

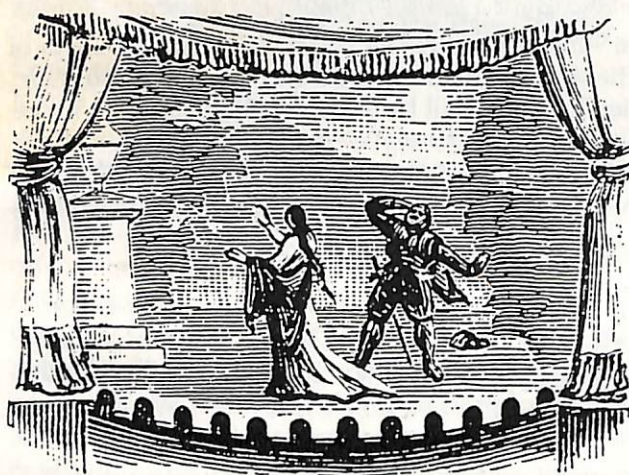
# HIS *istory* SA

Print Post approved 535806/0005

No. 128 January 1997

## February lecture

### When low comedy and G&S ruled the stage



The Queens Theatre, the Majestic, the Theatre Royal, the Olympic, the Victoria, and the Pavilion – these are the names of just some of the theatres that entertained Adelaide last century.

Before the days of movies, television and computer games, they brought comic opera, melodrama and farce, as well as the occasional excerpt from Shakespeare or a dramatic reading from the poetry of Tennyson, to wildly enthusiastic crowds.

Writing in 1882, Englishman R.E.N. Twopenny said, 'The colonial taste in theatrical matters follows the English pretty closely. *Opera-bouffe* and Gilbert and Sullivan are preferred to anything else. Next in popularity is the "New Babylon" type of play. Low comedy also draws well'.

Theatres provided a companionable atmosphere, plenty of beer, sawdust and footlights, and side-splitting antics on the stage – just what was wanted after a hard day's work in the new colony.

Hamish Angas, Heritage Officer with the State Heritage Branch and a specialist in the history of early Adelaide theatres, will recall the buildings that housed these entertainments in his address to the Society on Friday 7 February.

The lectures by Hamish Angas and Dr Heysen (see below) will both begin at 8 pm in the Prince Philip Theatre at Prince Alfred College, Kent Town. There is ample parking in the school grounds.

## March lecture

### Care of Heysen legacy a work of love and respect

Dr Peter Heysen, grandson of South Australia's best loved artist, Hans Heysen, will give fascinating insights into what it has meant to take responsibility for the preservation of the artist's home and its contents, when he speaks to the Society on 7 March.

When Hans Heysen died he left the house, its furnishings, the surrounding land and two paintings to his eldest son, David – Dr Heysen's father.

David Heysen acquired another 100 acres for the property and added more of his father's pictures to those he had been left.

David in turn left the property to his four children, of whom Dr Heysen is the eldest.

The problem the family faced was what to do with their legacy? They did nothing for some years but eventually a majority decision was made to maintain it as it was at the time of the artist death.

A proposal in the 1970s that the State Government purchase the property came to nothing so family members decided to use their enterprise and go it alone, realising that whatever they did, the property would have to be self-supporting.

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## 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, 8297 9844

Vice-President: Mr M.Keain

Secretary: Mrs A. Every, (pager) 8415 7866

Treasurer: Mrs A.Huckel, 8277 2953

Publicity / promotions officer: Ms M. Dunshore, 8381 7429

Journal editor: Dr J.T. Stock

Members: Dr G. Bishop, Mr S. Dawes, 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, 8340 3467

Auditor: Mr K. Banfield

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Now classified as an historic house and living museum, the property is open to interested members of the public every day of the week except Saturdays, which is the Heysens' family day at *The Cedars*.

Acting on the advice of heritage consultant Bruce Harry, the Heysens are restoring the house, the artist's studio, outbuildings and the land to recreate the whole just as Hans and Nora Heysen knew it – even to the early caravan and the Model A Ford of the kind that originally pulled it on the artist's forays into the Flinders Ranges.

The studio is much as it was when the artist last used it and the house is filled with paintings, rare books, fine rugs and furniture.

There is a permanent curator and guides are on hand to take limited groups through the house and studio.

On Sunday 23 March Dr Heysen will conduct a tour of 'The Cedars' specially for HSSA members and their friends. There will be more details of this tour in the March issue of *History SA*.

## Nominations sought for office bearers in 1997-98

The HSSA annual general meeting will be held on Friday 4 April at 7.45 pm – before the usual lecture meeting at 8 pm – and nominations are called for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and the eight members of Council.

Nominations must be forwarded to the secretary, Anne Every, Historical Society of SA Inc., Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000, by 26 February. There is a nomination form below but if you do not want to damage your copy of *History SA*, make a photocopy of the form and use that.

Following the AGM there will be a talk by heritage architect and organist Barry Rowney on pipe organs in South Australia.

### NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL

I hereby nominate.....  
for election to the Council of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc. for the year 1997-98

to hold the position of.....

Signed.....

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

Signed.....

## On your Council

### SEAN DAWES



Sean Dawes, a long-time member of the Society, joined the Council in 1992.

An Environmental Health Officer with the Unley Council, Sean has a particular interest in food production, processing and catering. His interest in history stems from early studies, when his school offered the first course in England devoted to American history.

Since arriving in Adelaide, he has discovered the living history aspect in which, due to the writings and publication of so many colonists and visitors, the earliest European views of South Australia are readily to hand, if not tangible. From this, after discovering anomalies in the records of exploration and in nomenclature, he has concentrated upon 1839 and the activities of Charles Sturt, George Gawler and John Gould, the ornithologist and lithographer. Several of his articles have appeared over the years in *History SA* and the *HSSA Journal*.

His writings also include radio plays and childrens theatre and several years' work on the definitive activities of Gould in his collection of South Australian animals and birds – and several years of effort to find a publisher for this *magnum opus!*

### PAULINE PAYNE

Council member Dr Pauline Payne works as a freelance historian, combining research, writing and some part-time University teaching.

Born at Waikerie, Pauline studied at the University of Adelaide before going to Oxford, where she did a postgraduate course in Public and Social Administration. Back in Australia she worked in

social welfare before returning to university as a mature age student to embark on a PhD in history on 'Dr Richard Schomburgk and Adelaide Botanic Garden 1865-91'.

'It was really a history of science topic,' she explains, 'and as none of the three South Australian universities taught history of science, I helped to establish a History of Science, Ideas and Technology group and was inaugural president.' Pauline is also a committee member of the Association of Professional Historians and the Centre for Australian Studies.

She has just completed a history of the Thebarton district called 'Thebarton Old and New' through HISTORYSEARCH, the professional services wing of the History Department of Adelaide University. She had a chapter on Prospect in *Playford's South Australia* launched in September, carried out an oral history project for Elizabeth Council, is writing a history of St Anne's College, has been working with fellow Historical Society member Dr Brian Dickey on a history of Legacy and with architect Lothar Brasse on a heritage and conservation study of *Bungaree* at Clare.

