

No. 260 November 2020

The Annual General Meeting for 2020 was conducted at the first recommenced meeting on Friday 2 October. It included brief President and Treasurer's Reports and elections. The members of the Council of the Historical Society of SA for 2021 were re-elected unopposed. The Secretary (and our Covid Marshal) is Bridget Jolly, Treasurer is Anne Bowman, Membership, Newsletter and Journal are managed by Rob Martin, Speakers Program is coordinated by Pat Sumerling, Jenny Hein manages the HSSA website, David Faber is our representative on the History Council of SA, Lyn O'Grady manages our Society on Facebook and other social media, Geoffrey Bishop is the Vice- President and Pamela Rajkowski OAM is the President.

This has been a disrupted year for members with several meetings cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to rebook cancelled speakers in 2021. I congratulate the HSSA membership who returned to attend the final two meetings of 2020 in the usual very significant numbers. It was inspiring to see members meeting face-to face once again and the fellowship that continued after the official close of the meeting, in spite of supper being cancelled due to safety regulations.

Covid-19 safety regulations will probably continue in 2021 and meetings of groups are accommodating this accordingly, and transitioning smoothly. More and more groups are using online registration of meetings by using Eventbrite. HSSA members will be offered that method in 2021 but are still encouraged to register by arriving at the entrance, providing name and contact details personally, hand sanitising and maintaining social distancing.

The HSSA Newsletter, distributed online or by post, and containing fine articles on various aspects of South Australian history, has been a major means of

sustaining communication and knowledge between the HSSA Council and the HSSA members during the pandemic. On the back page it provides contact details of members of the HSSA Council. The next HSSA Newsletter, after this November issue, will be in January and will sustain communication over another, annual, long - almost three-month - break of HSSA meetings, so please watch out for it.

Members can find news, information on forthcoming events, including excursions, and other business on the [HSSA website](#). Jenny Hein has made finding fields, pathways to fields and uploading of facts or photos easy.

### Keain Medal nominations

The 2020 winner of the Keain Medal was Patricia Sumerling for her extensively researched book, *Bert Edwards, King of the West End*, giving the story of this flamboyant Adelaide character, and published by Wakefield Press. During the holiday break members may discover other non-fiction books with a South Australian historical context they enjoy. The Wakefield Press catalogue, or wandering through good bookshops or antique bookshops will give readers good ideas. Some book retail outlets may offer home deliveries to minimise social contact or the need to leave home. You can nominate a book for a Keain Medal award in 2021 by checking submission due dates in the next HSSA Newsletter. The nomination form will be available in both the January 2020 HSSA Newsletter and on our website. Print it off for posting or complete it online. Postal entries reach our Secretary Bridget Jolly whose postal and email contact details are on the back page of the Newsletter.

The prestigious [HSSA Journal](#) was distributed at the Friday 6 November meeting to paid-up members. Those members who were not present will receive their copy in the mail.

### Contact Us

If you have either queries, suggestions, ideas, feedback or submissions, you can share these by communicating with members of the HSSA Council. A list of their names and contact details are on the back page of this Newsletter. Also, upload these on the HSSA website.

The HSSA Council wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year break and we look forward to seeing you on 5 February 2021.

*Pamela Rajkowski OAM, President,*

*Historical Society of South Australia*

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At the October general meeting, the **Keain Medal** for the best South Australian history book published in 2019 was awarded to **Patricia Sumerling** for her biography *Bert Edwards, King of the West End* (Wakefield Press). **Honourable Mentions** were awarded to **Judith Lydeamore** for her annotated edition of E.H. Hallack, *Toilers of the Hills Part 2: South of Mount Lofty*, and **Ron Blum** for *Doing Their Bit: Australian Women and Children on the Home Front, World War Two*.

Congratulations to these three authors!

**Richard Venus** has for seven years designed the pages of the Society's annual Journal, but he is now moving on to other projects. We thank him for his skill and care in helping to produce our informative and attractive Journals.

### **Allen County Public Library**

As the Society's Membership Secretary, maintaining a list of members and subscribers, I was recently struck by curiosity as to why the Allen County Public Library of Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA, would take the trouble to pay annual subscriptions in order to receive our newsletters and journal. I consulted Mr Google and learned that the Library has purportedly the largest public collection of genealogical resources in the United States. That explains a lot. Although we are not especially focused on family history, we definitely provide articles that would help with genealogical research.

*Robert Martin*

**NELLIE THE ELEPHANT AND 'THE' PAGEANT**  
*by Lyn O'Grady*

The coming of the Festive Season has been heralded by a special event through the streets of Adelaide since **1933**, until this year. This year will be different because of COVID. Attendance will be by lottery so that people can attend the Adelaide Oval to experience it.

