

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FOUNDED 1974

P.O. Box 203, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006

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NEWSLETTER No. 21

JULY, 1978

1. NEXT MEETINGS

AUGUST

Date: Friday, August 4th at 8.00 p.m.
Place: State Library Lecture Theatre
Speakers: Mr. R.A. Layton and Professor Eric Richards.
Subject: A Scottish Evening. Mr. Layton and Professor Richards will speak on the Scots in South Australia and a suitable Scottish supper may be provided afterwards.

SEPTEMBER

Date: Friday, September 1st, 8.00 p.m.
Place: State Library Lecture Theatre.
Speaker: Miss A.M. Dolling.
Subject: Patterns of Pioneering.
Miss Dolling has been researching the history of Marion and has published Chronicle Cameos under the name Mary Broughton.

2. FIELD TRIPS

MARTINDALE HALL, SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST, 1978.

Ms. Ho has arranged for a trip to the renowned Martindale Hall and National Trust Guides from the Clare Branch will be leading a tour of the Hall and also present Devonshire Tea (at a charge of \$1 per person).

Date Saturday 12th August from 9.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Arrangements: A bus will take members of the trip from Adelaide. Please meet at 8.50 a.m. at the War Memorial in Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. Please bring your own lunch. The Hall is booked from 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

The cost will be \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 for non members. This includes the entrance fee of \$2 per person at the Hall. Bookings should be made with the Secretary, Ms. S. Moss, C/o Box 203 P.O., North Adelaide, 5006. Bookings close on July 31st.

RIVERTON, SATURDAY 16TH AND SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, 1978.

To serve as a practical follow-up to the recent Local History Seminar by providing members with opportunities to collect and record oral history at first hand and as a chance to mix with other HSSA members, this trip has been organised by HSSA Council member Mr. Dan Manning. There is a small nucleus of history-oriented people in the town and contact with residents will be made through the good offices of various local organisations. The District Council, High School and Chamber of Commerce have agreed to co-operate and consider that this Field Trip will give great impetus to interest in local history in Riverton. Riverton people have asked that our members make available copies of information collected during the weekend.

Riverton is 95 kms (60 miles) from Adelaide and it is expected that the activities will begin with a meeting with residents at 10.30 a.m. Saturday. Further details will probably be available at the next HSSA meeting.

Dinner 7.00 p.m. Saturday at Hotel Central. Three courses with choice of main course. \$6.00. Members book through Secretary HSSA by September 10th at the latest. Riverton residents will be invited to join us for dinner. They will book direct with the hotel.

Speakers for Dinner: A speaker or speakers will probably be available from the Riverton group and there will also be opportunities for those members who wish to, to give resumes of their day's work.

Accommodation: Hotel Central (1 double, 2 single, 4 twin rooms). Bed and breakfast \$13 per head.

Rhynie Hotel (3 miles) (2 double rooms). Bed and breakfast \$11 per head.

Riverton Hotel.

Saddleworth (6 miles). Two hotels.

Auburn (12 miles). Rising Sun Hotel. Bed and breakfast \$11.50.

Auburn Motel, Bed and light breakfast \$21 double, \$15 single, \$27 family.

Members should make their own arrangements for accommodation. Book early.

Arrangements can be made for members wishing to take caravans to use facilities at Riverton Recreation Park. Advise the Secretary, HSSA soon, as bookings must be made with the District Council.

Applications: If you wish to take part in this valuable field trip please contact the Secretary by September 6th.

3. HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFFAIRS

H.S.S.A. SOCIAL COMMITTEE

At the Council Meeting on 18th May, 1978, Council Members expressed concern about the lack of social contact among and involvement by Society members. A sub-committee was established to deal with social activities. The members of the Social Committee are Ms. Sandy Marsden (co-ordinator), Mr. Ian Harmstorf, Ms. Liz Ho and Mr. Dan Manning, and they welcome any suggestions for activities or assistance.

Ms. Marsden delivered the first report of the Social Committee at the subsequent Council meeting on 15th June, in which several activities were proposed. These include the oral history weekend at Riverton described above and the arrangement of block bookings for Society members on the "Steam Ranger" steam train ride to Bridgewater. The ride to be arranged will be on Sunday 8th October, 1978 and as these trips are extremely popular it must be booked well in advance. If you wish to take the trip please contact the Secretary (Ms. Moss) or one of the members of the Social Committee by the time of the next meeting (August 4th). Children are welcomed!

