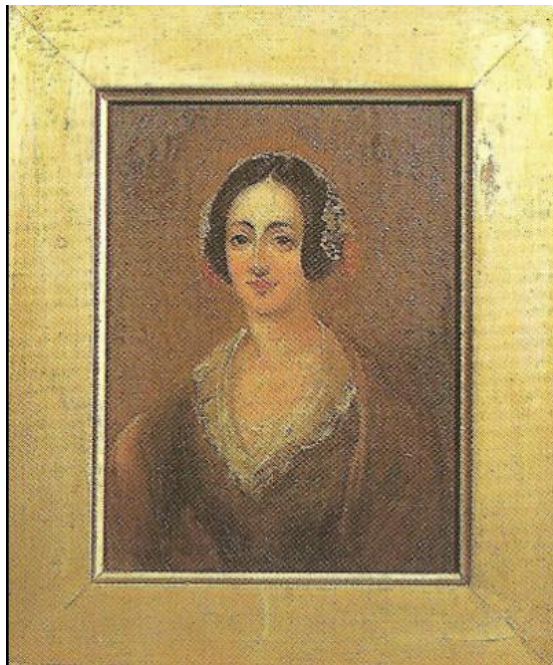




No. 270

July 2022



Lady Eliza Grey c1850 (Brierley, Susan (1985) *The Story of Mansion House*, Warkworth, N.Z.)

Eliza Lucy Spencer 16, married George Grey 27, in 1839 and she bore a son. When the baby died in Adelaide, Grey blamed his wife. She was never reconciled to life in Adelaide or New Zealand, where contemporaries described her 'a perfect devil', ill natured, untrustworthy, and given to tantrums.

**Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Lyn O'Grady

I'm looking forward to hearing about the Governor's wives from Professor Philip Payton at the forthcoming August meeting, if Lady Grey is an example.

Despite the chilly weather, we can still boast good attendances to our last two meetings. At our last meeting, Geoffrey Bishop



suggested that members may share short historical items of interest or observations. In addition, this newsletter could also be an outlet too.

Have you enjoyed the special programs for ABC Radio's 90<sup>th</sup>? With today's technology, you can listen to podcasts and feast on history at <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/podcasts/history-podcasts>

### History



Dig



Stuff The British Stole



The Eleventh



Little Tiny



Rear Vision



The History Listen

Or download a book from Wakefield Press (they cost less than the printed version) and enjoy a good read in a comfy chair by the fire.

<https://www.wakefieldpress.com.au/pages.php?pageid=16>

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Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

## **AUGUST MEETING:**

***Friday 5 August at 7.30pm at  
Burnside City Uniting Church, 384 Portrush Rd Tasmore***

### **VICE-REGAL WIVES & GUBERNATORIAL REPUTATIONS**

*Speaker: Professor Philip Payton*

Drawing upon his recent book *Vice-Regal: A History of the Governors of South Australia* (Wakefield Press, 2021), Philip Payton alights upon the lives of a cross-section of 'vice-regal wives', and asks to what extent these women complemented, enhanced, ameliorated – or otherwise – the reputations of their husbands as Governors of South Australia.

He reveals a number of surprising stories, some uplifting and some shocking, which demonstrate the significance and influence of these wives, finding for some a prominent place in the history of the State.

Philip Payton is Professor of History at Flinders University and Emeritus Professor of Cornish & Australian Studies at the University of Exeter in the UK. He is an Hon, Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is the author or editor of sixty books and numerous chapters and articles, and is a former editor of the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*. Other Wakefield Press titles by Professor Philip Payton include : *One and All: Labor & the Radical Tradition in South Australia* (2016); *Emigrants & Historians: Essays in Honour of Eric Richards* (ed. 2016); and *Pictorial History of Australia's Little Cornwall* (2020).



