

No. 266 November 2021

From the President

In 2021 through our lecture program HSSA members experienced a range of significant 'stories' about South Australia's history, diverse cultures, achievements and heritage. These stories were richer for being given narrations from different experiences and perspectives. Some South Australians started new causes, others preserved subjects that came to shape and now reflect this state's spirit, culture and identity, or others were activists who sought to end an injustice.

There may be stories in your family or community that are yet to be heard and shared and that could enrich what we know about South Australia's history, progress and heritage. Uncovering unseen, authentic sources of documentation or subjects in physical environments, whose origins and use span decades in time reveals further narratives on the same topic or subject. New perspectives, collected by

interviewing or chatting with others, and then substantiating them with primary (original photos, letters, memoirs, art pieces, oral story telling) and secondary sources (e.g. books and articles) enrich our heritage by adding other narratives to the dominant narratives. Our curiosity is aroused. We can 'reimagine' the stories in our state's history. Thus we learn more about what South Australians are capable of, either as individuals, or in groups or working across organisations.

Wakefield Press annually publishes new stories that deepen our knowledge of South Australia's history and secure these new findings and perspectives and narratives. In their Christmas and summer holiday reading our members, as they rifle through generous bookshops either in the city, country or outback, may discover a 'good book' related to South Australian families, individuals, companies, community leaders,

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artists, writers, sportspeople, architects, inventors, or on how global events impacted on or challenged South Australia. One way for members to share these remarkable discoveries is to nominate that author and book for the Maurice Keain Medal in the new year, if that book was published in 2021.

The HSSA Council congratulates our members and guests for their efforts in producing another successful year. In rising to the challenge of new Covid pandemic regulations, members collaborated to protect their health and that of others. The Q and A sessions after each speaker's address always raise inquisitive notions and new perspectives and thus enrich our engagement with history. New stories are continued to be further shared in our HSSA newsletter and journal and information presented on the HSSA website.

Did a book on South Australian history, published in 2021, greatly impress you? Consider nominating it for the **Keain Medal**. Forms available from the website or the Secretary.

The Society's Grants Program has been revived to aid projects related to South Australia's history. Grants of up to \$1000 are available. Submit forms by 28 March 2022. Recipients will be notified on Friday 6 May. Forms are available on the Society's website or by application to the Secretary (contact details on page 8 of this Newsletter).

We wish all our members and their families and friends a healthy, safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year festive season, and moments of curiosity and amazement as they encounter new 'histories' when reading in leisure mode or when visiting new sites while travelling. For enquiries, contact details of our HSSA Council members are in the newsletter and on the website. We look forward to meeting with you again, armed with curiosity and new stories, in 2022.

*Pamela Rajkowski OAM
President,
Historical Society of South
Australia.*

AN EXPLORER IN THE FAMILY

by Ian Sellick

I have been a member of the SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society for over 20 years and for much of that time I researched my direct family who had been in Over Stowey, Somerset, 'forever'. In 1865 my Great-Great-Grandfather William and his family migrated to Adelaide and since then the family members have lived an average and fruitful life. The only hiccup happened when they were aboard the *Amoor* in Plymouth harbour on 22 November 1865 waiting to heave anchor when a hurricane blew in and the *Amoor* dragged its anchor and was blown across the harbour, sinking two other ships and crashing into Dead Man's Wharf. The *Amoor* was saved extensive damage when it broadsided another ship just before hitting the wharf with the other ship being crushed between the wharf and the *Amoor*. Luckily no one aboard the *Amoor* were injured but they had to wait a month to board the *Trevelyan* (sister ship to the *City of Adelaide*) and sail for Adelaide, arriving on 30 March 1866. Being a little bored I started on my wife Susan's family, the Hills, which goes directly back to Charles Hill of Adelaide through his eldest son Dr. Charles Edward Hill who painted the 'Proclamation of SA' that hangs in the Adelaide Art Gallery.

Recently my wife and I were travelling the Oodnadatta Track and came across a defunct mound spring called *Kewson Hill* around three kilometres N.W. of Coward Springs. Suspecting the mound spring may be named after Henry Kewson who had married Henrietta Hill, the eldest daughter of Charles Hill, and that Henry and his sister Mary were the only two Kewsons to settle in South Australia, we did some research. It was found that Henry had been a police trooper based in Clare and had accompanied the MacDonnell/Hamilton party on an expedition beyond that area in 1859. There are a large number of newspaper articles on his time as a policeman and publican with an extensive newspaper article detailing the expedition.



Photo.1. Kewson Hill.



Photo.2. Henry and Sarah Kewson's Crypt.