There are certainly very few people who don't know the beginnings of the pageant, during the height of the Great Depression, to lift the spirits of the people of South Australia, and how

**Edward Hayward**, the owner of John Martin's department store, decided his Christmas present would be in the form of a grand parade. On the day of the first Pageant, an aeroplane flew over



Father Christmas arriving at John Martin's, Rundle Street 1933 SLSA BRG121-1-1582

the city with Father Christmas on board using a megaphone to tell all the children to come to watch the Pageant. Over 100,000 people lined the streets that first year to see the 10 floats and 6 bands.

*The Advertiser* in 1933 reported:

To herald the opening of the Christmas Season, a street Pageant will be held and be the first of its kind in Australia. More than 250 people will take part in the Pageant. Father Christmas will be drawn on a special equipage and the *Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe* will be seen looking out of a shoe 15 feet high. Dutch-land will be depicted by a huge windmill surrounded by a few Dutch girls in their quaint and pretty costumes and there will be a parade of French dolls and 24 girls dressed as tin soldiers. A huge Christmas pudding will be carefully guarded by a

bodyguard of chefs in white suits and caps. *Nimble*, the giant rocking horse and his little friend *Nipper* will be surrounded by their riders. It will be a treat that children and parents alike should not miss.<sup>1</sup>

Many of us oldies who have witnessed the Pageant would certainly remember the glittering *Christmas Tree*, *Noah's Ark*, *Ten Little Nigger Boys* and *The Cow That Jumped over the Moon* and a *Christmas Stocking* 16 feet long packed full of toys. There was also *Puss in Boots*, *Old King Cole*, *Jack and Jill* and *Robin Hood*, the *Three Little Pigs* and *Hickory Dickory Dock* with a clock 10 feet high and a mouse running up and down; also a rowdy regiment of *Toy Block soldiers* beating their drums, *Humpty Dumpty* and *Cinderella*. In addition there were a *Jack in the Box* 14 feet high, *Pied Piper*, *Ride a Cock*



*Humpty Dumpty 1950 SLSA B62287-5*

*Horse*, the *Wooden Horse of Troy*, and the *Doll Shop*.

**One memorable addition to the Pageant was Nellie the Elephant.**

Edward Hayward travelled the world to look at other pageants. None compared with Adelaide's which initially had no commercialism and was strictly a 'gift'.

On one of his trips to England, Hayward purchased and shipped back to Adelaide, two London buses and Nellie the mechanical elephant. This was in 1950; he paid £1500 and a similar amount for shipping and customs.

In England, Nellie had been an attraction at a seaside resort giving children rides on her back. It was the invention of a Frank Stuart and *Nellie* was his first prototype. It was the only mechanical elephant in the world. It had 9,000 moving parts, weighed more than a ton and could travel at 27 mph (43 kph).

Just fill it up with juice, slip it into gear and away she goes with the familiar shuffling gait and slow head nodding. Behind its remarkably lifelike exterior is hidden a petrol engine.

The difficulty of disposing of the exhaust is solved by utilising the trunk. The bulky legs conceal an ingenious arrangement of levers which produce the shuffling gait. Other levers in the head and shoulders cause the nodding which gives the



## CONTRIBUTING TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY

elephant its natural air of perpetual weariness. It is driven like all elephants from a seat behind its head, the driver being able to steer with bars located behind the ears.<sup>1</sup>



It proved to be rather a battle to keep *Nellie* in the pageant because she kept breaking down. Apparently the English automobile engine couldn't cope with Australia's summer and would overheat. Once she was fitted with an Australian engine she went well and its inclusion in the Pageant is an important link to Hayward's original dream of bringing the magic of Christmas to SA.

The Christmas Pageant has become a tremendously important event for the people of SA, proven by the fact that it still continues despite the demise of John Martin's.

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*Sourced from Channel Seven's documentary The Magic of the Christmas Pageant and various newspaper reports.*

1) *Advertiser*, 8 Nov. 1933.

2) *Advertiser*, 8 Sept. 1950, p.3, illustrated article.

*[Editor's note:- For further information on Nellie the Elephant see Patricia Sumerling's book Elephants and Egotists: In search of Samorn of the Adelaide Zoo (Wakefield Press, 2016.)*

## Meet the Old Colonists: Descendants of Slavery

*The State Library has completed a twelve-year project to preserve and digitise a unique collection of photographic mosaics, and to identify the 1700 men and women depicted.<sup>1</sup>*

*This is the eleventh in 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.*

**Edward Stirling** and **John Harvey** arrived in South Australia four months apart in 1839. Both would devise biographies to obscure the evidence of African descent apparent in their features; and such were their emphatic successes in the colony that their racial background, and the compounding 'taints' of slavery and illegitimacy, were never openly acknowledged. Nevertheless, there is evidence that they were reminded – and remained cognisant – of their awkward place in the social order.<sup>2</sup>

Stirling is my great-great-grandfather. Family oral tradition held that he was born in Jamaica to a black mother and a Scottish plantation owner. His father took him to Scotland to be educated; funded him to come to South Australia; and bailed him out when an initial pastoralist venture failed. Correspondence between Stirling and his father that has come to light tells a more nuanced and compelling story.



