

No. 197

September 2008

HISTORY SA

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

YOUR INVITATION TO THE HSSA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Seymour College (formerly Presbyterian Girls' College) has kindly agreed to host the Society's Christmas Party on Sunday 30 November from 3-5pm. This is a special opportunity for you to enjoy the historic and attractive grounds of one of Adelaide's leading schools for girls and to view historic Wootton Lea and the memorabilia collection housed in Oodnadatta Cottage.

When: Sunday 30 November 2008

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Access: 546 Portrush Rd, Glen Osmond

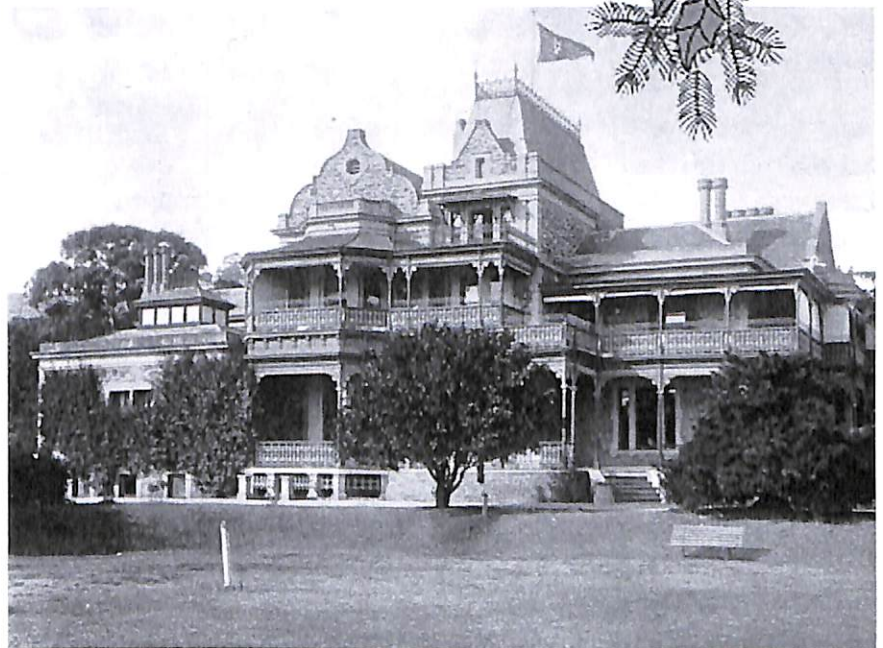
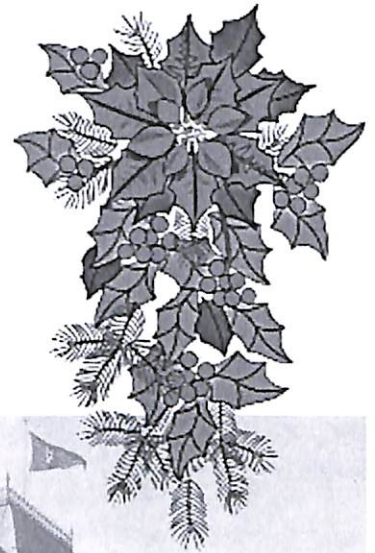
Seymour College's drive is next door to the former Abergeldie Hospital and guests will need to follow the long drive until they are directed to parking

Cost: \$20

Bookings: Avis Huckel
phone 8277 2953

I look forward to your company at our final event for 2008.

See you there!
David Cornish
President



*The main house (1922) built by Mr F.H. Faulding in 1861.
(Courtesy Seymour College)*



New HSSA Council Member - Margaret Cliff

Margaret has been a keen member of HSSA for the last 2 years. Since her retirement from nursing she has been able to follow her interests of walking and gardening, and her major interest, history. Travel is another of her pursuits and this she has been able to combine with her fascination with the past. China and Turkey are two of her favourite destinations.

Margaret worked for 30 years with children and in mid-wifery at the Women's and Children's Hospital. She has now taken up voluntary work visiting and helping elderly people in the community, and this has fostered an interest in oral history as she listens to their tales of the past. She is pleased to have been elected to the Council and is prepared to work hard on your behalf!

From the President

Welcome to *History SA!*

Never a dull moment as President of the Historical Society of South Australia! Council has recently spent a considerable amount of time planning for the Society's 2009 program, taking into consideration ideas we receive from members and from speakers we have heard in all manner of places. We are also look at interesting destinations for our *Visiting SA's History* tours. Whilst not ready to give too much away, I will say that 2009 will be another action packed value for money year for HSSA members. Watch this space!

