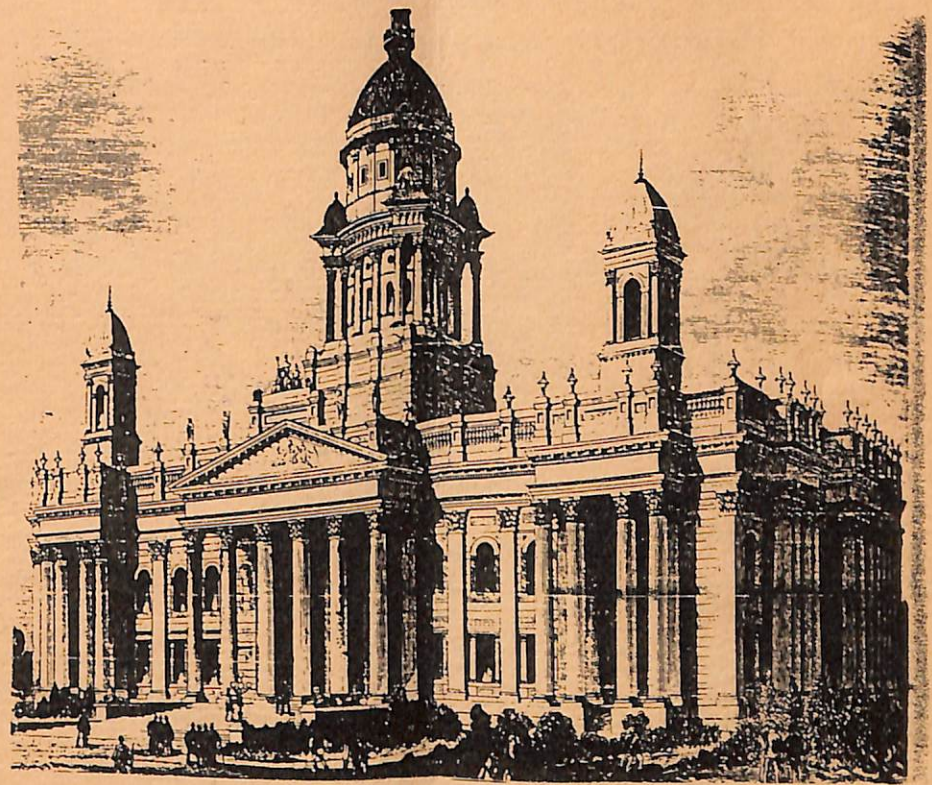




The
Historical Society
of
South Australia
Inc.



Newsletter No. 59, 1985.



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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000.

OBJECTS:

- (a) to arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of South Australian and Australian history,
- (b) to promote the collection, preservation and classification of source material of all kinds relating to South Australian and Australian history,
- (c) to publish historical records and articles,
- (d) to promote the interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, readings, discussions and exhibitions,
- (e) to co-operate with similar Societies throughout Australia,
- (f) to do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

COUNCIL:

PATRON: Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.
PRESIDENT: Mr R.P.J. Nicol
VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr A.J. Stimson
SECRETARY: Mr G.D. Haines
TREASURER: Mrs E. Ulbrich
MINUTE SECRETARY: Miss T.M. Donnellan
MEMBERS: Mr J.F. Faull
Mr R.M. Gibbs, A.M.
Mr R.H.B. Kearns, M.B.E.
Mr D.J.H. Manuel
Dr J.D. Playford
Ms E.M. Ramsay
Mr B.J. Samuels
Mr R.E. Thornton

WORD-PROCESSING: Miss V.J. O'Neill

FOUNDED IN 1974.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

The original design for South Australia's Parliament House. The actual design used was considerably less grand. Parliament House is the venue for the next Society fund-raising tour.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 7 (8.00 p.m.), (The adjourned A.G.M.)
Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
(Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide)

My Grandmother had One of Those!

A night for members and their friends to share their own historic possessions. This was one of the highlights of the 1984 Society programme and once again there will be a collection of fascinating historical objects displayed and explained by members. If you have an item yourself, please bring it along. It doesn't have to be valuable or rare - just interesting. Already we can promise a great variety, from 19th century musical instruments to a lady's button-hook.

