.

The writer obviously believed in the power of the press and was critical of the Police Inspector not using the newspaper to assist with the investigation. These articles accused Mr Langley of not committing himself to the investigation, and thought his manner rather arrogant as the following extract indicates- *“We by no means wished to be harsh on Mr. Langley; we looked upon him as a young and rather inexperienced officer, and thought we would do him good service by a few timely hints. However, it appears we were very much*

mistaken. Mr. Langley is a great man on a small scale- in his quiet retreat at Avoca, surrounded by cap-sulating and obsequous constables, he has learned to entertain an exaggerated idea of his own merits, and indignantly scouts anything pertaining to criticism on his actions.”

Through out the articles the writer believes that the deaths of Raphael and Soloman were surrounded by suspicious circumstances

A petition from the Municipal Chairman, Mr A McLandress, dated 25th August 1858 was forwarded by the Coroner Dr Laidman to the Attorney General urging for an inquiry to be held into the deaths of Raphael Caro and Soloman Levi . In reply The Attorney-General instructed that an inquiry be held and Dr Laidman declared that every exertion would be employed to solve the fearful mystery.

The editor of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser between 1856 and 1859 was Julius Vogel. He was born in London in 1835 to Jewish parents and arrived in Maryborough in 1852.

Julius Vogel later became Premier of New Zealand

There was a Magisterial Inquiry held by Mr Templeton at West Charlton Station at the beginning of August 1858 The evidence was meager and the bodies had not been disinterred, the witnesses were the same people who assisted in their unauthorized burial. William Rowe gave evidence that he had found the bodies , bones were scattered about and the man was leaning against a tree with his hand to his breast.. He had brown hair and a hooked nose and the entrails appeared to disturbed by vermin and the next day returning with Mr Gregory and searched the clothing and area and buried the bodies. He was of the opinion that they had died of thirst

James Gregory deposed that he went with Rowe to where the remains of two bodies were found about 11 miles from West Charlton and helped search the clothes. He stated that the older man was forty with sandy, beard on his chin and a mostaches of the same colour. He states that he was ordered to inter the bodies by Henry Searville the Manager of the station. He took all the items that were found back to West Charlton Station and gave them to Mr Furnell when he called.

Henry Ramsay Searville gave evidence that he remembered Rowe coming to the Station reporting the finding of the bodies on the road between West Charlton and Cheerup and he sent the two men to inter the bodies.

He wrote to McLachlan Esq, JP of Rich River informing him of the circumstances. Several days later two police from New Bendigo called and two weeks later Mr Furnell called and took away the property that was found with the bodies. He did not register the deaths as the police had called and got all the information.

An article that appeared in the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser on 24th August was skeptical of the opinions of Rowe and Gregory as they did not have the skill to determine how the hawkers had met their death and

“ extraordinary that they should have the obtuseness to suppose that two men with a horse and cart could die of thirst when they were on a beaten track, only eleven miles from an inhabited station.”

