

HSA History

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia

Print Post approved 535806/0005

No. 149, July 2000

Plans for Mortlock Library to leave Jervois Wing for good

The temporary closing of the Jervois Wing of the State Library has been deferred until October when the Mortlock Library of South Australiana will be moved into the 1960s Bastyan Wing so that the Jervois galleries can be strengthened against possible earthquake damage. Redevelopment of the Bastyan Wing will begin in early 2001 and this section of the library will be closed for two years, with services being transferred during the period to the Institute Building and the Jervois Wing.

What many people may not realize is that, under the proposed scheme, when all the work has been completed by June 2003, the Mortlock Library material will not be restored to the Jervois Wing. Historians, genealogists, students and the general public will no longer be able to carry out their research into all things South Australian in the beautiful surroundings of this historic building, which was opened in 1884.

The Jervois Wing will be separated from the main building, exposing the whole of the original wall. There will be a 9-metre-wide outdoor space between the buildings and the only entrance to the Jervois Wing will be via a walk-way at the northern end. There will still be some tables for reading and study but the shelves will contain the Children's Literature Collection and possibly other treasures of the Library, behind glass. All Mortlock books, pamphlets, periodicals, catalogues, indexes, microfilms, microfiches, family history records and general reference material will be located in the revamped Bastyan Wing. The Director of the Redevelopment Programme, Ms. Debra Contala, is unable to give any guarantee that researchers will be allowed to take library material into the Jervois Wing for study. In any case, the difficulties of continually fetching items from the other wing, while leaving one's belongings unattended, would make this unfeasible. The Reading Room at the southern end of the building,


where researchers have, until now, examined items retrieved from storage, will be hired out for private meetings and functions.

The arguments that have been put forward by the Library authorities for the relocation of the Mortlock revolve, for the most part, around the logistics of retrieving material from storage and the streamlining of library practice in accordance with the demands of the electronic age. Under the new plan, all retrievals from both the Bray and Mortlock collections will be done from one central desk in the Bastyan Wing.

It appears, however, that many HSSA members feel that there are more important factors to be taken into account. People who have used the Jervois Wing in childhood, then for school and university study, and later throughout their adult life, are concerned that they will no longer be able to pursue their interests in such a pleasant and convenient environment. It makes for very efficient research to be able to establish oneself at a desk with so many useful and often-used reference sources all located within a few paces. It is also a remarkably peaceful area compared with the busy Bray Library.

The people of South Australia have been able to use the Jervois Building for reading and research for most of the last hundred years and it would be a pity to relegate it to the status of a little-frequented storage area. It was transformed into the Mortlock Library of South Australiana in 1986 as a Jubilee 150 initiative and the right of the present Library administration to revoke this decision must be questioned.

At present, the plans are still in the "concept" stage and the architects have yet to be given their final brief. This means that the feelings and opinions of the people who matter --- the actual users of the Library --- can still make a difference.

Members who feel strongly about this issue are urged to write to the *Advertiser*, G.P.O. Box 339, Adelaide 5001 (e-mail: advedit@adv.newsltd.com.au), or to the Director of the State Library of South Australia (Ms. Bronwyn Halliday), G.P.O. Box 419, Adelaide 5001, or to the Minister for the Arts (Ms. Diana Laidlaw), 136 North Terrace, Adelaide 5000. Correspondence to the Editor of *History SA* is also invited. 

The Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Founded 1974

P.O. Box 519, Kent Town, S.A. 5071.

E-mail: hssa25@hotmail.com Web-site: www.history.sa.gov.au/hssa.

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town. All welcome.

THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

- To arouse interest in and promote the study and discussion of history, especially South Australian and Australian history.
- 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 co-operate with similar societies throughout Australia.
- To do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objects.

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

COUNCIL:

President: Dr. R.P.J. Nicol, 8297 9844.

Vice-President: Mr. M. Keain

Secretary: Mrs. G. Brown

Treasurer: Mrs. A. Huckel, 8277 2953.

Members: Dr. G. Bishop, Dr. S. Cameron, Mr. S. Dawes, Mr. C. Deed, Ms. C. Garnaut, Mr. J. Healey, Mr. J. Loudon, Ms. J. Palmer.

History SA Editor: Mr. J. Healey, 27 Germein St., Semaphore, S.A. 5019. Ph. (08) 8449 2268.

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

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

Publicity Officer: Ms. M. Dunshore

Records Officer: Mrs. E. Ulbrich

Auditor: Mr. A. Kovaleff, C.P.A.

Jockeying for power in the Civil Defence


The Historical Society's August lecture, "South Australian Civil Defence Empires in World War II", will be presented by Dr. Julie-Ann Ellis at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, on Friday, August 4th, at 8.00 p.m.

Dealing with the establishment, development and eventual dismantling of the numerous Civil Defence structures, Dr. Ellis will reveal how the different branches took every opportunity to jockey for power in their respective spheres and to build their own personal and departmental mini-empires. The result was a fascinating interplay of individual ambitions and bureaucratic competitiveness amid the confusion and the exigencies of war.

The head of the South Australian Civil Defence for most of the war was Lieut.-Col. George Shaw. Operating out of a back room on the third floor of a building in King William Street, he found it difficult to keep in touch with country centres, where the representatives had their own agendas. In small towns badges and helmets were regarded as status symbols and equipment was often adapted to more immediate local needs. Gas masks, for example, were tested in fighting bush fires but proved, not surprisingly, to be unsuitable.

Shaw's main responsibilities were the protection of strategic centres (Adelaide, Salisbury, Port Pirie and Whyalla) and the safety of the civilian population. In addition to organizing the Air Raid Precautions programme (with its wardens, sirens, blackouts and countless exercises) and drawing up contingency plans for evacuation, medical treatment and building demolition, he also had to co-ordinate a number of existing services --- Red Cross, St. John's, the Boy Scouts and the various Fire Brigades. In fact, it was out of Civil Defence that the Country Fire Service was born.

At the end of the war Shaw was determined to keep the structures going and he swung easily into a cold war mentality, arguing that the Civil Defence network was necessary to protect Australia from any future enemy.

Dr. Julie-Ann Ellis is Visiting Research Scholar in the History Department of Flinders University, where she previously completed her Honours Bachelor of Arts and did a Ph.D. on the changing philosophies in South Australian Public Lands Administration. In 1995 she published the local history *Hard Yacka*, which won the Christina Smith Award for 1996. She lived for two years in Papua-New Guinea and in 1998 published *Race for the Rainforest*, the story of a successful conservation and development project on indigenous land. She is currently writing a history of the Country Fire Services of South Australia. 


The bird man of the Antipodes

When John Gould arrived in Australia in 1838 he was already an experienced taxidermist, zoologist and lithographer, with a prodigious list of publications to his credit. He had held the position of Curator and Preserver to the museum of the Zoological Society of London for over ten years and was familiar with animal wonders from all over the world, brought to England by a variety of travellers and explorers. The mysterious fauna of Australia in particular cried out for research and classification and was ideal material for colourful lithographic illustration.

Various factors inspired Gould's visit here --- the lure of an unexplored continent, his passion for collecting new specimens and a desire to further his scientific reputation, as well as his wife Elizabeth's family connections in New South Wales and his own acquaintance with Charles Sturt. In the winter of 1939 he spent two months in South Australia, carrying out a series of collecting trips, one of them with Sturt "into the interior on an especial expedition of survey".

His travels around the province and the fauna he found, many of them previously unknown to science, will be detailed by Sean Dawes in his illustrated lecture "John Gould's Natural History Collections in South Australia", to be given at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, on Friday, September 1st, at 8.00 p.m.


By comparing the evidence from Gould's books, the letters and journals of people he met, contemporary newspaper accounts and, in particular, from the Special Surveys, Sean has been able to trace an itinerary which included Kangaroo Island, the Onkaparinga Valley, the sandhills of Port Adelaide, the upper Torrens River, the "Great Murray Scrub", the German settlement at Klemzig and the Adelaide Plains from Glenelg to Waterfall Gully. In many cases Gould ventured where no European had been before and was obliged to observe, pursue and collect his mammals and birds in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. He had to prepare and preserve his specimens on a cart loaded with chemicals and equipment and transport them on his journeys until he was able to place them in storage or ship them back to England.

Sean Dawes, after working as a radiographer in London and Adelaide, was for twenty-five years a Health Surveyor for the Metropolitan County Board and the Unley City Council. He has written two children's plays which were broadcast by A.B.C. Radio and in 1971 published the primary school text-book *Food for Australians*. He has written articles for the HSSA Journal and the RGSSA Journal and has been researching the activities of John Gould in South Australia over the last twenty years. 

HSSA Dinner

Members are reminded to get their bookings in for the HSSA Annual Dinner, to be held at the 'Pavilion on the Park', South Terrace, on Saturday, August 12th, at 6.30 p.m. (for 7.00). The guest speaker, Mr. Keith Conlon, who presents the Channel Nine programme "Postcards", will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the process of making history intriguing to a broad television audience. "Accessibility is what it's all about," he says. "We want to tell people the history of places they can visit easily."