Friday, July 5 (8.00 p.m.)
Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre

The Final Pageant - The South Australian Way of Death

Robert Nicol, President of the Society, is currently writing a history of South Australian burial and funeral practices. In a recent fund-raising tour he dealt with the history of S.A. cemeteries. On this occasion he will look at the nature of 19th century funerals and the history of the undertaking profession. As well as illustrations with slides, there will be an exhibition of funeral and mourning paraphernalia, including funeral cards, photographs, mourning jewellery, engravings, coffin trimmings and undertakers' accounts. Don't be put off by the subject matter. It provides a fascinating reflection of 19th century conditions and customs.

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**** FUND-RAISING TOURS ****

NEXT TOUR: SUNDAY, JUNE 16 (2.00 p.m.)
to
PARLIAMENT HOUSE

(Assemble on the main steps)

The Society's fund-raising tours seem to be popular with members and their friends, 100 turning up for the first of the year and 300 for the second. If his schedule permits, our tour guide this time will be the Hon. John Bannon M.P. Many South Australians have never been inside their magnificent parliament building. Of course we can't charge an admission, but members are welcome to make a donation to help the Society's work. (\$2 per adult is hopefully suggested.) Members and their friends are welcome.

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Australian Garden History Society

'Walnut Hill', 5 Walker Street, Stirling 5152.

Notice of Meetings for 1985:

Wednesday, June 26, 8 p.m.

Annual General Meeting. A guest speaker will be arranged by the committee.

Sunday, September 29

A visit to some of the gardens in the Clare Valley and surrounding districts will be arranged by the committee. We hope to be able to visit Hughes Park and several other properties on a day-long picnic tour.

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PUBLICATIONS

MERINOS, MYTHS, AND MACARTHURS

J.C. Garran & L. White

"With the approach of our bicentennial year, this timely publication from Australian National University Press re-examines the most enduring of our myths: John Macarthur and the modern Australian Merino. Generations of school children have been taught that Macarthur had a vision of a great Australian wool industry; that he imported Merinos from the flock of King George III and that by keeping them pure in spite of the opposition he established the basis for the Australian wool industry.

John Macarthur, in fact, neither imported the first sheep nor the first Merino. He was not the first to conceive of, nor to establish, a wool industry. The four rams and one aged ewe that Macarthur did bring to Australia were soon discarded. His breeding programme was old fashioned and based on the erroneous theory that an animal derives its qualities solely from the male parent, the female being merely a walking incubator. And, what is more, the burden of his sheep enterprise was not carried out by him, but by his wife Elizabeth. John Macarthur's real success lay in his ability to persuade the British government to give him huge land grants in return for a promise to produce eight million pounds of wool per year within twenty years. A promise he never came near to keeping.

MERINOS, MYTHS AND MACARTHURS demolishes once and for all the claims by Macarthur and later advocates, that he is the father of the Australian wool industry. Macarthur is shorn at last.

This fascinating and intriguing re-examination of the myth of the 'pure Merino' and of the importance of John Macarthur in our history ... will be of special interest to historians, breeders and farmers, but above all it will appeal to a wide audience of Australians eager to know the truth.

About the authors

JOHN GARRAN was a sheep farmer all his working life, except for for years as a POW in World War II. The second son of Sir Robert Garran, the distinguished constitutional lawyer and Commonwealth public servant, he spent a year at Melbourne University before working as a jackeroo and subsequently farming on his own account near Canberra. He died in 1976 leaving a manuscript which was the fruit of years of intensive research and investigations of sheep in several countries and based on examinations of voluminous records.

Substantial editing, revisions and additions to the text and updating of the useful bibliography were undertaken by LESLIE WHITE, as a visiting fellow in the department of history at the Australian National University and since. Leslie (Tim) White studied Economics at the Universities of Queensland and Sydney, an has been associated with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics since 1947. He has lectured in Economic History at Canberra University College and is the author of another book, "Wool in Wartime: A Study of Colonialism", published in 1981."

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**** BOOK OFFER ****

The Society has available, at a special price of \$18.95, copies of "Channakale. The Turkish View of Gallipoli" by Dr. Kevin Fewster. Dr. Fewster recently addressed the Society on this subject.

Orders to: The Secretary, c/- the Society.

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REPORT ON OUR APRIL MEETING

Dr Kevin Fewster, Director of the South Australian Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide, spoke on 'Channakale: the Turkish View of Gallipoli'. Prior to taking up his appointment in 1984 Dr Fewster taught history at Duntroon and Monash University. He is known as the editor of C.E.W Bean's war diaries, this volume appearing in 1983.

