

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Founded 1974

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000

President: Mr. R. H. B. Kearns, M.B.E. Editor: Ms. Annely Aeuckens

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. SBH 1254

No. 46

January, 1983

*** SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1983 ARE NOW DUE

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS - INCLUDING NEXT MEETINGS

MONDAY, JANUARY 31: FAMILY DAY AT FORT GLANVILLE, CORNER OF MILITARY ROAD AND BOWER ROAD, SEMAPHORE SOUTH

Admission: Adults \$1.00, children \$0.50.

Open to the public from 12 noon, Fort Glanville offers a range of entertainment, including guided tours, cannon firing & military exercises throughout the afternoon.

The Programme Committee suggests that members bring a picnic lunch, some form of sun protection (e.g. umbrella, hat) and, after lunch, join the 2.00 p.m. tour.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4: LECTURE - MR. BILL JEFFREY, "HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATERS"

A Maritime Archaeologist with the Department of Environment and Planning (Heritage Conservation Branch), Bill Jeffrey graduated in Marine Archaeology, Western Australian Institute of Technology, and has had considerable diving experience both in Western Australian and South Australian waters locating and identifying shipwrecked vessels.

He is also the author of a number of articles dealing with

legislation affecting sunken vessels, and is a contributor to the Journal of the Australian Institute of Marine Archaeology.

He will illustrate his address with underwater slides, and will also display various relics salvaged from vessels which came to grief in Australian waters.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4: LECTURE - DR. CARL BRIDGE, "HISTORY OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA"

In 1984, the State Library celebrates its centenary. To mark the occasion Dr. Bridge has been engaged to research and write its history. As his book is not due for completion until September 1983, his address will give members a taste of what's to come.

Dr. Carl Bridge received his B.A. Honours at Sydney University in 1972 and his Ph.D. at the Flinders University of South Australia in 1977. In addition, Dr. Bridge has a Diploma in Education.

Between 1977 and 1982, Dr. Bridge was employed as a tutor at Flinders University and now holds the position of Official Historian of the State Library of South Australia.

After concentrating his research on British Imperial History (his Ph.D. was on the Indian Constitution), Dr. Bridge has turned his attention to Australian high politics and foreign affairs, writing extensively on Lord Casey, about whom he addressed the Society in November, 1980.

Dr. Bridge has developed several simulation games, including one on the Treaty of Versailles which has been well received by matriculation teachers and students alike. His latest board game, due for publication in February, simulates the River Murray paddle steamer trade of the 19th century. But the game that captures Dr. Bridge body and soul is cricket, which he plays avidly.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19: ALL DAY EXCURSION TO THE FLEURIEU PENINSULA

This field trip is to be held in conjunction with the Yankalilla and District Historical Society, which will produce an information brochure, especially for the occasion. The day's activities are planned as follows:

8.00 a.m. - Leave by S.T.A. coach from Kintore Avenue (next to the War Memorial).

Morning - Visit part of the Croser property at Rapid Bay.

Lunch - A picnic lunch and get together with the Yankalilla and District Historical Society and a talk by a local guide on the area's history.

Afternoon - A tour of an old dam-aqueduct, the Waler Horse Stud and old farm buildings and the old Croser homestead with their historic relics. If time permits, a visit to the Tarran property at Rapid Bay and Roper's Bark Mill at Second Valley.

6.00 p.m. - Arrive back in Adelaide at departure point (Kintore Avenue).

Cost - The cost of the excursion will be \$10.00.

Bookings - Please book by telephoning the Secretary on 268 5486 by the 12th of March.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFFAIRS (INCLUDING REPORTS OF RECENT EVENTS)

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S COUNCIL FOR 1983

Nominations are hereby called for the positions of President,

Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and eight other positions on the Council.

Nominations, signed by both the proposer and nominee, should be lodged with the Secretary, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000 by Thursday the 17th of February, 1983. The new Council will take office after the Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 8, 1983.

REPORT ON OCTOBER MEETING - IN SEARCH OF AUSTRALIAN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

On Friday the 1st of October, Donald Johnson (Senior Lecturer on Architectural History at Flinders University) addressed the Society on Vernacular Architecture, with special reference to South Australia. He provided his listeners with an interesting dissertation on the interpretation of the term 'vernacular', that is, a form derived solely from local origins.

Many English basic dwelling designs were laid down by London authorities as an aftermath of the Great Fire in 1666. Published as 'patterns' and thereafter used extensively by builders - without architectural assistance - they were brought to Australia by the early settlers. In the years that followed, Australian buildings gradually incorporated the influence of overseas architectural styles, such as the verandahs, which completely surrounded many country homes and the bungalows of the 1920s.

It would seem, therefore, that Australian architecture can only be classified as a hybrid mixture of styles imported into the country from other sources - and that, alas, evidence of pure, unsullied, totally Australian vernacular architecture has yet to be discovered.

Mr. Johnson showed slides of various architectural styles, which exist at Strathalbyn, and their relationship to his own system of classification. A vote of appreciation for his interesting and thought-provoking address was carried on the motion proposed by Mr. J. R. Adam. Richard Kearns

OCTOBER PIANO RECITAL BY KARL SCHENSCHER

At Edmund Wright House on Saturday 17th October a piano recital was given by Karl Schenschel, an expert pianist who also specialises in the restoration of early pianos.

The recital was sponsored by The Historical Society of South Australia and the Australian Society for Keyboard Music, as a joint fund-raising venture.

Over 200 people attended the performance which featured Karl Schenschel who, after explaining the features of each instrument, played, on each of four especially restored pianos, music appropriate to the period of manufacture, dating from 1797 to 1840.

The audience expressed appreciation of the wide variety of pianoforte selections, ranging from the light rippling music of the early 18th century, to the drums and cannon fire of 'Battle of Prague', and the finale of 'Variations to God Save the King' by Kalkbrenner.

