

H *istory* SA

Print Post approved 535806/0005

No. 116 February 1995

DEEP CREEK BRIDGE FULLY RESTORED

The East Torrens Historical Society reports that restoration of the historic Deep Creek bridge, near Basket Range in the Adelaide Hills, was completed in December.

The work took two years and was carried out under the direction of SkillShare and the District Council of East Torrens. Project supervisor was stonemason Neil Davies.

Dr Geoffrey Bishop, speaking for the Society, said the bridge was once on the route of the Eastern Road, now known as Lobethal Road, and was built in 1867 by the Central District Board of Main Roads at a cost of \$15,500 (1988 prices). The builder was the Norwood contractor Alfred Adams.

Said Dr Bishop, 'The impressive stone-arch bridge was built from locally quarried freestone and sat on red gum footings. The western approach is very steep and in 1913-14 the main road was rerouted, leaving the bridge stranded.

'In the late 1940s the northern side of the bridge was undermined during a flood and a large section of the stonework collapsed. The bridge was a forlorn sight when restoration work began in November 1982.

The restoration included the removal of large willow trees on the site, recovery of stone from Deep Creek, design and construction of new footings, and rebuilding the abutment, approach walling, arch and upper walling to match the original.'

'I encourage readers of *History SA* to visit the site to view both the beautiful setting and the restoration work. The area will be signposted and access will be on foot only. The bridge is just as hard to reach now as it was in the 1860s, so wear your walking shoes!' he warned.



Deep Creek bridge before restoration. (courtesy of State Heritage Branch).

May trip to Burra?

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery of copper at Burra. To celebrate the event, the Society is considering a two-day, fully escorted bus tour of the area with an overnight stay at historic Paxton's cottages. It is anticipated the tour will take place on the weekend of 27-28 May, leaving Adelaide on the Saturday morning and returning late on Sunday afternoon.

The estimated cost should be no more than \$100 per person, to which would have to be added the cost of lunch on both days, drinks and the hire of bed linen.

If a tour of this type is to succeed it requires a considerable amount of organisation as well as sufficient support, so the Society is seeking expressions of interest. All members and friends interested in making the tour to Burra are asked to notify the president, Rob Nicol, on 297 9844 by no later than 31 January.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Ms A. Morton, Ms S. Cheney, Dr K. Wilson and Ms L. Bartoni.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide
5000 (mailing address only)
Founded 1974

OBJECTS

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

COUNCIL

Patron: Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.

President: Dr R.P.J. Nicol, 297 9844 (h)

Vice-president: Mr B.J. Samuels, 207 1070, 207 1077;
fax 207 1088 (w), 47 2429 (h)

Secretary: Ms M. Dunshore 381 7429 (h)

Treasurer: Mrs A. Huckel 277 2953

Journal Editor: Dr J.T. Stock

Members: Mr H. Angas

Mr S. Dawes

Mr M. Keain

Dr P. Payne

Ms M. Roberts

Mrs E. Ulbrich

Consultant: Mr R.M. Gibbs, A.M.

History SA Editor: Mr J. Loudon 340 3467, fax c/- 346
5480

Auditor: Mr K. Banfield

HISTORY SA DEADLINE

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the March issue of *History SA* is 16 February 1995.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are being called for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and eight council members of the Historical Society of South Australia.

Nominations must be proposed by members and endorsed by the nominees to the effect that they are willing to stand. The nominations must be forwarded to the secretary by 15 February 1995.

A nomination form can be found on page 10 of this issue of *History SA*.

For and against new History SA

Response to the new-style newsletter for the Historical Society of SA have been very heartening. Particularly, from an editor's point of view, because of the great increase in the amount of submitted material. Keep it up!

In a letter accompanying his article on the Deep Creek bridge, heritage consultant Geoffrey Bishop wrote, 'I commend the initiative to revitalise the HSSA newsletter. Having edited that for the East Torrens Historical Society for 12 years I appreciate the difficulties in keeping a newsletter interesting and relevant. A direct approach to societies for short reports on specific projects could be worth trying.

'There is a strong community involvement in history at the local level which I feel has not been taken advantage of to any extent (cf. the Landcare program), For example, try Campbelltown Historical Society for the River Torrens pumps project, Burnside for the Glen Osmond mines project, Lobethal for its museum, Kimba and Gawler Ranges for its projects with the Kimba Area School.'

Kath Crilly of Glenelg North, who submitted the material on the Patawalonga in this issue, wrote, 'Congratulations for undertaking to upgrade the newsletter - the first edition was a big improvement on the old A5-sized one and much easier to read.' On the other hand Richard House, Secretary of the Burnside Historical Society, had doubts about the new format, finding it less manageable than the previous size.

Kath Crilly also commented, 'I think it would be very interesting if the HSSA were a little more proactive on current affairs, history/heritage issues. You can only read about these in the local paper and it is hard for SA historians to become involved in any discussion with such little coverage given in the Adelaide papers.

'For instance, do you think you could have something like a "for and against" article on Tram Barn A, with a contribution from each side? Members would then be in a better position to assess the merits of each side of the argument, rather than having to rely on Letters to the Editor in *The Advertiser* for information.'

Editor's note

*If any members of these and other SA historical societies have read this and would like to drop me a line (and a photograph) about what they are doing, I'd be delighted to consider it for publication.

** Thank you for the suggestion. This too will receive consideration.

Society speakers for Feb., March

Australian-born of Calabrian parents, Paul Depasquale will be speaking from experience when he gives 'An Italo-Australian View of the Australian Character' at the Society's meeting on 3 February.

