



The
Historical Society
of
South Australia
Inc.



Newsletter No 68, January 1987

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ACCOUCHMENT OF PRINCESS OF WALES.

Laid before Parliament by direction of His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

Circular, South Australia.

Downing-street, 15th January, 1864.

Sir—It is my pleasing duty to announce to you that, on the evening of the 8th instant, at two minutes before nine o'clock, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was happily delivered of a Prince, to the great joy of the Nation and of all the Royal Family. Her Royal Highness and the Infant Prince have, through Divine Mercy, continued to do well up to the present time.

I have the honor, &c.,
NEWCASTLE.

Governor Sir Dominick Daly, &c., &c., &c.



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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 - This short announcement by the Duke of Newcastle was published as SAPP No. 24 in 1864. The Prince and Princess of Wales had married in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on 10 March 1863. The son born in 1864, Albert Victor, later Duke of Clarence and Avondale, died in 1892.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 6 February 1987 at 8.00 p.m.
Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
(Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide)

Mrs Helen Tolcher: Rogues and Heroes -
Policing the Cooper, 1874 - 1952

Helen Tolcher is a researcher in the Archaeology Section of the South Australian Museum and a writer of short stories. She has travelled extensively in the Outback in the last twenty years and in 1986 published her book Drought or Deluge: Man in the Cooper's Creek Region. This is a fine history of South Australia's North East and the men and women who peopled it, and beautifully written to boot.

Helen Tolcher's lecture looks at one aspect of this story - the policing of the Cooper country, a subject worthy of a second book in its own right, and full of drama.

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Friday, 6 March 1987, at 8.00 p.m.
Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre

Hon. Martin Cameron, M.L.C.: A New Outlook on
Burke and Wills and South Australia's John McKinlay.

Mr Cameron is Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and Shadow Minister of Health. He has been a farmer for 30 years - he graduated from Canterbury Agricultural College near Christchurch - but it is his political career which has brought him to the public eye, beginning with his narrow (one vote) defeat by Des Corcoran in the Millicent election. Mr Cameron has been a member of the Legislative Council since 1971.

Political activities aside, Mr Cameron has long had an interest in the bush and camping. He has been researching the Burke and Wills and McKinlay stories for some time now and his lecture promises to throw new light on a famous episode in Australian history. Ultimately he hopes to produce a book.

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SOCIETY NEWS

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S COUNCIL

Nominations are hereby called for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and eight other positions on the Council.

Nominations, signed by both the proposer and nominee, should be lodged with the Secretary of the H.S.S.A, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000 by Thursday, 12 March 1987. The new Council will take office after the Annual General Meeting in April.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions have not been increased in 1987. We have been able to hold them at the 1986 level as the Society's finances are in a healthy state at present. Please tear off and forward the renewal/application notice attached to the enclosed 1987 programme - with your money of course!

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Report on the October Meeting

South Australia's Police History

Robert Clyne, Society member, founder of the Police Historical Society in 1977 and a serving police officer, left the gold escort re-enactment then bouncing and rattling its way towards Adelaide from Castlemaine to talk to 80 members of our Society on Friday 3 October. The re-enactment of the gold escorts of the 1850s was a great success, for although it didn't catch any criminals, it boosted police morale and by projecting history before the public excited their interest and understanding of the police force. Confessing that it was a relief to face the front of an audience rather than the rear of the horse hauling his spring cart, he spoke on the history of the South Australian Police Force, which as Police Historian he has been researching full time for the past three years.

Evidently the supposedly crime free society in South

Australia had such a fear of intrusion by convicts from the neighbouring colonies that it established the first Australian police force in 1836, only 7 years after the London police. This fledgling local force had a shaky start when less than a fortnight after colonisation the first policeman appointed was sacked for selling sly grog! This was not the last sacking, some were for dishonesty and others were for political reasons, including three commissioners.

Police work often involves confrontation with diverse groups in society and police history is therefore a goldmine of social history. Robert illustrated this with three examples taken from his recent book Colonial Blue. Firstly there were the tragic relations with the Aborigines reaching a nadir with Superintendent Wiltshire's killing of over twenty natives in the 1880s, mainly in dawn raids, although the number may have been higher as Wiltshire hated paperwork. Then there were the problems caused by the inability of the established religions to cope with the advent of the Salvation Army in 1881. Police found themselves the meat in the sandwich as the Salvationists considered the police acted too harshly while many colonists thought they acted too leniently. Finally in 1897 the police found themselves custodians of morals under a new law. Detectives sent to Bordertown to catch the local chemist in the immoral act of posting pessaries to his mail order clients, were thwarted in their attempts to gain evidence when the postmaster refused to open the letter as it was against his orders.

Robert's talk demonstrated that only the details of police work change while the fundamental aspects remain the same and that many of today's problems existed long ago. For example we think of the drug menace as being of recent origin, yet Robert's predecessors waged campaigns against the peddlers of passion pills which were claimed to restore lost manhood. It was gratifying to hear from an articulate practitioner that history is playing a vital role in maintaining communication with the people which the South Australian Police Force serves.

Bill Stacy

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Report on the November Meeting

Dr Arnold Hunt addressed the Society on Friday 7 November, his topic the history of Methodism in South Australia. Wakefield Press recently published his history of the church.

