

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SA PUBLICATIONS

## Journal

The *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* has appeared annually since 1975, with the exception of 1978 and 1980 when there were two issues. Back issues of all numbers except 1, 4 and 9 are available at \$12.00 each (postage included). Note however that stocks of some issues are running low.

The contents of each journal are listed in the "South Australian History in Journals" guidesheets included in Newsletters No's 77 (July 1988) and 79 (November 1988).

## Newsletter

Back issues of more recent years' issues are available at \$1.00 each.

## Guidesheets

These leaflets are made available gratis by the Society as a community service to promote history beyond its membership. They are issued as supplements to its Newsletters and additional copies are normally available in the Mortlock Library and the History Trust head office.

- No. 1 South Australian Local History 1. Guides, Indexes & Bibliographies (1978, out of print)
- No. 2 Good Reading in South Australian History (Revised edition 1987)
- No. 3 South Australian History in Journals - A Select List of Articles (1981)
- No. 4 Making History (1988)
- No. 5 South Australian History in Journals - 2. A Select List of Articles (1988)

## Occasional Paper

E.J. & J.R. Robbins *A Glossary of Local Government Areas in South Australia 1840 - 1985* (1987) \$3.00 + \$1.00 postage

## Joint Publications

S. Marsden & R. Nicol (eds) *The Politics of Heritage* (1990) [with the History Trust of S.A.] \$7.50 + \$1 postage. Available direct from the History Trust only.

various *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* A facsimile reproduction of volume 1, 18 June 1836 to 29 December 1838. (1988) [in association with the S.A. Government Printer] \$35 (limp) or \$75 (hard back). Available direct from the Government Printer and selected Adelaide bookshops.

Printed by Pullman Printing Co ☎ 79 7988

# The Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Newsletter No. 95 July 1991



**Cut Down Expenses  
In Regard to  
Your Delivery System**

Business men, most particularly those under whose jurisdiction comes the delivery of customer's parcels or the transit of heavy merchandise, and who are still "plodding along" in the old, out-of-date way, the horse-and-cart way, will find an astonishing revelation after investigating the merits of the Motor way.

If you are not acquainted with Motor delivery systems, we shall consider it a favored privilege to be permitted to unfold a full statement of the facts to you, to show you the valuable time and money you are losing by not installing Commercial Cars.

The advantages of the Motor system are plainly apparent to the shrewd, up-to-date business man, to the man who weighs carefully the intrinsic merits of both systems. The Motor method has been installed in leading Department Stores in England, and even in Sydney and Melbourne progressive firms are fast replacing horses with Motors. In our own City of Adelaide we can refer you to firms who have dispensed with horses in preference to Motors, and who are convinced by actual test that the Motor way is the way which does not eat up the profits. Write for our Booklet "Cut down Expenses."

**EYES & CROWLE,** ADELAIDE'S PREMIER GARAGE,  
75, 77, 79 PIRIE ST.,  
ADELAIDE.

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. SBH 1254

# 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 history, especially 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, field trips 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 any of the above objects

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FOUNDED IN 1974

## COMING MEETINGS

FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 1991, 8PM

\*\*\* NOTE VENUE: Old Parliament House \*\*\*

### FOCUS ON ADELAIDE

**Dr Peter Morton: Designing the City: Building, Planning and Housing Reform 1878-1928.**

This lecture was planned to coincide with Old Parliament House's new display Adelaide: a Tale of One City and as a timely contribution to the heritage debate, given the work of the current Planning Review. We regret that the seminar planned for the Saturday has had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control.

Peter Morton was born in Leicester, England and educated at the University of London, Sussex University and Flinders University.

Peter has held several academic appointments in Britain and Australia and has alternated these posts with spells as a professional writer and technical journalist. He is the author of *The Vital Science: Biology and the Literary Imagination 1860-1900* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1985) and *Fire Across the Desert: Woomera and the Anglo-Australian Joint Project 1947-1980*. (Canberra: AGPS, 1989). Both books were published internationally. *Fire* won a national writing award for local history and was runner-up for the Festival of Arts Non-fiction prize last year.