Placing little value himself on tradition and inherited culture, yet aware of their powerful grip on people from many different backgrounds in Australia, he will use his talk to survey the way Calabrian immigrants of his parents' generation co-existed with their indifferent, 'old' Australian compeers. Paul regards this as true multiculturalism, with each party living in near total ignorance of the other, and he will compare it with the experiences of immigrants of the post World War II period from the same region of Italy.

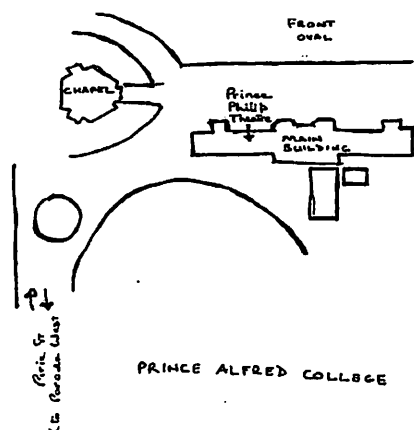
Paul says he has always been an assimilationist and the preparation of his lecture has strengthened his view that assimilation has been both misstated and misunderstood because it must be – and has been – a two-way street.

A month later, on 3 March, Dr Donald Langmead will discuss the life of George Strickland Kingston, politician and architect of early South Australia.

Dr Langmead, Associate Professor and Head of the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture in the University of South Australia, believes that Kingston deserves to be remembered as the practical founder of Adelaide.

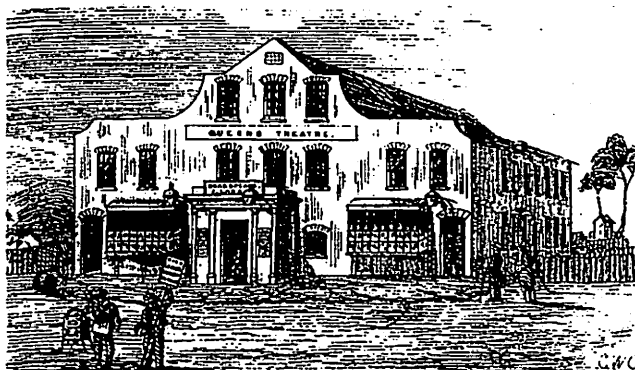
Dr Langmead will also shed new light on the smear campaigns that served to deny Kingston credit for the energetic part he played in the founding of SA. He will also balance Kingston's long political career with his architectural and other activities.

Both talks will begin at 8pm in the Prince Phillip Theatre at Prince Alfred College, Kent Town.



Where to find our meetings.

MOVE TO CONSERVE QUEEN'S THEATRE



The Queen's Theatre in 1842 (Courtesy of Mortlock Library)

The Queen's Theatre on the corner of Gilles Arcade and Playhouse Lane, Adelaide, was opened in January 1841 as the first purpose-built theatre on mainland Australia. (The Theatre Royal in Hobart predates it by four years, having been built in 1837.)

Unfortunately the Queen's Theatre closed in November 1842 because its opening in the previous year coincided with a severe depression in colonial South Australia. In 1843 the Queen's Theatre building was adapted for use as South Australia's Magistrates Court and Supreme Court and remained so until December 1850, when it reopened as the Royal Victoria Theatre with a new Georgian facade.

The Victorian gold rushes of the early 1850s adversely affected the patronage of the Royal Victoria and it closed its doors in November 1851. The theatre re-opened again in 1859 but the building finally ceased to operate for performances in 1868. Since the late 1860s the Queen's/Royal Victoria building has been used as a city mission, tobacco factory, Formby's horse bazaar, saleyards and, since 1928, as a car park.

From 1988 Austral Archaeology undertook a major archaeological excavation of the stage and dressing room area of the building, followed by another excavation in the auditorium in April last year.

The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. David Wotton, announced in April 1994 that the State Government would provide \$50,000 towards the conservation of the Queen's Theatre and that the theatre site would be transferred from its current owner, the South Australian Asset Management Corporation, to the State Government. The Minister for the Arts, Hon. Diana Laidlaw, has joined with Mr Wotton in support of the proposal and will become a joint trustee of the site upon the transfer of the land.

(to page 4)

(from page 3)

The Georgian facade of the Queen's Theatre has recently been conserved using funding from the State Heritage Fund, the City of Adelaide and its current owner. This project was documented and supervised by the architectural firm of Woodhead Firth Lee and the work was undertaken by Marshall and Brougham Constructions.

A joint Ministerial Steering Committee has been established to investigate further options for the use and development of this important historic site, which illustrates the rich cultural life of colonial Adelaide. For further information please contact the State Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources on (08) 207 2394.

- Hamish Angus,
(State Heritage Branch)

Coming events

Following are items that have come to the attention of the editor of *History SA* or have been selected from material compiled for *Community History*, a publication of the State History Centre. Corrections, updated information and new entries welcome.

1-3 February: International conference on 'Dictionaries of National Biography and National Identity', National Library, Canberra. Enquiries to Administrator, Humanities Research Centre, ANU. tel. (06) 249 2700, fax (06) 248 0054.

5 February: Beaumont House Open Day, 2-4.30pm, 631 Glynburn Rd, Beaumont. Enquiries 379 5301.

5 February: Stangate House and garden Open Day, 1-4pm, Edgeware Rd, Aldgate. Enquiries 391 1985.

6-10 February: Conference of the Australasian Victorian Studies Association, 'Victorian Bodies: sexualities, health, medicine, ethnographies'. La Trobe University. Enquiries to Sue Thomas, English Department, tel. (03) 479 2412, fax (03) 479 1700.