In his talk Dr Hunt set out to explain why Methodism grew so rapidly in this colony. It was, he explained, an

evangelical faith, one which was confident of its role in society, and translated easily to the frontiers of settlement in a young and expanding community. Indeed the first public building in many South Australian country towns was often the Methodist church, and by the time other denominations built their edifices it was often too late for them to hold settlers nominally other than Methodist. They had been 'lost', if that is the word, for good. This was due in no small measure to the fact that Methodist communities, more so than other groups, could survive quite well in the absence of an ordained minister, but it had much to do also with the enormous faith and sacrifice displayed by the church's workers in the bush.

Dr Hunt talked about other features of the history of the church in South Australia. He pointed out that there were originally five churches grouped loosely under the umbrella 'Methodist', churches divided to some extent along lines of social class but united in a number of ways, a strong choral tradition and a powerful sense of community and belonging being perhaps the most important. He also touched upon the changing role of the church in more recent times.

Arnold Hunt's talk, punctuated as it was by a wry sense of humour, and marked by a warm regard for the people who put the Methodist stamp on so many aspects of South Australian life, was one of the highlights of 1986.

Tony Stimson

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ARTICLES

WHAT IS HERITAGE?

[The Australian Historical Association held its annual conference in Adelaide in August 1986. One of the busiest sessions looked at the role historians might usefully play in heritage matters, the two speakers being members of this Society. Peter Donovan's paper was entitled 'How Historians can keep Conservation Architects honest'. Brian Dickey's 'What is heritage?' was a more theoretical survey but concluded with a few words of advice for those people involved in heritage - developers, historians, and heritage decision makers. This section is reproduced below with Brian's permission. Ed.]

For developers, by definition people involved in changing the physical environment, all of this is difficult. The developer must:

- * recognize that there will always be histories involved in the environment (especially where people have lived in it, but also natural histories too).
- * be sensitive to assess, or seek expert opinion to assess, the significance of the history confronting them: its intensity, the range of its links in the community, the contexts of its meanings, who is likely to claim it as history. The historical element must be an early part of the planning process.
- * if histories do appear to exist, they should not throw their hands up in horror, and certainly not go in for midnight bulldozing, but rather engage in debate with those histories, require them to give an account of themselves. It is when that starts to be done without passion and without political embarrassment, that a possible assessment of the historical significance of the existing environment can be made, and then a price tag can be put on it. Nothing is absolute, and sometimes greater goods outweigh the lesser: not always in the direction of new development though, nor are historians always on the side of retention. But if debate and analysis can be encouraged about the real historical meaning of environments in which developers are interested, it ought to be possible to make reasoned judgements about who values the place, and how much it matters in the overall community context of the present, with some eye to possible alternative futures. By implication, the onus of proof should always lie with the destroyer not the conserver. Destruction, like building, is a qualified social act. It is not a right. It impinges on a variety of social issues, and these must be considered. But both developer and conserver certainly must be able to generate a view of the history of what they are contemplating. If in doubt get advice from an historian!

In a similar fashion, historians should (aim):

- * to enrich the community's enjoyment of its pasts wherever possible. But avoid celebrating only one past, especially the past of the presently powerful.
- * to challenge both romantic conservatives and greedy developers to place their case explicitly and rationally.
- * to participate in the active development of a philosophy of heritage, that has practical applicability. The field of "cultural resource management", to give it the current fashionable title, needs a fuller, coherent set of shared values, attitudes and procedures. Clearly the historian's capacity to imagine, judge, and describe on the basis of surviving evidence about various pasts is a crucial, ongoing contribution to heritage and cultural resource management. It can challenge superficial or inadequate

history (often purveyed by architects); it can help weigh the weight to be given to association or subjective visual pleasure. It will constantly challenge the heritage manager's claim that a site is "significant": significant for what, for whom, in what context? There are well-established critical tools historians have developed and they must not be forgotten or pushed aside.

- * to take seriously in practice the theoretical assertion that anything can be evidence. If historians really judge sites or artefacts important, they should be active in their preservation, interpretation and presentation. History can properly be a political activity. It may also require some imaginative teaching developments for those of us charged with teaching our craft in tertiary institutions. Despite the resource crisis, despite the problem of cultural specificity (well only the Australianists will be interested), despite the sneering lip curl that active interest in history "in the field" is second rate, constrained by unworthy motives, historians can and should engage in educating potential cultural resource managers. It is a demanding and rewarding form of doing history.
- * not to be afraid to offer critical advice, and to enter into consultation, in a field where skilled, professional advice given with integrity is a rare product indeed. Engagement as a consultant is a powerful and exciting historical activity.
- * not to make extreme statements about the importance of evidence, or to offer under-researched statements, especially in the context of heated public debate about heritage questions. Careful, balanced but imaginative comments are called for in these difficult situations.

Finally, may I offer some advice to heritage decision makers, to the formulators of heritage lists, the managers of our heritage resources:

- * the quality of the judgements about what is heritage must be lifted. The temptation to yield to a desired political climate must be resisted. The recommendations must be explicitly rooted in believable argument based on valid research. Quick, cheap work is shoddy work that will weaken the community's acceptance of the work of the agency. The community of Adelaide has experienced just that over the last two years in the evolution of the City of Adelaide Heritage list.
- * History has the principal defining and informing role among the disciplines involved in the heritage process. Archaeology and architecture are important but subordinate disciplines. The heritage agencies must develop a shared, collegial perception of what history can be, and how it

can be deployed as a method and a product to direct and control the heritage process.

