
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SA PUBLICATIONS

Journal

The *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* has appeared annually since 1975, with the exception of 1978 and 1980 when there were two issues. Back issues of all numbers except 1, 4, 9 and 10 are available at \$12.00 each (postage included). *Note however that stocks of some issues are running low.*

The contents of each journal are listed in the 'South Australian History in Journals' guidesheets included in Newsletters No's 77 (July 1988) and 79 (November 1988).

Newsletter

Back issues of more recent years' issues are available at \$1.00 each.

Guidesheets

These leaflets are made available gratis by the Society as a community service to promote history beyond its membership. They are issued as supplements to its Newsletters and additional copies are normally available in the Mortlock Library and the History Trust head office.

- No. 1 South Australian Local History 1. Guides, Indexes & Bibliographies (1978, out of print)
- No. 2 Good Reading in South Australian History (Revised edition 1987)
- No. 3 South Australian History in Journals—A Select List of Articles (1981)
- No. 4 Making History (1988)
- No. 5 South Australian History in Journals—2. A Select List of Articles (1988)

Occasional Paper

E.J. & J.R. Robbins *A Glossary of Local Government Areas in South Australia 1840–1985* (1987) \$3.00 + \$1.00 postage

Joint Publications

S. Marsden & R. Nicol (eds) *The Politics of Heritage* (1990) [with the History Trust of S.A.] \$7.50 + \$1 postage. Available direct from the History Trust only.

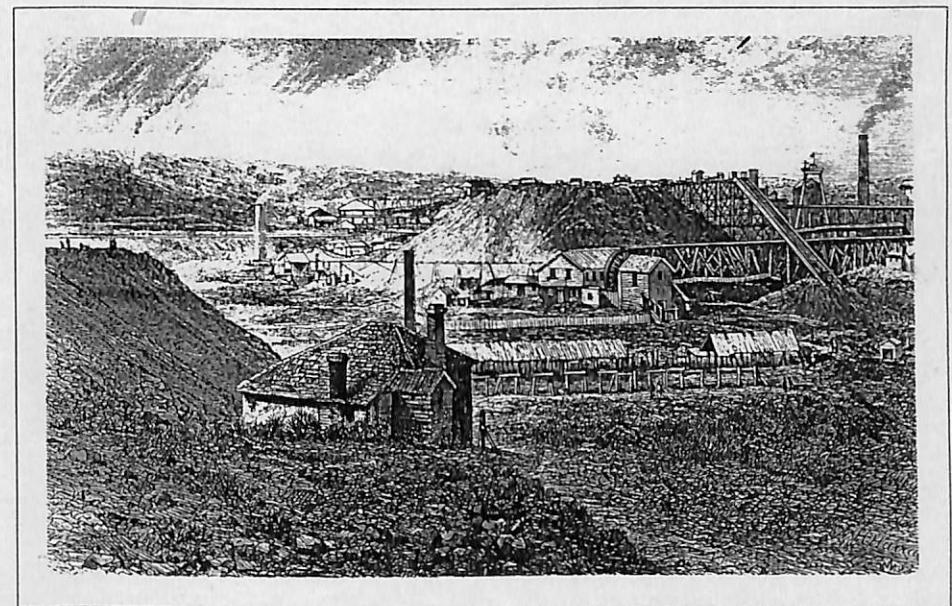
various *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* A facsimile reproduction of volume 1, 18 June 1836 to 29 December 1838. (1988) [in association with the S.A. Government Printer] \$35 (limp) or \$75 (hard back). Available direct from the Government Printer and selected Adelaide bookshops.

'Insights' Series

R. Nicol & B. Samuels (eds) *Insights into South Australian History volume one: Selected articles from the Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* (1992) \$14 postage paid. \$12 for orders of 5 or more.

The Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Newsletter No. 102 September 1992



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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000

OBJECTS

- (a) to arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of history, especially South Australian and Australian history
- (b) to promote the collection, preservation and classification of source material of all kinds relating to South Australian and Australian history
- (c) to publish historical records and articles
- (d) to promote the interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, readings, discussions, field trips and exhibitions
- (e) to co-operate with similar societies throughout Australia
- (f) to do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objects

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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover Illustration: Burra Burra Mine, looking south, 1870s

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
(Corner Kintore Avenue and North Tce., Adelaide)
Enter from Kintore Ave.

Friday 2 October 1992 at 8p.m.