CURRENT MEMBERS

This Newsletter includes a list of financial members and organisations which exchange Newsletters with H.S.S.A. This list is up to date (July, 1978) but if anyone has been omitted, or wishes to renew their subscription please contact the Secretary.

MEETINGS

Is Friday the most convenient night to attend the monthly H.S.S.A. meetings, and at the present location? In order to consult members about their preferences the questionnaire below is included. Please state your preferences and return this (or a copy if you want to keep the Newsletter intact) to the Secretary.

PREFERRED DAY:

Number each square to indicate your order of preference.

- MONDAY
- TUESDAY
- WEDNESDAY
- THURSDAY
- FRIDAY

NAME: _____

PLACE OF MEETING:

Place a tick in the square opposite your choice.

- PRESENT VENUE
- ALTERNATIVE VENUE - If you have selected this option, could you suggest alternative venue(s) below:

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

At the last Council meeting it was moved that the Society charge a fee for advertisements for books and other materials published in the Newsletter and that the fee be

waived or settled at discretion to be exercised by the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. The Secretary will also notify publishers of Australian historical material of the existence of the Society's Newsletter and charge a minimum fee for advertising.

4. BOOKS

1. Adelaide Road Passenger Transport.

Brian Samuels writes: About 100 people at our June meeting heard Dr. John Radcliffe deliver a wide-ranging illustrated lecture on Adelaide's road passenger transport and later journeyed to the Bay on Tuscan red and cream drop centre car No. 282, built by A. Pengelley & Co. of Edwardstown. Those whose interest was captured may care to read the following books and booklets. Several Adelaide bookstores stock many of them while the St. Kilda Museum stocks the Traction Association publications and a great many on interstate and overseas systems.

ADELAIDE ROAD PASSENGER TRANSPORT - A SELECT LIST OF BOOKS

Australian Electric Transport Museum (S.A.) Inc. "Australian Electric Transport Museum" (Adelaide 1974).

A well-illustrated 32 page guide to the Museum's collection which also includes a brief outline of Adelaide's road passenger transport history.

"The Tramways of Adelaide" (The Critic, Adelaide 1909. Facsimile edition published by the AETM 197?) 'A Complete Illustrated and Historical Souvenir of the Adelaide Tramways from the inception of the Horse Trams to the inauguration of the present magnificent ELECTRIC TROLLEY CAR SYSTEM.'

I. Badger 'Horse Drawn Vehicles in South Australia', "Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia" No. 2, 1976 pp 18-29.

"Australian Horse-drawn Vehicles (Rigby, Adelaide 1977).

M. Colwell "The History of the Noarlunga District" (Adelaide 1972) pp 46-56. Early roads, bullockies and coaches.

Director-General of Transport "Public Transport in the Adelaide Metropolitan Region" (Adelaide 1973). An outline of future plans.

L.S. Kingsborough "The Horse Tramways of Adelaide and its suburbs 1875-1907" (Libraries Board of S.A., Adelaide 1967) pp 85 + appendices.

J.C. Radcliffe & C.J.M. Steele "Adelaide Road Passenger Transport 1836-1958" (Libraries Board of South Australia, Adelaide 1974) pp 190. Out of print.

State Transport Authority "Development of Street Transport in Adelaide". Revised periodically.

"Transit in Adelaide". (Adelaide 1978) pp 20.

A very brief outline of the preceding 100 years of street public transport.

C. Steele & R. Wheaton "Adelaide on the Move 1878 - 1978" (Australian Electric Traction Association, Sydney 1978). An album of photos covering both City and suburban routes published to commemorate the centenary of the opening of Adelaide's first horse tramway. It features mainly electric trams and buses.

R. Wheaton "Destination ... Paradise" (AETA, Sydney, 2nd Edition 1975) pp 52. 'A technical and photographic review of the electric trams and trolley buses of the Municipal Tramways Trust Adelaide, South Australia.'