The Society was fortunate to secure him for its April meeting. It was a topical lecture, Anzac Day being only a few weeks away, and it followed not long after the prime minister's announcement of 18 March that part of Lake Burley

Griffin in Canberra would be renamed to mark publicly the achievements of the Turkish defenders at Gallipoli. Coincidentally it preceded by three days the launch in Melbourne of a new book Dr Fewster has co-authored with two members of Australia's fifty thousand strong Turkish community. This book carries the same title as his lecture to the Society and was written in part at the invitation of a Turkish publishing house in Melbourne.

From the outset he made no bones about the partisanship of his account. Gallipoli, he said, was a Turkish victory and an Allied defeat, and March 18, the date on which the Turkish gunners repelled an attempt by the Royal Navy to force the Dardanelles, is a date in modern Turkish history as important as April 25 is to us. He was concerned to remind us that the account of Gallipoli which has come down to most Australians through school and the Anzac ritual is a distorted one insofar as it has no place for the defenders. That should come as no surprise. Legends always have some basis in historical reality but in the process of becoming legends something of that reality is blurred or exaggerated. What was unusual was to hear another interpretation of events so familiar to us advanced so forcefully. The Australians, in the Turkish view, did not exist at all; they thought they were fighting the Greeks at first, and afterwards, when that confusion had been sorted out, 'the English'. How could they possibly confuse our chaps with the stunted products of British slums? Well, they did, just as the Australians could not distinguish between the Ottomans and other troops in the trenches opposite. Neither side had a monopoly on blindness.

This reviewer particularly appreciated the slides which punctuated Dr Fewster's lecture; most are reproduced in the book. They brought home to me, as Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett's splendidly romanticized account of the landing could not, something of the physical obstacles encountered by the Australians and their faithful New Zealand bearers in those early hours, and something, too, of the 500 or so startled defenders on the cliffs above. Gallipoli - Channakale to the Turks - will never be quite the same for the 120 people fortunate to have heard Dr Fewster.

Tony Stimson

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HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Social History Museums

Anna Malgorzewicz, formerly with our CEP-funded Government Collections Listing Project, and Peter Tonkin, a recent graduate of the South Australian CAE, have joined the Social History Museums team as Assistant Curator and Design Assistant respectively. The Migration and Settlement Museum

is now planned to open in April, 1986 and the Police Barracks and Armoury Museum in 1986-7.

South Australian Maritime Museum

Director Kevin Fewster has now been joined by most of his core professional staff. Designer Quentin Mitchell has nearly twenty years experience of theatre, television and museum design in England, Ireland and Australia. Assistant curator Jenny Lewis has a background in historical research and library studies. Development Officer/Volunteers Co-ordinator Don Thorpe is a master builder and plumber and former Commodore of the Glenelg Sailing Club. In addition a diverse project team has been assembled to work on the buildings and site under Project Manager Chris Loan.

The museum is the State's major Commonwealth-funded Jubilee 150 project and is due to open in the last quarter of 1986.

Birdwood Mill

Jon Chittleborough has been appointed Assistant Curator. He has a background in commercial business and teaching. Julie Norman, formerly an Education Officer at the South Australian Museum, has taken up the same post at Birdwood, initially for one year.

CEP Projects

Ann Burgess has replaced Anna Malgorzewicz on the Government Collections Listing Project, due for completion in July. Ann is a recent arts graduate and was previously assistant editor of a newspaper concerned with disability. About 3,700 items have been recorded so far.

Constitutional Museum Displays

Adelaide's Empire will continue throughout the year. In late April "Politics and Plants" will open for a short season as a contribution to the Education Department's "Come Out" Festival and will be followed May - June by a display on the 40th Anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps and in June by a display on Toc H. A small display on the scientist and explorer B.H. Babbage will run from March to July. Speakers Corner displays include: Peace and Nuclear War in the Australian Landscape (25 March - 19 April), May Day (22 April - 24 May) and in June the Anti-Vivisection Union will mount a display.