On the 10th August 1858 Thomas Langley telegraphed the Chief Commissioner of Police asking if an Inquest was to be held. This coincided with the arrival of a Detective Williams from Melbourne to carry out an investigation. John Williams^v arrived at the Avoca Police station on Saturday 7th August and left for New Bendigo on Monday 9th, arriving on the 10th and set off for Mount Korong on 11th with Mounted Constable Fatlock and Jacob Caro and proceeded to follow the route that Raphael and Solomon had taken months before. Various people recollected the Howkers calling at their properties in the January, describing the horse, cart and wares. The Detective and party arrived in Mount Korong on 12th but could hear nothing of the deceased men there so left for Clarks Station, West Charlton Run. On arrival they saw Mr Gregory the overseer who stated that the man and boy were there about Christmas, asking to show their wares but he did not require anything and declined. They came at dinner time and left the same day but could not say in which direction. The Detective went and saw the man named Rowe , who is now living on Clarkes and states that he left the service of Mr Stedman Publican of New Bendigo in November 1857 and worked at I W Peters as a cook at his station 55 miles from where the bodies were found, he left on 7th June. Detective Williams verifies this information as correct. Early in April a shepherd named John Crooks drove a flock of sheep to Cheerup out station and returned saying that there was no water. This man must have passed near the bodies both coming and going. Mr William then went to Menzies Station and saw Donald Ross and his wife who recalled a man and boy calling there about Christmas. This is confirmed by Mrs Thorpe and her daughter of Menzies Station. Detective Williams proceeded to Mr Donaldsons Station on the Richardson but got lost and returned to Menzies. He left on the 16th calling on Mr Bull of Mortons Plains but no Hawkers had been seen. On the 19th having had information that a stray horse was on Moggs Station called on Mr Moggs, who believed that the horse had been left when a man named Paddy Burns stole one of his. Mr Moggs's horse was found at Pleasant Creek with a man who could prove that he had bought the horse from Paddy Burns who is known to Detective Morton. The Sergeant now in Charge of Amherst states that in December last before Christmas when he was stationed at Maryborough, he purchased a gold watch from the deceased Caro and to his certain knowledge he got upwards of £50 when at the camp. Caro must have had this money with him or else he deposited it in some bank in Maryborough. Detective William will enquire when on the road to Melbourne.

Detective Williams revisited the ground where the bodies were found and thinks, from the positions they were found that they died of thirst but had been robbed after death there is no doubt. He found lying on the ground about 60 yards from where the bodies lay, the scalp of the boy with the hair still attached and found no marks of violence on it.

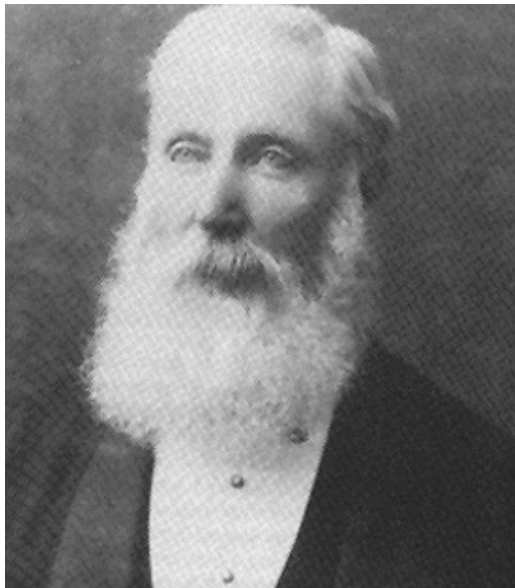
Detective Williams was of the opinion that the deceased lost themselves in the scrub and became exhausted, packed their goods on to the horse for quicker travel and when they could not travel any further laid down and died.

The horse finding its way to Mr Moggs station. He is further of the opinion that Raphael and Solomon were not robbed by the blacks as they would most certainly have taken the tobacco and pipe, and would have also tried to dispose of the goods in the area.

Jacob Caro, on hearing that there was not going to be an inquest on the bodies, hired a horse and cart and left New Bendigo on the 19th for Mr Clarks station for the purpose of disinterring the bodies and taking them back to Maryborough to have a post mortem examination held there.

Detective Williams will wait at Avoca until he hears the report unless ordered to the contrary.

A post mortem examination on the bodies of Raphael Caro and Solomon Levi was carried out by Dr Robert Henry Dunn.



He could not state the cause of death and could not discover any marks of violence on the bodies although violence could have been used on the soft parts of the bodies but because of the state of decomposition he was unable to tell if it was. The body of the elder belonged to a person thirty five to forty years of age with some traces of disease in the spine. The younger skeleton was of a person about fifteen or sixteen years of age. The bones of both heads were complete and there were no broken bones. Dr Dunn was the resident Surgeon at the viMaryborough Hospital from 1857 to 1901 when he resigned. He remained a consulting surgeon until his death on 16th

October 1905 aged 71. He was Captain of the Mariners Reef rifle Corps and heavily involved in local affairs including the Prince of Wales Light Cavalry, Royal Arch Lodge and was also a JP.