Some of us may have found ourselves sharing a table with Keith in the Mortlock Library where he does most of his research. He has found local histories of great value in compiling the programme and has utilized the work of a number of HSSA members.

The cost of the dinner is \$32 for a three-course meal, exclusive of drinks. Please send your booking, with payment, to the Treasurer, 9 Sierra Nevada Blvd., Pasadena 5042, by Friday, August 4th. 


Community History Awards 2000

The National Community History Awards for 2000, administered by South East Book Promotions, were announced at the State History Conference in May. The Christina Smith Award, for entries of over 50,000 words, was won by Richard Meyers' *Berwick Mechanics Institute and Free Library*, an illuminating story about the idealism of a community in the Victorian era seeking to educate those without the means to acquire learning through more formal institutions.

The Ebenezer Ward Prize, for entries of less than 50,000 words, was shared by Matthew Higgins' *A Century of Learning*, a history of Tharwa Primary School, and Ian Webb's *Blood, Sweat and Irons*, a harrowing account of the building of the Great North Road from Wiseman's Ferry to Mt. Manning between 1827 and 1832.

The John Tregenza Award for the best entry on a South Australian subject --- a \$500 prize sponsored by the Historical Society of South Australia --- was won by Judy Murdoch's *The Last Jam Sandwich*, a history of Kybybolite Primary School from 1907 to 1998. The judges described it as "impressive for its success in melding personal anecdote and local incident in this small South-Eastern community, its school in particular, with the national and international agenda of historical events". 

New members

The Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members: Ms. Sue Anderson, Mr. Stephen Beaumont, Mr. Anthony Brown, Dr. M. Gribble, Mrs. Angela Heuzenroeder, Ms. Suzanne Kong, Ms. Bronwyn Telfer, Mr. Mark Thomson, Ms. Trisha Walker and Dr. Kay Whitehead. 

Coming Events

August 1 Mt. Barker National Trust Graham Symonds: "Butchering in Mt. Barker over the Years". C.W.A. Hall, Mann St., Mt. Barker. 1.30 p.m.

August 2 Kensington & Norwood Hist. Soc. Neville Bonney: "Charles Bonney – Kensington & Norwood's First Mayor". Don Pyatt Comm. Centre, 175 Norwood Parade, Norwood. 8.00 p.m.

August 3 Brighton Hist. Soc. David Wilkinson: "A Guided Autobiography". Civic Centre, 24 Jetty Rd., Brighton. 7.30 p.m.

August 4 HSSA Meeting Dr. Julie-Ann Ellis: "South Australian Civil Defence Empires in World War II". Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town. 8.00 p.m. See page 2 for details.

August 5-6 East Torrens Hist. Soc. Weekend tour of Peterborough and Terowie. Booking essential. Ring Mrs. Lesley Richards on 8390 3390.

August 8 Campbelltown Hist. Soc. Marie Sayner: "My Years at Campbelltown Council". Newton Comm. Centre, 2 Newton Rd., Campbelltown. 8.00 p.m.

August 9 Mitcham Hist. Soc. Christine Garnaut: "Colonel Light Gardens – Model Garden Suburb". Art and Crafts Centre, 1 Torrens St., Mitcham. 8.00 p.m.

August 9 Salisbury & Dist. Hist. Soc. Ernest McKenna: "Marble Hill". Uniting Church, cnr. Brown Terrace and Park Terrace, Salisbury. 7.30 p.m.

August 12 HSSA Annual Dinner Guest Speaker: Keith Conlon. Pavilion on the Park, cnr. South Tce. and Peacock Rd. 6.30 p.m. See page 3 for details.

August 12 Willunga National Trust Bob Moore: "The History and Significance of the Aldinga Scrub". Waverley Homestead, St. Peters Terrace, Willunga. 2.30 p.m. (A.G.M. first)

August 13 Mitcham Hist. Soc. Guided walk around Colonel Light Gardens led by Christine Garnaut. Meet at Mortlock Park entrance, cnr. Sturt Avenue and West Parkway, Col. Light Gdns. at 2.30 p.m.

August 16 Port Adelaide Hist. Soc. Francis Thompson: "Ships and Models and All Sorts of Things". Semaphore Library, 14 Semaphore Rd., Semaphore. 8.00 p.m.

August 16 Marion Hist. Soc. Chas. Grimes: "Pharmacy through the Ages". Mullana Nursing Home, 53 Austral Tce., Morphettville. 7.30 p.m.

August 17 Royal Geographical Soc. of S.A. Brock Lecture: Dr. Jeff Nicholas: "William Field, Colonel Light's Assistant". Royal Society Rooms, Kintore Ave. 7.30 p.m.

August 20 Thebarton Hist. Soc. Sharyn Black: "A Peace Museum for South Australia". Thebarton Neighbourhood House, 10 Falcon Ave., Mile End. 2.00 p.m.

August 21 Burnside Hist. Soc. 20th Anniversary Dinner. Guest Speaker: Dr. John Bunday: "A Brief History of Queen Victoria Hospital". Stonyfell Restaurant. 7.00 p.m. Ring 8332 8019 to book.

August 23 S.A. Genealogy and Heraldry Soc. Patricia Sumerling: "The Development of the City of Adelaide 1836-1940". 201 Unley Rd., Unley. 7.45 p.m.

August 25 Henley & Grange Hist. Soc. Irene McDade: "Recollections of a Child Migrant". Over 50s Centre, 196a Military Rd., Henley Beach. 7.30 p.m.

September 1 HSSA Meeting Sean Dawes: "John Gould's Natural History Collections in South Australia". Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town. 8.00 p.m. See page 3 for details.

September 5 Mt. Barker National Trust Tour of Mt. Barker summit led by Dr. Caroline Crawford. Meet at C.W.A. Hall, Mann St., Mt. Barker at 1.30 p.m.

September 6 Kensington & Norwood Hist. Soc. Rosie Potter: "Tandanya: Meeting Place with Another Perspective". Don Pyatt Comm. Centre, 175 Norwood Parade, Norwood. 8.00 p.m.

September 7 Brighton Hist. Soc. Stuart Thompson: "Townsend House School". Civic Centre, 24 Jetty Rd., Brighton. 7.30 p.m.

September 12 Campbelltown Hist. Soc. Jeanine Matzick: "A Migrant's Tale". Newton Community Centre, 2 Newton Rd., Campbelltown. 8.00 p.m.

September 13 Mitcham Hist. Soc. Helen Scarborough: "A Peep Down Under". Art and Crafts Centre, 1 Torrens St., Mitcham. 8.00 p.m. (A.G.M. first)

September 18 Burnside Hist. Soc. Alan Brunt: "U.F.O.s: Seeing is Believing – Or is it?". Masonic Hall, 1 Fisher St., Tasmore. 8.00 p.m.

September 20 Port Adelaide Hist. Soc. Elizabeth Vines: "Historic Buildings of Port Adelaide". Semaphore Library, 14 Semaphore Rd., Semaphore. 8.00 p.m.

September 20 Marion Hist. Soc. Elizabeth Roger: "Carrick Hill and the Hayward Family". Mullana Nursing Home, 53 Austral Tce., Morphettville. 7.30 p.m.

September 21 Royal Geographical Soc. of S.A. Dr. Neville Alley: "Mineral Exploration in South Australia – a look to the future". Royal Society Rooms, Kintore Avenue. 5.30 p.m.

September 25 Paul McGuire Maritime Collection Frank Hurley's film *The Home of the Blizzard*. Royal Society Rooms, Kintore Ave. 7.30 p.m.


September 25 West Torrens Hist. Soc. Chris Brice: "Research into West Torrens History". 327 Marion Rd., North Plympton. 7.45 p.m.

September 27 Enfield & Dist. Hist. Soc. Speaker: Max Carter, author of *No Convicts There*. Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd., Enfield. 7.45 p.m.

Exhibitions

Faith, Hope, Caring Celebrating 30 years of work by the Greek Women's Auxiliary of the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen. Unley Museum, 80 Edmund Ave., Unley. Until September 6.

Home-Made Treasures Items from the Museum of Childhood's collection of improvised objects. Migration Museum, Kintore Ave. Until September 12.

The Slovaks in South Australia Their culture and activities in S.A., with works by leading Slovak artists. Migration Museum, Kintore Ave. Until August 31. 

On your Council


Jenny Palmer

As the grand-daughter of the blacksmith at Beltana Station and the daughter of an auctioneer and second-hand dealer, Jenny Palmer was introduced to history at a very early age. Accompanying her father on Saturday afternoons as he wandered through houses compiling inventories, she was fascinated by old newspapers and personal paraphernalia like collar studs, button-hooks and tins of Goanna ointment. "There were always old books and pictures in our house," she says. "I remember reading, while I was at primary school, the journal of Ernest Giles, who set out from Beltana in 1875 with a camel team, to make the overland journey to Western Australia. I also read a lot of historical fiction and I've never really succeeded in separating history from literature."