- Reprinted from "Muse News", March 1985
with minor amendments.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR THE TOURIST

Contributed by Victor H. Ryan
Director of the S.A. Publicity and Tourist Bureau

(From "Progress in Australia", June 30, 1930)

South Australia has many attractions for the tourist. From Cape Northumberland in the south to Wilpena Pound in the north there are features that compel the attention and admiration of the lover of the beautiful in land and seascape, while over and above all is the bracing climate which for health and enjoyment is unexcelled anywhere in the world.

Situated on a fertile plain, midway between the sea coast and the Mount Lofty Ranges, Adelaide, the capital, will forever stand as a tribute to the ability and foresight of its designer, Colonel Light. With its encircling belt of parklands and public gardens, aggregating in area 2,000 acres; wide thoroughfares and avenues of trees, it well deserves its title - "The Garden City".

Mount Lofty Ranges

The advantages arising from the near situation of the Mount Lofty Ranges to the city are almost inestimable. Hidden in their recesses are flourishing orchards and gardens, and charming townships dotted here and there invite the holidaymaker to stay and enjoy the beauties of Nature and the exhilarating atmosphere. The view of Adelaide and its environs which may be obtained from any of the vantage points in the mountain ranges has been characterised as the best of its kind in the British Empire. Mount Lofty, the highest peak, is by road about 12 miles from the city. From this eminence, 2,334 feet above sea level, a magnificent panorama is afforded, it being possible on a clear day to see 60 miles in nearly every direction. Of historic interest is an obelisk erected on the reserve in honour of Captain Matthew Flinders, commander of the ship "Investigator", who from Kangaroo Island, on March 23rd, 1803, discovered and named Mount Lofty.

Recognising the value to the community of open spaces amid beautiful surroundings, the Government has reserved areas at various places in the mountains as public pleasure resorts. The most extensive of these is the National Park, comprising 2,000 acres, situated at Belair about 8 miles from Adelaide by road. Nearer the city are the Waterfall Gully, Morialta Falls and other Reserves. At all of these recreation grounds facilities for the enjoyment and convenience of visitors have been provided, while care has been taken to preserve native flora and vegetation.

The South Coast

Connected by rail and an excellent road with the metropolis,

Victor Harbor and Port Elliot on the south coast are deservedly the most popular watering places in the State. During the summer both these resorts are crowded with visitors. Portion of the coast is fringed with huge granite cliffs, and the unceasing roar of the mighty breakers of the Southern Ocean, as they dash with impotent fury against the rocks, is a never-failing attraction. Granite Island, which is connected with the mainland by a causeway, abounds in pleasant walks and boulder-shaded retreats. Within easy distance of Victor Harbor are a number of attractive places. These include Middleton, with its shell-strewn beach; the Murray mouth; Hindmarsh and Inman Valleys, with their waterfalls and gardens; Hindmarsh River and the Bluff.

The South East

In this well-favored portion of South Australia is Mount Gambier, with its wondrous crater lakes, curious coves, and typical English scenery. The Glenelg River, a beautiful stream, 22 miles from Mount Gambier, is much favored by sportsmen, whether with gun or rod. In the South East also are the world-famed Naracoorte Caves, with their marvellous treasure of stalactites and stalagmites, which for beauty of form, variety of color and degrees of transparency, can hardly be excelled. Other noted health and holiday resorts in this pleasant district are the splendid watering-places, Port MacDonnell, Beachport, and Robe. Of special interest is "Dingley Dell", at one time the home of Adam Lindsay Gordon, the talented poet, whose romantic career is well known to the majority of Australians.

The River Murray

This river, Australia's mightiest waterway, flows through South Australian territory for nearly 400 miles. Of the many opportunities for enjoyment available in the Commonwealth, few can vie with those afforded by a trip on one of the well-appointed pleasure steamers which traverse its peaceful waters. Goolwa, Murray Bridge and Mannum offer many advantages for boating, fishing and shooting.

Northern Districts

North of Adelaide are many thriving districts, each of which has its own particular attractions. Gawler, 25 miles by rail from the metropolis, is most pleasantly situated. Seven miles further on is the Roseworthy Agricultural College, the first institution of its kind established in the Commonwealth. Angaston and Tanunda are in the midst of the fertile Barossa district, and Clare, 90 miles from Adelaide, is the centre of another locality, famous for its orchards and vineyards.

Port Pirie, the chief port, is noted for its silverlead smelting works, the most extensive and complete in the world. Port Augusta at the head of Spencer Gulf, is the junction of the Trans-Continental railway line to West Australia.

