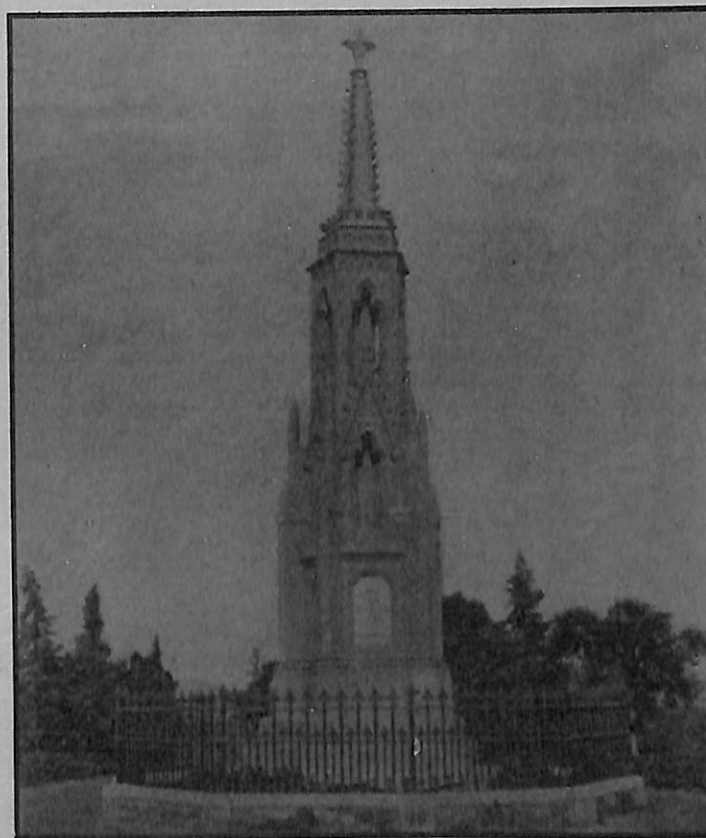




The
Historical Society
of
South Australia
Inc.



Newsletter No. 85 November 1989



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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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| | |
|------------------------------|--|
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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover Illustration: The original monument over the grave of Colonel William Light, South Australia's first Surveyor-General, Light Square. The impressive sandstone memorial deteriorated badly and in 1905 was replaced by the current monument.

***** STOP PRESS *****

CHANGE OF LECTURE DATE

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Surveyor General, Mr John Porter, is unable to address the Society on the scheduled date, November 10th.

HE WILL NOW ADDRESS THE SOCIETY 2 WEEKS LATER ON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

SAME VENUE

8.00 P.M.

STATE LIBRARY LECTURE THEATRE

Council apologizes for any inconvenience.

Robert Nicol

SOCIETY NEWS

OBITUARY: VIC REEVES

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of renowned Adelaide film collector Vic Reeves. He was 69. Mr Reeves addressed the Society as part of its lecture programme on two occasions, the most recent in February this year. On both occasions he presented us not only with his invaluable films but with his lively reminiscences and anecdotes concerning Australian film and social history. He always gave freely of his expertise and knowledge to Society and community members. His unique contribution cannot be replaced.

Robert Nicol

NEWS

NEW ACQUISITIONS IN THE MORTLOCK LIBRARY

[From Mortlock Miscellany, No. 12 (August 1989)]

PRICE, Archibald Grenfell

PRG 7
RESTRICTED

Additional records of Grenfell Price comprising manuscripts of books, papers, letters and personal notes. c. 1950-1970. 2.60 metres. Manuscript, Typescript, Printed.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SRG 95

Additional records of the Congregational Union of South Australia comprising portrait photographs of Clayton Congregational Church Young Men's Bible Class. 1910. 10 cm. Photographic prints.

HINDMARSH CRICKET CLUB

SRG 418

Records of the Hindmarsh Cricket Club comprising minutes together with several invoices, items of correspondence and score sheets. 1882-1897. 10 cm. Manuscript.