The remains of Raphael Caro and Solomon Levi were reinterred in the Maryborough Cemetery in the Jewish section on the 26th August 1858 some two months after the bodies were originally found. The grave of Raphael is on the far side of the Cemetery, opposite the gates down to the right, there is an area with few other headstones, the Memorial to Raphael Caro stands. The inscription is in both Hebrew and English with the year of death in Jewish reckoning. The grave of Solomon Levi is unmarked but one would assume that it is nearby as they were both reburied on the same day. The Cemetery records covering this period were destroyed by fire in 1875.

The inquest was held on the 14th October 1858 in the Bull and Mouth Hotel. The Coronor was Dr Francis Marchant Laidman who graduated MRCS Exeter in 1852. He was a skilled practitioner who gave his services freely to the Hospital inmates. He was Health officer to the Borough and Shire Councils, Coroner, Public Vaccinator and Goal Surgeon. Dr Laidman died in Melbourne after a short illness and was buried in the Maryborough Cemetery on 10th February 1879. It was said at the time that he was "An old and respected Maryborough Identity"



The jury was selected from respected residents of the time, some of whom went on to become notable citizens of the town. The Jurors were James Logan who was born in Scotland and was a general merchant and Auctioneer. He was a Tullaroop Shire Councilor for 21 years and later served on the Borough Council and was three times Mayor of Maryborough. Also on the Jury was John Bartlett, Robert Shaw, Charles Stevenson, Thomas Wryley and Henry Cable who built the Telegraph Hotel in 1858 and when the McCullum Creek Hotel was moved into Maryborough in 1860, he managed the renamed Supreme Court Hotel. Hugh MacBean who was Secretary of the Highland Society from 1858-1860 which included the inaugural gathering held 1st January 1859. He was at one time Secretary of the Maryborough Hospital. Edward Harkness was associated with the Hospital and Education Board, Gas Company, Congregational Church, Benevolent Society to name a few. He was a Borough Councilor and Mayor in 1868-69. He operated his candle and timber business from a two story building known as Wandsworth. At the time of his death aged 43 in 1872 Thomas Buchanan was a Borough Councilor He was a saddler and harness maker and good businessman as he left his wife and children quite comfortable when he died. Thomas Casey operated a furniture and bedding warehouse, upholsterer, cabinet maker and undertaker. He went into partnership with JH Gearing, a nine times Borough Mayor and captain of the Firebrigade. William George McCulloch who was the District Registrar at the time and Forrest Burns also served on the jury.

At the Inquest James Fleecroft gave evidence that on the 23rd February two hawkers came to Lake station, and he went on to describe them and their cart. They camped the night. There were also ther men who camped at the hut that night-"Joe" and "Walk-about-Murray, Charles Smith and Harry the Hut keeper. Next morning he bought two locks from the Hawkens and left with the sheep. About two hours later I saw them and they asked if the road they were on was to McDonalds Station and he told them that it was. They told him that Joe had directed them wrong and they came out at Pine Hut Station. When I returned in the evening Joe and Walk-about-Murray had left the hut. The bodies were found about three or four miles from Pine Hut.

Jacob Caro deposed that his brother was Raphael Caro who had left for the bush with £300 of property and the boy called Solomon Levi He identified the two coats as belonging to his brother and the waistcoat that he removed from

the larger of the two skeletons that he disinterred. The seal produced was the property of his brother. He confirmed that Raphael did have a spinal complaint for the past 15 years and he had last heard from him on 2nd December by letter from Castlemaine.

Lambert Galagher was the Constable stationed at New Bendigo and on the 9th July he received information that two bodies had been found on Mr Clarks Station and preceded there the next day. He was given the seal and coat. The bodies were found ten miles from Clarks Home station, four miles from Cheerup hut and about a mile and a half from Cutters hut which was unoccupied. There is a very plain beaten track about thirty yards from where the bodies were found. Samuel Furnell gave evidence that he was the Inspector of Police in Charge of the Carisbrook District and on 9th July proceeded to Clarks Station on the Lower Avoca and took possession of property that had been found with the bodies. As these were found in the Avoca District the property was handed over to the Officer in Charge of that District.