Ms Julie-Ann Ellis

Legitimising a Defacto Relationship—The South Australian Travelling Stock Routes

Long corridors of land, with intermittent large holding paddocks, known as the Travelling Stock Reserves (or Routes), have been used for the droving of stock to market in South Australia since the early 1850s, but their legal recognition has been more complex. The status and use of the reserves—in the interests of pastoralists, in the interests of landless workers, in the interests of conservation, or even against the interests of Aboriginal land rights—shows a great deal about the public values of the society which created, subverted or maintained them. The form and interesting example of de facto public use, and de facto privatisation of land in South Australia.

Friday 13 November 1992 at 8p.m.

Michael Talbot

Dancing by Moonlight and all sorts of fun

Mechanics' institutes developed in Britain in the 1820's from the meeting of a number of different social forces having as their goal the education of the working classes. The movement caught the spirit of the age, spreading widely and rapidly wherever British influence reached: to colonial outposts like South Africa, Canada, Australasia and India; to English speaking countries like the United States of America; and to countries like Holland and France which looked at and were receptive to British ideas. St Petersburg had a Mechanics' institute in 1831, and Canton had one in 1837. The concept suited the South Australian frame of mind and as a social force it lasted much longer here than anywhere else.

In the 1930s the South Australian institutes system was described as 'fundamentally wrong' by Ralph Munn and Ernest Pitt, who carried out a far reaching survey of Australian libraries under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. They saw a decayed system of institutes and schools of arts throughout Australia but believed these institutions enjoyed 'a former period of real usefulness'. Furthermore, they were only

considering their library provision and not the multitude of other functions served by institutes.

'Dancing by moonlight...' is a talk about the lively South Australian institutes of the nineteenth century, with anecdotes of the sixpenny readings, concerts, quadrille parties, rifle matches and Young Men's Improvement Societies.

The speaker, Michael Talbot, is Reader Services Manager in the State Library of South Australia. His research interests in library history date from his doctoral thesis work on the Library Association of Australasia, 1896-1902, completed in 1985 for the Monash University Graduate School of Librarianship. His official history of the Institutes Movement in South Australia, prepared for the Institutes Association of South Australia, is currently in press. He is also editor of *The Australian Library Journal*. His alter ego, Harold Micklewhite, is a volunteer presenter for Triple-M FMs Saturday morning Four Course Breakfast program.

SOCIETY NEWS

Fund Raising Tour

Historic Salisbury, October 18, 1992.

(In conjunction with the Salisbury and Districts Historical Society).

Join us for a fascinating afternoon bus tour of the historic Salisbury district with tour guides from the Salisbury and Districts Historical Society.

Salisbury is a much older settlement than many people realise and has many interesting historic sites. The tour will include the monument to the first power flight in Australia, Parafield Cemetery (the 12,000 white elephant of the late 19th century, fully laid out but never used for burials), the ruin of St John's, the Wesleyan Chapel, St Augustine's Sturton Church, the school/police station/institute complex, the Primitive Methodist Cemetery, old homesteads and hotels. We will take a break in the middle for afternoon tea and to meet with some of our Salisbury colleagues.

Departure time: 1pm from *The War Memorial*,
Cnr North Terrace and Kintore Avenue,

Cost: \$11 per person which includes afternoon tea.

Return: Approximately 5.30pm

Bookings essential: 'phone Treasurer Avis Huckel to reserve your place
Telephone: 277-2953 a.h.

Annual Dinner

Don't forget 19 September, St Marks College. See last issue for details.

Bookings to Avis Huckel 277 2953 a.h. (an answering machine will take messages)

WWII—Information Requested

Many districts throughout Australia have a record of the names of those who died while serving during world war 11. However, there are numerous cities and shires, especially within our larger cities, that have incomplete records or none at all. With the cooperation of member Historical Societies, Dr Ian Buckley (Canberra) wishes to make a survey of all historical districts throughout the Commonwealth, the aim being to make a nationwide assessment of information presently available and, where deficient, to fill in gaps.

It would therefore be greatly appreciated if the Secretaries of member Societies would respond to the following questions:

1. What, geographically, is the district covered by your historical society? (e.g., city, shire, county, parish, other?)
2. Does your historical district, as defined, have on record a list of the names of citizens who were killed or who died while serving in the armed forces or merchant navy during WWII?
3. If so, is it believed that the list is complete (or incomplete)?
4. Is there a public memorial (in any form), displaying names, that relates to WWII?
5. If your district has no record of names (or if the list is incomplete), would the members of your Society be interested in acquiring such a list?

Question 5 is asked because, if the data from next-of-kin Circulars held by the Australian War Memorial were to be computerised, it would be a straightforward matter to provide district-based information for WWII (and other) wars.

Please forward answers direct to:

Dr Ian Buckley,
56 Arthur Circle,
FORREST, ACT 2603

Documents

These documents were kindly sent by Mr W. Simmonds, Kersbrook, SA

ILLUSTRATED TIMES
12/6/65

A CONCERT ON THE DIGGINGS.