19 February: Ecumenical celebration of the beatification of Mary MacKillop, hosted by the Catholic bishops of SA and the leaders of the Josephite Congregation. Football Park, West Lakes, 5pm. Tickets available from 1 February. Enquiries to Mary MacKillop Centre, 364 5311.

22 February: Pamela Oborn will speak on 'The History of the Barr Smith Family and Ken Pries and the Torrens Park Estate' at the SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society, 201 Unley Rd, Unley, 7.45pm.

28 February: Historical Society visit to Adelaide Zoo, 5.45 for 6pm. Bookings essential. Call Marcia Dunshore on 381 7429 (a.h.) before 21 February.

5 March: Beaumont House, 2-4.30pm, 631 Glynburn Rd, Beaumont. Enquiries 379 5301.

5 March: Stangate House and garden Open Day, 1-4pm, Edgeware Rd, Aldgate. Enquiries 391 1985.

11 March: International Penny Farthing Challenge and street fair, Strathalbyn. Enquiries (085) 362 399.

11-12 March: Government House Open Days, 11am-3.30pm. Enquiries 223 1655.

12 March: SA Police Historical Society mystery bus tour. Details and bookings, Jan Williams, 2/22 Garfield St, Klémzig.

19 March: Carrick Hill twilight opening: house open until 8pm, grounds until 8.30pm. 46 Carrick Hill Drive, Springfield.

26 March: Booleroo Steam Rally: veteran and vintage tractors, steam and traction machines. Centre Oval, Booleroo. Enquiries (086) 672 127.

29 March-1 April: Lace-making workshops. Ayers House, North Tce, Adelaide. Enquiries 223 1234.

2 April: Beaumont House Open Day, 2-4.30pm, 631 Glynburn Rd, Beaumont. Enquiries 379 5301.

2 April: Family Fair in Stangate House and garden to mark the beginning of Heritage Month, 11am-4pm, Edgeware Rd, Aldgate. Enquiries 391 1985.

12-16 April: National Trust (Vic.) Heritage Festival: 'Heritage is in Your Hands'. Enquiries to Carol Barnard or Lois Chesney, (03) 654 4711.

16 April: Humphrey Pump Day at Cobdolga Museum. Enquiries to Barnera Travel Centre (085) 88 2289.

30 April: National Trust properties throughout the State open free of charge to mark Heritage Month.

12-15 May: Kernewek Lowender (Cornish Festival) in Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo. Enquiries to PO Box 230, Kadina, 5554 or call (088) 212 096.

1-3 July: 'Exploring Family History' at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. Topics include oral history, government records and newspapers. Enquiries to Dorothy Lucardie in the University's Department of Continuing Education.

ONGOING EVENTS

DAILY

Port Dock Station Railway Museum: Locomotives and carriages, historic goods shed, dining car and model trains. Steam train rides at weekends. Diesel train rides during the week. Lipson St, Port Adelaide, Sunday to Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 12 noon-5pm. Enquiries 341 1654/1690.

Signal Point: See the Murray-Darling River story, animated stories of the Dreamtime; take a video trip with the explorers; use the touch screen to discover

birds, animals and fish of the river system; explore the restored Oscar W paddle steamer. On the banks of the River Murray, Goolwa, 10am-5pm.

Wadlata Outback Centre: Discover the origins of the Outback, relive the Aboriginal Dreamtime and tales of the pioneer settlers; learn what the vast and varied land means to the people who live and work there today. 41 Flinders Tce, Port Augusta. Weekdays 9am-5.30pm, weekends 10am-4pm.

Old Parliament House: A national heritage building. See the vivid audio-visual presentation, *The South Australia Story*, photographic panorama of the city in 1865, Speakers Corner ('Times are Ripe, Rotten Ripe for Change - Mary Lee and votes') and special exhibition 'For Better and Worse? - a century of change for SA women'. Also Australiana book and souvenir shop, courtyard restaurant. 10am - 5pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm weekends and public holidays. Enquiries 207 1077.

SA Museum: 'Science on a Camel's Back', a centenary survey of the Horn expedition to the MacDonnell Ranges of Central Australia, 10am-5pm. Enquiries 207 7500.

Tandanya: Aboriginal Arts Centre with guided tours and talks about aspects of Aboriginal heritage and culture, including the telling of Dreamtime stories. 253 Grenfell St, Adelaide. 10.30am-5pm, Monday to Friday, 12 noon - 5pm weekends and public holidays.

Kapunda Museum: Agricultural machinery and historic vehicles. Hill St, Kapunda, 1-4pm.

TUESDAY - SUNDAY

Ayers House: Home of seven times Premier Sir Henry Ayers. North Tce, Adelaide. Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm, Weekends and public holidays, 1-4pm.

SA Maritime Museum: Full size replica of a sailing ketch, computerised ancestor tracing, penny arcade, lighthouse, steam tug and coastal trader. 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide, 10am-5pm. Enquiries 240 0200.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Axel Stenross Maritime Museum: Boat-building workshop, relics of windjammer days, working slipway and blacksmith's shop. 97 Lincoln Highway, Port Lincoln, (086) 82 2093/1162.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Market Square Museum: Burra, Saturdays 2-4pm, Sundays 12 noon-2.30pm.

Old Police Station, Clare: Furniture and clothing from Victorian era, early records and photographs of district, agricultural machinery, horse-drawn vehicles. Cnr Victoria Rd and West Tce. Open Saturdays and public holidays, 10am-12 noon; Sundays, 2-4pm.

SUNDAY

Adelaide Goal (1841-1988): Guided tours of cell blocks, exercise yards, hanging tower and graves. Port Rd, Adelaide. First tour 11am then frequently until 3.30. Bookings essential. Call State Heritage Branch on 297 2383 or goal manager, 231 4062.