Left: Edward Stirling, c. 1808-1873 By unknown photographer, c. 1863.

SLSA, B 47769/18R<sup>3</sup>

Right: John Harvey, 1823-1899

By Townsend Duryea, c. 1872

SLSA, B 8235/1/2Y

According to Harvey's descendants, family oral tradition was silent about his racial heritage. A biography by a great-granddaughter-in-law published in 1990 does not refer to Harvey having parents. This is despite the author relying on an extensive newspaper article reporting Harvey's reminiscences three years before his death, in which he described his father by the ambiguous term 'a native of St. Helena'. Neither of Harvey's parents have been identified to date but his West African heritage, like that of Stirling, has been confirmed by DNA tests undertaken by descendants.<sup>4</sup>

Stirling and Harvey were not the first men of African descent to reach South Australian waters. The trans-Atlantic slave trade generated a black Atlantic seafaring tradition that was well established by the end of the eighteenth century. It is likely that African seamen were among the crews of Matthew Flinders' and

Nicolas Baudin's expeditions. Certainly, when the 'Naturaliste' left France in October 1800 one of the assistant-gardeners onboard was Merlot, a young African slave owned by botanist André Michaux.<sup>5</sup>

American whaling ships in southern Australian waters from 1803 had ethnically diverse crews in which Africans – slave and free – often comprised over one-third. African Americans were also among the Kangaroo Islander sealers in the pre-colonial era. Court reports in early newspapers reveal several 'men of colour', also referred to as 'negroes' and 'American blacks', living in Adelaide. Their occupations were typically seafaring (ship's cook) and labouring (lime burner), and they are indicative of a larger population.<sup>6</sup>

There is no doubt that Stirling was a descendant of slavery. He was silent about the place of his birth – allowing contemporaries and later chroniclers to refer to him as Scottish. In fact, he was born between 1804 and 1808 on Hampden Estate, a Jamaican sugar plantation and rum distillery. His Scottish father Archibald Stirling had been in Jamaica since 1789, representing the interests of his ancestral family, the Stirlings of Keir, which relied on the labour of slaves. Archibald did not marry in Jamaica,

a colony in which white men of all ranks indulged their sexual license without censure.<sup>7</sup>

He fathered at least six illegitimate



Caricature of a woman of colour and a West Indies planter, unattributed, c. 1810.<sup>8</sup>

Alternative depictions, such as those by the Italian-born painter Agostino Brunias, c.1730-1796, romanticise slavery and women of colour.

children: Edward, two other 'reputed' sons and three 'reputed' daughters are named in his will, as well as the mother of two of the girls. Of the 'range of possible unions between white men and enslaved and free women of African and mixed descent', planters typically kept 'housekeepers' who were free women of colour. DNA results currently indicate that Edward's mother was the daughter of Ghanaian woman.<sup>9</sup>

Harvey's descent from slavery was probably paternal. He identified his birthplace as the northern Scottish harbour town of Wick in the county of Caithness. The year of his birth is variously recorded between 1820 and 1823. His characterisation of his father as 'a native' of St Helena suggests that his father had been born on the remote South Atlantic island, where the British East India Company had relied on slaves since 1657 to maintain the island's economy.<sup>10</sup>

It is likely that Harvey's father was a seafarer, and that Harvey was the



Wick Harbour during the herring fishing, 1875, Hulton Archive/Getty Images.

illegitimate child of a local Scottish woman. This is supported by a singularly explicit tribute to Harvey published in a Broken Hill newspaper after his death:

He came into life with the handicap which a half-caste always carries in a world full of prejudices. In his case his father or grandfather was a negro, a boat's cook; and John Harvey was born by a Scottish wharf-side.

Naturally, he grew up a gutter-boy.<sup>11</sup>

Harvey's mother may well have earned her living in the herring industry; salted herring from Scotland was a cheap source of protein for slave plantations in the West Indies.<sup>12</sup>

Stirling's white heritage would have made him 'unsuitable for degrading labor in the fields' and he probably spent his early childhood working in Hampden's 'great house' as a 'waiting' or 'house boy'. In 1815 Archibald returned to Scotland aged 46 and made an advantageous marriage to 22-year-old Elizabeth Maxwell. Elizabeth gave birth to

Archibald's legitimate heir William in 1818. Archibald did not entirely abandon his illegitimate children. He took two of his sons and two of his deceased brother's illegitimate sons back to Scotland to be educated. But not into his family home in Stirling.<sup>13</sup>

The four boys, including Edward aged about eight, were installed at the parochial school in St Vigeans near Arbroath - well-removed from Stirling. They lived with the school master John Bowman. An exercise book in Edward's hand shows that he was educated to be a clerk or small business owner – indeed, the kind of education required of a plantation bookkeeper. Meanwhile his father continued to buy more slaves to restock the labour forces at Hampden and the family's other plantations.<sup>14</sup>