Wherever money is plentiful, especially among the lower classes, means to get rid of it will be found as a natural consequence. The plain, steady-going domestic circle persons but few charms to men who have never experienced its soothing influences, more especially at a time when they are in an unusual state of excitement, which is invariably the case on a gold-field, and particularly so if it be one recently discovered, or, in colonial parlance, a "new rush." After an arduous day's work, it is only natural that men, most of whom are single, should look for relaxation, when taking into consideration the fact of their having no homes wherein to pass their evenings, the only shelter possessed, or even wished for, by them being a small tent, a boarding-house on a new diggings not being the most enviable residence, the generality of them being nothing more or less than unlicensed tents on a large scale, where spirituous and malt liquors of a questionable quality are sold at high prices, gambling permitted day and night, and the least possible attention paid to the real comfort of the inmates. Of course, things do not remain long in this condition after it is once ascertained that the diggings are likely to be permanent. Competition at once sets in, and more comfortable buildings arise; but, as we repeat, before these additional inducements can be obtained by men of wandering dispositions with, in many instances, plenty of money, can we be surprised at their seeking any innocent pastime? Some boast a stich to their dwellings an ante-chamber, with a few forms or planks laid along for seats, where those who delight in vocal exhibitions and the real free-and-easy principle resort. The most profuse extravagance often used to be indulged in at these concert-rooms when the gold fever first broke out, for suddenly men who had scarcely in the course of their lives known what it was to have a pound to call their own found themselves the owners of thousands. At those times it was when such events took place as diggers lighting their pipes with ten-pound notes, and treating strangers to champagne by dozens at a guinea per bottle.

The town of Geelong, being nearer to Ballarat than Melbourne, was more immediately influenced by this mania; and it was currently reported, so general was the migration from it, that only one of the male sex was left to keep the ladies company. The metropolitan city, although farther from the spot, was very little calmer; at every turn of the streets parties were loading drays and making preparations to start for Ballarat, and the usual salutation given and exchanged between the citizens was, "Well, when are you off?" It was useless to expect any work to be performed, at even extravagant rates. The outfitters could scarcely obtain persons to make cradles and tin dishes to supply the digging parties with those indispensable articles. No city, perhaps, was ever plunged into such a ferment, and the citizens seemed all seized with the same insane thirst for gold. This may be accounted for in some degree by the uncertainty of the intelligence which was continuously reaching Melbourne. The precious metal had undoubtedly been picked up in large quantities; and the people at first naturally imagined that a solid mass had been found, and that there would be a scramble for the gold, and they were all anxious to be in time. It is true that more correct intelligence was propagated through the columns of the newspapers; but little credit was given to these accounts. Gold was there in abundance; and all were anxious to obtain a share of the public wealth and convert it to their own uses.

In these circumstances an immense population accumulated in a very short time, and, money being plentiful, and domestic comforts and inducements scarce, it is not to be wondered at that caterers for public amusement should spring up, and accordingly they did. Concert-rooms, theatres, circuses, &c., flourished in the interior of the Australian bush where, few months previously, the foot of a white man had never been. Our Engraving is intended to illustrate one of the evening entertainments on the diggings, where elegance and etiquette are dispensed with for the sake of freedom and comfort.

A. A. S.

locality a gold-diggings. To such meetings, we repeat, particular or conscientious people will often resort. In some instances, tea-meetings on an old-established diggings are carried through in a very decent manner; but, in some cases, if the style be decent, it is extremely intemperate.

We remember an instance on the Lachlan diggings of a gentleman of a religious turn of mind advertising to the effect that he intended to officiate as shepherd at a tea-meeting on the temperance system. The day arrived, and so did the shepherd; but, unfortunately, in a state of intoxication; his excuse being, on hearing that his condition was not likely to pass unnoticed, that he had come there in that condition to show his friends a practical illustration of the bad effects produced by intemperance.

Victoria was settled by voluntary efforts, and, as some of her early enemies admitted, never cost the mother country a farthing. Many persons have talked and written in a disparaging strain of the early colonists, but their enterprise and indomitable perseverance have never been excelled by any community, large or small. The political history of the settlement during the first fourteen years of its existence is but a continual struggle for emancipation from the unnatural union with New South Wales. The ultimate deliverance of the colony from a system of cruel oppression gives encouragement to oppressed people in every part of the world to persevere in their exertions for deliverance. Victoria, at length freed, commenced her independent existence under the fairest auspices. The spirit of her early politicians has been breathed into her political institutions, which are as free as any people need desire.