Jenny has a Bachelor of Arts, a Diploma of Education and a Master of Education from the University of Adelaide and a Master of Arts from the University of Sydney. She lectured in History at Wattle Park Teachers College and then acted as research assistant to the Director-General of Community Welfare. She worked for the A.B.C. in Adelaide for seven years, writing scripts and producing programmes for their Education Department, and was an early member of the Women's Broadcasting Co-operative. In 1984 she moved to Sydney where she became the federal head of A.B.C. Education Radio. In this position she was responsible for setting up the Social History Unit with Tim Bowden and, as executive producer, commissioned and supervised programmes on the Snowy Mountains Scheme, "Being Aboriginal" and the oral history of Australians in Antarctica. She also managed the A.B.C. radio trainee scheme, developing training manuals and courses.

Returning to Adelaide, she began work for the History Trust and for two years has edited its quarterly magazine *Community History*. She convened two very successful State History Conferences, in 1998 and 2000, and assisted with the Mannum conference in 1999. She is on the Council of the National Trust and currently edits the magazine *Heritage Living*.

In recent years she has become particularly active in South Australian oral history and worked on the "Eminent Australians" project for the National Library in Canberra and on the "Honoured Women" project for the State Library of South Australia. She is on the committee of the Oral History Association and last year joined the Council of the HSSA. 

Mortlock Archives

by Roger André


Given that the Mortlock Library holds a collection of watercolour illustrations of Clarkson's stained glass windows, albeit unidentified, it is gratifying to have received Vanessa Smith's reminiscences of her work as an artist for Clarkson's. Thomas Wood's *Dust and Bumps*, illustrated with photographs, recounts motoring experiences between the wars and Mildred Nowland's reminiscences recall in part her life as an orphan.

The work of war artist and portrait painter Geoffrey Mainwaring has been comprehensively and expertly illustrated in a scrapbook compiled by Marie Beare and the original manuscript of S. J. Stuckey's account of pioneering in the far north in the 1860s, long held as typescript, has been donated with other Stuckey papers.

The most historically valuable diary accessioned would be the 1866-1868 diary of Cudlee Creek orchardist William Barty, his phonetic spelling suggesting an English accent. Sarah Simpson's diary documents her comfortable tour of England and the Continent in 1901 and a transcript of Rosalien Jones' diary describes a similar tour in 1912. Marion Wyatt's scrapbook gives an insight into the experience of migrating in the 1950s.

Certified teacher of dance, Wanda Edwards, kept a cuttings book and photograph album which illustrate dancing techniques of the 1920s and '30s. Records (1963-1991) of Margaret's Old Style Dance, run by the much loved Margaret Roberts, include paraphernalia such as title boards advertising the next number. Those who recall Thenie Baddams as a highly respected head-mistress of Woodlands may be interested to learn that, apart from papers reflecting her career, the Baddams papers include the seamanship certificates of her father and grandfather, master mariners whose genes may have contributed to Miss Baddams' air of authority.

Besides personal papers, some business records have been accessioned, amongst them journals and statistics (1943-1977) from Dowding McKechnie's orchard at Mypolonga and records (1924-1963) of D. Clifford Amusements (Mt. Gambier) Limited and Glenelg Theatre Limited, incorporated in the Greater Union Organisation group. Of particular relevance to the history of Grange, with reference also to East Adelaide, is John Harvey's transcription of portions of the 1877-1888 letterbook kept by Arthur Harvey. A substantial quantity of additional records (1879-1997) has been deposited for the South Australian Tattersalls Club record group and additions have been made to the records of the fading Dunkirk Veterans' Association.

To conclude, a ground plan of Wolta Wolta homestead block near Clare, already conserved by Artlab, has been lodged by Heritage South Australia and architectural drawings (1903-1906) of Adelaide Workmens' Homes, financed by a bequest from Sir Thomas Elder, enhance heritage collections. 

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the recent article entitled "Scenes from a life" (*History SA*, May 2000) concerning George Fife Angas, especially his pivotal role in "rescuing the [colonization] scheme from collapse". Two other persons are also noteworthy in this regard, constituting the little-recognized Catholic influence on the South Australian founding scheme.

The first person is the Catholic emancipist Lt.-Col. Robert Torrens, F.R.S. (1780-1864), a Royal Marines officer whose support of Catholic rights was evident from his political career and published works, dating from 1811 and 1813 respectively. He alone remained to enact the South Australian founding Act after the original Board of Commissioners had resigned, not wishing to serve under the newly-elected Government. Colonel Torrens formed the next Commission, choosing its members from amongst his friends and other interested persons, he becoming its Chairman.

Rev. John Blackett comments on Torrens' action at this time: "Had it not been for Colonel Torrens' fidelity and devotion at this critical stage, the colonization might have been much longer delayed."

The second person worthy of note was Torrens' friend and fellow Commissioner John Wright, a Catholic and senior partner of the London bank Wright and Co. This bank was the main financial institution for English Catholics and their organizations, especially prior to the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. After all previously interested banking houses had refused to contribute loans to the South Australian scheme, John Wright negotiated the required loans, overcoming the encumbrance caused by Section 26 of the founding Act, permitting the Commission to physically proceed with establishing the colony.

The Fourth Report of the South Australian Colonization Commissioners stated: "The only alternative left was either to accept the terms proposed by Mr. Wright . . . or delay indefinitely the establishment of the colony." Like Angas, John Wright and his Catholic banking partner in Wright and Co., Edmund William Jerningham, had also purchased together a substantial amount of land in the colony, being remembered in the naming of Wright Street, Adelaide, and Jerningham Street, North Adelaide.

As the Member for Bolton in the Reform Parliament of 1832, Colonel Torrens urged Parliament in a speech to act quickly to avert a great catastrophe befalling Ireland. His solution was for a large Irish emigration to South Australia initially, extended to all of Australia later. The spearhead of this planned emigration in late 1840 was formed by three ships: the *William Nichol* (passengers being mainly Scotch-Irish), the *Mary Dugdale* (passengers mainly Catholics selected by Colonel Torrens' son, Sir Robert Richard Torrens

of Torrens Land Registration fame), and the *Birman* (passengers selected mainly from County Clare by Capt. Charles Hervey Bagot of Kapunda copper fame).

Through great misfortune occurring in late 1840, three events stopped the continuation of Colonel Torrens' scheme of Irish emigration to South Australia. The colony fell into debt and needed to be rescued by Parliament, one measure being the cessation of emigration to South Australia. This event perhaps caused the bankruptcy of Wright and Co., with much loss to English Catholic fortunes. Subsequently John Wright and E.W. Jerningham lost control of their South Australian land purchases. Colonel Torrens was forced to resign from the Commission on the technicality of owning land in the colony, half of which he had purchased under the name of his friend John Wright.

Between 1845 and 1849 the potato crop repeatedly failed in Ireland, causing a third of the population to perish from starvation and a third to flee to America, as Colonel Torrens had predicted.

Yours sincerely,
Robert Cox,
Victor Harbor

Dear Sir,

Your article in *History SA*, May 2000, about Hodder's biography of George Fife Angas, prompts me to make two public confessions. Firstly, I have occasionally dipped into, but never completely read, Hodder's *History of South Australia*. Secondly, the last time I dipped, I did so without paying mental tribute to its real author, Henry Hussey.

The story of Hussey's authorship of Hodder's biography of Angas and his *History of South Australia* is told by Gerald Fischer in *South Australiana*, vol. VIII, no. 1, March 1969. It goes back to 1860 when the Gawler Institute offered a handsome prize for the best history of the colony, and Hussey responded with a rather unwieldy manuscript. One thing led to another and eventually this and Hussey's work on Angas were sent to Hodder in London for editing. Gerald points out that Hodder acknowledged Hussey's work on Angas but when he edited the *History* he took all the credit on himself. And as for the prize — the story is too long for a letter to the editor: read Gerald's article.

Yours sincerely,
John Love
Beaumont

Dear Sir,

I found the article on the demise of cameleering in South Australia in your May issue most interesting, particularly the photo by Frank Hurley showing a pair of camels alongside a car taken at Farina, c. 1920.

The car in particular caught my attention --- a Vauxhall 25. One such, when I was a child, did service as our family car. It was purchased new in 1936.

Grattan Wheaton
Macclesfield

Dear Sir,

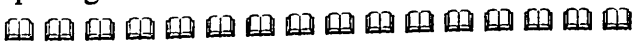
Congratulations on the format and content of recent issues of *History SA* and, in particular, on your March editorial which promoted lively discussion in the Letters to the Editor segment in the May issue.

I agree in general with your dislike of American forms of spelling but must disagree with regard to *program/programme*. At school in Adelaide about sixty-five years ago I was taught to use *program* with the reasoning that *programme* was an unnecessary French affectation. *Program* is the original English spelling and apparently was in general use until at least the mid-nineteenth century; it is thus unlikely that its use results from mimicking American practice. *Program* is preferred by Fowler's *Modern English Usage* and by several reputable style manuals. In forty-five years of extramural involvement in editing technical publications I have employed *program* in keeping with the above reasoning and with the policies of many scientific and technical journals.

Yours sincerely,
John Harvey
West Beach

Editor's comment:

My point about the present trend towards the use of *program* is based on the fact that the majority of the population have no knowledge whatsoever of linguistic history. As the chief editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, John Simpson, pointed out recently (*Advertiser*, 22/12/99), "More and more [people] are substituting *center* for *centre*, *program* for *programme* and *color* for *colour* because they regularly see the spellings on the World Wide Web."