Port Lincoln

The chief port of Eyre's Peninsula, Port Lincoln is now a popular holiday resort as well as an important commercial centre. It has a magnificent land-locked harbor, and abundant opportunities are afforded for boating, fishing, bathing, driving, shooting and golf.

Kangaroo Island

About 70 miles distant from Port Adelaide by steamer, Kangaroo Island is frequently termed "Australia's Isle of Wight". Even in the middle of summer the atmosphere is almost invariably cool and refreshing, and this combined with its many other attractions has gained for it a high reputation as a sanatorium and holiday resort.

Truly, in the matter of offering facilities for tourists, South Australia has no need to hide its light under a bushel.

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THE GROWTH IN INTEREST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Recent years have seen a growth in interest in all facets of history. An increasing number of histories are being published. An analysis of the Monthly List of Publications prepared by the State Library has been carried out for 1983 and 1984. Whilst some of the histories listed were published in previous years, the figures provide a good picture of the growth in interest and those aspects that are attracting the most attention.

- Andrew Peake

Type of History	1983	1984
General	3	13
Local	40	45
Church	20	37
Business	14	19
Sporting	5	12
Family	40	48
Hist. Biography	16	22
Building	10	5
School	16	13
Other	6	3
<u>Total</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>217</u>

DR. WILLIAM DEVERAUX BAIN

- Jean Schmaal

Dr. Bain, an Englishman, came to Clare when he was a 38-year old bachelor. He was one of the last doctors to wear the traditional Old Country garb, which was then part of a doctor's dress. He never attended a patient unless he was dressed in a three-quarter morning coat and usually lightly striped trousers, together with a grey bell-topper. As he stepped out of his carriage he carried a pair of gloves. There was no relaxation of this custom, even though the thermometer was sometimes around 105 on summer days.

Many people felt that this impressive dress had a beneficial psychological effect, especially on poor patients who were unused to the presence of well-dressed people in their humble homes.

Dr. Bain was among the original investors in Block 14 at Broken Hill, which was the point from which Broken Hill's millions began. After retiring on the strength of his newly-found wealth Dr. Bain spent a great deal of it testing the mineral wealth of the neighbourhood of Clare. There came a time when his affairs became so involved that he had to return to practising his profession, whilst managers took over his affairs. For a while he left Clare to practise at Port Germein, but just as his financial affairs were improving he died in Adelaide in 1903 at the age of 65 years. His remains were brought back to Clare and interred in Clare General Cemetery.

Dr. Bain was noted for never having turned away a deserving person or cause.

Before the National Bank was built there was a large timber shed on the site, which Dr. Bain had turned into a skating rink. This closed when the Bank purchased the site.

Dr. Bain then built swimming baths, and while these were being built he leased the fruit preserving factory (later the jam factory) which had just been completed. He used this building as a temporary skating rink, and at considerable expense to himself had the second electric light in the State and the first in Clare installed. It proved a great attraction and people came from miles around to see the light. Some time later the Stanley Wine Co. bought these premises.

Dr. Bain also started the Clare Butter Factory, and in 1882 initiated the Clare Baths, the first indoor swimming baths outside of Adelaide and the largest in South Australia. The building had no windows, only skylights in the roof, and the entrance was a doorway of Moorish design. At the end of the swimming season a timber floor was placed over the pool for

roller skating during the winter. In front of the baths Dr. Bain built a public drinking fountain with four cups attached by chains. At the base was a basin for dogs, and nearby was a trough where horses too could slake their thirst.

In the old days of macadamised roads Clare's main street was subject to irritating clouds of dust, bad for the shopkeeper and also bad for his stock. At his own expense Dr. Bain put a water-cart into operation during the summer months. It meant nothing to him because he did not own a shop. His reward was the greater comfort of the people of Clare.

The chancel of St. Barnabas' Anglican church was added owing chiefly to his generosity. He stood security for an overdraft of £80 and then forgave the debt. When St. Barnabas first opened the windows were made of calico, but after a few years Dr. Bain presented a set of coloured windows which remained for 40 years. In 1872 Dr. Bain presented the church with the wall tablets upon which are inscribed the Ten Commandments. Dr. Bain's name appears as a church warden in the early years of the church.

Dr. Bain also gave the land on which Clare's Institute building stands. This was at the time when a town's Institute was the centre of culture and education. He also contributed generously to the building's cost, and was the Institute's first President.