The founders of great cities, where any record of them has remained, have always received a considerable place in history. The student can hardly read the account of the founding of Rome or the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at New Plymouth without his fancy bringing up pleasing pictures of Romulus and John Carver. Amongst those who lay claim to be considered the founders of Victoria the name of Belman is already intertwined with many romantic associations. Buckley, although a very common-place character, has a history replete with incidents and wild adventure. In after ages, when Victoria has become a great and powerful country, these two, with Fawkner, Henty, and others, will have many a warm tribune paid to their memory by thousands who will be indirectly benefiting by their toils. In recording the permanent settlement of Victoria, it is impossible not to be struck with the fact that it was the very people, or their representatives, who had abandoned the colony in 1804 who, after an interval of a quarter of a century, returned from Van Diemen's Land to form permanent establishments on its shores. In 1834 Mr. Thomas Henty, who had emigrated to Lunenburg, explored a considerable portion of the southern coast of New Holland, with the view of obtaining a spot suitable for stock. Mr. Henty selected a tract near the present town of Portland, and made application to the Government for a grant of 20,000 acres of land. This request, although not formally granted at the time, was ultimately tacitly allowed, and Mr. Henty thus became the founder of the valuable district of Portland and the first bona fide settler in Victoria.

Our Engraving represents a pastime much in favour in Melbourne, more particularly among the humbler and middle classes—viz., a tea-meeting; and, as these little social affairs are mostly got up for some charitable object, the attendance is generally large, and, like those held on the gold-diggings, are the means of producing subscriptions of no contemptible nature.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES
14/10/65

SKETCHES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER
A BUSH FIRE.

GENERALLY speaking, parts of the country situated about fifteen or twenty miles from any of the larger cities is called, in Australian parlance, "the bush." It signifies the same as speaking of the country in England, although we often wonder why some more explicit term has not been adopted to distinguish the cultivated from the wild parts; for even to residents it is often a difficulty to determine what a person means by saying he is going into the bush, for you are left entirely to your own conjectures as to whether he is going fifty miles or five hundred, it meaning, as we have before said, any part a short distance from a large city or seaport.

The Australian bush possesses one feature dissimilar to any other country in the world—viz., its extraordinary similarity throughout. It seems, even to a close observer, as though he was wandering about in a thicket of timber of the same species in England. Last year we travelled overland from Sydney to Melbourne, being compelled to lengthen the distance to nearly 2000 miles, during which we naturally passed through an immense space of wooded country, and were struck with the great sameness in the timber. Certainly there are some few variable species characteristic of New South Wales, which somewhat relieve the monotony; but, generally speaking, the common red gum (genus *Eucalyptus*), confined exclusively to Australia, predominates. The undergrowth consists mostly of wild, rough-looking fern; long, rank grass; and tall, tea scrub, growing over masses of fallen timber, either blown down or the remains of bush fires, one of which our Engraving is intended to portray. These fires occur in the summer months, mostly from November until March, after which the autumnal rains commence and saturate the grass sufficiently to prevent conflagrations, which in many instances must arise from spontaneous combustion, as they often occur in parts where no one is likely to have penetrated; therefore they could not have arisen by sparks from a pipe or match, as is often the case in other instances. Neither could they have arisen from reflection off a bottle, which also fires the grass occasionally. The fact that no hint of any description is visible in districts where these fires have commenced, goes still further to substantiate our assertion that bush fires often arise from spontaneous combustion. In fact, we can scarcely wonder, after an absence of rain for a couple of months, with the thermometer ranging between 100 deg. and 200 deg. in the shade, that a quantity of carbonized timber, on becoming dried almost into touchwood, should ignite under a burning sun, and that the fire should spread with great rapidity, when taking into consideration that the various lakes, water-courses, &c. formed by the rain of winter, have become dried up by the combined influence of sun and hot winds, the latter being one of the worst climatic visitations to which Australia is liable. The north wind of summer, strong, steady, dry, and hot in its character, is a frequent visitor; and being generally succeeded by an equally strong southerly breeze, fresh off the ocean, the thermometer falls within a few hours, occasionally within a few minutes, through a range of from 20 deg. to 30 deg.

The temperature during the hot winds ranges usually between 80 deg. and 100 degrees, depending for its degree of intensity upon the period of the summer in which it occurs, and the state of the country as to moisture. If the country has been previously well moistened with rain, this wind is not disagreeable, but if it continue for two or three days, as this northerly breeze is apt to do under such circumstances, it becomes gradually more dry and hot as the surface moisture disappears under its influence. Having now acquired the characters and effects of a hot wind, there is called into operation these meteorologic influences that appear unfaillingly to ensure a refreshing change. The cool southerly breeze is ushered in, and with it, in general, although not always, a return of rain.

