



# HISTORY SA

Newsletter of The Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated

No. 250 March 2019

## From the Co-President

Our heritage is shaped by persons who lived 'outside the square' and as innovators made their place in the world, as well as making their State and nation a better place. The Historical Society of South Australia's 2019 program acknowledges, among others, three particular South Australians: Mary Lee and brothers Ross and Keith Smith, whose lives achieved changes that are matters of pride in South Australia and beyond.

The Historical Society of South Australia features in the program of **SA's History Festival on Friday 3 May**, with our lecture meeting on the life and contributions of **Mary Lee**, with speaker **Denise George**.

After Mary Lee settled in 1879 in Adelaide she set to work in challenging discriminating laws, and joined campaigns to support a female refuge, improve women's working conditions and gain suffrage for women. By 1894, partly due to Mary's advocacy for social

justice, SA became the first place in the world to pass legislation to give women both the right to vote *and* be elected as MPs.

Denise George travelled to Ireland and England to access previously unused records on the life of Mary Lee while writing her biography. It was published by Wakefield Press.

Members should also watch events to celebrate the centenary of two local Adelaide brothers who made world history. In 1919, **Ross Smith**, as pilot, and his brother **Keith Smith**, as navigator, made a great achievement. They were the first men to fly from England to Australia.

The Smith brothers, Keith and Ross, were born in Adelaide in 1890 and 1892 respectively. They were educated in Queen's School, North Adelaide, and for two years in Scotland. After they returned to Australia, World War I was declared and the brothers wanted to enlist in the Imperial Armed Forces. Keith had been a pilot and so immediately joined the Royal Flying Corps in Britain. Though at first Ross served

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in the Australian Light Horse in Gallipoli, he wished to join his brother in aviation: he learned to fly and transferred to the Australian Flying Corps. He became an ace, and was decorated.

After World War I had ended, Australia in 1919 offered a prize of 10,000 pounds for an aviator to complete the first flight from Great Britain to Australia. The flight had to be achieved in 30 days, and be completed by 31 December 1919.

The Smith brothers entered the competition with two crew members, in a Vickers Vimy aircraft. On 12 November 1919 they left from Hounslow Heath Aerodrome, England, flew to Basra, Delhi and Singora, and landed finally at Darwin

on 10 December. They had made the flight in 28 days.

The Smith brothers were knighted. In 1922, during a test flight, Sir Ross was killed. Sir Keith died three decades years later, in 1955.

A rare opportunity to learn much more about these two brothers is to hear speaker **Lainie Anderson on Friday 4 October**.

Members can watch out for news of 2019 HSSA's excursions, the next being to the **Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum** on 12 April (see the brochure with this mailing).

*Pamela Rajkowski OAM,  
Co-President*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 3 May 2019 at the Burnside City Uniting Church, corner of Portrush Road and Fisher Street, Tasmore.

Nomination forms for the following office bearer positions are available from the Secretary: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Council Members.

Proposed changes to the Constitution, to be voted on at the meeting, are detailed opposite.

The Maurice Keain Medal for 2018's best book on SA history will be presented.

For further information please contact the Secretary (contact details on the final page of this Newsletter).

*Pamela Rajkowski and Geoffrey Bishop, Co-Presidents*

## Contributing to South Australia's History

### Amendments to the Constitution of the Historical Society of South Australia

During 2018 the council reviewed the constitution of the HSSA Inc. Mostly minor changes only have been proposed. Members are asked to read the proposed amendments in preparation for approval being called at the 2019 AGM on 3 May. In part, the constitution says that it 'may be amended by a three quarters ... majority of the votes cast at any Ordinary, Special or Annual General Meeting, provided thirty (30) days notice ... has been given to each financial member'.

*Bridget Jolly, Secretary*

### CONSTITUTION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

#### 4. SUBSCRIPTION FEES:

(b) Any member (other than a life or an honorary life member) who fails to pay the annual subscription fee within three months of the commencement of the Society's financial year as determined by the Council, shall be deemed to be unfinancial and therefore ineligible to vote or receive the benefits of the Society.

(c) The membership year shall coincide with the Society's financial year of 1 January to 31 December.

#### 5. COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY:

(i) The Council may appoint ~~Honorary~~ Editor(s) of Society publications.

(j) The Council shall appoint an Auditor.

(l) The Council shall meet a minimum of ~~six~~ five times per year.

#### 6. MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY:

##### 6.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

(a) Schedule and notification  
The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 31 May each year. At least thirty (30) days notice of such meeting shall be given to each member, either electronically or sent to the member's last known address, provided that

accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate such meeting.

##### 6.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS:

At least thirty (30) days notice of such meeting shall be given to each member either electronically or sent to the member's last known address, provided that accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate such meeting.

#### 7. ELECTIONS:

(c) Council elections shall be by show of hands or secret ballot postal ballot.

(d) An election will be required only if the number of nominees exceeds the number of vacant positions. ~~In this event the Secretary shall send the relevant ballot papers to each financial member, at the member's last known address, not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Completed ballot papers must reach the Society's postal address three (3) days preceding the Annual General Meeting.~~

#### 10. FINANCE:

(c) The Society shall establish an Endowment ~~and Life Members Fund~~ and allocate to this Fund any monies Council deems available for the purpose of investment. ~~Interest~~ Income from the fund may be used to:

- (i) assist with the Society's publications
- (ii) publish, at the Council's discretion, books, monographs or pamphlets, pertaining to the aims of the Society, which it considers desirable
- (iii) further the objects of the Society at the discretion of the Council.