- * The acceptance of items on heritage lists is a social act expressing community value. It represents conscious constraints on community action. Heritage agencies must frankly educate their political masters and the community at large of the countervailing costs of such actions. Without a willingness and capacity to pay, community decisions to "list" items are valueless. Pressure and imagination must continue to be exerted to make heritage lists feasible and believable, so they really do become parts of the history of our community.
- * If the skills required are not readily available, if there are no "heritage historians", heritage agencies should be able to define what they need and participate cooperatively with training agencies, notably universities, to educate the sorts of people required. This will involve the deployment of time and money by the heritage agencies. It is of little value to complain without developing criteria and participating in the process. Anything less is hypocrisy.

Brian Dickey

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NEWS

FACTS AND EVENTS

G.L. Fischer, who a few years ago addressed the Society on the history of the Archives, has produced the first issue of Facts and Events, a newsletter (for want of a better word) which will be of interest to many members of this Society. Anyone forwarding the cost of postage in advance will be included in the circulation list.

Mr Fischer writes:

This small publication has been inspired by the scholarly and long-lived Notes and Queries which, something like the old Bulletin, is made up of short contributions by interested readers. The aim of Facts and Events is far more modest than these two notable institutions; it will be concerned mainly with South Australian historical

information. Its success will depend on the unpaid support of interested readers, as will its frequency - at least two issues a year are envisaged, though three would sustain a better degree of interest and usefulness. Initially, Facts and Events will be circulated privately, either by hand or to anyone sending postage in advance.

Everyone interested in South Australian history will in research, reading, travel and general experience, have come across curious and useful information likely to be of interest and help to others. Such items will be the staple of Facts and Events. Conversely, searchers after elusive facts and events might seek answers through these pages. (2) All pieces should be brief (or suffer editing) and provide appropriate references. Facts and Events is not intended as a journal of criticism, though it may carry corrections to erroneous information. An incidental purpose of Facts and Events is entertainment.

In the first issue there are short pieces on prayers in the Assembly, Adelaide houses in which the federal constitution was drafted in 1897, Professor Henderson's complaint about inscription on a statue in the university grounds, some background to the 'Song of Australia', and notes about a sketch by Gill. Perhaps the most interesting snippet in this issue is a letter Tom Roberts wrote to Gill, Curator of the South Australian Art Gallery, concerning the gallery's purchase of 'The Breakaway'.

These pieces are not articles. They are short but interesting historical 'bits', some only of a hundred words or so, and as Mr Fischer says they both entertain and inform. Further details are available from him at P.O. Box 207, Lyndoch 5351. Contributions are welcome.

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EMIGRANT LETTERS TO 1875

Eric Richards, Professor of History at Flinders University, would be interested to hear from anyone who has originals or copies of letters written by people who emigrated to South Australia before 1875. He is interested in publishing a volume of emigrant letters. Professor Richards can be contacted at Flinders University, Sturt Road, Bedford Park, SA 5042.

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DOCUMENTS

PICTURE THEATRE BUILDINGS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

[Miss Jurs' reminiscences are to be found as unpublished manuscript A928 in the Mortlock Library. They seem to have been written in the late 1930s or shortly afterwards. Ed.]

Could any of the young people of the present time imagine what it would be like if there were no talkies? They have become so much a part of life that it would be difficult. They have so much to offer of dimension and education that it would seem calamitous. Yet our parents, in their youth, enjoyed no such privileges for, a short time ago as forty years, the picture theatre did not exist, as an establishment, although it was in 1897 that the "movie" was first introduced to Adelaide theatre-goers, when, on December 26th of that year, Wybert Reeve presented the cinematograph as a part of his vaudeville entertainment in the Theatre Royal.

The audience witnessed the usual sequence of juggler, acrobat, song and dance, etc. of this "Variety" Show (some of the older Adelaidians might still remember).

Then followed the living pictures. They were silent, but the theatre orchestra did what it could to make up for this deficiency. Subjects shown were; an expanse of sea that surged up to hurl itself upon rocks of a rugged coast; the exercising of Russian Cavalry; a charge of French Curvassiers (sic); and the rushing by of a railway train. A member of the audience screamed as the engine raced forward. She explained afterwards that she felt it was coming straight at her.

These pictures were amazing to the audience of 1897. They were Fumier's Cinematograph Living Tableaux. (Destier) and Barnett owned the Australian rights.

Later on Mr T.J. West of West's Olympia ice skating rink in Hindley Street (previously known as West's Cyclorama, where some of us older ones can remember seeing the Battle of Waterloo realistically set out) installed in the Adelaide Town Hall the first motion picture projection equipment in the state.

The films shown here drew capacity houses. They were aptly called "flickers" or "flicks", for the early motion picture flickered horribly - very trying to the eyes.

To enable the audience to follow the story, explanatory writing appeared on the screen at necessary intervals, while

an orchestra played throughout the entertainment suiting the music to the changing sentiments of the story. If, by mischance, the music stopped, the resulting silence seemed almost startling and a great part of the atmosphere and expression of the picture were gone too.

Encouraged by this success in the Town Hall, Olympia was turned into a theatre. West's pictures opened on 5th December, 1908.