Willunga Slate Project

Information is being sought by the Willunga Branch of the National Trust on the area's slate-quarrying heritage, still evident in local cottages, farms, churchyards and hillsides. The discovery in 1840 of a slate outcrop by a quail-shooting party quickly led to a thriving industry and a rapid influx of skilled quarrymen to the small township. A separate village with its own chapel soon grew on the steep slopes around the Delabole Quarry a few miles to the south, while in the picturesque Beltunga Gully and in the township itself quarrymen established their homes within walking distance of Bangor, Martin's, William's and Bastian's Quarries. The Cornish and Irish influence was soon felt in the town's community life which centred on church, school, and sport. Over 130,000 tons of slate were produced for use in buildings in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Other ingenious uses ranged from water-tanks and sheep-dips to headstones in the local cemetery.


Visitors today may well be unaware of the operation and impact of the quarries. Hence the Willunga Slate Project is being undertaken to highlight this unique

aspect of the town's history by setting up a special interpretative centre in the old stables building at the Court House Museum. A concept plan, to be launched at the Willunga Almond Blossom Festival in late July, will form the basis for establishing the centre, with completion expected in mid- to late 2002.

The Branch has many interesting slate-related items in its collection but it is also seeking additional items or information, such as photos, stories of the quarrymen's families and their involvement in the community, living conditions, working conditions in the quarry, the background of the quarrymen and their decision to come to Willunga, items belonging to the workers or items made from slate. It is also hoped to identify as many quarrymen as possible and include their details in the new display. Practical assistance and financial donations would also be appreciated.

If you have something to contribute, and for further information, write to the Willunga Branch of the National Trust, P.O. Box 429, Willunga 5172, or phone the Secretary on 8383 0361. 

History SA deadline

The deadline for all material for the September 2000 issue of the Newsletter is Friday, August 11th. It should be addressed to John Healey, Editor, *History SA*, 27 Germein St., Semaphore, S.A. 5019. 



CHAFF MILL VILLAGE

*Luxury apartments in
the heart of Clare*

310 Main North Road,
Clare, S.A. 5453

Phone:
(08) 8842 1111

Website:
<http://www.capri.net.au/~chaffmil>

E-mail:
chaffmil@capri.net.au


*The owner, Helen Dickeson, is Curator of
the Clare Regional History Collection.*

New at the Mortlock

Compiled by Brian Samuels from recent issues of *Mortlock Miscellany*, the monthly listing of Mortlock Library accessions, which is available on the State Library's web-site <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au>. The list does not include archival material which is covered in Roger André's column on page 5.

MONOGRAPHS

- S. Barker & M. McCaskill (eds.): **Discover Kangaroo Island** (Royal Geographical Society of South Australia, Adelaide, 1999)
- G.D. Chapman: **Wooden Fishing Boats : A documented and pictorial history of the wooden fishing vessels that have fished the waters off Kangaroo Island** (Chapman, Kingscote, 1998)
- J. Durdin: **Eleven Thousand Nurses: A History of Nursing Education at Royal Adelaide Hospital 1889-1993** (R.A.H., Adelaide, 1999)
- C. Garnaut: **Colonel Light Gardens: Model Garden Suburb** (Crossing Press, Sydney, 1999)
- K. George: **A Place of Their Own: The Men and Women of War Service Land Settlement at Loxton after the Second World War** (Wakefield Press, Kent Town, 1999)
- K. George: **City Memory: A Guide and Index to the City of Adelaide Oral History Collection** (Corporation of the City of Adelaide, Adelaide, 1999)
- D. Hilliard & A.D. Hunt: **South Australian Religious History** (Hilliard & Hunt, Adelaide, n.d.)
- J.L. Hoad: **Hotels and Publicans in South Australia, 1836 - March 1993**, 2nd edition, revised. (Hoad, McLaren Vale, 1999)
- A.G. Holt: **Hillcrest Hospital: The First 50 Years and Hillcrest Hospital: The Last Decade** (The Hillcrest Hospital Heritage Committee, Victoria, 1999)
- Inland Shipping, Murrumbidgee, Murray and Darling Rivers: Newspaper Extracts 1894-1924** (Australian Schools Commission, Sydney, 1984)
- C.J. Jenner: **The History of the Presbyterian Church in South Australia, 1839-1939** (1939)
- R. Linn: **Perseverance: The Story of Spastic Centres of South Australia** (S.C.S.A., Woodville, 1994)
- R. Linn: **Yalumba and its People** (Samuel Smith & Son, Angaston, 1999)
- B.M. Medhurst: **Scottish Reference Book: Acknowledging the Scottish Immigrants and their Descendants, their Achievements and Legacy to the State of South Australia** (Scottish Associations of South Australia, Adelaide, 1999)
- H.L. Northey: **Living the Truth: The Dominican Sisters in South Australia 1868-1958** (Holy Cross Congregation of Dominican Sisters, Adelaide, 1999)
- P. O'Connor: **H.M. Gaol Mount Gambier: 1886-1995** (South East Book Promotions, Mount Gambier, 1999)
- The Organ Historical Trust of Australia 22nd Annual Conference 1999** (O.H.T.A., Camberwell, 1999)

- P. Payne & P. Donovan: **The Australian Barley Board: Making the Right Moves, 1939-1999** (Australian Barley Board, Adelaide, 1999)
- J. Pash: **The Pash Papers: Australian Rules Football in South Australia, 1950-1964** Ed. P. Depasquale (Pioneer Books, Oaklands Park, 1999)
- Pastoral Homes of Australia, New Series** (Pastoral Review, Sydney, 1929-31)
- A.J. Peake: **Middleton, South Australia: History at a Glance 1849-1999** (Peter Humby, Middleton, 1999)
- J. Schmaal: **Tales of the Troopers: Stories from the Wild Colonial Days** Ed. J. Sykes & B. Potts (Wakefield Press, Kent Town, 1999)
- N. Smith: **Tramcars, Trolleybuses in and around Port Adelaide** (Australian Electric Transport Museum, Adelaide, 1998)
- South Australian Writs 1857-1997: Research and Findings** (State Electoral Office, Rose Park, 1999)
- C. Sturt: **Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia, during the years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831** (Corkwood Press, North Adelaide, 1999)
- K.K. Thomas: **Greetings! 1836-1960** [Mary Thomas, Pioneer] (McAlister Print, 1960)
- R. Thornton: **The South Australian Company, 1835-1949: History and Archives** (1987)
- L. Welch: **Do and Hope: Realising the Waite Vision: Commemorating the Benefactors of the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, 1924-1999** (University of Adelaide, Urrbrae, 1999)
- B. Whimpress: **Passport to Nowhere: Aborigines in Australian Cricket, 1850-1939** (Walla Walla Press, Sydney, 1999)
- L. Wilkins: **Ivor Hele: The Heroic Figure** (Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1997)
- E.M. Yelland: **"Sheep Shall Safely Graze": Osmond Gilles' Legacy** (Openbook, Adelaide, 1999)
- Yesterday 5DN Celebrated Its 21st Anniversary** (5DN, Adelaide, 1946?)
- ## ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
- OH 309 **Once Upon a Wireless: An Oral History of South Australian Radio** (Additional material) Interviewers: N. Flannery, V. Harvey, M. Howard, P. Linkson, A. MacAskill, W. Mudie, R. Palmer, B. Radford, J. Vincent [Sound Recording] 1995-1998.
- OH 541 **We Remember Daisy Bates** (Additional material) Interviewer: Aileen Treagus. [Sound Recording] 1999.
- OH 544 **Allan Scott: Trucking Icon** (Additional material) Interviewer: Lisa Winsler [Sound Recording] 1999.
- OH 553 **Noel Lothian** Interviewer: Pauline Payne [Sound Recording] 1999.
- OH 555 **Robe Oral History Collection** Interviewers: B. Domaschenz, P. Enright, J. Leake, P. Leake, S. Lewis, S. Ling, G. Lock, M. McInerney. [Sound Recording] 1981-1993.
- OH 556 **The Hon. Don Dunstan AC, QC Memorial Service** [5AN Sound Recording] 1999. 

Memoirs of the pedal wireless man

Part I

Introduced by John Healey

In 1929 a friendly but self-effacing Adelaide man revolutionized Australian outback communications. His name was Alfred Traeger and he invented the pedal wireless.

He was born in 1895 near Dimboola, Victoria, and in 1902 the family moved to South Australia. At the age of twelve he built a telephone line from his house to the toolshed, improvising the diaphragms from tobacco tins, the magnet from the prongs of a pitchfork and the carbon granules for the microphone from the charcoal of the kitchen stove. In 1915 he completed his course in mechanical and electrical engineering at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries and by 1923 was working for Hannan Bros. in Wakefield Street, doing car generator and electrical repairs. He met John Flynn in 1926 and the story of their long association and the development of the pedal wireless is well documented in Fred McKay's book *Traeger, the Pedal Radio Man*.