Both organisations are grateful to Mr. Schenschel, and to the media for pre-recital publicity, as a result of which the funds of the Historical Society, and the Keyboard Society, have received a much-needed boost. Richard Kearns

MITCHAM'S HISTORICAL AWARENESS

On a mild August night last year, about fifty people gathered at Scotch College, Torrens Park, for a seminar on Mitcham's heritage.

The Barr Smith Theatre

On the evening of Friday the 13th, speakers and audience gathered in the Barr Smith Theatre, recently restored by the college with the assistance of a loan, which together with other debts incurred by the project still has to be repaid. To help recoup the enormous outlay, the theatre is available for hire outside the college's requirements. The theatre was constructed between 1882 and 1885 for Thomas Barr Smith and his family, who delighted in amateur theatricals, especially those in which they participated. Originally, the theatre had gas lighting fueled by gas produced on the property. Although the general lighting is now electric, the original gas lights are still used on special occasions. The theatre is well appointed, with full stage facilities and a tiled reception area with bay glassed-in alcoves, behind which plants that would have been at home in a Victorian conservatory grow. Photographs depicting the theatre before and after restoration are mounted on display boards.

The Seminar

To open the seminar, Mr. Colin Lawton of the Department of Further Education and Mr. Murray Scriven, President of the Mitcham Historical Society, introduced the seminar and dealt with formalities.

Mr. Ron Gibbs spoke first, about early European settlement, the settler's attitude to the Aborigines and the development of the village concept round Adelaide. The Proclamation that was read near present day Glenelg was drafted aboard ship on the way to the new colony and reflected the views of Lord Glenelg. Although it stressed the importance of giving consideration to the Aborigines, neither Aborigines nor settlers had any understanding of the other's lifestyle, values or expectations. Consequently, by the 1840s, with their environment rapidly changing, the Kurna Tribe, which inhabited the Adelaide Plains, was reduced to 300 people. Even the memory of Aboriginal words associated with the area is now limited to only one or two. By 1840, and within two years of the completion of the Adelaide Plains survey, a series of villages had already been laid out by speculators. These incorporated the notion of providing a small patch of ground for those employed on the larger farms or involved in the building or service industries. However, by 1849, the police regarded this proliferation of villages as provision of a number of criminal retreats beyond the reach of their limited man-power and jurisdiction, which remained confined to the Adelaide area.

A series of three families owned and built onto Torrens Park, prior to Scotch College purchasing the property in 1919. Dr. Peter Howell spoke at some length about the first owner of "Torrens Park", Richard Torrens, whose name is still strongly associated today in people's minds with the Real Property Act (1858) despite the small role he actually played in the drafting of it. The biographical sketch of Torrens revealed him as an astute businessman, knowing all the strings to pull to his best advantage. He stood successfully for parliament but was censured by seven governments for not supporting their policies.

The second day of the seminar got off to a mid-morning start at St. Michael's Church, set on a rise overlooking the original village of Mitcham. The original guide being unable to be present, Mrs. Pam Oborn stepped into the breach to give a brief resume of the Mitcham Historical Society's aims and achievements, and to conduct a tour of the church, which was built in 1852, with later additions by Edmund Wright, the noted architect. All subsequent additions, being in the same stone, give an impression of continuity and harmonise well with

the changing styles of the community.

The address of Mr. Chris Loan, which followed, compared Mitcham with an English seaside village. Patterns of social development are reflected in both the building styles and materials used, being either imported or local as fortunes allowed. Even the way the shadows fall are as important as a view that can be easily lost by unsympathetic additions. Mr. Loan showed an interesting example of a chimney with a window placed in its middle. There would be no possibility of using such a chimney as a chimney, of course, but, however absurd, this addition illustrates the lengths to which builders and their clients would go to recapture "old world" styles.

To work up an appetite for lunch, we went for a brisk walk around the village of Mitcham. Olive hedges of varying heights and trimming, now forming front fences of housing since subdivision, originally marked the boundaries of larger estates. On the corner of the village green is a memorial to the first chapel and school in the settlement, where meetings were also held to form the first district council outside Adelaide in 1852. Tree-lined Evans Avenue and Muggs Hill Road to the stables on the corner also made a pleasant walk. Turning into the street that commemorates Victoria's Prince Albert, we passed the stone coachhouse and stables of George Prince and the iron gates at the entrance of his property, which dates back to 1849. Opposite is the old Mitcham Post Office with a blue stone front, unfortunately spoilt by grey cement rendering over the space where once the private mail boxes were located. A non-official post office operates in the next door draper's shop that saw the beginnings of Thwaites Men's Wear. With us on the walk we were fortunate to have the owner of "Hillslie", built in Melbourne Street in 1886 as a wedding present for Lloyd Prince. Continuing in the warm midday sun along Albert Street, we passed a mixture of 19th century cottages and houses in various stages of decay or restoration. Lunch for some was at the 113 year old Edinburgh Hotel.

Afterwards, we were addressed by Senator A. J. Messner and Alderman Anne Reeves on the "Role of Local Government in Historic Preservation". There has to be a close liaison between the three tiers of government, local, state and federal, in the heritage sphere. Firstly to identify National Estate items, either built or natural, and then to consider these sites for inclusion on the state or national registers. Although the policies might be sound, the wheels of authority are slow moving due to the sheer number of places being recommended for inclusion that require urgent responses and the financial cutbacks, which place restrictive ceilings on the number of people able to research and evaluate each case. The Australian Heritage Commission Act was proclaimed in 1975 and was followed by the S.A. Heritage Act in 1978. By the end of 1979, the City of Mitcham Heritage Survey Report had been prepared. As a result of this survey, ten properties in the Mitcham Council area are on the Australian Heritage list, with consideration pending on others. Since the survey report, an Open Space Survey has been completed and, following acceptance in principle by the Mitcham Council, released. Besides having a high proportion of open space per 1,000 head of population, Mitcham Council also has responsibility for the Marion and Unley, areas of high population density, which adjoin Mitcham. Some of the Adelaide Hills Face Zone, which lies diagonally across the council area, adds to the uniqueness of the district. Whilst providing a pleasant backdrop to the whole metropolitan area, the Hills Face Zone also requires maintenance and, to ensure its respect in the present

and its preservation for generations to come, awareness and understanding of its nature and problems by the general community. A healthy discussion, with questions, followed the address and many went away from the seminar enthused and inspired to contribute responsibly to Australia's heritage at the local level. The seminar proved a most enjoyable way to learn about an area and to discover a community's attitude to and interest in its heritage.