In her spare moments (and there were few of these in 1996) she followed up her interest in German women pioneers. October saw her travelling to Germany with her brother Ian Schomburgk to attend a Schomburgk family gathering in Naumburg. One the way she had a celebratory champagne brunch with her daughter Dr Penelope Deutscher from Australian National University – mother and daughter had each handed over the manuscript of their first full-length book within 24 hours of each other!



In Potsdam Pauline gave a paper at the Australian Studies Institute and Ian took the accompanying photograph (above) of a triumphant historian who had finally mastered the high tech. ticket dispenser

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for the Potsdam S Bahn. She will be giving some more classes for the University of Adelaide's Department of Continuing Education this year, including a short course on SA in the 1880s and another on the development of the South Australian garden.

Pauline is often to be seen at HSSA meetings with her mother, Jean Schomburgk, who has seen all three of her children do postgraduate degrees as 'over 50s' and who, at the age of 90 demonstrates that age is no barrier to support for the Historical Society.

'We think it runs in the family,' says Pauline. 'Dr Schomburgk was 54 when he was appointed as second director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. The Palm House and Museum of Economic Botany were only some of the many achievements made before he died in office in his eightieth year.'

### Bigger, better Mount Lofty history

As foreshadowed in the May 1996 issue of *History SA*, Stirling District Council has now published a second edition of *Under Mount Lofty: a history of the Stirling district in South Australia* by Robert Martin. The new edition has a revised introduction, some revisions to the 1987 text and a new chapter on the years 1984-96. Priced at \$30, it is available from the offices of Stirling Council.

### Letters to the editor

Swap an E, drop an O and add a T,  
Then all will read just perfectly

Sir,

In response to 'Letters please!' (*History SA*, December 1996), my congratulations are overdue to the Society on its energetic newsletter. It is abuzz with happenings.

But there are, I note, a few mishappenings. I ask:

Is there someone with a tweezer  
To pluck an idle E from Ebenezer  
And let it go

Into Heysen with-an-O?

And please add to Buterss a lateral and a literal T  
To doubly satisfy orthography,

And what's more, the historian's zeal for accuracy.

- Alison Dolling,  
Norwood.

From the editor: I wish I could blame the computer, but I can't. The Heysen error in particular jumped out at me immediately I received the December issue from the printer. An editor's lot is not a happy one!

## Help please, for Gawler Ranges research

Sir,

I am currently researching and writing a history of the pastoral stations of the Gawler Ranges from Lake Everard Station to Siam and Uno Stations. This includes Kokatha, Lake Everard, Kondoolka, Yarna, Hiltaba, Yardea, Pondanna, Thurlga, Paney, Kangaroo Wells, Moonarie, Mount Ive, Kolendo, Nonning, Siam and Uno.

I have gained access to some records held at a few stations. such as day books and store accounts which indicate employees for some years, and shearing tally books and wool books, as well as a few other records. I have searched Mortlock Library and Public Record sources with limited results. I have visited some stations and received considerable help and hope to extend these and other contacts.

I am having difficulty locating records that previous lessees may have taken with them, and photographs which may be in family collections of lessees, managers and other employees. Records of the various improvements made have been sighted for only some stations.

I am also interested in finding any diaries, journals, letters or any other records of those who worked on the stations, as well as interviewing people who have worked on the stations or any of their families who may have memorabilia.

While interested in the people who pioneered and have maintained pastoral interests in the Gawler Ranges and to some extent in the economics of these pursuits, I am seeking to record an overall history of these pastoral stations before it is lost, and with it a summary of the individual stations.

- Robert J. Miller, Hons.B.A. L.Th. Grad. Dip. Ed.,  
PO Box 106, Port Eliot, 5212.

## 'Massacre historian provided model for others to follow'

Sir,

I thought some of your readers might be interested to read the series of articles by the eminent historian, J.O. Somerville, on the so-called 'Elliston massacre' published in the *Port Lincoln Times* during 1936.

It is very interesting to read the painstaking research on the story carried out by Mr Somerville 60 years ago; the listing of the sources of the information on how the myth started and how it was carried on over the years. He also gives full details of the hunt for the murderers by policeman Tolmer

and of their trial, then sums up with his own conclusions. All in all, he provides a model on how historians should go about examining an historical event, from the research required to the assessment of the evidence discovered.

In reference to the articles in *History SA* beginning with Pat Sumerling's 'The myth of the Elliston massacre', (*History SA*, September 1995, p. 4), followed by Dr Barbara Wall's article, 'Another look' (*History SA*, September 1995, p. 4) and Geoffrey Manning's 'Hamp and Beevor murders', (*History SA*, March 1996, p. 13), the following is a list of articles on the subject published by Mr Somerville in the *Port Lincoln Times* of 1936. The articles appear on page 3 of each issue under the heading 'Early days of Eyre Peninsula'.

- 28 August, 'Story of tragedies 1848-1849';
- 4 September, 'Murder of John Hamp by natives';
- 11 September, 'Fruitless search for native murderers';
- 18 September, 'Tolmer's enquiry into tragedies - "so-called" Elliston massacre - murder of Mrs Easton (incidentally the child was not harmed) (from Tolmer's *Reminiscences* published in 1882)';
- 2 October, 'Murder of Captain Beevor and Mrs Easton';
- 9 October, 'Pursuit of native murderers (Tolmer)';
- 16 October, 'Pursuit of native murderers' ended;
- 13 October, 'Trial of natives';
- 30 October, 'Trial of Beevor's murderer';
- 6 November, 'Trial and execution of natives';
- 13 November, 'Accounts of Waterloo Bay "massacre"' (first account OBS 14 August 1880 HJC) (*Bulletin* 22 May and 26 June 1924);
- 20 November, 'Waterloo Bay story - "silly old yarn"' (REG 27 February 1926);
- 27 November, 'Final Waterloo Bay story'.

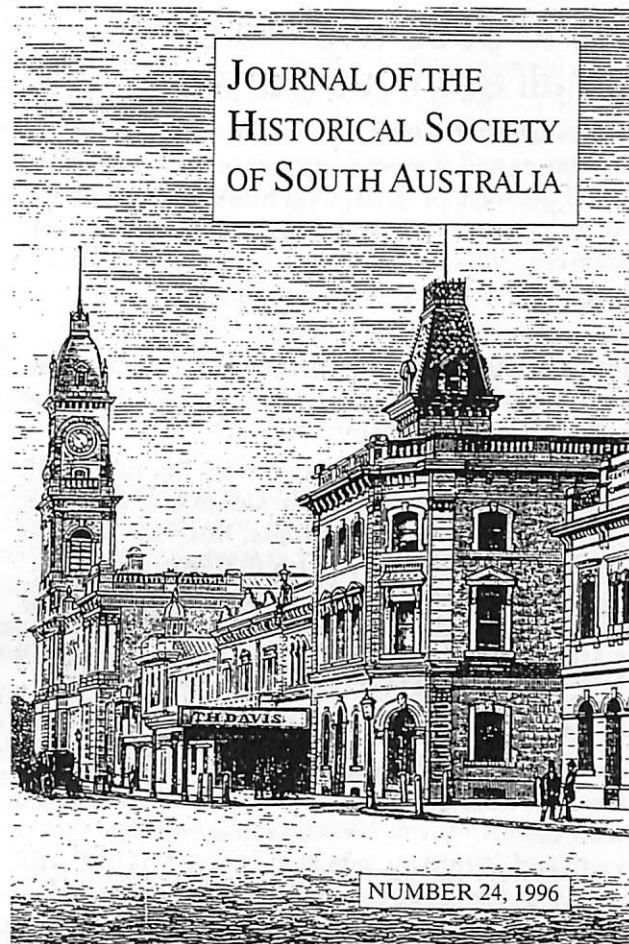
- Kath Crilly,  
Glenelg.