In the early 1970s Alf Traeger began to write his reminiscences and before he died in 1980 he had filled a hundred pages, covering the first half of his life. They are a remarkable fund of information and entertaining stories, all written in the third person and laced with his characteristic wry humour. His widow, Joyce Traeger Blaess, has made them available to *History SA* and the following extracts are reproduced by her kind permission, together with photographs from the family album.

The first story dates from 1925 when Alf was making illegal ham radio transmissions:

At this time Alfred became seriously interested in radio. He had made crystal sets and valve receivers of a sort but now he built transmitters and generators to supply the power for them, even though he had no licence to operate them. Perhaps at this time it probably did not occur to him that he needed one. . . He made quite a few contacts with radio hams in the U.S. and many other countries, and the unlicensed call 5XL became quite well known and Alfred decided that it was time he did something about a licence. . .

Another unlicensed call 5DX was making quite a name for itself at the time. Alfred had contacted the

call quite often. But of course no names or addresses could be mentioned so it was only a call sign with a characteristic signal. Now Alfred finally did something about his licence. He applied for permission to sit for the A.O.P.C. (Amateur Operators Proficiency Certificate) examination and duly received notification to attend at the Radio Branch at the G.P.O. While Alfred was waiting for the test another chap came and sat down beside him. "I'm Don Taylor," he said. "I'm Alf Traeger," said Alfred. "You're DX," said Alfred. "You're XL," said Don. Then they were both called into the examination room.

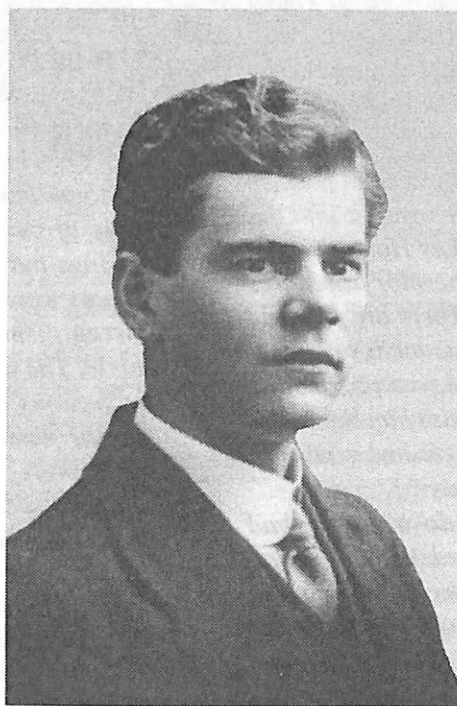
The first test was to send and receive morse code. For some inexplicable reason Don Taylor flunked this, which left Alfred to do the technical paper on his own. While Alfred was busy doing his paper the radio inspector (R.I.), Mr. Bert Harrington, and his assistant, Mr. Jack DeGure, came and stood right behind Alfred and began to discuss various matters

among which was the question of unlicensed radio transmitting stations. This latter matter was spoken in a much louder voice than was really necessary, as if to make quite sure that Alfred heard it. 5XL and 5DX were particularly mentioned. These two stations were the ones they were particularly anxious to get. Now Alfred was never very bright but this seemed obvious that Mr. Harrington and Mr. DeGure knew that 5XL was Mr. Alfred Traeger and that 5DX was Mr. Don Taylor.

Now the first thing that Alfred did after leaving the examination room was to contact Don and tell him about the incident. Don was not perturbed and said it was just a coincidence, but Alfred did not think so. Don went on with his transmitting and one evening a day or so later, when he had just finished an especially good contact with an overseas ham

station, two chaps knocked at his front door, asked if he had been transmitting and, if so, would he produce his licence. Poor old Don could not deny anything because these two R.I.s had sat in their van at Don's front gate and had copied every word he had sent and received. Also their direction finder pin-pointed his transmitter in its exact position and to top the lot the transmitter valve was still warm when they inspected the station and of course Don had no licence.

He was prosecuted and fined but the boys all got together and paid his fine because nearly all had at some time or other transmitted without a licence but fortunately were not caught. Perhaps it eased their conscience a little also. ⇨



Photograph of Alfred Traeger from his Amateur Operators Proficiency Certificate, issued in 1926.



Traeger (right) pictured with John Flynn, c. 1930.

Around the same time John Flynn had also been experimenting with radio but was having trouble finding the right generator to power transceivers in the outback. On June 14th, 1925, he sought the advice of Harry Kauper, the technical manager of Radio 5CL, who remembered testing a generator that a young fellow at Hannan Bros. had made a few months before and which Harry thought would be ideal for the job.

Flynn and Towns [George Towns, a retired Army officer and radio enthusiast] *hopped straight into the Dodge and drove to Hannan Bros. Les Hannan came to Alfred, where he was winding generator armatures at the rear of the garage and said, "There are a couple of distinguished gentlemen to see you, one is a parson. What have you been up to?" Alfred was puzzled, he had never had a Reverend gentleman visit him before this during working hours. The two distinguished gentlemen were Flynn and Towns.*

Even before the usual how-do-you-do's had been exchanged Flynn asked Alfred if he still had the generator which he showed Harry Kauper some months ago. Alfred had almost forgotten about the generator and had to think hard what it was all about. You see, Alfred was always slow on the uptake but he finally cottoned on and said, "Yes, I still have it." Flynn asked, "Do you want to sell it?" To which Alfred replied, "Yes." Flynn said, "How much do you want for it?" Now, this set Alfred thinking as hard as he was able to. He wanted £30 for it, but that sounded quite a lot of money and Flynn may not buy it at that price, but £29.10.0 seemed to sound a lot less, so Alfred said, "£29.10.0." "I'll buy it," said Flynn and took out his wallet and counted out £29.10.0 whilst Alfred got the generator. What Alfred didn't know was that Flynn would have paid £50 for the generator if Alfred had demanded it. That's how Alfred met the Rev. John Flynn and Mr. George Towns. This generator did generate and Flynn and Towns got away on schedule and went on to do their experiments and to supervise the building of the Australian Mission Hospital at Alice Springs or whatever else they had to do while Alfred went on

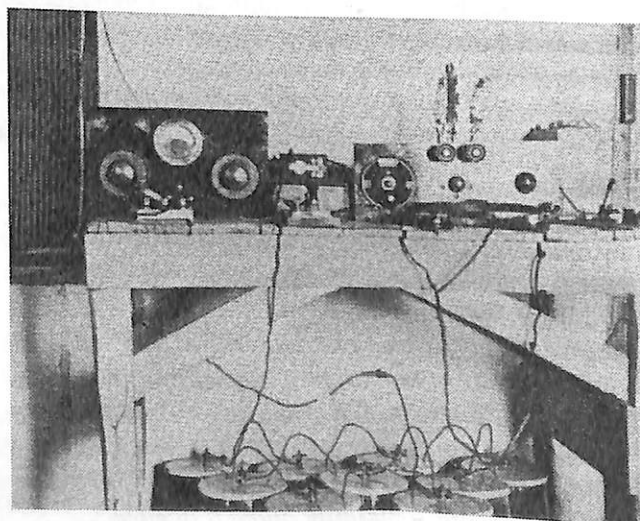
with his winding armatures and repairing generators etc. at Hannan Bros.

Alf goes on to describe Flynn's famous Dodge Buckboard, purchased in May 1925 from Waymouth Motors for the price of £414:

He had ordered a new Dodge patrol car in Adelaide. This car was like no other car. The cars at that time were being fitted with battery ignition systems, and if the battery were smashed by a flying stone thus rendering it useless, which could easily happen when travelling over the gibber plains in the inland, the car would be stuck and immobile umpteen miles from anywhere. So he had the battery ignition system disconnected and replaced by a magneto with a spare magneto stuck in some nook somewhere in the car. In the near side door he had a spare crown wheel and pinion parked between the outside metal and the inside lining. In the other door he had a spare clutch. Somewhere underneath he had a couple of spare axles. There was also a water tank and a spare petrol tank plus a couple of sets of tools and two spare tyres and goodness knows what else there was.

He also had an invention on board, Flynn's invention. This invention was to make the crossing of bad sand patches much easier. It consisted of a couple of mats normally used at the time for sand crossings but shorter. Just before entering the sand the mats were to be laid on the ground, the distance between them being equal to the wheeltrack of the vehicle. The car was then to be driven onto the mats. The sections of the mats projecting from the rear of the rear wheels were then to be taken straight up over a pulley above the back wheels, then over the hood and over another pulley directly over the front wheels. The ends of the mats were then to be joined together making a kind of track like a caterpillar tractor. You see, the utility was to lay its own mats as it went along.

Nothing was ever published in the daily press about this invention and whenever Alfred asked Mr. Flynn



Experimental transceiver set up at Hermansburg in 1926. The batteries, Alfred's "special passengers", are on the floor.

about it he always evaded answering the question and would change the subject of conversation. However, Mr. Towns was able to give a vivid description of the test. He had some of his friends and Alfred in fits of laughter while doing it. In the first place it took about half an hour to set it up, and secondly the wheels did not seem to want stay on the mats, and thirdly the sand would get onto the mats and was dumped into the tray of the utility. The vehicle gradually buried itself as it went along and it took them nearly half a day to dig it out. Needless to say they decided that it was a complete washout and he left the gear just where it was, namely, out in the desert somewhere.