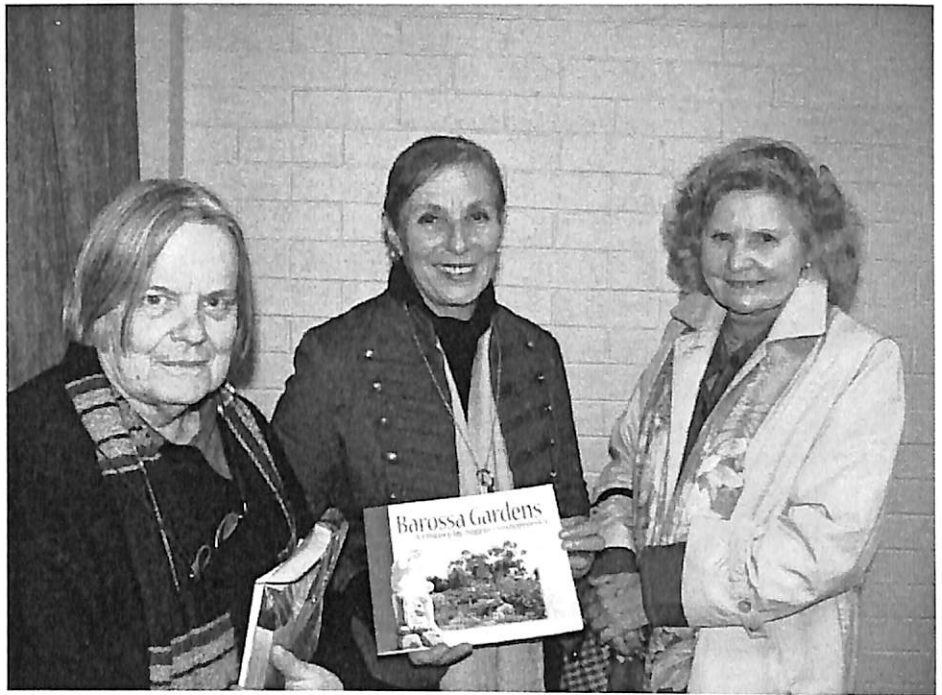
I was interstate for the July meeting and was sorry to miss Peter Adamson's lecture, and I received much feedback from members and guests who had enjoyed Peter's presentation. Thank you Peter for bringing so much enjoyment (and so many memories) to your appreciative audience.

Several years ago the Society was privileged to hear from Barossa Valley historian Angela Heuzenroeder on the history of food in her home region, particularly the German influences, and to sample mouth watering examples of local cuisine. At the August meeting we were again joined by Angela and the audience greatly appreciated her presentation on gardens in the Barossa. Slides of the gardens of such places as Anlaby (both then and now), Lindsay Park, and humble cottage gardens illustrated the breadth of Angela's subject, and highlighted some of the places which Angela will share with us on the forthcoming Society visit to the Barossa Valley.

I encourage you to join me at the HSSA Christmas Party at Seymour College. You will have the opportunity to visit historic Oodnadatta Cottage and to meet the college's historian Margaret McDonald. It is planned that our party will be held on the delightful cottage lawn, with guests enjoying drinks and nibbles, and the famous Christmas raffle complete with the Presidential Christmas Cake as first prize! The Christmas Party is also my opportunity to join you in a relaxed atmosphere and to conclude the Society's year by thanking you for your participation.

I would also like to encourage you to peruse the list of books which the society has for sale. This interesting collection has been made available through the generosity of Melbourne based member Dr John Jenkin (author of the Bragg family biography) and John has generously donated the proceeds of the sale to the Society. Thank you John!

David Cornish
President



August's Discovering SA's History's speaker Angela Heuzenroeder (centre) with Marie Littler (left) and Nelia Thomas (right) with Angela's book Barossa Gardens

Publications Received

Publications received this month include, *History News*, the newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, *History West*, the newsletter of the Western Australian Historical Society, the newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of SA Inc. and *Agora, Civics and Citizenship*, the journal of the History Teachers' Association of Victoria. Also received are newsletters from the Burnside Historical Society, the Kensington and Norwood Historical Society, the Mount Horrocks Historical Society, the Walkerville Historical Society and the Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society Inc. These publications will be available on the table of free publications at the next meeting.

Book Sale

Members are reminded that they can sell books they have written from the book table at meetings. HSSA will retain 10% of the cost of each book sold.

Visiting SA's History

September 2008

Sunday – 21 September

Gardens of the Barossa: style and survival

\$40.00 per person. Bookings essential

Tour guide Dr Angela Heuzenroeder

Though the forthcoming trip is fully booked, there are a few spaces available on the bus for members who may want to take their own lunch. If you wish to be included on this interesting outing please contact Avis ph 8277 2953.



Visit to the Austbuilt Maritime Museum 13 July

After a wonderful lunch in the heritage listed 1856 Railway Hotel, on the corner of St Vincent and Lipson Streets, Avis and I meandered through this maritime heart of South Australia to 95 Fletcher Rd, Peterhead, home of the newly acquired Austbuilt Maritime Museum. This museum was donated lock, stock, and bouys to the Port Adelaide Historical Society in 2004 by a remarkable seaman, Mr Keith LeLeu AM, who collected everything nautical.

On the footpath stood Mr Lawrie Shields; Secretary, directing our 22 members inside to visit the premises and be welcomed by Mr Doug West, President, and some 10-12 members of the Port Adelaide Historical Society.

Afternoon tea was to be a tea and biscuits affair but their members decided this was not good enough, so supplied a banquet of cakes, sandwiches, and assortments which was greatly appreciated by all.

In 2004 Avis and myself were privileged to witness the hand-over by Mr Keith LeLeu to Mr Doug West and to see the enormous amount this man collected through his working life. There was so much we could only walk sideways in places. To see how the dedicated members of this society have re-organised this vast collection is remarkable and a credit to all.

There is so much to see we could have stayed much longer and will visit again soon. Besides, there is a lot more interesting memorabilia to be unearthed and displayed. I am hesitant to describe what all the artifacts, books, and photographs are, but do highly recommend a visit by all and sundry, soon! You definitely will not be disappointed.