## Oral historians to meet in Alice

The Oral History Association of Australia is planning a national conference to be held in Alice Springs from 4 - 7 September. 'Crossing borders' is the conference theme in acknowledgement of the Northern Territory's cultural diversity and speakers are being asked to detail oral history projects which cross cultural, ethical or technological borders.

Enquiries to Beth Robertson, Oral History Association of Australia (SA) Inc., Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000. Tel. 8207 7349 or (ah) 8278 4045.

*Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA, January 1997*



## Latest HSSA Journal now available

Issue No. 24 of the HSSA *Journal* is now available, with nine articles, a similar number of reviews and a summary of Society activities for the year 1995.

Edited by Dr Jenny Tilby Stock, this issue of the *Journal* serves as further justification for its reputation as a significant national publication in the field of Australian history.

The articles cover a range of subjects, including the SA League of Women Voters, the policing of alcohol in the Marree-Birdsville Track district, sex education in State schools 1916-1929, Mount Gambier in around 1870, and the CWA in the Northern Territory. There are also pieces on teacher and benefactor Henry Darnley Naylor (1872-1945) and pioneer Henry John Congreve (1829-1918).

Each member of the Society will receive a copy of the *Journal* with this issue of *History SA*. It is also available at \$10 a copy from the book table at the Society's monthly meetings or by calling the treasurer, Avis Huckel, on 8272 2953.

## Up to \$500 available for small archives projects

The Australian Council of Archives is offering acid free boxes and financial support of up to \$500 for small archives projects. Organisations such as historical societies, heritage organisations, small archives, and other community-based or special interest groups are eligible to apply.

Support will be given to projects such as the preparation of reports on establishing an archives program, the publication of finding aids, purchase of software and oral history projects.

More information is available from Ms Judith Ellis, Executive Officer, Australian Council of Archives, Suite 4, 12 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128, tel. (03) 9890 3530 or fax (03) 9890 3150.

The closing date for applications is 28 March 1997.

## History features in weekend tour of Fleurieu Peninsula

The Royal Geographical Society of SA is planning a weekend tour of the Fleurieu Peninsula in association with the SA Centre for Australian Studies.

The itinerary includes a penguin walk on Granite Island, visits to the ruins of Talisker mine, the Goolwa Barrages and Pelican Point, a guided tour of Mt Brecken at Victor Harbour, and a visit to Middleton Winery. Speakers will tell of the Hays of Mount Brecken and the meeting of Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin in Encounter Bay in 1802.

The dates for the tour are 5 and 6 April. The estimated cost, twin share, is \$150 or \$170 single. HSSA members are welcome but expressions of interest would be appreciated by 31 January. More details from Paul Hewton on (085) 54 2017.

## Austrians have left their mark

We know about the involvement of the British in early SA, and of the Germans and the contact with the French, but what about the Austrians?

The Austrian botanist Ferdinand Bauer accompanied Matthew Flinders on his exploration of the Australian coastline and Jesuit priests from Austria settled at Sevenhill. And, of course, many Austrians made their home here after World War II.

The Austrian contribution to today's South Australia is celebrated in an exhibition on show until 2 March in the community access gallery of the Migration Museum in Kintore Ave, Adelaide. The Austrian Association of SA has mounted the display to mark 1,000 years of the documented existence of Austria.

*Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA, January 1997*

## Coming events

The holiday season is still with us and diary entries are few. If you have a meeting, a dinner, an outing or any other historically oriented event you would like to bring to the attention of readers, please submit the details to *History SA* for publication.

**Until 3 Feb.:** *Eyes on the Ball*, travelling exhibition from Waverley City Gallery, Melbourne, showing how artworks can reflect social themes and issues in sport, like national identity, community spirit, club loyalties, masculinity, mateship and racism. State History Centre, Edmund Wright House, King William Street, Adelaide, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-4 pm.

**Until 2 March:** *Austrians in South Australia*, an exhibition celebrating 1000 years of the documented existence of Austria. Migration Museum, 82 Kintore Ave, Adelaide. 10 am-5 pm Monday to Friday; 1 pm-5 pm weekends and public holidays.

**7 February:** Historical Society of SA meeting – Hamish Angus, Heritage Officer, State Heritage Branch, 'Early Adelaide Theatres: an architectural history'. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, 8 pm.

**26 February:** Enfield Historical Society meeting – Stephen Boyle on the history of the Police Band. Enfield Civic Centre, 7.45 pm.

**7 March:** HSSA meeting – Peter Heysen, 'Preservation of the Home and Works of the Heysens'. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, 8 pm.

**23 March:** Historical Society of SA bus tour to Hans Heysen's home and studio, Hahndorf.

**4 April:** HSSA meeting – Barry Rowney, heritage architect and organist, 'Furniture or fittings: pipe organs in South Australia'. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, 8 pm. (AGM at 7.45 pm)

**5-7 April:** Royal Geographical Society tour of Fleurieu Peninsula (see story this page).

## Any old photos, any old slides?

The HSSA council would like members to go back through their slide collections and photo albums to see if they have any shots of Society meetings, day trips, annual dinners, walking tours, anything at all that we might have done over the years.

If you can help with any material of this kind, please bring it to the next meeting and leave it with the secretary, Anne Every, at the book table.

Contributions from your photographic holdings would be much appreciated.

## Barr Smith Library publishes the Barr Smith letters

Appropriately, the Barr Smith Press of the University of Adelaide chose to publish the letters of Joanna and Robert Barr Smith as the first of its limited edition publications.



**BARR SMITH  
PRESS  
UNIVERSITY  
OF ADELAIDE**

Joanna and Robert Barr Smith were among the state's early settlers and contributed much to the life of the colony and especially to the University of Adelaide and its Barr Smith Library.

The letters give an understanding of the Barr Smith family as well as insights into social and economic life in the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

They indicate the love of Robert and Joanna for each other and their concern for their family. Their comments on local politics and events in the developing colony put history into a personal perspective.

Joanna Barr Smith's open and frank communication to her husband about her own life, worries, doubts and joys give the letters a particular intimacy.

