



The
Historical Society
of
South Australia
Inc.



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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.

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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover Illustration
BOTANTIC HOTEL
North Terrace, Adelaide

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 4 (8.00 p.m.)
Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
(Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide)

Claudia Quinn-Young: Writers who came to South Australia

This talk on writers who came to South Australia and what they wrote about will begin with the ships' surgeons who arrived in the 1830s and cover the period from then to the twentieth century. It will include the impressions of writers such as Mark Twain, Anthony Trollope, and Richard Twopeny.

Friday, November 1 (8.00 p.m.)
(Final meeting for 1985)

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre

Noris Ioannou: From Folk to Studio Pottery

150 Years of ceramic history in South Australia
Illustrated talk and exhibition

Noris Ioannou is writing a history of South Australian pottery from 1836 to 1986 to coincide with S.A.'s Jubilee 150. He will discuss the development of a craft which has both provided the essentials of daily living and acted as a form of artistic expression. An interesting meeting to end a well-received programme for 1985.

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

NEXT TOUR: SUNDAY OCTOBER 20 (2.00 P.M.)

ADELAIDE'S EAST END

Many Society members participated in last year's successful tour of the West End of the city: now a look at some places of historic interest in the East End.

Assemble at Victoria Square. The tour will end at the East End Market so it is suggested that members and their friends and families park between these two points.

(A donation to assist the Society's work would be appreciated.)

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TOUR OF THE TREASURY BUILDING

On Sunday, August 18 many members attended the Society's last fund-raising tour to the Treasury Building and learned of its beginnings and background.

The Treasury Building is located on the corner of Flinders and King William Streets in Adelaide. When Colonel William Light was undertaking his planning work in 1836 and 37, he set aside one acre (Town Acre 236) for government offices: here the Treasury Building stands. The building is notable for its commemorative plaques, impressive building style and attractive courtyard and 'Old Cabinet Room'.

Some of the offices in this new building were occupied by the Governor, Colonial Secretary, Colonial Treasurer, Registrar General and Land Office.

In addition to providing office accommodation part of the basement and ground floor areas were used as assay offices between February 1852 and February 1853. During that short period thousands of ounces of gold from the diggings in Victoria were handled.

The Old Cabinet Room contains fine old furniture and volumes of the South Australian Statutes and Parliamentary Papers. Featured on the walls are portraits of South Australia's Governors, Premiers, Chief Secretaries, and Land Commissioners.

Premiers from Colton (1876) to Hall (1968) guided Cabinet in making decisions leading to legislation which set South Australia's future course. The exact date of the first executive meeting is not known but it is thought the Cabinet Room would have been used from the completion date. Executive Council meetings were held here until 28 November, 1968 when the venue of Executive Council meetings was moved to the newly completed building on Victoria Square.

From information provided by staff at the Treasury Building.
- Ed.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES - JULY 1985

The History Trust of South Australia attempts to maintain an up-to-date register of South Australian Historical Societies. It distributes the register in this form annually to a number of key State-wide historical organisations and information agencies as a community service.

The general public often experience difficulty in contacting historical societies. Adopting post office boxes as contact points, as many bodies already do, therefore has

some advantages. In particular it ensures that lists like this one remain current! Any amendments or additions to this listing should be phoned through to the History Trust's Information and Planning Officer on (08) 223 8807. National Trust branches are excluded from this listing as their contact file is maintained by their head office (Phone (08) 223 1655).

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c/- Mrs H. Ceravolo, Lobethal Road, Ashton 5137
ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 221, Blair Athol 5084

ENGINEERING HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Institution of Engineers Australia (S.A. Division)
11 Bagot Street, North Adelaide 5006

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PO Box 56, Henley Beach 5022

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MT. HORROCKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Institute Building, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000

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ENFIELD - INTERESTING EVENTS PAST AND PRESENT

The Enfield area is very rich in history and assisted in the early growth of the colony. Some interesting points are:

1. The pine trees which studded the district were used for the construction of the first Government House, and also the wharves at Port Adelaide.
2. Klemzig was a very early settlement, as was Dry Creek.
3. Superphosphate was used in the 1860s for the first time in South Australia on the Rakes Farm, now the site of the Enfield Civic Centre.
4. An ironworks was at Gepps Cross.
5. Barton Vale House (Vaughan House) was owned by the Bowman family, wealthy early pastoralists.
6. Sunnybrae Farm, Regency Park, recently handed over to the Enfield Council was established in 1852 by Richard Day, and supplied produce to the Adelaide Market.
7. Yatala Labour Prison was established in 1854, and has 8 buildings on Heritage lists.
8. The first England to Australia air race in 1919 finished when Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith landed their Vickers Vimy biplane at "Enfield Aerodrome", Northfield. The plane is now on permanent display at the Adelaide airport.
9. In more recent times in the world of electronics, the Enfield Council in 1956 became the first Council in South Australia to operate a two-way radio.