RELIGIONS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (S.A. REGIONAL MEETING) INCORPORATED

SRG 103
RESTRICTED

Additional records consisting of correspondence, memos, accounts, agreements and legal documents. 1839-1942. 8 cm. Manuscript.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WHEAT AND WOOLGROWERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

SRG 225

Additional records of the South Australian Wheat and Woolgrowers Association Incorporated including records of the former South Australian Wheatgrowers Association, South Australian Wheatgrowers Protection Association, Farmers Protection Association and Farmers Association comprising constitutions, certificate of incorporation, reports and balance sheets, council executive and conference minutes, sub committee minutes, texts of broadcasts and broadcasting contracts, press releases, cartoons, historical notes, honour board, membership lists, debenture registers, division files and branch files together with Australian Wheatgrowers Federation conference minutes, executive meeting minutes, secretary's reports and balance sheets. 1883-1890 1928-1966. 6 metres. Manuscript, Typescript, Processed typescript.

ANGAS, George Fife

PRG 174
RESTRICTED

Papers of George Fife Angas comprising correspondence (business and personal), papers relating to the S.A. Company, and an agreement. 1831-1850. 1 metre. Manuscript, Printed.

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

SRG 94/A2
RESTRICTED

Additional records of Holy Trinity Church comprising Mothers' Union Minutes 1950-1983, 4 vols; Mothers' Union Attendance book 1961-1971, 1 vol; Women's Service Fellowship attendance list, 1973-1977, 1 vol; Women's Guild account book, 1960s, 1 vol; Aged Communion attendance books c. 1960-1980, 8 vols; and photographs of the Mothers' Union, 1950-1988. 1950-1988. 18 cm. Manuscript, Typescript, Photographs.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S SMALL BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS, CONTINUED.

The District Council of Robe received Australian Bicentennial Authority funding for two local history projects, and I was subsequently involved in both during 1987. The first of these projects was researching and writing Working Lines: a history of Robe Electric Telegraph Station and Post Office. Any visitor to Robe will recall the modest building known (incorrectly) as the Old Magnetic Telegraph Station, which stands facing the sea near Royal Circus. This was constructed in 1858 as one of the two major repeater stations in South Australia for the first Intercolonial Telegraph Line built in Australia, between Adelaide and Melbourne.