The hot wind is felt most oppressively when it occurs after long periods of dry weather. Thus it is often very severe in February, the summer's sun having still its full power, and the country having had usually by that time a long period of dry weather. With the autumnal rains this wind loses its hot and dry character; and in winter the breezes from the north are not marked by any peculiarity. These winds, with the violent changes by which they are terminated, are of less frequent occurrence in the adjacent colonies; but, occasionally, in these warmer latitudes they are exceedingly severe. At Sydney and in the interior of New South Wales the thermometer in the shade has risen as high as 120 deg., and even 125 deg., as recorded by Sturt, on the occasion of his exploring the River Macquarie in 1827. The severest of these visitations on record in Victoria occurred on Thursday, the 6th of February, 1851—which has been ever since remembered under the designation of Black Thursday—when the thermometer ranged between 100 deg. and 110 deg. in the verandahs and other shaded parts of the dwelling-houses throughout the colony. The country, exceedingly dry from a long cessation of rain, took fire in many directions, the flames overrunning the grass, spreading among the trees with frightful avidity, and occasioning the loss of much property. Similar weather was experienced at the same time in the colonies of South Australia and New South Wales.

The cause of these hot winds and the source whence they are derived are points of some interest. The idea of a great inland Australian sea that long haunted the minds of Australian colonists did not promise any elucidation of the subject. The arduous expedition of Captain Sturt, in 1845, from Adelaide into the northern interior, at length threw light on the mystery. Instead of an ocean of water, that adventurous explorer found a boundless expanse of the most sterile desert—a veritable Sahara of the south—a waste of sand and stones, without a blade of grass or a visible drop of water. At the imminent hazard of his life, the traveller penetrated to 24 deg. south, but without seeing any indications of an alteration in the physical aspect of the region. The hot wind comes over Adelaide from the north; it reaches Melbourne from about north-north-west, and Sydney from a direction still more westerly.

The locality of the desert is thus pointed to in common from all these different localities. A remarkable confirmation of the intimate connection of this desert with these hot winds was furnished by the traveller Leichardt during his overland journey, in 1811, from Moreton Bay to Port Essington. As his party advanced northwards the hot wind changed its direction from northerly to westerly, until in about latitude 20 deg. south, when, blowing for the last time (for it was never experienced further north), it had begun to come from the southward, blowing in the direction of west-south-west. These combined climate influences, then, are the causes of bush fires, which, in England, would be looked upon with amazement and terror; for the peculiar crackle noise, the falling of timber which the ruthless destroyer has partially consumed, the showers of sparks, smoke, &c. varied by the roaring and rush of wild animals and the screams of terrified birds, form a picture of grand excitement totally indescribable.

A. A. S.

DIGGING WITH A DIFFERENCE by Jim Loudon

It was a small piece in The Advertiser that caught my eye. It said in effect, "Diggers wanted for East End market site".

Digging I normally don't like. Shades of the garden and weeds rampant.

However, as someone with a dilettante interest in times past, the idea was appealing. Actually having hands on experience of an historical discovery tour.

So it was a warm Saturday morning in February that I turned up at the improvised office to join the team of 30 or so novices who, under the guidance of professional archaeologists, were prepared to dig, scrape and sift where once Adelaide men and women had eaten their rabbit stew, dumped their rubbish and raised their children.



At work on the Rookery excavations, East End Market site.

Once we were led onto the site the cause of the interest it had aroused became obvious. There were what looked for all the world like three dimensional floor plans of nine tiny attached cottages, each comprising just one main room, 3.5m by 3.6m, with a fireplace and a paved lean-to at the rear. A slate-paved doorstep led onto the narrow cobbled street. There had been communal lavatories and sinks opposite and a tannery up the road.

With another couple of volunteers I spent most of my time sifting and shaking the earth that others had carefully removed to reveal the foundations, hearths and paving that had lain hidden under the former fruit and vegetable market for the best part of 90 years.

It was cooler for us who worked in the shade but the people who actually worked on the dig with their trowels and buckets, brushes and dust-pans, needed the sun block, the hats and the thirst breaks for fruit juice or water as the temperature climbed.

It was amazing how much could be pieced together from the pieces we found. The buttons, beads and pins that had fallen through cracks in the floor boards telling of days and nights spent sewing; ceramic marbles betraying the presence of children, and a clay pipe stem from the man of the house.

Others found crockery shards, pieces of glass from broken windows, cutlery and jar stoppers, fish and rabbit bones from long-finished meals and the occasional pieces of jewellery—an earring or a brooch.