Peter was commissioned in 1989 to write a history of the city of Adelaide and the ACC from 1878 to 1928. This book has the working title *Sons of Light* and he hoped to see it published next year. He is currently teaching in the School of Humanities, Flinders University.

Cover Illustration: An Advertisement from  
"A Memento of the First Commonwealth Bowling Carnival played at Adelaide, Xmas, 1910?"

Venue : State Library Lecture Theatre

Dr Bill Gammage: Researching and Writing Local History: Narrandera Shire

Bill Gammage was asked in this talk to offer some practical hints to researchers and writers of local history, using as background his book, *Narrandera Shire*. His talk discusses the value of beginning to plan the publishing details of a local history in the early stages of research, and of keeping the final product in mind throughout. He also offers some suggestions to local government bodies thinking of commissioning a local history. Many of his remarks could be extended to other kinds of historical research and writing.

Bill Gammage teaches Australian history at the University of Adelaide. His publications include *The Broken Years*, Australians in the Great War and *Narrandera Shire*. He is at present working on the Australian exploration of the western Highlands of New Guinea.

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## SOCIETY NEWS

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### Minute Secretary

A minute secretary is still needed for our monthly Council meetings, held on the second Thursday of the month. Please phone Brian Samuels on 223 8807 (w), 49 8104 (h) if you can assist.

### VALE - DICK KEARNS

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Mr. R H B (Dick) Kearns, a former Past-President of the Society. Council has made a donation to Legacy, with which he was closely involved for many years.

A full obituary will appear in this year's Journal.

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## ARTICLES

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Reminiscences of an Amateur Toponymist in South Australia, 1984-1990 (Part One)

by Geoffrey H. Manning

*It is never too late to give up prejudices. No way of thinking or doing, however ancient, can be trusted without proof.*

Henry Thoreau

### Introduction

Over the period 1984 to mid-1990 I engaged in the field of nomenclature research in South Australia and, during this time, was constantly in touch with Mr Max Medwell, Secretary of the Geographical Names Board of South Australia.

Having completed the second phase of my research in July 1990 Mr Medwell suggested I prepare a paper for submission to a conference of the "Committee for Geographical Names in Australia" to be held in Perth on 30-31 August 1990.

He was of the opinion that my experience as an amateur in the field of toponymy could be of interest to researchers presently engaged in place name research in other States. Accordingly, I offer the following comments and, in so doing, stress the fact that I hold no academic or professional qualifications in toponymy. Indeed, I drifted into the subject with no defined objectives and six years later find myself stricken with a rare and incurable disease which I call "toposmonia".

In the following discourse I trust I may be excused when, at times, I venture into some personal asides concerning matters which plagued me during the course of my research. However, in so doing I find solace in the words of John Ruskin who proclaimed that "the only history worth reading is that written at the time of which it treats, the history of what was done and seen, heard out of the mouths of the men who did and saw."

For decades in South Australia the published and unpublished work of Messrs Charles H. Harris, Horace C. Talbot and Rodney Cockburn, the pioneer nomenclators of the State, provided a source to supposedly satisfy enquiries on the subject. For years Cockburn's work, especially, was set apart as being the most informative and as recently as 1985 a reviewer of his *What's in a Name* opined, inter alia, "We can safely regard the work as authoritative and in the future as in the past simply cite ""Cockburn"" as our source". A brave statement made, it would appear, without any personal appraisal of the merits, or otherwise, of the published findings of the said nomenclator.

Indeed, I suggest that his supposed considered opinion is indicative of much historical critique today. Ironically, the prevailing tendency to sublimely accept past authority was succinctly taken to task in 1984 by Mr Stewart Cockburn (the son of Rodney Cockburn - see *Advertiser*, 18 February), when reviewing Charles H. Bright's *The Confidential Clerk*. It was then that this journalist made the prediction that the findings of the author were "going to deliver a sharp jolt to professional writers [and critics?] of history and biography in Australia who have often taken in each other's washing and accepted secondary sources for their information, instead of going to primary sources."