*Joanna and Robert: the Barr Smith's life in letters, 1853-1919* was edited by Fayette Gosse, wife of the Barr Smiths' great-grandson, Jock Gosse, and is based on letters and documents still in the possession of the family and in the Mortlock Library.

It is available at \$37.50 (hardbound) plus \$7.50 postage within Australia, from the Barr Smith Press, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, 5005, tel. 8303 5370, fax 8303 4369, email [rchoate@library.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:rchoate@library.adelaide.edu.au).

## Historically significant books in facsimile editions

The Friends of the State Library have released the fifth in their series of facsimiles of Australian books of historical significance. All are limited editions on archival quality paper and superbly hand-bound.

The new release is *Tracks of McInlay and Party Across Australia* by John Davis (1863).

Davis's book is one of the most readable and entertaining of all explorers' accounts. He was a member of the South Australian Burke relief expedition led by John McKinlay, which travelled to Cooper Creek and then to the northern coast of

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Australia before crossing east to Port Denison.

The facsimile edition is limited to 600 copies, 99 of which are leather-bound and cost \$125 each. The cloth-bound version is \$75. Both have tinted plates and a map.

Orders should be sent to the Friends of the State Library of South Australia, GPO Box 419, Adelaide, 5001. Tel. 8207 7255; fax. attn H. Williams, 8207 7247.

## Guide to Federation Records is seeking contributions

A *Guide to Federation Records* is to be Australian Archives' contribution to the celebration of the centenary of Australian Federation. The aim is to list Federation records held in collecting institutions and historical societies around Australia.

The project has been contracted out to Australian Heritage Projects and the manager, Roslyn Russell, says the focus will be on the period 1880-1901, when the movement for federation really gained momentum, culminating in the creation of the Commonwealth.

'Federation record' or 'document' is being widely defined, both in terms of time and medium. The time frame extends from the 1840s, beginning with the anti-transportation leagues in NSW, to the present.

'Document' can include decorative arts objects, such as commemorative ceramics, medallions and other items associated with the Commonwealth celebrations of 1901, or which celebrate prominent personalities of the time. It can also include similar works from later periods celebrating such Commonwealth-centred activities as the opening of the original Parliament House in Canberra in 1927, as well as the new one in 1988.

Many institutions and societies have already given the project citations of records they have located. Ms Russell says a computer printout from a database or photocopies of catalogue cards are often all that is needed to create an entry in the *Guide* for an institution or society.

The *Guide* is scheduled for publication this year in book and on-line versions.

Australian Heritage Projects would be pleased to include any relevant records held by societies or institutions. Entries would have to be accompanied by conditions of access to the records listed.

Responses to this search should be addressed to: Australian Heritage Projects, 139 Duffy St, Ainslie, ACT, 2602. For enquiries, telephone (06) 247 5852 or fax (06) 247 9959.

## Be quick for family history awards

Writers of family histories may just have time to submit their work for an award being offered by the SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society.

There are two categories for the award – limited print run, for publications with a print run of 5 - 99 copies, and open, for print runs of 100 or more copies.

To be eligible, the family history must have been published during 1996 and be either written by a South Australian or be about a substantially (at least three generations) South Australian family.

But be quick, entries have to be with the Society, GPO Box 592, Adelaide, 5001, by 31 January.



## Novel brings Riverland history to life

Author and historian David Harris has greeted Noelle C. Tolley's novel *In Looking-Glass Land* as 'a powerful contribution to our understanding of our past'.

A publication of Ihabi Productions, Renmark, Noelle Tolley's book is set in the pioneering days of the Chaffey irrigation colony on the River Murray.

The 1880s are carefully researched as a setting for 'match-making, remittance men, high jinks and bizarre happenings', to quote the publisher's notes. It all makes for an epic novel written with the affection of one who knows the place from the inside.

Noelle Tolley was born at Nyah West and after spending her childhood at Merbein and Mildura, she married and settled at *Ihabi*, Renmark. While working as a freelance journalist and interviewer for the ABC, she collected horticultural and historical facts relating to Renmark and the River Murray. This in turn led to her researching and writing about the history of the area.

*In Looking-Glass Land* is available at \$23.50 (including postage) from the publisher. Cheques should be forwarded with your order to Ihabi Productions, PO Box 2, Renmark, 5341.

It is also available at \$22.95 from the Mary Martin Bookshop, Adelaide; Angus & Robertson, Burnside; Murphy Sisters Books, Norwood; Sisters by the Sea, Semaphore; and from newsagents in Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Renmark and Waikerie.

## The oasis that is Leigh Creek

Author Nic Klaassen says the development of the Leigh Creek coalfield and town show what can be achieved with vision, political skill and determination.

'Despite the many adverse conditions during the years of growth, expansion and contraction, Leigh Creek has grown into a thriving community, making a substantial contribution to the economy and the standard of living of all South Australians,' he says.

Nic Klaassen's book, *Leigh Creek – an oasis in the desert*, tells the story of the town and the north of South Australia over the past 120 years.

A hard-cover book of 640 pages with more than 500 photographs, it is available at \$39 a copy, plus \$7 postage and handling, from Flinders Ranges Research, 6A Baldina Street, Eden Hills, 5050.

Nic's interest in the Flinders Ranges and the Far North was stimulated when he went to Leigh Creek as a teacher. He developed courses in local history which he taught to children during the day and to adults at night. He has conducted historical tours of the Far North for high schools and TAFE colleges.

Like HSSA council member Dr Pauline Payne, he contributed to *Playford's South Australia*, published by the Association of Professional Historians.

Although now living in Adelaide, Mr Klaassen has lost none of his interest in the north of the state nor the study and writing of its history. When the University of Adelaide introduced a course in Australian studies he became one of the first to be granted the Graduate Certificate in that subject.

## '60 years on – lively Norton Summit memories published

HSSA Council member Geoffrey Bishop has edited lively reminiscences of Norton Summit, Third Creek, Ashton and Cherryville which were originally written by Lucy Maymon Hines in 1937.

Lucy was the daughter of Septimus and Lucy Pizey of *Willow Leigh*, Third Creek, and she tells stories of the East Torrens pioneers and includes her own memories of growing up in the area.

Now published by the East Torrens Historical Society with the assistance of East Torrens Council, Lucy Hines' *Environs of Norton Summit* was written nearly 50 years after the picture of East Torrens given by E.H. Hallack in his *Toilers of the Hills*, which was published for the first time by the District Council of East Torrens and the East Torrens Historical Society in 1987.

Geoffrey Bishop recommends the new book as essential reading for all who are interested in local history and the East Torrens district. The A4-size publication has 48 pages and contains 28 historic photographs and illustrations.

*Environs of Norton Summit* is available at \$12.50 a copy from the East Torrens Historical Society Inc., c/- Post Office, Norton Summit, 5136. Postage and packing is \$2 within South Australia and \$4 for other states.

### **Environs of Norton Summit**

by **Lucy Maymon Hines**

Edited by **Geoffrey C. Bishop**

Lively reminiscences of life at  
Norton Summit in the 1870s written  
in 1937 by Lucy Maymon Hines  
(nee Pizey).