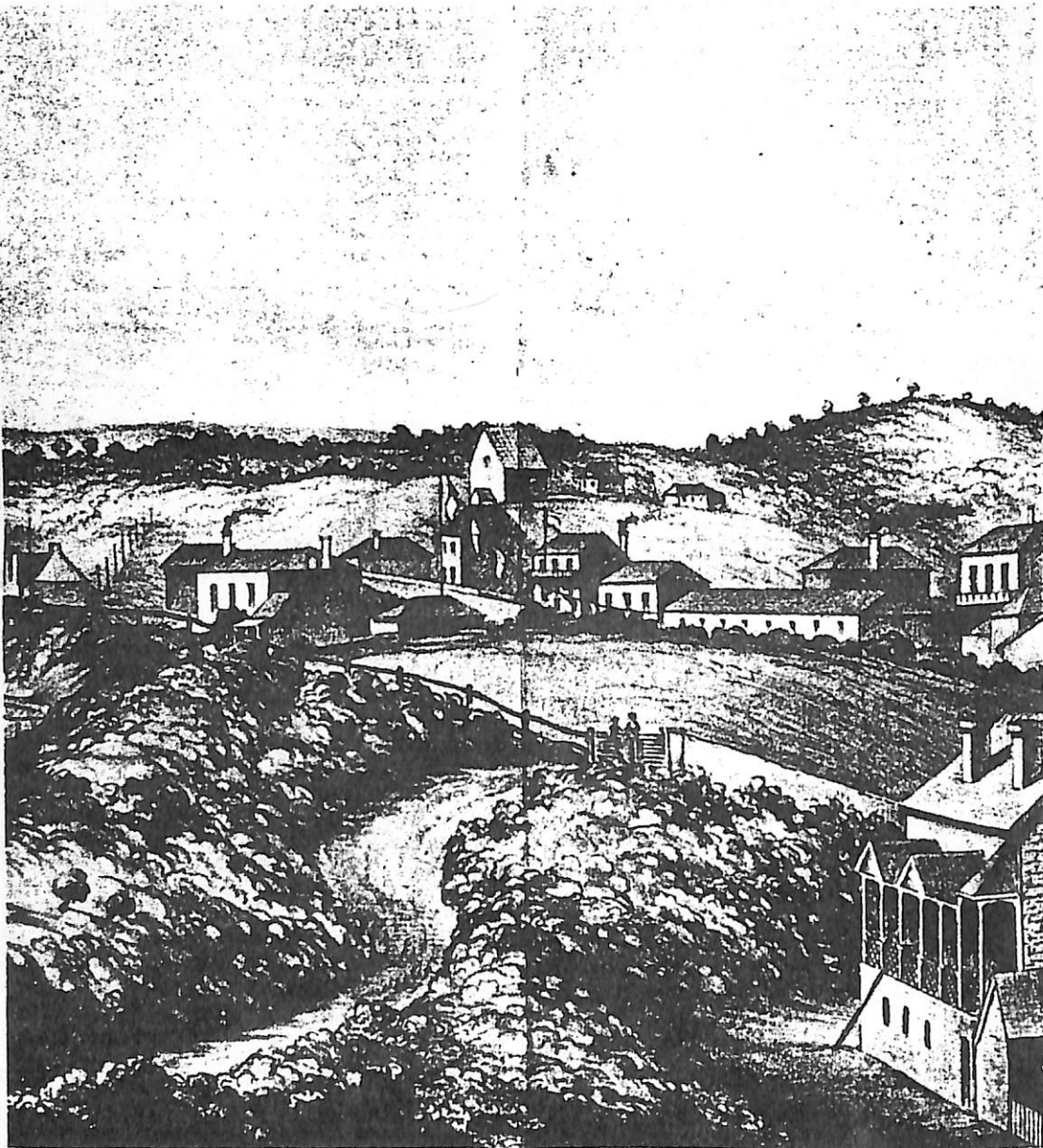
The history includes an account of the construction of that line, which was supervised by a young Charles Todd, and also a description of the station's working life, which encompassed family residence, postal duties and the reporting of such terrible events as shipwreck in South Eastern waters.

The history was prepared with illustrations in a form ready to publish but the cost of printing has so far prevented the Council from doing so. The District Clerk has recently written "I believe that Council would be prepared to allow another organisation to publish it, should one wish to undertake this work".

However, the second project has resulted in two publications, accompanied by cassettes, which are available at the Robe Library. "These brochures are quite popular with the touring public".

John Dallwitz and I prepared the two brochures and cassettes as guided tours. The first, "Robe Town Walking Tours", provides short and long walking tours of the town. The second, "Robe Town and District Driving Tour", covers the

ROBE TOWN WALKING TOURS



town and surrounding district. The guides include maps, photographs and "Further reading". The cover illustration on both brochures is a detail from the lithograph of Robe Town by Alexander Tolmer (then a nearby resident) in 1869. This detail shows many of the buildings still standing, including "Karatta House" (in the foreground), the Telegraph Station and the commercial buildings along Smillie Street.

The brochures are available at the Robe Library for \$1.00 each, and the cassettes may be purchased or hired.

Susan Marsden
State Historian, History Trust of South Australia

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ARTICLES

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING: ANNUAL REPORT

[The following extracts are taken from the Department of Environment and Planning's Annual Report, dated 30th June 1988.]

Aboriginal Heritage Branch

The Aboriginal Heritage Branch is managed by Bob Ware.

The highlight of the year was the passage through State Parliament of the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the assenting of the Act on 17 March 1988. The Act gives 'blanket' protection for Aboriginal sites and objects. It will be proclaimed after regulations are drawn up.

The Act places the onus of responsibility through delegations with the Aboriginal people of this State and is the most advanced piece of Aboriginal Heritage legislation in Australia. In anticipation of the impending legislation the Branch has been actively involved in the setting up of local Aboriginal committees. These committees will be actively involved in the Aboriginal heritage of their areas.