Harvey maintained that his father had given him 'a good education at the Grammar and High Schools' at Wick. However, family historian Ally Morgan has not been able to find any record of Harvey's parents or birth, let alone education. There is some evidence that he was barely literate before adulthood.<sup>15</sup>

When Stirling finished school in his teens he was employed by associates of his father, the Dennistoun brothers of Glasgow. Among their business interests they imported sugar from the West Indies and owned hundreds of slaves in Trinidad. Stirling could have remained in his position – employed but unmarried, excluded from the society of his father and separated



George Square, Glasgow from the south-east – a location of J. & A. Dennistoun premises. Engraving by Joseph Swan, 1829.

from the society of his birth – but at about 30 years of age in 1838 his life took another dramatic turn.<sup>16</sup>

Slavery had been abolished in the British Empire in 1833. Between November 1835 and October 1838 Archibald Stirling received £11,000 in government compensation for his share of 690 souls owned by the Stirlings of Keir. It appears that Archibald, who had been widowed since 1822, chose this time to advise Edward that he was to have an inheritance. A co-signed note survives:

Glasgow 6th November 1838

Dear Sir, [writes Edward]

As you had intended to leave me at your death as you told me One Thousand Pounds, but in consequence of my having a wish to proceed to Australia, you now agree to give the above sum which I have this day received.

Archibald signs under the phrase 'Receipt in full of all Demands', and

Edward and his cousin Charles sailed onboard the 'Lady Bute' for Adelaide on 29 January 1839.<sup>17</sup>

Meanwhile, in the Scottish Highlands Harvey had come to the attention of Allan McFarlane, a Fishery Officer and, by the 1830s, tenant farmer. McFarlane had 12 children and, finding it 'impossible to procure beneficial employment for such of them as are sufficiently advanced in years' he was 'anxious to emigrate to South Australia'. He was granted an £86 retirement annuity. Young Harvey, aged about 16, was employed as a labourer when he sailed with the McFarlane family onboard the 'Superb' on 11 July 1839.<sup>18</sup>

Thanks to Edward Stirling's accelerated inheritance, he and his cousin were able to establish themselves immediately in South Australia. They were two of the ten 'proprietors' who paid for the Angas Special Survey at what became Strathalbyn. By November 1841 they were landowners, paying £81 to the Treasurer of Public Lands for the 81 acres comprising section 2670.<sup>19</sup>

Of course, this had a drastic impact on the Peramangk people who lived on these well-resourced lands. Their country extends from the Barossa Valley in the north, south to Myponga, east to Mannum and west to the Mount Lofty Ranges. The population had already been devastated by three decades of introduced diseases communicated from the east down the Murray River



Horton Indigenous map of Australia (excerpt, annotated)<sup>20</sup>

and from whalers and sealers on the south coast. Now the entire range of the Peramangk people was subject to special surveys and settlement in a few short years.<sup>21</sup>

It is unlikely that Stirling felt any kinship with the Aboriginal people he and Charles displaced. One of the methods used by the British to divide and rule in Jamaica was a hierarchy of skin tone and the number of generations a 'Negro' was removed from Africa. Stirling probably regarded South Australian Aborigines as the equivalent of first-generation trafficked Africans.<sup>22</sup>

Harvey also spent his first few years in South Australia on Peramangk country. Allan McFarlane had taken up five sections of the Mount Barker

Special Survey. The property, which was watered 'from a tea-tree swamp', was immediately stocked with sheep and cultivated for wheat, oats, and potatoes. Harvey was also employed as a weighman at the Glen Osmond toll gate as part of the privatised scheme to fund the construction of the road to Mount Barker.<sup>23</sup>

Between 1842 and 1847 Harvey transformed himself from labourer to stock and landowner. The sequence of events is difficult to discern: the 1990 biography of Harvey, which uses the first person as a literary device, cites few sources. It asserts that in 1842 he 'took up' part of Country Section 342 south of Enfield. 'In that first season [he] had two horses and sowed 10 acres of wheat'.<sup>24</sup>

This farming enterprise is not mentioned in the newspaper article of Harvey's reminiscences, but it might explain how he came into the vicinity of the Pitman family of Walkerville. In July 1843, aged about 20, he married Ann Pitman, three years younger than him and five months pregnant. He signed his name 'John Harvy' [sic]; Ann, who was accompanied by her father William, signed with the mark of illiteracy.<sup>25</sup>

It appears, to adopt the words of historian R. M. Gibbs, that Harvey was one who,

unable to pay £1 an acre to buy a large holding outright, operated on the frontier of settlement.<sup>26</sup>

He became a squatter on unfenced land 'from Port Gawler to Mount Torrens'. Nor could he afford to buy stock; instead, he directed overlanders to his pastures and was paid in kind with cattle. He also earned cash carrying the mail between Adelaide and Gawler and working for publican Mary Ann Crafer at the Little Para Pass inn. By 1847 he was the inn's licensee and was able to purchase two nearby sections – 172 acres – for £227.<sup>27</sup>

