

HSSA

History

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No. 123 March 1996

AGM reminder – change of venue

Please note the change of venue for this year's annual general meeting, which will be held in the Chapel, Orphanage Function Centre, 181 Goodwood Rd, Millswood, on Friday 12 April at 7.45 pm.

This is the only change of venue for HSSA lecture meetings during 1996.

At the Orphanage the Society is required to use the venue's caterers. Consequently, on this occasion only, there will be a charge of \$3 per person for supper, with payment to be made at the meeting.

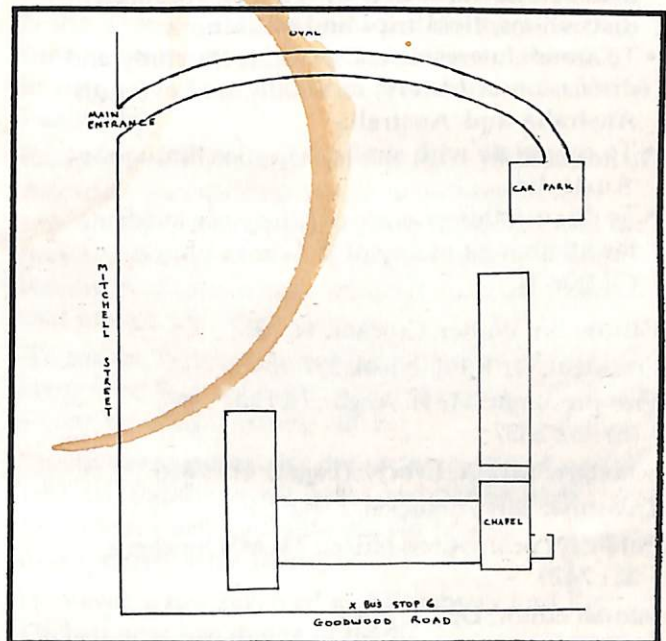
Look inside this issue of History SA (pp 4-7) for minutes of the 1995 annual general meeting, which will be presented for approval at the April 12 meeting

Following this year's AGM, historian Yvonne Reynolds will give a talk on 'Saucy Sarah, Rarely Sober' – a case study of late 19th century life around the Port Adelaide hotels.

Trained as a fine arts and history teacher, Yvonne has an Arts degree from the University of Queensland and is currently completing a PhD in history at the University of Adelaide. In 1982 she won the inaugural Scholarship in Archaeology at the University of Queensland and later worked as archaeologist/historian for Queensland national parks.

With her husband's transfer to Adelaide in 1988, Yvonne worked for a short time at the Maritime Museum in Port Adelaide before being appointed to her present position as Architectural Historian with State Heritage in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

She is a descendant of John Potter, who migrated to SA in 1848 and settled at Willunga, marrying Martha Townsend there in 1854.



Entry to the car park at the Orphanage Function Centre is by way of the main gate in Mitchell Street. 250 metres east of Goodwood Road.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Members are reminded that unpaid subscriptions for 1996 are now due. The fees are: ordinary members \$28, country members (more than 50 km from the GPO) \$22, institutions \$30, associated societies \$28, life members \$550 and term members (for ten years to end of 2006) \$220.

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Historical Society of South Australia Inc. Payments may also be made by Visa, Bankcard or Mastercard using the subscription renewal notice. If you have mislaid yours, another one is available from the Society at the Institute Building, 112 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, 2000.

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 promote the study and discussion of history, especially that of South Australia and Australia.
- To cooperate 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

Vice-president: Mr H. Angas, (w) 204 9246,
(h) 362 2657

Secretary: Mrs A. Every, (pager) 415 7866

Treasurer: Mrs A. Huckel, 277 2953

Publicity / promotions officer: Ms M. Dunshore,
381 7429

Journal editor: Dr J.T. Stock

Members: Mr R. Clyne, Mr S. Dawes, Mr M. Keain, Mr J. Loudon, Dr P. Payne, Ms A. Pope, Ms P. Sumerling, Mrs E. Ulbrich

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

History SA editor: Mr J. Loudon, 340 3467

Auditor: Mr K. Banfield

Down on the farm c.1883

Curious about the cover of the latest *Journal* (no. 23, 1995)? It shows implements and stock on John Riggs's farm at Gawler Plains and is reproduced from a copy of *South Australia and its Resources* (1883) held by Maurice Keain, a member of HSSA Council. A printer's oversight led to this information being omitted from the *Journal*.

HISTORY SA DEADLINE

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the May 1996 issue of *History SA* is Friday 19 April.

Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA

Australia Day remembrance of pioneer women

HSSA publicity officer Marcia Dunshore and member Peter Rice represented the Society at the 1996 Australia Day ceremony in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens, Adelaide.

The ceremony was organised by the National Council of Women of SA and held in the presence of the Governor, Dame Roma Mitchell, and other dignitaries, including Dr Barbara Hardy.

Dame Roma and the acting president of the National Council of Women of SA, Mrs Zetta Karay, addressed the gathering and reminded those present that Australia's greatness was largely due to the sacrifices made by our pioneering ancestors. The Governor then laid a wreath at the statue of the pioneer woman.

There followed a tribute by Mrs H. Zelling to Mrs Paul McGuire (now deceased), one of the original trustees of the memorial garden.

The Australian Army Band of Adelaide, the Girls' Brigade, Girl Guides' Association and St John Ambulance cadets contributed to success of the occasion.

Saved by WWII!

South Australia's first parliament house was destined for demolition when the outbreak of war in 1939 put a stop to Premier Tom Playford's plans.

In 1978-80 a \$3.4 million restoration program transformed the building into Australia's first political museum - the Constitutional Museum - the role of which was subsequently broadened to become the State History Centre.

The whole story is detailed in *The Life and Times of Old Parliament House* by Pat Stretton, available at \$4.95 from the State History Centre, now at Edmund Wright House, King William Street, Adelaide.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Ms J. Aller, Dr S. Cameron, Mrs G. Carse, Mr and Mrs R. Cowley, Mrs H. Cornish, Mrs N. Flannery, Mrs M. Freeman, Ms M. Hart, Mr B. Hudson, Mr F. Humphris, Miss M. O'Neil, Miss E. Pitcher, Ms W. Roberts and Mrs M. Textor.

Festival preview



The Queens Theatre, in Playhouse Lane, Adelaide, recaptured something of its glory days during this year's Adelaide Festival when it was the setting for Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*. The building was the subject of much interest when HSSA vice-president Hamish Angas led a tour there last November. Pictured are Society members outside the theatre.

All aboard for Kapunda!

Plans have firmed for the Society's bus tour to Kapunda on Sunday 21 April under the guidance of Joyce Jones from the town's historical society.

The cost will be \$20 per person, including afternoon tea and admission charges. It is suggested that people bring a picnic lunch to be enjoyed in the company of fellow members.

The first mining town in Australia, Kapunda and the former mine area now constitute a National Estate conservation area. Kapunda's prosperity peaked in the 1860s and early 1870s but falling copper prices caused the mines to close in 1878 and gradually the miners and their families moved away. But most of the historic buildings remain.

The bus for Kapunda will leave from outside the Institute Building, Kintore Ave, Adelaide, at 9.30 am and is expected to Adelaide by about 5 pm. Bookings should be made with Avis Huckel on 277 2953.