Henry Kewson had been a policeman in Ireland and immigrated to Adelaide aboard the *Henry Moore* arriving on 27 September 1857. He joined the SA police force on 1 October 1857 and immediately took up his position in Clare and stayed until 7 June 1865 when he resigned. Henry had married Sarah Jane March on 18 November 1863 at St Mark's Church, Penwortham and they had four daughters before Sarah Jane's death on 28 October 1871 while Henry was the publican at Rhynie. He then married Henrietta Susannah Hill on 20 June 1874 at St Peters College in Adelaide. They had a daughter called Rose Evangelina Ettie Kewson on 7 June 1875 in Georgetown. Henry, after retiring from the police force in 1865, had run the Baker's Springs Hotel (Rhynie) till 1874 and he had the

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Georgetown Hotel built in 1872 and ran it from 1874 up till his death on 2 January 1876 from typhoid. From the newspapers of the time Henry was in the process of setting up a hotel in Koolunga in late 1875 but this fell through after his death. Henry and Sarah Jane are buried in the St Barnabas churchyard in Clare next to Sarah's father Henry March. Sadly, Rose died at Charles Hill's home on South Terrace in Adelaide on 3 February 1876 from 'The want of Breast milk'. Interestingly, Charles Hill had produced two paintings of Georgetown in the period of 1875-76 of which the second now hangs in the Art Gallery of SA.

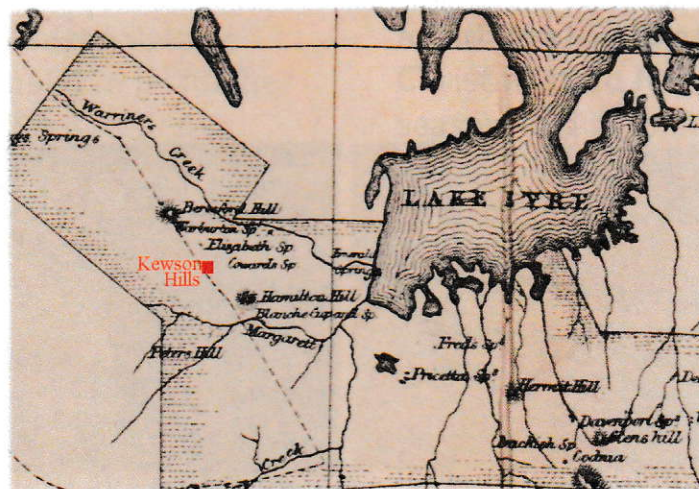
Henry was a dedicated police officer and a strong member of the Irish Catholic community, a keen singer and naturally a much-loved member of the community of Clare while in charge of the Clare Police Station.

Between his sister Mary and Henry's daughters the name Kewson remained intertwined with the Georgetown Hotel until 1902 when they finally relinquished the licence.

After this Henrietta became a qualified teacher in 1879; she was eventually transferred to the Wasley's School in 1894. While teaching at Wasley's she met and married Herbert Bode on 30 May 1896 at St Georges Church in Gawler and lived in Gawler South until her death on 22 October 1947. Interestingly, both Henrietta and Herbert's grandfathers fought in the Napoleonic Wars with Henrietta's grandfather being Charles Hill, a Corporal in the 4th Dragoon Guards during the wars and after Troop Serjeant Major in the 3rd Light Dragoons, and Herbert's grandfather being Gustavus Adolphus Bode who served on the staff to General Alton of the 10th Dragoons.

Henry Kewson shows up in a number of newspaper articles with reference to his work as a police trooper and publican but the most interesting is his exploration duties.

His second expedition was with Major Warburton from Streaky Bay to the Head of the Bight in October 1860.



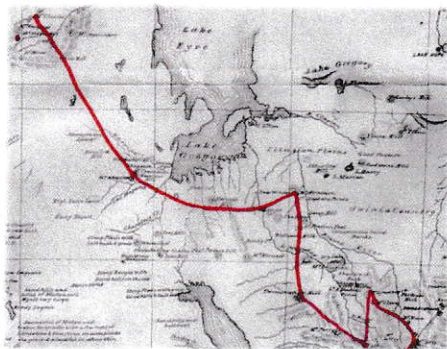
Map 1. Kewson Hill near Lake Eyre South.

His first expedition was with Governor Sir Richard MacDonnell who had organised an expedition into the north of South Australia to inspect the mines and pastoral industry. It included the Chief Inspector of Police, Mr Hamilton, Captain Brinkley, and Police Troopers Kewson, Wahaup, Coward and Irwin.