The book is A4 size, 48 pages, soft  
laminated cover with 28 photographs  
and illustrations.

Orders to: East Torrens Historical Society,  
Norton Summit, S.A. 5136

Copies are \$12.50 each plus postage  
(\$2.00 within S.A., \$4.00 interstate).  
Please make payment payable to the  
East Torrens Historical Society Inc.

## Workskil trainees help us remember

Workskil project leader Peter Hough and 14 trainees undertook detailed research for brochures on six significant Adelaide war memorials as part of the New Work Opportunities 'Australia Remembers' program.

Members of the RSL have distributed the new brochures to schools, libraries and ex-service clubs.

The trainees established a database for each of the memorials, linking maps, diagrams and historical photographs.

A new group of trainees is now completing research already begun and producing two brochures based on memorials to air force and naval personnel.

Information sheets on selected topics such as recipients of the Victoria Cross, personalised case studies; and audio presentation of eye-witness accounts (suitable for CD ROM sound reproduction) are also planned.

Mr Hough said participants had acquired skills and knowledge in the fields of community heritage, record keeping, research report writing, photo-journalism and editing. From 'diggings' they discovered facts about site costs and construction, and the politics that lay behind the memorials. They found interesting information while poring over archival sources in libraries and by looking at newspaper stories of the day. He said the documentation would be a lasting legacy for SA.

(Adapted from 'Remembering South Australian Heroes', *Community History*, Vol. 6, No. 2 1966.)

## More on the Grassy Flat school and its teachers

by *Geoffrey C. Bishop*

Geoffrey H. Manning's article on the departure of Mrs Mary Norton from the Grassy Flat School at Norton Summit in 1858 more or less confirms my suspicion that her retirement was in fact forced.

The Mr Bishop who took his children away from the school was my great-great-grandfather James Bishop. I believe that a number of his children attended Joseph Mercer's school at Magill. In 1883 this became the Magill Model School.

Since writing the original article on the Grassy Flat School, I have obtained access to one of the school's registers and this has provided additional

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information on the school's operation.

Following Samuel Reynell's departure the East Torrens Council advertised for a replacement in February 1870. Geoffrey Manning stated that 14 applications were received. Only four of these have survived, namely those from J.L. Morris of Buchsfelde, via Gawler; Joseph B. Berry of Stirling East; Thomas Guy Vaughton; and W.J. Hipwell of Lyndoch. The successful applicant was Thomas Pierce, late of the Barossa goldfields.

#### Head teachers

The Grassy Flat School land was transferred from the Council to the Council of Education under the Education Act in March 1876. The Grassy Flat register records that the head teachers between 1881 and 1897 were: Thomas Kennedy, April 1881; John Griffiths, July 1883 (acting); John Griffiths 1 September 1883; Francis Fairweather, 1 July 1884; Henry J. Tuck, 27 September 1886; Andrew Ferguson, 23 January 1893; and William H. Osborne, 17 May 1897.

The names of later teachers and assistants are not known.

In the period 1881-97, 440 enrolments are recorded. Of these, 88 passed Compulsory Standard in Grade 7. The register also records a few highlights for the school. In 1886 Thomas Playford's son Charles L. Playford left to attend college in Adelaide and in 1890 James Pellew's daughter May 'Obtained Bursary'. Henry Tuck recorded this in red ink!

During the 1880s the Church School attached to St John's Church of England was operating and a number of enrolments recorded that students had come from the Church School and others, such as Rueben Scrace's children, left Grassy Flat to attend the Church School.

#### Ten years' operation

The Church School operated for about ten years with references to it occurring from 1884 until 1892. It was run by Miss Baker and Miss Pizey – probably Miss Isabella Baker and Miss Lucy Pizey. The latter also taught piano at Norton Summit.

Lucy M. Hines (nee Pizey), writing in 1937, states that the Church School house was built by Miss Isabella Baker in 1877-78 and she presented it to the Diocese. The Rev. Honnor's wife, Elizabeth, taught at the school for a time, driving up from Magill each day.

Later a resident teacher was appointed. In addition to her teaching duties, she was required to play the organ, conduct the choir and teach in the Sunday School. Although she does not say as much, Lucy



Grassy Flat, Norton Summit, in the 1940s. The former Grassy Flat School can be seen in the centre of the photograph.

Pizey herself may have been that teacher.

Finally, the remark quoted by Geoffrey Manning regarding the school being 'on a well' is not strictly correct. The school was built near a creekline (not on the side of a valley) and was on the lower side of Debney Road. These factors probably contributed to keeping the place fairly damp and may have been why the new school was built on top of a hill!

#### Sources

Grassy Flat Admission Register 1880-93; The Church of St John the Evangelist, Morialta, Norton Summit. Manuscript – undated; *Environs of Norton Summit* by Lucy Maymon Hines (1937, reprinted 1996).

## Identity of 'Old Colonist' revealed

by Reg Butler

Rousing story tellers rarely fail to captivate a receptive audience! Colonial South Australia nurtured such a personality hitherto known to modern South Australians only as 'Old Colonist'.

During 1850, entrepreneurial newspaper proprietor John Stephens engaged Old Colonist to undertake an extensive journey of South Australia's settled districts, 'unaccompanied with the slightest restriction ... either on the manner or matter of the communications, or on the expenses necessary to be incurred in the attainment of the desired objects'.

Subsequently, between February and August 1851, Stephens' two newspapers, the daily *South Australian Register* and its weekly companion, *The Observer*, regularly published lengthy articles featuring Old Colonist's wanderings. As a result, later generations possess an unrivalled account of how South Australia and its inhabitants were faring in the early 1850s, buoyed by new wealth from the Burra and Kapunda copper mines but as yet

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untouched by the neighbouring infant Victorian and New South Wales gold rushes.

However, more than just a curious South Australian public would benefit from Stephens' far-sighted gesture. Halfway around the world, in Britain, 'an influential body of gentlemen connected with South Australia' launched a new fortnightly newspaper, *The South Australian Chronicle*, upon an illustrious readership of 'men of wealth, the productive classes, and persons of active life'. Precise, elegant prose endeavoured to woo suitable potential migrants and substantial investment to South Australia.

At approximately monthly intervals for the rest of the year, beginning on 3 April 1852, there appeared a reprint (incorporating various corrections) of Old Colonist's 1850 excursion through the colony. So well known and respected was he in the land of his birth that Old Colonist must have agreed to return to print under his real name – Thomas Wilson. The *Chronicle* announced:

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS IT IS**

In another part of our paper will be found the first of a series of sketches of the present state of the colony, simply but faithfully descriptive of the condition of the people, and their occupations in the more settled agricultural districts.

These papers originally appeared in the *Adelaide Observer*, and were written by Mr Thomas Wilson, a retired solicitor, a gentleman well known in England, and very highly and deservedly esteemed in the colony. We have special permission to reprint them in a corrected form.

Thomas Wilson, the fourth son of George Wilson and his wife, Dorothy (nee-Major), was born in London in 1787. His father, an apothecary, had forged a distinguished professional link as medical adviser to Thomas Coutts, the banker, while his mother could boast the daughter-in-law of Oliver Cromwell in her extended family.