M. E. Ragless

NOTICES

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SAWMILLING AND TIMBER MERCHANT FIRMS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Secretary,

I write to ask for your assistance in contacting any members of your society who may have worked on, or know about, the history of sawmilling and timber merchant firms in your area.

A number of studies of Australian timber firms have been made during the last few years and more are in progress. However the material is scattered through many company pamphlets, regional histories, theses, manuscripts, family notes and so forth that are difficult to locate. In order to give an Australia-wide view, stimulate interest in the topic and provide references to the obscure sources, I am collating a number of short histories for publication as a book. The theme that connects the very diverse studies is the rise and fate of family businesses that were the most common type of firm in the industry but which, with notable exceptions, are now giving way to large companies. It is intended to have accounts of varying lengths (from say 300/500 words to 7,000) and include as many firms as possible. So far 20 accounts have been located from all over Australia, but more are needed particularly of the smaller firms.

I would be delighted to hear from any of your members with an interest in the history of forestry and the timber industries or could let me know of any existing studies by others.

Yours faithfully,

John Dargavel,
Department of Forestry,
The Australian National University,
P.O. Box 4,
Canberra. A.C.T. 2600.
Telephone: (062) 49 2579

ARMIDALE HISTORY COURSES

Members may be interested to know that the Armidale College of Advanced Education currently offers a post graduate programme leading to the award of Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies (Local and Applied History). Work includes:

Background Courses in Australian History;
Nature & Sources of Local History;
Historical Landscapes & "The Built Environment";
Oral History;

Planning & Writing Local History;
Professional Techniques, School Curricula & Resources.

Subject to final approval by the Higher Education Board, an Associate Diploma in Local and Applied History will be offered to cater especially for those people not qualified to enter a post graduate programme. The content of the programme will be similar to that outlined above.

Further details available from:

Admissions Officer;
Armidale College of Advanced Education,
Mossman Street,
Armidale. N.S.W. 2350.
Telephone: (067) 73 4222

(Source Newsletter of the Royal Australian Historical Society and
Affiliated Societies, No.11. October, 1982)

SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA

"To save the Franklin River and the World Heritage Wilderness in South-West Tasmania it is vital that the Federal Government intervene now! Cabinet is about to decide! Please write, telegram, phone or see your Local Federal Liberal or National Party members and any or all members of cabinet. They can stop the dam immediately.

Contact

Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser), Deputy PM (Mr. Anthony), Minister for Environment (Mr. McVeigh), Treasurer (Mr. Howard), Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Street), Mr. Peacock.

Points to use in letters/telexes/phone calls

* If you mean it, say you will vote only for federal candidates who act to stop the dam now * S-W Tasmania is now a World Heritage Area * Federal Government has legal power to stop the dam immediately * H.E.C. bulldozers, chainsaws, explosives are in the area right now * Tasmania's foremost natural tourist attraction, Gordon River Scenic Reserve, faces destruction and therefore Strahan's economy faces ruin * Polls show most Australians oppose dam, want Federal intervention * Tasmania's power use now 5% below 1981 level, 8% below H.E.C. forecast * Dam output only 180 Megawatts: new mainland thermal plants supply 2,000 Mw * 20,000 year old Aboriginal site in Fraser Cave would drown * Huon pines, spectacular Gordon Splits chasms would drown * Tasmania's Premier Gray calls Franklin a "brown, leech-ridden ditch" * Gray says he will not tolerate intervention by Mr. Fraser * SAY WHY YOU CARE! One or two sentences are enough!

Sending a Telegram

Here's a few sample messages: * I want the Franklin saved * South-West Wilderness: World Heritage * Stop Gray's bulldozers. Save Franklin * Protect World Heritage Tasmanian Wilderness * Franklin River is Federal responsibility * Please Stop Franklin Destruction immediately.

Telegramming is easy: Simply Phone 015, in any city!

The cost is put on your phone bill.

BUT ASK FOR IT TO BE DELIVERED . . . cost is \$5.00.

For donations, memberships of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society,
further information telephone

(08) 223 5155"

NEW BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

MARITIME BOOKS

The Seamen's Union of Australia, 1872-1972: a history

by

Brian Fitzpatrick & R. J. Cahill

363 pp., illustrated, index

(available from Seamen's Union of Australia Federal Office, 289a Sussex Street, Sydney, N.S.W., 2000 or from local Seamen's Union branch offices)

Of interest to general readers as well as having special relevance to students and researchers specialising in labour history, industrial relations, the Australian maritime and waterfront history, this a "warts and all" coverage of this union's militant & sometimes violent past.

A Maritime History of Australia

by

John Bach

Paperback edition by Pan Books (Aust.) 1982. Illustrated. 442 pp. + bibliography 16 pp + index 31 pp. \$8.95

This is a fascinating book of outstanding quality in which the Author (President of The Australian Association for Maritime History) investigates the development of Australia's maritime trade, both coastal and overseas.

The source of the two reviews above was The Newsletter of The Australian Association for Maritime History, Nos. 11 & 12, July & October, 1982

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PORT ADELAIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Box 254, P.O. Port Adelaide. 5015.

Port Lincoln Shipping (73 pp., illustrated - \$3.00)

Discusses the early days of the settlement and the whaling industry; looks at local shipping accidents, and covers the sea link with Port Adelaide to the introduction of the Troubridge.

The Navy in South Australia (42 pp., illustrated - \$2.10)

Details of the ships owned by the colonial government, including the naval ships, such as HMCS Protector. Also includes a lengthy article written by Sir William Cresswell recalling his service with The South Australian Navy.