R.T. Wheaton et al "Railways to the Bay" (AETA, Sydney 1971). The Glenelg Railway and Tramway.

2. E.H. Coombe's 1910 History of Gawler. Reprint edition.

Ephraim Henry Coombe born South Gawler 1858, was educated at Mr. L.S. Burton's school. He became a journalist with an appointment in 1888 as correspondent to Adelaide "Register" and then in 1890 editor of the Gawler "Bunyip", followed later as editor of S.A. Institutes' Journal from 1904.

He was appointed one of the Governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of S.A. from 1901-1906.

Mr. Coombe became involved in scores of Gawler committees - sport, lodges, education, philanthropic, music, literary, chess, in some instances holding office for 18 years.

He made two unsuccessful attempts for Parliament in 1896 and 1899, and then in 1901 was elected for Barossa district and every occasion was re-elected even when moving to Adelaide to live in 1913. At a political meeting in Port Adelaide Town Hall in April 1917 he had a heart attack from which he died several days afterwards. In 1909 in the Peake Ministry he became Commissioner of Crown Lands.

In the preface of his history he stated "it was a task of rare pleasure - a labor of love". This is borne out in the 470 pages, included in which are 150 of photographs of personalities who each contributed in making Gawler the second town in the colony.

A quote from the first paragraph in chapter one:

"It should afford the resident of the "Colonial Athens" 100 years, or, maybe, 500 years hence, who wishes to engage in retrospective imaginings concerning his local habitation some fabric of fact upon which to build the creations of his fancy."

There is no need to wait for 100 years to elapse for an appreciation of the history. 500 orders have already been received for 1000 copies which will be available in July 1978. It will be a collectors' item in hard cover with a recommended retail price \$14.50 a copy, plus postage.

Contact Mr. E.H. Muller (phone 08-258020) C/o Rosedale P.O., S.A. 5350 or Mr. A. Osterstock, Austaprint, 11 Elm St., Hampstead Gardens, S.A. 5086.

From July 1, 1978 postage rates:- Within S.A. \$1.25; Vic. Tas. N.S.W. \$2.50; Qld. N.T. W.A. \$3.20.

3. W.B. Pitcher Victorian and Edwardian Adelaide from old photographs (John Ferguson), Sydney, 1972). \$11.95.

Brian Samuels writes in his review: This book is a delight. The reproduction of the photographs is excellent, their variety enormous and, in contrast to the many collections of old photographs which convey a very static and often unpeopled world, these photographs bring Adelaide to life.

We see 757 schoolchildren planting 757 trees on our first (1889) Arbor Day, the remarkable basketwork display of D.E. Tannert of Rundle Street, horse-collar makers at J.A. Holden's, Muirden's Business College students in 1912, a St. Patrick's Day procession in 1904, many choice examples of fashionable dress and a Gilbert and Sullivan group of police posed outside the Norwood Police Station in 1913.

Sport, transport, hotels, religion, education, and houses are some of the other topics covered. Of current interest to members is an excellent view of the dining room at the "Acacias" (now Loreto Convent) and an 1899 photo of a church fete in the grounds. Interior views of the South Australian Hotel are equally interesting.

The short captions to the photos are usually adequate and occasionally expand thoughtfully on the basic information. The introductory text suffers from attempting to cover 80 years in 5 pages and some statements there can be questioned. However, the book will be bought for its photographs and once bought will be perused time and time again.

It is the only work of its type available now that Allan Sierp's Colonial Life in South Australia (Rigby, Adelaide, 1969) is out of print.

4. Books available from the Port Adelaide Historical Society

Ron Thiele "Ketch Hand" \$2.50 (\$2.80 posted) - A first-hand account of life on the ketches. The only book of its kind on South Australian vessels.

R. Parsons "Port Misery and the New Port" \$1.50 (\$1.80 posted) - Mentioned in the last Newsletter, this book fills a long-felt gap in South Australian history and is currently the Society's best seller. The Society stocks some of his other books, including "Black Diamond Line of Colliers" and "Yorke Peninsula Shipping" (Both \$1.20, \$1.50 posted), and "The Navy in South Australia" (\$2.10, \$2.40 posted).