Cummins: Historic home of the Morphet family, Sheoak Ave, Novar Gardens. 2-4.30pm.

Old Customs House and Station Masters House: Victor Harbor, 11am-4pm.

Old Government House: Vice-Regal summer residence 1860-80, with servants quarters and Victorian garden. National Park, Belair, 12.30-5pm.

Railway Signal/Telegraph and Aviation Museum: Information and photographs of early SA aviators Ross and Keith Smith and history of Albert Park and Parafield airports, railway memorabilia, working and static displays of signalling equipment. Former West Torrens council chambers, 112 Marion Rd, Brooklyn Park, 1- 4.30pm. Enquiries 373 3554.

THURSDAY

Adelaide Oval: Guided tours include the Bradman Stand, Bradman photographs, dressing room, and secrets of the scoreboard. 10am from the South Gate. Enquiries 231 3759.

THIRD SUNDAY OF MONTH

Fort Glanville, 359 Military Rd, Semaphore. The most complete example of a 19th century artillery fort in Australia. Enquiries 242 1978.

Zoo visit planned for the cool of evening

Members and friends are invited to join a tour of the Adelaide Zoological Gardens on the evening of Tuesday 28 February.

The tour party will meet at the Zoo's service gate entrance from Botanic Park at 5.45pm for a 6pm start. The cost is \$8 per adult and \$4 for a child aged 4-14 years. Children under 4 are admitted free of charge.

Why not make up a party and have a meal in town afterwards? The Zoo will be less crowded than it is during the day and many of the animals are more active in the twilight hours.

Bookings for the tour are essential and should be made by phoning the Society secretary, Marcia Dunshore, on 381 7429 (a.h.) before 21 February.

TO STRIVE, TO SEEK, TO FIND, & YET TO YIELD!

By John Jenkin

(Dr Jenkin is a graduate of the University of Adelaide (1960) and has been a staff member at La Trobe University in Melbourne for 26 years, mostly in the Physics Department but recently in the Faculty of Humanities where he is pursuing his interests in the history and philosophy of science. Among his publications are several on aspects of early science in the University of Adelaide.)

A letter from Canberra: would I be willing to prepare an entry for a forthcoming volume of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB)? Yes, of course, it would be a pleasure, particularly as the subject was known to be interesting and controversial. Henry Hermann Leopold Adolph Brose (1890-1965) had been an Australian scientist of unusual prominence; furthermore he had been born and raised in Adelaide, had attended my old school and university, and had been Adelaide's 1913 Rhodes Scholar. There were rumours and stories about several aspects of his life and career; were they just gossip or did they have any element of truth? On the other hand, to many current scientists and historians he was curiously unknown.

How to proceed? The ADB staff offered me significant assistance and I found a very brief account of his life in the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* (no. 17, 1989), but these only served to whet my appetite. I also found important material at the Australian Archives in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, but the personal dimension was still largely absent, although an increasing number of interviews with people who had known Brose began to provide an outline.

I consulted Ron Gibbs, a long-standing friend. 'You need his papers,' he said. 'I know,' I replied, 'but they don't appear in any repository; I have searched everywhere.' 'What about the family?' 'As far as I know there isn't one.' 'Where did he spend the last years of his life?' 'In Sydney.' 'Have you checked the Sydney telephone directories?' 'No.' 'Perhaps you should.'

So I did. There were three 'Brose' in the 1989 edition. I wrote to them all. One replied. Dr Brose was her uncle, 'a person whom I liked and admired very much'. She was hazy about many of the details but she gave me the names and addresses of Brose's son

(in Germany) and of another niece who might know more (in Adelaide). From Brose's son I received wonderful cooperation, including a number of excellent photographs and newspaper cuttings as well as copies of important tape recordings of his father recalling early episodes in his life.

From Brose's niece came the most unexpected response. She had two old suitcases full of Henry's personal papers, which had been in her garage for a number of years and about which she had long been concerned. What was she to do with them; how could they be saved? I tentatively suggested that the papers might be sent to me, that I would consult them in order to prepare by ADB entry (and probably a longer study also), and then pass them on to the Australian Science Archives Project at the University of Melbourne, where they would be sorted, catalogued and conserved prior to being given a permanent home in an Australian library or archive. After consulting the family, she agreed; they are sitting in my room, each page in an archival, acid-free, clear plastic envelope, quietly asking me why I haven't finished my extended article (The ADB entry has appeared - vol. 13).

So far so good, but these were only Brose's personal papers. What about his professional papers: expected letters from some of the most notable figures of early 20th century science (particularly German theoretical physicists, whose seminal texts he had translated into English), and papers relating to his controversial medical work? And what about his personal library?

Trail leads to New York

The American Institute of Physics, based in New York, has a large physical and intellectual commitment to the history of physics. In one of its *Newsletters* I noticed an announcement of 'Expanded Access to Information on Source Materials for History of the Physical Sciences'. I wrote to ask if they had ever heard of Henry Brose. Yes, indeed they had; and what is more they had some 84 items, mostly copies of letters to Brose from a wide cross-section of his correspondents. I purchased copies of the copies, with which I also received copies of two letters relating to their disposition in New York. They had been donated by a Mr H. Judd of Sydney.

Back to the Sydney telephone directories! H. Judd was still listed in 1990, although in 1993 the initials had changed. I wrote. Yes, this was his family and they did know something of the Brose papers. Indeed, one daughter lived in Melbourne and was married to a La Trobe academic!