In the colony's early years, the District of Yatala was the local government body "looking after" the needs of residents to the north of the River Torrens. Various boundary adjustments through the years brought into being the Councils we know today, of which Enfield is one. This common bond with history ties these Councils together, and interested persons from those areas are also welcome to attend and join the Society.

The Enfield & Districts Historical Society Inc. is a community project with schools, senior citizens clubs, service groups, sports clubs, family groups, as well as individuals, all combining to form a group with a very important, exciting and challenging mission, to record in all forms and enjoy the history of Enfield and District.

Further enquiries may be made by ringing Enfield Council on 261 3099, or writing to PO Box 221, Blair Athol 5084. Meetings are held at the Enfield Civic Centre, 112 Hampstead Road, Broadview, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Copies of the Society's new publication "Enfield. Memories of Yesteryear" are available from the Centre at \$5.00 each.

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BARTON VALE HOUSE, ENFIELD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Enfield & Districts Historical Society wishes to bring to your attention the plight in which this grand historic building finds itself. Built by Edmund Bowman 1st in 1852, only 17 years after the foundation of this State, Barton Vale House is a unique example of a double storey stone mansion with architecture in the High Victorian-Gothic style. It has ratings on the S.A. Register of Heritage Items and the National Trust of S.A., with an application submitted for its inclusion on the National Estate Register.

The Bowman Family were pioneer pastoralists in S.A. and had large pastoral holdings throughout the State. Edmund Bowman 2nd built Martindale Hall at Mintaro in 1880, at the same time extensions were made to Barton Vale House, and both these homes were elegantly furnished with priceless items from overseas.

The Enfield district, though rich in early history, can boast of only two large examples of early colonial buildings. The first is the historic Yatala Labour Prison complex commenced in 1854, the other being Barton Vale House, 1852, and it's for this reason that the Society is most concerned about their future preservation, both are in the keeping of the S.A. Government and on heritage registers which are normally regarded as 'safe', but plitical and financial attitudes have been known to 'wipe out' historic buildings without any thought for the needs of present or future generations. Barton Vale House is now in this position!

The Enfield and Districts Historical Society, since 1982, has been active in trying to determine the future of this unique and historic house, but with little success, a structural report prepared by PBD in May 1982 stated attention was required but for a building of its age was in a reasonably sound structural condition.

Historically, Barton Vale House is unique in being one of the few and rare remaining suburban links between the "Grand Mansion" of the pioneer pastoralists and early settlement and development patterns in the area and the State at large, and also represents a phase of welfare care in being sold to the Salvation Army in 1922 and then again in 1947 housing the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board (being renamed Vaughan House), transferred to the Department of Community

Welfare in 1973. Officers of this department have taken personal interest in the building and would like it retained, but rehousing of this section has now left Barton Vale House virtually empty, and has no doubt given the S.A. Government a 'headache' as to its future, hence the lack of forthcoming information.

This letter is being sent to groups of all ages and interested parties informing them of a possible loss to the district and the community of a historical building, which, with public support, could become an attractive central asset to the Enfield district. It is an imposing structure set in large grounds and its uses, to name a few, could cater for all types of club meetings, receptions, garden events, perhaps a bandstand could be built on the lawns which are enclosed by the sweeping driveway!

Your earnest consideration and support for this "once only exciting proposal" is urgently required, otherwise it could be lost to the community, you can contact this Society or your local Member of Parliament or local Councillor and perhaps send a supporting letter to the newspapers. The leading article in the "Standard" of 22nd May, 1985 is a good example, though the reply of \$1m required for renovations is very doubtful!

In conclusion, this Society would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions in any way that would benefit our campaign to save this magnificent historic mansion for the Enfield district and the community's enjoyment.

Denis Robinson
PUBLICITY OFFICER

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GOODNESS AND GOLD AT WOODSIDE

'Goodness and Gold at Woodside' by Reg Butler was published in April 1985, to commemorate the centenary of St Mark's Anglican Church, Woodside. This book is a history of the Woodside district and contains many photos of old Woodside and District personalities and landmarks. Did you know that Woodside was founded by Andrew Johnstone of the Oakbank brewing family as a hopeful service centre for a goldrush in the Onkaparinga Valley which scarcely got off the ground? Did you also realise that St Mark's Church was designed by George Thomas Light, a kinsman of Colonel William Light? In fact, a number of the Light family became embroiled in the affairs of Woodside. Books cost \$10 each and are available from shops in Woodside and the State Library bookshop.

P. Sumerling

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MORE HOWLERS

The July newsletter reproduced some of the monumental howlers perpetrated by students in the 1981 Matriculation Australian History examination. Evidently they gave members a laugh or two so a few more follow.