B. Samuels "Discover Port Adelaide's Past" 2nd edition April 1978. A visitor's guide to the district, which includes a walking trail for the Port Centre's historic precinct. 40c.

All of the above books can be purchased from Brian Samuels at Society meetings or ordered from Box 254 P.O., Port Adelaide, 5015.

5. Rich Valley

An account of the early life of McLaren Vale with illustrations from the personal records of residents of the Vale is available at the following locations in the Southern Vales area.

"Cottage Crafts" - Mrs. U. Prime - old sales office of "Hardy's Wines" - McLaren Vale,

"Southern Vales Winery" - Main Road, McLaren Vale.

"Manfield's Newsagency" - Main Road, McLaren Vale,

"Rosemary's Kitchen" & Genders Winery, McLaren Vale,

"Craft & Bottle Shop" (next door to Willunga Hotel) - Mrs. Smith, High Street, Willunga.

"Pulford's Newsagency" High Street, Willunga

and also from Mr. Max Ellis or John McGregor (committee members), C/o Mr. J.R. McGregor; 11 Pridmore Ave., McLaren Vale, S.A. 5171. Cost \$4.25 plus 60c postage.

Mr. McGregor, who is Honorary Secretary of the McLaren Vale Institute suggests:

For an interesting outing for those interested in making the trip down (which is closer to Adelaide than one thinks) why not do a tour of our wineries and pick up your copy of the book at the same time.

5. DISPLAYS

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1. Mines and Miners, mentioned in the last Newsletter will continue to be on show until Sunday 30th July.

The exhibition features pictures of South Australian mines and miners painted by S.T. Gill during the years 1845-1850. These include six, large, panoramic water colours of the 'monster mine' at Burra Burra in 1847 and 1850, by which time it had become the richest copper mine in the world.

The paintings are supplemented by Gill's lively lithographic portraits of prominent mine shareholders of the day and by three large hand-drawn plans of mines at Tungkillo, Kapunda and Burra showing all the underground and surface workings. The 1849 plan of the Tungkillo mine is believed by the Department of Mines and Energy to be the oldest plan of a metal mine in Australia.

Recent photographs show how the scenes and buildings pictured by Gill appear today, and maps pin-point the numerous mines opened over a wide area during the 1840s. Documents and 'bank notes' printed by early mining companies are also on show.

Miners' picks of the period, 'gads' used to break up the rock face and a 'spider' designed to stick into the rock or hang on a ledge while supporting a candle are also displayed.

2. The exhibition Explorers will be shown in the Gallery's Historical Museum from August 12 - October 22.

For further information please contact Dr. John Tregenza, telephone 223 8494 or 223 8489.

Gallery and Historical Museum Hours

Monday - Saturday	10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Wednesday	10.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Sunday	1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Public Holidays	10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

6. HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND EVENTS

PORT ADELAIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership of the Society is from July to June. Subscriptions are \$4.00 single, \$6.00 dual and \$2.00 for pensioners and students. Subscriptions include 4 issues of the Society's very informative "Portonian". Please send queries or payment to the Society's postbox number, Box 254 P.O., Port Adelaide, 5015, or at meetings.

Meetings are held in the Hall of the Uniting Church, Commercial Road, Port Adelaide at 8.00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Next meetings are as follow:

August 16th: Capt. J.M. Thomson - "Eddie Farrow and Le Fevre School".

September 20th: Maritime Preservation.
October 18th: Mr. M. Lockley - "Education at Glanville/Ethelton".
November 15th: Old-timers remember Glanville/Ethelton.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

During June - July, 1978 the following Newsletters were received:

The National Trust of South Australia Newsletter.
Newsletter of the Royal Australian Historical Society
Portonian
Royal Western Australian Historical Society's Newsletter
Canberra & District Historical Society Newsletter.

THE HERITAGE BILL

In the National Trust's June Newsletter are reports of recent legislation and associated events which are of great importance not only to National Trust members but also to every person who is interested in conservation. This is the passing of the Heritage Bills, including the South Australian Heritage Bill, and the establishment of the National Heritage Commission and National Estate funding.

This legislation should bind governments to do some of the work the National Trust has been doing and may also lead to new restraints on owners of historic buildings. It should also focus attention on designating, identifying, assessing and labelling of items and areas of our heritage.

