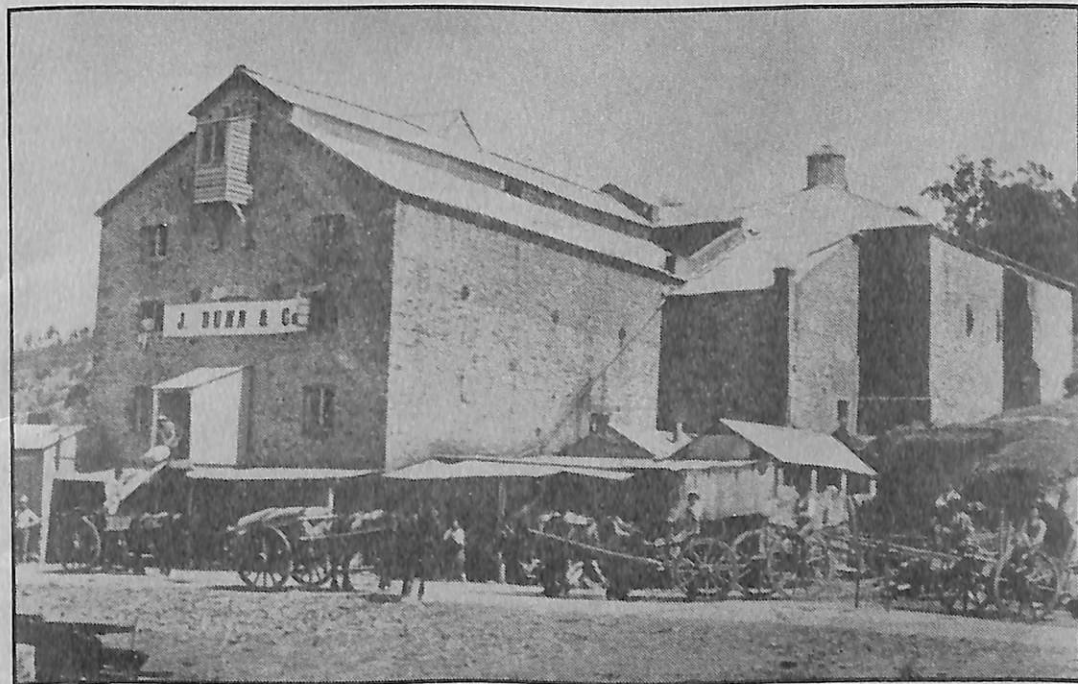




The  
Historical Society  
of  
South Australia  
Inc.



Newsletter No. 73 November 1987



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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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## COUNCIL

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WORD PROCESSING:	Ms V.J. O'Neill
AUDITOR:	Mr G. Ralph

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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover Illustration - Bridgewater mill was built by John Dunn in 1859-60. Situated on Cox's Creek, it was the only real water mill in the province, the wheel measuring 36 feet in diameter and weighing 17½ tons. A flow of 6,550 gallons per minute was required to drive it. Flour from this mill won first prize at the London International Exhibition in 1862 but production declined towards the end of the century. For details of the Society's forthcoming Bridgewater tour see p.1. Mortlock Library photograph.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### ALL-DAY TOUR OF MOUNT LOFTY AND DISTRICT

Sunday 22 November 1987

Robert Martin, author of Under Mount Lofty: A History of the Stirling district in South Australia, will be chief guide for this driving and walking tour of the Mount Lofty Districts. He will be assisted by members of the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society.

Please assemble on Mount Lofty Summit at 10.30 a.m. Robert Martin will give a brief history of the Summit, before leading a walk around its environs. Participants will then drive to the Mawson Drive entrance of the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden for another talk on the gardens, mansion, and general history of Mount Lofty, followed by a ramble.

Information will be supplied on places to buy lunch, but bring a picnic lunch if you like.

Re-assemble at 2 p.m. at the carpark of the Bridgewater shopping centre, for a walk taking in historic relics of the town built round a mill, as well as traces of the old Cox Creek village.

As usual a donation of \$2 is suggested, in this case to be shared by the two historical societies participating in the tour. We are delighted that this is a joint venture with the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society.

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### Life Membership

At the October 1987 Council Meeting, Council resolved henceforth not to accept new applications for life membership. Those members who now enjoy life membership will not be affected by this change.

Escalating printing costs were a factor in Council's decision. Other forms of long term membership will be considered at a later meeting.

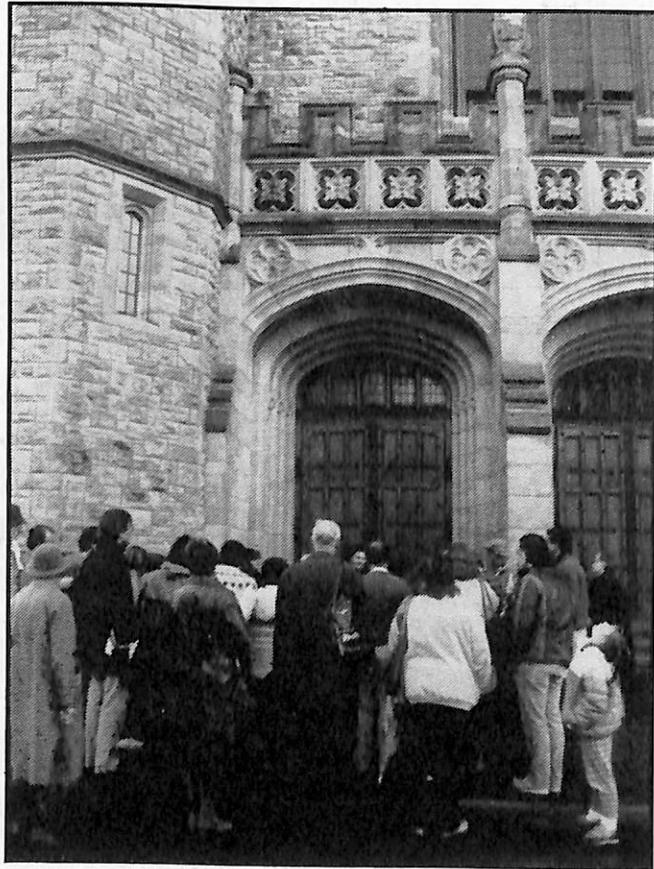
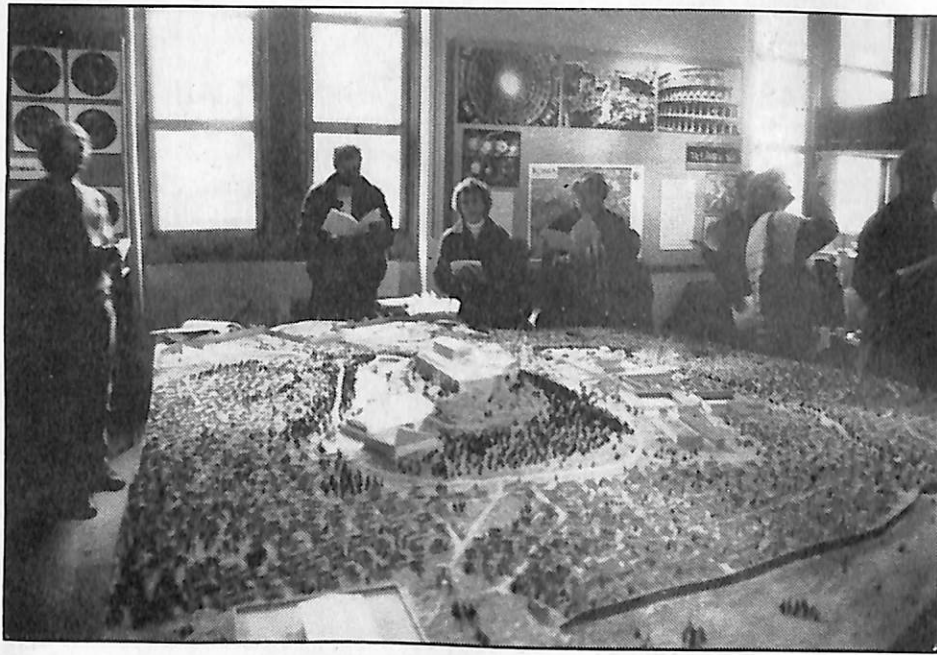
Tony Stimson, Acting President