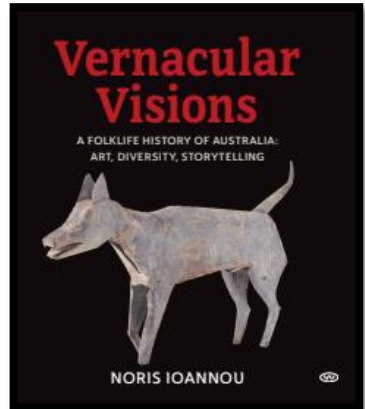
## **SEPTEMBER MEETING:**

***Friday 2 September at 7.30pm at  
Burnside City Uniting Church, 384 Portrush Rd Tusmore***

### **ONE DEGREE OF SEPARATION: MEMORIES AND MATERIAL CULTURE - DISCOVERING AND WRITING AN UNTOLD HISTORY OF THE BAROSSA**

*Speaker: Dr Noris Ioannou*

Detailed stories of past lives of ordinary Barossa folk rarely appear in the historical records and written sources. Using the lives of two Barossa Valley pioneers, a master potter and a master furniture-maker, Dr Noris Ioannou will show how he resurrected their ordinary yet unexpected life stories. He will recount his personal journey of discovery by combining oral tradition and memories



from the living, together with culture analysis of artefacts; interpreting environmental data and archaeology, as well as scant documental evidence. He will disclose moments of remarkable insights in the everyday lives of two Barossa master craftsmen: 'tepper' Hoffman and the 'tischlermeister' Launer, within the context of their religious makeup and social upheavals of their respective communities.

Dr Ioannou will also feature the significance of their surviving creations in clay and timber. Through these Barossan lives, he will reveal the unforeseen and enigmatic meanings of 'the return of the tishlermeister;', and 'in the footsteps of the potter' – all within his field research experience of 'one degree of separation'.

**Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.**

## STEPHEN THOMAS ALEXANDER BUICK 1856-1953

by Dr Jenny Hein

Born at American River, Kangaroo Island, Stephen Buick was one of 16 children. His parents, John and Frances had a hard life carving out a living on a remote island with minimal resources. The nearest school was 18 km away, so his mother home-schooled the children.



[left: 1848 parents, John and Frances Buick, colonists of American River – Wikitree]

A devout Christian family which knew the power of prayer, a power Stephen never forgot. Once, because of an error in ordering, the family ran out of sugar, but the supply ship was months away, so Mrs Buick gathered the family together and prayed for God's provision. The same

day a passing ship pulled into shore seeking fresh water and the captain offered to trade for part of his cargo of sugar.

Years later when Stephen had moved to the bright lights of Adelaide, he succumbed to temptation and indulged deeply in the less-respectable social activities – drinking, gambling, tobacco, and 'other social evils'. One day, he unexpectedly met one of his brothers who chastised him for his wickedness and the shame he was bringing on the family. There and then, in the street, he sought God's forgiveness and became a changed man.

In September 1880, Edward Saunders and John Gore, two members of The Salvation Army in London, met unexpectedly in South Australia and decided to form an army corp in Adelaide – the first in Australia. On the back of a greengrocer's cart [probably from the East Adelaide Produce Markets] Gore and Saunders held a street meeting in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Gore's parting invitation to those standing around listening was "if there is any man here who hasn't had a decent meal today, let him come home to tea with me."



Above: 5 Sep 1880 Meeting in Botanic Park Adelaide - SalvosMuseums facebook

It was likely at one of these street meetings that Buick was attracted to the Army. He returned to his family's home on Kangaroo Island, where he worked as a voluntary home missionary, teaching Sunday school and holding Saturday meetings for the local lighthouse keepers. In 1882 he assisted a visiting evangelist Matthew Burnett in his tour of Kangaroo Island.

Soon after Burnett's final meeting in South Australia – at the Adelaide corps of The Salvation Army - Buick became an officer with his first appointment at Moonta Mines in April 1883. Wallaroo and East End corps soon followed before he was sent to Tasmania, then Victoria and by the end of the year, was in New Zealand [The Salvation Army had commenced in New Zealand by 1884]. Stephen eventually settled in the North Taranaki district.

For more than 70 years Envoy Buick, with his bag of Salvation Army periodicals, was a welcome sight in the district. Every day he left his home to distribute copies of *War Cry* (over a thousand a week), as well as Bibles and Christian books, and conduct religious instruction and evangelistic meetings in homes. Known as the 'Taranaki Prophet', he is credited with a greater Christian impact on New Zealand lives, both Maori and westerner, than any other person.

In 1926 he became the first New Zealand recipient of the Order of the Founder, the Salvation Army's highest honour, and in 1953 the first Queen's Coronation Medal, was awarded on his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday (he died 5 months later).

*War Cry* (New Zealand), 13 November 1934.