Colin Deed

ABOUT THE PORT ADELAIDE MARITIME HISTORICAL SERVICES AND KEITH LELEU

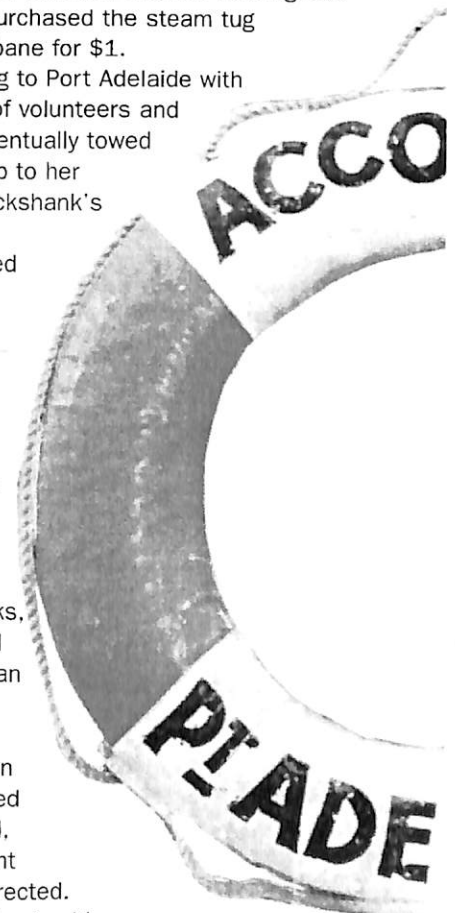
The Port Adelaide Maritime Historical Services and the Austbuilt Maritime Museum were created by the dedicated efforts of Mr. Keith LeLeu (1926-2006). Keith was a life-long seaman, who commenced collecting nautical material over his working life. In 1972 Keith purchased the steam tug *Fearless* in Brisbane for \$1.

He sailed the tug to Port Adelaide with the assistance of volunteers and *Fearless* was eventually towed on a King tide up to her position on Cruickshank's Corner.

The funnel carried a \$1 sign that denoted the purchase price. It was planned to create a Maritime Park in that area, but the plan was foiled by cost.

Keith set about gathering... books, photographs and parts of Australian and world-wide shipping... then installing them on the land he owned on Fletcher Road, where the present buildings were erected.

Owing to his failing health, Keith LeLeu handed his property and collection to the Port Adelaide Historical Society in 2004 and they commenced to catalogue, and prepare for display, this wonderful accumulation of nautical material which is the legacy of that generous man.



Extract from the Ausbuilt Maritime Museum brochure, Port Adelaide Historical Society Inc.

Jill Swann

Mitcham Dairy Company at Carrick Hill

The talk is drawn from the findings from the Curatorial and Museum studies project completed by Jill Swann in June 2007 for the Director of Carrick Hill, Richard Heathcote.

**7.30pm Friday
3 October 2008**

**Burnside Community
Centre,
Cnr Portrush Road
and Greenhill Road,
Burnside**

Jill will outline the history of land ownership and tenancies of the site we now know as Carrick Hill, with a focus on the establishment of the Mitcham Dairy in 1881. The substantial cluster of buildings erected for the dairy company, and their uses, will be described. The Mitcham Dairy Company ceased to operate in 1886, and the subsequent 100 years of changing ownership and uses of the site will be related.

After World War II the dairy, cleverly modified for use as a glasshouse, became an important element in the gardening regime established by Ursula Hayward. Lady Hayward died in 1970. Following the death of Sir Edward Hayward in 1983, Carrick Hill was bequeathed to the state. Jill's talk will conclude with a brief summary of the demise and demolition of the remaining Mitcham Dairy buildings.



*The dairy/glasshouse which was formerly in the grounds of Carrick Hill.
(Carrick Hill Archive, reproduced with permission of the Director of
Carrick Hill)*

Jill worked as a teacher and teacher-librarian from 1970 to 2006.

She has researched, written and produced history resources, in print media and online, for students and teachers, and also researched the historical background for her family history.

While living in the United States in the early 1990s, Jill worked at the North Carolina Museum of History, as an Education officer and an artefact cataloguer.

In 2002 she became the first student to graduate with a Masters Degree in Studies in Art History, in the joint enterprise program between the University of Adelaide and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Jill returned to study in 2007, as one of the inaugural students in the Curatorial and Museum Studies program, which included cultural heritage research at Carrick Hill.

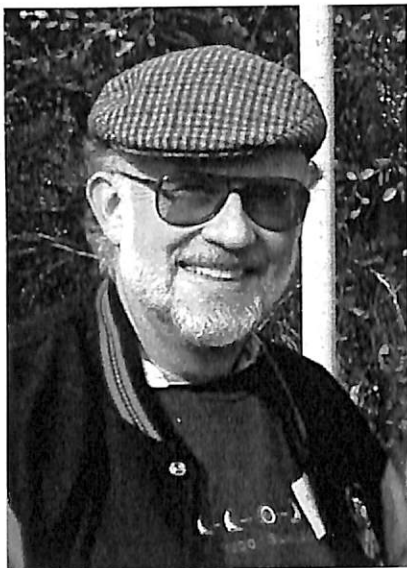
She is currently working with the curator of "The Cedars" at Hahndorf in cataloguing the private collection of Nora Heysen.