Steam Tugs in South Australia (93 pp., illustrated - \$4.00)

The introduction and development of steam tugs services in Port Adelaide to the end of the steam era, with a history of the various owners - Wells & Coleman, William Wells, The Adelaide Steam Tug Company, Ritch & Smith and state government departments, together with details of tugs.

Centenary History of The Adelaide Steam Ship Co., 1875-1975 (228 pp., illustrated - \$6.50)

Deals with the development of inter and intra-colonial steamship services that lead to the formation of this company and the expansion into a network encircling the continent. Full details of all ships and services.

Yorke Peninsula Shipping (28 pp., illustrated - \$1.50)

History of the steam shipping services between Port Adelaide and the many small ports on the Peninsula.

Ketches of South Australia (102 pp., illustrated \$3.50 <softcover>, \$7.50 <hardcover>)

Outline history of the development of these small traders; their

arrival in South Australia together with the full register detail of all small sailing ships enrolled in Port Adelaide customs.

South Australian Shipwrecks, 1836-1875 (76 pp. Illustrated - \$3.50)

All above books by Ron Parsons

Ketch hand by Ron Thiele (\$3.00)

A story of life aboard South Australia's small craft in the 1940's.

Before the wind by Rae Sexton (\$9.95)

Story of the wreck of the Star of Greece off Port Willunga in 1888.

Back to Semaphore, 1930 (64 pp. Facsimile edition - \$3.00)

Souvenir of the 1930 Carnival, contains historic information and advertisements of the day.

50 Years of The Port Adelaide Institute (Original 1903 edition.

Softcover - \$20.00)

Discover Port Adelaide's Past (\$0.60)

Historic information booklet with map.

Walking Port Adelaide (\$0.20)

Port Adelaide Historic Trail.

For Posting & Packing Add

\$0.30 to leaflets - \$0.60 to small books - \$1.00 to large books

Source Portonian, 10, 3. September, 1982

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Paving the Way

by

Simpson Newland

Moroak Pty. Ltd. has published a pictorial reprint of the 1893 edition of Simpson Newland's Paving the Way. Simpson Newland was a former President of the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia and the publishers are offering the novel to R.G.S. members for \$4.95 (normal retail price \$6.00). Postage is an additional \$1.30.

Available from: Moroak Pty. Ltd. P.O. Box 107, Victor Harbor. 5211.

Phone: (085) 52 1057.

* * * *

Compiling Your Family History

by

Nancy Grey

The 11th updated edition of the "deservedly popular guide" is available from The Society of Australian Genealogists, c/- Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney, N.S.W. for \$3.50.

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Yesterday for Tomorrow:

A Guide to South Australian Historical Research

by

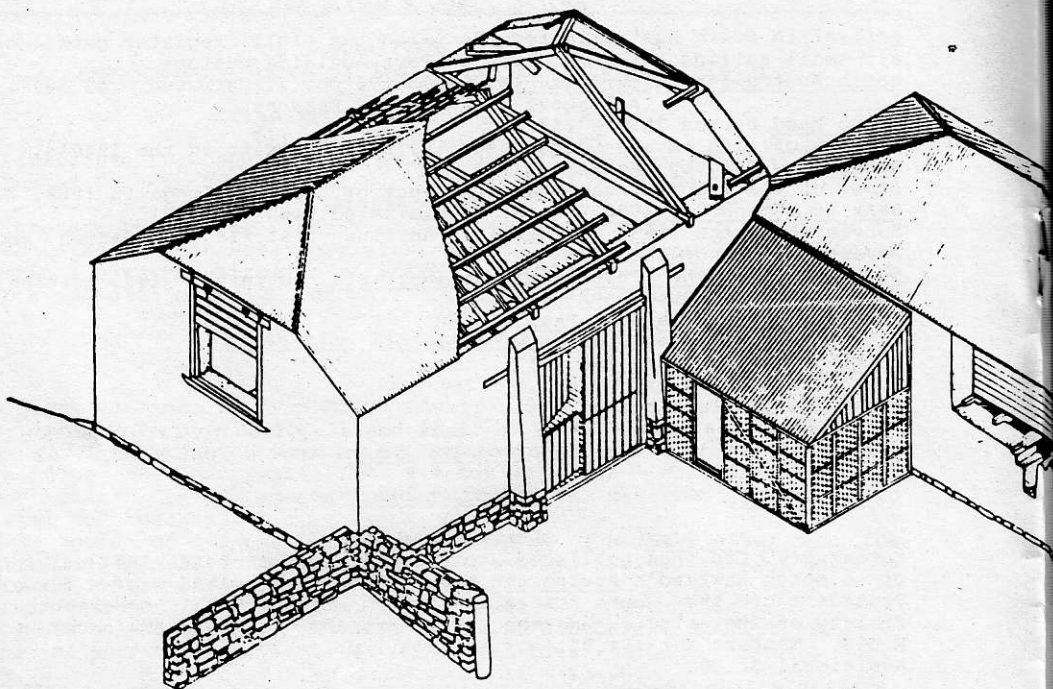
Margaret E. Ragless

"Yesterday for Tomorrow is an introduction for anyone intending to record the story of their district. It has been written by one who has had practical experience in researching aspects of South Australian regional history for a number of years.

In his forward to the book, Brian Samuels of the South Australian History Trust writes: 'To be a good historian you need to have the flair of a good detective in hunting out likely sources of information and a detective's determination to get to the bottom of things.'