The Branch continues to oversee a number of community-based projects including the Kokatha Site Recording and the Marree Arabanna People's Committee Site Recording Project. Extensive physical site protection works have been carried out at Arkaroo Rock in the Flinders Ranges. Interpretive signs are also being developed for Arkaroo Rock.

The Branch has been involved in a survey of the Nullabor Plains. This project is part completed and will be completed in the next financial year. The Coongie Lakes area has also

been extensively surveyed by the Branch and will be completed soon. During the year a ranger was appointed at Marree with funding from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Work is underway in placing the register of sites and objects on computer. The Aboriginal Photographic Project, which commenced last year, has now been placed on the computer for easy access.

State Heritage Branch

The State heritage Branch, managed by Jon Womersley, is responsible for administering the State Government's program to conserve and preserve the State's cultural heritage. This is primarily achieved through the provision 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.

Identification and Survey

During the year heritage surveys were published for the Fleurieu Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and the Far West Coast and fieldwork was completed for the survey of Kangaroo Island.

The Branch continued its work with local councils, completing heritage surveys in the Corporations of Walkerville and Burnside and the District Councils of Mount Pleasant and Peterborough. The survey commenced in the Corporation of Brighton is yet to be completed.

The Register of State Heritage Items includes 1243 places of heritage significance, of which 38 were entered on the Register during the year. A further 161 places were on the Interim List of State Heritage Items at 30 June 1988.

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 councils for changes 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. During the year, 640 applications for

development of heritage items were approved.

The Branch provides technical advice to the owners of heritage properties about conserving and adapting old buildings. The Branch published the first four in a series of Heritage Conservation Practice Notes.

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 the year the Branch completed work at the Kanyaka Homestead Historic Site, undertook further conservation work at the historic homes "Kingsmead" and "Belmont" and commissioned conservation work at Clayton Farm in the South-East. Assistance has been given to the preparation of conservation plans for the Beehive Corner Buildings and in conjunction with the South Australian Department of Housing and Construction (SACON) work has progressed on the preparation of a conservation plan for the former Adelaide Gaol. The first half of the nation's Bicentennial year has seen Branch involvement in many historic site development and conservation projects. Work is continuing on Bicentennial projects involving the historic Angle Vale Bridge and the village of Hampton at Burra.

Maritime Archaeology

During the year a third expedition was conducted to the site of the historic shipwreck Zanolpi, continuing the measured survey of the site and recovering a number of important artefacts including the ship's bell. The wreck of the Nene Valley was provisionally declared an historic shipwreck under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act, 1976, following its discovery by recreational divers who souvenired some of its cargo of wine, cow bells, plates and brass taps. Survey work on shipwrecks along the South-East coast has continued. The Branch also installed the first of a series of underwater markers on shipwrecks along the metropolitan coast and published a trail guide to historic shipwrecks.

The Branch's activities involved it closely with the History Trust of South Australia, the Department of Housing and Construction and the Department of Tourism. All four agencies are active in encouraging the conservation and public use of the State's cultural heritage.

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THE THREE GOWNS

Some fifty or so years ago at Koolunga in the mid north of South Australia a strange and unhappy run of circumstances centred around some beautifully made baby gowns. These were made by a young woman expecting her first child, and a great deal of time and love went into the making of these three very beautiful little gowns. To her distress her baby lived only a few hours after its birth, and the first gown was its shroud.

Not long afterwards her sister (the local parson's wife) was also expecting and one of the precious gowns was presented to her. All went well until that little girl was a few months old, and just before her first birthday, she too died, and again the lovely hand-made gown was used in burial.

No fears were aroused over this strange coincidence until the local schoolmaster's wife, expecting her first child, was caught unprepared when the child came prematurely. A quick gathering up of clothes among friends saw the last of the little gowns given to her. Once again tragedy struck. The small frail child died soon after birth, and the third and last gown also served an unhappy end.

The little cousins were buried side by side in the Koolunga cemetery, and a small rail placed around them. For a long time the little graves were tended and the rail painted each year.

All told it was a strange run of ill fortune, and one for which no explanation could be found. No further ill luck befell the young mothers and all went on to have healthy children. But there is an old saying: "Death strikes thrice."