Richard Venus

The French Lady Cycliste: Une Catalyseuse

7.30pm Friday
7 November 2008

Burnside Community
Centre,
Cnr Portrush Road
and Greenhill Road,
Burnside



Richard Venus is a member and former chairman of Engineers Australia's heritage committee. He acquired his interest in engineering history in the mid-70s when he was asked to assist local authors Colin and Margaret Kerr to research electricity supply in the state.

Richard is currently working on the history of Southcott Pty Ltd, a family owned business now more than 120 years old that played a part in the development of Adelaide's automotive industry.

(Behind Richard in the picture is an Oppenheimer steel pole from the East-West telegraph line –but that's another story.)



*The first petrol driven motor car constructed in Adelaide
(Courtesy State Library of South Australia, B 7485)*

As the 19th century drew to a close, Adelaide was poised to enter the Age of the Automobile. Up at Mannum, David Shearer had proved to his own satisfaction that he could build a steam-powered auto-mobile (ie, a machine capable of propelling itself). But it was not until the dawn of the twentieth century that the first locally built car (pictured above) was rolled out of Vivian Lewis's workshop in McHenry Street, just off Gawler Place (then called Freeman Street).

Others followed. T J Richards had moved his carriage building business from Mitcham to Hindmarsh Square in 1901. Later they moved to Keswick and were taken over by the Chrysler Corporation and, in turn, by the ill-fated Mitsubishi. Around the corner in Grenfell Street, Holden & Frost had their saddlery business which expanded into building car bodies and later joined with General Motors.

But where did it all start? The catalytic event that struck the spark that lit the fuse was the visit of the French lady cycliste, Mademoiselle Serpollet, who clearly set hearts a-flutter with her dark Parisienne eyes and daring

divided skirts. She drove an engine-powered tricycle around the Jubilee Oval in 1898 and sent the local lads dashing off to their workshops to start making automobiles of their own.

But who was she? We don't even know her full name and, given her role in Adelaide's automotive history, we should.

"Cherchez la femme!" was the advice of Alexandre Dumas, in *The Count of Monte-Cristo*, to someone wanting to uncover a secret. So Richard Venus set himself the task of "finding the woman".

Following a clue he found in a microfilm from the Mormon genealogical archives in Utah, Richard's search has taken him literally around the world. Finally, in the Ain district of the Rhône-Alps, he was able to confirm his hypothesis – that she was indeed a member of the famous Serpollet family that founded the French automobile industry.

Now, 110 years after her catalytic visit, it will be Richard's honour to reintroduce Mademoiselle Serpollet to an Adelaide audience.

The 17th State History Conference was held in August 2008, at Sunnybrae Farm Function Centre, Regency Park. Along with many others I spent a very enjoyable day on Sunday 3rd August at the lovely venue of Sunnybrae Farm.

The first speaker for the morning session was Jude Elton who spoke on "Tailor made to Sweated Trade, Adelaide 1836-1916." Jude Elton is currently a researcher with the Centre for Work and Life at the University of South Australia.

Wealthy people could afford to have clothes made by hand by well paid tailors or seamstresses. Others made their own or obtained them second hand. 1875 marked the arrival of the sewing machine. This enabled mass production of ready made clothing, and the employment of less skilled workers. Production expanded into factories and homes. Competition for work drove wages down and hours up. By the 1890's the clothing trades had become infamous as the "sweated trade."



Keynote speaker, Mark Peel (Courtesy History Trust of SA)

Next I was enthralled by Dr. Sally Stephenson's presentation "The Unemployment Relief Scheme Settlement at Meadows 1934." Dr Stephenson is a resident of Meadows and is helping with the town's Sesquicentenary (150) in 2009. She works as a freelance historian, oral historian, natural and cultural heritage interpreter and writer.

In May 1934, 24 families with 130 children moved from the city to Meadows, with the promise of improved housing, employment and education. Meadows was one of nine such colonies.



The Conference venue, Sunnybrae Farm, (Sylvia Fanning)

With visual and audio material from witnesses of the time Dr Stephenson set out to disprove newspaper descriptions of the scheme with its "roomy bungalows filled with many windows", set in the "beautiful country side that would create rosy cheeked children." In fact the brooding shed with a hundred chickens could not support a family. Many did not stay as there was no running water, and the return on the chicken eggs very small. The settlers too were ostracized by the then townsfolk.

The last of the morning's speakers was Jim Douglas who gave us sketches from his book *Movers and Shakers, Union Activists in South Australia*. Jim started work as an apprentice fitter and machinist in 1960 and joined the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union. After 20 years in the railways Jim was appointed Industrial Coordinator of the Public Service Association and was part of a team who transformed the association into a Union.

Jim was appointed to record and write the history of 54 working men and women.

Starting with the pain and anguish experienced during World War One, he continued to document the years of the Depression, the Second World War and up to the Howard years. These histories were taken from activists who have made a difference in South Australia, fighting for the workers' rights and social justice.

At 11 o' clock we had a morning tea of delicious scones and jam and cream. One of our members was heard to say to her partner, who was tucking in to a second scone, "Didn't you have any breakfast?" I must admit I went back for another half!

At 11.30 Keryn Walshe gave us her paper entitled "History from Under the Floor at the Adelaide Gaol." Keryn Walshe is the Senior Collection Manager for the Aboriginal and Archaeological Collection at the S.A. Museum.