~~Unless used to modify the investment portfolio the capital money monies invested in this Fund cannot be expended except on a recommendation of the Council to the membership and acceptance by a three-fifths (3/5) majority of the votes cast at any Special or Annual General Meeting, provided thirty (30) days notice of any proposed expenditure has been given to each member either electronically or sent to the member's last known address, provided that accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate such meeting.~~

Unless used to modify the investment

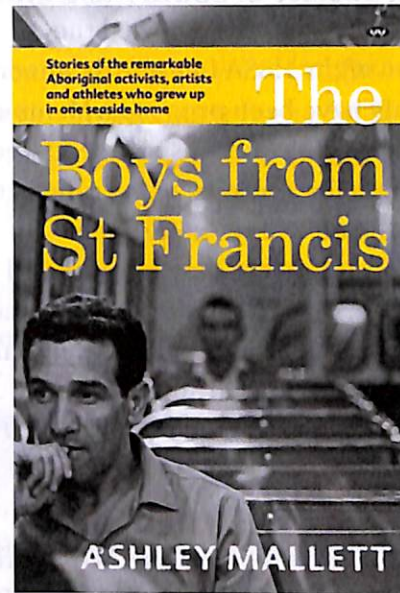
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Friday 5 April 7.30 pm

Ashley Mallett

**The Boys from St Francis: stories of the remarkable Aboriginal activists, artists and athletes who grew up in one seaside home**

Ashley Mallett has published 32 books. *The Boys from St Francis* (Wakefield Press) is a moving story about the high achievement of a group of Indigenous boys who either came to Adelaide with the blessing of their mothers or were among the Stolen Generations, to be resettled at an Anglican-owned home (Glanville Hall, later known as St Francis House) in Semaphore. Among the boys who attended were Charles Perkins, who excelled as a soccer international and the leading torchbearer in bringing the Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the fore; Dr John Moriarty, also an international soccer player, later a leading academic; and Harold Thomas, creator of the Aboriginal flag.



In all some 50 Indigenous boys lived and learnt at St Francis House between 1947 and 1959. The Boys from St Francis were like the Phoenix rising from the ashes of a stolen past, and rose to high achievement in Australian society.

All meetings take place at the Burnside City Uniting Church, corner of Portrush Road and Fisher Street, Tasmore.

Friday 3 May 7.30 pm

Denise George

**Mary Lee: the life and times of a 'turbulent anarchist'**

Mary Lee (1821-1909) spent the last thirty years of her life devoted to improving the lives and conditions, not only for women, but for many of the disenfranchised people of South Australia. She is best remembered for her contribution to the women's suffrage campaign. (For more details on Mary Lee, read the Co-President's remarks on p. 1 of this Newsletter.)

This meeting will include the Society's AGM, and is the Society's contribution to May's History Festival.



Denise George has a PhD in English and Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. The research undertaken in Ireland, England and Australia was driven by curiosity and a desire to reacquaint contemporary readers with Mary Lee. Her book is published by Wakefield Press.

### Visit by Historical Society of SA members to Darroch House, Briar Road, Felixstow, 8 February 2019

A carpark, some trees and garden and a tear-drop-shape lawn around which a drive once swept east is all that remains in front of Darroch House. To the rear, an expanse of shaved earth at nos. 8-14 Briar Road awaits 'development' with townhouses. In the 1920s the division of holdings began here with force: F. Trevenen Pitt, horticulturist and nurseryman, auctioned his land west of Darroch for 19 building sites. The subdivision on the north of the site of 22 acres, with fruit trees and plant, were to be sold at the same time (*Register*, 4 November 1920).

Darroch House's original 14 acres at Felixstow once was the 'domain of the Stows' (*Advertiser*, 12 Nov. 1861): the Rev. Thomas Quinton Stow (1801-1862), first Congregational minister in the colony, and three of his four sons, Randolph Isham, Augustine and Jefferson Pickman, who grew vineyards and orchards on the fertile alluvial soil to where the family had moved in 1843.

When sold in 1870, the Stow property was described as a house of nine rooms, with a 'splendid garden', coach-house, stabling, other outbuildings, and orchards growing on the 'finest garden soil'. Thomas Ballantyne, a butcher of Rundle Street (appointed butcher to the colonial Governor in 1870), bought the property of Randolph Stow QC in 1872. He probably moved there from residence at North Terrace, Adelaide, where some of his children were born. A daughter was born at Rose Cottage, Felixstow in August 1870.

Ballantyne died in 1884; his not inconsiderable effects were auctioned in 1885 (*Evening Journal*, 9 June 1885). The following owner, from 1886, was Annie Marshall, wife of James Waddell Marshall, draper and furniture warehouseman of Rundle Street. Annie died in 1911, some time before which extensions had made the house about 21 rooms, and a site for fancy-dress balls, cricket dinners, boomerang (or American) teas, where a gift is 'brought and bought' for charity, and quoits competitions added to funds.



Brian Samuels, David Faber, Susan Marsden, and Roger Andre at Darroch House

When in 1919 James A. C. Marshall bought his father's (James Marshall Sr's) property, the house stood 'majestically' among pine and orange trees, and some original walls of the home of Randolph Stow were said still to be standing. James Jr sold the property in 1938.

*Bridget Jolly*

Consult the Society's new website at <https://historicalsocietysa.wordpress.com/>

### HEADSTONE PROJECT SA – MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENORS

The Headstone Project SA seeks to find and commemorate returned First World War diggers who are lying in unmarked graves. As there are over 700 cemeteries in this state it's a huge task to firstly, find these men, verify their credentials and then place a headstone on their grave. We've had some success in Port Pirie but there's a long way to go.