Agnes Pentridge recalled a man and boy in a spring cart calling at Mount Korong about the middle of December. They were German Jews, one between thirty and forty and the other was about fifteen or seventeen years old. She bought a silk net and a brooch, and had a good deal of jewelery with them in a box about three feet long and one foot wide. They left in the direction of Fentons Station, which lies between Korong and West Charlton Station. Joseph Smith was the overseer on Fentons Station in February and recalled two hawkers calling and asking directions to Mr Kinnears Station and they started in that direction. On the 18th February he went to Kinnears Station which is about fifteen miles from Fentons and saw the hawkers there. They camped in the paddock for the night and were still there when he left next morning.

Donald Ross deposed that he was a servant of Mr Menzies at East Charlton Station about twelve miles from Kinnears Station and remembers about the latter end of January or early February two hawkers came to the property, one about forty and the other fifteen or sixteen and they were driving a cart with a poor horse. No one bought anything and he directed them to the road to Clarks Station which is about two miles from Menzies. The place where the bodies were found is about twenty miles from Menzies Station.

The Coroner adjourned the inquest to procure the attendance of Mr and Mrs Shepherd who did not appear on summons. A warrant had been issued to enforce their attendance.

The Inquest resumed on the 21st October and Fanny Shepherd gave evidence on oath that a month before Christmas she was living at the Lake hut on Clarks Station at West Charlton when two Hawkens, both German Jews came there. In the evening they came to the hut and remained there all night. The older man told her that he had a brother in Melbourne and had left there nine weeks earlier. The boy told her that he was travelling with his Master. They both left the Hut about two hours after sunrise with their horse and dray.

They asked Mr Shepherd for directions to Donalds Statio. Mr and Mrs Shepherd left the Lake hut at the end of January and three men called Lanky, One -armed-Charlie and Harry took over the Hut.

Edward Shepherd, husband of Fanny, was a shepherd at Lake Hut when two hawkers came one evening just before sundown. They had a cart with a dark

bay horse with a short tail. When they came into the hut that evening the elder man told him that he had come from John McLachlan's station that morning a distance of twenty miles. He also told him about his brother in Melbourne and that the boy was no relation. He directed them to the road to Donalds Station. They were still there the following morning at sunrise when he left with the sheep and he never saw them again.

Dr Laidman asked if travel expences could be paid for these two witnesses who were destitute and had no means of returning to the Station from where they came. This was granted.

The Jury deliberated and handed in the following verdict:

“We find that in the month of June last the bodies of the two men were found dead, thirty yards from the road West Charlton and Cheerup Stations, but there is no evidence to show how they came by their deaths. It is our belief that it was by violent means. We recommend that a large reward be offered by the Government toward unravelling the mystery hanging around the deaths of the deceased persons. We are further of the opinion that the remains of the two bodies aforementioned are those of Raphael Caro and Solomon Levy”

On the recommendation of the Inquest the reward was increased to £100, the notification appearing in the Victoria Police Gazette on the 7th December 1858. The reward had previously been £20

A notice appeared in the Victoria Police gazette on 3rd July 1859 advising that the cart and harness, with some spoons and gold weights, the property of Raphael Caro, deceased had been found in the Mallee Scrub, about two miles from where the bodies of Raphael Caro and Solomon Levi were found. The Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser carried an item on 29th October 1858 that Mr Langley Inspector of Police Avoca had been ordered to Bendigo but did not know what position he would occupy.

