



Relative Thoughts

Volume 23 No. 3

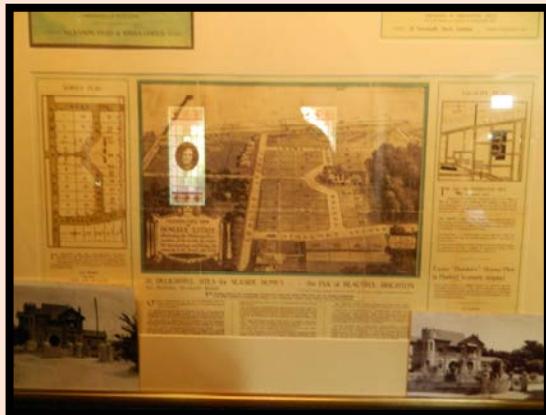
July 2019

Quarterly Journal of the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group



View from balcony of Dunluce Castle—yes, that is Brighton Beach just beyond the trees.

The original footprint of Dunluce Castle before it was sub-divided.





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FPFHG Facebook
Group



View of Witton Bluff on Facebook and websites

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the July edition of *Relative Thoughts*.

Time has been passing quickly – Autumn and its lovely colours have faded into Winter, now thankfully with some rain – it is a welcome sight to see green paddocks - a great sight for many of our farmers and home owners. The new calves and lambs are bounding over the paddocks.

Recent months have seen the passing of some of our members - Jeanette Quinn, Ian Curtis, as well as Oscar Fuhlbohm's son; most recently Jo Gemmell and Colin Talbot. On behalf of the Fleurieu Peninsula Family

History Group I extend our condolences to their families and friends.

I do hope that you all enjoyed an activity or two during the History Festival. The program was packed with many activities, some in our district – surrounding and further. The Group visit to Dunluce Castle at Brighton was well received by the members and friends who attended. The owner Sarah was an amazing hostess. She welcomed us to her home with a Devonshire morning tea in the amazing dining room, then a presentation/history of the Castle and a tour. Chris has more details on this in her report.

The April meeting – it was a pleasure to welcome our member Cheryl Willis who spoke to us about her book *Miss Marryat's Circle - a not so distant past*. The history of South Australia has been influenced by many strong women who put organisations into place to assist the many families who were left behind while their husbands, fathers, sons, brothers and friends left to fight in WWI. Cheryl brought these women to us with enthusiasm and knowledge acquired after much research. Thank you Cheryl. A copy of Cheryl's book is in the Resource Room collection for you to read.

The Group's activities during History Month were the open Resource Room sessions. *"Our first Open Day had two visitors, with one being a former member who took the opportunity to rejoin. She also purchased several Pedigree Charts for friends. The other visitor was a member of the Pioneers Association of South Australia, and took the opportunity of our Open day to pay us a visit"* (Sharon Green). Our General Meeting for May had presenter Leeza Peters and the story of Elizabeth Woolcock from Moonta. This was well attended, extra visitors were fascinated with the amount of evidence Leeza and her father have put together to support Elizabeth's case.

The June meeting with Pamela Rajkowski OAM - 'Afghan cameleers' if you weren't able to attend please read Elizabeth's article "Look What You Missed!"

The July meeting with Val Oldfield from Mungeranie Station – about life in the outback. This will be another interesting meeting, followed by our August Seminar – an early purchase of tickets will greatly assist with the catering. Please contact Elizabeth or myself for tickets.

The monthly DNA/Family Tree Maker Workshops held on the first Wednesday of the month on Resource Room opening days have been well supported. Thank you to our busy Sharon Green. Not only does she organise and run these sessions, there are evening sessions at her home. As you all know there are other valuable members who convene meetings in their

homes – Peter Tuck and Ros Dunstall– also David Boyce and Heather Boyce who run the Computer Evening in the Resource Room – a huge thank you to you all.

To assist with the planning and activities of the PPFHG I ask you to support the Community Raffle -tickets available. For each \$2 ticket sold we receive \$2 which supports the functioning of the Group. It only takes 1 ticket to be a winner!!

Thank you for helping to keep us an interesting and well supported group which continues to learn not only about our own families which come from many places but also other interesting people with stories which make up South Australia.

Stay warm,

Regards,

Joy Nieass—President

MY HISTORY MONTH by Joy Nieass

With many events to be explored during the month of May it was difficult to make choices.

My History Month Friend (Sue) and I headed off to walks, a book launch, the launch of Glenthorn National Park, a tour of the Central Market and a presentation at the Migration Museum *When Smalls were Large*, another two events which were of interest to us were residences. We headed off to Clare to the Bungaree Homestead –

In 1841 (the Colony was only 5 years old) George Francis Hawker and his two brothers Charles and James bought 2,000 sheep for £2/10/- per head and went to discover land. On advice of explorers and other settlers, the Hawker brothers ventured North, and on Christmas Day 1841, sank a well not far from the Hutt River and recorded that they “found good drinkable groundwater” at about 8 feet (2.5 metres). They selected this site for the property “Bungaree” based on the Aboriginal name for the area “Bungurrie” meaning “my place” or “place of deep water”. As well as purchasing the section of land where most of the building stands today, they took out an application licence for much of the surround countryside – a total of 267 square miles. Extract from “The story of Bungaree Station – History Trail (pamphlet issued to visitors who tour the homestead).