We've managed to attract a number of people to help with the Project but we would like to find more. There've been recent moves at a Federal level to give financial support for this type of work. However, it is stressed that we are a volunteer organization - all our funding is used to memorialize our returned soldiers.

If you wish to find out more please don't hesitate to call either John Brownlie (0422181946) or myself Neil Rossiter (0402719626) anytime.

**Peter Spearritt, *Where History Happened: The Hidden Past of Australia's Towns and Places*, NLA Publishing, Canberra, 2018**

Without doubt *Where History Happened* is one of the most visually attractive books I've read.

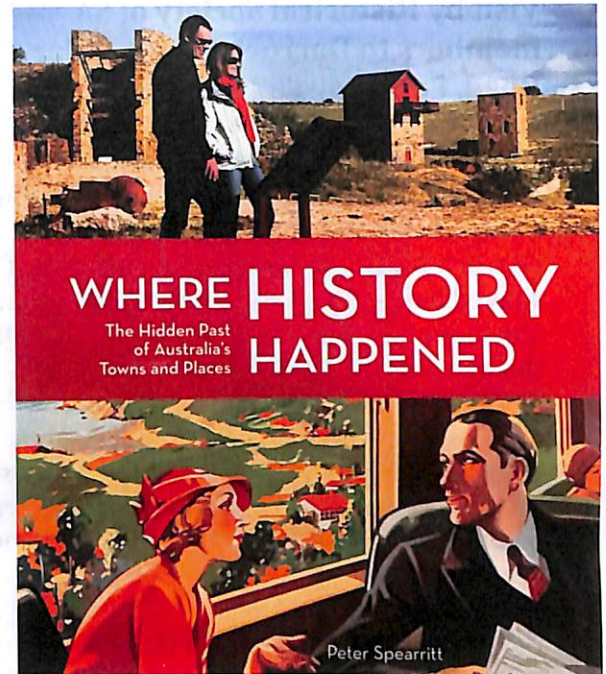
Drawn largely from the National Library's enormous collection of photographs, posters and paintings, it is an absolute pleasure to flick through, dwell on, dip into and finally absorb. If at first it appears as History Made Easy, there is no harm in that because this is an enticing presentation. Closer reading reveals a rich intelligence at work in both author and publishing team.

As the back cover notes tell us, author Emeritus Professor Peter Spearritt 'developed a taste for exploring Australia on long family trips from Melbourne to Brisbane in the 1950s and has visited every one of the places in this book'. It's an exercise requiring many thousands of kilometres recorded on car odometers, lots of dust (and maybe mud) on boots, as well as countless hours spent poring over archives and examining local history collections.

The book is structured alphabetically and geographically: beginning appropriately with the national capital in the Australian Capital Territory, then continuing via New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia as well as a further category designated Islands. In all there are 29 sites, half of which cover the eastern states of Spearritt's youthful travels.

The chapter dividers offer a splendid treat with the left-hand page mostly featuring 1930s Art Deco-style tourist brochures.

From a South Australian viewpoint we might feel underdone with just two entries – Burra ,



and the Seppeltsfield Winery and Mausoleum – but this is a minor quibble. A consolation could have been offered under Islands where Cockatoo, Norfolk and Rottnest are included yet no space is found for Kangaroo Island.

Overall, Spearritt has chosen well, not least because his examples, such as the Cowra Breakout, Myall Creek Massacre, Port Arthur, Save the Franklin, Bonegilla Migrant Camp, Old Melbourne Gaol, New Norcia, Norfolk Island and so on, engage with many different aspects of Australian history – Indigenous, convict, migration, environmental, transport, religious, industrial, political and military among them.

As indicated earlier the book features brilliant imagery, strikingly captioned. Of the hundreds chosen, two which are especially evocative are those featuring Old Parliament House in Canberra and are afforded double-page spreads. The first is of Wiradjuri Elder Jimmy Clements sitting in the dust surrounded by three dogs and who had walked barefoot from the Riverina to attend the opening in 1927. Clements appears as a sideline figure as other formally attired people disperse after the official function has obviously been completed.

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Two pages later is another splendid shot with a flock of sheep in the foreground and captioned:

*Sheep were still allowed to graze in front of Parliament House in the 1940s. Canberra is situated on land once home to the Ngunnawal people, appropriated by Europeans for a sheep station. ...*

*Where History Happened* is thoughtful history.

The adage that travel broadens the mind is only partly true. Sadly, many people driving between major cities simply put their foot to the floor and accomplish the journey without a stop. Taking time to enjoy a view is important but so are the byways, the shorter explorations from home, discovering one's own neighbourhood.

All Australians can benefit from reading a book with such a light touch. It would make a great accompaniment for young families taking road trips like to those of Spearritt's youth but also for those grey nomads making grander tours.

*Bernard Whimpress*

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### **Lesley McLean, *Woman. The Church's Buried Talent: The Protest for the Ordination of Women in Adelaide's Anglican Church – a History*, McLean, Adelaide, 2018**

This is a work both readable and scholarly. Biographically focused, it charts the history of a Christian ecclesiastical movement in our 'City of Churches', from the heady days of protest and hope during the 1960s and 70s through to the dark days of the neoliberal era, when the challenging of socioeconomic inequity became taboo and only certain liberalizing cultural reforms were countenanced on the fronts of environmentalism, gender and sexuality. McLean's topic is the history of one of these

bitterly contested progressive movements in a patriarchal institution, the Anglican Church. The book takes its title from an early movement pamphlet.