University of Adelaide tour, 26 July 1987

Dr Frank Sear explains the model of Athens in the University's Classics Museum.

Members and friends outside Bonython Hall.

Photographs: Bill Stacy



### Report on July field trip

About thirty members and friends braved a damp afternoon to tour the University of Adelaide on Sunday 26 July 1987. Fortunately the bad weather held off though leaks in the roof of Bonython Hall were all too evident. One of the upper galleries was slippery.

A number of guides helped make the tour a worthwhile afternoon. The University's Classical Museum proved to be one of Adelaide's best kept secrets, and the Geology and Physics museums almost as interesting. Mawson's sled (or the half that remains) is a feature of the Geology and the Braggs' instruments figure prominently in the Physics museum.

Members were also taken through some of the university's best loved buildings - the Mitchell Building, with its chequered origins, Bonython Hall and the reading room of the old Barr Smith Library. Two photographs accompany this review.

Tony Stimson

### Membership of Council

Deane Manuel, Treasurer of the Historical Society since 1984, resigned at the August meeting of Council and Bill Stacy has taken his place. I know all members of Council would want me to thank Deane for unfailing diligence and good humour over the years.

I am happy to say that Maurice Keain has accepted an invitation to serve out the rest of Deane Manuel's term as an ordinary member of Council

Tony Stimson

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### DOCUMENTS

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### THE AMAZING ROGER GILES

The amazing Mr Giles, 'Surgin, Parish Clark, Sculemaster, Groser and Hundertaker,' had nothing to do with South Australia as far as I know. He was a Cornishman of entrepreneurial bent who, according to a postcard bought in Polperro in 1965, had the following sign hung outside his house. Ed.

# ROGER GILES

Surgin, Parish Clark and Sculemaster,  
Groser and Hundertaker

Respectfully informs ladys and gentlomans that he drors  
Rteef without waiting a minute, applies laches every  
hour, blisters on the lowest tarms, and vissicks for a  
penny a peace. He sells Godfathers kordalos, kuts corns,  
bunyors, docters hosses. clips donkies wance a munth, and  
undertakes to took after everybody's navls by the ear.  
Joesharps, penny wissels, brass kanelsticks, frying pans,  
and other moosical hinstruments hat greatly reduced figers.  
Young ladies and gentlemen larnes their grammur, and  
langeudge in the purtiest manner, also grate care taken  
off their morrels and spelling. Also zarm singing. tavching  
base vile and other sorts of fancy work, squadrils, pokers,  
weazels, and all country dances tolt at home and abroad,  
at perfeksun. Perfumery and snuf in all its branches.  
As times is cruel bad I beg to tell ee that i has just  
beggined to sell all sorts of stash mery, ware, cox, hens,  
vouls, pigs and all other kinds of poultry, blackin-brishes,  
herrins, coles, scrubbing-brishes, traykel and godly bukes  
and bibles, mise-traps, trick-dist, whisker-seeds, morrell  
pokkerankechers, and all sorts of swate-maits. including  
taters, sasages, and other garden stuff, bakky, zizars, lamp  
oyle, tay kittles and other intoxikating likkers, a dale  
of fruit. hats, zongs hair oyle, pattins, bukkets, grandin  
stones and other aitable, korne and bunyon zalve, and all  
hardware. I has laid in a large assortment of tripe, dogs  
mate, lolipops, ginger beer, matches, and other pikkles,  
such as hepson salts, hoysters, Winsor sope, anzeurar—(Old  
rags bort and sold here and nowhere else, new laid eggs  
by me Roger Giles; zinging burdes kepted, such as  
howles, donkeys, paykox, lobsters, crickets, also a stock  
of celebrated brayder.

P.S.—I tayches geography, ritmitmetic, cowsticks,  
jimnastics and other cheynpes tricks.

FRANCIS BIRTLES

[Birtles' long distance cycling exploits attracted considerable attention at the time. This is from The Tourists' Road Guide for South Australia (W.K. Thomas and Co., Adelaide, 7th edition, 1912) pp 54-55. Ed.]

The overland cyclist, Francis Birtles, arrived in Adelaide on Saturday, August 29, 1908, after a 12,000 miles' cycle ride from Perth via Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and along the telegraph route to Adelaide again. A little less than two years before he set out from Perth, and twice made futile efforts to penetrate the desert between Laverton and Oodnadatta. On the second occasion he barely escaped with his life. Then he headed his machine southward, and came east by way of the coastal route. After touching at Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, he proceeded north to Port Darwin, and then followed the overland telegraph line practically all the way to Adelaide. The stage of the journey through the Central State (just over 2,000 miles) is of chief interest on account of the previous efforts over the same distance. Birtles, however, made no attack on existing records, but took a somewhat leisurely trip, like the pioneer cyclist, Murif, who in 1897 crossed the continent from south to north in seventy-four days. Birtles occupied seventy-two days from start to finish, of which a little over forty were devoted to actual travelling. The first to cover the distance from the Port Darwin end were Coleman and Mather, who took sixty-three days. The wonderful ride, established by Albert MacDonald, the telegraph operator, who went through the heart of the continent in 1898 in a little over twenty-eight days, is the best performance on record. Birtles left Adelaide on September 3, and cycled to Sydney via Melbourne to complete the round trip from that city. He reached Sydney on September 23.