We reported to the Station Store Office, we were met by Vicky Hawker (5th generation). This building was the old store and now contains a small collection of memorabilia. Our first look at the site was the stable yard, surrounded by rooms which are now accommodation.

On the hill behind these building are the Manager’s House and the Council Chambers, also now available for accommodation. In later times the children also attended school in the Council Chambers. All of the buildings and gardens are well tended.

The court yard led onto the Stallion Box and the Chaff Room, the stableyard being in the centre of the stables – these now contain old vehicles including a buckboard converted into a fire engine for the property. The blacksmith shop looks the same as the last day it was used.

Leaving this area by a gate took us into the homestead garden, these must have been amazing in their heyday.

“The impressive Homestead replaced a slab hut and was built in stages, evolving over 60 years from the 1850s. The gardens were almost as famous as the building itself, combining classic English plantings with a productive orchard and vegetable garden”.



On the road to the Woolshed we passed the Meat House (needed before refrigeration), the Men’s Kitchen (the shearers and workers prepared their meals), the Shearer’s Quarters and the Swaggies’ Hut. The Woolshed (the oldest building on the site) is where sheep have been shorn for over 170 years. A video explained the procedures used to shear the clip. The woolshed is now a venue for weddings and

celebrations.



The last viewing stop was the St Michael’s Church –

“Built in 1864, the beautiful St Michael’s Church and its cemetery has served generations of the local community. It is the only building on Bungaree designed by an architect and skilled craftsmanship is demonstrated throughout the building. Outside, the cemetery reinforces the hardships faced by early pioneering families.”

The drive to the Clare Valley was an easy drive via the new Main South Road and the Northern Connector Road. A great day out.

We completed the Month with a trip to Murray Bridge— *There are Six Sides to Our Round House.*

The Round House was built from 1873 - 1876 for Mr Henry Parker the superintendent overseeing the construction of the first bridge to span the Murray





River. From 1884 the Round House was placed under the control of the Railways Commissioner and for nearly 100 years the building was continuously occupied as a residence for senior administrative officers including bridge keepers, foremen and superintendents of the South Australian Railways.

The Round House remained the property of the Railways until 1988 when it was purchased by the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

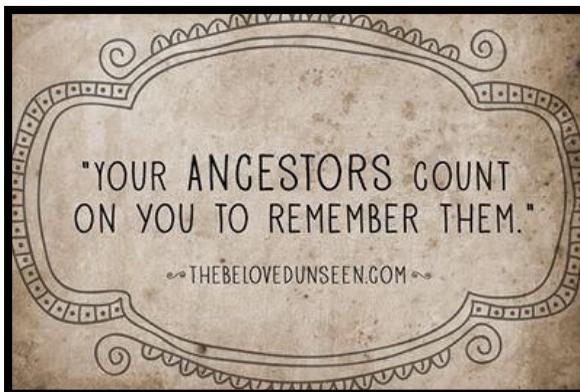
Today, this unusual and distinctive hexagonal shaped residence welcomes visitors offering a taste of the history of Murray Bridge and spectacular views of the river and bridges.

The lawns are used to play croquet, there was also a high afternoon tea which we enjoyed in the dining room of the house. This building is also available for celebrations including weddings. The shape of the building makes the viewing the River Murray from different angles interesting. Tucked away on the side of the approach to the Bridge it was another unknown gem.



A drive through the Adelaide Hills to Murray Bridge was another enjoyable day out. Sue and I are looking forward to what is on offer for 2020.

Joy



FLEURIEU GROUP MEMBERS AT KERNEWEK LOWENDER

by Jan Lokan

Our group was well-represented at this year's Kernewek Lowender (Cornish Festival) on South Australia's Copper Coast in May. A wide variety of events took place for a week, from 13 to 19 May inclusive, some of them celebrating the area's Cornish heritage and all of them in local venues from outdoor fields to cemeteries, village greens, and churches to Town Halls. The festival is a big help to the area's economy, as about 40,000 people from all over Australia attend, and usually also several from overseas – this year, at least from Cornwall, the USA and Malaysia.