The Rev. Dr McLean's subject is a redoubtable agent of this movement, who, checked of fulfilment in academia and the Church, dedicated herself to a determined and ultimately reasonably successful campaign, with others including the author reaping the rewards personally denied her by prejudice and, perhaps, her own acknowledged asperities of character. The book revises three chapters from a doctoral thesis *No Coward Soul: Alison Gent, Radical Feminist and Activist for the Ordination of Women*, available on the internet. A progressive conservative exponent of catholic Anglican tradition, highly educated and by temperament a stormy petrel, Gent was always something of a voluntary outsider, a feminist in a male-dominated church and a Christian in a mainly secular women's movement. She wore her difference proudly in all contexts. Hers was a life freely lived through conscious choice. Born into comfortable circumstances, she effectively took a vow of poverty and social ministry when she married an Anglican clergyman, with whom she bore five children before he divorced her.

The theoretical perspective through which this history of struggle is viewed is Wittgenstein's theory of language games. According to the linguistic philosopher, language embodies rhetorical aspects as well as logical properties as speakers seek to frame social outcomes. In this impressive study, McLean documents the liturgical language used to keep women subordinate in the Church, and feminist efforts to reform that language to advance their cause.

The book is well indexed and comes with valuable appendices.

*David Faber*

## Meet the Old Colonists: Businesswoman Louisa Ann Chance

*The State Library is nearing the end of a ten-year project to preserve and digitise a unique collection of photographic mosaics, and to identify the 1700 men and women depicted. The images are now online - most for the first time.<sup>1</sup>*

*This is the sixth of a series of articles that introduces some of the men and women who came forward in the early 1870s to identify themselves as Old Colonists and have their portraits taken by photographers Henry Jones and Townsend Duryea.*

When Louisa Ann Rawlins married in London in 1835 aged about 18 she was illiterate. In South Australia she became a successful businesswoman – the renowned Mrs. L. A. Chance of Unley Road; sauce manufacturer and ‘purveyor of preserved fruits, &c., to His Excellency the Governor’.<sup>2</sup>

As historian Catherine Bishop notes, colonial businesswomen ‘came from the working class and petite bourgeoisie’. They did not document their lives or engage in public debate. Traces of their enterprises remain primarily in directories and newspapers. Thanks to Mrs. Chance identifying herself as an Old Colonist in 1872, there is also a striking photograph, first published here.<sup>3</sup>



Louisa Ann Chance, c.1817-1896, by Henry Jones, 1872, SLSA, B 19985/27P. Her costume includes a straw hat, drop curls, plain linen lappets and a lace shawl.

Louisa was born to Ann and George Rawlins and christened at St Nicholas, Deptford, Kent. Her husband William, born about 1816, was the oldest son of Rebecca and Peter Chance of adjacent Greenwich. Peter worked as a greengrocer, labourer and ostler. When William applied for free passage to South Australia, he was identified as an agricultural labourer.<sup>4</sup>

Louisa and William immigrated on board the ‘Katherine Stewart Forbes’, arriving at Port Adelaide on 21 March 1839. Their only child, William Alfred, was born in February 1840. They lived initially at the west end of Grote Street. There William senior claimed to have grown the first

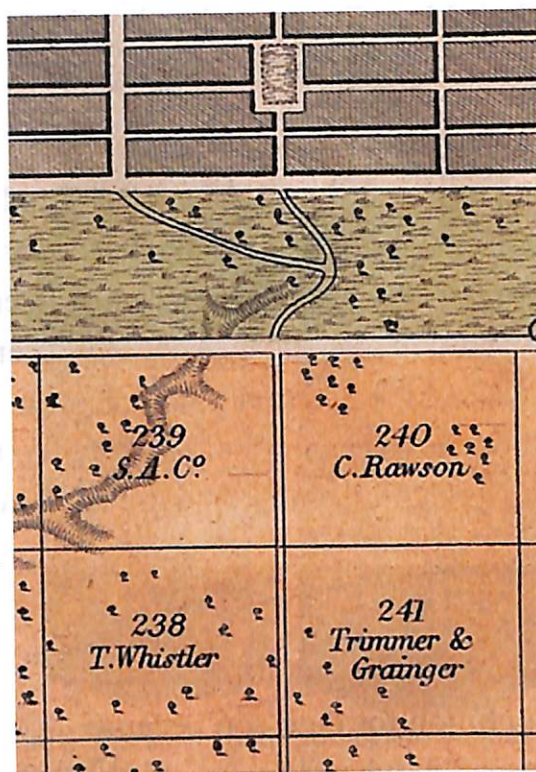
tomatoes cultivated in the colony. In 1842 they were living in Halifax Street, and the rates were in arrears. Despite this, and their inauspicious origins in England, the Chances were not without means.<sup>5</sup>

According to an interview with William Alfred in 1907, William senior bought a block of seven acres at £12 an acre from Thomas Whistler in 1840. Whistler owned Adelaide country sections 236, 237 and 238. His first subdivision of the latter formed the nucleus of the village of Unley. William's property was on the northern side of Mary Street; his first crop was wheat.<sup>6</sup>

The Chances continued living in Halifax Street. It was from there, in February 1844, that William submitted a sample of tomato 'jam' to the Exhibition of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia at Botanic Park. This was, no doubt, the public's first taste of Louisa's tomato sauce.<sup>7</sup>