I have taken them from John Mitchell's articles 'Not Only Ned Kelly But Also Ronald Biggs' and 'When Wordsworth crossed the Blue Mountains'. They were published in History Forum in February 1982 and May 1983 respectively.

These blues are hardly indicative of the general standard in the subject. They are to be found in the work of good candidates as well as in the work of the mediocre, the product of haste as much as ignorance; but they do make a good read.

Tony Stimson

-o0o-

In Tasmania men were offered £5 for every aborigine they captured, if they were killed in the process, they were used as dog meat.

It [Ward's Australian Legend] has withstood attack from most angles and is still in use today as a text book in schools so it can't be too wrong in facts.

All history is just simply history.

Mateship will never die, it is invincible, it exists in our past, present and future.

An essay on this topic cannot go by without mentioning Ned Kelly and even perhaps Ronald Biggs.

As W.M. Hughes was a Protestant and the other members of the Labour Party were Catholics, one can see quite clearly why the Labour Party expelled Hughes.

North above this line (Goyder's) draughts were frequent.

An imaginary line (limits of location), extending from Sydney in a one kilometre radius, it proved totally useless.

One cannot generalize about the aborigines. They were a passive fun-loving race who could ride a horse without a lesson.

Mateship died because of fast growing fertilizers that meant men had to mow the lawns twice a week and so couldn't spend as much time at the pub with his mates.

Some Aboriginal tribes used gorilla tactics.

The aims of the craft unions were to achieve shorter working hours, sick pay and death pay.

In the First Fleet there was a ration of six men to every female.

Many soldiers pretended to be sick or committed fatal wounds to themselves to get out of fighting.

Australian soldiers were more cunning and deviant.

Manning Clark, I think is rather obsessed with sex and perhaps this is because of his teaching university students for so long.

Scullin could have called a Double Disillusionment.

Agriculture was well under way before settlement began.

[Instead of Simpson and his donkey] Smithy and his mule.... Instead of calling a woman a shelia ... they adopted the American term brood.

Britain lent Australia a lot of money to get many things floated. Things like the Australian navy.

Wakefield's theory fell on fertile soil.

The only form of immigration was from overseas.

Manning Clark has a great potential to be a great writer.

'All Quiet on the Western Front' takes an indepth look at mateship and ... the true Anzac spirit.

The Cornish were Lutherans.

Many writers were bushrangers who enjoyed writing.

Many [squatters] owned caravans or small delicatessans to sell goods and sold at very high prices.

Aborigines ... were forced to live in missionaries.

Armistice Day is a day for remembrance. I hope I have remembered ...

The velocity and volume of migrants should be closely correlated with the amount of land available.

Even though women were often looked upon as whores they still played an important role to keep the nation on its feet.

People both rich and poor were squatting all over the countryside.

A fire-and-brimstone preacher, Clarke, taught the aborigines all they didn't need to know.

The bush provided artists with plenty of scenery to paint.

The little Cornwall area was discovered on the surfaces of the earth by a shepherd.

The view of mateship on the outside would look different, but the view of mateship on the inside would look the same.

Doing history has taught me my talents elsewhere.

These advantages were advantaged by their disadvantages. They each had disadvantages within themselves.

Prostitution was a common pastime.

(in 1949) the Proletarians of Russia under the leadership of Marx ...

Irish convict women were only allowed to marry Irish priests who were Catholic and thus they were unable to marry.

Telepaths were introduced (to Moonta) for easier communication with Adelaide.

Because of its large population, Melbourne became the geographical centre of Australia.

The Cornish are also well-known for their seedy cake.

- 26 rank and 4 file members.

They [shearers] show their fellowship because they all wear shorts and a singlet ...

Sir Henry Parkes' fatal flaw was his uncontrollable lust for women.

Ashmead Bartlett like all journalists distraughts the truth.

A meat pie is something that shows our identity today. This is similar to vegemite.

Mateship is helped by T.V. i.e. Dukes of Hazzard and Dallas where mates are helping out each other when they get into trouble.

Governor Gawler used funds to build roads - Gawler by-pass.

Thw white people didn't accept the way the aborigines clothed themselves - with fig leaves.

Many Cornish immigrants from Wales arrived at Port Adelaide.

[Russel Ward] circumcised the evidence.

* * * * *

THE GENTLE GIANTS

by Jean Schmaal

Kadlunga, named from an aboriginal word meaning "sweet water" is a splendid grazing property situated near Mintaro in the mid-north of South Australia. It has been owned by the Melrose family since 1916.

Back in the 1850s the property was used as a resting place for the horses, bullocks and mules used in hauling copper ore from the Burra Mines to Port Wakefield, then known as Port Henry.