*Conference lunch
(Courtesy History Trust of SA)*

This archaeological work is ongoing and helping with our understanding of the temporary settlement on the southern bank of the River Torrens 1836-1840. The first female block of the gaol was completed in 1841 and still stands within the gaol precinct. Recent archaeological investigations have started beneath the floor, raising more questions than answers. Some finds include Indigenous implements fashioned from glass, ceramics and sheep bone.

Greg Drew brought the morning to a close with his paper on "Pugholes and Brickworks in the Western Suburbs." Greg Drew is senior geologist for South Australia's Abandoned Mine Project, which is responsible for identifying and managing risks at abandoned mine sites.

Due to the absence of timber suitable for building purposes, brick making started in South Australia soon after the establishment of the colony in 1836. Hand-moulded primitive bricks made from clay from the River Torrens were banned in 1840. Brick making moved to Brompton, Torrensville and Beverley, where for the next 100 years they dug out pug (clay) holes and later filled them in. By the 1960's these clay sources were near exhaustion, forcing producers to develop new plants at clay deposits near Golden Grove. All that remains of a once significant brick manufacturing industry is the Hoffmann kiln in the Brickworks Market complex, and four small kilns at Beverley.



*Film Session
(Courtesy History Trust of SA)*

After a pleasant lunch admiring the gardens, we spent the afternoon watching the archival film "This Splendid Hobby of Ours." These films were shot on 8 and 16 mm film from two film making clubs, dating back to 1930's. These were the Adelaide FILMO Club and the S.A. Amateur Cine Society. The films are all silent, but with newly composed soundtrack music and tight editing they made an entertaining finish to the conference.

Margaret Anderson spoke of future venues for State History Conferences, Kadina being proposed for next year and Murray Bridge the following.

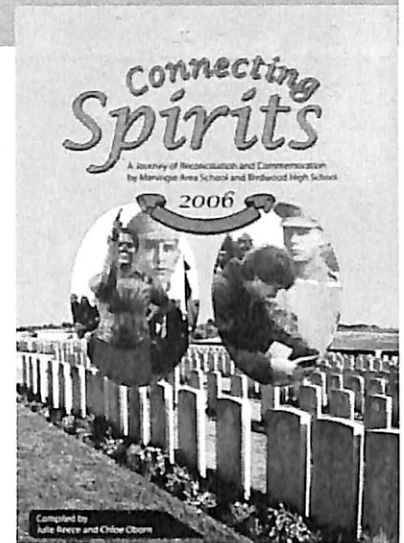
Sylvia Fanning

SA History in Print

***Connecting Spirits* Julie Reece and Chloe Oborn (Eds) (Birdwood High School, 2007)**

This is the story of a journey of reconciliation and commemoration to the battlefields of Western Europe by a group of students from Meningie Area School and Birdwood High School. It records the students' visit to various battlefields, the recollections and the emotions. Significantly, it also records the contribution of a number of Indigenous Australians who served in the 1st AIF who have largely been forgotten. You don't have to have visited the Western Front to appreciate this lovingly produced book.

Available from Julie Reece, Birdwood High School, Shannon Street, Birdwood 5234, telephone 8568 5100 or at HSSA meetings. Price \$25.00 plus postage.

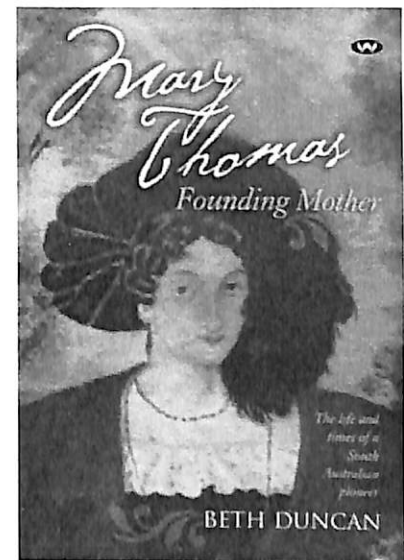


***Mary Thomas. Founding Mother* Beth Duncan (Wakefield Press, 2007)**

Mary Thomas (1787-1875) was a founding pioneer of South Australia. Her husband, Robert Thomas, a law stationer and publisher, with George Stevenson started the colony's first newspaper, The South Australia Gazette and Colonial Register. The family continued its involvement with the newspaper industry for many decades.

This is a readable, well-researched work, and, as the author says, 'this is not only Mary's story; she shares much of it with all women who reached South Australia during the first years of settlement' – the good and the bad times. A revealing look at early colonial life.

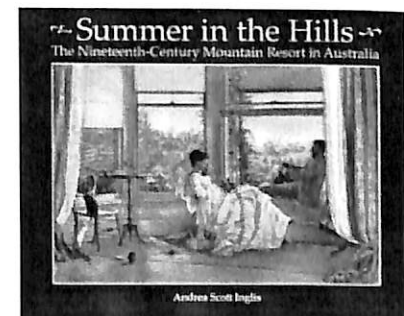
Available from Wakefield Press (Kent Town), bookshops and at HSSA meetings. Price \$40.00.