Cyril R Bradwell, *Fight the Good Fight: The Story of the Salvation Army in New Zealand 1883-1983*, Wellington: AH & AW Reed, 1982

Alex Buick, 'Stephen Buick – the Taranaki Prophet' in *Kangaroo Island: The First 200 Years*, Instalment 17.

Robert Evans, *Matthew Burnett: The Yorkshire Evangelist*, Hazelbrook: Robert Evans, 2010.

Leslie Rusher, *Army Spy in the West*, Hawthorn: The Salvation Army, 1989.

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Editor: John Buick Snr is also an interesting fellow, an early pioneer of Kangaroo Island, at the following sites:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Buick-35>

<https://www.kipioneers.org/families/buick-john>

**Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.**

# Woomera

The Woomera Prohibited Area is a step closer to being opened up for mining, as a new bill passed through the Senate on 1 July 2022 to amend Defence legislation. The House of Representatives is expected to give final approval to the Defence Legislation Amendment Bill in July 2022.<sup>1</sup>

Did you know? Woomera was established 1947 and closed in 1982; the area encompasses 13 per cent of the area of South Australia, about 127,000 square kilometres.<sup>2</sup> it has had a revival as the site of a refugee detention centre in the last decade; the defence compound is still used by military during training exercises; rockets have been launched by countries like Japan from the rocket range within the past few years; Maralinga is part of the Woomera Rocket Range;



**IN THE PAPERS 1952 :** 'If I ever bothered to think about it, Woomera Village could probably claim unchallenged the title of wonder town of the world. No sane town planner would ever have chosen its site, an arid wasteland of gibbers, red sand, and saltbush, treeless and waterless, as a place for a village.

Woomera is there simply because the rocket range planners decided it was about the most convenient base for a field headquarters. That presented immediate problems of getting people, families, out there to the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/mining-in-woomera-well-received-by-federal-parliament-2>

<sup>2</sup> <https://docomomoaustralia.com.au/woomera-village-1947-sa>

edge of beyond, and keeping them there, happy and well, 'enjoying the amenities of a modern community. And that explains many odd things. For instance:

- The cheapest picture shows in Australia (top price 1 shilling).
- Food and clothing often below city prices.
- Attractive, fully furnished, all-electric, three bedroom homes at £2/14/ a week rental and no rates.
- Free board and lodging for single men (in messes) and women (in an 80-bed hostel), who are engaged directly on the project.
- A swimming pool (of sorts) and plans for a full size Olympic pool by the end of this year.
- A big community store, nearly completed, to combine under one roof all the attractions of city departmental stores, and all the things dearest to a woman's heart.



<https://www.theregister.com/Print/2011/11/18/woomera>

'All these, and a refreshing spirit of fellowship, of belonging to a team engaged on a pretty important job.

'At Woomera West, two miles out of Woomera Village, there are 800 men in a Works & Housing construction camp. In the early days there were nearly 2,500 and labor turnover was alarmingly high. Lack of amenities,

**Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.**

like regular supplies of beer, cigarettes, and tobacco, high cost and difficulty of buying clothing, or anything else, underlined the need for some form of communal buying organisation. The Woomera Welfare Club was the answer. The big canteen, open every day and every night in the week, Sundays included, can supply every need from a needle to the proverbial anchor. Turnover last year exceeded £266,000. The Club's open-air picture theatre is equipped with one of the finest talkie outfits in Australia. All this for 1 shilling, life membership.

'At the air-conditioned school in Woomera Village, 165 children (increase by 32 on last year) attend during the day, and the lights burn late every night for well-attended adult education classes.

'To establish Woomera, the Commonwealth Government leased the area from the South Australian Government, and there is a happy blending of Commonwealth-State activities. State police maintain civilian law and order in the area, which is guarded by Commonwealth officers. South Australia supplies the teaching staff at the Commonwealth-built school, and both authorities shared the cost of installing a loud-speaker system. That same co-operative spirit is present in religious affairs. Woomera has its own brickworks. Using Japanese and Swedish cement, and local sand, the plant employs 23 men, who turn out 14,000 bricks a day. More than three million bricks are stacked in the yard.

'Overlooking the brickworks is a lonely grave, with its headstone bearing the words, "Sacred to the memory of John Henry Davies, who died at Phillip Ponds, January 12, 1884, aged about 24 years. This stone is erected by his fellow bushmen living at Mount Eba Station." The near-by, picturesque old Phillip Ponds homestead was the first headquarters of surveyors who went out to pioneer the rocket range project in February, 1947. Mount Eba, with its established airfield, was originally considered as the main base for the rocket range.'