The movie business held great possibilities, other people opened shows both in the City and suburbs. One, Mr John Fanning, well known in theatrical circles and still remembered by many, showed the Globe Pictures at the New Pavilion which opened on 24th October, 1918. It was advertised as "A delightfully cool tent" (opposite the Exhibition Building). Admission 6d, Chairs 1/-. For the 6d, forms were provided.

Some very fine movies were released and gradually they became steadier. As to their housing, many a tin shed served the purpose, and even in the City, some of the theatres were dirty and unattractive in themselves. Nor were the audiences of small unkempt boys and their sisters who filled the front stalls at matinees always well behaved. It was not at all unusual for members of the orchestra to have to dodge fruit skins and peanut shells aimed at their heads. And, at interval time, there was a running in and out and a scrambling over the backs of seats until a manager, or an usher, quelled the too high spirits with the alternative of being put out and kept out.

In the suburbs it was much worse. Dirty little halls, half ruined pianos where dirty, sticky keys were banged throughout the entertainment by a tuneless souled individual whose main idea (which incidentally, in many cases was also the idea of the management) was to make a noise. In some instances, there would be a violinist as well, to scrape harshly in the exciting parts and wail pathetically during the soft scenes, while the small fry of the audience raised up its voice in shout or laughter drowning the combined efforts of violinist and pianist and spent its interval time jumping and climbing over the seats with deafening hubbub and when the show was over, left the floor (in any case never very clean) a mess of banana skins, nut shells, paper, spilt soft drinks, etc.

It is interesting to remark the great improvements that have been effected since those not so very long ago days.

Releasing of films went on apace as their popularity grew. It was inevitable, if the business was to continue to prosper, that better theatres should be built and efficiently managed. In City and suburbs, in country towns, too, transformations took place, and the people may now be,

justly, proud at the architecture, comfort and cleanliness of their theatres.

In the suburbs, the accomplishment of this work is due, largely, to the ambitious spirit and hard work of Mr Daniel Clifford, Managing Director of W. Clifford Star Theatres Limited. Also, in 1911, Ozone Theatres Ltd was founded by Mr Waterman who showed in the Semaphore Town Hall, and later in the Port Adelaide Town Hall, subsequently acquiring and building suburban and country theatres. This company also screens at the Majestic, Theatre Royal and Chinese Gardens, and controls about the same number of theatres as the W. Clifford organisation.

Then - the W. Clifford Star Theatres - numbered seventeen (17), including one at Mt Gambier and one at Kadina, all comfortable, well equipped, modern theatres.

Until eleven years ago, when Mr Clifford saw fit to form a company, he alone was responsible for the successful running of the Star Theatres. The whole of the properties now owned by the Company is valued at well over £20,000. This is an achievement considering that Ian Clifford started out with no advantages save his own ambition and industry.

It might be interesting to glance into this man's early activities.

Born, the eldest of a family of eight in West Adelaide in 1887. He was selling newspapers in the street at the age of eleven, on the suggestion of Judge Boucaut, who was one of his customers. At fifteen, he erected a news kiosk opposite the Supreme Court. And when the Outer Harbour was opened in 1908, he opened one down there, where, in addition to newspapers and magazines, he sold all the little etceteras useful to travellers. Both these ventures were immensely successful.

His next experience was in bookmaking. This occupation proved so profitable that he was enabled to enter the picture theatre business. He commenced by purchasing the plants of two small suburban theatres at Torrensville and Hindmarsh, respectively, and later, the freehold of the one at Torrensville.

Next, he offered a loan of £4,000 and a contract for a lease to the Hindmarsh Council on condition that they improve and enlarge their Town Hall. This offer was accepted. Then followed a leasing and buying of theatres in the different suburbs. They he cleared and improved in every way, rebuilding, and putting in good professional orchestras. - Here I might mention that the youngsters also responded to a little discipline and a changed environment.

From such beginnings rose the Capital at St Peters, and

the Unley New Star Theatre with its attractive arcade entrance. This building cost £45,000. But it has well repaid its builder.

During the depression following the Great War, it was by dint of steady purpose and hard work that Mr Clifford was able to retain his theatres and recover the successful footing.

Physically, the quiet voiced, pleasant man is not robust which makes his capacity for hard work the more remarkable.

In the City, the Regent and the York Theatres are a great contrast to what formerly stood on their sites.

The Rex, and others lately improved and renamed, are all clean, artistic and comfortable. And, so we come to the latest splendid picture houses in Hindley Street.

And while all this building was in progress, the heads of the makers of films were busy evolving ideas with the result that in 1928, Adelaide saw for the first time, a picture complete with dialogue, music, and all sounds necessary for a timely realistic production.

The picture was "The Jazz Singer" with Al Jolson as the singer. On the same programme was the opera "Lucia de Lammermour" (sic), also a talkie.

This was wonderful. But, orchestras were no longer required so that a time of heavy depression descended upon professional musicians.

Vera Jurs

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BONYTHON HALL AND THE PULTENEY STREET EXTENSION

[Early in 1933 there was some debate in the press about the site for the University of Adelaide's great hall, Bonython Hall as we know it. The University opted for the familiar site on North Terrace and the building was duly opened late in 1936, but there were those who thought the city needed a second north-south corridor, and that an extension of Pulteney Street through the university's grounds into Frome Road was the obvious answer. The Mail argued this case in its issue of 25 February 1933, extracts from which appear below, but to no avail. The question remains as to whether the university authorities opted for the North Terrace site so as to preclude a Pulteney Street extension once and for all. Or is that just another bit of Adelaide gossip? Ed.]