***Summer in the Hills. The Nineteenth-Century Mountain Resort in Australia* Andrea Scott Inglis (Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2007)**

This is a good companion to The Lasting Hills. Although not readily identified with South Australia, the 'mountain resorts' were a significant feature in upper-class colonial society in eastern Australia, and Arthur Hardy's Mount Lofty House was in effect a 'mountain resort'. The author paints a wonderful picture of this life style. For the most part, she draws on the mountain resorts of Melbourne and Sydney, but does discuss some of the residences at Mount Lofty and the Vice-Regal Summer Residence at Marble Hill. A fascinating look at an era of privilege.

Available from Australian Scholarly Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 299, Kew, Victoria 3101 <www.scholarly.info> . Price \$44.00.



***The Lasting Hills. Essays in the History of the Adelaide Hills* Robert Martin (Ed.) (The Author, 2006)**

The title of this book is from Deuteronomy and is apt. It contains essays by seven researchers who are familiar with aspects of the history of the Adelaide Hills. The topics covered are gold mining, the cherry industry, hotels and roads, and there are profiles of two prominent early residents, Arthur Hardy of Mount Lofty and James Turnbull Thomson, founder of Balhannah. A wealth of interesting reading.

Available at HSSA meetings. Price \$20.00



SA History in Print

***South Australian History Sources* Andrew G. Peake (Gould Books, 2007)**

Researching family or local history? You will find this reference book invaluable. Based on over 30 years of practical experience in researching family history, this is a great source of information for researchers. Highly recommended.

Available from Gould Books, PO Box 675, Modbury 5092 <www.gould.com.au> or at HSSA meetings. Price \$40.00 (plus postage).

***Haven on the Hill. Old Government House, Belair* Pam Tambllyn (Friends of Old Government House, Belair, 2007)**

This is the story of an important heritage building located in Belair National Park. The book describes the origins and history of the property, originally known as Government Farm, and its role as the Colony's first Vice-Regal Summer residence. The house has had various uses over the years and has been restored to its original form since the formation of the Friends group in 1983.

Available from Old Government House, Belair NP and at HSSA meetings. Price \$18.00.

***The Insect Man. Adelaide's First Entomologist* John G. Wilson (Seaview Press, 2008)**

Charles Algernon Wilson (1818-1884) was South Australia's first entomologist. He arrived in the young colony in 1838 aged 21 and set about collecting and describing the insects he found in his new home. He wrote many articles about insects for the journals and newspapers of his day. He became well-known as an authority on insects and was consulted by commercial horticulturists about how to best control insect pests in their crops (most were introduced and not native species.)

Entomology was Wilson's hobby; he was a solicitor in his working life and served as the Registrar of Probates and Commissioner of Inland Revenue and Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court. He was instrumental in the movement to establish a museum in Adelaide. His 'good, honest, cultured, and thoroughly amiable' character comes through in Dr Wilson's book about his ancestor.

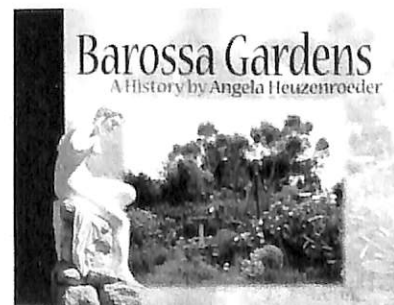
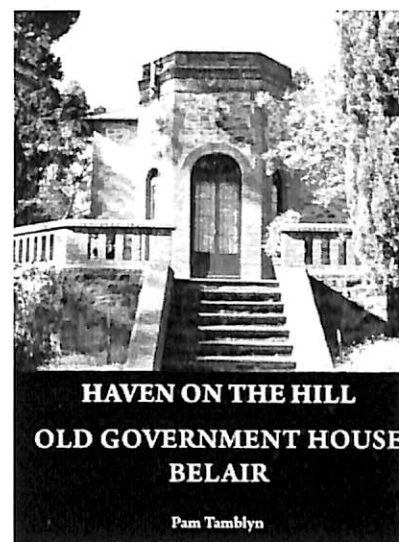
Available from Dr J.G. Wilson, 108 Childers Street, North Adelaide 5006, telephone 8267 6056. Price \$35.00 plus postage. Order forms available at HSSA meetings.

***Barossa Gardens. A History* Angela Heuzenroeder (The Author, 2007)**

This is a voyage through the gardens of the Barossa Valley, past and present. It takes the reader through cottage and formal gardens, also public, private and shared gardens. It puts the gardens in a historical perspective but does not dwell on the story of any particular sites. Gardens are ephemeral creations (except for long-lived trees and the weedy species that seem to survive regardless of drought and storm) and this fact is recorded, perhaps sadly, in this book.

Available from the author (PO Box 60, Tanunda 5352; <angieheuz@ozemail.com.au> or at HSSA meetings. Price \$25.00 (plus postage).