In October 1925, after three months in the out-back experimenting with a generator driven by a belt from the jacked-up rear wheel of the Dodge, Flynn returned to Adelaide and conferred with 5CL's Harry Kauper regarding plans for the radio experiments in the next year, 1926.

Harry was to design and have built three simple and inexpensive transmitting and receiving sets to use as outpost sets. Flynn's existing transmitter and receiver was to be used as a base station at Alice Springs. Because Towns had intimated that he would be unable to assist Flynn in future because of ill health, Harry was also to look out for an assistant for Flynn, to carry out the next series of experiments and to install the diesel lighting plant for the new A.I.M. hospital at Alice Springs. He did not have to look far, for quite handy was a fellow of about thirty years of age, who had a technical diploma in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, had the Amateur Operators Proficiency Certificate, a licence to operate a transmitting and receiving station, was unmarried, was not particularly tied to his job, was a keen experimenter, perhaps not particularly bright but quite stable. He was considered by some people as being a bit crazy in the same way that Flynn was thought of by many people, and he was a friend of Harry Kauper. This was Alfred.

When Flynn returned to Adelaide on his way to Alice Springs in about May of 1926 he offered Alfred the position as his assistant during the experiments. The wages were to be £6 per week and all expenses paid. Flynn said it wasn't much but he would be paid more later on after he had proved his suitability for the position. Outwardly Alfred tried to appear quite calm and said as casually as he could that he thought it seemed quite reasonable. Inwardly Alfred was anything but calm. To get £6 a week and expenses paid for experimenting with radio seemed like a dream.

Alfred would have jumped at £3 per week and would have been extremely happy about it.

Now began a very busy time for Alfred. He had to organise the packing and despatch of the small spark coil sets made by Harry Kauper, and to purchase batteries and spares for them, plus attending to the collection and purchase of any apparatus likely to be required for the experiments. The small experimental outpost sets made by Harry Kauper were called spark coil sets because the transmitters obtained their right tension voltage from a T-model Ford spark coil.

The toughest assignment for Alfred concerned eight copper oxide/caustic soda railway signalling

batteries. Someone had suggested to Flynn that these batteries might be suitable for supplying the power to the transmitters of the small outpost sets, so he contacted the Railways Commissioner and obtained eight of these for his experiments. They were heavy glass jars shaped like a barrel and about 2 feet high and about 15 inches in diameter and the weight of each battery, with the copper oxide electrodes



A broken axle on the truck en route to Arltunga in 1926.
The rear of Flynn's Dodge can be seen on the left.

and the lid, weighed approximately eighty pounds.

Alfred was instructed by Flynn to collect these batteries from the railway stores, take them to the goods despatch section and consign them to Alice Springs. Alfred did not know how big and heavy they would be so he hired a taxi to do it. If the taxi driver had known what kind of passengers he had to transport he probably would not have taken on the job, but he was a real sport and thought it was real fun and helped to load and unload the passengers. The passengers were packed into the front seat with the driver, in the back seat, and in the boot of the taxi. Alfred sat in the back seat with the special passengers.

Alf Traeger accompanied John Flynn to Alice Springs and in November, 1926, they successfully tested and installed their radio transceivers at the Hermannsburg Mission and the Arltunga Police Station. But the railway batteries were cumbersome and fragile and the innovation of the pedal generator was still three years away.

[To be continued in the next issue of *History SA*]

References:

- Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 12, pp. 251-2 (Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1990)
- Fred McKay: *Traeger, the Pedal Radio Man* (Boolarong Press, Moorooka, 1995)
- Personal communication from Joyce Traeger Blaess

The wines of Port Lincoln

by Geoffrey Bishop

... upon the range behind the town terraced vineyards may and eventually must rise one above the other ... everyone acquainted with the cultivation of the vine will readily appreciate the facilities which the hills about Port Lincoln, being on a limestone formation, offer for forming vineyards.

These lines were written in 1839 by Charles Christian Dutton, former Sheriff of the Province of South Australia. Dutton visited the area around the settlement at Port Lincoln in April of that year to report on the agricultural potential of the district.

It is commonly believed that the earliest reference to the viticultural potential of the Port Lincoln area was made by Captain Nicolas Baudin during his visit there in April 1802. However, Baudin makes no mention of grape growing in his journal. The assumption is based on the name that the French navigators gave to what is now known as Port Lincoln, namely, Port Champagne. However, the name has nothing to do with champagne! Baudin named the area Port de La Confiance and wrote in his journal:

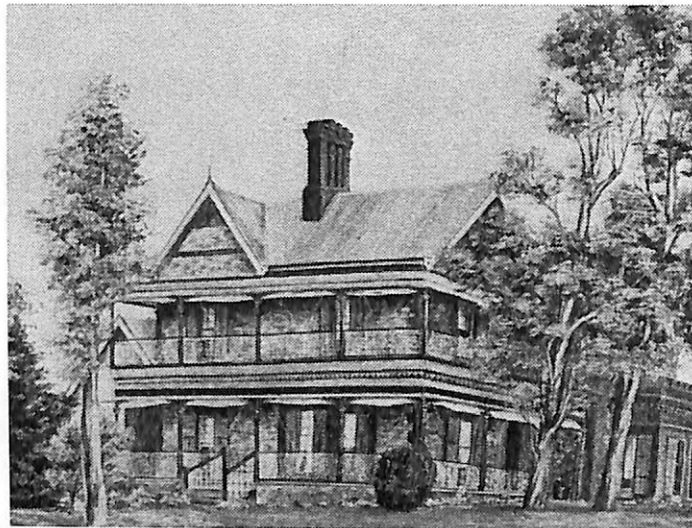
Entrance to the Golfe de La Melomanie, at the extremity of which is Port de La Confiance which from verbal information received [from Captain Matthew Flinders on 8th April 1802] provides perfect security for vessels.

Port Champagne appears on the charts of the French expedition which were prepared after Baudin's death by Louis de Freycinet, commander of the schooner *Le Casuarina*. Freycinet and Francois Péron, the zoologist on *Le Géographe*, altered many of the names given by Baudin. The name Port Champagne was used in Freycinet's journal when he revisited the area in January 1803. It was named for Jean Champagne, French Councillor of State, Minister of the Interior and later Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The first planting of grape vines at Port Lincoln was made by Captain William Porter on his property at Kirton Point. This small planting formed part of his fruit garden. The success or otherwise of his vines has not come down to us. Vines were also planted in the early 1840s at Happy Valley by Dr. James Harvey

and pastoralist Samuel White, and near Big Swamp. Southern Eyre Peninsula had a number of small vineyards in the period 1860 to 1900. The area of vines in County Flinders increased from 4 acres in 1861 to 19 acres in 1871, peaking at 31 acres in 1891. Annual wine production averaged 240 gallons over the period 1868 to 1881, with over 500 gallons being produced in some vintages.

Only one grower is known to have ventured into winemaking, the others probably selling their grapes as table fruit. The exception was the vineyard at what later became known as Boston House. This property is on the coast two kilometres north of Port Lincoln overlooking the beautiful Boston Bay and Boston Island. The pioneer vineyard was only a short distance from the present-day Boston Bay Vineyards. Vines were first planted at Boston Cottage in the 1860s by the Reverend Octavius Hammond. The vineyard was continued by his son Cecil Henry Hammond and later



by Frederick and Lucy Sison until about 1896. Reverend Hammond was a Superintendent of the Poonindie Mission and during his time on Eyre Peninsula lived at Boston Cottage. Hammond bought the property (parts of Sections 18 and 19, Hundred of Lincoln) in 1862. His son Cecil was born in Adelaide in 1853 and by the late 1860s was running the 40-acre Boston Bay property. There is no indication of

the size of the vineyards but they were planted to various Spanish varieties including Verdelho, Black Portugal, Mataro and Grenache.

In May 1870, Cecil Hammond sent samples of six wines from the 1869 and 1870 vintages to B. Herschel Babbage for chemical analysis. Babbage had a vineyard and wine cellar on what is now Daws Road at St. Marys. Unfortunately there is no record of Babbage's response nor any indication of the types of wines that Hammond was producing but, from the names he gave them, they were probably dry table wines. In his letter to Babbage of May 1870, Hammond stated: "Last two years dry, & winemaking down in volume." Present-day plantings in the region have recognised the need for supplementary watering.

In August 1885 the Boston Bay property was sold to Frederick Samuel Sison, a retired brewer from Adelaide. The house on the property was rebuilt by the Sisons as an impressive two-storied mansion (pictured above). It included a wine cellar which is partially under the house. Frederick Sison had worked in both the wine and brewing industries in Adelaide before he went into partnership with J.T. Syme in

1863, trading as Syme & Sison, Adelaide Brewery, Halifax Street, Adelaide. The company was sold in 1882 and both men retired to England. The Sisons returned to Adelaide in March 1885 on their yacht *White Squall* and soon afterwards moved to Port Lincoln. Sison died at Port Lincoln on September 29th, 1891, aged 59. Mrs. Lucy Sison remained at Boston House and was listed as a grape-grower until 1896. The property was leased to farmer and grazier Charles Ridgway in 1904 and was finally sold by the Sison Estate in 1918.