If the great hall for the Adelaide University is erected immediately west of the Exhibition Building, as has been

suggested, it will imperil the northern extension of Pulteney street, one of the three traffic arteries of the city planned by Col. Light to run north and South.

Adelaide's architectural beauty will be enriched by the new Gothic style building, which has been made possible by the gift of £40,000 by Sir Langdon Bonython.

The site should be reconsidered, for it would be a pity if South Australia's centre of learning placed it in a position that would retard the development of Adelaide and its northern suburbs.

The paucity of north and south arteries compared with the nine east and west ones, has been pointed out as one of the few flaws in the plan of the City of Adelaide, as laid out by Col. Light. To block the future extension of Pulteney street, even by the erection of a beautiful building, would be an unpardonable sin to posterity, and probably serve to complicate traffic problems in the future.

In a plan of Adelaide drawn by Col. Light, and ordered to be printed in 1838, by the House of Commons, a road is shown sweeping across the present Exhibition Grounds, being a continuation of Pulteney street. It takes advantage of the contour of the land as it falls towards the Torrens, and is shown as crossing the river westward of where Frome Road Bridge now stands. Since that plan was drawn Frome road has been made eastward of Pulteney street, with the result that traffic going to northern suburbs from Pulteney street has to make two right-angled turns before getting clear of North terrace.

The time has now come for the authorities to consider the extension of Pulteney street by a road that would pass immediately west of the Exhibition Building, and then, behind that structure, sweep in a curve to join Frome road. Such a road would enable trams from Pulteney street to proceed by it to northern suburbs at some future date, whereas such traffic would be complicated by the existing two turns.

At present there is only one northern tramway outlet from Adelaide - by way of King William road and the City Bridge. Other sides of the city are much better served. From the south there are four, east three, and west two.

The suburbs of Adelaide are extending northward, and those people who foresee a metropolitan area of a million inhabitants know that King William road cannot remain the only northern tramway outlet. Already it is used by cars serving Croydon, Prospect, Enfield, and North Walkerville, with the populous areas lying closer to Adelaide. In addition, there is the road traffic, which includes that to the fertile northern districts of the State.

The outlet from Morphett street by the bridge over the railway station yard is not suited to tramway traffic for several reasons. One is the bridge itself, which is not wide enough to accommodate tram and vehicle traffic without great congestion. Another reason is the steep Montefiore Hill that trams would have to climb.

These objections divert attention to the sole remaining northern outlet, from Pulteney street. This street bisects a busy section of Adelaide, cutting through the shopping centre in Rundle street, and its southern continuation meets Unley road, that important suburban traffic artery.

Already Pulteney street is used by several tramway services. Its continuation northward would enable trams, say, from Unley, or some other southern suburbs, to go to Walkerville or Enfield without traversing busy King William street. Frome Road Bridge would require to be replaced by a wider structure to carry the increased traffic that the future must bring. As there are parklands on the north bank of the river where it crosses, a new road route would be selected there, if thought necessary, to carry tramway lines on level country to Mackinnon parade.

An argument that might be raised against the proposed extension of Pulteney street is that the route to the rear of the Exhibition Building would be excessively steep. This would not be so if an earth embankment were built. A contour map reveals that the drop from the centre of North terrace, opposite Pulteney street, to a point on Frome road, south-east of Jubilee Oval, would be 44 ft. With an embankment beneath the suggested curving road an even grade of 1 in 25 could be made. This would be about the same gradient as that which now exists between the City Baths and the centre of North terrace, up King William road, and offers no difficulties to tram or vehicular traffic. ...

Sir Langdon Bonython has been an outstanding benefactor to Adelaide University, the School of Mines, and other South Australian institutions, and his great work in these directions is highly regarded. Is it not possible for the authorities of the University to select another site for the great hall, so that the traffic problems of the future may be solved more easily? Could not the great hall be erected on Jubilee Oval, where it would be close to the fine Barr Smith Library?

* * * * *

BENJAMIN BOYCE TO HIS FAMILY, 1841

Born in 1815, Benjamin Boyce was a Lincolnshire lad from Freiston, a village close to the sea which nowadays is a suburb of the market city of Boston. He arrived in South Australia in 1839, more by accident than choice. What

follows is the first of three surviving letters in which he told his family about his life in the new province. As such it is a gem - South Australia seen through the eyes of an ordinary working man, not through the eyes of an Angas or a Wakefield. Boyce talks about the Aborigines, the growth of Adelaide, wages and working conditions, master-servant relationships, and of course family matters. Less than two years after arriving in South Australia, he clearly regards it as his home - Freiston is 'Home' but a long way away. Emigration then meant cutting ties with family and a familiar world, in all probability for good, and Boyce, with his 'rovin' commission' through the world, must have known he would not see England again.

We know comparatively little of Boyce other than what he tells us in the three letters. He seems to have enjoyed the voyage out, this despite the fact that two passengers were washed overboard and another 28 evidently died of 'seasickness', but he was a crew member rather than a passenger, and the letter makes clear that he jumped ship at Holdfast Bay only because of a romantic attachment he had formed for one Louisa Thomson. They were married in St John's church, Adelaide, on 26 September 1843, Louisa signing the certificate with her mark rather than a full signature. The Reverend James Farrell officiated. She had given birth to their son, Thomas, five months earlier, and he had been baptised in Holy Trinity on 1 June 1843.