Geoffrey Bishop

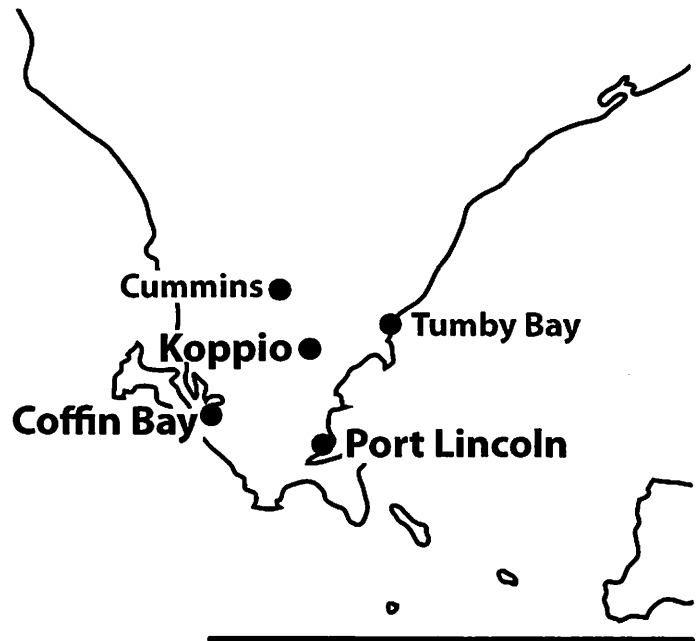


News from Lower Eyre Peninsula

Old Oyster Town

Though oyster farming continues in Coffin Bay little remains of the once thriving Old Oyster Town. From as early as 1849 oysters were being dredged in Coffin Bay and shipped to Adelaide from Port Lincoln, and by 1870 30 cutters were at work with an average of 60,000 bushels exported annually. Three hundred and fifty oysters were bagged in each wheat sack, and the top sewn up. With 18,000 sacks filled annually, by 1890 oyster stocks were low.

However, for many years Old Oyster Town was a thriving fishing village. Once a fortnight supplies arrived by waggon from Port Lincoln and the bags of oysters were taken to be sent to Adelaide where they sold at two shillings a dozen.



Koppio Smithy Museum

This extensive museum is situated 40 minutes drive from Port Lincoln, between Port Lincoln and Cummins. It is based around Tom Brennand's 1903 blacksmith's shop and cottage, which are set up and documented to reflect that era. The Koppio one teacher school was brought to the site in 1971, housing school records, photos, and students' work. There is a large collection of vintage tractors and farm machinery, and sulkiés and buggies have been restored. The District Post Office and Old Bank, are fully furnished with technology of the past. In the grounds, among the 100 year old working water pumps is an area set up for barbecues and picnics, and it is possible to buy tea, coffee, sweets, and ice cream from the old Koppio Store.

Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society

This museum is in the old Port Lincoln Railway Station, a heritage listed building of Duck Pond Stone. The Society aims to preserve the history of a time when the Port Lincoln Division of the SAR employed over 500 men and women as officers, train crews, cleaners, maintenance gangs, and tradesmen. There are tools, documents, photographs, and communication equipment on display and rolling stock is being restored in the freight shed nearby.

The collection of railway memorabilia collected by two railway men at Edillie and stored in the old barracks was unfortunately destroyed during the 2005 bushfire. The museum in Port Lincoln is worth a visit.

123 Years Still Singing: The Adelaide Male Voice Choir

The AMVC was founded in 1884 as the Adelaide English Glee Society, as the only choir in Adelaide at that time was the Adelaide Liedertafel, singing always in German. The Adelaide English Glee Society, later the Adelaide Glee Club, first met in rooms which later became part of the Regent Theatre in Rundle St, and for the first performance travelled by dray to Coromandel Valley. The conductor at the time was Mr MH Evans, of Prince Alfred College. Peter Dawson and Percy Grainger are well known names who have been involved with this choir.

Concerts were given to raise funds for the Bushmen's Corps during the Boer War, and for the Red Cross and other patriotic causes during World War One and World War Two. Recent concerts have supported the National Trust of South Australia and cranial facial surgery for children in Nepal.

The current conductor, Mr William Shaw, has been conducting for 23 years, and as the choir is still singing after 123 years, it considers itself as part of "living history!"

By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

The collection of family papers donated by Shirley Cameron Wilson's executors after her death cover more than 200 different archival series in a variety of subjects in many different formats, including correspondence, original artworks, published material, photographs, militaria, realia and interviews on audio-cassettes. They reflect in particular her great interest in her family history and women artists, which resulted in her two publications: *The Bridge Over The Ocean* in 1973, a history of her ancestor Thomas Wilson, his art collection and the establishment of a SA family dynasty, written in association with Mr. K.T. Borrow, and *From Shadow Into Light: South Australian Women Artists Since Colonisation*, in 1988. Miss Wilson inherited the archival papers not only of her Wilson ancestors but also those of her mother's Strawbridge line (William Strawbridge was a Surveyor-General of South Australia) and through her mother's sister Ethelwynne Giles, who married a grandson of William Giles, colonial manager of the South Australian Company, a collection of her father-in-law Henry Giles' family and business papers. Shirley Cameron Wilson's grandmother was a sister of Stephen King, a member of John McDouall Stuart's 1862 expedition, and the Stephen King and King family papers were also collected by her. At the time of her death in 2003 she was preparing her manuscript about J. W. Billiatt, Stephen King's first cousin (and later his brother-in-law), a fellow Stuart expedition member. The book *John William Billiatt: Explorer, Adventurer and Tutor* was published by her executors in 2006.

A CD-ROM copy of Colonel William Light's last will and testament, signed 26 August 1839 and witnessed by H. Nixon, John Brown and Charles Mann, bequeathing all his estate to his 'housekeeper Miss Maria Gandy', has been obtained for the Light collection. Also included is a document from the Supreme Court of South Australia, re the 'verification of the will' which documents Maria Gandy's claim to the estate and 'sworn at my residence in Gilbert Street Adelaide on the seventeenth day of October 1839 before me, Charles Cooper' (Judge). The will of Sir Samuel Way, Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice, dated July 1914, is also available on CD-ROM.