To cut a still longer story short, the result has been as follows. When Henry Brose died in 1965 all his remaining papers passed to his wife, the actress

(to page 7)

(from page 6)

Jean Robertson (whose life also cries out to be studied). When she died in 1967, the papers went into the loving care of her sister, Janette, who treasured them to such an extent, I was told, that no-one was even allowed to touch them. When Janette died suddenly in 1972 a serious problem arose as to what to do with the Brose papers, now in her husband's possession. They were separated into four categories: (a) personal and family papers, (b) professional papers, excluding those in (c) medical papers, and (d) books.

The (a) collection was sent to Henry's sister in Adelaide, and later passed into the care of her daughter, but family members were less interested in the other three categories. Janette's husband finally sold them to a friend at the Chatswood Bowling Club, Harry Judd, who apparently saw them as a business proposition; but he could not find a buyer, although he recognised their value. He sought the advice of a senior lecturer in physics at one of the Sydney universities, and as a result the remaining material was dispersed.

The professional papers (b) were copied: one set was sent to the American Institute of Physics in New York and a second set was retained by the Judd family. The originals of these papers were donated to the Turkish government in care of a professor of physics at the Mid East University in Ankara, apparently for at least two separate reasons: first because Judd had developed an affection for the country during a 'wonderful' holiday there, and second, he said, 'as a token of gratitude to the Turkish people for giving work and shelter to Freundlich (along-term correspondent and friend of Henry Brose) during the black days of Hitler's Germany.' I now have copies of the AIP collection and Mrs Judd's copies, but my several attempts to check these copies against the originals at the Mid East University have drawn no response.

Medical papers lost?

The medical papers (c) may now be lost. Mr Judd had a long illness and spent some time in the care of a specialist at a Sydney hospital. Since 'he did not quite know what to do with (Brose's medical papers) and whether they were significant or not', he gave them to the specialist, who perused them, and wondered 'where they were leading'. After Mr Judd's death 'no-one seemed interested in the papers ... and since then I do not recall seeing them ... I wonder whether they were in fact destroyed after a period as they could not be returned to the family'.

Finally, the books (d), and here the story is even less satisfactory. These were donated to the library of the same university in Sydney but unfortunately they have told me:

No list of the books is available and we are unable to identify any of the books donated by Mr Judd through our catalogue ... the donation consisted of three boxes of books which contained titles in the areas of German and Swedish literature and biographies and also some references and children's books ...

My guess is that the books belonging to Professor Brose have been culled, possibly by passing on to another library. To strive, to seek, to find, and yet to yield - eventually!

\$73,000 FOR SA MUSEUMS

The board of the State History Trust and the Minister for the Arts, Ms Diana Laidlaw, have approved grants totalling \$73,000 to 18 museums throughout SA.

The grants are for projects ranging over the accessioning of collections, display development, purchase of computers and software, and photographic documentation of a forthcoming cultural event. Unley Museum was also successful in gaining full accreditation

TORRENS STUDY AGAIN AVAILABLE

Beulah Park Books have announced the publication of a facsimile edition of *Five Creeks of the River Torrens*, an environmental and historical study edited by J.W. Warburton and first published in 1977.

It is still the only comprehensive study of this unique part of Adelaide's history and is illustrated with photographs, diagrams, maps and plates.

Limited to only 200 copies, the facsimile edition costs \$25 plus \$2.85 postage. Enquiries to Beulah Park Books on 331 0005.

FAREWELL TO THE STATE HISTORIAN

South Australia will bid farewell to State Historian Susan Marsden in mid-February, when she and her family will move to Canberra. When Sue announced her plans the Director of the State History Centre, Brian Samuels, said, 'Sue will be sorely missed, not only by Centre staff but by historians across the State. Her career with the History Trust and work as a freelance historian prior to that has left a lasting legacy of publications.'

THE NEW FARM IS REACHED, AND UTTER DESOLATION!

We continue the memoirs of J.A.V. Smith as he and his family arrive at the site of their future home. We expect to complete his account in the next issue of History SA..

At day break, Father mounted Old Johnny and rode back to Yardea homestead, arriving at about 7 to report our unfortunate happening. The overseer, a man named Ted Hart, took charge of everything and Father came back to our camp. He told us that Hart was coming with a party of black trackers to go in search of Mary. They arrived about 9.30 am and straight away set out running, and calling as they ran. I started to follow close behind but they put on a turn of speed that had me puffed in about half an hour. I turned back and we all waited.

At about 2 o'clock we got a report that they had found Mary about eight miles distant and that she was well, only a bit shocked from her experience. I believe Hart had stationed an observer on the hilltop to look out for a signal and that was how we knew she had been discovered and we would have her back at the camp by 3 pm – which we did. She returned to us suffering from shock and hunger, not having eaten anything since noon the previous day. Her clothes were torn and her face, hands and legs were scratched from the brambles but otherwise she was none the worse for her adventure. We gave tea to the two white men in the tracking party while the black trackers got tobacco, tea and sugar, and a little money. They then returned to the station, leaving us thankful and happy to be reunited once more.

Mary's story

Once Mary had rested and recovered she told us this story. After leaving Joe she went back through the wire fence, climbed to the top of the hill and went down the other side into scrub country, and began looking for our camp. She had with her the little dog Lass which, at first, didn't want to go with her but to turn back. However, Mary was so sure of herself that at last the dog followed. Mary kept on walking until sundown, when she came to a lagoon. There she had a drink of water and sat down to rest. By this time she had realised she was completely lost and darkness would soon be upon her.