I venture the opinion that most of Rodney Cockburn's research was done before World War I and as for Messrs Harris and Talbot their time frame was certainly, in the main, confined to the 19th century. Accordingly, in 1984 I believed that the time had come for a re-appraisal of these earlier works and I hold the belief that my study over the past six years has shown that my predecessors were not always correct, at times prone to accept hearsay and, further, that the study of toponymy needs continual revision.

During the past six years I have been privileged to gain access to a vast array of historical source material all of which will be discussed later in this paper. This new research information helped plot out the path of study before me, satisfied many of my own enquiries and clarified long-debated, long-held and erroneous information.

There would appear to be no doubt that even more material will surface, and the study of our toponymy begun by the late 19th and 20th century workers will be open to revision yet again. This is an exciting and vital possibility and reveals that our journey for historical knowledge is like building a path of stepping stones

across a running stream: each stone brings the searcher further on towards the goal.

Indeed, I would be disappointed if my work was not to be subject to close scrutiny, revised, and, where appropriate, amended in years to come.

### Toponymy in South Australia - An Overview

If my belief as to the definition and objects of toponymy is correct, it is essential to trace the origin of any place name back through documents to its earliest discoverable form and, if possible, to its first written form. In South Australia we are, indeed, fortunate that much primary source material is readily available for those seeking the truth in respect of the origin of place names and it must be said that it is unfortunate that in the past some nomenclators have resorted to the basically untenable *modus operandi* of accepting hearsay and conjecture, eg, for decades it was taken as gospel that

Saint Mary's Peak near Wilpena was "named by B.H. Babbage in 1856, when examining the country for minerals". (Cockburn, *Whats in a Name*, page 240.)

The truth as to its nomenclature lies in the fact that Frederick Sinnett, the surveyor, was in the area in 1851 on private work for pastoralists; his original map is held in the Department of Lands and, among other physical features, it clearly shows "Saint Mary's Peak".

Therefore, it can be readily appreciated that the aftermath of less than deliberative conclusions of the above calibre, following unsound research by some early nomenclators, has led to many fables being implanted into the State's history.

The study of place names is a useful discipline and gives many interesting sidelights of our State's history but any person entering into it must studiously avoid guess-work for, as the famous Scottish nomenclator, Reverend J.B. Johnston, once said: "Bad guesses are sure to bring shame and confusion". However, disciplined research affords many joys of discovery and to this end I now turn to discuss some of the many paths I trod around and about Adelaide in search for nomenclatorial truth and the unattainable goal of perfection.

## Sources for Research in South Australia

### Explanatory Note

Because of the frequent necessity to "marry" information from primary to secondary sources in an effort to resolve nomenclature problems, the following is merely a brief summary of available sources. To more fully appreciate the "marrying" process, interested readers are referred to my new work Manning's Place Names of South Australia which contains a section on "Sources" (see appendix to this paper for examples) showing how fragments of information from various sources lead to nomenclatorial finality. This book will become available at all branches of the State Bank of South Australia in October 1990 and interstate enquiries should be directed to - The Librarian, State Bank of South Australia, King William Street, Adelaide, 5000.

### A. General Registry Office

In the main the records are of land tenure under the "Old System" of registration.

#### Alphabetical Indices

From an individual "page-to-page" search it was possible to find many references to private subdivisions not recorded in official lists within the Department of Lands. The respective memorials then provided more specific details.

#### Bringing Land Under the Real Property Act

These applications are a veritable "mountain" of primary source information and are invaluable for "cross-checking" purposes.

#### Memorials and Enrolments

These are accessed following a search of alphabetical indices and in many instances vital information is available in words such as: "The village of Clarendon laid out by the said James Philcox".

They contain, where appropriate, probate details of many landholders who returned to England. The place of abode shown is often helpful in establishing the origin of a local SA name. In this aspect of research a visit to the local Registrar of Probates can, at times, be rewarding.

## B. Lands Titles Office

The records contained here are primarily those of land tenure under the "Torrens System". I spent about six months in this office engaged in full-time research of private subdivisions of land because, in my opinion, it was imperative to officially establish the name(s) of those responsible which serve as a launching pad for further investigation. Indeed, at times the information found here immediately supplied the required nomenclature - these invariably relate, of course, where the subdivider had perpetuated his or her name.