This guide to South Australian historical research will direct you to the evidence in South Australian parliamentary papers, government and education gazettes, rural publications, directories and many other sources of information.

continued on page 12>

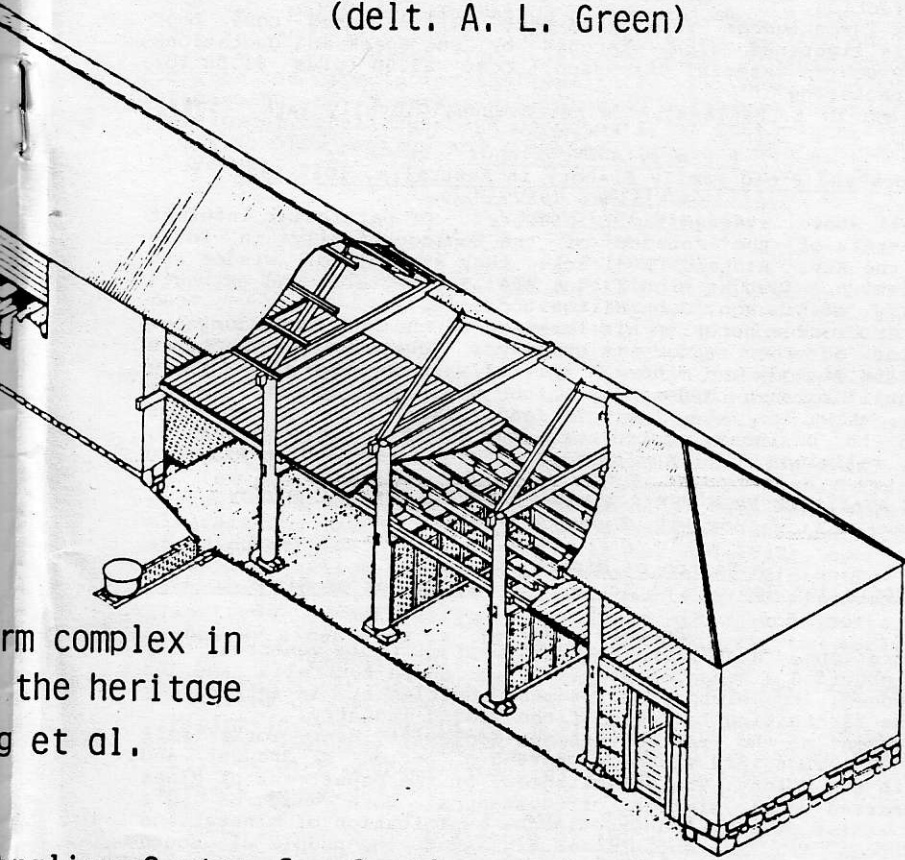


Part of a detailed study of a 'Devonshire' farm in the Adelaide Hills which has been included in the survey - Lobethal 'Valley of Praise', G. Young

The report has been prepared by the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage in 1983 from

Techsearch Inc.,
South Australian Institute of Technology,
North Terrace,
Adelaide.

COB BARN AND STABLES AT 'GUMBANK' (c.1843)
Newman Road, Charleston
(Section 5129, Hundred of Onkaparinga)
(delt. A. L. Green)



farm complex in
the heritage
g et al.

Australian Centre for Settlement Studies for the
Planning and should be available in early

Institute of Technology,

5000.

If you intend to record the district's heritage as a contribution to the State's 150th or Australia's 200th anniversaries, begin your research now.

As an individual interested in regional history or a member of a book committee, this guide will encourage you to pursue the enquiries in an organised direction.

Produced by Investigator Press, this soft, full coloured cover book of 64 pages is lightened with sketches by Sue Speck and quotations from primary source material discussed. Cost \$5.00 (plus \$1.00 for postage and packaging)."

Orders to: Ms. M. E. Ragless, 1 Selgar Avenue, Clovelly Park. 5042.

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A Family's Who's Who:
Woolcock and Field Family History in Australia, 1839-1981
(Adelaide: 1982)

This is a well above average family history. Of particular interest are the letters of the founder of the Woolcock family in South Australia, the Rev. Richard Woolcock: they are full of wisdom and acute observation. Just as significant are the letters, and extracts from the diary, of his son, John Milton Woolcock.

As Sir Walter Crocker notes in his foreward to the book, the dominant impression left on the reader is quality - "quality of the human stock, quality of body and mind and spirit". In the Woolcocks, there was "a natural balance and sanity which does not need pills, or alcohol, or show, to keep going", and they made a splendid contribution to business, agriculture, the armed services, medicine, engineering, religious life, and sport.

John Playford

* * * *

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE S.A. DEPARTMENT OF MINES & ENERGY
Box 151, Eastwood. 5063

In Search of Mineral Wealth:

The South Australian Geological Survey and Department of Mines to 1944
by

Bernard O'Neil

"Mining operations, highly unstable and unpredictable ventures, have on occasion provided a sense of stability to South Australia and its economy. Indeed, the history of European settlement is intricately linked to the fluctuating fortunes of the mining industry.

The appointment of the first Government Geologist, Henry Yorke Lyell Brown, on 1 December 1882 was made during a period of drought and depression in the Colony. The establishment of the Department of Mines in 1894 occurred under similar circumstances. Both measures were intended to assist private industry in the exploitation of mineral and water resources and thereby to ensure that the people of South Australia acquired some benefits. Mining activities, however, generally remained at a low ebb for many years following these official initiatives.

In Search of Mineral Wealth was prepared from a thesis written by Bernard O'Neil in the Department of History at the University of Adelaide. The first two chapters, covering the period between 1836 and 1882, concentrate on the politics of the time and outline the interaction of the Government and private enterprise in the mining industry. The following four chapters describe the operations of the Geological Survey and Department of Mines until 1911. The final four chapters depict the functions of the Department under the leadership of L. K. Ward and also tell of the development of mineral deposits,

including uranium, coal, copper, iron and gold, and the oil and water resources of the State. With eight coloured maps and over 150 black and white photographs in a carefully designed format, this volume will be of interest within and outside the mining, geological and historical professions.

Through government and private records, Parliamentary papers and debates, contemporary newspaper editorials and correspondence, the archival material, In Search of Mineral Wealth discusses the mood of the past and, in doing so, demonstrates the feeling that much has been said before. Hence 100 years on from Brown's appointment, there remains the expectation that wealth to be one from the recovery and processing of minerals will provide a renewed impetus to employment, investment, challenges and opportunity in South Australia."

\$16.95 plus postage and packing (surface mail) - Australia \$3.00, Overseas \$5.00.