As dusk fell she saw a lot of cattle coming to the lagoon for water. Among them was a bull, which started to take an interest in Mary and the dog,

which bravely tried to drive the beast away. However, the bull came closer, looking very fierce, and Mary was panic stricken. She ran to a small tree, which she managed to climb high enough to be out of the animal's reach. The bull came right to the foot of the tree and horned its trunk, as well as scratching the earth with his front hooves. Mary was very scared but managed to stay out of reach. Meanwhile the dog was worrying the bull from the rear. However, as darkness fully descended, the bull desisted and followed the rest of the cattle away. Mary came down from her perch in the tree, stiff and sore, and very sorry for herself. Eventually she and Lass made themselves as comfortable as possible and slept until morning.

Then the problem of what to do faced her. She started to walk but didn't know where. She just kept walking until she got tired and then she would sit down and rest again. It was while she was walking that the Aborigines appeared. She was terribly frightened and thought her end had come so she decided to run for it. But one of the Aborigines called her by name and said they were searching for her. She hesitated a moment and then, as she turned back, a horseman came into view, then a second horseman. She then felt she was safe. Hart told her he would take her back to us. Hart's companion dismounted and Mary was lifted into the saddle so she could ride back to the camp.

Tanks bone dry

The next day, Wednesday, we filled our tank and all vessels ready for a start on Thursday morning for Narlaby Tanks, about 15 miles away. We arrived there on schedule only to find the tanks were bone dry, although there was grass for the stock. We had to give the horses their drink from our meagre 100-gallon store which with the few other water-filled utensils, was to last us for the next two days.

On Friday we passed through another 15 miles of sandhills, arriving safely at Middle Tanks about noon. They were dry too. There were ten 2,000-gallon galvanised iron tanks under a wood and iron cover, which served as a catchment to fill the tanks when the rains came. We had lunch, gave the horses some more of our precious water, and commenced another eight-mile trek. We got safely through, although the horses sweated profusely because the day was warm, especially as we went through the sand hills. At about sundown we emerged from the most strenuous part of the journey but the Weetara tanks were, like all the others, dry. We gave more water to the horses, which could have consumed much more than we were able to spare.

The following day we went on to Wallala Rocks, where had a bit of lunch and gave the horses the last of our water. We reached Pimbaacla at about 4.30pm
(to page 9)

(from page 8)

and were pleased to find that this homestead had a plentiful supply of water from a well that had water as good as rain water. There was also plenty of good grass for the horses. We asked for permission to stay for two days because there were many things to be done. Our womenfolk had much washing to do and stores had to be obtained and the horses fed and rested. During our stay Lass was poisoned, having eaten a bait that had been set for the wild dogs that were plentiful thereabouts. We buried him under a big gumtree about 100 yards from where we had made our camp.

We broke camp at Pimbaacla on Tuesday morning and headed for Mudamuckla, about 25 miles away. The next day we left for Merghing Well, another ten miles on. There we filled our little tank with water from the well, which was brackish but drinkable. We left Merghing Well at about 2 pm on the final stage of our journey to Murato Bay, where we arrived at about 5pm to find the fresh water tanks empty. A great disappointment indeed because we had been told there'd be plenty of fresh water there. We moved on past the tanks to take possession of our new farm. Well, there it was! I think there was in all of us a sense of utter desolation.

Under other circumstances it would have been a rather beautiful position, with the blue sea to be seen from our camp on both sides of Cape Thevenard, which was part of our new farm. There were sandy beaches on each side of the two bays and a rocky coastline surrounding the cape. At the tip were large rocks and crags covered with shellfish and mussels. On the beach were plenty of cockles, but we didn't find that out until later. The business of the moment was to unload our belongings, erect our tents, and make ready for the evening meal.

Our stores, which had been shipped from Port Adelaide on the steamer *Helen Nichol*, had been put ashore to await our arrival. They comprised a 200-gallon tank, some sawn timber, galvanised iron and a case containing some essentials. We had to unload our other small tank, which we had filled with water at Merghing Wells, and all our other whatnots, and go with our team and van to pick up the stores from the beach, the most important of which was the 200-gallon tank.

We had to remove most of the gear from the beach before we stopped for our evening meal, after which both the 100-gallon tank and the 200-gallon tank had to be secured to the wagon for the journey next day back to Merghing Well for water. All water we had on arrival would be consumed by the time the horses had had their fill that evening and the following morning. So we made an early start the next morning for the 13-mile journey to Merghing in order to raise 300 gallons of water from the well by

means of a bucket and windlass. A five-gallon bucket and a 50-foot well! Sixty ups and 60 downs, all to be lifted onto the wagon and then into the two tanks. We started the journey back to the camp at about 3pm and arrived around 7pm. The water we got was brackish – all right in tea but no good to drink.

Our next trouble was feed for the horses. There was some speargrass as well as salt bush and blue bush, but not enough to feed the horses adequately. There were rabbits everywhere so most feed had been stripped. Our next source of feed, poor as it was, was 14 miles away at McKenzie's landing and getting there was heavy going through loose sand. I always went alone on that trip, leaving the camp at about 2pm and arriving at about 6pm.

At McKenzie's homestead/store I would stay the night, have a meal in the evening and morning, then load up for the return journey. I would leave about 10am and arrive at the camp at about 2pm. The load would consist of two or three bags of wheat (which cost ten shillings a bag), a bag of flour, jam, and a few other nick knacks, topping up with as much cocky chaff as I could pile on the wagon – about 60 to 70 bags, which would be enough for two weeks.