Jean Schmaal

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CAROLINE CARLETON - A LADY OF NO EDUCATION?

Caroline Carleton's greatest fame in colonial South Australia came from writing a poem which was set to music by Carl Linger for a Gawler competition and was to become known as 'the Song of Australia'. In the 1850s she had had established herself as a popular poet and had contributed several articles to the Adelaide newspapers. Less well known is her association with West Terrace Cemetery, though she is reputed to have written the poem used by Linger, whilst sitting on a bench in the grounds of the cemetery one day in 1859. Among her popular poems were several with a funereal theme, including four grouped under the title 'Fragmentary Lines Written in the Cemetery' and 'On the Suicide of a Young

Lady'.

Caroline Carleton frequented the cemetery because it was for several years her home, and, to the surprise of many, at times her workplace. On 2 November 1855, in an effort to end poor management and public scandal at the West Terrace Cemetery, the colonial government had appointed Charles James Carleton to the newly created position of Cemetery Superintendent. With him to the residential position, he brought his wife Caroline. Her husband's zealous attempts at reform of burial procedures were soon marred, however, by controversy and ill health. He was criticised for overstepping his powers, entering sectarian squabbles and overspending his budget.

On 20 September 1860, Charles Carleton applied to the government for a free passage to King George's Sound in the hope that a break would improve his health, but the request was refused. His condition deteriorated rapidly thereafter. On 22 July 1861, Mrs Carleton notified the Chief Secretary of the death of her husband. At the same time, she asked him to delay appointing a successor until a memorial in her favour could be presented to the Governor. The role of Caroline Carleton in the previous management of the public cemetery now became apparent. In an age of affirmative action and feminist lobbying, her correspondence with the government is worth quoting at some length.

On 26 July 1861, Mrs Carleton appealed to the Governor to appoint her as superintendent since she had carried out all the necessary duties during her husband's protracted illness.

\... in the advanced state of public opinion in England respecting the employment of educated women in railway, telegraph and law offices, taking into consideration the established character and position in society of your memorialist, together with the isolated and peculiar nature of this office, she can see nothing to prevent her from filling it, with credit to herself, and benefit to the public.

It appears that her husband had been far less healthy than the official correspondence indicates and had been expected to die at any moment during the previous three years.

The response of the Chief Secretary was succinct but damning. The office, he wrote, "required an oversight and decision, such as no lady of education could be expected to possess". Undeterred, Mrs Carleton pressed her case:

Perhaps I may be permitted to reply to this objection, that the part which appears to be for me, the most

difficult and unusual, is the part which I have sustained for three years, without any assistance from the late superintendent, whose physical incapacity prevented him from taking any active part in the supervision of the grounds. During this time the men have been accustomed to take orders from me and I have personally superintended the planting of trees, and repairs of fences; during this time also I have had to explain and report upon two difficult cases, the one a charge of trespass against the superintendent, which was proved to be groundless, and the other a charge from this office of irregularity on the part of the government contractor which was fully sustained. These both occurred at a time when the superintendent was too ill to be communicated with. Did this office involve any publicity I should shrink from the appointment, but standing so distinctly apart from all other government officers I cannot but think the novelty of the application, its only valid objection.

This appeal was rejected and on 27 August 1861, Henry Edward Brookes was appointed to the position and instructed to "as much as possible consult the feelings and convenience of Mrs Carleton by allowing her ample time for removing her family from the premises and making necessary arrangements for their future accommodation elsewhere." In fact the transition was far from happy. The new superintendent complained of difficulties with the widow and about indifferently kept cemetery records.

Caroline Carleton stayed on for three weeks in the cemetery residence and, according to Brookes, frequently interfered with his attempts at re-organising the administration. She then moved in to the city, where she started teaching. Later, she retired to Wallaroo where she died in 1874.

Robert Nicol

SOURCES: West Terrace Cemetery Correspondence
Mortlock Library Biographical Notes 1047/5
R. Webbing, A Song of Australia. Caroline Carleton, Her Poems and Biography 1820-1874
(Adelaide, 1977)

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THE LEGEND OF COMPTON

Mr James Hill managed Bundaleer Station in the State's mid north when it was owned by Mr C.B. Fisher. On the property were two thoroughbred horses in training for the Melbourne Cup.