By early 1845 the Stirling cousins had bought three more Strathalbyn sections and were also grazing their flocks over adjacent unoccupied land. They were living in a hut 'built by our own hands', and Edward had named the property 'Hampden', after the place of his birth. He had also become engaged to Harriett Taylor, the sister of another nascent pastoralist.<sup>28</sup>

In mid-1845 the Stirlings joined with neighbouring sheep farmers and the South Australian Company in taking up occupation licences at Rivoli Bay for their burgeoning flocks. The cousins moved nearly 3,000 sheep south, at a cost of over £500. Within a few months two-thirds of the flock had died of a 'grievous scourge'. It later became known as 'coast disease'; identified in the 1930s as a deficiency of cobalt and copper. The cousins were in debt and their earning capacity was severely depleted.<sup>29</sup>

By this time Archibald Stirling was the laird of the Keir family estate and living in Keir House outside Stirling.



Keir House<sup>30</sup>

Since emigrating Edward and Charles had apparently written letters to Archibald to keep him informed of their progress but received no replies. Archibald probably believed he had no further obligation to them.<sup>31</sup>

Edward wrote two desperate letters to Archibald explaining the financial crisis, the prospect of having to sell their land, his fear of being unable to marry and being in breach of promise. But he also informed his father that Adelaide merchant Robert MacGeorge was covering their debts in return for a bill of exchange for £600 which had been sent to Archibald's banker, Campbell & Co. of Glasgow, for payment.<sup>32</sup>

In June 1846 Archibald replied in fury, 'you had no right': no right to ask for more money, no right to involve third parties, and no right to have contemplated marriage. But Edward's strategy worked, and Archibald honoured the bill. Archibald died in April the following year, four months before Edward, aged about 39, married Harriett, 26, on 4 August 1847. Their first child, Edward Charles, was born at Hampden in September 1848.<sup>33</sup>

Stirling went on to enlarge his pastoralist holdings, be nominated to the Legislative Council that wrote the South Australian Constitution and, as a partner in Elder, Stirling & Co., make his fortune financing the Wallaroo and Moonta mines. His older sons Sir Edward (Ted) Charles and Sir John Lancelot (Lance) consolidated their father's success.<sup>34</sup>

Harvey went on to establish the township of Salisbury on his land, serve the region as politician and magistrate, champion the District Council and Real Property Acts, and become a noted horse breeder. His older sons James and John continued their father's local service.<sup>35</sup>

Surely both Stirling and Harvey had exceeded their wildest dreams. But there are indications that influential contemporaries did not accept them on an equal footing.

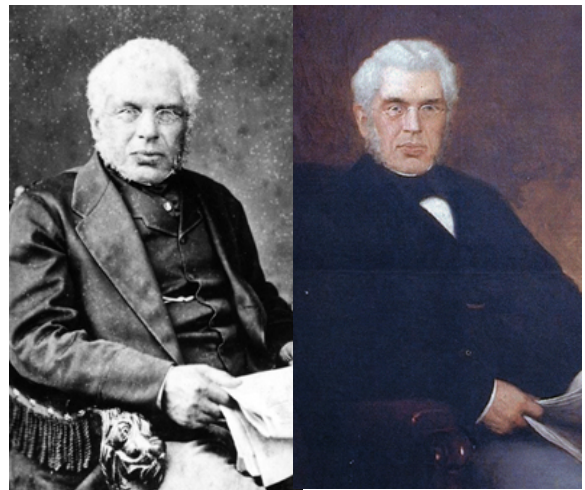
While Harvey received his share of conventional insults when vying for a nomination for the electorate of Yatala in 1856-57, they were laced with a particular condescension. In 1858 William Milne, a fellow Member of Parliament, spoke at a farewell dinner for Harvey's former master, Alan McFarlane, who was returning to Scotland. In referring to Harvey, who was not present, Milne congratulated his audience (and readers) on their forbearance:

he might refer, without mentioning names, to one who came out in Mr. Macfarlane's [sic] employment, and

who was at the present moment a member of their colonial Parliament. This was a gratifying fact, not only as an instance of individual success, but as showing the freedom of our institutions, which afford to the very humblest the opportunity of advancement.<sup>36</sup>

Harvey had known poverty and overcome it with sheer energy. Stirling had been born into a slave society and, having been given a head start in South Australia, was desperate never to take a backward step. As were his children.

Stirling's oldest son Ted named his Adelaide Hills home St Vigeans after his father's school and displayed Edward's portrait in the dining room.



Edward Stirling. Left: unknown photographer, private collection; right: unknown artist, Art Gallery of SA.

It is an Anglicised rendering of a photograph, which disguises Edward's features. However, Ted also adopted a Negroid head on his book plate. For many years I assumed that this was an extraordinary acknowledgment of his slave

forebears, but it is a variation of crests used by branches of the Stirling family that predated their involvement in Jamaica by about 100 years. The symbol is a 'Moor's' or 'Saracen's' head – signifying trade connections and perhaps the Crusades.<sup>37</sup>



Edward Charles Stirling's bookplate – private collection.

