

In Defence of the Jewboy Gang

On 19 February 1841, 'MD of Sydney' wrote to the **Sydney Gazette** advocating clemency for the six convicted bushrangers. The publication of the letter was delayed until Thursday 11 March 1841. Davis 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 certainly would not take place in London.

The execution took place on the following Tuesday 16 March 1841.

From 'These are the Names: Jewish Lives in Australia : 1788 – 1850 p1800

In the article on Michael John Davies (Davis)

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