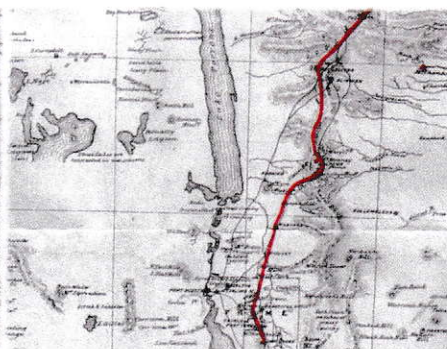
The party assembled at Horrocks Pass on 16 October 1859 and set off for Old Angepina where a police station was situated in the Flinders Ranges. The country was in drought with little grass for the

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horses and they were plagued by swarms of locusts. The amazing facts are that after SA being settled for only 23 years they visited at least 10 pastoral stations that had been established from Beautiful Valley (Wilmington) up to Strangways Springs near Lake Eyre, and that they visited seven mines in the Flinders Ranges is quite astounding. The expedition travelled through to Kanyaka, Arkaba, Wilpena, and Angipena stations and conducted side trips to the various mines.



Map.2. Northern section of route.



Map.3. Southern section of route.

On the 27th they camped in a creek bed at Nyrina on Mr Field's station south of Angepina and, not surprising to later travellers, there was a storm during the night that included some heavy rain and they ended up literally floating down the creek on their beds in the dark. In a matter of three hours the creek went from dry to six feet of water and back to dry again. From Angipena they travelled via Mt Serle, Mt Rose, Mt Lyndhurst, Mt Clive, Termination Hill and through to Hergott Springs (Marree) and as far as the Denison Ranges west of Lake Eyre. To the south west of Lake Gregory (Lake Eyre South) they found the various mound springs around Mt Hamilton, one of which the Governor named *Kewson Hill* being around three miles N.W. of Coward Springs. Every day not only included travelling through such desolate country but the pursuit of suitable drinking water and fodder. Surprisingly even in the heat of summer they usually found fresh water springs on most days.

The Governor was a keen explorer and during this trip he had ridden 1800 miles from 11 October to his return to Adelaide on 23 December. There are many locations in SA named after Governor MacDonnell and his wife Blanche in honour of his keen interest in the economic progress of South Australia.

He named various locations on this trip such as Brinkley Springs, Kewson Hill, Wahaup Hills, Denison Ranges, Warburton Springs and Anna Spring. The previous year on an expedition, Major Warburton had named Blanche Cup after the Governor's wife, and Coward Springs after Corporal Coward who had accompanied him.

References:

Trove – *S.A. Advertiser*, 30 December 1859. (*The Governor-in-Chief's Northern Trip*).

Trove – *S.A. Weekly Chronicle*, 29 December 1860. (*Journey into No Man's Land*).

Photos - Personal archives.

Sellick - (1) Note at Maritime Museum Pt Adelaide by Graham Jaunay.

- (2) Newspaper article from England re *Hurricane Hits Plymouth*.

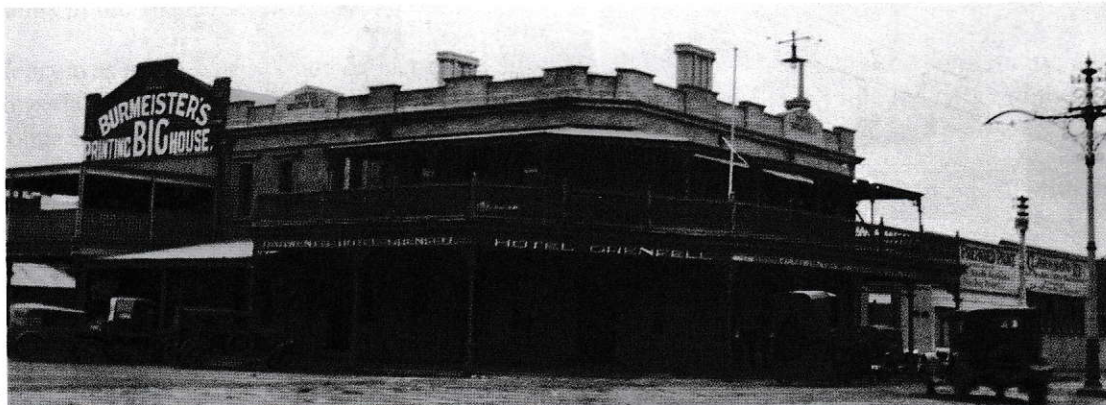
Map (1) NLA. Obj.231424596 Printed 1862.

(2 & 3) Bailliere's 1866 Road Guide with permission from Alan Phillips, Gould Genealogy.

Contributing to South Australia's History

The Griffins Hotel, 38 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide

by Patricia Sumerling



Known as the Hotel Grenfell between 1929 and 1979. SLSA B5141, 1929.

A hotel has existed on this site on Town Acre 99 since 1856. Three other Hindmarsh Square pubs, the Hindmarsh Hotel of 1851 (TA 164), the Black Eagle of 1859 (later Aurora) (TA 161) and the Somerset Hotel of 1851 (TA 229), were demolished between the early 1980s and the 1990s, leaving the Griffins Hotel as the only trading pub in the square.