Mining in South Australia:

A Pictorial History

by

J. F. Drexel

"Mining in South Australia: A Pictorial History provides, through nearly 400 photographs and complimentary text, a glimpse of the colourful and vital mining industry which helped a colony grow into our State. This book includes the large as well as small mining ventures of South Australia - from early silver and lead discoveries, through copper and gold, up to the petroleum liquids scheme at Stony Point and initial exploitation of the huge Olympic Dam copper - gold - uranium deposit on Roxby Downs Station.

Photography was in its infancy during foundation years of the colony, and few pre-1860 photographs are available to convey the excitement of pioneer prospectors as they uncovered pockets and seams of valuable minerals throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges. But the rich copper mines at Kapunda and Burra, opened in the mid-1840s, operated into the 1870s, by which time photography was sufficiently advanced for panoramas from these now abandoned and derelict workings to be preserved. Other unique underground mining and surface processing scenes were captured at Wallaroo Mines during the early 20th century by an enthusiast using portable lighting; these, together with numerous other photographs, vividly portray the hard working conditions of the miner.

Mining in South Australia: A Pictorial History has been produced to mark the Centenary of the Department of Mines and Energy."

\$19.95 plus postage and packing (surface mail) - Australia \$3.00, Overseas \$5.00.

Silver and a Trace of Gold:

A History of the Aclare Mine

by

Joy Chilman

"In the 1880s the Aclare Mine was South Australia's major silver producer and was well-known to investors in England.

Its history typifies mines of that period, often bearing names reflecting the optimism of their promoters. Some mines were opened and shut down many times.

Against this background, Silver and a Trace of Gold establishes the mood of these times and painstakingly and sympathetically traces the history of the mine within the context of South Australia's early development.

The author, Joy Chilman, carried out her work with the aid of an

Australian Heritage Commission grant. She has produced a readable and fascinating account that will take its place among the major works of South Australian history."

\$7.50 plus postage and packing \$1.50.

THE JOHN HETHERINGTON PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY

John Hetherington OBE (1907-74) was one of Australia's leading authors and journalists. His 14 books included acclaimed biographies of Dame Nellie Melba, Norman Lindsay and Sir Thomas Blamey.

His widow, Mrs. Mollie Hetherington, will sponsor a valuable and prestigious biography prize to coincide with Australia's Bicentennial year in 1988. The prize is \$10,000 indexed to a maximum of \$15,000 to take account of inflation. The John Hetherington Prize for Biography will be conducted by The Australian Bicentennial Authority in association with the National Book Council. The Authority will appoint three judges for the prize after consultations with the donor and other organisations or persons whom it may select.

Conditions of Entry

1 The subject of the biography will be a person no longer living who has made an important contribution to Australian life. He/she need not have been born in Australia but must have resided in Australia for a significant period.

2 The author must be an Australian citizen or be domiciled in Australia.

3 There will only be one cash prize to be awarded to the author of the winning entry, although the judges may nominate other entries as 'highly commended'.

4 The prize will be announced on 3 October 1988, the day in 1988 corresponding to the date of birth of John Hetherington.

5 Entrants shall request the publisher of the winning entry to display on all copies distributed after the announcement of the prize, stickers bearing the words The John Hetherington Prize and the symbol of The Australian Bicentennial Authority.

6 Only books/manuscripts intended for general sale will be eligible.

7 Ineligible books/manuscripts are those which:

- (a) depend primarily on illustrations;
- (b) are revised editions or adaptations of previously published works;
- (c) have more than two collaborative authors;
- (d) are less than 90,000 words in length;
- (e) were published prior to 1 January 1985.

8 Four copies of each entry must be submitted to
The Australian Bicentennial Authority,
G.P.O. Box AUS 1988, Sydney 2001.

9 The Australian Bicentennial Authority shall not be responsible for the loss of any manuscripts or books submitted to it.

10 All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form.

No entry fee is required.

11 Closing date for entries will be 30 June 1987.

12 The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into as to whether the foregoing conditions have been satisfied. The Australian Bicentennial Authority will be under no obligation whatsoever to the winning entrant, other than to award such entrant the prize.

Requests for further information and entry forms can be made by telephoning the Adelaide office of The Australian Bicentennial Authority on 212 1988.

THE FUNERAL REFORM MOVEMENT IN ADELAIDE

I. The Role of The Press

By the 1860s Adelaide society had begun to wholeheartedly adopt the elaborate ceremonial increasingly associated with burial in Victorian England. In the face of this development, a concerted effort was made by sections of the Adelaide community not only to reform conditions in the cemetery itself, but to resist the increasing ritualization of funerals and reform that area as well. The obvious target for their anger were the undertakers. The case was clearly set out in the S. A. Register of May 29, 1869:

"... Wherever the natural sorrow for the dead is allowed entire possession of the heart, pageantry must be turned from with loathing. When people meet death in sober earnest, undistorted by the prejudices of society, ostentation is the very last form in which they would exhibit their reverence for it. The undertaker with his mutes has saddled himself upon them, and they submit as the stern laws of custom dictate; but who that was free to devise a funeral rite according to his own taste would introduce catafalques, and crapes and coaches into it? His first inclination would be to extinguish all these as a hideous mockery - often a monstrous hardship to the living... The fashionable funeral is not only a moral atrocity but it is a ruinous impost on society... There must be an end some time to the gilded burlesque of sorrow. It is a silly and vulgar fashion for the rich to practice, but it is a ruinous folly for the poor to imitate... There are two, and only two essential requisites of reform in this matter. First, the public must have their minds awakened to a consciousness of their own share in the abuse. When this has been done the undertakers will soon find it expedient to readapt their arrangements and their charges to the improved taste of the community."

This newspaper comment clearly reflected a growing concern in Adelaide. Stories of undertakers persuading bereaved families to purchase more than was necessary or they could really afford were common. It was also widely believed that undertakers charged too much for the actual service provided. The Register claimed that the commonest funeral in Adelaide cost from 12 to 14 pounds. On top of this were the draper's bill for mourning and the doctor's bill.