What happened to Boyce? He died in December 1847, evidently as a result of injuries sustained in a fall from a tree some sixteen months earlier. He was 32 years old.

This letter, and photocopies of the others to have survived, are to be found in the Mortlock Library as D/4308. They are immensely difficult to read; Boyce's spelling and punctuation are erratic, his handwriting laboured, and to make things worse he sometimes turned the page on its side and wrote across his own text. My thanks then to Professor Eric Richards for permission to use the transcription which first appeared in his article 'A Voice from Below: Benjamin Boyce in South Australia 1839 - 1846, Labour History, No. 27, November 1974, pp 65 - 75. Professor Richards painstakingly transcribed all three letters with the help of Joan Hancock. He says that further information about Boyce's death has since come to light and has been incorporated into a chapter in the social history volume of the The Flinders History of South Australia. This was published in December 1986.

Finally, a word of thanks to a former student, David Tansing, whose enthusiasm and patience uncovered some of the details about Boyce's life in South Australia.

Tony Stimson

Southa Strialla July 22 1842

Dear Moutther and Farher Sisters and Brothers

1 I take with plesher my pen to right a fue liens to you hoping to
liend yough in gud helth as it leves me at present i received your cind
letter on the 21 of July and I whas very glad to hear from you all i
ad been antious to hear from you for sum time i was afraid that you
5 would not git my letter that i sent to you i was very glad to hear that
you all was doing very well but i was very sorry to hear that my cusen
mary Jessop adent mared so well after whaiting so long but i hope
e will make a better husband then you discribe him to me you
never told me o you was a going to hav for a husband nor you
10 never told me wether Brother Elvin was likley to git marrid nor
aney think a bought Elvin nor Thomas Jessop nor aney think a bout
mother nor farther what thay was a doing nor whear thay was a
living nor how they was a giung on nor aney think a bout Brother
Peater wether e was a tome or what e was a going to do i was very
15 glad to that sister Mary and Peater Gud was very well but you
never told me ane think a bout thear children how thay all was i
hope the nxt letter you send me you will put all the perticklers of
all in quiren freinds for i hope plese god i shal cum home and
see you all sum time for i ham a bout to settle no in south a strialla
20 for i do not intend to ever be a sailor aney more if i can a void
it when i cum to Freiston if ever i do i shal cum probley as a pasenger
and bring you my intended wife wich i hope the next letter i send
you you will hear of my marrige and bean cumfortuble for the young
whouman that i am a keep ing cumpney with she and her Farther
25 and Mother and to sisters and 1 Brother left london in the ship
morfit⁸ with me to cum out to south a strialla for to settle there wich
we all a rived there safe when i forst went on bord the morfit i did
not now whear she was a going to but i soon found out that she
was a going to take emegrants out to south a strilla and i verry soon
30 got a quaintedy with the young wouman that i am a bout to take
for my wife but i av no call to tel you a bout me giung a quanted
with the youngh whemen for at that time i did not care ho it was
but i ad not bean long in the ship be fore i was taken verry hill
and then i ad to giv hup all my games with the young whemen
35 there eust to be dancing and sining on bord the ship every night
we uest to be very cumfertubley on bord the ship all the pasege
ought to south a strilla and i got ferily well just be fore we got
there and got a quantid with my youngh wouman a gain so that
when we dropt anker in oldfast bay⁹ i packed up all my close that
40 i culd leving my bed and amock and chist on bord and the rest
of my close my intended wifes farther brought them on shore for
me unnown to aney oon on bord the ship wich i intended to run
a whay the forst oportunity that i culd git to leve the ship i was
on bord the ship for a weake after the emmegrants went on shore
45 and the mait would not a lou me to go in the bote because sum
oun ad told him that i intendid to run a whay the ship lay a bout
too miles from the shor and if i culd not get a shore no other
way i and a nother youngh man was a going to ty too of the
foore aches to gather and cum on shore on them but after i ad
50 bean on bord three days after the emegrants ad been on shore i
maniged to git down in the bote and the mait did not notis me
been in the bote when she left the ship so i got a shore that day
and returned back to the ship a gain when i went on bord the mait
says Boyce caut you of i thoust you was a going to run a whay i a
55 medently says no sor i cant see aney gud to run a whay in such a
desert place as this i think i ad better stick to my ship sor and
after that e a loud me to go in the bote every day wich i did
for three or four days when going on bord of crismas day with
our captine and sum more gentele men our captine gave us all