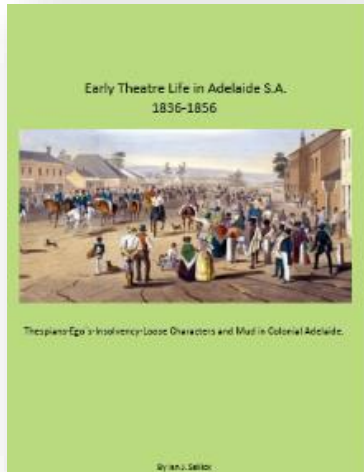
(News (Adelaide), 23 February 1952, p 4)

Headstone image

[http://www.ozgenonline.com/~Carols\\_Headstones/Phillips\\_Pond.htm](http://www.ozgenonline.com/~Carols_Headstones/Phillips_Pond.htm)

**Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.**

**BOOK : EARLY THEATRE LIFE IN ADELAIDE SA 1836-1856  
(revised) author Ian Sellick**



This new title is a revised and extended edition of his previous book of same title and includes detailed information on the hotels in the vicinity of Gilles Arcade. Price \$39.95 plus postage (phone 0418 891 830 or email [cedric@senet.com.au](mailto:cedric@senet.com.au) - (previous purchasers of 1<sup>st</sup> edition attract a special price).

The stories of the establishment of the theatres and all their characters is interesting enough in itself but being able to interweave it with all

the variations of daily life in a new colony makes for an interesting read. It is full of details on their locations and construction, along with information on the careers and movements of the owners and actors including many accounts of some interesting and unusual incidents that had occurred.

One of the most unusual stories relates to a group of serenaders that arrived in Adelaide under the title of Totten's Ethiopian Harmoniums and who after a successful season left aboard a ship bound for Mauritius in 1854, an unusual voyage at the hands of a rather ruthless and mad Sea Captain called Cook; and then one of the Serenaders returned to Adelaide and attempted to underhandedly serenade Emanuel Solomon's 16 year old daughter to elope with him.

Other stories includes the inebriated country patron that fell asleep during the evening's entertainment and was seen the next morning

banging an upstairs window in a fearful state; the accidental eating of the Wizards performing goose; of Jeremy Diddlers (debt bolters), prostitution, robbery, fighting, floods, mud, elephants, dogs and even detained foreign ships. Here is another story covered by the book:

### **Fracas at the Theatre** (The Examiner, 3 December 1842)

In early colonial Adelaide, more often than not, a night out at the theatre could end with more goings-on off the stage as on it, with unruly drunks or difficult patrons being a common distraction for the respectable patrons.

Called before the Resident Magistrate Court were Messrs John Henry Theakston, John Newman, James Fisher, Arthur Horrocks and Thomas Shale for violently assaulting Messrs Lawrence, Nearon and Rogers who were cheque-taker [ushers] at the Queen's Theatre on 30 November 1842.

A little before midnight, Rogers was taking tickets at the pit, Nearon was nearby when Messrs Shale, Fisher and Theakston came to the foot of the stairs of the upper circle. When asked for their ticket, they said they had none but would go up anyway. Mr Shale took hold of Nearon and dragged him down the steps and thrown onto the ground. Rogers then said 'neither of you shall pass while I have power to prevent you'. Mr Fisher then struck him in the face. Nearon was struck again and dragged out of the door into the street where Mr Horrocks said 'give it to him, knock his b----y brains out'. Sergeant Reid took several of the gentlemen off him while he was lying in the street. Verdict – Each of the defendants were to pay 40s each plus costs.

[The Examiner \(SA: 1841 - 1843\)](#) / [Wed 23 Nov 1842](#) / [Page 3](#) /

**QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Mr Lazar, on Monday Evening next, takes his farewell benefit. As he leaves Adelaide by the *Dorset*, this is, without doubt actually—his final appearance on the stage, in this Colony; and the immense exertions he is making to leave it with éclat, and to show what he could have made Theatricals here, had he been better supported by the public, will render the performance of *DER FATESCHUTZ*,**

## JOSEPH S SOLOMON

Native born Adelaidean, dancing at eighty two.  
(Mail 25 July 1925 pg1)

An active member of the Tattersalls Club, never misses a race meeting within reasonable distance of the city, and thinks nothing of mingling with younger generations upon the dance floor, Mr JS Solomon is a son of Emanuel Solomon, 'one of the greatest of South Australian pioneers'.