May lecture

On the street where she lives

Over the years Rosemary Michell has collected information about buildings that are no longer on North Terrace as well as the few early ones that have survived, and the people associated with them – 'the folk of North Terrace' – and this will be the subject of her talk to the Society on Friday 3 May.

Rosemary confesses to having a love affair with North Terrace, an affair which dates back to the time she came to Adelaide to live as a child of 7, having spent her early years at Ardrossan on Yorke Peninsula.

Rosemary told *History SA*, 'My early impression of Adelaide was of rather grand two storey houses which then lined one side of North Terrace and the formal public gardens and very important looking buildings of the Library, Museum and University that graced the other side.

'To me the Terrace was a magic place, my eyes only being used to metal roads, scrub and crops, and single storey buildings, mainly sheds.

'As the years passed my dream street was changed with tall buildings, car parks and department stores. The magic I had built into the old houses disappeared with them.'

However, a few survived and Rosemary and Ray Michell now live in one of them.

Looking forward, Rosemary says the new University of South Australia campus will give the western end North Terrace a whole new look, creating another good reason to record what went before.

Before her marriage Rosemary studied at the SA School of Art and taught art at secondary level at Woodlands, Glenelg.

As a mature age student she studied art history and the history of architecture at Flinders University and art and architecture of the classical period at Adelaide University for her BA degree.

For 14 years she was a voluntary gallery guide at the Art Gallery of SA.

The meeting at which Rosemary will speak will begin at 8 pm and it will be held in the usual location of the Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town.

1995 AGM MINUTES

The 1996 annual general meeting will precede Yvonne Reynolds' talk at the Society's meeting on 12 April. The minutes of the 1995 annual meeting are published here for members' information and in readiness for this year's AGM.

The annual general meeting of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc, was held at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town, on 7 April 1995 at 7.45 pm.

1. OPENING: The President, Dr Robert Nicol, declared the meeting open at 8 pm.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The President directed attention to and read to the meeting the wording of the paragraph relating to Honorary Life Membership which was omitted from the proposed Minutes of the Annual General Meeting to be held on 7 April 1995, published in *History SA* No. 117 1995. The President requested the meeting to note that the Minutes be amended. Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 1994: The Society conducted the usual program of lectures and fund-raising activities which continued to receive strong support from members.

February: Bernard Whimpress, 'W.G. Grace in Kadina: champion cricketer or scoundrel?'

March: Valmai Hankel, 'Oenography: words on wine in the State Library'.

April: Joan Durdin, 'Some Pioneers in the Nursing Profession in SA'.

May: Ron Gibbs

June: Members Night – short talks by members on objects of historical interest.

July: Dr Pauline Payne, 'Grandmother Came When the Pig Was to be Killed: some reflections on the life of our German pioneers'.

August: Kenneth Peake-Jones, 'The Branch Without a Tree: the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, SA Branch, 1885-1994'.

September: 'A Sense of Place' – keynote address given at the Third State History Conference by Professor Geoffrey Bolton.

October: Beth Robertson, 'Orphaned in South Australia: oral histories about growing up at Goodwood Orphanage and being Barwell boys'.

November: Dennis Harrison, 'Romance of the Road'.

Field trips included: 27 March, Springton heritage tour; 5 June, St Peter's Cathedral; 23 October, Urrbrae House.

Annual Dinner: The annual dinner and the September meeting were held in conjunction with the Third State History Conference. The dinner was an extremely pleasant evening held in the Bradman Room at the South Australian Cricket Ground and was attended by many country and interstate delegates to the conference.

The Third State History Conference was also very successful. It was a joint operation of the Society, the History Trust and the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, which combined its annual meeting with the conference activities.

The conference theme was 'A Sense of Place – community history in practice'. The venue was the Banquet Room of the Adelaide Festival Centre. Keynote speaker was Professor Geoffrey Bolton, the eminent Australian historian who teaches at the Edith Cowan University. Over the following two days leading historians, heritage workers and community leaders expounded their ideas and shared their experiences with a large and appreciative audience. A series of workshops and tours rounded off the conference.

Several interstate delegates wrote to formally express their appreciation and admiration for the level of expertise and organisation displayed at the conference. For much of that we must thank the staff of the State History Centre and particularly Claire West, one of the Centre's volunteers.

I would also like to report that the Society, in conjunction with the Federation, has agreed to publish the papers presented at the Conference and has appointed Jim Loudon to oversee the publication. Publications by the Society have continued and sales are beginning to make a noticeable contribution to revenue. The new *Journal* editor, Dr Jenny Tilby Stock, produced the 1994 *Journal* almost back on timetable after the delays which she inherited, and I would like to thank both her and her husband for the considerable time which they commit to the *Journal*.

A major change came to the *Newsletter* – now named *History SA* – late in 1994. There were a few grumbles about the new A4 size but nothing but praise for the massively improved general appearance and contents. All this has been the inspiration of the new editor, Jim Loudon, and many members have joined me in expressing appreciation. Remember, though, that the editor depends very much on material supplied and I know Jim is very happy to receive contributions, so please keep them coming in.

Sales of Volumes 1 and 2 of the *Insights* series have continued to grow, necessitating several reprints.

After the initial set up expense, profits are now

increasing. Council is currently examining possibilities for Volume 3.

Membership of the Society seems to have plateaued over the last few years but secretary Marcia Dunshore has been working on a concerted campaign to publicise the Society and its work and to reach a wider group of prospective members.

4. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: At its final meeting before the AGM, Council resolved unanimously to recommend to members that honorary life membership be conferred on Brian Samuels. The president expressed appreciation to Mr Samuels, noting that he would retire from Council at this meeting. He has been a member since the inception of the Society in 1974 – 21 years of extraordinary commitment of time and expertise – and it would be impossible to overstate the value of his contribution. He will be missed from Council meetings by his colleagues, particularly when there are constitutional items to be considered.

Moved: R. Nicol/A. Huckel that the Council's recommendation be adopted. Carried by acclamation. On behalf of all members the President presented Mr Samuels with a certificate recording his honorary life membership. Mr Samuels thanked the members and expressed his appreciation and the sense of honour with which he accepted the certificate.

In accordance with the motion carried at the Annual General Meeting held on 8 April 1994, the President presented the Certificate of Honorary Life Membership to Ron Gibbs, AM, in recognition of his considerable efforts in the work of the Society over many years. Mr Gibbs expressed the honour he felt on receiving the certificate. Maurice Keain accepted the Certificate of Honorary Life Membership on behalf of Dr John Playford.

5. SPECIAL THANKS: Special thanks were extended to Keith Banfield for his work in auditing the 1994 accounts and to Avis Huckel for her work in keeping the Society's finances in order; to the speakers and tour guides who once again enabled the Society to maintain a program standard which is the envy of interstate societies, and to those responsible for the suppers, Enid Ulbrich and Ila Holland.

Rob Nicol expressed his appreciation for the assistance he had received during the year from Council members who had willingly chipped in and given additional time.

Particular thanks were extended to Marcia Dunshore. For a good part of the year she had virtually acted as both President and Secretary following the President's debilitating accident. Marcia is retiring after three years as Secretary to

concentrate on her paid employment but, given the success of her public relations work which has included a number of public displays of photographs and artefacts, Marcia has agreed to act as publicity officer for the Society.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: The President commented that the Society continued to be in a healthy financial condition, which had allowed Council to resist pressures to increase subscriptions. The rate remains extremely good value and is far lower than that for most comparable societies.