60 a very gud carituar and e thoust that we all seemd very cumfertubley
that all is cru would stick to him but the next morning i put on
too shirts and too pare of trouses and all that i culd take with
me and got down in the boat wich was lodid with bred that morning
65 and a whay puld six of us a shore just be foore we got on shore
i sais to oun of my ship mates bill i am a going to cut it this
morning are you sais he and so am i and so is my chume sais bill
but how to let him now that we av startid i do not now for e is
on shore with the sekend mate a tring to get the longbote of o
70 damit sais i niver mind that i ave got a shiling gud says e i ave
got sixpence thats right says i that will just buy a glas a brandy a
pees for us and as soon as we got to the shore we tooke three
or fouer biskets and shoke ands with the rest of our botes cru
and then went on the beech to look for our other cumpanyoun
wich was a going to join us as soon as we got on the top of sum
75 very hi sand hills we becend to our outhar cumpanyoun and e soon
sau us and e sais to the sekend mate i must go to shit for i do not
feal very well in my inside i think the plum puding yesterday
do not agree with me and so instead of us a going to the publick
houce we cut of in to the wild bush near thear thear was no
80 wite peaple nothink but the natives of that cuntrey and thay go a
bout naked and perfect wild tha av killed a fue wite pepole¹⁰
but tha are a giting more natourlised then thay was then we went
in to the ills a monst the vandemans that ad been transported
and got thear liberty and came to south a strilla¹¹ but it was crismas
85 time and thay was all drunk and we culd git nothink to do thear
so we all three agreed to go under the rocks and liv upon fish
till the ship went a whay for we dare not go in to town for fear
of bean caught again for our captine ofread too pounds reward
for each of us til the ship went a whay we went and lev uppon
90 nothink but fish for a munth and just for a munth we dare not
be seen by ane oon and then as soon as the ship sailed we washed
our selve and then went into town and the furst once we came
to caled and they pited us and gave us sum tea wich we ad a
most forgot the tast of it and all the bred that they ad got in the
95 ouce and made us quiet welcome and then we went on to the
town whear i verry soon found out my youngh wouman and my
close and i found them allright and then i clened myself and not
be fore time i then ingaged to go to live at a dary whear i ad
20 cows to milk every morning for three munths and then i left
100 and went to mow hay for my self and send it in to town for at
that time yough mite go and cut a lode of hay in bun day which
it was a selling at four and five pounds a lode and i ad nothink to
pay for it for i ust to cut it on guverment land for at that time
thear was not much land survade at was all guverment land exceptine
105 just the town wich the sitty we call it now but at that time thear
was no more hoses in the sitty then thear was at freiston scrane
end¹² when i left it but now it tis a gitting a very fine place thear
is a giting a number of peapole in the cuntrey and i hope i will
prove a exelent coliney i was a cuting hay for three or four months
110 wich i out to bean making muny as fast as i culd count it but
in stead of that i uest to spend it faster then i earnt it for i thought
it was all right that came before me i thoust it was all ways a
giong to be so but soon found my mistake ought for thear got
to be more peapole go out in to the bush and cut hay¹³ and then
115 thy soon brout it down to too pounds a lode and then i thoust i
culd not make munney just a nuf and so i gave up cuting hay
and then went a long with a old man that had been transported
to vandemans land and ad served is time and then came to south
a strialla he was transported from freiston for 14 years he told me
120 is name was Willam Holland e told e new mother very wel e eust
to be a cumpanyoun of unkle Jessops and john Wilsons he told
me that he new mother wen she was a bathin a backst the fens
wen John Wilson and him went by wen you was a most naked
and misses curtis went and chuvid john Wilson down the bank
125 be fore you was marred we lev to gather for nine munths a spliting

up trees and putting up raf houses and putting up post and rail fences we lev to gather very cumfortable for we eust to get 2 gallonds of rum out to us every munth and we eust to stop a tome and in joy it i eust to go in town a bout every three munths and av a bit of a spree for ten pounds then was nothink thout on for a spree and i eust to take a gud lot of sperrit out with me for me heart all ways make it my [...] home my farther that is to be destils gin and brandy and kepes a large breuary and so i eust to take a lot out in the bush with me wen i eust to go a gain for at that time thear was but a very fue wite pepole dare go in the bush for fear of the natives spearing them but me and our old cuntreman was not afraid of aney thin we lev in a little hut bilt of sods and covered over with bark of wich we got of the trees such a house that you would not go put yours pigs in such a place a tome it was be twixt too very large hills down in a deap valle that we was thear for six munths be fore aney oun found out wear we lev the hills was so very high wen we wanted to go over them it would take me all an ouer to walk to the top of them and the onley whay to git to our hut was a long valy a bout too miles a long it be fore we came to our hut thear was onley just rume for a cart to go a long betwixt the too hills so that it was im-possible for any oun to find us we ust to carre our grub down oun of those big hills on our back because the natives should not find out whear we lev and thear we lev for nine months vere cumfortuble to gather till i ad saved forte pounds and then i left my old cumpanyoun and came into town again i thought i liked to be a mongst the young whemen the best for i am like my unkle wade thear is no oun cums a mis to me after i ad been at my farther's us i a bout three wweckes i was at a ball wot we call a dancing and thear was a gentleman thear that wontid me to go and live with him wich i did i a gread with him for fiftene shillings and my grub per weeke wich i was a living with him wen i rout my forst letter to you wich i was remarkable cumfortuble for thear was only the master and mistres and a young wohman for a servent and myself for tha ad no children and thay ust to make me as thear son and you may now that i made it all right with them i eust to ride out with my mises in the poney cart and i was all right after i ad been with them for three munths they got a licens and kep a publick house and i eust to git plenty to drink for as i told you ibe fore i was as thear sun and they had a grog shop for too or three or munths and then thay was fined [...] pounds for selling for selling grog with out a licens e took out is licens but never paid them and then thay ad to giv up selling spirits for nine munths and then they got the licens and sold grog a gain he ad morgahed is houce and land for forty pounds and when the time came due he culd not pay it and so the house and land was advertised for sale under the morgage and my master ad four more credeters wich he oud a bout too hundreds pounds too and he got them to sine a dockement to him for six munths and my marster ad a poney and cart wich we eust [...] living with and on the twenty fourth of December he sined the poney cart and harness over to me for twenty pounds which was wages due to me at that time and when the houce was sold he got oun of is credeters to by it in for him and so he continud in the house and selling grog my marster ad ten acres of land in wot we call the pinery and that was a bout five miles from a whear we lev and a bout a quarter of a mile from my farther's and so after i ad bean with him for a twelve munths he told me if i would go and fens in the ten acors of land he would giv it me for wages wich i a gread to i caust to go home every satuardy night after i ad bean thear for too munths my marster ad an executatoun in the houce for twenty pounds for sperrits and he culd not pay it and so he cent too cart lodes of things over to me to take care of them for him such as china and pots and diches and sauspans and all sorts of house wares and so when i went home on Satuardy night i asked him for the deads of the land wich