The basic records to be consulted are:

- (a) Land Grants Books.
  - (b) Private Subdivisions Book.
  - (c) Hundreds and Townships Books.
- The "Hundreds" books are the primary source for locating the reference as to the application for bringing the land under the Real Property Act (See under "A" above).
- (d) Certificates of Title.
  - (e) Deposited Plans of private subdivisions.

### C. Department of Lands - Geographical Names Section

#### Records of Pastoral Leases and Occupation Licences

These records were a useful tool in "marrying" physical features to the names of pastoralists who held land in the immediate vicinity of same. The nomenclature of many "Hundreds" were obtained from this source.

#### Surveyors' Field Books and Diagram Books

These date back to the late 1830s and as such contain a wealth of primary source material.

#### Pastoral Lease Maps

These are most useful in arriving at the earliest date the name of physical features first appeared on the map. They date from the 1840s.

#### History Books

These comprise about 40 volumes and have been compiled from internal memoranda and official correspondence and as such are an invaluable reference source.

D. Mortlock Library of South Australiana

Books and Pamphlets

Those relevant to nomenclature are to be found by reference to various indices. I was fortunate in that I was given permission to have direct access to material and as such this process enabled me to make a systematic investigation of appropriate records.

Research Notes

These cover a wide range of subjects and are an invaluable reference source.

Newspapers

In my research the "Auction" columns in respect of real estate provided a wealth of information not to be found in official records in the Department of Lands or elsewhere. The value of this source cannot be over-estimated because many advertisements supply vital clues; indeed, at times a nomenclatorial puzzle may be solved.

Further, they often provide an earlier date of subdivision than that recorded in the Department of Lands. For example, official records show the first subdivision of "Marino" was made in 1913 while a newspaper report showed an earlier one in 1847!

E. Public Record Office [Now State Records]

Colonial Secretary's Office Letters

These are comprehensively indexed and are invaluable especially in respect of "background" information on towns, districts, settlers, etc.

A wealth of information is available in other areas and, as a general rule, indices are available.

F. South Australian Museum

Aboriginal Nomenclature

Loose leaf records of Professor N.B. Tindale and others.

G. Education Department

Statistical Records and Education Gazettes

These are an important series of records and provide much useful nomenclature information.

H. Australia Post

Post Office Records

These date back to the early days of the State and as such contain invaluable data in respect of place names. Further, at times they solve the frequent problem as to whether a settlement was created before or after the foundation of the post office - this fact can be crucial for nomenclature purposes.

I. Parliamentary Papers

Copies are held in the Mortlock Library and supply copious information on private and government explorations within South Australia.

J. Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society

The contents of these volumes cover many aspects of early South Australian history and as such contain much useful information.

Examples of Recent Research - Methodology

Blair Athol

Deposited Plan 2379 and Certificates of Title, 994/22 and 1041/84 revealed that the subdivision was created by Alwyn G. Warren, studmaster, and Cedric B. Warren. The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages showed them to be the children of William Walter and Mary Ann Warren (nee Cameron) who were married on 10 March 1886 "at the house of R. Brewster, Kapunda". A search of genealogical records provided information that she was born in Perth, Scotland in 1864 and came to South Australia in 1867 with her Aunt and Uncle, John and Ann Brewster. The shipping lists in the Register of 14 October 1867 confirmed some of these facts.

Information in the Probate Office showed that Mrs Warren was a beneficiary of the Brewster estate and a search in the Lands Titles Office revealed that in October 1886 she purchased a house situated at 11 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park which she called "Blair Athol". Further, a "Warren" birth notice (dates of birth of children from the Registrar) which appeared in the Observer of 14 November 1891 refers to the house in Hewitt Avenue named "Blair Athol".

Further research at the Lands Titles Office showed the family removing to Prospect where Mrs Warren purchased land from the executors of Thomas Magarey and changed the name of the house on this property to "Blair Athol House". Further evidence is to be found in the Chronicle of 25 October 1913 where it is stated that "Aurifer", the winner of the 1913 Caulfield Cup, "came from the stud of W.W. Warren, Blair Athol, Enfield". (Research which provided this snippet of information was prompted by the fact that one of the subdividers was described as being a "studmaster" in 1915).