A Commonwealth Government grant to the National Trust of South Australia under the National Estate programme is enabling the Trust's Urban Conservation Committee to begin work which could lead to policies for the conservation of settlements of historical, architectural, townscape or landscape value in South Australia. Mr. David Scobie has been employed as research officer. Towns which have already been suggested as being worthy of special study are Auburn, Burra, Hahndorf, Paechtown, Moonta, Goolwa, Melrose, Mintaro, Willunga, Robe, Kapunda, Gawler, Mitcham, Strathalbyn and Port Adelaide.

This work marks a change from the Trust's previous pre-occupation with the merits of individual buildings and is in line with a growing emphasis around the world on area conservation. Mrs. Judith Brine, the Deputy Chairperson of the Urban Conservation Committee hopes that as the work develops, possibly to include the promotion of interest and support for urban conservation, its membership will widen to include interested people who may not have the professional involvement shared by the current membership. Perhaps this will include historians - who were conspicuously absent in the South Australian proposals for the State Heritage Commission.

CONFERENCE - THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY, THE 'PURPLE LOUNGE', UNION, FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1978.

The Conference is being convened here in Adelaide at Flinders University for the Australian Historical Association, which is the society of professional historians working in tertiary institutions.

The Conference starts at 9.30 a.m. Friday and concludes with tea at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday.

Topics include the history of aspects of government policy in Australia and overseas, dependent groups, alternatives to welfare, health care and public health as well as the A.H.A. Annual General Meeting.

Registration costs \$6.00 plus \$3.00 each meal and accommodation extra. Enquiries about registration can be directed to Dr. B. Dickey, Senior Lecturer in History at Flinders University (Phone 275 2448).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE - FOCUS ON OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY, UNION HALL and UNION CINEMA, SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 1978.

This Conference has been arranged by the Conservation Council of S.A. Inc. and the Department of Continuing Education, University of Adelaide. This Conference looks as if it will be of great interest and value to all people concerned with South Australian history and the environment. There will be speakers on South Australia's contribution to the National Estate, both the natural and the built environment, descriptions, problems, policies, past and future; avenues for action; case studies; workshops and tours. As well as possible pre- and post- conference excursions to the Coorong and to the Flinders Ranges (at extra cost).

Registration costs \$35.00 (excluding meals and accommodation).

REGISTRATION CLOSURES WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST, 1978. Registration forms and conference brochures with the programme of events are available from Dr. D. Corbett, "Focus on our Southern Heritage", C/o Department of Continuing Education, University of Adelaide, G.P.O. Box 498, Adelaide S.A. 5001 (phone 223 4333 Ext. 2115).

STEAMRANGER TOURS

All future publicity for tours run by the Australian Railway Historical Society (S.A. Division) Inc. will be under this byline as part of a scheme to promote still further the cause of steam on the rails of South Australia.

In addition the Society's ever popular school holiday trips to Bridgewater will now be called "The Steamranger" and will run May to October on the second Sunday of each month as well as in the holidays.

Those wanting to be notified of Steamranger Tours should write to that byline C/o 3 Adamson Ave., Belair, 5052 enclosing \$3.00. That will secure you regular mailings of booking forms on which the use of English to marvel at the world of steam reaches great heights. Alternatively forms can be collected from the S.A. Government Tourist Bureau.

Tours for this year include visits to Strathalbyn and the Bleasdale Winery, to the Gawler Show and Hamley Bridge, the Murray Bridge Weerama Festival and the Kapunda-Eudunda Railway Centenary.

7. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND CURRENT RESEARCH

ANDAMOOKA - Secondary students at the Andamooka Area School have received a \$500 grant (the maximum in S.A.) from the Social Science Teachers Association of Australia to compile a pictorial history of Andamooka.

The students are very keen and have interviewed everyone in the town and gathered all the

material they can get, including a lot from the Mines Department. They have plenty of photos from the 1940's onwards but are in great need of photos of Andamooka township and surrounding areas, aborigines and settlers before 1940. Opal was discovered there in 1932 but the earliest photo they have is dated 1943.