"A working man who wishes to make a 'respectable' exit from the world ought to have five and twenty or thirty pounds in the Savings Bank for the doctor and the undertaker to divide between them."

Stories were also common of families being ruined by the financial commitments made for a funeral.

In this, as with the problems of the West Terrace Cemetery, the whole question was treated as one of serious concern for the citizens. Funerals and burials were an important part of society which touched all its members with considerable regularity. Statements of righteous indignation and horror which now seem somewhat incongruous attracted the support of large sections of the community. A report in the mining town of Moonta printed in the Adelaide press again expresses clearly these feelings:

"From there being no hearse in Moonta, I conjecture it entered into some foolish person's head to hire the yellow-coloured omnibus to

do duty at a recent funeral, the effect being anything but solemn or appropriate. A yellow-coloured mourning-coach, even in Australia, would look in the eyes of most of us peculiar, to say the least of it; but a veritable - for the occasion - yellow bedaubed hearse is almost out of the pale of decency...that such a thing should have happened is a disgrace to the place... Again, the idea of this omnibus one day being used for a trip to the races, and soon after as a hearse, must strike the most unthinking as a thing that should not be." <1>

As with the scandals exposed in the 1850s and 1860s with regard to the management of the Public Cemetery, so with the question of funeral custom, the South Australian Register took up the issue as a matter of considerable concern.

"...however many antiquated customs we have renounced in our new life, and, however many improvements on old-world usages we have introduced, the present funeral customs of society remain a marked blot upon our Christianity, our civilization, and our social progress."

Again the common stories of impoverishment as a result of unnecessarily elaborate funerals were told. The greatest cause of opposition seems to have been the sheer expense of funeral arrangements and the lack of genuine need for much of the ancillary pageantry and ritual.<2> Increasingly all of this was attacked as being quite opposed to the tenets of Christianity and the Advertiser called for "a new crusade to rescue the common sepulchres of men".<3> And who were to be the champions of this crusade? Clearly not the poor, "for they follow the example of their betters", nor the middle class - "They dare not do other than imitate those above them. Loss of caste, and in many cases a fall in their neighbour's estimation would immediately follow on a departure from conventional usage". As far as the Register was concerned, the lead must be taken by the wealthy. The editor noted reports of funeral reform societies in England and called for the leaders of society in Adelaide to organise a similar group.

"We have heard of several persons giving in their wills precise directions to ensure simplicity of burial, but the formation of something like a Burial Reform Association would be productive of general and permanent good".

The purpose of such an association would be to eliminate the many expensive funeral customs commonly deemed to be unnecessary. These included the distribution of gloves and hatbands, the provision of wine and spirits and the use of elaborate hearses.

II. Reverend A. Russell

In fact, the invitation of the Register was not taken up directly by the wealthier members of society, but rather by the dean of the Church of England, Reverend A. Russell. Dean Russell commended the press for the stand taken in its editorials and called on those sympathetic to the points expressed in it to communicate with him so that he might call together a conference to discuss possibilities of reforming funeral customs. Russell singled out for particular attack several aspects of contemporary funerals. These were:

- the use of expensive hearses and mourning coaches;
- the use of what he called "foolish nodding plumes" on both horses and hearse;
- the use of professional mutes adorned with mourning;
- the custom of distributing gloves and hatbands to clergymen and others; and
- the adornment of coffins with expensive but unnecessary ornaments.

Russell also attacked the unchristian nature of funerals with their symbols of desolation and hopelessness and made positive suggestions for the type of simple and inexpensive funeral which he would like to see become common. Other suggestions covered the actual burial of the coffin and the need for the government to provide at West Terrace

"a decent dead-house in which to receive the remains of those casually found dead. It is a grievous reproach to Adelaide that this has still to be asked for", <4>

Requests for such a dead-house had been made as early as 1847 by the original board of trustees, but had been rejected by the government on the grounds of expense.

III. The Funeral Reform Association

Rev. Russell's call was taken up by many prominent members of Adelaide society. The first meeting to discuss the issue was held on September 21st, 1874 in the Town Hall and it was decided to form a Funeral Reform Association. In all about 100 men were present at the meeting and lengthy discussions were held regarding the necessity for reform. Even the editor of the Register expressed his surprise at the depth of feeling on the subject shown by those present and concluded that there was probably even more widespread support for reform in the community than originally anticipated.

During the discussions the major objections to the current burial customs were again aired. The chairman of the meeting, Mr. S. Tomkinson, said that as a banker for over 30 years he had seen numerous examples of families being impoverished by the cost of funerals. Others present supported this and several specific examples were given. A strong feeling was expressed that mourning customs as well as funeral expenses should be reformed. In the end a committee was formed and after it had met on a number of occasions the following propositions were adopted:

1. "That this Association agrees to recommend the substitution for the hearse and heavy mourning coaches at present in use at funerals of a simple bier on wheels and ordinary carriages, and the discontinuance of the use of plumes, scarfs, hatbands, and the gift of gloves to mourners and attendants".
2. "That members of this Association hereby pledge themselves to observe the foregoing recommendations".
3. "That communication be entered into with the different Friendly Societies with the view of their being invited also to observe the recommendations".
4. "The Association further recommends that the present custom of supplying refreshments at funerals be discontinued; and the members of the Association hereby pledge themselves to do their utmost to secure that object".

The Committee also agreed to discuss the subject of mourning dress, stated that in no cases should a clergyman's fee form an item in the undertaker's charge and recommended that processions from the dwelling to the grave be discontinued, the mourners assembling at the church or cemetery.

The reaction in the press to all this was again predictable. Several correspondents wrote of their knowledge of the problems caused by the existing funeral customs and both the Advertiser and the Register reported favourably on the discussions held by the Association and the recommendations made by its committee. Again the Register summed things up nicely:

"Nothing could be more unreasonable than the funeral arrangements now in vogue. They are incongruous, unsuitable to the climate, and needlessly expensive, nor is there a valid argument that can be urged in their defence... In the interests alike of decorum and philanthropy a speedy and thorough reform should be accomplished. We compliment the Dean upon taking in hand this commendable work, and have no doubt that his appeal for cooperation will be warmly responded to."