Birtles accomplished another long ride in 1909. He left Fremantle on September 29 and cycled via Port Augusta and Broken Hill to Sydney, where he arrived on November 12, having occupied 44 days 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours to do the distance of 3,056 miles. He was not out to break records. In the earlier stages he spent considerable time in obtaining photographs along the route. His mount was a Universal Two-speed Cycle which carried him throughout without mechanical trouble or a puncture.

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## NEWS

## AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY

[Dr Geoffrey Serle is about to retire as General Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, a multi-volume reference work which is to be found in any decent library. The first volume of the ADB was published in 1966, the year which saw the publication of the first volume of the Canadian Dictionary of Biography. Curiously both projects seem set to produce their twelfth volume in 1990. Extracts from Dr Serle's ADB Letter No. 5, August 1987 follow. Ed.]

When I last wrote in March 1986, a Review Committee was examining our work. Its report was highly favourable and, as a consequence, the ADB project has been extended for ten years. Thus, after completion of the original project with volume 12 and an index in 1990-91, we shall undertake at least another three volumes for the post-1939 period. The new General Editor has not yet been appointed, but a decision is likely very soon. ...

We have now edited about 60% of volume 11 (which will probably conclude with about 35 Smiths) and, unless there are unexpected production difficulties, publication in Spring 1988 seems assured. Though perhaps not so exciting in its major entries as volume 10, it will be well up to par. Sir Earle Page, Sir George Pearce, Sir George Reid, T.J. Ryan and Jim Scullin are the major political figures; then there are C.Y. O'Connor and R.E. O'Connor, half a dozen O'Reillys, Sir David Rivett, aviators like Ray Parer and the Smith brothers, John Norton, Helena Rubinstein, Jimmy Sharman and other varied characters. Tom Roberts is another major entry and the volume is rich in writers: Bernard O'Dowd, Nettie Palmer, Vance Palmer, 'Banjo' Paterson, Katharine Pritchard and Henry Handel Richardson. ...

The Canadian Dictionary, like the British DNB, was founded on the basis of a lavish, inspired, personal gift. Why is it that wealthy Australians, especially by American standards, have so neglected, and continue to neglect, the universities and other great national educational enterprises? The ADB, in its earliest years, had a little support from one or two private foundations. We have since had nothing, despite sporadic approaches to major companies which conceivably might have recognized some prestige to be won. Even a little outside funding would be extremely welcome.

Register of State Heritage Items  
entered from 1 January 1987\*From Planning News, No.13, 20 August 1987

Name of item	Address	Entry date
Corporation of the City of Adelaide . South African War Memorial	North Terrace, Adelaide	28 May 1987
Corporation of the City of Brighton . Dwelling - "Townsend House"	King George Avenue, Hove	28 May 1987
Corporation of the City of Burnside . Dwelling - "Woodley House"	13 Blyth Street, Glen Osmond	28 May 1987
. Winery - "Woodley Wines"	Corner Blyth & Bagot Streets, Glen Osmond	28 May 1987
. Dwelling - "Attunga"	Corner Kensington Road and Giles Street, Toorak Gardens	28 May 1987
Corporation of the City of Hindmarsh . Retort buildings and chimney stack - Brompton Gas Works	East Street, Brompton	28 May 1987
Corporation of the Town of Gawler . Gawler Railway Station	Twenty Third Street, Gawler	28 May 1987
District Council of Blyth . Hoyleton Railway Goods Shed	Railway Reserve, Hoyleton	28 May 1987
District Council of East Torrens . Winery - Morialta Winery	Horton Summit	28 May 1987
District Council of Kapunda . Mine site	Kapunda	28 May 1987
District Council of Murray Bridge . Dwelling - "Round House"	Murray Bridge	28 May 1987
District Council of Northern Yorke Peninsula . Shop - Humphries Barber	Corner Taylor & Goyder Streets, Kadina	28 May 1987
District Council of Onkaparinga . Woodside Institute	Corner Main Street & Hairne Road, Woodside	28 May 1987
. Dwelling - former house and shops	Elizabeth Street, Woodside	28 May 1987
. Factory - former Glengylie Jam Factory	Grasby Road, Oakbank	28 May 1987
. Onkaparinga cheese, butter and produce factory	Henry Street, Woodside	28 May 1987
. Balhannah Railway Station and station masters residence	Junction Road, Balhannah	28 May 1987

. Dwelling - Kuanick Road	Kuanick Road, Onkaparinga	28 May 1987
. Willow Springs	Mattners Road, Bonneys Flat	28 May 1987
. Terrace housing	11 Moffett Street, Woodside	28 May 1987
. Former Inverbrackie church, manse and cemetery	Hairne Road, Inverbrackie	28 May 1987
. Oakbank Brewery	Oakbank to Lenswood Road, Oakbank	28 May 1987
. Barn	Onkaparinga Valley Road, Oakbank	28 May 1987
. Hotel - Stanley Bridge	Onkaparinga Valley Road, Verdun	28 May 1987
. Mine chimney - Lone Hand Gold Mine	Pfeiffer Road, Inverbrackie	28 May 1987
. Mount Farm	Swamp Road, Lenswood	28 May 1987
. Brauns Farm	Tiers Road, Woodside	28 May 1987
. Dwelling - former Elmsdale cider factory	Wicks Road, Balhannah	28 May 1987
<b>District Council of Riverton</b>		
. Riverton Railway Station	Riverton	28 May 1987
<b>District Council of Stirling</b>		
. Dwelling - "The Chestnuts"	Foxhill Road, Bridgewater	28 May 1987
<b>District Council of Truro</b>		
. Blacksmith shop	Dutton	28 May 1987
. Former St. John's Lutheran Manse	Dutton	28 May 1987
<b>Unincorporated</b>		
. Railway structure - Oodnadatta Railway Station	Oodnadatta	28 May 1987
. The Peak Historic Site - ruins of overland telegraph station, police station, homestead, swelter and cemetery	Via Oodnadatta	28 May 1987

\* \* \* \* \*

[Mrs Jean Schmaal of Clare has forwarded the following note.]

I was very interested in the late 1840s FREE EMIGRATION poster which appeared in the July Newsletter. This referred to the ship Java in glowing terms!

However, the true story of the Java is far from being as splendid as advertised. In the book A Exelent Coliney by Colin Kerr there is a chapter, 'Floating Coffin', which presents a grim picture of the voyage, taken from the journal of an English migrant who travelled on this ship, arriving in Holdfast Bay on 6 February 1850.

\* \* \* \* \*

## STATE LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT SERVICE

[The following has been received from the State Library. The Library proposes to charge people \$6 for a print 4" by 6". Ed.]