I believe that Ted used the crest and the motto 'Gang [Go] Forward' to identify with his Scottish forebears and that he was troubled by his African heritage. I expect that both he and his father feared being labelled with racial classifications.

If Edward's mother had been a quarter Negro, a so-called 'quadroon', his children would probably have been accepted as white in Jamaica under the racial classifications devised by the Spanish and adopted by the British. But if Edward's mother had been half Negro, his children would still have been considered coloured – with all the

legal and social disadvantages that had entailed.<sup>38</sup>

There is certainly complexity in Ted's racial attitudes. When he was asked to give evidence at the 1913 Royal Commission on the Aborigines, he was both Professor of Physiology at the Adelaide University and Director of the South Australian Museum, undertaking expeditions to central Australia. After being questioned about Aboriginal housing, diseases, hospital facilities and the future of the race, he was asked whether there was anything else he would like to raise. He replied:

I would like to refer to the half-caste children. My opinion is that the more of those half-caste children you can get away from their parents and place under the care of the State the better.

He recommended their removal when they are 'about 2 or 3 years of age' when 'they do not require so much attention' but still have 'the attractiveness of infancy' to encourage adoption. He continued

I am quite aware that you are depriving the mothers of their children, and the mothers are very fond of their children; but I think it must be the rising generation who have to be considered.<sup>39</sup>

No doubt Ted believed that his father was proof of this approach. But the very fact that even with all his accomplishments Ted could not cite his own racial heritage in support of his argument gives lie to that.

Recently a male historian of my generation told me that the former South Australian governor Sir Walter Crocker, who lived to be 100 in 2002, had told him about the Stirlings' racial history. Crocker is described in an obituary as,

an urbane Anglo-Australian who took to English culture and style as to the manner born. He gloried in the [nineteen] twenties and thirties when it still seemed that the sun would never set on the British Empire and that era's ordered lifestyle.<sup>40</sup>

Crocker's education of my colleague in the late twentieth century is an echo of the ways in which nineteenth century contemporaries reminded themselves that both Stirling and Harvey were not really 'one of us'.<sup>41</sup>

**Beth M Robertson**  
State Library of South Australia

<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> I am indebted to Stirling family historian, Jude Skurray (my cousin), and Harvey family historian, Ally Morgan, for sharing invaluable sources with me. This article is my interpretation of those and other material.

<sup>3</sup> The portrait of Stirling is one of 71 added to the mosaic after its initial production. Pastoralist Thomas Bowman was probably responsible for the additions when he owned the work. Stirling was not in South Australia when Jones was advertising for sitters, having taken his family to England in 1864 so that his older sons could attend Cambridge University.

<sup>4</sup> **Harvey oral tradition and DNA** – personal communications with two branches of descendants, 2019, 2020; **biography** – *I called it Salisbury* by A. P. Harvey, Salisbury and District

Historical Society, 1990; **reminiscences** – 'A grand old pioneer' in *South Australia register (Register)*, 25 March 1896, p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> **Black seafaring** – *Black Jacks: African American seamen in the age of sail* by W. Jeffrey Bolster, Harvard University Press, 1997, p. 66; **Merlot** – *The Baudin legacy project*, The University of Sydney, [baudin.sydney.edu.au/](http://baudin.sydney.edu.au/). Merlot left the expedition at Mauritius.

<sup>6</sup> **American whalers** – *Encyclopedia of African American history, 1619-1895* by Graham Russell Hodges, Oxford University Press, 2006, p. 167; **Kangaroo Islanders** – e.g. John Anderson and John Bathurst, *Kangaroo Island, 1800-1836* by J. S. Cumpston, Roebuck Society, 1970, p. 119; **men of colour** – e.g. 'Session of gaol delivery', *Register*, 8 July 1837, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> **Stirling's date of birth** – sources differ: Stirling gave his age as 64 in April 1871 for the England census; **Archibald Stirling** – *The Stirlings of Keir and their family papers* by William Fraser, privately printed, Edinburgh, 1858, p.81; **sexual license** – *A dark inheritance: blood, race and sex in colonial Jamaica* by Brooke N. Newman, Yale University Press, 2018, p. 156.

<sup>8</sup> 'Luxury in the West Indies,' *National Library of Jamaica Digital Collection*, [njdigital.lj.gov.jm/items/show/3515](http://njdigital.lj.gov.jm/items/show/3515)

<sup>9</sup> **Archibald's will** – details from a copy held by Jude Skurray; **housekeepers** – *A dark inheritance*, p. 148.

<sup>10</sup> **Harvey's place of birth** – *Adelaide observer (Observer)*, 4 April 1896, p. 12; **reliance on slavery** – 'St Helena, slavery and the abolition on the trans-Atlantic slave trade', [www.museumofsaint-helena.org](http://www.museumofsaint-helena.org).