IV. Undertakers & Clergymen

Of course the one group which did not warmly respond to these events was that of the undertakers themselves. At the inaugural Association meetings themselves some voices were raised in defence of the undertakers. At least one undertaker, Mr. W. Benbow, attended the first meeting and claimed that the undertaker had been greatly misrepresented. In particular he denied the assumption which seemed to have been made by those present that all funerals were expensive. In the light of these and similar comments, diplomacy triumphed and it was agreed that those present were not attacking the undertaker but the custom. The Register also took up the issue of the role of the undertakers themselves.

"It may be admitted that undertakers are not less honest than other classes of tradesmen, and that they do not make unfair profits out of their customers. For what they have to provide they probably charge no more than the market value, but the fact is so many unnecessary things have come to be considered requisite at funerals that the cost entailed is very much higher than it ought to be."

Nor was it only the undertaker's role which came in for questioning. Several people at the meetings and at least one of the Register's correspondents brought up for discussion the question of clergymen's fees as a contributory factor to the expense of funerals.<5> Obviously a sensitive issue, several clergymen reacted strongly denying the possibility that any of their colleagues would use death as a means of enriching themselves.

V. Conclusion

In the end, the new association achieved considerable publicity and a great deal of vocal support from various sections of the community. However, human nature and human variety proved a strong counter force. The weight of public pressure popularised the general notion that reform in the funeral industry and in the maintenance of cemeteries was necessary. Susceptibility, particularly strong among the Victorians, to social pressure ensured that only minor reforms of a lasting nature were in fact achieved.

Rob Nicol

References

1. S. A. Register, June 14, 1869, p.2.
2. S. A. Register, September 21, 1874.
3. S. A. Advertiser, July 21, 1874.
4. S. A. Advertiser, August 3, 1874.
5. S. A. Register, September 29, 1874.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

Since October, 1982, the following Newsletters and Journals have been received:

- a) Ancestor, Quarterly Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Vol.14, 3, June, 1982.
- b) Bicentenary '88, Newsletter of The Australian Bicentennial Authority, Vol.2, No.3, October, 1982.
- c) Canberra and District Historical Society Newsletter, No.238 and 239, October and November, 1982.
- d) Canberra Historical Journal, New Series No.10, September, 1982.
- e) Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society Inc. Newsletter, No.19, November, 1982.
- f) Newsletter of The Australian Association for Maritime History, Nos.9, 10, 11 & 12, February, April, July and October, 1982.
- g) Newsletter of The Royal Australian Historical Society and Affiliated Societies, No.11, October, 1982.
- h) Portonian, The Official Organ of the Port Adelaide Historical Society Inc., Vol.10, No.3, September, 1982.
- i) Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch (Inc.) Newsletter, Vol.18, Nos.8, 9 & 10, September, October and November, 1982.
- j) Royal Western Australian Historical Society Newsletter, Vol.21, Nos.9 & 10, October and November/December, 1982.
- k) South East Family History Group Newsletter, Vol.2, No.5, October, 1982, and Members Directory, No.2, 1982.
- l) The Cape Horner Journal, No.80, October, 1982.
- m) The South Australian Genealogist, Vol.9, No.4, October, 1982.
- n) The Uniting Church in South Australia Historical Society Newsletter, No.16, November, 1982.
- o) Torrens Valley Historical Journal, Nos.18 & 19, July and September, 1982.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- a) "A poor man's place in history: the story of George Stone", 2 pg. article tracing the fortunes of a certain George Stone who migrated from England to Tasmania in 1842, and who then went on to live in both South Australia and Victoria in later years.
- g) "The Sydney Nautical Schools and Vocational Training", 2 pg. article by John Ramsland.
- m) "Library: The Library collection has increased dramatically over the past year with a current collection of 1615 Reference books, 436 Family Histories, 89 Heraldry books, and 137 Transcriptions. In addition the use of the Library has increased to the extent that we outgrew its home in The Block, Hindmarsh Square. New premises were secured on the first

floor of the Adelaide Democratic Club building, Market Street, City. There is now considerably greater space with room for expansion. The rent is greater than previously, but in view of the increased area, well worth while.

During the year a new microfiche reader/printer was installed. Harold Sears donated an additional microfiche reader. Sets of microfiche have been obtained of the Broken Hill and Karrakatta (Perth) cemetery burial registers, and the Victorian Post Office Directories for the 1860's and 1870's. The last of these was donated by Sadie Pritchard. The new edition of the International Genealogical Index was ordered and has now been received, although outside the period covered by this Report.

In addition microfilm copies of the 1841 S.A. Census, the Applications for Assisted Passage 1836-1841 and the Abbot Index were acquired.

The Society now has a full set of all the passenger lists and indexes held in the State Archives from 1836 to 1887."

"The Library will be closed after 18th December, 1982 and reopen for regular visiting on Tuesday 1st February, 1983."

o) July issue - "Gummeracka Ploughing Match, Thursday, 29th July, 1852", pgs.8-16 & continued in September Journal, pgs.13-21. Also in September Journal, "Ludlow House, 1840-1850".

OTHER PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Escort House, A History by A. G. Peake, 1982. 24 pg. illustrated booklet. Available from Ru Rua Nursing Home (Estcourt House), Military Road, Tennyson, 5022 for \$1.00 (plus postage).

Australian War Memorial: Curatorial and Conservation Functions - Joint Committee of Public Accounts, 196th Report

Danish Journal: Estates and Manor Houses in Demark, courtesy of the Danish Embassy.

The Fund for Animals Limited Newsletter, Vol.2, No.6, October, 1982.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Dear Member,

With this Newsletter, your 1983 subscription falls due.

Due to financial pressures, the Society's Council has had to raise all subscription rates, except for the category of Life Membership.

A final renewal notice will appear in the March issue of the Newsletter.

Enid Ulbrich

Treasurer.