An item appeared in the Victorian Police Gazette on Thursday 15th September 1859 as a man named Gibson, alias Run-the Murray Jack was recently arrested at Swan Hill on suspicion of being identical with the Walk-about-the-Murray, one of the parties believed to have been implicated in the Murder of Raphael Caro and Solomon Levy, about the month of February 1858. Gibson has been discharged having satisfactorily established his innocence as also his non-identity with the man known as Walk-about-the-Murray, above referred to – 10th September 1859

Other Information

New Bendigo was originally a goldfield so named by Thomas Wembridge in January 1855 when he remarked “We have struck a New Bendigo”. The area became St Arnaud in 1886 and was part of the Avoca Police District which included Amherst, Lexton, New Bendigo and Avoca. There was some question as to which Police District the bodies had been found, the Carisbrook or Avoca Police Districts.

Inspector Samuel Furnell of the Carisbrook Police visited the site and found that it was within the Avoca District.

Bailiers Victorian Gazetteer describes West Charlton Station in the Wimmera District as being occupied by J Atkins and RV Clarke of 80,000 acres grazing capability 30,000 sheep, and situated on the West Bank of the Avoca River about 18 miles north of Yowen Hill

The License was originally taken up by Robert Cay and William Kaye, and transferred to John Atkins and Robert Valder Clarke on 31st July 1855 and remained in their names until 1865 when Mr Chernside took over the property.

Raphael and Jacob Caro both arrived in the Colony of Victoria in 1852 but on different vessels. Jacob arrived October 1852 on the *James Carson*, which sailed from Liverpool, while Raphael also arrived in October.1852 on the *Coldstream*.^{vii} The parents of the brothers were Cheim Jacob Caro and Kele Sommerfeldt. Jacob was a partner in the firm of Caro and Gerson of Melbourne and Sandhurt General wholesale dealers of 154 King Street Melbourne at the time of Raphael's death. He lived in Melbourne and was listed in directories^{viiiix} under various addresses as a General Dealer or Iron Monger.. Jacob returned to Germany some time later as he died at his home, 10 Heilwig Strasse, Hamburg on 27th February 1909 aged 78years and 11 months He left a wife Olga and a daughter. His brother in Law, Hugo Siegmund Lewig was sole executor of his will and had quite a large estate that needed be administered and settled.

Under the provisions of the Civil Code of the German Empire, Jacob and Olga had made a joint will on 12th August 1908. Married persons were able to make joint wills where both parties appeared before a Judge or Notary and orally declare same.

Jacob still had assets in Melbourne at the time of his death and The Equity Trustees Executors^x and Agency Company Limited acted on behalf of the executor in Germany. Jacob owned a property at 319-321 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne, a Bank account of £8.10 ,and a considerable number of shares The shares were listed in the assets of the estate as of no value other than the 600 ordinary shares in Commercial Bank. The shares that were of no value were 1200 shares in Australian Diamond Mining Company, 200 shares in Federal bank, 10 shares Land Credit Bank and 50 shares of Stanhope Tin Mining Co. From the Estate documents I learnt that there was moneys due from the firm Caro Brothers and these documents also revealed that there was a relative, a cousin, living in Melbourne, who the Trustee Company received their instructions from via the Executor in Germany. Alvin Caro arrived aboard the *Respigadera* on 19th April 1882 and was a Partner in the firm Caro Brothers who were hardware Merchants. Alvin died in Melbourne in 1919 aged 63.

While checking the Directories to ascertain when Jacob may have returned to Germany and any information on Alvin, I discovered entries (1891-1900) for the firm of Caro Brothers (Adolf and Alwin) of Little Collins Street.

There are some inconsistencies with the information on the death registration of Raphael and Solomon, Jacob was the person who gave the information and he listed Raphael's age and years in the Colony differently compared with the shipping records. The father was named as Herman, however on the translated copy of the will, Jacobs parents were Cheim and Kele , As both Raphael and Solomon were both from the same town, one might expect Solomons parents names may be known. Perhaps it was a case of misinterpretation or misunderstanding of Jacobs accent when giving the information.

Can you imagine the task that Jacob undertook to exhume the bodies of Raphael and Solomon and travel with them from Clarks Station to Maryborough for the post-mortem and then burial.