Therefore, it can be positively concluded that the present day Adelaide suburb takes its name from "Blair Athol House" occupied by the Warren family in the immediate vicinity and that the name was introduced into South Australia by Mary Ann Warren probably after some affiliation with the town of Blair Athol in Scotland which lies 18 km from her birthplace of Perth. (In reciting the above series of events I give due acknowledgement to Mr George Daws of Morphettville who kindly gave me the benefit of his skills in the latter part of my research into the nomenclature of South Australia.)

#### Marino

In respect of this seaside suburb it has been said that:

It "was not named, as some suppose, from a seaport of Italy, but probably from San Marino... " or, alternatively, The Aboriginal "word marra means ""the hands or paws"" and this has been corrupted to Marino".

My research revealed that the name was first applied to a house built by George S. Kingston in 1840 (info. from Public Records Office). Files in the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages show him as being born in Bandon, County Cork, Ireland and gazetteers of that district held in the State Library show "Marino Point" on Lough Mahon on the River Lee which lies about ten miles from Bandon. I concluded, but not dogmatically, that "Marino Point" had some

childhood affiliation for George Kingston, perhaps a favourite fishing spot.

#### Plympton

For almost a century the accepted nomenclature for this Adelaide suburb relied on a letter written to the Register by one John Ford of Orroroo - "I am quite certain the name was bestowed by the late John Crews...". The letter is reproduced, in part, in Rodney Cockburn's What's in a Name after first appearing in his Nomenclature of South Australia in 1908.

From Department of Lands records it was established that it stood on section 108, Hundred of Adelaide which led to primary source evidence in the General Registry Office showing the village of Plympton being laid out by Henry Mooringe Boswarva who, no doubt, named it after his native town in Devon (this fact established from genealogical records). While it is true that the said Mr Crews did live in the Plympton district he had no involvement in the creation of the village. Of further interest is the fact that the modern-day suburb's main thoroughfare is "Mooringe Avenue" taken from a Christian name of its founder.

#### Clarendon

Rodney Cockburn's dissertation on its creation as recorded in What's in a Name is discussed in the Department of Lands History Books and dismissed as "hearsay and incorrect".

Having established the section on which it was created it was a simple matter of going to the General Registry Office where a memorial put a lie to the statement that it was laid out by John Morphett - it recites in respect of the "Village of Clarendon" - "laid out by the said James Philcox".

#### Franklyn

At times an element of luck enters into research. This former government town near Terowie was named by Governor Jervois in 1880 and was thought to have some connection with Canada where he was domiciled from 1862 to 1863. However, while researching the "Snow" family in respect of the nomenclature of "Cleve" and "Snowtown" to my pleasant surprise I found that "Franklyn" was once the name of a house owned by that family in Devonshire thus providing another link between the respective families of "Jervois" and "Snow".

## Allendale East

In the past there has been a complete misrepresentation of the foundation of this settlement and the aftermath of hearsay and conjecture has even permeated into local government. If, in the first instance, the perpetrator(s) of this nomenclatorial faux pas had taken the time to consult the relevant deposited plan and certificate of title the fable that it was jointly created by William Allen Crouch and Peter D. Prankerd would never have seen the light of day. As a matter of fact the relevant certificate of title shows Mr Prankerd obtaining the Land Grant and creating and disposing of allotments in the subdivision.

The name was inexplicably corrupted to "Allendale" and in a letter to the Department of Lands in 1940, requesting the name to revert to "Allendale", hearsay was again to the fore for the local district council claimed that Mr Crouch "was responsible for the subdivision... and gave to the people free of all charge the area on which the Catholic Church now stands". This statement is patently false because certificate of title, volume 37, folio 6 shows that on 6 January 1863 the Church purchased lots 35 and 36 from Mr Prankerd who obtained the land grant of the land on which Allendale East stands on 6 August 1861. (Certificate of Title, Volume 22 Folio 239).