Water the chief problem

Water was our chief problem, especially water for human use. This had to be obtained from Laura Bay, eight miles away. We could do that trip in a day, leaving about 9am we would reach the tanks (under a galvanised iron structure as at Murat Bay) around noon. With a two-gallon bucket attached to a rope, we would haul it up and tip it into our little tank. That would be about 200 gallons of fresh water. We would leave the smaller 100-gallon tank at the camp for use in our absence. Then, when all the tanks were empty, off we would go to Merghing Well, sometimes going at night with Joe as my companion.

At night, when we camped at the well, we could hear the wild dogs howling only a short distance off. We always carried our single-barrel shotgun to scare off marauders but we never actually saw a dingo. One night when we arrived at a clearing in the scrub we came upon 20 emus feeding. They disappeared in great haste. No doubt to them, poor things, we were some monstrosity with our five horses wagon and two tanks rumbling and clattering through their peaceful countryside. We camped at the well, rising at about 5am to fill our tanks. Having had breakfast, we would be on our way at about 8, arriving at the camp about noon. Then we could settle down to other jobs for a few days.

We would go to the end of the cape where, at low tide, we would climb out on the rocks gathering shellfish, which was a change from our primary diet of rabbit – roasted, boiled, fried or stewed, as the case may be.

THE PATAWALONGA - FOR SCENERY AND RHEUMATISM

In a note to *History SA* Kath Crilly of Glenelg North reminds us of what the Patawalonga at Glenelg was like before State and local governments were impelled to undertake lengthy and expensive clean-up operations such as are now being planned.

She sent an extract from *Glenelg Illustrated*, first published in 1896 and reprinted in a facsimile edition by Austaprint, Adelaide, in 1978. As Kath said in her covering note, 'It seems that all the grand plans of wetlands, etc. are geared towards returning the Pat. to its original state, minus the gunk in there as a hot fomentation for rheumatism!'

After noting that 'a ramble along the banks of the Patawalonga is by no means devoid of interest', *Glenelg Illustrated* says:

The Patawalonga Creek is a tidal estuary from Holdfast Bay and was at one time connected to Port Adelaide Creek by a chain of smaller creeks. A tributary stream is the Sturt River, which drains a large tract of country extending to the Mount Lofty Ranges, while the Patawalonga itself drains The Reedbeds and surrounding district. The Creek at high tide is navigable for small boats for some 3 miles from the mouth, and an excursion upon its waters will well repay the trouble, some very pretty scenery being met with.

The bed of the stream is composed of soft limestone, and with material from it many of the houses of early Glenelg were built. Masses of seaweed are driven into the Patawalonga when storms happen in the Bay, much of it finding permanent lodgement. Where this occurs decomposition results, and water taken from these spots is said to possess properties valuable in hot fomentations applied to rheumatic afflictions.

In another entry, *Glenelg Illustrated* reports, in condescending tones:

A few Aborigines still live at Glenelg, camping on the east bank of the Patawalonga Creek. Surrounded by packs of yelping dogs, the natives pass an indolent existence, their one useful occupation being the manufacture of rush baskets, bags, and mats, which they are glad to dispose of at moderate prices. The articles turned out are really serviceable, and to many people will prove decided novelties.

And again, under the heading 'The Sturt Drain':

(The drain) runs along the eastern boundary of Glenelg, terminating at St Leonards, where the waters of the Sturt River are conducted into the Patawalonga Creek. The Government undertook this work in 1879 in order to obviate the inconvenience and damage caused to the town by the overflow of the Sturt, and since its completion Glenelg has been free from liability to flood during rainy weather. The drainage works cost 5977 pounds, and purchase of land 1405 pounds more.

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL

I hereby nominate.....

for election to the Council of the Historical Society of South Australia, Inc. for the year 1995, to hold the position of

Signed:

I,accept this nomination for election to the Council of the Historical Society of South Australia, Inc.

Signed:

LADY BLANCHE 'WORSHIPPED FROM AFAR' BY VOLUNTEERS

The Viceroy – the journal of the friends of Old Government House – has published some intriguing accounts of the wives of the Governors of SA from the mid 1850s to the early 1870s. History SA will draw on these from time to time so readers can share these insights into the way Governors' wives contributed to colonial life. First is Lady Blanche MacDonnell.

Attractive and vibrant Blanche Ann Skurray married Sir Richard MacDonnell in 1847 while he was Governor of Gambia. MacDonnell himself was an imposing figure with a forceful personality and when the couple arrived in South Australia in 1855 they soon became very popular.

Lady MacDonnell was a smart figure of fashion with a gracious and pleasant manner, who brought a certain refined charm to the otherwise rough and ready society of 1850s Adelaide. There were no official functions during MacDonnell's first year of office because Lady MacDonnell, in customary mid-Victorian fashion, was in deep mourning, her father and brother having just died. Her sister-in-law, Jane MacDonnell, was her companion at Government House until Jane married pastoralist James Lyons.

It appears there were no children from the MacDonnell marriage. Lady MacDonnell was in her early 30s when she arrived in SA and no children are reported as accompanying her (she had been married less than eight years so any offspring would not yet have reached public boarding school age), nor were any apparently born during her stay in the colony.

Lady MacDonnell was a prominent figure at levees, regattas, volunteer parades and the trooping of colours. Her attendances were highlighted in the press, which enhanced her popularity with comments like 'the feeling of respect and attachment towards her Ladyship is so universal...' (*Observer*, March 1860). She was very popular with the colonial volunteer brigades set up in response to a perceived threat of foreign invasion. It appears many of these gentlemen worshipped her from afar and her popularity increased even further when, in 1861, she was personally responsible for a

consignment from the British Government of 1000 Enfield rifles for the volunteers.