The President presented the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1994 which were audited by Keith Banfield, CPA. The President then outlined the financial position and interest earned by the Endowment and Life Members Fund.

The Treasurer, Avis Huckel, was thanked for the comprehensive report and Ron Gibbs was thanked for his administration of the Endowment Fund.

From the floor a member asked a question regarding detailed itemisation in the report, with particular reference to income from membership subscriptions, interest from the Endowment Fund, and the cost of publishing *History SA* and the *Journal*.

Moved A. Huckel/H. Angas that the income and expenses be itemised in more detail for the audit of the Society's financial records as at 31 December 1995. Carried

7. ELECTIONS: The President declared all positions vacant and read out the nominations which had been received by the closing date. They were: President, Dr Robert Nicol; Vice-President, Hamish Angas; Secretary, no nomination; Treasurer, Avis Huckel; Council members: Dr Pauline Payne, Enid Ulbrich, Patricia Sumerling, Jim Loudon, Sean Dawes, Maurice Keain.

There being no more nominations than positions vacant, the President declared those members elected. The members present responded with acclamation and the President extended his thanks on behalf of the new Council.

The President foreshadowed the co-option of, and introduced the new Secretary, Anne Every, and the co-option of new Councillor Robert Clyne.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: From the floor, a member drew attention to three significant anniversaries which had occurred during 1994 and said they had received no recognition in the Society's activities in that year. The member suggested that Council take into account that the newsletter is the way the ordinary members find out

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(from page 5)

what is happening. The President assured the member that the latter point would be taken up by Council and significant events would be taken into account in draw up annual programs. Also, members were requested to advise Council of anniversaries and speakers who may agree to participate in the Society's programs.

There being no other matters notified to the Secretary, the President closed the Annual General Meeting at 8.30 pm and introduced the evening's guest speaker, Phillip Knight.

Australian Archives SA Office a valuable research resource

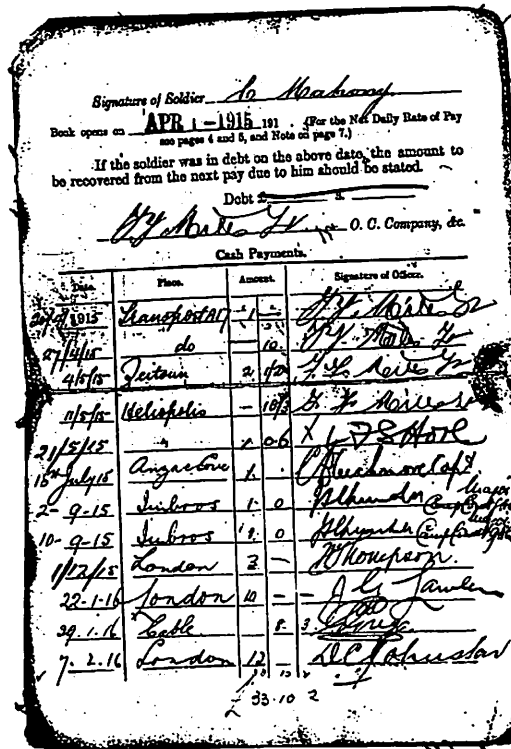
Bill Haskett, Research Officer with Australian Archives (SA State Office) uses some examples from his own family to illustrate the value of the archives to people researching their family history and to historians generally.

Among Australian Archives' many holdings of interest are the Army pay files relating to servicemen and women who enlisted in South Australia during the World Wars (including those who enlisted in Darwin during WW II). Also held are attestation papers relating to members of the SA Contingent to the Boer War. Offices in other States hold pay files for those who enlisted in their State.

The Army pay files contain a wealth of information, some of it seemingly innocuous but a great deal of it, in fact, providing a springboard for investigations into family/military history.

The files contain personal details, addresses, allotment forms, religion, next of kin, where and when the soldiers enlisted and which battalion they joined. The pay books in the files give details of where each soldier was in any particular fortnight. By cross-referencing the pay book with the AIF's official war histories (for WW I see C.E.W. Bean's *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18*, published by Angus and Robertson. For WW II see *Australia in the War of 1939-45*, published by the Australian War Memorial. Both histories should be available from any library) it is possible to trace your ancestors' footsteps across the battlefields of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Access to these files is provided free at the reading room of the Australian Archives DSA office, 11 Derlanger Ave, Collinswood, Mondays to Friday



A page from a South Australian serviceman's paybook, showing his presence at Anzac Cove in July 1915.

from 9 am - 12.30 pm and 1.30 - 4.30 pm (tel. 269 0100, fax 269 3234).

If your interest extends beyond pay files and you have established some basic details concerning your ancestors, you can contact the Australian Archives World War One Personnel Records Section at GPO Box 34, Dickson, ACT 2601 (tel. 06 209 0411) and, for a fee of \$15, receive a Record of Service which provides fascinating detail outlining the experiences of Australian soldiers in the Great War. This record includes mentions in despatches, disciplinary action, promotions, etc. If your ancestors had the misfortune to be slain in battle the Red Cross, if requested, would have provided eye witness accounts of the death, including a list of what the deceased had on them at the time of their demise.

For example, I found that my great uncles Mick and Harry had very telling possessions at the time of their deaths. Mick had been a good boy, an altar boy and everybody's favourite. When blown up in the Western Front trenches in June 1916 his body, as was the custom, was thrown up onto the parapet. As the battle lulled and his comrades attended to his body he was found to be carrying a French grammar book and a set of Rosary beads.

Harry, the black sheep of the family and a bit of a lad, managed to survive the madness for over two years until June 1918 when he was machine gunned in the stomach just before dawn and lived long enough to be jolted and bumped the several miles back to the field hospital, where he expired, leaving in his

pockets a pack of cards and a pair of dice.

This sort of detail makes the fading photographs of young people in stiff uniforms staring into the middle distance speak to us across the great divide and adds to our sense of ourselves by giving these tragic national events a personal perspective.

For World War II, enquirers will find that personal records are held by the Soldier Career Management Agency, GPO Box 393D, Melbourne, Victoria 3001. (This agency also provides information about medical entitlements.)

Other army records in the Archives' repositories that may be of interest include: registers of entitlements, military orders, general correspondence (including security classified records), miscellaneous maps, documents, books and correspondence – Fort Largs and Fort Glanville, mobilisation and defence plans – 4th military district; embarkation rolls for the 2nd AIF, and medical and hospital records.

The story of Bob, the railway dog

Geoffrey H. Manning

Following the enactment of the *Vermin Destruction Act of 1879* official government parties were employed throughout the infested areas of the colony under the command of inspectors. The main method of eradication was the use of bisulphide of carbon which was pumped into warrens; traps, dogs and snares were also resorted to, together with arsenicised sandalwood leaves and phosphorised grain.

During the period from September to April the eradication parties worked upon Crown and leasehold land from 5 to 11 am, rested until 3 pm and worked again from that hour until it was dark, excepting on Saturdays when the hours were from 5 am to 1 pm. By this arrangement the men were employed during the time that the rabbits came out to feed; from 1 May until 31 August the hours were 7 am until 5 pm. At the same time the inspectors in charge were instructed to induce local farmers to institute simultaneous action for the destruction of the rabbits and burrows existing upon their land. Later, the *Jamestown Review* of 30 October 1879 was pleased to report, 'The rabbit nuisance is being rapidly abated ... they cannot withstand the overpowering influence of the deadly bisulphide...'