## Bollard Lagoon

This feature lies north-east of Lake Blanche and a sketch of it makes a regular appearance on Channel 2 Television. Its nomenclature was simply solved by a search of indices at the General Registry Office where the name of Thomas Hyland Bollard appears. The resultant memorial showed details of his pastoral lease which encompassed what today is "Bollard Lagoon".

## Broad Creek

At first glance one might be excused for concluding that its nomenclature related to its physical dimensions, but bearing in mind Rev Johnston's dictum concerning the shame and confusion which arises from nomenclatorial guesswork I concluded, following examination of pastoral records, that the name probably honours Thomas Henry Broad who took up pastoral lease no. 591 "North of Burra Creek" of 20 square miles which land was adjacent to the creek.

In some of the above examples I have declared opposition to past nomenclatorial findings; however, these are but the "tip of the iceberg" - I conservatively estimate that the error factor in nomenclature works published from 1908 to 1985 ranges from 10 to 15 per cent. The "major" alleged errors are narrated and discussed in the "Sources" division of my latest work, while the others occur consequentially in my general nomenclature text and may be located by comparison with previous published works.

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## ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

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**July 20 at 7 p.m. (Sat) - Annual Dinner**  
A Traveller's Tale - Travels in the Himalayas by Judith Barr

Judith Barr, one of Adelaide's most noted travellers, will give the after dinner speech. Judith will talk about the differences between the mountains and the lifestyles in India and Nepal as well as describing how various groups of people react to walking through the majestic Himalayas. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the Society's 106th birthday and hear an enthralling speaker.

**August 15 at 5.30 pm. (Thurs) - Dinner Meeting -State Library Lecture Theatre** Discovering the Gawler Ranges with the RGSSA

In 1990 a group of Society members and friends "discovered" the Gawler Ranges with the help of a lot of research and the local pastoralists. If you went on the trip, come and reminisce, if you missed it come and hear about the history, geology, wildlife, botany, and pastoral pursuit of the Gawler Ranges. This will be a well illustrated address by several members who took part.

**September 19 at 7.30 (Thurs.) - State Library Lecture Theatre**  
In the Land of the Wandjina - NE Kimberly Wilderness by Joc Schmiechen

In 1986 Joc Schiechmen was one of the scientific leaders of an international expedition which completed the first successful canoe descent of the Drysdale River - one of the last large untravalled rivers in Australia. During this adventurous journey, and in subsequent trips, a large body of rock art was recorded. This well illustrated address will provide some insight into this unique wilderness area.

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### NEW PUBLICATIONS

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***The Torrens Park Estate - A Social and Architectural History*** by Ken Preiss and Pamela Oborn

This magnificent limited-edition volume - the result of ten years meticulous research by two dedicated historians, tells the story of Torrens Park House and its surrounding estate in the foothills of the Mt Lofty Ranges.

The stately home, built in 1853 for R R Torrens, was then owned by W W Hughes and later by Robert Barr Smith. Today it is the centrepiece of Scotch College. Over the past seventy years the suburb of Torrens Park has evolved from the extensive estate.

Only 1,000 copies of this handsome hardcovered volume will be printed, each numbered, signed, and individually boxed.

For the connoisseur, and special occasions, there will be a Deluxe Edition (limited to 50 copies), fully bound in leather with bold blocking and marbled endpapers.

The 640 A4-size pages are illustrated with over 800 photographs, drawings, maps, and plans. There is a bibliography, detailed appendices and references, and a comprehensive index.

Topics covered include:

Biographies of - Robert Richard Torrens  
Walter Watson Hughes  
Robert and Joanna Barr Smith, their family,  
friends, and servants.

Architecture - Torrens Park House - construction and development from 1853 to 1990, including the Barr Smith Theatre.

Scotch College - Founded as a memorial after the Great War.

Torrens Park - The suburb, its people and the homes they built over 70 years, from the bungalows of the 1920s to the present.

This book will be available in August 1991 from good book shops, or from the authors :

K A Preiss: 12 Marble Tce, STONYFELL, SA 5066  
PH. (08) 31 2233  
P M Oborn: 16 Neweys Rd, MITCHAM, SA 5062  
PH. (08) 271 5091

Standard edition \$95. (Special price \$79.80) Deluxe edition \$225  
(Special price \$195 - 50 copies only)

Postage and insurance: \$9 Australia  
\$45 Overseas.