Small areas of grapes were grown on Eyre Peninsula in the decades prior to the new era of plantings which began in 1984. In the mid-1920s the Harder family established a small vineyard on their farm at Edillilie. Their son Chris was later (in the 1970s) manager of the famous Metala Vineyards at Langhorne Creek.

In 1972 Jack McFarlane of Greenpatch and members of the Port Lincoln Beefsteak and Burgundy Club planted a small vineyard on McFarlane's property (which was later owned by Laurie Scholz). The 0.75 ha. vineyard was planted to red grape varieties --- Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Malbec. In 1980 and 1981 the grapes were harvested by Club members and carted to Jim Ingoldby's winery at McLaren Vale for processing. Two full-bodied dry reds were produced under the Greenpatch label (*shown above*). The 1983 vintage was made by Brian Croser of Petaluma Wines. The 1984 crop was destroyed by birds and subsequent vintages were made by Club members. Part of the neglected vineyard was removed in 1989 by a subsequent owner and it is only recently that grapegrowing has been revived here.

The new era of winemaking on Eyre Peninsula started in the mid-1980s. In 1984 Graham and Mary Ford planted what was to become Port Lincoln's first commercial vineyard. The Fords were a deep-sea diving and fishing family before deciding to become grape-growers. Their 3.5 ha. vineyard is two kilometres north of the former site of Sison's Boston House vineyards. With the help of Rick Robertson of Clare, a vineyard



was planned and planted with 7,500 vines, comprising Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Chardonnay has since been introduced to the planting. Their first vintage was in 1987.

The Dellacolline Vineyard was started in 1985 by four members of the Port Lincoln Beefsteak and Burgundy Club. The 4 ha. vineyard, which is on the southern side of Winter's Hill overlooking Port Lincoln, is planted to Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Chardonnay. Their first commercial releases were in 1990.

Both Boston Bay and Dellacolline have won many awards and high acclaim for their wines in the past decade. As a nice touch, the French connection, real or otherwise, has been commemorated by Boston Bay Wines in its "flagship" wine, Baudin's Blend, appropriately a blend of two French varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

References:

- Babbage Papers (Mortlock Library, PRG 404)
Register, 20/4/1839, 22/6/1839, 4/12/1841
Advertiser, 27/1/1988, *Observer*, 2/1/1892
Mount Barker Courier, 19/5/1976
Stock Journal, 23/11/1989, 3/11/1994
Port Lincoln Times, 12/3/1991, 15/7/1993
 Interview with G.C. Anderson, Port Lincoln 1/11/1989
 Research notes from George Bell, Tyne and Wear, England
 P.J. Baillie: *Boston House --- a symbol of Port Lincoln*
 (undated booklet)

Dr. Geoffrey Bishop is an HSSA Council member and has an Honours Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from the University of Adelaide. He lectured at TAFE for five years and from 1982 to 1997 worked for the Department of the Environment. He has published nine books, including histories of the Angove and Tolley families, district histories of East Torrens, Basket Range, and Lenswood & Forest Range, and horticultural histories relating to the wine industry. In 1982 his book *Australian Wine-making: the Roseworthy Influence* won the wine history award given by the Institute of Vines and Wines in Paris.

The streets of Burnside

The Burnside Historical Society has issued a new edition of *Burnside Street Names and their Origins*, the first version of which, featuring contributions from twenty-three researchers, was produced over ten years ago. Since then fresh information has been discovered about some of the omissions and a number of new streets have been created. In addition, all back lanes and pathways have now been named and the suburbs of Auldana and Skye have been added to Burnside. There are now about six hundred and fifty streets.

Richard House started a total update in 1997 with assistance from John Clark and Geoffrey Bishop. Further

research was conducted on many origins with a special attempt to answer not only the question "What was the origin?" but also "Why was that origin relevant?"

Over the years many streets have changed their names. An appendix now serves as an index so that readers who know only the original name of a street can easily find the current name. Another appendix lists the one hundred and ninety streets for which the origin is recorded as "unknown", although educated guesses are made for the majority of these.

Two copies of the new edition are in the Burnside Library, one for loan and the other, in the Historical Collection, for reference.

Third Prize 1999 History Essay Awards

Democracy or despotism?

by Claudia Oakeshott

Amidst much controversy and public outrage following the state election in 1968, a writer to the *Advertiser* asked the question: "Democracy or despotism?"¹ This was in direct response to the alleged undemocratic election result, the pinnacle of the malapportionment that had existed in the South Australian parliamentary system since it was founded. Between 1933 and 1965 there was just one political party in government in South Australia, the Liberal and Country League, and its success was not entirely due to popularity with the public. The electoral system had an intrinsic bias towards country areas and this, together with restricted franchise in the Legislative Council, virtually guaranteed LCL victory regardless of public opinion.

From the opening of the first South Australian Parliament on April 4th, 1857, male suffrage applied to the House of Assembly and plural voting was banned: crucial factors in the development of democracy. Yet restricted franchise existed in the Legislative Council, allowing only owners of property to enrol; this was designed by conservatives to "balance" the "democracy" of the Assembly.² After 1894 universal suffrage applied to the Assembly, South Australia becoming the first state to grant the vote to women, but universal franchise was not introduced into the Council until 1974. Despite numerous attempts by Charles Kingston's ministry to broaden the franchise between 1893 and 1899, and half a century of endeavours by the ALP, South Australia was last amongst the states to abolish restricted franchise.

Malapportionment of electoral boundaries also dominated in South Australia until the 1970s. Even when the first system was established with the opening of parliament, a distinct bias was incorporated into the electoral geography which advantaged extra-metropolitan areas. This was exaggerated with the formation of the Liberal and Country League in 1932. One of the demands of the Country Party was the "formalization of rural over-representation"³, written into the LCL constitution and, more importantly, the Electoral Act. The redistribution of 1936, under Richard Butler's LCL government, installed a bias of at least 2:1 in favour of rural areas by allocating only 13 of the 39 seats to the Adelaide region. Such malapportionment handicapped the Labor Party whose main voting strength was in the city and hence it can be argued that the electoral system in South Australia from the beginning, and particularly following the 1936 re-distribution, was far from democratic.

It was this electoral inequity that Sir Thomas Playford inherited when he came to power in 1938. During the years between 1933 and 1965 the LCL won ten consecutive elections, eight under Playford's premiership, and in all likelihood Playford was the "despot" to whom the writer to the *Advertiser* was referring. Many factors contributed to the LCL's success: Playford's character and leadership, the inherent strength of a two-party coalition and manifest economic development in South Australia. The lack of a strong opposition, as a result of the disunity in the Labor party during the depression, also advantaged the LCL, especially following the eventual split over the Premier's Plan in 1932. Regardless, it can be argued that the most crucial factor in determining the 32-year reign of the LCL was inequality in the electoral system. According to Dean Jaensch, without rural over-representation the LCL between 1933 and 1965 would have retained a majority in the House of Assembly in not ten, but two elections: 1950 and 1956.⁴ If correct, such statistics indicate that the will of the people was not represented in the make-up of South Australian parliaments, contrary to the intent of democracy.

This inequity was not appalling to all inhabitants of South Australia. Many shared the view of those who first established the electoral system, that the economy relies upon rural produce and the contributions of property owners. Accordingly, those people with a "stake in the country"⁵ deserve a weighty input in deciding who should govern. This view justifies malapportionment and restricted franchise within the definition of democracy. In contrast, others would argue that the only way a government can be elected democratically is if all votes have an equal value, certainly not the case in South Australia between 1933 and 1965. Although the situation undoubtedly did not extend to despotism, that is, rule by an autocrat, there is a strong case that the LCL was not a democratically elected government.

During this period no response was made by the LCL to requests that the electoral system be made more just. While there were five redistributions during the twentieth century, all by non-Labor governments, each of these was designed to enhance, not amend, the advantage to rural areas. This particularly applied to Playford's ascendancy, characterised by the inaction of the LCL to lessen the extent of the gerrymander. The redistribution in 1955 merely equalized enrolments between the country and the city without altering the 2:1 ratio that so clearly benefited the LCL. Hence, the electoral inequality came to be known as the "Playmander". Playford and his government, aware of the consequences for democracy in this state, did not respond to allegations of despotism.

The response of the LCL was instead left to a later leader and Premier, Steele Hall. Following a brief term of Labor government from 1965, the LCL was returned to power in 1968 under Hall's leadership in

a decidedly controversial election: the “zenith of the malapportionment”⁶. On March 2nd, election day, the ALP published a statement in the *Advertiser* implying that the LCL was truly despotic; readers had a choice between Labor and the LCL “which thinks it should be allowed to decide what is best for you”. Even though the result of the poll was a 54% majority to Labor on a two-party preferred basis, Labor was unable to form government. In excess of 50,000 more votes were cast for the ALP than the LCL,⁷ yet the electoral system produced 19 seats for each party, with an independent member, T.C. Stott, elected as speaker with the casting vote that supported the LCL. The mandate of the government was most questionable, and the people’s frustration could no longer be ignored.