At other times teams of dogs were sent up from Adelaide to clean up the pests but this system failed

as the animals became uncontrollable, got away and killed sheep instead. Mongoose were introduced but did little good but when the rabbiters used strychnine sticks they got better results.

On a spring morning in 1885, a terrier of diverse ancestry was among 900 dogs in a sheep van bound for Terowie in the far north, where they were to be used in exterminating rabbits; while the train took on water at Petersburg (modern day Peterborough), Mr William Seth Ferry, then foreman porter at Petersburg, exchanged another dog for the terrier, which received the name of 'Bob' from his new master. Thereafter, Bob was to spend many years travelling throughout South Australia and interstate aboard the railway; like politicians, he always travelled free and was a guest at the banquet for the opening of the railway from Peterborough to Broken Hill, and appeared at the opening of the Hawkesbury Bridge in NSW.

He earned such a reputation that one of the brass workers in the service made a brass plate which he riveted to the dog's collar, bearing the following inscription:

Stop me not, but let me jog,
For I am Bob, the railway dog.

while another admirer penned a poem two stanzas of which read:

Home-keeping dogs have homely wits,
Their notions tame and poor;
I scorn the dog who humbly sits
Before the cottage door,
Or those who weary vigils keep,
Or follow lovely kine;
A dreary life midst stupid sheep
Shall ne'er be lot of mine.

Let other dogs snarl and fight
And round the city prowl,
Or render hideous the night
With unmelodious howl.
I have a cheery bark for all,
No ties my travels clog;
I hear the whistle, that's the call
For Bob, the driver's dog.

Bob died in 1895 at the age of 17 at Mr Evans' butcher shop in Hindley St.

Sources

Observer, 4 September 1875, p. 9a, 28 October 1876, op. 6f;
Advertiser, 15 December 1932, p. 17b.
Information on 'Bob, the railway dog': *Advertiser*, 17 August 1895, p. 6f; *Petersburg Times*, 9 August 1895, p. 4f;
Register, 27 February 1924, p. 11h; Anita Woods, *From Petersburg to Peterborough*, p. 96.

Coming events

Following are items that have come to the attention 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.

18 March: Burnside Historical Society. David Reid, *The Standardisation of Australia's Railway Gauges Since World War II*. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

19 March: Dr Norris Ioannou, illustrated lecture, *Barossa Folk: Germanic furniture and craft traditions in Australia*. National Trust, 452 Pulteney St, Adelaide, 7 pm. Bookings 223 1655.

20 March: Port Adelaide Historical Society. Lloyd Lawrence, *Sea Oddities*. Semaphore Library (upstairs foyer), 14 Semaphore Rd, Semaphore, 8 pm.

21 March: Royal Geographical Society. Dr Andrew Taylor, *The Earth's Environment*. Institute Building, North Terrace, 7.30 pm.

23 March: National Trust State Convention, 452 Pulteney St, Adelaide, 9 am. Enquiries 223 1655.

23-24 March: Medieval Festival, Birdwood Mill, Enquiries 018 837 387.

24 March: Burnside Historical Society visit to Port Dock Railway Museum. Details from secretary, Elaine Smyth, 332 8019.

Special operating day to mark Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum's 10th anniversary. Enquiries to Rosemary Gower 085 887 031.

26 March: Royal Geographic Society. Edward Stokes, *Across the Centre - John McDouall Stuart*. Institute Building, North Terrace, 5.30 pm.

31 March: Historic Steam and Traction Rally, the oval, Booleroo Centre.

12 April: HSSA annual general meeting followed by Yvonne Roberts, historian, State Heritage Branch, *Saucy Sarah, Rarely Sober*. The Chapel, the Orphanage, Goodwood Rd, Goodwood, 7.45 pm. (Note change of venue.)

15 April: Burnside Historical Society AGM. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

17 April: Port Adelaide Historical Society. Helen Myhill, *Alberton Baptist Church*. Semaphore Library (upstairs foyer), 14 Semaphore Rd, Semaphore, 8 pm.

18 April: Royal Geographical Society AGM, Director of Adelaide Zoo, Ed McAlister, *The*

Adelaide Zoo - towards 2001, Institute Building, North Terrace, 5.30 pm.

21 April: HSSA bus tour to Kapunda. See page 3.

A walk around Cox's Creek and Bridgewater led by Tom Dyster. Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society.

24 April: *Endeavour* arrives Robe from New Zealand.

26 April: *Endeavour* arrives Victor Harbor.

27 April-6 May: *Endeavour* at Port Adelaide.

3 May: HSSA meeting. Rosemary Mitchell, *The Folk of North Terrace*, Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

16 May: Royal Geographical Society. Mark Spooner, Department of Defence, *Australia in Antarctica*. Institute Building, North Terrace, 5.30 pm.

ONGOING EVENTS

DAILY

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

Maritime Museum: Full size replica of sailing ketch, computerised ancestor tracing, penny arcade, 1869 lighthouse, steam tug and coastal trader. 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide, 10 am-5 pm. Enquiries 240 0200.

Migration Museum: In the restored buildings of the Destitute Asylum. Tells of the people who left all that they knew to start life afresh in Australia. 82 Kintore Ave, weekdays, 10 am - 5 pm; weekends and public holidays, 1 - 5 pm.

National Motor Museum: Australia's best collection of motor vehicles. Birdwood Mill, Birdwood, 9 am - 5 pm.

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

Sheep's Back Museum: Award-winning displays of wool industry and its people, in an 1870 flour mill. Craft shop. MacDonnell St, Naracoorte, 10 am-4 pm.

Signal Point: Tells Murray-Darling River story. Animated stories of the Dreamtime, video trips with explorers, touch screens life of the river system, *Oscar W* paddle steamer. Banks of the River Murray, Goolwa, 11 am-5 pm.

Tandanya: Guided tours and talks on Aboriginal heritage. 253 Grenfell St, Adelaide, 10.30 am-5 pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5 pm weekends, public holidays.

Wadlata Outback Centre: Reveals the origins of the

Outback, aspects of Aboriginal heritage and culture, Dreamtime stories. 41 Flinders Tce, Port Augusta. Weekdays 9 am-5.30 pm, weekends 10 am-4 pm.

Whyalla Maritime Museum: Guided tours of *HMAS Whyalla*, first ship launched at Whyalla shipyards. Plus scale model of the Santos plant, Port Bonython, and Australia's largest 00-gauge model railway. Lincoln Highway, 10 am-4 pm. Enquiries 086 457 900.

Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse: Site of first Josephite school. Cnr Petticoat Lane and Portland St, Penola, 10 am-4 pm.

Yesteryear Farm Museum: Stationary engines, tractors, household antiques, farm implement demonstrations, horse drawn vehicles and vintage cars. Koolunga. Enquiries 088 466 040.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, FRIDAY AND WEEKENDS

Gladstone Gaol (1881): Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 1-4 pm; Saturday, Sunday, school holidays and public holidays, 10 am-12 noon and 1-4 pm. Accommodation available. Enquiries 086 622 200/232.

TUESDAY

Adelaide Oval Museum: 10 am - 12 noon

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Axel Stenross Maritime Museum: Boat building workshop, windjammer relics. 97 Lincoln Highway, Port Lincoln 086 82 2093/1162.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

'The Grange', historic home of Captain Charles Sturt: Jetty St, Grange . 1-5 pm.

Women With Attitude: 100 years of political action exhibition from National museum of Australia, Edmund Wright House, King William St, Adelaide. 10 am-4 pm until 23 June.