<sup>11</sup> *Barrier miner*, 26 June 1899, p. 2. The author, using the pen name 'Argentum', is probably Port Adelaide-born William Rodolph Thomas whose father was Harvey's contemporary.

<sup>12</sup> Alison Campsie, 'How Scots fishing towns boomed from sale of salted herring to slave plantations' in *The Scotsman*, 9 August 2020.

<sup>13</sup> **'House boys'** – *Contested bodies: pregnancy, childrearing, and slavery in Jamaica* by Sasha Turner, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017, p. 233; **Archibald Stirling's return to Scotland** – *The Stirlings of Keir*, p.81; **the boys taken to Scotland** – inferred from Archibald's will.

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## About a Book – George Giffen Biography

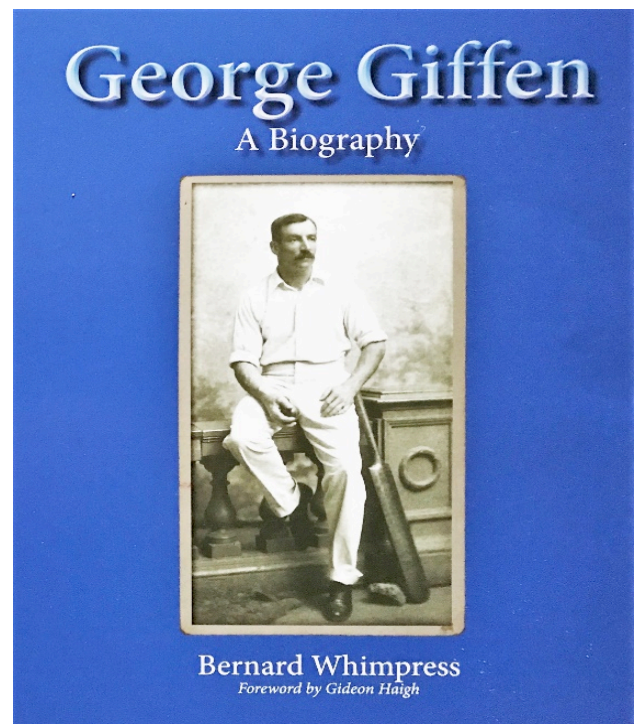
**Bernard Whimpress**

**For 82 years the principal members' pavilion at Adelaide Oval was known as the George Giffen Stand. When the South Australian Cricket Association honoured Giffen in this manner on 19 May 1928 he was possibly the first sportsman in the world to have a grandstand named after him.**

I say 'possibly' because I have not checked all 215 countries on the planet (195 by another count) but I have searched documentary sources and corresponded with historians around Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States across such sports as cricket, the various football codes, baseball, basketball and horse racing. Where names on grandstands preceded Giffen's they were those of administrators rather than players. At Adelaide Oval itself the other three grandstands for most of the twentieth century were named after men who were primarily administrators – John Creswell, Sir Edwin Smith and Mostyn Evan.

As a South Australian historian I have long been fascinated by the major contributions to Australian cricket made by four giants of the game in the years before the First World War. Hence I have written a short biography of fast bowler Ernie Jones; edited a memoir by Clem Hill; and co-written a biography of Joe Darling and members of the Darling family with Graeme Ryan; but the most important of these giants is the first, George Giffen.

George was born in 1859 and died in 1927, lived his entire life within the Adelaide



CBD, and spent almost all his working life in the mail department of the Adelaide Post Office. These, of course, are hardly sufficient reasons for a major biographical study.

A man who early earned the moniker of being 'Australia's WG Grace', George Giffen was the world's greatest all-round cricketer in the late nineteenth century and his astonishing performances at first-class level merit his inclusion in any all-time Australian Test eleven.

My approach to writing about George's cricket is to cover his senior club cricket in Adelaide, for South Australia, and Australia, and include detailed statistics from all aspects of his career.

Club cricket was vital to a player's career development because of the paucity of first-class matches and his performances were astonishing at club level from 1874 to 1911 and particularly so during his years with the

Norwood club for whom he appeared in 14 premierships sides.

George made his first-class debut for South Australia at the age of eighteen in 1877 and his South Australian career lasted 26 years. More than any other figure George was responsible for South Australia's success in intercolonial cricket, its admission as one of the three founding colonies to contest the Sheffield Shield in 1892-93, and particularly its victory in only the second season of that competition in 1893-94.

For Australia between 1882 and 1896, George toured England with five Australian teams, scoring more than 1000 runs four times and 100 wickets on three occasions. The first Test all-rounder to reach the double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets, he was the first South Australian Test cricketer, a member of the Australian team that won the inaugural 'Ashes' match at The Oval in 1882, he toured England with four other Australian sides, and was the first SA player to captain the national team.