The weather seemed to be the only reason for her non-appearance at official ceremonies – a thunderstorm washed out the colony's 21st birthday celebrations in 1857 and a sea of mud resulting from heavy rain prevented her carriage from reaching Paradise for the opening of a new bridge there.

Adding to her reputation was her willingness to travel widely with her husband, often through recently surveyed and sparsely settled territory. Included were journeys to Mt Gambier, Kangaroo Island, the South East (via Robe), along the Murray, and to Melbourne and parts of Victoria. She gave her name to several geographical features in SA – 16 in all, including Blancheport (now Streaky Bay), Blanchewater, Lady Blanche Lake (now Blue Lake) and Blanche's Cup, the Far North mound spring named by J. McD. Stuart in honour of his patron's wife. There was also a coastal steamer *Blanche* and the Lady MacDonnell Hotel on South Road (now the site of Adrian Brien Ford).

The popular vice-regal couple had a surfeit of farewells on their departure in 1862, which they were to remember with nostalgia. As a token of the colonists' esteem, Lady MacDonnell left with a cheque for 130 pounds which had been presented to her in a silver box.

Sound and light for the nineties

The sound and light show in the former House of Assembly Chamber at the State History Centre is to be upgraded. The present show dates from the Centre's opening as the Constitutional Museum in 1980.

A grant from the Tourism Development Fund will enable new equipment to be purchased so visitors can select individual debates by the push of a button. It will also allow new debates to be added more easily and generally make the show more flexible.

JOURNAL ON ITS WAY

Jenny Tilby Stock, editor of the Historical Society of SA *Journal*, reports that the latest issue is now at the printers and delivery is expected soon.

It will contain the usual interesting selection of book reviews and articles, including one on the building of Adelaide's first Jewish synagogue and another detailing who in fact was responsible for establishing the National Trust in South Australia, rather than who is generally given the credit. Another article will tell of SA priest Father Julian Tenison Woods' travels in Malaysia.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Held in the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, commencing at 8 pm unless otherwise stated. Enter from Norwood Parade. Parking is available in the grounds. Non-members welcome.

Friday 3 February

Paul de Pasquale, Publisher and Bookseller
An Italo-Australian View of the Australian Character

Friday 3 March

Assoc. Professor Donald Langmead, University of SA
Accidental Architect: the Life and Times of George Strickland Kingston

Friday 7 April AGM - 7-45pm

Phillip Knight, Colonel Light Gardens Residents Association
Colonel Light Gardens: Its Early Development

Friday 5 May

Patricia Sumerling, Freelance Historian
Walter Watson Hughes and the Moonta and Wallaroo Mines

Friday 2 June

Dr Noris Ioannou, Author, Historian and Critic
The Barossa Folk: Germanic Furniture and Craft Traditions in Australia - a celebration

Friday 7 July

Dr Geoffrey Bishop, East Torrens Historical Society
The Toilers in the Hills: the people, myths and hard work that made East Torrens

Friday 4 August

Simon Royal, ABC Regional Radio
History and the Media

Friday 1 September

Kath Crilly, Opal Historian and Heritage Consultant
Buried Treasure: Opal Mining in South Australia

Friday 6 October

Christopher Menz, Art Gallery of SA
Morris & Co in Adelaide

Friday 3 November

Susan Lawrence Chaney, Flinders University
Out of Sight, Out of Mind: the Archaeology of South Australia

EVENTS/ FIELD TRIPS

A donation of \$3.00 is suggested for field trips. Where applicable bus fares and entrance fees are additional. Details will be published in our newsletter, *History SA*.

28 FEBRUARY

Twilight Tour of Adelaide Zoo, 5.45 for 6.00

\$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children (4-14 years). Optional dinner in a City restaurant afterwards. Bookings essential. Tel: 381 7429

27-28 MAY

Burra

A weekend in Burra in its 150th year. Will proceed if numbers permit. Details in the Newsletter.

2 SEPTEMBER

Annual Dinner

Details in the Newsletter.

10 OCTOBER

Twilight Tour of Artlab Australia, 5.45 for 6.00

Artlab provides a conservation service to government, the private sector and individuals.
\$3.00/head. Details in the Newsletter.

9 NOVEMBER

Tour of State History Centre & Queens Theatre

The State History Centre is located in Old Parliament House, the most significant political site in the State. It includes portions of the Colony's first Legislative Council Chamber (1843) and the original House of Assembly Chamber.

The Queens Theatre is the oldest remaining theatre building on mainland Australia and is associated with George Coppin, 'father of the Australian theatre'.

Tour leaders are architect Barry Rowney and archaeologist Justin McCarthy respectively. \$3.00 per function or \$5.00 for both. Optional lunch at the Old Parliament House Restaurant. Details in the Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FORM 1995

(For new members only)

We invite you to become a member for the 1995 calendar year. Membership includes a bi-monthly newsletter and an annual journal. Please complete this application form and return it with your remittance to:

The Membership Secretary, Historical Society of South Australia, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide S.A. 5000
(Mailing address only)

Please circle the appropriate fee.

Ordinary member	\$28
Family	\$32
Country member (more than 50km from GPO)	\$22
Student or pensioner member	\$20
Institutions (schools, libraries etc)	\$30
Associated societies	\$28
Term membership (10 years, to end 2004)	\$220
Life member	\$550

Donation: \$

I wish to pay by cash/cheque Amount enclosed: \$

Please charge my Bankcard account the following amount: \$

Full name and address (Block letters):

Title: Name:

Address:

State:

Postcode:

Phone:

Bankcard Number:

Expiry Date:

Signature:

RECEIPTS NOT SENT UNLESS REQUESTED YES/NO

(Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.)