THURSDAY

Adelaide Oval: Guided tours include Bradman Stand, Bradman photos, dressing room, and secrets of the scoreboard. 10 am from South Gate, Enquiries 231 3759. Museum open 12 noon - 2 pm.

SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY

Banking and Currency Museum: A multiple Regional Tourism Award winner. 3 Graves St, Kadina, 10 am-5 pm. Enquiries 0888 212 906.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Aviation Museum: Piston engines, jet planes. 11 Mundy St, Port Adelaide, 10 am-5 pm.

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

Old Police Station, Clare: Early furniture, clothes, records and photos of district, agricultural machinery, horse-drawn vehicles. Cnr Victoria Rd and West Tce, Saturdays and public holidays, 10 am-12 noon; Sundays 2-4 pm.

Strathalbyn Museum: Police Station (1858) with rooms containing domestic objects of 19th century. Also Courthouse (1866). Weekends, public and school holidays, 2-5 pm.

SA Police Museum: In Old Police Barracks and Armoury Building (behind SA Museum, enter from Kintore Ave), 1-5 pm.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, WEDNESDAY AND PUBLIC AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Kadina Heritage Museum: Includes restored Matta House (former mine manager's residence), agricultural display, printing machinery, working displays. Matta Rd, Kadina. 2-4.30 pm. School and public hols 10am-4.30pm. Enquiries 0888 211 083/564.

Moonta Museum and Miner's Cottage: Museum in Moonta Mines Model School (1878). Cottage (c. 1870) furnished in period. 1.30-4 pm, public and school holidays, 11 am-4 pm. Enquiries to National Trust of SA (Moonta Branch), PO Box 23, Moonta, 5558.

Walleroo Heritage and Nautical Museum: Old Post Office, Jetty Rd, Wallaroo 2-4 pm. Enquiries 0888 232 843/366.

SUNDAY TO FRIDAY

Clayton Farm: Historic site and agricultural museum, 3 km south of Bordertown, 2-5 pm.

SUNDAY

Adelaide Gaol (1841): Guided tours of cell blocks, exercise yards, hanging tower and graves. Port Rd, Adelaide. First tour 11 am, last tour 3.30 pm. No booking needed. Weekday and night tours available but bookings essential. Enquiries to State Heritage Branch, 204 9261, or gaol manager, 231 4062.

The Brocas: Colonial house with blacksmith's shop, joinery, stables. 111 Woodville Rd, Woodville, 2 pm-5 pm.

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Cummins: Historic home of the Morphett family. Sheoak Ave, Novar Gardens, 2-4 pm.

Historic Military Vehicles Museum: Cnr Baynes Pl. and Commercial Rd, Port Adelaide, 9.30 am-4.30 pm.

Old Customs House, Station Master's House: Victor Harbor, 11 am-4 pm.

Old Government House: Vice-regal summer residence 1860-80. National Park, Belair. 12.30-4 pm.

Railway Signal/Telegraph and Aviation Museum: Story of aviators Ross and Keith Smith, history of Albert Park and Parafield airports, railway memorabilia. 112 Marion Rd, Brooklyn Park, 1-4.30 pm. Enquiries 373 3554.

FIRST SUNDAY OF MONTH

Sunnybrae Farm: Restored historic complex including Enfield Heritage Museum, Gallipoli Grove, Regency Park, 2-4 pm.

Letters to the Editor

MORTLOCK POLICY AROUSSES MORE STRONG FEELINGS

Sir,

The correspondence between Dr Jenkin and the Mortlock Library published in the January 1996 issue of *History SA* reawakened my strong feelings regarding the same issue.

I, like many others, have over the years donated many dozen historical photographs to the Mortlock Library in the belief that not only would they be preserved for posterity, but they would also be available for future historians. While they are certainly preserved and can be seen at the Mortlock on request, they are certainly not available for use by historians as illustrations in published works. As I am sure you would appreciate there is rarely any profit to be made in publishing family and local histories, particularly if the author's time is factored into the cost of production. Family and local histories can potentially include several dozen old photographs and if they all attract a 'publication fee' the expense is prohibitive, even with a Category A rating.

I suspect that the only publishers who can afford the 'publication fee' are the Murdoch Press and similar large corporations. I certainly didn't offer my

photographs to the Mortlock Library on the understanding that it would be charging a 'publication fee', and I doubt whether other donors realised that the Library would be doing so. While I appreciate that the Libraries Board is starved for funds, I suspect the 'publication fee' doesn't generate significant revenue.

As with Dr Jenkin, charging for the cost of producing a photographic copy is acceptable and understandable, but the 'publication fee' is not. I have wondered what legal action the Library could take if a publisher were to use a Mortlock Library photograph without paying the fee. Would I be sued if I used a photograph that I had donated to the Library? My situation is further complicated in that I lent a number of photographs to the Mitcham Historical Society on the understanding that they would be taking copies and also donating a copy to the Mortlock Library. Who then is the legal donor?

For some years I have suggested to potential donors that they consider depositing their photographs with a local history collection, many of which are of a high standard. However, I suggest the time has come for more concerted action to get the Mortlock Library to see the error of its ways.

This could be multi-faceted:

1. Seeking the History Trust's support to lobby the Libraries Board to have the 'publication fee' abolished.
2. Lobbying the Libraries Board directly for the same purpose.
3. Commencing a campaign to inform the public of the existence of the 'publication fee' and encouraging potential donors to donate their material to local history collections rather than to the Mortlock Library. This could be through the newsletters/journals of historical societies.

I suspect that a combination of the first two points and the last may have some success.

— Andrew Peake,
Dulwich

HELP SOUGHT FOR GHOST LORE SURVEY

Sir,

I am engaged on research with a view to publishing a survey of Australian ghost lore.

A general search to date has revealed three reputed 'hauntings' in South Australia – Robert O'Hara Burke's ghost at Innamincka, the Nullarbor 'nymph', and the ghost of Prospect Hall at Prospect.

With the exception of Burke's life and exploits, I have very scant information about these phenomena and I am sure there must be others of which I am unaware. My intention in the work is to present these phenomena as folk history rather than pseudo-science, therefore historical and social background will be essential to context each subject.

Any information that could be provided from your Society's records or assistance from any members would be greatly appreciated and, of course, acknowledged in the final publication.

As an aside, it may be of interest to your Society that the writer is the grandson of 'Dick' Davis, noted Adelaide cyclist of the last century, and a descendant of the Davis family after whom Davis Street in Norwood is named.

– Richard M. Davis.
Elanora (Qld)

Second volume in mining history

Above and Below, by professional historian Bernard O'Neil, is the second of two volumes published by the Department of Mines and Energy to record its history in the hundred years since 1894, the year the Department was created. Together with *In Search of Mineral Wealth*, by the same author, the new book recognises the importance of the mining and petroleum industries to SA and the wealth and prosperity they have generated.

While detailing trends in local mining since 1944, the human aspect of the Department and the personal contributions of many individuals are brought more sharply into focus in the second volume through the use of oral histories. Lively and informative, *Above and Below* is profusely illustrated and fully referenced with a comprehensive bibliography and index. It will be welcomed by mining and geology enthusiasts.

The book retails for \$39.95 plus \$8 postage and packaging and may be obtained from the Department at PO Box 151, Eastwood, 5063, fax 272 7597.