The author (right) with another volunteer sifts through the excavated material.

The East End Market dig, funded by the Adelaide City Council and co-ordinated by the National Trust of SA, brought vividly to life the conditions of Adelaide workers of last century.

The cottages we were so carefully unearthing were apparently built to house workers at William Peacock's tannery in the 1850s. The original dirt floors were later covered with wooden flooring and the interior walls were plastered. Perhaps the occupants were more affluent by this time?

The families lived within the confines of one room. Mother cooked on the open wood fire. She washed and ironed and sewed in the same room while the children played around her. The family slept on the table, under the table, on the floor. Lighting was by candle or kerosene lamp.

By the 1880s the cottages had become known as the Rookery—a derogatory term meaning a slum—and were occupied by widows or single mothers and their children. By the end of the century they were ruled to be unfit for habitation and were marked for demolition.

The Adelaide Fruit and Produce Exchange was built on the site and opened in 1904 and the remains of the Rookery remained undisturbed until the present revival of interest was sparked in 1990.



Cleaning and sorting the finds.

ANGLE VALE BRIDGE

Angle Vale

May 1988

MATERIALS

The masonry abutments of the 1876 Angle Vale bridge are constructed principally of bluestone with sandstone quoins and dressings. The two stones have been used together in a similar way in contemporary buildings of the nearby town of Gawler, 10km to the east. The bluestone was quarried a few km south of the town and the sandstone is believed to have come from a quarry 5km east of Gawler on the Sandy Creek road. [Note, 1991: This is the same 'Gawler Sandstone' noted in earlier reports on Holland House, Turretfield and the McKinlay Memorial, Gawler as being of unknown source. It now seems reasonably certain that this is the common source].

The bluestone, a grey laminated phyllitic siltstone is laid as squared rubble and is brought to courses with the large rockfaced quoin blocks of white, medium to coarse grained sandstone. The stones were set in a white lime:sand mortar. None of the original pointing of the bluestone work remains: all of the joints were repointed apparently during the 1940's when the bridge was redecked.

CONDITION

Bridge abutments, by their nature also act as retaining walls and can be affected by transpiration of ground moisture through their surfaces. Combined with saline soils and an aggressive climate, moisture transport has produced salt attack (salt damp) in the masonry of the Angle Vale bridge.

The 1940's repointing of the mortar joints is likely to have been carried out in response to the loss of some original material due to salt attack. Unfortunately the repointing was undertaken in a very strong cement-based mortar, with the result that the salt attack affected the stone rather than the mortar. On examination of the abutments prior to commencement of conservation works, minute salt crystals could be seen on the surface of many stones adjacent to the pointing. The east wing of the northern abutment was particularly affected, with loss of up to 15mm of bluestone and the consequent falling out of the excessively hard pointing.

On the whole though, the stone is in good condition, particularly the sandstone which has proved to be very durable.

The colour of both types of stone has changed since construction of the bridge. Natural weathering producing oxidation of iron bearing minerals has added a khaki tint to the bluestone and a slight reddish colour to the sandstone. However, the most significant colour change, to both stones but particularly the sandstone which is now a reddish brown hue, is due to dust. Wind-blown dust lodging in small depressions in the surfaces of a stone can become sufficiently well bonded to resist the washing action of rain, and is the principal contributor to warm honey-brown colours seen on otherwise white sandstone buildings in South Australia.

CONSERVATION WORKS

The stonework was gently washed and brushed to remove excess dirt, and build up of mosses on the projecting string course.

The major work undertaken to conserve the abutments was the removal of the hard 1940's pointing and its replacement with a deliberately weak mortar.

Fortunately the hard cement pointing was poorly bonded to the bluestone and had not been properly keyed into the joints. So it was readily removed with little damage to the stones. The original soft lime mortar was then raked out to 25-30mm. For repointing the bluestone the new mortar mix was composed of 1 cement : 4 hydrated lime : 15 sand : 5 cinders.

The composition was based on observation of pointing on buildings in Gawler constructed of the same stones. There, lime mortars were used with the addition of cinders from steam locomotives to darken the tone of the mortar to something like that of the bluestone. The effect was to disguise the size of the joint which was then lined with a 4mm wide line (painted white) to give the impression of high quality stonework with fine joints.

1-2 days after the bricklayer had repointed and lined (but not painted) the joints, other workers carefully scraped off the smooth top surface of the pointing, to deliberately roughen it and give a weathered appearance. This also has the effect of making the surface more porous and less weatherproof.