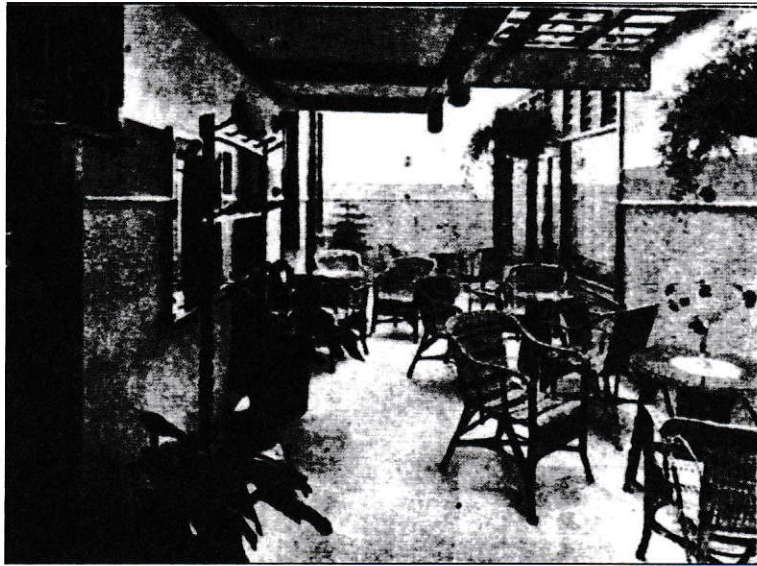
The first licensee, Thomas Reeves, managed the hotel for 23 years until 1879. When he applied for a licence there was no opposition to his application as there was then only the Hindmarsh Hotel of 1851 in the square. As publicans go, Reeves always abided by the liquor laws of the day, leaving little trace of more colourful activities.

The Griffins Hotel has had seven names. When first licensed, it was known as the King William Hotel followed by King William IV, a name it retained until additions in 1879 when it became the Star of the East Hotel until 1885. During this name change, major additions were made to the hotel by architect Thomas English in 1878. Then in 1886 it was rebuilt to a design, again by Thomas English together with his partner George Soward. When completed, the hotel was renamed the General Gordon Hotel out of respect for the British general who was killed in 1885 in the Sudan. Retaining this name until 1929, it went on to have three more names. For 50 years until 1979 it was named the Hotel Grenfell before taking on the name of the Griffin's Head Hotel in 1987. When it was recently updated, it was renamed as the Griffins Hotel. Its wide verandah was added in 1911.

When Charles and Doris Darwent were the publicans between 1924 and 1928 they commissioned architect Arthur Sander in 1928 for additions of an extra saloon bar, dining room, lounge, entrance hall, a parlor and bedrooms on two floors at the northern end, all of which doubled the size of the hotel's frontage in Hindmarsh Square.

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The snazzy additions made the local press when the Darwents advertised the delights of their residential hotel complete with a palm court, which they claimed had not previously been seen in Adelaide although they were well-known on the Continent. Flooded with light pouring through expanses of skylight, the courtyard had highly polished terrazzo floor and walls, skilfully arranged palms and pot plants, which gave 'a most cool and inviting appearance to this most up-to-date comfortable rendezvous'.



The Palm Court at the General Gordon Hotel (now known as the Griffins Hotel). *Advertiser*, 13 December 1928, p.16.

From the late 1970s the hotel has undergone several updates internally in an attempt to capture a trendy clientele while retaining an exterior typical of a nineteenth century Adelaide hotel that is adorned by wide shady verandahs.

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

References- EJR Morgan and SH Gilbert, *Early Adelaide Architecture 1836-1886*, p.3; *SA Register*, tender notice by Thomas English for additions to King William 1V, 6 December 1878; SLSA Jackman Gooden Architects plans August 1885, record 119 by English & Soward; Hoad, JL, *Pubs and publicans*, 1986, pp.209-10; ACA ACC, Dept of Building & Surveying Dkt 126/38, *Digest of Proceedings*, 22 May 1911, 16 April 1928; Ward, Maurice, *Some brief records of brewing in South Australia*; *Advertiser*, 13 December 1928, p.14, Historic General Gordon Hotel, wholly reconstructed and refurbished.

Contributing to South Australia's History

Wakefield Press, our generous sponsors, have their premises at 16 Rose Street, Mile End. Their telephone number is 8352 4455.

Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. The deadline for articles for the next edition is Sunday 2 January.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the first Friday of the month (February to November) at the Burnside City Uniting Church, corner of Fisher Street and Portrush Road, Tusmore.

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