Later in 1844 the Chance family moved to Mary Street and established a market garden. Like other Unley settlers, they watered the property from wells, 'thirty to forty feet below the surface.' They built a modest three room house which was the family residence until 1858.<sup>8</sup>

In 1850 William took a 21-year lease



*The district of Adelaide, South Australia: as divided into county sections ... by William Light, London, John Arrowsmith, 1839. Detail, from top down, of Hurtle Square, South Parklands, creek and adjacent sections bisected by Unley Road.*

on a 12-acre block on the corner of Unley Road and North Parade (later Park Terrace, now Greenhill Road), opposite the South Parklands. It was part of Adelaide country section 239 – 134 acres owned and let for agriculture by the South Australian Company. A creek running through the section from the parklands provided 'an abundant supply of water'.<sup>9</sup>

William developed a thriving nursery business on the 12-acre block, which he advertised as the 'Parkside Nursery'. Doubtless Louisa and William Alfred worked there and in

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their Mary Street garden, but the Chances also had employees.<sup>10</sup>

Another measure of the Chances' success was that William deposited £25 10s with the Colonial Treasury to support the immigration of his parents and a younger sister, Ann. However, in 1852 they were reported among those who 'cannot be forwarded to the Colony' – his father had died and his mother and sister declined to emigrate.<sup>11</sup>

In 1853 William and Louisa's ambition for their son became apparent when 13 year old William Alfred began at least two years at St. Peter's Collegiate School, Hackney. As historian John Tregenza explains, St. Peter's had been founded six years earlier as an exclusive school:

The Pulteney Street School would be opened in due course for the 'middle and lower orders' but ... there was an immediate need for another sort of school which could offer [the leading Anglicans'] sons and the sons of others of their class an education at least as good as the one they had ... received in the British Isles.<sup>12</sup>

William Alfred's 'vocational training' at St. Peter's included classical, commercial and general studies. The fee for boarders was £10 per quarter; day-scholars paid £2 12s 6d.<sup>13</sup>

In 1858 William sold the remaining three acres of the family's original

Mary Street holding. The property boasted a 'garden planted with sixteen hundred vines and three hundred fruit-trees ... of every variety'. The family was now living at the nursery. A new era began in 1861 when they diversified into food manufacturing.<sup>14</sup>

Food technology historian K. T. H. Farrer has documented the advent of jam and preserves manufacturing in Australia in the early 1860s. Farrer gives priority to horticulturalist George McEwin in South Australia. He began commercial production of jam at his Houghton property in December 1862 with a copper that could hold 200 pounds of fruit. His first day's cooking resulted in 150 pounds of gooseberry jam.<sup>15</sup>

Louisa's initial sauce production predated McEwin's but 'was so small as to excite a smile when mentioned, viz.: – Three dozen bottles in 1861...' Her story is of a gradual transition from farmhouse technology to large-scale manufacturing.<sup>16</sup>

The Chances began exhibiting tomato sauce in Adelaide and regional shows. By 1863 the exhibits were in Louisa's name. It can be inferred from the ways in which the new business was promoted that William Alfred was involved. Samples of tomato sauce were delivered to newspaper offices as specimens of colonial manufacture,

resulting in several editorial endorsements:

It is quite equal to most of the imported sauces, and probably very much more wholesome. There is no reason why South Australia should not be independent of the mother-country for condiments of this kind.<sup>17</sup>

An advertising campaign was begun in December 1864: 'Sauce for the million - try Mrs. L. A. Chance's superior tomato sauce'. The product was now being sold 'wholesale and retail by the principal grocers in Adelaide, and at the manufactory, Parkside'.<sup>18</sup>

During the 1860s Louisa added other sauces and pickles to the range. There is a singular report that 'Mrs. Chance used to hawk the pickles and sauce around the Tea Tree Gully district with a horse and cart'. Attached to the cart was a placard with the rhyme used by Batty & Co., London manufacturer of Nabob pickles and sauce:

If you like the Pickles;  
Prithee, try the Sauce;  
If one the palate tickles,  
The other will, of course!<sup>19</sup>

Louisa's products were represented at the New Zealand Exhibition in Otago, an Intercolonial Exhibition in Melbourne, and the 1867 Paris Exhibition. Meanwhile William



(left) Chance's 1870s aqua glass walnut jar, 20.5 cm high. Image reproduced courtesy of Vivienne O'Neil.<sup>20</sup>

(right) Damaged walnut jar. Photograph courtesy of Unley Museum.

Alfred was living beyond his means. In May 1868 his creditors learned that his liabilities were £1,375 and his assets £1,179. He paid them five shillings in the pound, but still owed an additional fifteen.<sup>21</sup>

William Alfred married Frances Wheatley in January 1870, a month before his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Frances was about the same age. Frances's father Daniel had been a machinist, and his father before him a farrier. It has not been established when Frances and her widowed mother Charlotte Jackson Wheatley immigrated to South Australia. After his marriage William Alfred became responsible for managing the family business.