Another of his gifts was the provision of the historic stepping stones across the Hutt River.

On the hillside adjacent to the Soldiers Memorial Park and Archway is situated the Bain rotunda, erected in 1904, as a token of the respect and esteem of the citizens of Clare for Dr. Bain, one of the greatest citizens of its past, and sometimes referred to as "England's greatest gift to Clare".

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REPORT ON FIELD TRIP: WEST TERRACE CEMETERY

Sunday 21 April, 1985

This was an extraordinary success. Our leader, President Rob Nicol, had appeared in the press and on radio and television in the week or so leading up to the walk, and clearly had succeeded in generating a lot of public interest in the cemetery. At 2 p.m. when the walk was due to commence, people were still pouring in through the main gates, and at 2.10, when Rob clambered on to the bonnet of a car to declaim to the multitude, the crowd numbered 300. By then most

people had received a copy of the official guide Rob had prepared some years earlier for the cemetery authorities, along with further notes on its history. Some people missed out. We simply ran out of material, membership application forms included.

We set off as a group about 2.20 but did not remain a group for very long. It took minutes for everyone to file past Percy Grainger's grave; it took minutes more to file past the grave of Mrs Poole, whose sole claim to fame was that her grandfather had been executed with Louis XVI in January 1793. Two hours later people were strung out all over the site. But our guide rose to the occasion manfully, haranguing those who managed to keep up with him from any available vantage point with lungs strengthened, he told us by years of shouting at students, and an informative afternoon it proved to be.

Those present learned something about the cemetery's chaotic history and the difficulty of burying bodies in waterlogged graves. They learned something, too, about nineteenth century funeral customs (a subject Robert Nicol will return to in his July lecture to the Society) and the significance of particular symbols (the anchor and the truncated column for instance). They were taken to some of the most interesting grave sites, though - given the number of people - only a fraction of those Rob had planned to visit. Perhaps his most important comment was saved for the end. Cemeteries, he reminded us, are documents of their age and sources of historical information which is not to be found elsewhere. Perhaps West Terrace will be to Adelaide as the Père-Lachaise cemetery is to Paris, an important piece of French history but also a place where Parisians go for a picnic.

We were fortunate indeed that it was a splendid afternoon for April, and fortunate too in having as our guide someone who in his ten years in South Australia has done a lot to secure the preservation of this part of our history. For many members of the public this walk would have been their first contact with the Historical Society. May it translate into new memberships! An increased public awareness of the Society and its objectives can only be for its long term good and for the good of history in South Australia.

In all it was perhaps the most remarkable single event in the eleven year history of the Society.

Tony Stimson

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JEANIE

- Jean Schmaal

Just before the outbreak of the last war in 1939, a troop of 9th Light Horsemen from Clare went to Gawler. The late Sir Richard Hawker was also there, and in the midst of inspecting the horses he commented on the fact that a certain mare was in foal.

"That is impossible," he was informed. "No stallion has been near this mare."

In time, however, the mare proved that she was indeed in foal, when she produced a healthy young offspring. Her offspring was a baby mule, the last foal to be born in a cavalry camp in Australia. When speaking of stallions, the presence of a quiet little grey donkey stallion had been overlooked.

The foal was taken back to Bungaree Station and named Jeanie. It lived on Bungaree for many long years. When it finally died in 1983 it was well over 40 years old.

Out on Bungaree, Mr. Fred Haynes was frequently called upon to ride the mule, and it was the delight of his young nieces and nephews to be taken out to see Uncle Fred at work, the children more than hoping that he would be bucked off.

The children's mother always warned them: "Now, you are not to tell people if Uncle Fred comes off. And what's even more important, you are not to tell them what Uncle Fred says if he is bucked off."

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**** INFORMATION REQUESTED ****

The Queen Adelaide Society, in association with the Spastic Centre of Woodville, is planning an authentic 19th century ball for the Queen's Birthday in 1986. There will be a military band and dancers doing gavottes, the schottische, waltzes, galops and other Victorian dances.

The organisers are looking for information on the essential niceties which would make the occasion an authentic recreation, from the etiquette involved, to the flower arrangements and lighting.

If you can assist with information, contact Mr. D.T. Littledeye, 3 Milton Avenue, Beaumont 5066.

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