Many people who lived there have since moved on and the students would welcome any information and photos. The pictorial section of the book must be completed by September, when the book will be presented to the Conference. A cheaper version may be produced for sale later.

The Principal, Mr. Peter Barnfield, phoned this request, as no mail can be delivered at present because of the rains. He guarantees that photos lent to the school for copying will be returned and asks that these be sent to him, C/o Andamooka Area School, Andamooka Opal Fields, S.A.

MARTINDALE HALL.

Editor,
Historical Society of S.A.,
P.O. Box 203,
NORTH ADELAIDE, 5006.

Dear Editor,

In view of the fact that a party of members plans to visit "Martindale Hall" on Saturday, August 12, it occurred to me that a story about the Hall might not go amiss in the next Newsletter. At the same time, it would serve to introduce our National Trust Branch to some of your members, providing, of course, that I have not missed the deadline.

Hoping that I am in time for the Newsletter, and also looking forward very much indeed to your visit,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) E.J. SCHMAAL.

Mrs. Schmaal's article follows in the next section of the Newsletter.

8. ARTICLES

"MARTINDALE HALL" by Jean Schmaal

The district of Clare is singularly rich in the number of beautiful and stately homes which grace its countryside. Such names as "Bungaree", "Kadlunga", "Wolta Wolta", "Hughes Park" and "Martindale Hall" are all of considerable historic renown.

When Joan Lindsay wrote the book "Picnic at Hanging Rock" it was described as "a recollection of evil". When it was decided to film the story it was necessary to find a locale which could provide a substantial building of an earlier era to depict "Appleyard College", the scene of a good deal of this evil, and the producers were faced with no mean task.

After searching unsuccessfully through the eastern States, "Martindale Hall", near Mintaro, a delightful little historic village near Clare, came under notice.

A visit to the "Hall" soon showed that the search was over, and it was here that many of the College scenes were filmed for the motion-picture which has since proved to be a real break-through for Australian film production. The scene discovered, clever directing and character-part acting did the rest.

"Martindale Hall" stands today pretty much as it did when a leading Adelaide architect named Woods built it for Edmund Bowman and his bride-to-be in 1879. The building has not been spoilt by modern development and built-up areas.

It is a splendid example of a Georgian mansion standing in well kept grounds with sweeping lawns and magnificent trees. It is constructed of Manoora freestone; the external walls of what is known as "coursed rockface" work. The exterior of Martindale Hall is impressive; the inside resembles a palace.

The large central hall on the ground floor is lit by a great central skylight and is linked to the second storey by a magnificent staircase of polished and carved hardwood. Pride of workmanship is clearly evident throughout the whole of Martindale. This is seen in the great Italian fireplaces in the various rooms, the intricate work of the plasterers and painters on the high ceilings and in the clever construction of room cooling air-vents flanking the windows.

But - to get back to the Hall's beginnings. "Martindale Hall" has romance and tragedy enough for a film in its own right.

One romantic story claims that Edmund Bowman, before the Hall was built, was in England on a holiday when he fell in love with the daughter of an English nobleman. She, however, was not anxious to leave the green fields of England for the unknown wilds of Australia. Bowman promised that he would build her a home every bit as good as the one she would leave behind. He sought the services of an English architect named Gregg, and, on his return to South Australia, "Martindale Hall" was built. The marriage, however, never eventuated. Some years later Bowman married Miss Annie Cowle, a beautiful and talented Adelaide girl.

So much for the romantic story. Another version of the Hall's beginnings (and one no doubt much nearer the truth) tells how the Bowman family always sent its sons "home" to be educated. Whilst in England young Bowman visited the home of one of his school friends, and being much impressed by this stately ancestral home, conceived the ambition of eventually having one like it for himself. Eventually his dream became reality.

Edmund inherited much of the Martindale country from his father, Edmund Bowman the elder, who met his death tragically in August, 1866. When passing from the woolshed to the house on his property near Port Wakefield, he had to cross a creek by means of two rough logs without a handrail. It is believed that his foot slipped, that he struck his head as he fell and drowned in the creek below. He was only 48 years of age and left a family of six.