William senior's later role is not clear, but Louisa continued to be intimately involved in the enterprise.<sup>22</sup>

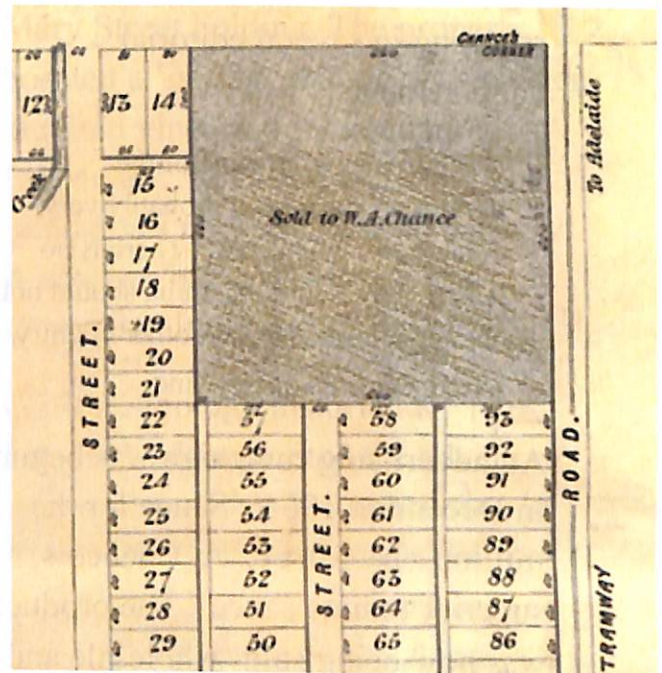
'Mrs. Chance's Factory, Unley' was described in some detail by the *South Australian Register* in March 1876.

Within the last few days [Mrs. Chance] has opened a large new packing store, 60 feet by 18 feet and 15 feet high. It adjoins the old 'boiling-room'.

The factory was equipped with two 1½ hundredweight (cwt/112 pounds) furnace-heated copper boilers, and two larger steam-heated boilers (5 and 2½ cwt). Tomato sauce was still 'the chief article of manufacture', with 20 tons of tomatoes supplied annually from gardeners at the Reedbeds.<sup>23</sup>

The factory also produced pickled fruits, vegetables and walnuts, as well as cayenne pepper, curry and baking powders. Another 30 tons of fruits were bought each year to make jams and jellies. The business required up to 10 employees; engaged not only in food production but also washing and corking bottles and soldering tins.<sup>24</sup>

Another report of the factory's expansion noted that the fruit and ornamental trees that covered the rest of the 12 acres were 'being rooted up as they are, through some defect in the soil, dying away'. Straw for packing purposes was being grown



Plan of the township of North Unley: being subdivision of Part Section 239 ... by Beresford & Bowen, 18[80]. Detail; note reference to 'Chance's Corner', top right, corner of Unley Road and Greenhill Road.

instead. William senior's market garden and nursery were being replaced by the needs of the factory.<sup>25</sup>

On 31 January 1880 the South Australian Company auctioned 116 allotments of land 'between Chance's Garden and Unley'. Prior to the public sale William Alfred bought 10 of the 12 acres his parents had leased since 1844 (see plan above).<sup>26</sup>

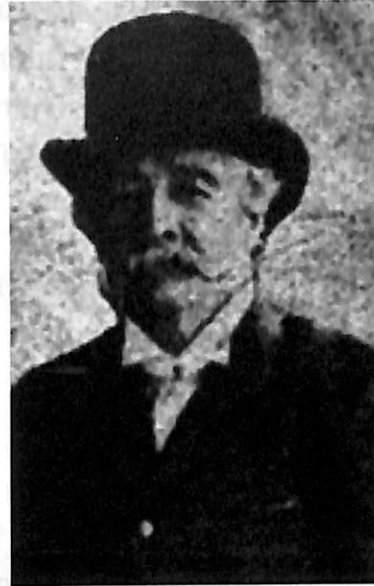
Only 12 months later William Alfred sold the factory, subdivided the rest of the property and retired about a month before his 41st birthday. After a year in England he returned to South Australia to live the life of a gentleman, building a residence at

Stirling and earning income from a substantial portfolio of property.<sup>27</sup>

It was only in 1882 that William Alfred paid the 15 shillings in the pound still owed to his creditors of 1868. Curiously, given his very good fortune in the interim, the settling of his debt was publicised as 'an instance of commercial honesty ... deserving of record'.<sup>28</sup>

William Alfred and Frances had no children; perhaps this was the reason he sold the family business. Such was Louisa's reputation that the new owners, Benjamin Brookman and sons, retained the Chance name. Consequently Chance's jams and sauces featured at both the Adelaide Exhibition of the Arts and Industries of All Nations in 1881, and the Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition, 1887-1888.<sup>29</sup>

After the factory was severely damaged by fire in 1884 the Brookmans left Chance's Corner for Payneham Road, College Park. By 1890 Benjamin's son William Gordon Brookman was the owner. The company failed when he became bankrupt; a temporary set-back that caused him to abandon food manufacturing for mining. George McEwin's heir Robert bought the College Park premises of Chance & Co. in an expansion of his family's prospering jam business.<sup>30</sup>



William Alfred Chance, 1840-1925  
*Chronicle*, 31 January 1925, p. 15

There is no knowing what Louisa and William senior thought about the fate of their enterprises. It appears that they were living apart in 1890; Louisa at Chester Place, Unley and William at Cremorne Street, New Parkside. The previous year William's address was Glen Osmond Road when he was admitted to Adelaide Hospital. Their separation may have begun years earlier: from 1872 Louisa is listed in annual directories under her own name; William is invisible.<sup>31</sup>

Louisa died on 14 June 1896. Unusually for the times, obituaries recalled her as a business woman and referred to her as 'Mrs. Louisa Ann Chance'. The *Register's* obituary included a personal, albeit conventional, description of her as 'an estimable and kindly woman' and a member of St. Augustine's Anglican Church, Unley.<sup>32</sup>