Heritage guidelines

The State Heritage Branch is funding a project that outlines procedures for identifying local heritage places under the SA Development Act. The project will also set out mechanisms for conserving and protecting local heritage. Once produced, the local heritage registers will complement the State Heritage Register comprising nearly 2,000 places.

Barossa's organ heritage on CD

Thirteen of the Barossa Valley's historic organs have been recorded for a series of CDs which are being released commercially by Move records of Melbourne. An initiative of the SA committee of the Organ Historical Trust of Australia, the records highlight the Barossa's organ heritage.

In the first volume, released late last year, organists John Stiller, music director of St Petri Lutheran Church, Nuriootpa, and Dr Christopher Dearnley, formerly organist at St Paul's Cathedral, London, play a variety of works on organs that include those at Angaston Uniting church, Kapunda Anglican church, and the Lutheran churches at Stockwell, Gruenberg and Bethany. A 16-page booklet accompanying the CD gives a brief history of the Barossa, its churches and its organs.

The CD is available through record stores at a recommended retail price of \$30 but can be purchased direct from David Shield, PO Box 24, Blackwood, 5051, at \$25 plus \$2 postage and packing. Profits from these sales will help preserve the State's organ history, including the transcription of the letter books of organ builder J.E. Dodd and the reconstruction of the 1875 organ of Hill & Son which was once in the Adelaide Town Hall.

A look at Darwin – isolated and exotic

A new book by David Carment, Professor of History at the University of the Northern Territory, explores the history of the most isolated – and for many Australians the most exotic – of our cities. *Looking at Darwin's Past* is about the efforts of Europeans and their descendants to create and live in Australia's only tropical capital as revealed in historical structures and sites.

Professor Carment says that, despite its remote location, harsh (for Europeans) climate, natural disasters and the devastation of war, Darwin's cultural landscape includes many places that can be viewed as historical evidence. His book shows how this evidence can be interpreted within the wider context of white Australian culture.

Available at \$25 a copy from the Northern Australian Research Unit (NARU), PO Box 41321, Casuarina, NT 0811 (Attention Publications), fax (089) 22 0055, phone (089) 22 0038.

Fleshing out the convict beginnings

Canberra researcher C.J. Smee has compiled, edited and published a book containing the genealogical details of 179 convicts who arrived in the colony of NSW in 1792, plus their children and grandchildren.

While Mr Smee acknowledges there was no such historical entity as the Fourth Fleet, he has called his book *Fourth Fleet Families of Australia* to describe those who arrived on the convict transports *Pitt, Royal Admiral* and *Kitty* in 1792.

Previously unpublished convict indentures for the three ships have been included and should interest researchers of this period of Australian history.

Mr Smee also notes that 1792 was the last year the fledgling society on the shores of Sydney harbour consisted solely of the convicted and those guarding and administering them.

Fourth Fleet Families of Australia completes Mr Smee's series of 'fleet families' volumes. It is available from him at PO Box 1011, Dickson, ACT, 2602, at a cost of \$30 plus \$8 postage and packing.

Also available from Mr Smee is volume five of the second edition of *The Pioneer Register*, said to be one of the largest genealogical works ever published in Australia. It contains details of 500 pioneers who arrived in NSW and Van Diemens Land between 1788 and 1820, plus their children and grandchildren. A chronology of the period provides an historical background in tabular and statistical form.

Mr Smee has also attempted to list all the civil and military officials in their respective positions in the same period. There is also a complete list of the vessels that arrived from the United Kingdom from the First Fleet to the end of 1820.

The cost is \$45 plus \$9 for postage and packing.

Awards for HSSA members

The Society congratulates members Ms Valmai Hankel and Mrs Kathleen Symes on receiving awards in the Australia Day honours list.

Ms Hankel received the Public Service Medal for her outstanding public service in promoting library management and the preservation of rare books, while Mrs Symes received a medal in the Order of Australia for her services to the community and the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship.

HSSA member taps old sources for history of Germans in SA

HSSA member David Schubert has produced a new book on early German history in South Australia, based on old sources.

His book, *Because of Their Beliefs*, is partly a translation of a 1931 German book by Wilhelm Iwan and tells the story of the Prussian Lutheran emigration to South Australia for religious reasons from 1838 to the early 1850s. Over 1,400 people are listed, together with many family details.

David, a book editor and author of *Kavel's People*, says many of the original German archival documents which Iwan consulted have probably been lost as a result of World War II. The area these Germans came from is now part of Poland. David estimates that possibly hundreds of thousands of descendants of the people mentioned in his book could now be living in Australia.

Because of Their Beliefs also contains new material and detailed indexes, bibliography and illustrations.

The book was supported by the SA Government through the Community History Fund of SA. It is available from various Adelaide bookshops or from the publisher, H. Schubert, 42 Cheltenham St, Highgate, 5063, at \$20 per copy (plus postage).

Common patterns in SA country town histories

Papers given by historians and geographers at a workshop at Terowie in 1989 on the history of SA country towns are now available in published form.

Compiled and edited by Tony Denholm, Susan Marsden and Kerrie Round, the 13 papers find common patterns in the towns' topographical, social, economic and political histories. They would be of value to students of urban history and to general readers who have wondered about changes in the rural landscape.

Copies of the publication, *Terowie Workshop: exploring the history of SA country towns*, are available from the History Trust of SA, 122 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, 5000, at \$12.50 plus \$2.50 per copy for postage and packaging. Cheques should be made payable to the History Trust of SA.

A long-lost story of the Hamp and Beevor murders

Dr Barbara Wall's response (History SA, January 1996) to Patricia Sumerling's article on 'the myth of the Elliston Massacre' has prompted Geoffrey Manning to forward more information on the subject.

For nearly 100 years historians, both amateur and professional, have produced reams of conflicting stories surrounding the murders of John Hamp and James Beevor on Eyre Peninsula on 23 June 1848 and 3 May 1849 respectively. Here is another version, abridged from an account of the tragedies by 'Betty Mac' who declared that it:

is as accurate as I can get it after much investigation. Practically all my life I have lived within 20 miles of the scene. I have heard most versions of that day's work and have most vivid recollections of the 'sandhill blacks' as this tribe was called.

In what follows it is apparent that after Mr Hamp's murder the so-called 'massacre' was enacted and within 12 months, in an act of vengeance, the perpetrator of the first murder repeated, according to the white man's law, the offence upon Mr Beevor.

Introduction

Mangultie was seeking his next meal (with his lubra, Poochera) when her shrill voice was a screech and her finger pointed to the west ... from the sandhills and from the cliffs those naked savages viewed with superstitious awe the alarming creation as it sheltered behind Waldegrave Island. A new era had begun, although those primitive folk knew it not, for it was the *Investigator* with Captain Flinders on board ... the long open bay in which he had sheltered had a new name by which even some of the natives came in time to call it ... It was Anxious Bay ... The years passed by bringing with them vast changes. White men mounted on strange animals and driving before them other alien creatures, had come from the east.

The white men expected the Aborigines to work for food. But why work? Sheep were more easily killed than a kangaroo or wallaby and the shepherds' wives would also give food if asked. Sometimes, argued the wise old men of the tribe, if they did work they would be whipped, and here would be shown markings on thin, scraggy arms and legs ... on half-naked bodies ... and so misunderstandings arose.

Some unfortunate Aborigines were ill-treated, some innocent white folk were killed, and for this crime the blackfellows paid ... Nature and the continual hunt for food had made the Aborigines cunning – and they were content to wait.