Did Mr Gregory at Clarks Station have something to hide when he ordered the burial of the bodies straight away. What about Walk-about-the-Murray and Joe- did they give the Hawkers the wrong directions with a plan to rob them or were they just not familiar with the area.

What do you think? Did Raphael and Solomon die of thirst and robbed afterwards as Detective Williams thinks or were they murdered and robbed as Jacob believes?

Julius Vogle

[xx] In partnership with a London friend A. S. Grant he opened an assaying agency in Flinders Lane, but after a business depression moved to Maryborough as the rush began there late in 1854. He sold wine and spirits before setting up as an apothecary in a small canvas den complete with 'large, colored bottles, a number of empty boxes and a stuffed iguana'. Turning to journalism, as correspondent for the *Argus* in 1856 he reported the Dunolly rush and from that year to 1859 edited the *Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser*. He was also associated with the *Talbot Leader* in 1860-61 and owned and edited the *Inglewood Advertiser* from 1859 to February 1861. His sparkling leading articles, although disparaged for their 'low and vulgar style', identified with local needs and interests. He speculated in mining and was for a time director of a gold reef company. He was also a cricketer, an inveterate gambler and an aspiring bon vivant.

ADDENDUM APRIL 2009

The connection to Maryborough and the “Supposed Murders” surfaced again in a short story by Mary Helena Fortune.

In the introduction, written by Lucy Sussex, of a reprint of “Three Murder Mysteries” by Mary Helena Fortune (c1833-1909), her 1867 story “In the Cellar” was derived from the 1858 Goldfields murder of two Jewish hawkers Raphael Caro and Solomon Levi. It begins in Maryborough, whose paper, The Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, covered the real life original.

Mary Fortune was a pioneer Australian Crime author who wrote for over 40 years and is best known for an early detective serial called “The Detectives Album”.

She wrote under the pseudonym of Waif Wander or WW with memoirs of the goldfields life featured in her writing.

Fortune wrote the longest-running early crime serial, the Detective's Album, for 40 years. Her husband, Percy Brett, was a Police mounted trooper. In the 1850s, before they met and married, he was stationed at Marborough, Victoria, and on a slow news day in town, was the subject of an editorial in the MARYBOROUGH ADVERTISER, for allegedly exceeding his police duties. The writer was the paper's editor, the young Julius Vogel, later to emigrate to New Zealand. A curious coincidence.

ADDENDUM MARCH 2011

At The March meeting of the Maryborough Family History Group, John Tully was the guest speaker and he presented research on New Zealand's First Bushranger, Joseph Thomas Sullivan who happen to be Victorian and frequented the Wedderburn area. He was involved in many murders but was not named so escaped the law and the notoriety. John pointed out the similarities with some of the murders that Joseph Sullivan was involved in and the deaths of Raphael Caro and Solomon Levi. The bodies were posed sitting up against a tree after being strangled to make it look like they had died of thirst. Joseph Sullivan was implicated in an article in a NZ newspaper by an acquaintance in the murders of Caro and Levi. It appears that Walk-about-Murray could have been James Murray one of the gang members and “Joe” was Joseph Sullivan, the two men who gave Caro and Levi wrong directions on the day they were last seen.

See the complete story of the New Zealand Bush Rangers by John Tully

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- ⁱ Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser microfilm roll Maryborough Library
 - ⁱⁱ Permenant Addresses-Australians Down Under- R Brach
 - ⁱⁱⁱ Grave Reflections- page 65
 - ^{iv} Cornoners Inquest VPRS 24/p Unit 60 File 1129/1858
 - ^v In estigation: VPRS 266/p Unut 5 File 58/3926
 - ^{vi} Maryborough A Social History Betty Osborn and Trenear Dubourg
 - ^{vii} Unassisted Passenger list 1852-1889 - PRO
 - ^{viii} Sands & Kenny Directory
 - ^{ix} Naturalization Barcode 1811345 &1758589
 - ^x Probate VPRS 7591/P2 UNIT437 FILE 112/826