Mrs Hill became ill and the services of the Clare doctor

were needed. After the doctor's arrival it was found necessary to operate on Mrs Hill, but the doctor had not brought the necessary instruments with him. As it was a matter of some urgency, Mr Hill despatched Peter McNeil, the son of the overseer to ride to Clare, collect the instruments and get back as quickly as possible. He was told to select the best horse available. He chose a splendid mount named Compton. The horse had to jump seven gates en route to Clare. A second horse was sent to meet McNeil on the journey back, so that he could return as quickly as possible.

Compton and his rider were quicker than expected. On the way back they met the relief horse several miles from Bundaleer, but as Compton was still in top form, McNeil did not stop to change horses, but continued on and completed the trip of 60 miles in 3 hours and 20 minutes. When he returned home he was greeted with the query, "Why did you turn back?" He had travelled much faster than anticipated.

The operation was a success and Mrs Hill made a good recovery. Compton received his reward: he was pensioned off to green pastures and lived to a ripe old age.

Jean Schmaal

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DOCUMENTS

BY MOTOR TO TARCOOLA

Mr G.H. Brooks has forwarded the following information about the arrival of the motor car in Tarcoola, 280 miles from Port Augusta.

He notes the following entry in The Register of 14 February 1911:

"Tarcoola, Feb. 13: The first motor car which has been on the Tarcoola Goldfields arrived here this afternoon. Messrs N. Richardson, S. Matheson and W. Hamp, of Dalgety's, were the passengers. They reported a splendid trip. The party reached Phillip's Ponds on the first day out of Port Augusta, Cook's Well on the second, and Tarcoola on the third day."

Norman Richardson, a property owner and licensed motorist returned by car in January the following year. A long report in The Register of 16 January 1912 compared the speed of his journey with that of the ordinary mail service.

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MOTOR V. MULE TEAM

QUICK RUN TO TARCOOLA

A telegram from Tarcoola published in The Register on Monday announced that Mr Norman A. Richardson had arrived at that north-western mining centre on Saturday afternoon with copies of The Register of Thursday, and that his motor car had averaged 16¹/₂ miles an hour on the journey. The distance from Adelaide is 569 miles, and from Port Augusta 280 miles. Thus the actual travelling time from Port Augusta to Tarcoola must have been exactly 17 hours. As the route is mostly through sandy country, the feat is of more than passing interest. The run was made on a 20 h.p. Ford motor car, which Mr Richardson (who has the mail contract) purchased from Messrs Duncan & Fraser a few days ago, with the intention of utilizing it in the mail service to the goldfields. Mr William, the chauffeur who drove the car to Tarcoola, is a driver of wide experience. His journeys by car have included trips overland to Sydney, Streaky Bay, on the west coast, as well as Broken Hill and the Far North. The routes to the lastnamed places he describes as the worst he has ever travelled. The previous best time made by any vehicle between Port Augusta and Tarcoola was done by Mr Richardson. On that occasion he averaged 6¹/₂ miles an hour by motor buggy. When he bought the Ford car he declared he would be perfectly satisfied if it would do eight miles an hour. As the travellers were able to deliver in Tarcoola on Saturday The Register published in Adelaide on Thursday the trip must be regarded as another triumph for the motor.

- The Old Mule Team -

The rapid journey above outlined is in contrast to the conditions it seems likely to supersede. The ordinary mail service is carried on by means of a trap with horses or mules, and the scheduled time is five days - the 'coach' leaves Port Augusta at 7 a.m. on Saturday and reaches its destination at 5.45 p.m. on Wednesday. The mailman finished his first day's stage at Gibson's Camp, and the passengers are accommodated for the night at Rankine's Hotel. The second day's drive closes at The Pines, where Mr Pick (formerly of Braemar Station, between the Burra and Hallett) is the host. On the third evening Terry's Wirraminna Station is reached. Dinner is partaken on the fourth day at Coondambo Station (also Mr Terry's, and formerly belonging to the late Mr Robert Bruce), and the afternoon stage finishes at Kingoonya, whence the next day's run is made to Tarcoola through Wilgena Station, which is held by Mr Simon Matheson. In this era of progress a boon has been conferred on the isolated settlers and travellers along the track by the installation of the telephone from Port Augusta to No. 1 Tank, Gibson's Camp, Oakden Hills, Wirraminna, Coondambo, and

Wilgena respectively, to Tarcoola.