The murder of Mr Hamp

On the shores of Lake Newland was erected a little hut, near the sheoak trees, and in it lived a shepherd and his two sons. Sometimes the boys would guard the sheep, yarding them at nightfall, and the father would have the evening meal ready when the little lads' work was done ... One evening ... the boys came home ready and hungry for their 'tea', but instead of their father they saw a blackfellow at the hut. Mangultie, with an exultant gleam in his eye, pointed towards the camp oven. 'Tea in there', he said. On lifting the lid the little lads beheld the head of their father, and some distance away his body ...

The police were informed, the troopers from their various far-apart posts of duty came together, and the whole district was aroused. Something had to be done. From north and east and south came horseback riders armed with rifles ... Separating and moving inland in various directions those riders with their baying and barking dogs set off. Near and far they searched, gathering together from the hills and the little lakes, from the waterholes, from the wurlies by the sandhills, the hunted Aborigines. Driving ever before them those frightened men and women and children towards the south, adding a few here and there, the strange journey went on ...

Mengultie, with Poochera, hiding in a sandy wombat hole under a ledge of rock heard (them) ... A trooper came along (and) pulled the matted grey hair of her head, and she, too, joined the hurrying throng of people – blackfellows with but one object, and that to escape from their pursuers ... and ever onward were hurried a remnant of a tribe, and up and up, until the blue sea was seen ... booming and splashing unceasingly ... unheeding the puny dark forms above, and those, too, which clung to the very face of the cliffs. 'The blacks have had a great fright – and they will never forget it.' agreed the little handful of white folk that night as they dispersed from the cliffs at Waterloo Bay.

When the stars were shining and the curlew, with eerie cries, ran over the hills, Manultie crept out of his hiding place and to the east he sped ... From afar he selected a suitable clump of trees, and from these he chose the strongest, straightest bough he could find ... Afterwards it was said among the blacks that

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20 YEARS AGO

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Mangultie's spear was the best of all, but Mangultie said but little – he would shake his greying beard and mutter to himself ...

The murder of Mr Beevor

(Mangultie's) wurlie was apart from the camp and mostly he dwelt alone ... near Mount Joy ... His chief interest centred on a tiny shepherd's hut in that vicinity ... As the white man sat at his little window ... a small aperture in one wall ... (and) unused to the bush, the shepherd's ear was not attuned to catch a tiny discordant note ... But the blackfellow's naked feet touched softly ... Mangultie with his bitter memories and with his spear in his hand, a lean and aged figure, crept quietly, softly towards the hut ... Mangultie's spear was ever sure ... At Parkin, on the shores of Venus Bay, at the gaol to the east of the township, Mangultie was hanged ... Parkin is but a memory for among the drifting sands of the half-forgotten town the houses have fallen and the old gaol, too, is but a heap of crumbling stone...

Corroborating evidence

Mr W.A. Barnes who retired from pastoral activities on the West Coast in 1920 commented on the 'massacre':

Yes, they were driven over the cliffs. I had one of them in my employ. He was know as Downhip Jimmie. He was only a boy of 12 or 14 at the time and when he went over the cliffs his hip was put out and it never got right again.

In 1868 John Hamp's son, John Chipp Hamp (1835-1905), told of how he discovered his father's body and of 'the rally made by the few settlers then in the district and of how they roused up the natives and how they made for the coast, where many of them were driven over the rocks and perished in the sea.'

Michael S.W. Kenny went to the West Coast in 1876 and 'lived 50 years behind the bar' of the Colton Hotel where he 'heard most things'. In his reminiscences he recalls talking on many occasions with a former policeman, J.W. Ger(h)arty (1816-1897) – Mr Kenny records the name as 'O'Garaghty' – who was a trooper in the district from the 1840s until taking up a pastoral run near Venus Bay in 1856. Mr Kenny concludes that according to this informant:

There was nothing in that yarn about the settlers driving the blacks over the cliffs at Waterloo Bay ... One lubra might have fallen over the cliffs, but the wholesale massacre is all moonshine.

Sources

The Mail, 30 April 1932; *Observer*, 12 October 1929; 2 November 1929; *Advertiser*, 4 August 1932.

The October 1975 issue of the HSSA *Newsletter* reproduced some amusing (and still familiar-sounding) 19th century correspondence which bears reprinting.

Millicent Browne writing from Adelaide to a friend in London 23 January 1870:

Yesterday Papa brought a visitor to dinner, a charming young gentleman who kept us entertained with his elegant conversation. Mr Jenkinson – for that was his name – has been studying at Oxford and is travelling in the Colonies to broaden his knowledge. He says that in one or two thousand years scholars will want to know how we lived, and will read documents that are being written now, just as scholars today study parchments from Ancient Egypt, even your own letter may be treasured in some great library. Mama says it is only foolish talk as we already know how we live, but he is a very charming gentleman ...

'Pro Bono Publico' wrote a letter to the editor of an Adelaide paper about the same Mr Jenkinson:

Words do not express the dismay – nay outrage – with which I read your account of last night's meeting of the Philosophical Society.

Do you not recall, Sir, that, in the infancy of the Society, some fifteen years since, much profitless time and many empty words were expended, or rather wasted, on such novelties as decimal and duodecimal currency, and weights and measures, and the like? Was not this sufficient folly, but what they must now pay heed to such a lecture as of yesternight?

By all means, let us have an University, and let it train our sons in those principles of Religion, and Education, and the Useful Arts, as will conduce to the prosperity, and moral rectitude of the Colony, but parchments from Egypt – Heaven forbid! Why, the man will, before you know it, be saying that the Books of Account of the mercantile houses, of this very City, will be laid bare to the scrutiny of some millennial archaeologist. Who, pray, is this Mr Jenkinson? Is he to be numbered among those who swell the ranks of Academia only to expend the family fortune in travel?

Make them work, I say. Let them stand on the shop floor, and earn an honest pound.

DINGO TALES

Sean Dawes

The dingo has suffered a varied reputation: currently, one more aligned with coyotes and jackals than familiar domestic dogs. But this has not always been so. Once, dingoes were deemed suitable for assimilation into that highest level of English canine society, the hunting hound. Indeed, one South Australian dingo spent the last five days of its life cavorting on the Isle of Wight with Queen Victoria's deerhound.

William Dampier was the first Englishman to write of Australia's native dog. He 'saw two or three Beasts like hungry Wolves, lean like so many skeletons' during a privateering expedition to NW Australia in 1688. Some hundred years later, Governor Arthur Phillip, on his return to England, loaded several dingoes for presentation to the King. Eventually, one resided with the Marchioness of Salisbury and modelled for Phillip's illustrated *Voyage to Botany Bay*. Another lived many years in the Paris menagerie.

Reputation had it that the Parisian dingo, lacking in Gallic charm, was ferocious, reportedly challenging dogs far larger than itself, and when someone took it for a walk in the Bois de Vincennes, it leapt at the cages of jaguars, leopards, and even bears. It was this ferocity and courage which endeared the dingo to the bloodied English hunting fraternity.

To start the cross-breeding, George Caley, the Sydney naturalist, in 1880 dispatched 'a very fine bitch native pup' to Sir Joseph Banks, a keen breeder as well as president of the Royal Society.