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William senior died in 1905. He was remembered as a 'little cheery figure' and a 'regular and devout attendant' of the Park Street, Unley Church of Christ.<sup>33</sup>

Frances Chance died in 1915, leaving an estate of £6,200. When William Alfred died in 1925 Louisa had diminished in public memory to become 'Mrs. Chance, sen.' in his obituary. His £12,200 estate was left to charities in Adelaide and London.<sup>34</sup>

By the 1940s 'Chance's Corner' was no longer in common parlance. It was remembered primarily by collectors of rare bottles and rarer postmarks. Then, sometime before 2009, the 'shortest bit of tarmac in the whole of Unley' gained the street sign 'Chances Lane'. It is at the eastern end of Park Lane, running parallel to Greenhill Road in Section 239.<sup>35</sup>

Chances Lane became a matter of controversy in 2015 when a rates payer requested road repairs. Despite the sign and the lane appearing in street directories, a records search by Unley Council determined that it did not exist – it was merely an extension of Park Lane.<sup>36</sup>

At first public pressure to retain the name came from the three or four residents and businesses directly affected. But soon attention focussed on the origin of the name. In 2016 the

Council made Chances Lane official - a very modest legacy for a businesswoman of such renown.<sup>37</sup>

*Beth M Robertson*  
State Library of South Australia

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<sup>1</sup> The three largest mosaics are 'The Old Colonists Banquet Group' by Henry Jones, B 47769; 'Group of [women] Old Colonists' by Henry Jones, B 19985; and 'Old Colonists 1836-40' by Townsend Duryea, B 8235/1.

<sup>2</sup> **Marriage, illiteracy** – London, England, Church of England marriages and banns, 1754-1932, *Ancestry.com*, signed with 'her mark'; **vice regal patronage** – *Evening journal*, 13 August 1870, p. 4, *The Express and telegraph (Express)*, 15 December 1870, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Catherine Bishop, *Minding her own business: colonial businesswomen in Sydney*, NewSouth Publishing, 2015, pp. 258-9.

<sup>4</sup> **Christening** – England births and christenings, 1538-1975, *FamilySearch.org*, an older sister Mary Ann was born in 1813, no other information has been identified about the Rawlins family; **Chance family** – *South Australian chronicle and weekly mail (Chronicle)*, 8 May 1880, p. 4; **Peter Chance** – *Pigot's directory*, 1840, England Census, 1841 and 1851, death certificate 1851; **'agricultural labourer'** – Douglas Pike (compiler), 'Index to register of emigrant labourers applying for a free passage to South Australia, 1836-1841'.

<sup>5</sup> **Emigration** – *ibid*; **William Alfred's (W.A.) birth** – *Biographical index of South Australians, 1836-1885*; **Grote Street** – *The register (Register)*, 26 April 1905, p. 5; **Halifax Street** – *South Australian government gazette (SAGG)*, 7 July 1842, p. 13.

<sup>6</sup> **Interview with W.A.** – *The Unley citizen*, 26 April 1907, p. 3; **subdivision of Unley** – Janet M. Maughan & Ron Praise, *Whistler's Unley, then and now*, City of Unley, 1988, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup> **Tomato jam** – *Register*, 17 February 1844, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> **Move to Mary Street** – *Unley citizen*, op. cit.; **wells** – *Register*, 26 June 1841, p. 4; **house - Adelaide observer (Observer)**, 24 October 1857, p. 1

<sup>9</sup> **Section 239 lease** – *Unley citizen*, op. cit., *The South Australian advertiser (Advertiser)*, 21

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February 1876, p. 5; **section 239 acreage** – *Southern Australian*, 4 August 1838, p.2; **water** – *South Australian*, 26 April 1842, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> **'Parkside Nursery'** – *Observer*, 25 July 1857, p.2; **employees** – gardener, *Observer*, 27 May 1854, p. 6; servant named Eames, *Observer*, 27 December 1856, p. 4; nursery employee Joseph Amos, *Advertiser*, 11 July 1908, p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> **Immigration regulation** – SAGG, 6 January 1848, pp. 1-2; **declined** – *Register*, 6 August 1852, p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> **W.A. at St. Peter's** – *Chronicle*, 31 January 1825, p. 15, published examination results, 1853-54; **'exclusive school'** – John Tregenza, *Collegiate school of St. Peter Adelaide: the founding years 1847-1878*, 1996, p. 6.

<sup>13</sup> **'Vocational training'** – *Chronicle*, 31 January 1825, p. 15; **school fees** – *Register*, 9 January 1852, p. 2; William Alfred's earlier schooling has not been identified.

<sup>14</sup> **Mary Street sale** – *Observer*, 9 January 1858, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> K. T. H. Farrer, *A settlement amply supplied: food technology in nineteenth century Australia*, Melbourne University Press, 1980, pp. 151-164; **McEwin** – Ian Auhl, *From settlement to city: a history of the district of Tea Tree Gully, 1836-1976*, Lynton Publications, 1976, p. 289.

<sup>16</sup> W. F. Morrison, *The Aldine history of South Australia, illustrated...*, The Aldine Publishing Company, 1890, p. 713.

<sup>17</sup> **1861, 1862 exhibits** – *Register*, 21 March 1862, p. 3; **in her own name** – *Register*, 30 January 1863, p. 3; **editorial endorsement** – *Register*, 19 March 1863, p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> **Advertising campaign** – *Register*, 6 December 1864, p. 1.