The State Library has implemented a photographic print service to the public. This means that the public can now obtain photographic prints (black and white or colour), films and slides and OCE' photocopies of materials in our collections.

The collections include The Mortlock Library, Public Record Office, Reference Services, Royal Geographical Society, Maps, Children's Literature Research Collection and Rare Books and Special Collections. The prints are subject to any deeds of trust or copyright regulations which may apply.

### COSTS

Photoprints	Public Sales		Tax Exempt	
	B & W	Colour	B & W	Colour
100mm x 152mm (4x6)	6.00	10.80	5.00	9.00
152mm x 203mm (6x8)	8.40	11.88	7.00	9.90
203mm x 254mm (8x10)	10.50	18.00	8.75	15.00
305mm x 381mm	-	-	-	-
406mm x 508mm (16x20)	21.60	30.00	18.00	25.00

### Films and slides, microfilm

Negatives 35mm	6.00	*8.00	5.00	*6.70
Negatives 45mm x 60mm	6.00	10.60	5.00	8.80
Negatives 100mm x 127mm	10.60	-	8.80	-
Microfilm Positive (from negative supplied)	-	-	-	-
minimum order 10 metres	1.02	-	0.90	-
Reel of Microfilm Positive (from negative supplied)	-	-	-	-
per reel	25.00	N/A	25.00	N/A

### OCE' Photocopies (large electrostatic grey paper)

Size A2	3.50	-	3.50	-
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### White Bond Paper photocopies

Size A4	0.20	-	0.20	-
50+ copies	0.18	-	0.18	-
Size A3	0.40	-	0.40	-
50+ copies	0.38	-	0.38	-

\* Please Note: 35mm colour minimum order is 5 negatives

A flat rate of \$30 for an item applies to any print, negative or transparency which is to be used in any commercial publication if the Library owns the copyright. This charge applies to the first use only. Should the photograph be required for another publication then a charge of 60% on our current fees will be made. Prices as at 12/5/87.

## STATE HERITAGE BRANCH

[The following information is extracted from the Department of Environment and Planning's Annual Report for 1985-85. Brian Samuels.]

The State Heritage Branch, managed by Jon Womersley, is responsible for administering the State Government's programmes to conserve and preserve South Australia's cultural heritage. This is primarily achieved through the provisions of the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978, the Planning Act, 1982, the City of Adelaide Development Control Act, 1976, and the Historic Shipwrecks Act, 1981. The Branch is also responsible for administering delegated powers under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976.

The Branch services the South Australian Heritage Committee which advises the Minister for Environment and Planning on heritage matters and recommends items for the Register of State Heritage Items.

The work of the Branch is divided into four functions covering identification and registration of the State's heritage, conservation and management of changes to registered properties, development of heritage sites for public use and maritime archaeology.

### Identification and Survey

During the year heritage surveys were completed for Region 4 (The Fleurieu Peninsula), Region 12 (Eyre Peninsula and the Far West Coast) and field work was completed for the survey of Region 14 (Kangaroo Island).

The Branch continued its work with local councils, completing heritage surveys in the Corporations of Kensington and Norwood and Hindmarsh. The survey commenced in Burnside is yet to be completed to the satisfaction of the Branch.

The Register of State Heritage Items includes 864 places of heritage significance, of which seventy-nine were entered on the Register during 1985-86. A further 335 places were on the Interim List of State Heritage Items at 30 June 1986. Of the 414 places considered for registration during 1985-86, objections were received to the proposed entry of eighty-eight places.

During 1985-86 a further two State Heritage Areas were declared covering the Ackaringa Hills and Belair Recreation Park, bringing the number of State Heritage Areas to seven.

### Conservation and Management

Identifying and registering heritage properties and declaring State Heritage Areas leads to the protection of

their heritage significance through the development control procedures of the Planning Act, 1982 and the City of Adelaide Development Control Act, 1976. Owners of heritage properties are required to seek approval from their local council for alterations they may wish to make to a place which is on the Register of State Heritage Items. In the majority of cases owners approach the redevelopment and conservation of heritage properties with sensitivity and their plans are readily approved.

The Branch provides technical advice to the owners of heritage properties about conserving and adapting old buildings. During 1985-86 the Branch worked closely with the manufacturers of SOLVER brand paints in the selection and production of an authentic range of paint colours for use in the external and internal redecoration of historic buildings. The co-operation of the public and private sectors in this venture will ensure the ready availability of an essential element in the conservation process.

### Development for Public Use

The Branch also seeks to encourage the conservation of registered properties by providing financial assistance in the form of loans and grants. During 1985-86 consultants engaged by the Branch prepared a detailed report on Fiscal Incentives for Heritage Conservation which argues the economic case for the provision of financial assistance through tax incentives as a means of encouraging substantial private investment in heritage conservation. The release of this report has added impetus to the urgent need to implement effective forms of financial assistance for heritage conservation.

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## PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL OBJECTS

[The following is taken from the 'Sixth Annual Report of the History Trust of South Australia for the Year Ended 30 June 1986,' Government Printer, Adelaide 1987.]

### Recording Government Collections

In August 1985 Ann Burgess, a Project Officer employed under the Community Employment Program, completed her final draft of the report 'Listing Government Portable Heritage Items'. However, because the Museums Officer was transferred to the Constitutional Museum as Acting Director from September 1985 to January 1986, he was not able to address editing and production of the report until April. The report was accepted as a discussion paper by the Trust and published in June.

The report shows that State Government agencies hold a

wide range of objects of historical importance: for example a red chalk and charcoal portrait of Lady Hindmarsh, wife of the Colony's first Governor; the first X-ray unit to be clinically used in South Australia, c. 1896; a Shand Mason fire engine built in 1894; locomotive and rolling stock used throughout South Australia; medical instruments and equipment; the personal effects of the noted poet Adam Lindsay Gordon. The report voices some concern about the present state of conservation and security of many items and makes a number of recommendations. Among these are the proposals that the powers of the Trust under its Act be amended to enable it to acquire objects routinely when departments have no further use for them; to establish a central History Trust store; and to send all departments a revised version of the current Premier's Circular Letter to Ministers on Objects of Historical Significance. Copies of the report will be distributed to relevant departments.

#### **Portable Heritage**

On 15 May 1985 the Select Committee of Inquiry into Steamtown Peterborough Railway Preservation Society Incorporated tabled its interim report in Parliament. This inquiry resulted from the conflict arising from a move by members of the Society's Council to sell its assets for \$500 in order to allow the Society to relocate from Peterborough. The Select Committee concluded that Steamtown Peterborough was established for the benefit of the town of Peterborough and prevented the purported sale from proceeding.