Baptised in St Paul's, Covent Garden, (the 'actors' church'), young Thomas grew up in cultivated literary and artistic circles, which he greatly expanded through extensive education in Germany, where he became fluent in a number of languages. On returning to Britain, Thomas served articles with the respected London legal firm of Bartlett & Beddome and subsequently set up his own practice with his future brother-in-law, John Curtis.

Fortuitously, Thomas Wilson became Lord Portman's solicitor. His prominent client introduced him to

other members of the British aristocracy and gentry, who also began to seek his professional services.

From his ever-expanding comfortable income, Thomas could indulge his manifold cultural pursuits, including the collection of engravings during numerous journeys through Europe, and the construction of fine-toned organs. Time and again Mr Wilson contributed erudite articles to various national cultural magazines. A penchant for architecture led him to construct a gracious country estate out of the ruins of Abbey Cwm Hir, a deserted Cistercian monastery in Co. Radnor, south Wales.

**Commercial misfortune**

Architectural dabblings led to Thomas Wilson's sudden financial demise. He became heavily involved in Lord Portman's grand vision of an extensive covered market adjoining Regent's Park in central London. The market failed to hum commercially and Thomas had to sell most of his considerable assets during the early 1830s in order to remain solvent.

Enter South Australia! The Wilson family soon learnt of plans to found a new colony in the Antipodes, promoted and financed to a great extent by influential London individuals and firms, amongst whom Thomas had long maintained extensive personal and business connections. The proposed venture promised intellectual freedom allied with sound commercial principles – just the right bait for a talented, vigorous family now lacking means for secure advancement in Britain. Leaving behind a married daughter, together with several sons finishing their education, Thomas and Martha Wilson (the former Miss Greenell) embarked with their younger children for South Australia aboard the *Duke of Roxburghe* in 1838. Stowed amongst their luggage were some valuable household items, paintings and books salvaged from the recent nightmare assets dispersals.

**Formidable intellect**

Landed in South Australia's European pioneering society, only just over two years old, unassuming Thomas Wilson naturally walked tall with his formidable intellectual gifts. He set up as a solicitor in Stephen's Place, Adelaide, and became a foundation member of the new Adelaide Corporation. Enthusiastically, Thomas and his sons scoured creeks and bushland adjacent to Adelaide to study the unique flora and fauna of their new homeland. Their findings featured prominently in the colony's fledgling and largely ephemeral cultural and scientific journals and newspapers.

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A writer for *The South Australian Magazine* (Nov. 1841) remarked:

Mr Councillor Wilson is a highly respectable man and, from his perfectly gentlemanly deportment, and universally obliging disposition, is a general favourite. He has long been favourably known in the literary world, and is an acknowledged connoisseur in the fine arts. He is a respectable naturalist and has his attention much directed to the entomology of this province. Mr Wilson is now engaged as a solicitor in a very extensive and highly respectable practice ... Visit whatever part of Adelaide you may, during the hours of business, there you are sure to meet with him – despite the burning heat of an Australian summer's sun, dressed in a suit of black – and most commonly with a bundle of papers hanging loosely in his hand, or folding snugly under his arm.

#### 'An old colonist ...'

Over and over again, in ways too numerous to enumerate here, the energetic Wilson clan impinged mightily upon life in general in the infant colony. No wonder John Stephens' choice lit upon Thomas Wilson, blessed with 'a pair of singularly active legs', to undertake a meticulous observation of South Australia during 1850, even when he was nearing his mid-60s in age. How many potential British investors, who had known Thomas well when he often perambulated the streets of London several decades earlier, stopped idly rustling the pages of the *The South Australian Chronicle* when they read his name at the head of one of his revamped reports? Perhaps they could even pensively finger a treasured item formerly belonging to him before impulsively deciding to become the colony's firm supporters on the strength of a warm memory.

Thomas Wilson died on 31 March 1863, of pleurisy following 'a cold so slight', at his son Charles Wilson's Kensington home, appropriately named Cwm Hir Lodge, in memory of the family's long-vanished English glories. However, Thomas would have felt more than richly rewarded for his life's efforts as South Australians welled with grateful pride when *The Observer* of 4 April 1863 remarked simply, 'He was an old colonist ...'

#### Sources

**Primary:** *The South Australian Magazine* November 1841; *The South Australian Chronicle* 3 April 1852; *The Chronicle* 4 April 1863; *The Observer* 4 April 1863.

**Secondary:** Wilson, S.C. & Borrow, K.T., *The Bridge Over the Ocean*, Adelaide 1973; Yelland, E.M. (ed.), *Colonists, Copper and Corn*, by Old Colonist, Adelaide 1983.

## The Adelaide girls outshone them all

by Geoffrey H. Manning

Melbourne girls might be the well-dressed people of the Commonwealth – I think they are – but they are careless in make-up and fretful in gait ... The Sydney girl throws her clothes on, she adorns her face in a hurry ... Adelaide has the best type ... Our girls dress deliberately, their manner is serene, their gait is good, character shines in their faces ... Perth girls ... cannot compare with Adelaide ...

So spoke James Ashton, the well-known artist, in October 1923 on the eve of a beauty contest launched by *The News*. He and two other citizens, one of whom was a woman, were appointed judges of the competition, the winner of which was announced in late December of that year.

It has been said that there are varying degrees of courage. Indeed, only the bravest can be induced to act as judge of a baby show and, in 1902, a male judge was to observe that coming under fire from Maxim guns in the Boer War was mere child's play when compared with running the gauntlet of disappointed mothers. An even severer test was to be encountered in poring over photographs of pretty women (in the halcyon days of the early 1900s, social custom frowned upon the contestants actually parading before the judges).

One report of such a contest traversed the risks involved in the naming of 'the most comely belle'. The dauntless three men who acted as judges set a bad example by quarrelling among themselves. They subjected the photographs to the most careful analysis and compared them with references to the art canons of beauty; and then a deadlock occurred. Each judge resorted to many impatient gestures and scornful references to the taste of his fellow arbitrators.

At the same time each proclaimed that his own choice was 'incomparably the loveliest'. The first was to say, 'Look at her eyes – that droop with modesty of summer flowers; her ears shaped like the petals of a delicate rose; her nose fit study for a Grecian sculptor; her cheeks that a Gainsborough might envy.'

And so each of them expounded the points of his favourite. Ultimately, as no headway could be made, a special jury was called in but wisely declined to act except on condition that the entrants' names be kept secret.

Finally, the fateful decision was made known and,

with one exception, 'all the beautiful women had the supremest contempt for those self same judges.' 'The most beautiful woman, when her identity was disclosed, was carefully measured, her weight was taken to the fraction of an ounce and the colour of her hair.' The special features of her 'apple blossom' complexion, her graceful gait, what she liked to eat for breakfast, and other incidentals were, once put abroad, all matters for national debate.