The overall result is a pointing mortar that is close to what the original is likely to have been, yet made slightly weaker and more porous in order that it will behave sacrificially. Hence future salt attack will occur to the mortar rather than the stone, and while replacement of the mortar will be required (perhaps within ten years) this is much easier and cheaper to undertake than replacement of stone.

For the sandstone work where a dark contrasting mortar is undesirable, cinders were omitted from the mix.

Original sandstone pillars flanking the carriageway on each abutment were demolished, probably during the 1940's redecking. Lack of funds and of suitable matching stone and also some uncertainty about their precise form have prevented reconstruction of these pillars.

At the time of writing the final phase of the conservation of the abutments had not been implemented. It is planned to further soften the harsh newness of the repointing by adding a small amount of local dust, perhaps with the aid of a blowing device. Maybe the weather will oblige with a good duststorm?

Reference

Hawes, J., Legoe, D., Stacy, W. and Young, D., 1988. The conservation of the Angle Vale laminated timber arch bridge. Paper presented at the Fourth National Conference on Engineering Heritage. Sydney 5-8 December 1988.

Reprinted with permission from D. Young *Masonry Conservation Advice 1981-1991* (S.A. Dept of Mines and Energy)

Book Review

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HANGINGS (Book Review)

For those who like to combine their history with a touch of the macabre this book has all the answers. *The Hemp Collar, Executions in South Australia, 1838-1964, A Collection of Eyewitness Accounts* compiled by David Towler and Trevor Porter traces, primarily through newspaper reports, those who have been hanged in South Australia. But let it not be thought for a moment that because the majority of the reports come from newspapers they are sterile and lacking in drama. Indeed just the opposite. Until the 1920's - which covers the greater part of the book - newspaper accounts were lurid and full of dramatic detail.

But the book is more than an just an account of deaths. Because the descriptions are so complete and accompanied by so much editorial comment the book is an important social document. For example one can follow attitudes to death and the abolition of capital punishment. It is also fascinating to trace changing attitudes to women.

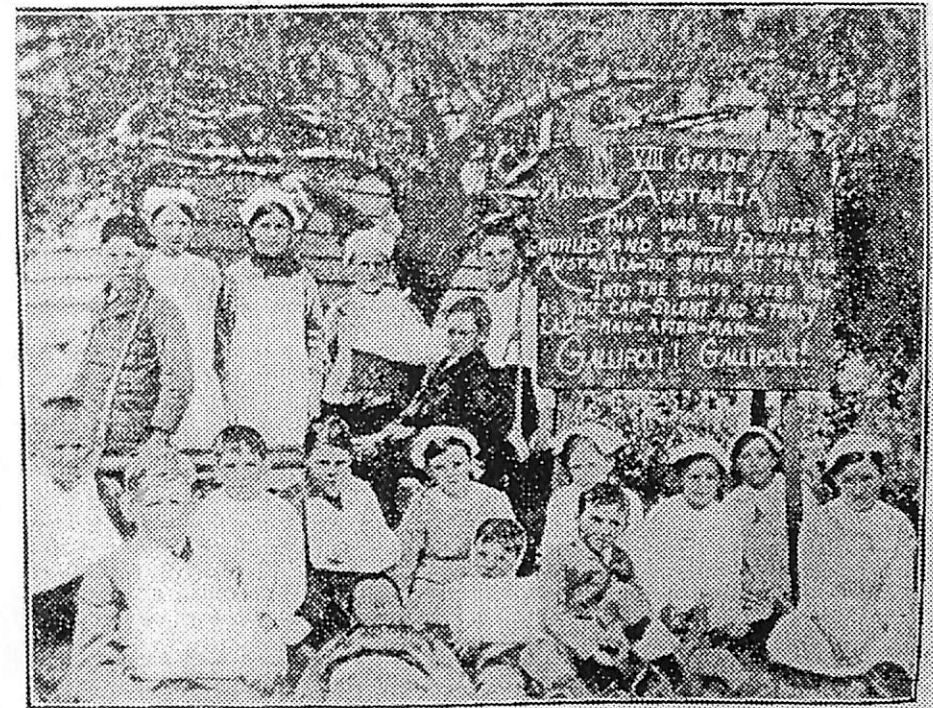
The hanging of Elizabeth Lillian Woolcock on 30 December 1873 for the poisoning of her husband is particularly moving. We are informed by the press that after her body dropped "death did not immediately ensure. Fully five minutes elapsed before the convulsions of the body ceased, but it was afterwards ascertained that dislocation was produced when the drop fell." The woman left a last testament which describes how she was ill treated for years by her husband until at last knowing no way out she resorted to murder. "so i was afraid to go home for he said he would break both of my legs... i tried to do my duty to him and the children but the more i tried the worse he was he was fond of drink... i thought i would rather die than live so i tried to put an end to my self in severl diferent ways but thank the Lord i did not succied in doing so".