140 he told me he ad gave a nuf a whay he should do nothink of the sort and so i thout it was time for me to look out for my self for at that time he oud me twenty nine pounds so i asked him to giv me a pound note he said he ad not got a shiling in the house and so i went back to this place and then i went to my farther's and asked him wot i should do for i culd not git nether land nor munny and so he told me i ad better to rent a houce and bring all the things a whay wich thay cent to me to take care of them for them when thay was in trouble and so i rented a houce close to my farther's and feched all the things a whay and then i went to my marsters and feched a whay my poney and cart wich was made over to me so after i got all the things right i went to my marster and asked him to satle with me i gave him my bill wich was forty nine pounds fiftene shillings and tenpence and he began to bluster and swer he would transport me but i new beter and so i am a living with my farther now i av got my poney and cart and a rare lot of things i can furnish a house of well and now my pore old marster is a bout dun and i am going to git marrid soon as i av got all cumpleat but a wife times is very dul with hus at present but i would not cum home to Freiston not yet with aney acount home i call it but wen i leve south a strialia i then shal leve my home i cant right any more in this letter about the state of the coleny but the next letter i cend i will cend you all the pertecolors of the coleny i shall right to you a bout every three munths and i hope you will do the same to me i wich for you to send me sum nuce papers and tell me all the nuce of freiston since i left it now i must close this letter for i culd right as much as would make a gud book now my dear Mother and Farther Sister and Brothers I Cend My Cind Luv to you And I Should very Much Like to see you All Ounce more but i am a fraid that never will be i hope i shal hear of you all a doing well in the next letter you right to me for thear is no fear of me doing well sum whear for if a cant do well in oun place then i go to a nother i am not like you all i not a fraid to go from the smoke of my mothers chimney for i av a rovin commision throo the world i am not like a grat many of your freistoners a fraid to leav home.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CHINESE EMPLOYED ON PORT AUGUSTA AND GOVERNMENT GUMS.

SAPP, No.
168, 1880

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, 23rd September, 1880.

[Estimated cost of printing, 14s. 0d.]

RETURN to the ORDER of the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY (Mr. REES, 15th September, 1880), of COPIES of Mr. PATTERSON'S and all other REPORTS on the CHINESE EMPLOYED on the PORT AUGUSTA and GOVERNMENT GUMS RAILWAY.

Anti-Chinese League.—Memorandum re Employment of Chinese Labor on Government Contracts.

A clause has not been inserted in the conditions of contract prohibiting the employment of Chinese labor, nor, so far as I am aware, has such a step been contemplated.

The eighty (80) Chinese employed upon the Port Augusta Railway are doing valuable work, and their conduct and bearing will bear favorable comparison with that of the bulk of European labor employed on the line. The Chinese on these works are equally industrious with the Europeans, and they are sober and cleanly; in fact their cleanliness has been so conspicuous a quality that it has been the subject of special remark amongst the railway officers on the line.

R. C. PATTERSON, Chief Assistant Engineer.

Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Adelaide, 21st January, 1879.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bobbie Hardy

Early Hawkesbury Settlers

232 pages. Illustrated with contemporary portraits and drawings by Ian Marr. Published by Kangaroo Press, Sydney, 1985. Recommended retail price \$29.95

As a rule the Newsletter does not run notices on histories of regions or towns in other states. In this instance the author is well known to many South Australians and the book in question a quality publication from a small Sydney publisher. Early Hawkesbury Settlers, a social history of the first settlers and their families, will be of particular interest to genealogists.

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Carl Bridge

A Trunk Full of Books: History of the State Library
of South Australia

254 pages. Illustrated. Published by Wakefield Press, 1986.

Carl Bridge's history is the first full length history of an Australian State Library. The publisher advises that the story starts with the arrival in 1836 of a sea chest of books which had to be dredged up from the bottom of the Port River! A review will appear in the 1987 Journal.

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Gillian Pearson

A Local History Handbook - Guidelines for establishing
local history collections

Gillian Pearson, local history officer for the cities of Munno Para and Salisbury, has produced a handy guide for public libraries, historical societies, and anyone interested in establishing local history collections. Chapters include: the role of local history, the history room, selection and acquisition, organization and arrangement, conservation, and how best to provide information.

Available from Auslib Press, P.O. Box 622, Blackwood, SA 5051, for \$20.00 including postage and packing.