His father, born 1800, came to Sydney in 1820 and in 1837 came to SA [...having served his 7 years as a convict - omitted from the article]. He founded an auctioneering business and became a wholesale merchant. He 'was perhaps SA's first wealthy man and Henry Ayres worked as a clerk in his office. At one particular period Emanuel Solomon was the only solvent person in the colony'. He built Queen's Theatre, the first theatre in SA.

JS Solomon tells a story of those days:

*'It was the custom for the young bloods of the town to leave the theatre about midnight and go in search of adventure. In the company with a young scene painter called Massey and another youth, I left the theatre one night about midnight. In Currie Street we borrowed a pole from outside a barbers shop. Continuing on our way, we arrived at the premises of Phillip Levi, merchant. Massey, who had brought his paints with him, drew a hideous picture of a man undergoing a Tonsorial Operation on Phillip Levi's doorway, and in letters a foot high emblazoned the slogan. "Haircuts a penny each." We left the barber's pole there and sauntered along to*

*Rundle Street. A relation of mine in business in that street had outside his premises a sign which read: — “So and So, importer”. Massey with a few strokes of his brush altered the first 'R' of the word 'importer' to an 'S.' Our last escapade that night was to paint one of the Rundle street lights, illuminated by whale oil, black, and then rouse the landlord of the nearby tavern and tell him his light was out. The light shed by the lamp was so poor that it was not until the landlord had laboriously climbed a ladder to the lamp that he was aware that he was the victim of a hoax. ‘Our pranks were not looked upon seriously, and nothing further was heard of the matter.’”*

‘First in conjunction with his father and then on his own account, Mr. Solomon has been connected with many business enterprises. In 1861 he took the first mob of cattle overland to the Peake Station, then the farthest station north, and in 1864 took a cargo to what was then known as Swan River (WA) in the *Emily Smith*. He revisited WA at the time of the Kimberley gold rush. With his father, he ran a store known as the *Nimble Ninepence* which was later destroyed by fire. Mr. Solomon also interested himself in a wine, spirit, and cordial business, and at one time owned the Enterprise Brewery.

‘Since 1873 he has acted as trustee of his father's estate, and of late years this has occupied his whole attention. With Bentham Neales, Emanuel Solomon owned the land upon which the township of Port Pirie is built, and Solomontown is named after him. Nearly all of this land was disposed of but the estate still owns much property in Flinders. Franklin, and Hindley streets, Adelaide. Dorsetta terrace [pictured next page], a familiar landmark of Flinders street, was named after Elizabeth Dorsetta Solomon, a daughter of Emanuel Solomon, who received her second name from the brig *Dorset*, which played a big part in the lives of the early settlers in South Australia.



Doresetta terrace 1922 Flinders Street, near Divett Place. SLSA B855

‘Having owned a number of horses, Mr. Solomon tired of being an active participant in the thrills of racing, but he never lost his love for the sport. He was present at the last meeting of the Gawler Jockey Club. Subsequent to the last race he journeyed to Adelaide by train, and then proceeded to Glenelg. After dining with his son at the seaside resort he tripped across to the *Maison de Danse* and enjoyed half a dozen dances.

Mr Solomon explained *‘All my life, I have enjoyed myself without overdoing anything. I am not a teetotaller, and have been a smoker nearly all my life, but I have never drunk, smoked, or eaten too much, and the only thing I don’t feel up to doing at 82 is jumping fences.’*”

**[Editor: JS Solomon was a trustee of SA’s only Hebrew kindergarten and primary school that was established in Fuller Street, Walkerville and later moved to larger premises in Rose Park. Also, Emanuel Solomon’s will stipulated that his estate was not to be distributed until the last of his children had died, hence JS Solomon’s need to administer the estate]**

**Historical Society of South Australia Inc.  
PO Box 519, Kent Town SA 5071**

**MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30pm  
Burnside City Uniting Church, 384 Portrush Rd Tasmore**

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**CONTRIBUTIONS** to this newsletter are welcome. The deadline for the next edition is **Sunday 4 Sept.** Email [lyn.ogrady@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.ogrady@gmail.com)  
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