Papers of Graham Jenkin consisting of the Kropinyeri Collection of scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings (with index) relating to Aboriginal people, with an addendum entitled 'Between the wars', have been donated. Jenkin's well known work *Conquest of the Ngarrindjeri* was published in 1979. Two papers by John Rymill, 'The Organisation of Expeditions to the Antarctic' and a transcript of a talk he gave for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's 'This Wide World' series of talks on October 8, 1967 (a recording already held by the Library) are available. He was involved in the British Arctic Air Route Expedition of Greenland in 1930-1931 and the British Graham Land Expedition during the years 1934-1937. Records of the Cornish Carol Choir, formerly the Moonta Harmony Choir, including concert programmes, programme committee details, sheet music, books of published Cornish Christmas carols, and a brief history of the choir, have been collected by the last president of the choir.

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries December 14, 2008.

Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

PO Box 519 Kent Town, SA 5071

email secretary@hssa.org.au

website www.hssa.org.au

President: Mr David Cornish

Vice-President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Terry Saunderson ph 83542736 (business hours)

Bookings: Mrs Avis Huckel ph 8277 2953

Newsletter Editor: Janet Callen ph 8278 8922 or newsletter@hssa.org.au

Journal Editor: Dr Brian Dickey ph 8278 5386

ISSN 1444-8459

History SA is published with the assistance of a grant from the Federal Department for the Environment and Heritage. Articles may be reproduced without permission provided they remain unaltered and *History SA* is acknowledged.

Coming Events

Burnside Historical Society

Meets at the Burnside Community Centre on the third Monday of the month at 8pm. On 20 October Dr Carol Fort's talk is entitled "Keeping a Trust-the Wyatt Benevolent Institution." On 17 November John Mannion will speak about Peterborough in World War Two, a largely forgotten story. Contact ph. 8332 1761.

Cummins Society

Cummins House, 23 Sheoak Ave, Novar Gardens is open on the first and third Sundays of the month from 2pm-4.30 pm. Eight dollars per person covers the cost of a guided tour of the house and a devonshire afternoon tea. Members meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Contact ph 8297 4447.

East Torrens Historical Society

Meets 8 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Adelaide Hills Resource Centre at Norton Summit. On 12 November Graham Polglase will speak on the history of Charles Birks Ltd-the story of a department store. Contact ph 8390 3390.

Kensington and Norwood Historical Society.

Meets at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Don Pyatt Room of the Norwood Town Hall. On 1 October Dr Susan Magarey's talk is entitled "Roma, the First Lady". Contact ph 8336 9539.

Marion Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7.30 on the third Wednesday of the month at the Cooina Recreation Centre Sturt Rd, behind the Council Chambers. On 15 October Dr Geoffrey Bishop's talk is entitled "Grape Growing and Wine Making", Contact ph 8296 5769.

Mount Barker and District Branch of the National Trust of SA

Meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Uniting Church in Mt Barker. On 7 October at 1.30pm Robert Martin will speak about his book *Under Mt Lofty*. Contact ph 8391 5014.

Port Adelaide Historical Society

Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the Semaphore Library at 8 pm. Contact ph 8248 3344.

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Meetings are held in the Goodman Building, Hackney Rd. On 30 October at 6 pm Ms Pamela Rajkowski will speak about Afghan camel men in Australia. On 27 November Ms Tanya Court will speak about the role of Landscape Architecture in Urban Design. Contact ph. 8207 7265.

Salisbury and District Historical Society

Meetings are held at the Heritage Centre, Ann St Salisbury, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. An excursion will be held on 11 October to three cemeteries in the Northern area. This is a tag-along tour, visiting Burton Primitive Methodist Cemetery, Sturton Chapel and Cemetery, and Gawler River Stonehill Methodist Cemetery. On 8 October Graham Vincent will speak about the National Railway Museum. Contact ph 8250 5077.

Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society

Meets at the City of Tea Tree Gully Learning Centre 571 Montague Rd Modbury. On 18 September at 7 pm Kevin Jones will speak on Adelaide as a Port of Immigration at the Highercombe Hotel Museum. For details contact ph 8251 4191.

Walkerville Historical Society Inc.

Meetings are held the third Wednesday on the month at 7.30 in the Hall on the corner of Stephen Tce and Walkerville Tce. Contact ph 8269 5982.

News from the Flinders University Archaeological Society

During Semester 2 a series of seminars will be held in Room 149, Social Sciences Building between 3pm and 5pm on Thursdays. Topics include details of Australian excavations at Zoara, Jordan, 2007-2008. This seminar is entitled "A Nabataean City Near the Dead Sea." It will be held on 9 October. On 16 October Dr Neale Draper will discuss "Kurna Villages- Aboriginal Mounds on the Adelaide Plains." On 23 October Professor Maciej Henneberg will discuss "Diseases in Antiquity." For details contact <donal .pate@flinders.edu.au> or ph 8201 2067.

News from Mount Horrocks Historical Society

On Sunday 28 September the Society is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Penwortham Wesleyan Chapel. The chapel has been demolished and a stone obelisk commemorates the site. There is a small cemetery nearby. A short service will be held followed by afternoon tea in John Horrocks' cottage. Descendants of pioneers in the area are especially welcome. Contact ph 8849 2410.