In an era when heavy draught horses were used far and wide the great Percheron horses imported from La Perche in France in 1916 (where he had seen them on his honeymoon) by the late Mr Alex J. Melrose of Kadlunga, were an immediate hit. From them the first Percheron stud in Australia grew. Today Kadlunga can boast the largest stud in Australia for these noble animals.

The great horses are very broad and strong. Stockmen in the north look for horses like Percherons to give their own stock extra strength and stamina. Lime Silver Crest was one of the best of these Percheron stallions. He stood 17.2 hands high and was a magnificent animal. He left six foals when he died at the age of 13. Lochinvar was a fine police stallion lent to Kadlunga at one time for stud purposes.

The Percheron foals when born are almost black, changing to dapple-grey when they are about 12 years old, but once in a while one of them stays black into adulthood. They are docile creatures for all their great size.

After the 1939 - 1945 War Mr John Melrose was looking for a new stallion, and as his aunt planned a holiday in France, he asked her to keep her eyes open for a suitable animal.

When she finally returned home, and no stallion had arrived, her answer to the question, "Why didn't you buy a stallion?" was brief and very much to the point.

"Couldn't - all the best were eaten during the War."

Travellers through the district, keeping a lookout for the Percherons of Kadlunga, are seldom disappointed. The

magnificent animals, the mares often with foals at foot, are a heart-warming sight as they roam across the hillsides.

Tragically, numbers of Percheron yearlings perished in the dreadful fiery holocaust of Ash Wednesday in February 1983.

Not long ago I was visiting Kadlunga, and when admiring the great horses, my attention was drawn to one smaller snow-white horse, which among them all was the only one to accept my proffered carrot. This horse stood out for his friendly manner; what he lacked in size he surely made up for in social graces.

It came as no great surprise to be told that he was a police stallion named Saffron, apparently still in service, but service of a very different kind from his usual duties.

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A PHANTOM AT THE FOUNTAIN INN?

by Jean Schmaal

Among the host of colourful stories of our early days are some real beauties which concern some of the early inns.

At one time at Encounter Bay there was a pub, the Fountain Inn, built about 1837. The Fountain was constructed of weatherboard, the roof thatched with grasses from the nearby sandhills.

As it was the only hotel for miles around, the whalers of those early times flocked to it, and many a wild carousal was held within its walls. Brawls were frequent and many a man was dragged away, bleeding from wounds sustained in the free-for-all fights.

'Strange tales were told of the Fountain Inn - tales that inexplicable sounds were heard at night, like human feet dragging over soft sand.

Eventually the Fountain ceased to operate as an hotel, and was let to tenants as a summer residence. But nobody would stay long in the place. It was those noises!

It was not long before a rumour went around that the place was haunted; haunted by the ghost of a whaler who had been injured in a drunken brawl, dragged to the beach and left there to die. Some folk even went so far as to say that they had seen the grim story re-enacted, and that, at certain times, the ghost of the whaler returned to his old haunts.

It was many, many years before the real cause of the 'heavy footsteps' was discovered. It was claimed that SNAILS in their thousands, crawling up and down the window panes,

made the sounds.

Not all the stories from the Fountain were so grim however. There is another legend that one day a teamster came in from the neighbouring Tiers (a range about 12 miles back from Victor Harbour). The bar was full of whalers, and the whole company was in a merry mood.

"How goes it, mate?" one of the men of the coast asked the man from the hills.

"Fairly good," answered the teamster, "but it would be better if I had a wife."

"Would it? Well, what's wrong with mine?"

"What do you want for her?"

"A shout of drinks all round and you can have her."

The man shouted the drinks. Then the husband and the teamster went off to interview the lady. She expressed her approval of the proposed exchange, saying to the husband, "If that's all you think of me, then I am going."

And go she did. When the teamster left for the hills the woman went with him ... and she stayed with him.

In time the old place was delicensed, and then as if to decare its respectability, the former Inn was the scene of the first meeting of the District Council of Encounter Bay, I think, in 1853.

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PUPILS, PUNTERS AND POLO PONIES AT PLYMPTON

'Pupils, Punters and Polo Ponies at Plympton' by Reg Butler was published in July 1985, to mark the silver jubilee of Plympton High School. Plympton High School is built on the old Birkalla Polo Grounds of the Adelaide Polo Club. This lavishly-illustrated book of some 400 photos and maps details the history of the high school and its feeder primary schools. It also examines in some depth the settlement of the area by the Kaurna aboriginals, the coming of the first white settlers to Holdfast Bay in 1836, and the later settlement of Plympton-Glenelg along the Bay Road. Considerable detail is available of the dog coursing club founded in the late 1890s by John Creswell, the polo club and the Myer Sports Ground. To boot, John Martin of the Rundle Mall store had his farm at Plympton, where the Southern Cross Nursing Home is situated. The book is available from the school and selected outlets for \$15 a copy.

P. Sumerling

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