<sup>19</sup> **Hawking, variations of the rhyme** – *Advertiser*, 24 July 1931, p. 20, 29 July 1931 p. 16; **Batty & Co.** – [www.historyworld.co.uk](http://www.historyworld.co.uk) advert museum item 1454.

<sup>20</sup> David Tuckwell & Vivienne O'Neil, *A package tour: a guide to South Australian tins, packaging and giveaways*, 2014, p. 54.

<sup>21</sup> **Exhibitions** – *Express*, 1 May 1866, p. 2; *Chronicle*, 15 December 1866, p. 4; *Observer*, 16 February 1867, p. 5; **creditors** – *Observer*, 23 May 1868, p. 4.

<sup>22</sup> **W.A.'s marriage** – *Express*, 24 January 1870, p. 2; **Wheatley family** – Charlotte Wheatley's death notice, *Express*, 2 December 1879, p. 2,

Daniel Wheatley's baptism record and 1841 England Census; **W.A. in charge** – *Advertiser*, 21 February 1876, p.5, *Chronicle*, 31 January 1925, p. 15.

<sup>23</sup> *Register*, 16 March 1876, p. 5.

<sup>24</sup> **Factory employees** – *Express*, 24 December 1875, p. 1 and 11 January 1876, *Advertiser*, 21 February 1876, p. 5.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> **Section 239 auction** – *Register*, 2 February 1880, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup> **Subdivision of Chance's Corner** – *Register*, 18 December 1880, p. 8; **England** – *Chronicle*, 31 January 1925, p. 15; **Stirling home** – *Advertiser*, 17 March 1885, p. 2; **property portfolio** – South Australian Integrated Land Information System.

<sup>28</sup> **'Commercial honesty'** – *Chronicle*, 9 December 1882, p. 4.

<sup>29</sup> 'Display of products at the 1881 Adelaide Exhibition', SLSA B 73238; *Official catalogue of the exhibits*, Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition, 1887, p. 157.

<sup>30</sup> **Fire** – *Evening Journal*, 10 March 1884, p. 2; **College Park** – *Express*, 4 December 1884, p. 1; **failure of Chance & Co.** - R. O. Giles, 'Brookman, William Gordon (1859-1910)', *Australian Dictionary of biography*; **McEwin expansion** – *Package tour*, op. cit., p. 168.

<sup>31</sup> **Living apart** - *Sands & McDougall's South Australian directory*, 1890, p. 234; State Records of South Australia spreadsheet of Adelaide Hospital admissions 1840-1904, GRG 78.49.

<sup>32</sup> **Louisa's obituary** – *Register*, 16 June 1896, p. 5.

<sup>33</sup> **William's obituary** – *Register*, 26 April 1905, p. 5.

<sup>34</sup> **Frances's estate** – *The Mail*, 27 November 1915, p. 3; **W.A.'s obituary, will** – *Chronicle*, 31 January 1925, p. 15; *News*, 18 February 1925, p. 10.

<sup>35</sup> **Postmark (1879-83)** – *News*, 4 August 1947, p. 2, *Package tour*, op. cit., p. 54; **Chances Lane** – Mike Hudson, *Grumpy in Unley* [blog], 21 & 25 June 2015, *Gregory's Adelaide & surrounds street directory*, Gregory's, 2009.

<sup>36</sup> **Chances Lane controversy** – *Grumpy in Unley* op. cit.

<sup>37</sup> City of Unley Council agenda reports [online], 26 September 2016, p. 20.

### Detective Work Anyone?

Society Councillor David Faber has recently come into possession of a suitcase of photos and travel notebooks which need further identification. One photo portrait of a woman dated 1913 suggests that the portraits of soldiers in the collection are of the Great War era.

A number of wedding parties and holiday snaps are from the early 1950s. Travel to Mount Gambier, Warrnambool and the Grampians feature in some photos and the notebooks. One photo reads 'To Doreen, From Nancy & Eric Smart 1951'. One wedding party is that of Colin and Maureen Pitcher.

Another family marked out are the Noblets. A D. Noblet played in the 16 July 1955 Australian Rules League match between Port Lincoln and Whyalla. He also appears to have played with a team sporting a sash stripe, photographed in front of the Sir Edwin Smith stand.

Men in uniform are prominent, including two of a decorated police officer, and soldiers such as 'L Marshall'. A soldier in an AIF greatcoat, cap and badges appears in a postcard inscribed simply 'Ray'. To him is also inscribed a portrait of a family from Mittagong. One handsome anonymous military portrait is of a young AIF man wearing epaulettes with two pips, flashes and a woven tie.

Some female portraits also feature in uniform. One is of Olive Dreyer in a Great War vintage nurses uniform. Two interesting group portraits feature women in long working dresses, inscribed 'Polly Treloar'.

One group photo in the collection is of Boer War vintage, taken in South Africa in 1902, showing 'Charlie' and three other slouch-hatted troopers wearing khaki fatigues and bandoliers. They look rather like Bushveldt Carbineers, but were perhaps from another [mounted?] unit.

Buildings also feature, including one handsome brick home in a rural setting with a wrap-around

verandah. There are portraits of Prest Brothers General, Drapery & Furniture Store.

Photographic studios referenced include the famous Talma Studios, Marchants of Gawler, Stanley Studios of Clare, AO Pudney of Jamestown, and Regent Studio of Whyalla.

Expressions of interest and offers of assistance to David at [davefabr@bigpond.net.au](mailto:davefabr@bigpond.net.au)

Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 5 May.

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