His son Edmund had "Martindale Hall" built at a cost of £36,000 at a time when a good six-roomed suburban house could be built for £500. R. Huckson & Co. were the contractors and their workmen commenced operations in January, 1879.

Edmund lived in the style of the land barons of last century. He kept a pack of fox-hounds, ran a racing stable and had a private cricket ground on which at least one visiting English Eleven played. The Adelaide Hunt Club met on his land once a year.

In 1892, because of disastrous stock losses in the north, Bowman sold "Martindale Hall"

to Mr. W. T. Mortlock.

His son, having no heirs, bequeathed part of his estate to the Adelaide University. "Martindale Hall" and a surrounding 243 acres of land, as well as the 680-acre Mortlock Experimental Station, form part of the estate which his widow, Mrs. J. T. Mortlock, generously transferred to the Adelaide University in 1965.

The University uses "Martindale Hall" as a centre for residential conferences and for field work in various faculties. It has an obligation to maintain the Hall as a home of historic interest and to preserve the building as nearly as possible in its original form. Recently extensive refurnishing work has been carried out. By these means a fine historic building will be put to useful purpose and not stand merely as a beautiful unused shell.

A delightful description of the Hall as it was 30-odd years ago recently came my way ... "My husband was overseer of Martindale Farm from 1943-1945. We lived in a new house with new furniture, all supplied by the Company, about 2 miles from Martindale Hall. Outings were extremely rare because of having only four gallons of petrol per month, part of which was used in getting the next issue of this fuel."

"Visits to the now famous "Hall" were a real treat and many an afternoon I walked there with my two small children, Robert, a toddler, and the baby, David, in the pusher. We were given a delicious afternoon tea always and Robert's delight was to go into the kitchen at the cook's invitation and choose his own cakes. He was also very fascinated by a standing suit of armour near the doorway of the smokeroom, as well as by a very impressive display of guns on one wall."

"Every Christmas Mr. Mortlock called on his workmen and made a gift to each member of the family; it was always a well-chosen and really generous gift."

"On Christmas Day, "J. T." as Mr. Mortlock was fondly known, served as altar boy in the local Anglican Church, because it was David's christening day."

"A number of times we enjoyed beautifully served dinners with him in that fine big dining-room. J. T. dearly loved shooting as a past-time and when he discovered my liking for such delicacies as quail he often made a gift of one or two to me. Such an occasion usually provided the opportunity for Robert to investigate his cartridge belt, and his beautiful big gold watch. He was a lonely man and still unmarried then."

"One afternoon in the upstairs sewing room I was privileged to see some treasures bought by his mother and to have a beautiful work basket given to me. The bathrooms at the Hall were always a great fascination to me as were the peacocks strutting in the lovely old garden."

Many people from the district surrounding the Hall were delighted at the choice of the famous old place as Appleyard College, and also intrigued by the presence of the actors and filming crews as they moved into action. (They lived in Clare for several weeks during production.) They were quick to recognise some of the scenes in the completed film; to spot Caretaker Tom Hill's flock of white turkeys, and to appreciate the fact that "Martindale Hall" had made a place for itself, not only in the history of our State, but also in the present-day history of Australian film-making.

"Picnic" marks a milestone in that field, and no doubt many historians will hope that other grand old buildings may be used along the same lines, and not stand merely as empty "has beens" which only too often slip into uncared for obscurity.

"Martindale Hall" half hidden by trees and glimpsed but briefly from the road by passing

traffic, has been a famous local historic mansion for many years. Admissions have been few and far between; for most of us it was a case of wishful thinking.

Following many enquiries about seeing where "Picnic" was made Clare Branch of the National Trust took up the matter and now provides guides for the many visitors who have flocked to the old mansion over the past few months. Many people who have seen "Picnic" and perhaps read Joan Lindsay's suspense story have taken the opportunity of visiting "Martindale Hall" and have seen the great staircase, and have pictured the various scenes in the film, and, in imagination, peopled the "College" with characters.

"Picnic at Hanging Rock" proved to be a thought-provoking film, one which concluded on a query. Was it true? Were none of the missing Appleyard College pupils ever found?

Without doubt many visitors to the Hall will keep on asking those questions as they go away from the old place. Come to think of it "What did happen to those girls and their teacher?"

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