The issue raised concerns within the Trust as to the effectiveness of the constitutions of organisations such as Steamtown Peterborough, established under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1956, as amended, in ensuring that objects of historical importance can be protected permanently in public ownership. The Trust, which made a submission to the Select Committee, has provisionally accredited some eighteen incorporated societies through its Museums Accreditation and Grants Program. Steamtown Peterborough had applied for provisional accreditation under this program but its application was not successful.

The Trust subsequently initiated discussions with the Attorney-General as to the effectiveness of constitutions framed under the new Associations Incorporation Act, 1985. The advice received was to the effect that no constitution in itself can provide an effective guarantee of protection, particularly in the event of either a deliberate attempt to subvert the intention of the constitution or of the organisation's going into liquidation. However measures certainly can be taken to tighten the provision for disposal of assets among most of the constitutions of provisionally-accredited museums. The Pichi Richi Preservation Society Incorporated has already taken a lead in this regard by setting up a separate category for its historical assets and

placing tight controls over any decision to dispose of them. The Trust is now looking at the possibility of drafting model constitutions for incorporated societies.

The Trust has also adopted the view that in certain instances where an object is of outstanding historical importance, the Trust itself should obtain legal title to the object when the opportunity arises and then either maintain it under its own care and control or lend or lease it to the appropriate organisation. On this basis it secured a Wx class locomotive and loaned it to the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society.

#### **Rationalisation of State Collections**

The Art Gallery of South Australia began to prepare for the formal handing over to the History Trust of items from its Historical Relics and Weapons collections. As the Trust continues to lack appropriate storage facilities for these collections those items not required for display will remain by courtesy of the Gallery in its Unley store. Although the Gallery Board has resolved that its Numismatic and Philatelic Collections also be transferred formally to the History Trust, the Trust is not at present equipped to undertake such a responsibility.

No progress was made with the transfer of collections from the South Australian Museum.

#### **Storage**

The problem of storage has continued to haunt the Trust throughout the year. The Trust now occupies a number of generally unsatisfactory storage sites. A small environmentally-controlled store within the Migration and Settlement Museum complex houses a fraction of the Trust's more vulnerable items. The Birdwood Mill has a sturdy 'garage' for some of its collections. The Maritime Museum houses its growing collections in a building in which it cannot afford to install climate-control equipment. Some items have been stored at premises owned by the Libraries Board at Norwood but the Trust has been asked to vacate these because of plans to redevelop the site. Other items are held in a collections processing area on the upper floor of the Institute Building, but here again the Trust has been put on notice to vacate the area as the Libraries Board wishes to use it for other purposes. A small rough storage site rented by the Constitutional Museum at Mile End was demolished during the year. At Schuberts Farm a large collection of agricultural machinery continued to rust in the open air.

The Trust has attempted to cope with the inevitable growth of its collections by renting storage premises at Ridleyton. It is a matter of serious concern to the Board, however, that no funds have been made available by the Government to cover

the rental and other costs associated with the store.

The trust feels obliged to express its strong concern about the lack of response to its requests for additional funds. Whatever the rationale for imposing plateau-funding on the Trust, and therefore constraining the growth of its programs, it makes no sense at all to include storage in the concept of plateau-funding. A museum without adequate storage is a strange animal indeed.

The Government's decision not to allocate funds for the Ridleyton store means that the Trust will not be renewing the lease on the store in 1987-88 and will be seeking funding for alternative accommodation for its collections. However, in noting dissatisfaction at the situation regarding Ridleyton, the Trust is pleased to report that the Minister has given his strong support to measures to find a large interim storage facility for the State's historical collections.

Finally, at the end of the period under review the Trust commissioned a senior museum expert to prepare a report on the kind of permanent repository which will ultimately be required to house the State's historical collections.

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## ARTICLES

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### LITTLE THINGS SENT TO TRY THE PIONEERS

[Mrs Jean Schmaal of Clare has forwarded the following reminder that people in the Murray Bridge district have had more to worry about than snakes. Ed.]

An old friend of mine once told me - "The mallee has always been a bad place for fleas - they get in the sand. At night time when it came bed time we took a dish of hot water into the bedroom with us, and as we took off our clothes we shook them over the water. Most people sprinkled "Insectibane" between the sheets because of the fleas. I can remember my first job out at Morphett's Place at Woods Point near Murray Bridge. There were three of us young chaps working out there. At night we slept in the old horse bails. The fleas were terrible; whenever I came home I bought three tins of flea powder to take back with me, the fleas were that bad. I remember a chap from the town saying to me, "You chaps from the other side (of the River) always seem to have something to say to each other when you meet. What on earth do you find to talk about?" He was quickly given the answer - "Fleas and rabbits." I'll say we could talk about fleas and rabbits - there were millions of the creatures. I well remember my wife saying to me one night, "I've had enough of this." She got out of bed and under the bed she placed two big sheets of that old

sticky tangle-foot stuff that we used for catching flies in the old days. Next morning those sheets were that thick with fleas you couldn't put a pin between them.

As far as rabbits were concerned, you know what boys are! We used to see the rabbits come right down through the swamp on the other side of the river to drink - the swamp was not drained then. As they crouched in the tussocks we pounced on them. When we had enough we crossed the bridge from the eastern side almost to the western side and dropped them into the river. They always swam right back to the eastern bank; never to this side which was much shorter. Rabbits swim? I assure you they can."

They must have had rabbits very badly indeed in the early days. The Mount Barker Courier of December, 1883, carried the following advertisement - 'wanted for rabbit killing - ferrets 20/- each; small dogs at 10/- each; cats at 1/- each.'

From Wellington came the news -

### LIVED TOGETHER

Sheep farmers here, as in other places, have been in the habit of turning out cats to destroy vermin. The first cats that were turned out no doubt did kill the rabbits, but their progeny having been reared on the same holes, acquired a liking for the bunnies and lived with them in perfect friendship.

I hear on reliable authority that these cats have killed and eaten several lambs this season.

However, Brer Rabbit was not to have it all his own way. Vermin Board No. 21, covering the area just north of Murray Bridge, in 1885 recorded that it had accounted for 358,000 rabbits. With a view to helping the Government rabbiters get on with the business, 50 dogs were sent from Adelaide to Murray Bridge in February of that year.

And on 1 November 1890 the Government was asked to proclaim the area a "sparrow district" and within a short time a proclamation was made. Had the Councillors been aware of the later activities of the starling, which had then but recently been liberated, their peace of mind may well have been disturbed.

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## MOUNT GAMBIER'S BREWERIES

### 1. STANDARD BREWERY: 167 Commercial Street West

The Directory of 1864 contains the earliest reference to brewing in Mount Gambier. A Mr R. Cock was then the proprietor of the Standard Brewery, having erected it sometime earlier.

According to the Border Watch of 30 December 1865, Cock leased the Standard Brewery to G. Sharp and R. Anderson, who later bought the premises. This partnership also brewed ale at Port McDonnell, Sharp managing this brewery and Anderson managed the Mt. Gambier brewery, until the former retired from the partnership in 1873.