#### South Australian contests

What is believed to be the first beauty contest in Adelaide commenced on 22 February 1911 at the Olympus Theatre, where the cinema's patrons were given the opportunity to decide the winner. Photographs of the heads and shoulders of many unnamed women, each designated with a number, were projected on to the screen and such was the success of the venture that many would-be 'judges' could not obtain admittance.

Naturally, with an eye to profits, the management extended the competition for a further five nights. Following its closure on 7 March, Miss Darton-Iredale of Norwood, who 'worked for a prominent accounting firm in the district', was declared the winner with 6,444 votes over Miss Jones (6,306) and Miss J. Dale (3,142).

A bathing beauty contest was reported in February 1914 when Miss Betty Ballantyne won the Wondergraph Lady Bathers' Competition. This was the catalyst for an acceleration of 'women's liberation', for at this time women began to bob their hair, adorn themselves with lipstick, smoke cigarettes and imbibe liquors in public, kiss men publicly and dance cheek to cheek with them.

The 1920s was the decade of the Charleston, a frenetic dance imported from the United States, jazz music and the proliferation of bathing beauty contests. A dissenting citizen declared his opinion of such events:

It is difficult to endow with the proper qualities of a queen of beauty a young person who openly attributes her complexion to a specific brand of soap, her shapely neck to excessive indulgence in some magical patent medicine and the strength and straightness of her nether limbs to Sandow's developer.

Although the beauty competition cult will probably face this under the weight of the dollar, there are more cogent reasons still why it ought not to continue to demonstrate the uglier truth of the remark 'beauty is but a vain and doubtful good.'

Criticism was to continue into 1927 when the Rev. John Blacker, theologian and historian, wrote a censorious letter to the morning press in respect of perceived evils of the era:

The desecration of the Lord's Day, the growth of the gambling mania, the hunger and thirst for the merely sensuous, a disregard for the moral law, a loss of modesty on the part of women, upon whom really the future of society depends, are painful and admonitory features of our national life. To the loss of evils that threatens to carry us over Niagara must now be added so-called 'beauty contests'.

Beauty contests ... contribute to the vitiation of beauty itself by encouraging among the lightly clad contestants the special weaknesses to which the fairest sex is heir, of which the greatest is vanity and the worst immodesty.

#### Sources and notes

Beauty contests are the subject of comment in the *Register* 10 April 1902, p. 4d.

A beauty competition conducted by West's Theatre is reported in the *Advertiser*, 21 February 1911, p. 6e. Photographs of entrants are in the *Chronicle*, 11 March 1911, p. 37.

A photograph of Miss Betty Ballantyne, the winner of the Wondergraph Lady Bathers' Competition, is in the *Chronicle*, 21 February 1914, p. 30.

A beauty contest conducted by *The News* is reported upon on all but a daily basis from 16 October 1923, p. 1b until late December 1923.

'Beauty Unclothed' is in the *Register*, 16 October 1926, p. 8c; also see 10 and 11 March 1927, pp 5e and 11e.

A photograph of 'Miss Adelaide', Jean Armstrong, is in the *Chronicle*, 28 August 1926, p. 38; 'Miss South Australia' is in *The Mail*, 21 May 1927, p. 1c.

'A Search Begins for Adelaide's Loveliest Beach Girls' is in *The News*, 18 January 1935, p. 1a; also see 27 April 1935 (supplement).

## The New Church in South Australia

by Geoffrey C. Bishop

Between 1747 and 1758 the Swedish scientist and philosopher Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) published his 12-volume work, *Arcana Coelestia*, in which he expounded, in Latin, the meaning of every verse of the books of Genesis and Exodus.

Swedenborg did not found an organised church and for many years his followers stayed within the established denominations. In 1783 a small group began to meet regularly in London to read Swedenborg's writings. During 1787 some members of this group formed a new society, a separate body

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from the 'Old Church'. They subsequently adopted the name 'The New Church, signified by the New Jerusalem, in the Revelation'. By 1851 there were 50 New Church places of worship in England.

The New Church was one of the earliest groups to establish in the new Colony of South Australia. The New Church was founded in Adelaide in 1844 by Jacob Pitman. The society opened its first church in 1850 and in 1872 moved to a fine new church building in Hanson Street.

The story of the New Church in South Australia is related by Dr David Hilliard in the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* (1988). My main purpose here is to record the involvement of my great-uncle Dr Harry H. Penny's family with the New Church.

Harry was born in the Midlands of England, in Manchester, 'the dirtiest city in Europe'. His parents, Henry Frederick and Florence Elizabeth (nee Featherstone) Penny, were members of the New Church in Manchester. As the church was about five miles from their home, the Pennys more often than not attended the local Methodist Church.

The family migrated to South Australia when Harry was ten years old. They arrived in Adelaide on Saturday 11 February 1912 only to be confronted by a heatwave and early closing of shops. They took a room for the night in a boarding house in Hanson Street.

The next morning they ventured out to explore the city. Mrs Florence Penny soon broke into a cry of joy – right next door was the New Church Chapel. The Pennys joined the Adelaide church and were to be life-long members. The church formed an important part of their lives, both spiritually and socially. Members of the church became good friends and these connections soon got young Harry into the countryside.

During the years Harry attended the New Church there was not a clergyman to take the service. The lay reader was Mr Brock. Sunday School was held in the church hall which was next to the chapel. The church membership was never large and congregations in the large church rarely exceeded 20 persons. The church was centred around a number of families; those that Harry recalls were Brock, Darwin, Ireland, White and Wornum. Harry's father served for a time as the society's secretary.

William Henry Darwin (1831-1904) lived at Kapunda and later at Currency Creek, working as a carpenter and teacher. A number of his children lived in Adelaide and were members of the New Church.

The Wornums were an upper middle class family. The father, Conrad Wornum (1821-1902), was a licensed pharmacist and a surveyor. His family were piano builders in London. He brought his family to South Australia in the 1870s because of the lack of moral standards in England. After a time he found that Adelaide was not the refuge he had hoped for and the family moved to Beetaloo Valley.

The Wornums, Conrad and Sophia, had seven children. Harry's family came to know William Alfred Wornum (known as Willie) and his sister Mary, who married Grenville Ireland. Willie Wornum had a ten-acre market garden on the River Torrens at Underdale and Grenville Ireland owned 21 acres near the Holbrooks Road bridge.

Grenville Ireland (1853-1935) was a son of George John and Mary Ann (nee Grenville) Ireland, who were members of the New Church. George was an orchardist at Upper Sturt.

In December 1912 Harry went to Waikerie to stay with Allan and Mary (nee Babidge) Ireland on their cereal farm at Holder. The nine-year-old Harry went alone to Morgan by train and from there by paddle steamer to Waikerie, where he was met by the Irelands. Holder was hard country after Underdale. One of Harry's memories of the visit is of Allan's 'lightening fence' – a single strand of barbed wire strung from mallee to mallee.

Harry first went to Beetaloo Valley in 1914 with Lizzie Wornum, one of Willie's daughters. This was the beginning of many visits to an area which still holds fond memories for Harry. In 1919 he was back again, working on a nearby property, that of Stephan Billingham, This was hilly country, growing cereals, hay, citrus, stone and pome fruits and table grapes.