- The Pioneer of Swift Transport -

Mr Richardson, who has succeeded in carrying news from the capital to the distant outpost so speedily, is the son of the late Mr O.K. Richardson, who was for many years Under Secretary to the South Australian Government. He has long been a contractor for the carriage of mails, and is also a large station holder. Among his properties are Purple Downs and other important holdings between Port Augusta and Tarcoola, on which the breeding of horses, mules, cattle, and sheep has been successfully carried on.

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BOOK REVIEWS

B. Hall, J. Noak, H. Senff

SORBS/WENDS OF LUSATIA: THE UNKNOWN IMMIGRANTS

(Published by the authors, 1989)

There are some books that need to be reviewed but almost defy reviewing. The need is there because in our society what appears in print, if not questioned, takes on the imprimatur of holy word.

Such a book is the Sorbs/Wends of Lusatia: the Unknown Immigrants by B. Hall, J. Noak and H. Senff, published by the authors, 1989. The stated occasion for the book is the Bicentennial of Australia and the 40th birthday of the German Democratic Republic. The motives of the authors are laudatory; to bring to light the little known history of the Sorbs/Wends in Australia. However although the work may appear convincing to the casual reader further perusal suggests that historically the work falls far short of recreating the past as von Ranke expressed it "as it really was".

One's confidence in the book, I must admit, was not increased by finding in what is stated to be the second edition of the book, although no date for the first is given, immediately after the contents two pages with a total of 80 corrections in a text of 137 pages. The disclaimer that the book was prepared in haste and further editing would be welcomed by the authors hardly seems a justifiable excuse, especially at a price of fifteen dollars.

The book attempts to trace the history of the Sorbs/Wends from the sixth century to the present in Australia, the United States, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. A final

chapter looks at the Sorbs/Wends in the German Democratic Republic today. Space demands that this review limit itself to the South Australian section.

The Foreword points out that 1988 marks the 150th anniversary of Sorb migration to South Australia. The Sorbs are a Slavonic group from a region in the south east corner of what is now the German Democratic Republic known as Lusatia or Lausitz in German.

The Foreword informs us that because Ludwig Leichhardt's mother was a Straehlow "and -ow is a common ending in Slavonic names; it is therefore possible that Sophie Straehlow ... brought a Slavonic strain into the Leichhardt blood. Therefore the Sorbs in Australia can acknowledge Leichhardt as part Sorb".

Unfortunately this is an example of the type of logical analysis that dominates the book. Unproven statements, hypotheses, assumptions are all taken as fact and a history woven about them.

A few examples must suffice. "The Sorbs from Podelgore (Klemzig) under the leadership of Pastor Kavel left Posen, and started the settlement of Klemzig and Hahndorf in South Australia. These Old Lutherans were not of German origin but Sorbish, although many historians have consistently referred to them as German". (p. 44) Clearly the Lutheran Church of Australia and its historians have little idea of how they have erred over the years.

Klemzig, although in Brandenburg and not Lusatia, is claimed to be a Sorb name (p. 43); "the discovery of gold 1853 - 1854 ... led to the largest mass migration of Sorbs ... with most going to Port Adelaide" (p. 43). We read that, "The biggest influx of Sorbian migrants came to South Australia. Between 1850 - 1860 more than 10% of all settlers who arrived from the conglomeration of German principalities, were Sorbs". (p. 45) Although some shipping lists are given in the back of the book no attempt has been made to relate these numbers to total German migration. Nor is there any justification or proof given on the marriage-intermarriage statistics for Sorbs.