\*\*\* Discount available for Society members. Please phone the authors by 19 July 1991. \*\*\*

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### BOOK REVIEW

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G. Ralph, *A Matter of Independence: a history of the South Australian Auditor General's Department*, pp.xii + 151. Published by the Auditor-General's Department, 10th floor, Q.B.E. Building, 108 King William Street, Adelaide, 5000, where it is for sale at \$15.00 a copy (post free if payment is included with the order).

Glen Ralph, who is Librarian for the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, SA division, and the Historical Society of South Australia's honorary auditor, has produced an account of the development of this state's Auditor-General's Department which is both informative and entertaining.

The first half of the book retells the story of the long struggle by Richard Chaffey Baker and others to secure properly independent

machinery for auditing the use of public money by the province's political leaders, civil servants and statutory corporations, and it gives a good explanation of the importance of the Audit Office and its work in the present century. Many related matters receive notice. For example, it comes as something of a shock to be reminded that Premier Sir Thomas Playford was as much opposed to the establishment of a parliamentary Public Accounts Committee as was Queensland's Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, although there can be no doubt that their motives were poles apart.

The second half of the book contains a selection of diverting incidents in the history of the Audit Office - including some marvellous recollections by the octogenarian Albert Coombe - and his biographies of all those who have headed the Office. All are interesting. Ebenezer Cooke and Bill Wainwright are numbered amongst South Australia's immortals, but the reputation of the unusually modest Des Byrne, a Dunstan appointee, seems destined to grow as his work becomes better known.

There are a few of those slips of the pen to which we are all prone (e.g., the Resident Commissioner who was such a trial to Governor Hindmarsh was of course J.H.Fisher, not, G.M. Stephen', p.4, and it was not Governor Galway but Governor Hore-Ruthven who was later raised to the peerage as 'Lord Gowrie', p. 142) but these are incidental to Mr Ralph's argument and are most unlikely to mislead his readers. His book merits every success.

Dr. P.A Howell  
Flinders University.

## COMMUNITY HISTORY CALENDAR

Extracts from the Community History Calendar prepared by the Community History Unit of the History Trust of SA.

### July

- 24th  
7.45 SA. Genealogy & Heraldry Society. "Reminiscences of an Amateur Toponomist in S.A.1984-1990". Speaker: Geoffrey Manning. 201 Unley Rd., Unley.
- 24th Museums Assoc. of Aust (SA Branch) AGM Tel: 223 8885.
- 25th Friends of the Art Gallery of S.A. Afternoon visit to Urrbrae House. Cost including tea: \$7 members \$9 guests.
- 28th  
3.00 Art Gallery of S.A. The German Connection. Join Gallery Guide, Irene Minkiewicz for this talk which will look at a number of German migrants who are important figures in the Gallery's collections. To join this free talk please meet at the front desk.

### August

- 1st  
8.00 Brighton Historical Society Inc. Members' Night  
Speakers: Don Wallis and Horst Beerbaum. Council Chambers, Cnr. Jerry Rd. and Torr Ave., Brighton.
- 16th- ongoing Old Parliament House. "Adelaide: A Tale of One City (featuring the 1865 Duryea Panorama) Main Gallery.
- 21st  
11.00-12.00  
12.30-1.30 S.A. Film and Video Centre 'A Desperate Fortune'. A compelling and emotional story told in Matthew Flinders' own words during the final years of his life. State Library Lecture Theatre, Kintore Avenue.

### October

- 3rd  
8.00 Brighton Historical Society Inc. AGM. Speaker: Bob Caldicott. Kingston House, Marino
- 17th  
5.30 Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A.) - Dinner Meeting. 'The Great Victoria Desert: Wilderness or Home?'. Speaker: David Moyle. State Library Lecture Theatre, Kintore Avenue.
- 20-27th Spring Heritage Festival
- 23 - 27th Council of Australian Museum Associations Conference, University of Adelaide. Tel: 223 8813.