Harry's connections with the New Church did not continue into adulthood but he still values its teachings, in particular, 'a religion that was both rational and consistent with the laws of nature' and the explanations of the scriptures through 'the science of correspondence'.

Willie Wornum moved from Underdale in the mid-1920s to a farming property at Barna, east of Kimba. Harry too went to Kimba in 1927 as his first country teaching appointment, the beginning of a life-long association with the people of Kimba – but, as they say, that is another story.

#### References

- Hilliard, D. (1988) 'Emanuel Swedenborg and the New Church in South Australia', *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* No. 16, pp 70-86; *Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1886* (South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society 1986); interviews with Dr H.H. Penny, Rose Park, 9 October 1993.

## 'Buried treasure' comes to light in SA wine history

A constant demand for information about the history of the state's wine industry and its personalities led Jack Reddin to produce *Teamwork: some early history concerning the South Australian wine industry and the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA Inc.*

The RA&HSSA was the administrative body representing the rural industries, including viticulture, in the 1800s so the Society's archival material, which is housed in the catacombs beneath the stage of the Centennial Hall at the Wayville Showgrounds, is regarded as 'buried treasure' by researchers.

Wine was first exhibited in Adelaide at the 1845 Produce Show. The colonists were convinced that South Australia was destined to become a major producer and exporter of quality wines and from the beginning they organised themselves to achieve that objective with great enthusiasm and teamwork – hence the name of the book.

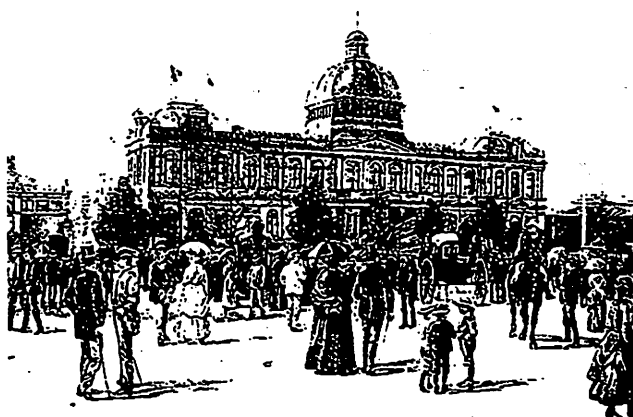
Each section of the book is organised chronologically and deals with:

- major historical influences;
- early vine growers;
- the evolution of the Adelaide Wine Show, including the classes offered, judges and judging methods, exhibitors and sponsors;
- pruning machines;
- international exhibitions of SA wines;
- the opening up of export markets;
- the 'comparison' events, and much more.

Although written primarily for researchers, *Teamwork* is highly readable and, in the words of Valmai Hankel's foreword, 'a fascinating collection of South Australian wine industry historic material, much of which has not been published previously and anybody with any interest in vines, wines and pioneers will enjoy it and learn from it'.

The book is a logical consequence of the author's work in sorting and cataloguing the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society's archives and then organising and managing them as a public research facility.

The book is A4 size, attractively presented with a full colour, laminated soft cover, 93 pages of clearly



*The Jubilee Exhibition Building – home of the Adelaide Wine Show from 1890 to 1924.*

printed text and 47 interesting historic photographs.

*Teamwork* is available at many Adelaide and suburban bookshops as well as at some in the country and at the front office counter of the RA&HSSA at the showground. The retail price is \$25 but copies are available at HSSA meetings at a discounted price of \$22.50.

### History SA deadline

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the March 1997 issue of *History SA* is Friday 21 February 1997.

## Brochure designed to attract new members

The Society has produced a marketing brochure aimed at attracting new members. After asking, 'Do you understand the state you're in?' it promises that joining the HSSA will help to answer the question.

As the brochure says, questions of social, economic and political history all help us to understand our place in the world and how our communities, our state and the nation have developed.

It draws attention to the growing number of members who enjoy the Society's monthly meetings and browsing over the book tables.

Field trips, the annual dinner, the bimonthly *History SA*, the *Journal* and *Insights Into South Australian History* are all cited as attractions of belonging to the Society.

A membership application form completes the brochure, copies of which are available from the secretary, Anne Every, Historical Society of South Australia Inc., Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000.

**Stop press****Dr Robert Nicol is new State Historian**

South Australia has a new and authoritative State historian in HSSA president Dr Robert Nicol.

Dr Nicol took up the appointment on 6 January and, as State Historian, he will serve as the spokesperson on SA history. He will also undertake major research, provide outreach and training services to historical organisations, individual practitioners and the community at large.

He will be based at the State History Centre, Edmund Wright House, 59 King William Street, Adelaide.

Dr Nicol grew up in Sydney, where he received his secondary and tertiary education. He has a BA (Hons), MA (Hons) and PhD from the University of Sydney. His original research in medieval history brought him to SA in 1974 to lecture at the Adelaide College of Advanced Education, where he became head of the history department. His most recent appointment was as senior lecturer in history at the University of Adelaide.

His interest in local history increasingly involved him in teaching and research into South Australian history and he is now widely acknowledged as an expert on the general history of the state.

For many years his principal research interest has been the history of burial and funeral customs. He has written and lectured extensively on the subject and has accumulated a significant collection of related artefacts that have been displayed in several major exhibitions he has mounted.

**Inside, did you miss .... ?**

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**The search is on for Quiz Night prizes**

*Which famous South Australian cricketer has the highest Test batting average in the world? If you know the answer to this question or enjoy testing your general knowledge, read on ...*

The Historical Society is organising a Quiz Night for Saturday 17 May. This fun event for the whole family will be held in the Cambridge Room of the Unley Community Sports Club, opposite Unley Oval.

Host for the evening will be popular radio personality Carol Whitelock and questions will include categories such as music, sport, current affairs, general knowledge and, of course, history, with a focus on questions associated with SA.

Do support the event by inviting friends and family to join a table of 8-10 people for the evening (the maximum number of tables will be 16).

Another way to help is to donate prizes for the event. The more prizes we get, the more successful this fund-raiser will be for the Society. If you can help with prizes, such as vouchers, goodies or special offers, please contact council member Anna Pope on 8272 1836. We hope to see you there!

**Welcome to new members**

The Society is pleased to welcome Ms M. Steiner and Dr C. Chabrel as members.

**Bid for national museum standards**

In an attempt to set consistent standards for Australian museums, guidelines for local museums are being developed under a \$10,000 grant administered by a Museums Australia standing committee.

The committee, which includes Dr Peter Callahan, Director of the State History Trust, and Geoff Speirs, Manager Museum Services with the State History Centre, has established a set of draft guidelines similar to the criteria for registration under the Museums Accreditation and Grants Program.

The guidelines will be tested against a small number of museums in each state. The Australian Army and some universities have also shown interest in using them to assess their own museums.

The standing committee has also drafted some comments and questions designed to help museums evaluate what they are currently doing and so help them with their strategic planning.