In the fashion of the day (and one that is still followed, as in the film *Babe*), writers accorded human characteristics to animals. At first, dingoes were courageous and fierce and their strength, agility and wariness were complimented. They also stirred the imagination of artists as shown in an 1830 illustration of two dingoes living at London Zoo, in which sentiment vastly exceeds objectivity.

Unfortunately, as settlement spread in Australia and sheep replaced native fauna, dingoes were pushed inland, and their forays against stock and poultry brought them into disrepute. No longer did they have the 'determined air and ferocity of the wolf' but, rather, as John Gould recalled, dingoes lived in continual dread', possessed of a 'constrained and skulking gait' with all the habits of a low-bred dog. Opinion was changed and the dingo was just an antipodean fox: vermin for the hunt.

This fall from grace was reflected in the

abominations routinely practised upon dingo corpses. The animals were hard to kill and cunningly played possum, and there were persistent reports of miraculous revivals and recoveries from shocking injuries. In consequence, death was ensured by flaying the dogs and breaking their legs. Even today dingoes are abused in a continuing war of attrition.

Reports and folklore about dingoes also include tales of stamina and endurance – none more impressive than those concerning two dingoes that lived in Adelaide in 1840, where the noble image of the dingo still persisted, at least for two men. Although, it must be said, neither man had any experience of sheep raising! Indeed, one was naval Lieutenant John Lort Stokes, aboard *HMS Beagle* anchored in Holdfast Road, who, a few weeks earlier at Swan River, had found a bitch dingo pup in a hollow log. He saw her as an asset to cross with a foxhound on his family's Welsh estate at Scotchwell. Stokes doted on the [up even though she terrorised the *Beagle* crew. She was destructive of books in the officers library, stole meat and fowls supposedly hung beyond her jumping skill on the mainstay, and prowled the ship as sure-footed as a cat on her nefarious expeditions. Here survival across the Bight speaks volumes for the tolerance aboard the Queen's ships of officers and crew for the foibles of others.

In Tasmania, this delinquent dingo leapt overboard into the Tamar and swam ashore to kill a stud ram. Stokes paid five pounds' compensation (a few weeks' pay) but even the canine figurehead on the *Beagle* must have gritted its teeth when Stokes returned with the sheepkiller. For three years the dingo sailed the Australian coast, twice revisiting her birthplace, but finally, in late 1843, she reached Woolwich. This return to England marked for Stokes the end of 18 years' exploration aboard the *Beagle*, the final two as her commander (a position which perhaps raised the crew's level of tolerance for the dingo!). Everyone was paid off; Stokes and his dingo were alone, the last to leave the decommissioned *Beagle* – perhaps the most famous ship in history. Stokes stayed in London writing reports and sent the dingo to his cousin to start a breeding program, but her first Welsh winter was bitter and the Swan River dingo died.

The second honoured dingo was male and the record of his activities suggests many adulterated strains of dingo exist in southern England. This one, in 1840, belonged to George Hall, private secretary to Governor George Gawler, and lived at Government House in Adelaide. In contrast to Stokes' beast, this

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dingo was grandly named 'Mr Hall's Australian dog' and it, and some of its offspring, appear in Gawler family documents under the acronym HAD; a procedure to be followed in this expose.

The Gawler family (wife, children and grandmother, servants, retainers, friends and George Hall,) spent their first ten days in South Australia on the beach at Holdfast Bay. An illustration by Julie Gawler, aged 14, and noted by Hall, shows the camping arrangements. Into this menage arrived HAD, which had been abandoned in the dunes. Julia quaintly observed in her surviving diary that this 'very small Australian dog slept (sic) near Mr Hall's tent who feeds it with Williams' dog'. Within days HAD graced Government House and entered politics, scandals and extravagances.

The politics involved Julia, who set her cap determinedly at George Hall, who was 25 years her senior. She allied herself with HAD, thereby to pester George, and joined with Ben, an aboriginal, to gain the dingo's trust. It was a relationship that was to last for 17 years.

The scandal occurred in 1840 when William Augustus Poulden, a lawyer and Clerk of the Peace, presented his credentials at a levee as 'Papa's new attorney'. Cousin Augustus (nepotism was not unknown), arrived late and left his horse in the sun with a tight girth and no water. At the levee Augustus eased into the pickings and porter, incurring the wrath of Ben and Julia who properly tended his horse. Then Augustus dropped some food and HAD dived in for his share, only to get a kick from Augustus. Julia immediately set the dingo on Augustus, who was dragged to the ground and badly bitten. Things were getting serious, requiring Ben to suck out the wounds: a treatment supported variously by Julia and Williams (a manservant from Gawler's regiment). The scene so impressed Julia's youngest sister that years later she still believed the team of first-aiders were taking turns at biting Cousin Augustus's leg! The unfortunate victim was also impressed with the occasion, never returning to Government House unless assured that Julia and HAD were absent. Thirty years later Augustus still bore scares and a grudge.

The extravagance of HAD also involved the resourceful Ben. The Governor had four Irish silver trays for receiving visitors' cards. Seemingly, the significance accorded this purpose decided Ben that one of the trays should also be used to hasten some departures. He used it as a frisbee to drop at the feet of guests who had overstayed their welcome, and sent in the dingo to retrieve it. Doubtless, HAD's reputation, reinforced by his tenacity in retrieval,

was effective. The silver tray survives today in a quiet Cotswold village, battered, bitten and punctured from HAD's enthusiasm for the chase.

HAD departed Adelaide for England in 1841 with most of Gawler's retinue. In 1847 Julia got her way and married George Hall. He arrived at the church with his groomsman and the dingo. Consternation reigned as the dog nosed among the assemblage for persons known from its youth. Finally it was leashed with a spare sword belt and held two-handed by a bridesmaid whose bouquet was transferred to HAD's mouth for Julia's walk down the aisle. At the altar the dingo lay between the bride and groom until Gawler, with the deed done, led it away to his pew. From that moment HAD joined Gawler's household and returned with him to London.

After their marriage the Halls lived on the Isle of Wight, where George was Governor of Parkhurst Prison. Adjacent was the Queen's recently purchased estate of Osborne House. For seven years the Gawlers travelled from London with HAD, some 60 miles by horse carriage, and then by ferry across the Solent, to visit their daughter Julia. On the first occasion HAD sussed the route, loping along between the rear wheels. Subsequently, sure of its destination, the dingo abandoned the carriage as it dragged up the hills near Haselmere and raced ahead to Portsmouth. At the ferry, aided by the good-natured connivance of the usually tough ferrymen (perhaps they recognised a kindred spirit), HAD sailed the Solent, landed, and was with the Halls to welcome their London guests. This was a feat repeated many times until, in age, HAD deigned to travel by carriage to Haselmere before bounding ahead.

In 1854 the Gawlers moved to Southsea, near the Solent ferry, and HAD became bi-family. He stayed for weeks with one master or the other, seemingly motivated by romance. On the Isle of Wight one bitch was a deerhound owned by Queen Victoria, although HAD also lusted after another neighbour's spaniel.

On 24 May 1855, when HAD was 17, he arrived at the Halls and joined George for their usual sea bathing. However, the dingo could not leap the waves and that evening died before the fire, his muzzle capped in George's hand. Julia made enquiries and established that HAD had left Southsea five days before and had been largely occupied with the royal deerhound, an affair not unknown to its owner.

Thus, near an English beach, died a dingo born near the Patawalonga. A suitable memorial was needed and it was found within the royal estate and transplanted to HAD's grave site - a lusty eucalyptus sapling!