Anderson's family brewed beer in the Standard Brewery until 1911, when it was sold. There is some evidence that the Mount Gambier Brewing Co. leased the premises between 1902 and 1904. This company then built its own premises and the Andersons continued to produce beer at the Standard Brewery until the business was sold to J. Molony, the licence being transferred to him by W.J. Anderson. Molony brewed here until moving to the premises which the company now occupies. It was then used as a bottle store for many years until sold to A. Zed and Sons Pty. Ltd. in the 1960s.

The building was still standing in the 1970s but in a much altered form. Old photographs show it in its original form when red dolomite walls faced the street, the rest of the walls being of Mt. Gambier limestone 14 inches thick. Galvanized iron sheeting covered a timber roof structure. Standard was only a small brewery, the proprietors (the Anderson family for most of its working life) living adjacent to it. No malting took place on the site, all malt being imported from England. It was unloaded at Port McDonnell and carted by waggon to Mt. Gambier.

In fact Standard Brewery was not typical of the nineteenth century breweries. There was no real brew tower, only a risen roof space which contained the mash tun, the brewery was not mechanized, and steam power was not utilized. The distinctive character of many South Australian breweries was definitely not a part of this small family concern.

### 2. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BREWERY: Commercial Street West.

Situated a short distance east of the Standard Brewery was the South Australian Brewery. This was another family concern which was owned by William Gebhardt until about 1893, when his son Charles bought it. Brewing ceased in about 1920

and the old brewery was later demolished.

The Directory of 1864 mentions William Gebhardt as a brewer at Clarville, a small town only a few miles from Mt. Gambier, but by about 1880 he had moved to Commercial Street Mount Gambier. The premises, like those of the Standard Brewery, were only small. Limestone walls were used and the front section was originally roofed with shingles which were later replaced with galvanized iron to match the roofing of the newer rear section. It appears likely that Gebhardt bought the building and converted it into a small brewery which produced mainly stout and porter products. The design is again atypical.

### 3. MOLONY'S BREWERY: 155 Commercial Street West.

Early references to this brewery could not be found, hence its beginnings are somewhat obscure. It was originally owned by the Mount Gambier Brewing Co. and was probably constructed about 1905. This firm was not long-lived and the premises were sold to either J. or E.J. Molony at a date which could not be determined. J. Molony retired from the business in 1914, at which date his son, E.J. Molony, became the proprietor, and since 1918 the firm has been known as Molony's Brewing Co. Brewing ceased in 1923 when arrangements were made with the South Australian Brewing Co. Ltd to supply beer, but the company owned, and still owns, many hotels in Mt. Gambier and surrounding towns. The brewing premises were subsequently utilized for the manufacture of aerated waters.

The layout and architectural form may be seen in the accompanying plans. Local limestone, heavy timber, and galvanized iron were used in its construction. The small brew tower contained the liquor vat, malt hopper and mash tun, but the size of the equipment, suggests that production was only small. English malt was probably used since a maltings was not present on the site.

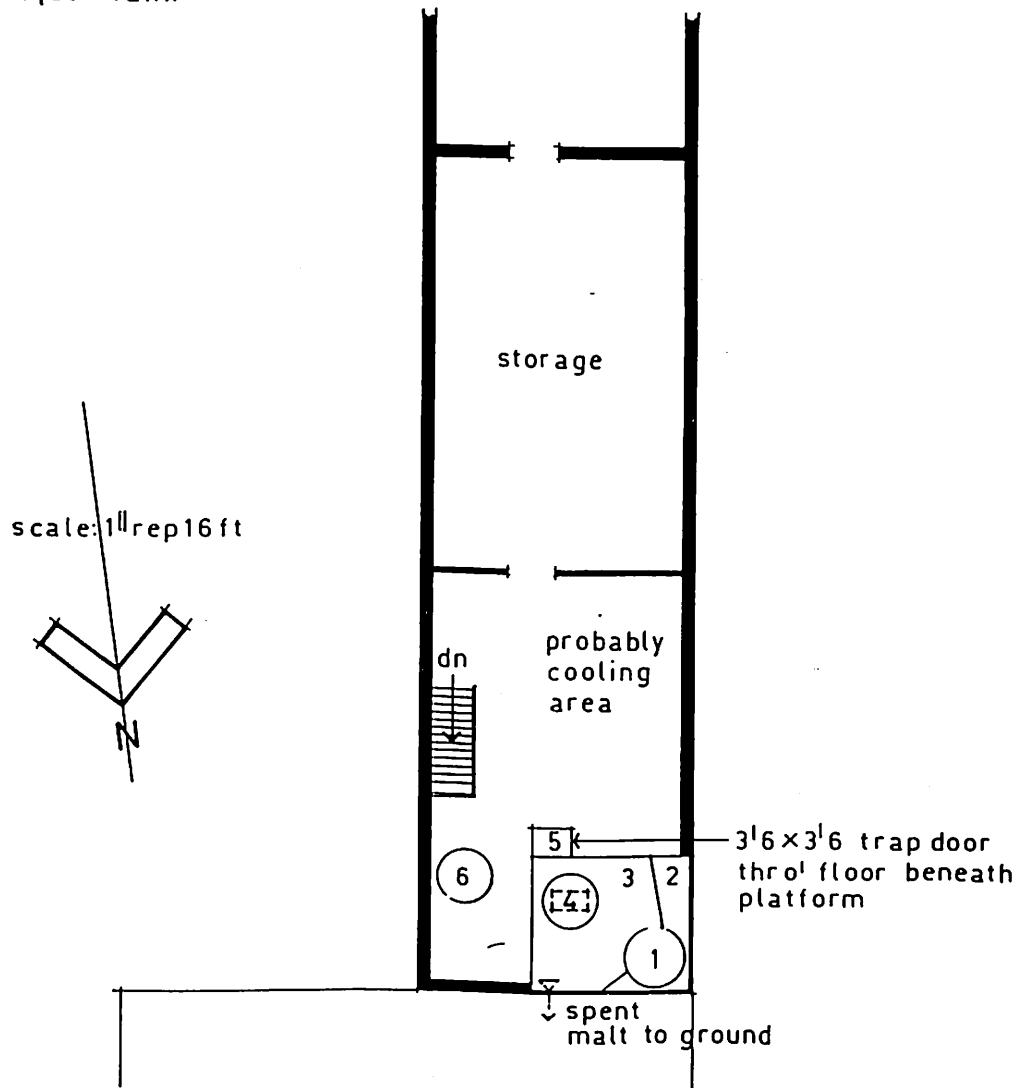
The front section was a later addition. Originally there was a verandah area used for keg storage and washing. Steps to the cellar led down from the verandah. Stables were probably sited between the building proper and the roadway.