The book has equally interesting comments illustrating the thoughts and opinions of the day on aborigines and non-British residents.

As an appendix there is a full list of South Australian executions, both public and private, and a full post-mortem report after a hanging. The authors are to be commended on their selection of documents. The book makes fascinating reading and is also an important social document.

The book is printed and published by the Wednesday Press and is available at the Adelaide gaol.

Ian Harmstorf



KENTON VALLEY SCHOOL—FIRST-AID CLASS.

Teacher—Mrs. J. M. Moore.

From Childrens Hour Feb. 1917—Board says: 'VIII Grade, "Advance Australia", That was the order—muffled and low—Prepare to strike at the foe. Into the boats there fast as you can—silent and steady—man-after-man—Gallipoli! Gallipoli!'

STOP PRESSES

The Community History Unit of the History Trust will be moving

Towards the end of 1992 the outreach services of the History Trust will be expanded by the relocation of the three staff of the Community History Unit (Susan Marsden, Brian Samuels and Geoff Speirs) from the History Trust's head office to Old Parliament House, which will become the State History Centre. The Unit will then formally disband, but the staff will continue with their existing work as well as undertaking some new duties.

The Unit's programs will be maintained and augmented by the addition of the exhibitions, publications, information and schools services of Old Parliament House so that the new Centre will provide a comprehensive package of services to the community.

It is hoped the shift will be made in late October. Phone calls to the Unit's present numbers will be able to be transferred.

The new address will be State History Centre, Old Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000. Tel: 212 6066 Fax: 410 1766.

Community History Fund

It's official—the Community History Fund is now in existence! Historical societies, and authors, can now apply to the History Trust for financial assistance towards the publication of non-fiction works on South Australian history, or for local history projects. The Fund has been given an initial grant of \$25,000. For publications, assistance may take the form of a loan or grant to assist with publishing or printing costs, while for projects, grants will be given for such things as marking of heritage trails, acquiring significant historical documents, purchasing microform copies of records or installing records storage facilities.

Projects will be assessed by the State History Centre, which will make recommendations to the History Trust Board, and the Minister for the Arts and Cultural Heritage, for approval. For further details and application forms contact Brian Samuels on 207 7556 (212 6066 from late October).

COMMUNITY HISTORY CALENDAR

On-Going Events

- 1st weekend of each month Saturday & Sunday 10.00–3.30** Adelaide Gaol: Guided tours available Port Road, Adelaide. Further information Ph. 216 7741.
- 1st Thursday of the month 7.30** Aurora Heritage Action Inc. Meetings, Metropolitan Hotel, Grote Street
- Weekdays 11.00–2.00** Australia Post Postal Museum, Ground floor, 2 Franklin Street.
- 3rd Sunday of each month 2.00–4.00** Glen Osmond Mines Tours: tours are conducted by members of the Burnside Historical Society. Bookings on 366 4200 (ask for Angela).
- Last Wednesday of the month** State Conservation Centre of SA. Clinic Day for advice on preservation, restoration and repair of historical and artistic works. Ph. (08) 223 1766
- Every Sunday 2.00–4.30** Historic Cummins: The Cummins Society conducts Open Days with guided tours. Sheoak Ave., Novar Gardens.
- To August** Art Gallery of SA. South Australia Decorative Arts. Contemporary South Australian decorative arts have been collected by the Gallery since 1884 when a silver presentation casket made by Henry Steiner was donated. Both historical and contemporary works have been acquired since then, for display and reference, in order to develop a comprehensive collection of decorative arts produced in this state. South Australia furniture, ceramics, metalwork and jewellery will be featured. Historical works from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as well as recently-made works will be on display until August/September 1992.
- Saturdays 2.00–4.00** National Trust of South Australia. Burra Burra Branch: Market Square Museum. Adult \$1.00, Child \$0.50, Family \$2.50
- Sundays 12.00–2.30** National Trust of SA. Moonta Branch Museum.
- Wed/Sat/Sun 1.30–4.00** National Trust of SA. Victor Harbor Branch. The Old Customs and Station Master's House.
- Sundays 11.00–4.00** South Australian Cricket Association Inc. Adelaide Oval Tours. Conducted tours from the South Gate. Approx. 2hr duration.
- Thursdays 10.00** Yorke Peninsula Family History Group's library is housed within the N.Y.P. Public Library and is available to members during library opening hours. Volunteers are available Tuesday afternoons to assist the public or members. Fees apply to non-members.
- Tuesdays 2.00–4.00**