A feisty and somewhat combative character, George (as selector) argued hard for the recognition of South Australian team-mates at the national level, although too hard for his brother Walter on the 1893 tour of England. George's own playing career could also have been greater if he had not absented himself from the English tours of 1888 and 1890, the home series of 1897-98 (over a money dispute) and been overlooked for selection when available for a final English tour in 1899.

It could well be suggested that George lived for cricket and the Spartan exercise regime he adopted throughout his playing days produced the enormous reserves of stamina that enabled him to achieve his many incredible performances with bat and ball.

To give just two examples of this George produced the greatest single all-round performance in first-class cricket history when scoring 271 runs in a single innings before taking 16 wickets for 166 runs for SA against Victoria in 1891. And in the 1894-95 Test series he scored 475 runs and took 34 wickets, an unparalleled feat at the highest level of the game.

In retirement several published newspaper articles reveal him as an acute cricket analyst and he devoted much of his later years to coaching small boys in the rudiments of the game.

In his youth George was an adept Australian Rules footballer and I have devoted a chapter to this sport. For Norwood he kicked the first goal in a senior match on the Adelaide Oval and a newspaper summary of the 1878 South Australian Football Association season accorded him the honour (at age 19) of best player in the colony. However, when a choice had to be made between sports, he subsequently put aside his football ambitions for service on English tours with early Australian Test teams.

George Giffen's sporting greatness remains remarkable nearly 100 years after his death and my biography is a long overdue assessment of his career.

(Bernard's book is available at select book stores or by contacting the author at [bernardwhimpres@gmail.com](mailto:bernardwhimpres@gmail.com) or 0447 003 654)

## Elephant and Castle Hotel, 179 West Terrace, Adelaide

by Patricia Sumerling



The Elephant and Castle Hotel in 1927. SLSA 4141.

Opened as the Elephant and Castle Inn on 9 September 1849 on Town Acre 622 along with six other pubs in other places at the same time, only the Arab Steed Hotel and this one from that year still trade in 2020. Originally of seven rooms, stables and yard, when it was rebuilt in 1879 to Thomas English's design, the foundation stone for the new two storey hotel was laid next to the old house.

The hotel was first licensed by John Wickham Daw who arrived in South Australia in 1838 aboard the ship *Winchester* with his second wife and six children from both his marriages. Born in London he named his pub after an early London coaching inn, but the location is now better known as a famous junction.

This hotel was unfortunate in being located opposite the West Terrace Cemetery for it was often used as required by legislation for exhumations and inquest purposes under Section 23 of an Act of 1839. In 1869 this Act was altered for some pubs if there was a police station with cells within a mile of a corpse. But if there wasn't one, publicans

were also forced to accept decomposing corpses or of those who had died of an infectious disease. This Act remained in force until 1908, 69 years after the first enactment in 1839. After this date such activities moved across the road from the hotel to the City Morgue on the Park Lands. Even by the most fleeting observance of newspaper reports of inquests and exhumations between 1889 and 1907 alone, there were more than a dozen inquests and many exhumations, more at this pub than at any other.

The longest-term publicans were Michael Kenny and his family who managed it from April 1912 until May 1952. Born in Morphett Vale in 1852 to County Clare parents, his first experience with hotels was on Eyre Peninsula where as a postmaster for some 30 years, he built the Colton Hotel in 1883. When he moved to the city in 1912 his legacy was that Port Kenny on Eyre Peninsula where he also farmed, was named after him.

For more than 40 years the Elephant and Castle Hotel was the centre for cycling activities, which were very popular from the 1920s onwards. Both Michael Kenny and his son Leo provided the venue and the support for the many cycling clubs that met here and held road races that began from this pub. These clubs included the Norwood Cycling Club, Railway Institute and the Victor Harbor Amateur Cycling Club. Cycling clubs made this pub their meeting place throughout the Second World War and into the mid-1950s. Such clubs were the Sturt Cycling Club (that Leo was president of) and the Kilkenny Club. In the 1950s, it was stated that Leo Kenny's generous offer in recent years of the Elephant and Castle Hotel rooms for cycling meetings, had provided amateur cycling with headquarters that saved the Amateur Cycling Association of South Australia more than £50 annually.

When Leo took over the hotel in 1929 following his father's death, apart from supporting cycling and trotting, he was heavily involved in horse racing and owning several champions himself. Having much success, he was also a punter, sometimes winning large amounts. Leo was a little more relaxed about liquor legislation and how he ran the hotel, for he was continually caught by the police for breaches, sometimes paying hefty fines for after-hours selling, being a bookmaker on his own premises, selling liquor off the premises and selling gin during the war when his licence didn't allow it. Despite all the liquor breaches, he never lost his licence.

Towards the end of his period at the pub, he became involved in the case of the 'Somerton Man', the dead man found on the beach in 1949. Six months after his discovery, still unidentified, when it came to bury the embalmed remains in June, Leo was one of the pallbearers at West Terrace Cemetery.

[This article is a foretaste of my next publication *Adelaide's Hotels: A Social History*, which is taken from a larger project, *The History of South Australia's Hotels*.]

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