Peter Tucker

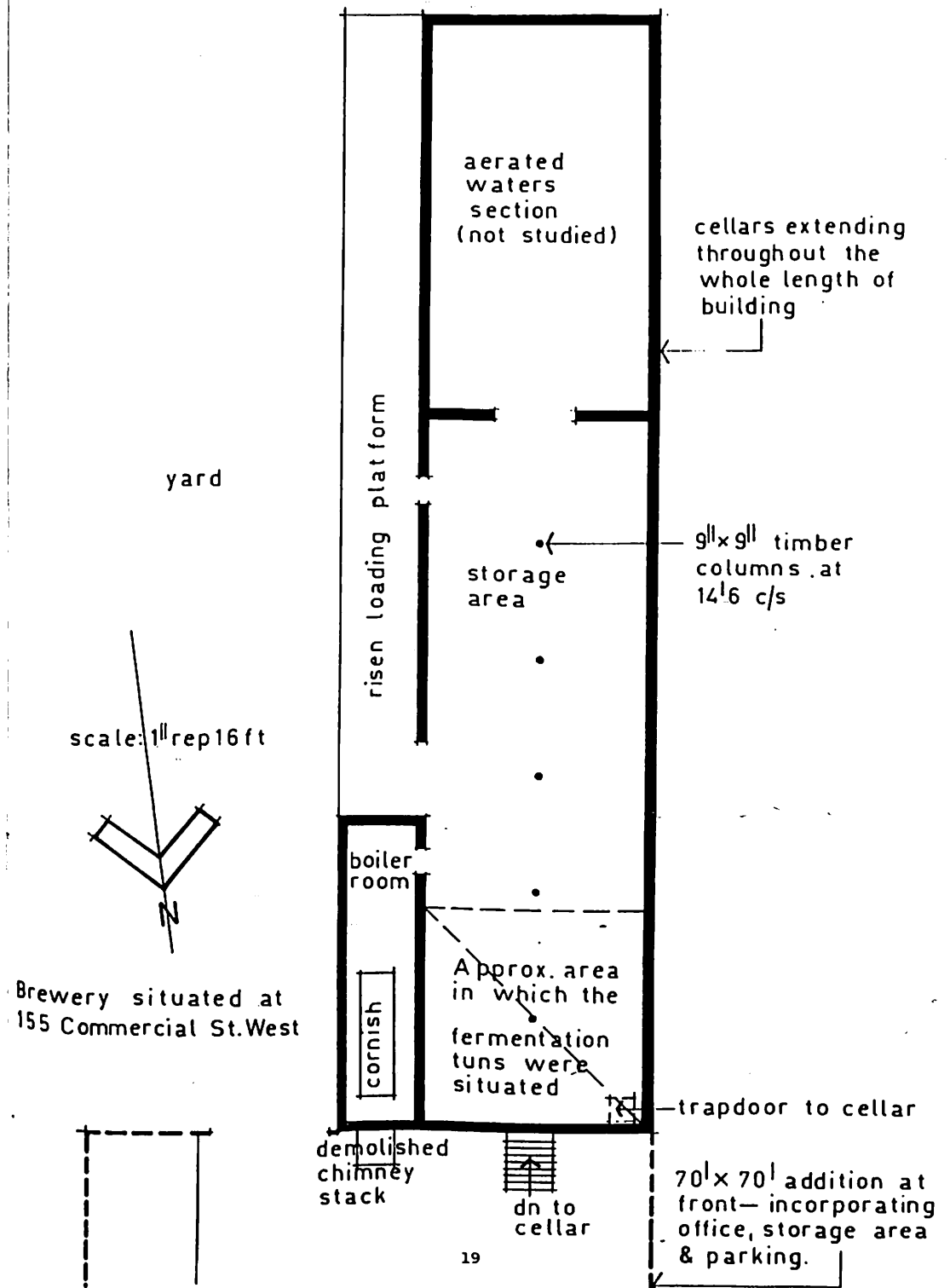
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KEY:

- 1. hot liquor vat
- 2. timber platform supporting the vat
- 3. " " above the kettle
- 4. mash tun with malt hopper above
- 5. platform for bagged malt + pulley system
- 6. liquor tank



FIRST FLOOR PLAN & BREW TOWER



AUSTRALIA'S MAJOR STATE - LEVEL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Foundation Date

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies  
P.O. Box 40,  
CIVIC SQUARE, A.C.T., 2608.

Canberra & District Historical Society Inc., 1953  
P.O. Box 40,  
CIVIC SQUARE, A.C.T., 2608. (062) 48 8401

Historical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.,  
P.O. Box 40544,  
CASUARINA, N.T., 5792. (089) 81 6263

The Historical Society of South Australia Inc., 1974  
122 Kintore Avenue,  
ADELAIDE, S.A., 5000.

Royal Australian Historical Society, 1901  
History House,  
133 Macquarie Street,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W., 2000. (02) 27 8001

Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 1909  
1 City Road,  
SOUTH MELBOURNE, Vic., 3205. (03) 62 1929

Royal Historical Society of Queensland, 1913  
115 William Street,  
BRISBANE, Qld., 4000. (07) 221 4198

Royal Western Australian Historical Society Inc., 1926  
Stirling House,  
49 Broadway,  
NEDLANDS, W.A., 6009. (09) 386 3841

Tasmanian Historical Research Association Inc., 1951  
P.O. Box 441,  
SANDY BAY, Tas., 7005.

Brian Samuels

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

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Charles Stevenson

The Millionth Snowflake

91 pages. Published by the Society of Friends, Adelaide, 1987. Available from the Society of Friends, PO Box 55 North Adelaide, for \$8.50 plus postage.

This volume is a history of the Quakers in South Australia. It was launched on Friday 11 September at the Friends Meeting House, that marvellous little prefabricated building which shelters just off Pennington Terrace in the lee of St. Peter's Cathedral. Charles Stevenson, the author of The Millionth Snowflake says the Meeting House is the oldest place of worship in South Australia in its original state.

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BOOK REVIEW

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Louise Neal

An Earl's Son. The Letters of Hugh Proby  
xii + 89 p. Published by Donald and Louise Neal,  
Adelaide, May 1987.

Good things sometimes come in small doses and this little book proves the point. Mrs Louise Neal would not be the first person to have stood by the roadside grave of Hugh Proby and wondered what extraordinary circumstances brought the son of an English peer to a lonely death in the Flinders Ranges in 1852. But most people drive away and think no more of it. Louise Neal did not. She had the good sense to carry the story further. Did Proby forward letters to his family in Great Britain? Had any such letters survived? And most importantly: could she have access to them?

So began a detective hunt marked by persistence and common sense. In her words:

Then began a determined trail of letter writing which led me to Ireland and then to England where, to my great delight, I found there were letters at Elton Hall which Proby had written to his family.