Credit should be given to Steele Hall’s LCL. Both parties had gone into the election promising electoral reform, although the ALP was promoting universal suffrage for the Legislative Council and a dramatic increase in the numbers of the Assembly, based on a “one vote-one value” principle. The LCL’s proposal was negligible in comparison. Public outrage following the LCL win catalysed action. Don Dunstan, leader of the ALP, refused to concede defeat for the six-week period until parliament returned. An intense campaign was mounted against the electoral system; extensive public rallies were held, as well as protests on the steps of Parliament House. Through this the Hall government lost credibility and needed to respond. In 1969, an act of electoral reform was passed that went some way to remedy the injustice which the LCL had supported for so long. Labor victory was virtually ensured at the next election, Hall passing a “statesman-like piece of self-denying legislation”.⁸

It was not, however, a unanimous decision. Steele Hall was criticised and fought by conservative members of his own party in the Legislative Council, already angered by his liberalism in continuing the Aboriginal and social policy instigated by Dunstan. According to an LCL member in the Council, the “popular catch-cry of ‘one vote-one value’” came from those who did not “stop to think of the real issues”.⁹ This discord should be noted when discussing the response of the LCL to public disillusionment.

Steele Hall’s reform did not address restricted franchise in the Legislative Council or totally remove the malapportionment, even though it did end the LCL’s support for rural over-representation. This was at last removed from the electoral system in 1974 under a Dunstan-led ALP government at the same time as universal franchise was granted for the Legislative Council. Ironically, both reforms were supported by Liberal members who, in response to public opinion, had changed their view to one where “every vote cast freely shall as near as mathematically possible . . . have an equal value”.¹⁰

It would be extreme to suggest that the LCL governments between 1933 and 1965 were despotic,

or that the conditions under which they were elected opposed the workings of a democracy. Nonetheless, aspects of the electoral system in this period benefited the non-Labor side of politics. In response to public disillusionment following the 1968 election, the issue could no longer be ignored. Steele Hall introduced legislation that made way for the complete abolition of malapportionment in South Australia. But until 1969, and with significant in-fighting and reservation, the LCL did nothing to adjust the blatant inequality which partly accounted for its electoral success.

Note: This issue is political. Opinions are consequently influenced by ideological preferences. *The Flinders History of South Australia: Political History*, edited by Dean Jaensch, should not be biased since he and the majority of the contributing authors are political commentators as well as historians and therefore should not favour any particular party. However, some of Jaensch’s figures have been disputed, particularly by R.C. DeGaris in his 1976 report *Reappraisal of the ‘Functional Gerrymander’*, and this indicates that Jaensch’s findings cannot be relied upon as the sole source showing the extent of malapportionment. It should be recognised that DeGaris was a Liberal leader in the Legislative Council at the time of his report and had a motive behind making the LCL look less despotic. While DeGaris criticises Jaensch’s statistics, he does not deny his conclusions and the sources used in conjunction are more reliable.

A range of other sources were used to provide background and of these the newspaper sources undoubtedly demonstrate bias. Excerpts from the *Advertiser* show preference to the LCL. This is particularly true of editorials: that of March 1st, 1968, refers to Labor’s previous term of government as the “Dismal Years”. This bias was taken into account and it does show the medium’s conscious attempt to sway public opinion. The “Letters to the Editor” section of the newspaper is useful in that it gives the more varied public perspective of the time.

Footnotes:

- ¹ R. Cox: Letters to the Editor, *Advertiser*, 8 March 1968, p. 2.
- ² D. Jaensch: *The Government of South Australia*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia, 1977, p. 54.
- ³ *ibid.*, p. 47.
- ⁴ D. Jaensch: “A Functional ‘Gerrymander’ – South Australia 1944-1970”, *The Australian Quarterly*, Dec. 1970, p. 96.
- ⁵ D. Jaensch: *The Government of South Australia*, p. 46.
- ⁶ D. Jaensch (ed.): *The Flinders History of South Australia: Political History*, Wakefield Press, Netley, 1986, p. 391.
- ⁷ Political Reporter: “Setback for Labor in SA”, *Advertiser*, 4 March 1968, p. 1.
- ⁸ A. Parkin: “Transition, innovation, consolidation, readjustment: the political history of South Australia since 1965”, in Jaensch: *The Flinders History of South Australia*, p. 298.
- ⁹ *South Australian Parliamentary Debates*, 1968-1969, p. 3045, cited by Jaensch: *The Government of South Australia*, p. 57.
- ¹⁰ *South Australian Parliamentary Debates*, 1973, p. 90, *loc. cit.*

Claudia Oakeshott matriculated last year from Walford Anglican School for Girls and won a Federal Government Australian Student Prize for History. She is currently studying for a double degree in Science and Law at the University of Adelaide.

German connections

Two recent publications about German settlers in Victoria may be of interest to Society members as they contain material about emigrating to and then from South Australia.

Thomas A. Darragh & Robert N. Wuchatsch: *From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay: German Emigration to Port Phillip (Australia Felix) 1848-51* (Wendish Heritage Society Australia, Melbourne, 1999)

This book details the pioneering role of the Wendish group of Germans in Victoria, providing excellent background and thoughtful insights on the motivation for their migration and their activities in Australia.

The book's main focus on the Wends warrants the attention of South Australian readers because of the Wendish migration to South Australia and the subsequent movement of many of them during the gold rushes to Victoria where, by 1861, there were some 10,500 Germans (slightly less than 2% of the total population), the largest group of non-British migrants after the Chinese. The book covers the beginnings of German emigration to Victoria (there was a substantial German presence dating back to 1849), including the significance of South Australia as the original place of destination.

Darragh and Wuchatsch examined a wide range of under-utilised sources, many previously unknown to Australian readers. They extensively researched German and Australian newspapers and material in the Brudergemeinde (Moravian) Archives at Herrnhut (Saxony) and the early reactions and experiences of ten Port Phillip Germans are described from a collection of letters written to the homeland. There are brief biographies of several emigrants, mentioned in a book by Carl Traugott Hoehne in 1853, which raise the question of whether the new settlers succeeded in their move to Australia.

The appendices list as many names as possible of the almost 800 Germans who arrived prior to Victoria's separation from New South Wales, including passengers from the *Godeffroy*, *Wappaus*, *Dockenhuden*, *Emmy*, *Pribislaw*, *Alfred* and *Sophie*, some of which had already docked at Port Adelaide en route to Port Phillip.

From Hamburg to Hobsons Bay will be of great interest to persons with German or Wendish ancestry as well as those interested in settlement history and in the problems faced by non-English speakers in an English-speaking environment. (There is scope in this respect for a comparative analysis with the South Australian experience.) The illustrative material includes shipping advertisements, emigration documents and photographs which social historians and general readers will find illuminating.

The book retails in hardback at \$45 (plus \$5.50 postage) and is available from the authors at P.O. Box 189, World Trade Centre, Victoria 3005.

Frank Cusack (ed.): *Bendigo -- the German chapter* (German Heritage Society, Bendigo, 1998)

Essentially the story of the German contribution to the development of Bendigo in the nineteenth century, this volume was compiled and edited by Frank Cusack, a long-time and enthusiastic devotee of the history of Bendigo and its environs. The book comprises eighteen chapters of varying length and quality by a number of authors in some 130 pages, of which 40 pages are devoted to mining and geological matters. The appendices include an 81-page list of the names and biographical details of members of Bendigo's earliest German community, in which individuals and families from South Australia are well represented.

While it is largely intended for Bendigonians, the book contains stories and material that South Australians interested in German ancestry may find helpful. The importance of German architects to the design and building of Bendigo and its regional infrastructure and the significance of artists, religious leaders, teachers and social support through the German Club ("Der Deutscher Verein") are well commented upon. David Dunstan's chapter on "The Vignerons" is the best in the book.

Mining for gold brought most of the Germans to the region in the nineteenth century and in this regard there is a strong South Australian connection. "The Quartz-Reefers", Ralph Birrell's review of the efforts of Germanic miners at the quartz mines of central Victoria from 1851 through to the mid-1870s, is brief but his 33-page compilation of German claim-holders from 1863 to 1872 will be a useful reference for those interested in aspects of, or individuals on, the goldfields. Apart from this chapter, there are two specific mining chapters -- "Adventurers" and "The Enclaves" -- which both refer to some colourful characters and places on the diggings, again including the South Australian connection.

As an aside, Renate Vollmer's detailed study of migration from Clausthal in Germany, *Auswanderungspolitik und soziale Frage im 19. Jahrhundert: staatlich geförderte Auswanderung aus der Berghauptmannschaft Clausthal nach Südaustralien, Nord- und Südamerika 1848-1854*, which is cited as a source of information in the introduction to *Bendigo*, is a valuable source of information for anyone interested in the political and social aspects of nineteenth-century German migration to South Australia. This was Vollmer's doctoral dissertation published by Peter Lang in Frankfurt-am-Main in 1995. She also published an article on the migration of northern German miners to Australia in the *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, Vol. 44, 1998.

Bendigo -- the German chapter retails in paperback at \$49.50 (plus \$5.50 postage) and is available from the German Heritage Society (Bendigo), P.O. Box 44, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555.

--- Bernard O'Neil