The attempted chronological history of the Sorbs is so disjointed that except for the reference numbers one would swear that pages had been misplaced. The book relies heavily for its quotes on one book, Setting the Record Straight by Hans-Dieter Senif which unfortunately, on the basis of this present book, must be highly suspect. It is a pity too, that the maps, nearly all of which are in German, are not translated. They would have little or no appeal and less meaning to the non-German reader particularly as most are badly reproduced and often difficult if not impossible to read due to faulty reproduction. There is really no excuse

for this, desktop publishing can be of the highest standards.

Generally the book shows a lack of balance. There is no doubt that the Sorbs have been badly treated by the Germans throughout the centuries. But one gains the impression that the large land owners of Prussia only suppressed and exploited the Sorbs. The peasants as a class were financially exploited hence their massive migration to the lands of the new worlds. While it is true that there was a suppression of Sorbian culture and language this was perhaps no more dear to them than the faith of the 'Old Lutherans' who also fled to preserve their integrity.

The book is therefore a disappointment. The history of minority groups is too often overlooked and forgotten, especially when they have been associated with ethnic communities with whom this country found itself at war. The wrongs of the past however are not to be put right by emotion. Objective historical analysis is called for before a satisfactory history of the Sorbs in Australia can be said to have been written.

Ian Harmstorf

Dr Ian Harmstorf is senior lecturer in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the South Australian College of Advanced Education.

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UNLEY PICTORIAL HISTORY

As part of last year's Bicentenary celebrations the Unley City Council showing both civic pride and an admirable sense of history - since confirmed by the opening this year of the old Unley Fire Station as a local museum - published Whistler's Unley: Then and Now A Pictorial History by Janet M. Maugham and Ron Praite. Both of the authors have an intimate knowledge of the area. Maugham was the first curator of the Unley Museum while Praite, who is widely known for his Place Names of South Australia written in conjunction with J.C. Tolley, has been a resident of Unley all his life and an active photographer of the suburb for the last twenty years.

The authors state in their introduction that their book is an adjunct to the major text History of Unley 1871-1971 by G.B. Payne and E. Cosh. Despite this disclaimer the book serves in its own right as a most readable history. Faced with the usual historian's dilemma of trying to integrate chronology and themes the authors have opted for the now not unusual method of dividing their work into two sections, the first dealing with growth and development, the second entitled 'The Character of Unley' and dealing with such

matters as Residences, Leisure, Defence and Disasters. The dichotomy has proved generally successful. In the chronological section what at first appears to be a total vacuum surrounding the two world wars is picked up later in the 'Character' section. For the non-historian this could prove to have some difficulties if the reader wanted to progress through the history in strict chronological order. But one suspects such readers will be very much in the minority for the strength of the book lies in its pictures and their relationship to the supporting text.

Although it may be debated that a picture is worth a thousand words the immediate impact of pictorial history especially when the area is known to the reader cannot be doubted. The selection of black and white photos both pictorially and historically has been chosen most judiciously for their historical and pictorial interest but also to enable the reader to gain a sense of historical continuity. Ron Praithe has taken many of the photos himself and the authors are to be commended on their meticulous dating of every picture. The reader is able very easily to build up a picture of the changes that have occurred in the region since the initial subdivision in 1839. One thought that surprisingly crossed this reviewer's mind was that despite the scorn often poured on the heads of modern developers the present day Unley Road certainly seems a much more aesthetically pleasing place than it was twenty, forty or sixty or more years ago.

Of course there can be quibbles. In the chronological section we find a chapter heading '1890s - The Expansion Continues' seemingly justified by the fact that between 1881 and 1891 the population of the city of Unley doubled. No mention is made of the depression of the nineties either here or in the disaster section which limits itself to that of the 1930s. But such criticisms must be set against a book which so attractively succeeds in achieving its objective of providing a readable, well researched - the authors have provided adequate but not intrusive footnotes, references and bibliography - pictorial history of the area. It is a book which will further advance the cause and interest of local history and the Unley Council is to be commended on its initiative in both publishing the book and raising the awareness of the heritage in its keeping.

Ian Harmstorf

Dr Ian Harmstorf is a senior lecturer in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the South Australian College of Advanced Education.

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