I went to Elton Hall, where Mr William Proby handed me a quarto-sized leather-bound volume, almost filled with typed copies of family letters going back one hundred and thirty-five years or more. Initially I was disappointed

to find they were not originals but they were certainly much easier to handle than the frail, faded letters I expected. It appears that earlier this century a member of the family gathered in these letters and had typed copies made. A veritable treasure trove of letters preserved forever for people to easily read.

The point she is making is an important one. An Earl's Son, the fruit of her labour, is further proof that more than one 'treasure trove' of South Australian history is locked away in British country houses, unknown, for the most part, to researchers here. We know something of that from Dr Peter Howell's lecture to the Society in August. He spoke at some length about his own attempt to trace the papers of the Englishmen and Scots who served a term as Governor of South Australia and then returned home. He told us too of his discoveries - and tribulations. Mrs Neal has not been alone in her search.

In An Earl's Son she has linked the principal letters with a narrative which tells us something of Proby's life in South Australia. The bare bones are told easily enough. Hugh Proby, third son of the Earl of Carysfort, disembarked at Port Adelaide on 24 May 1851. Armed with letters of introduction, he made the rounds of Government House and the Adelaide set before heading off into the bush, and at Kanyaka run he set about building a small cattle empire. That was north-east of Port Augusta. It was a lonely life but he went about his work with great gusto. Then in August 1852, barely fifteen months after arriving in the province, he was drowned crossing the flooded Willochra Creek. He was 24 years old. Had he lived he would have inherited the earldom.

But in those fifteen months he dashed off numerous letters and they are the meat of Louise Neal's book. They show him to have been, in her words, 'an intelligent, well-educated, adventurous, fortune-seeking and caring young man,' and they are a delight to read. Proby comments on so many aspects of life in the province - society and manners, the governor and his family, the growth of Adelaide, the economics of raising cattle, avenues for investment, journeys of exploration and the discovery of gold. Adventurer though he was, and no slacker when it came to hard labour, he was nonetheless appalled by the vulgarity of manners in a levelling society.

Extracts from the first letter are reproduced below with Mrs Neal's kind permission. The letter is dated 5 June 1851 and was written from the York Hotel, 'a very respectable place.' Proby had been in the province barely two weeks.

An Earl's Son is available for \$10.95 from David Jones (Rundle Mall), Old Parliament House (formerly Constitutional Museum - North Terrace), Quornucopia (Quorn), Quorn Newsagency and Giles Newsagency (Angaston).

Copies are also available from Mrs Neal for \$10.95 (post included) at PO Box 56, Angaston, SA 5353.

Tony Stimson

'I was rather agreeably surprised by the appearance of the Town. It is situated partly on the plain and partly on a small rising hill two miles from the chain of high mountains. The mighty Torrens (which by the by has a little water in it now) runs between South Adelaide which is the part on the plain, and North Adelaide on the hill; on each side of the river is park land which now looks very pretty, but must have rather a dismal appearance in Summer, when everything is burnt up. It is well wooded with the Eucalyptus, some of these trees are very pretty in form and have foliage which looks something like an ash tree towards the end of summer but they are all very much pulled about in the park by the natives who cut them about in order to make their dwellings; when such is the case the stem which at this time of the year had shed its bark, looks rather forlorn.

The Town has a rather straggly appearance as it has been laid out for a large town consequently it is not half built over. There are most excellent shops here. I was quite surprised at the appearance of the principal street with its handsome shops with plate glass windows. In size I should say the Town was about the size of Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) without the cathedral. There are several quite imposing looking buildings springing up among them one which is that of my bank, though I cannot congratulate them on the architecture of the building. The south side of the town is Belgravia and there we went to see Captain Bagot who has a house in that part. He was very obliging and asked us to dinner and to sleep. I rather like him, he seems a very good-natured man. Mrs Bagot has somewhat of the housekeeper in her appearance, and requested us whenever we could to come up there and we should always find dinner. He recommends us to be in no hurry, but to look about us and see the country before doing anything, he also approves of our plan of going to Port Phillip. The Bishop, who has a house about six miles from the town, has also asked us to come and see him. He lives in a very pretty spot just under the mountains. We rode there on Monday 2nd June to deliver our letters of introduction but as he was not at home we prolonged our ride going first into the mountains. The mountains have a rounded appearance at a distance and they are covered with grass and trees up to the top, but when in them, you see some very fine rocky glens. We rode nearly to the top of Mount Lofty and were quite enraptured at the beauty of the scenery which I think is equal to nearly anything in Wicklow and there something so striking in the contrast of the scenery, on one side lay stretched out before us the plains bordered by the Gulf and in the distance the high

land of Yorke Peninsula again appearing, and in the middle of this plain, the Town; on the other side mountain rose after mountain in a succession of rocks, glens forming in one place an open slope covered with cattle and in another the wildest scenery covered with wood growing between the high projecting rocks. There is most excellent turf for riding growing at the top of the hills, and though occasionally it is necessary to make a long round to avoid some precipitous glen, yet without difficulty you can go along on most excellent cantering ground for any distance. I longed to have you all with me when riding here. I am sure Fanny would be obliged to confess that even after Antra this is not to be despised. To add to the novelty of the scene quantities of parrots were hopping about and screaming in the trees. We also saw a very handsome bird hovering over our heads called the Eagle Hawk; it was a large bird with beautiful plumage.

We dined with the Governor on Tuesday evening. Government House is in South Adelaide about the size of a smaller country gentleman's house in England. There are two very good-sized rooms, the dining room and drawing room. It is so built that further additions may be built if necessary. We met there Mr Maturin, a son-in-law of Captain Bagot and private secretary to the Governor, the Bishop, Judge Cooper and his sister and one or two older people. The gentlemen part of the colonies seem much better than the ladies, if such they may be called. There seems to be here at present great difficulties for ladies to contend with, as servants are so difficult to be procured. Lady Young is decidedly the nicest person of the lady part of the population that I have seen. She is a very fine, handsome-looking person, and seems to have made herself a great favourite here. Sir Henry is quite the reverse, a mean, vulgar-looking man with a red face and round stomach, rather shy and a little pompous; he is much older than his lady, she being about 22 - he about 50 years old, I suppose.

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\* STOP PRESS \*

#### CHANGE TO MORTLOCK LIBRARY HOURS

As from 1 December 1987 the Mortlock Library will switch its late night opening from Thursdays to Tuesdays, and will close on Tuesday mornings. Further, the service on Saturdays will be restricted to items available from the ground floor. Preservation material which must be used in the upstairs room under supervision will not be available. The new hours will be Monday, and Wednesday to Saturday 9.30 - 5.00. Tuesdays 1.00 - 8.00 pm. Closed Sundays and Public Holidays.

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