For once, the area was blessed with lovely May weather every day, meaning that people were pleased to join in and/or watch historic graves being 'dressed' (with flowers and citations placed by relatives of the selected pioneers); the outdoor fairs in each of Kadina, Moon-ta and Wallaroo; traditional street dancing (Maypoles and Furry); parading; band concerts; the official Bardic ceremony on Saturday afternoon (which I was eligible to attend for the first time); waters being blessed on Sunday morning; and the huge cavalcade of cars, also on Sunday. There were plenty of indoor events as well – art galleries, quilting exhibitions, a rock concert, more band concerts, dinners, Celtic music evenings including a performance by the SA Cornish choir, 'Meet the Writers' and the full-day Cornish History Seminar held in the Wallaroo Town Hall.



Apart from the Bardic Ceremony, the seminar is one of the strongest celebrations of Cornish heritage at the Festival, and, as far as we know, there isn't an event like it held anywhere else in the world. This year both Kath Fisher and Jan Lokan were among the eleven people who presented nine papers within the theme of 'Cornish Australians who Changed our World'. Their topics included social activism,





Jan Lokan

higher mathematics, war time bravery, politics, pioneering wine-making, bringing reticulated water to Moonta, an early missionary in Victoria and an outstanding career in medicine. The papers were all of a very high standard.

And, after holding off all week, rain began to fall as the Cavalcade of Cars finished, around mid-day on Sunday!



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome new members:

Heidi Ing and Jim Williams

and welcome back previous members:

Mary Williams and Stuart St George

Nola Clisby

ADVANCE REMINDER—MEMBERSHIP FEES

Members are reminded that the financial year ends on 31 October.

Members must be financial before the AGM, Saturday 16 November.

Non-financial members may not vote, nominate or stand for committee positions,
and are NOT covered by FPFHG Insurance

Please ensure your membership subscription is paid before the AGM.

Reminder: There is a \$5.00 rejoining fee payable for any membership not paid by 28 February.

Watch your email or letterbox for renewal membership forms being sent out in SEPTEMBER.

PRIMITIVE ADELAIDE, Part 2

Editor's Note: The following article was discovered by Gay Jennings, while she was undertaking research on the Chittleborough family for the Pioneer Register. The article originally appeared in the *Observer* (Adelaide, SA : 1905-1931), Saturday 29 December 1906, page 36. Due to the length of the article, part 1 appeared in the April edition.

Before the Days of Bridges

During the winter months the river was at times almost impassable, and a punt was utilized for the purpose of crossing. A Mr Rogers had charge of the punt, and made a small charge for its use. It was kept fairly busy during the wet season, as North Adelaide was then becoming popular, more particularly Kermod street. The punt was worked by a rope fastened to a tree on each side of the river. It was stationed at the lower end of a large pool near the site of the present Torrens dam. The river in those days, particularly that portion from Hindmarsh to Walkerville, was very beautiful, as every old colonist can testify. There was a chain of large waterholes, connected by a small stream (nearly level with the top of the bank), which rippled over a gravelly bottom through thick teatree scrub, reeds and rushes. The large pools (varying considerably in length, but extending generally to the outer bank of the present watercourse, and being from 30 to 100 yards apart) remained full all the summer, and were surrounded by overhanging eucalypti. Most of the waterholes were very deep, so much so that divers could not reach the bottom in some parts, though frequent trials were made. It was a common saying among the first colonists that some of the waterholes were large enough to float a twenty-four gun ship or man-of-war frigate. After a while, there being no restrictions, the trees and scrub along the river were cut down for fuel and other purposes, and the pebbles and gravel carted away for paving and building. Consequently when the natural surface of the stream was destroyed the banks between the large pools washed away and deposited in the bottom of the deep holes. The process continued until the river assumed its present desolate appearance where the water is not held back by artificial means. How different is the Torrens now from what it was in those early days! Then it abounded with crayfish, mussels, minnows, and what we boys called "scalies," the latter being about 6 in. long and generally got off the gravelly bottom. There was a family of three sons who made a business of catching and cooking crayfish and hawking them in baskets. They were always referred to as "the crayfish boys," and it was generally understood they did very well in the business. The foregoing description of the river in its natural state can be confirmed by an article that appeared in *The Register* of February 17, 1838.

The First General Store

Early in 1837 Mr John Barton Hack and family, his brother, Mr Stephen Hack, arrived in the province, bringing a consignment of goods suitable for a general store, consisting chiefly of grocery and drapery. My mother obtained from Mr. Hack a small stock and opened a shop in Buffalo Row, in which she did a very good trade. I am of the opinion that this was the first retail shop in South Australia. Unfortunately for us it did not last long, for at the time the land sales of the city blocks took place our reed hut and store caught fire in the middle of the night, was burnt to the ground, and not a vestige of it left. Some of us youngsters had to be dragged out of bed fast asleep, and so quickly was the place demolished that scarcely a thing

was saved. Some of us had nothing left to wear but our night clothes. However, our fellow-colonists kindly supplied us with what they could. Mr. (afterwards Sir) J. Hurtle Fisher's family were prominent in providing children's wearing apparel, many of the young Fishers being about the same age as ourselves. Not a great while afterwards the Fishers' hut caught fire, but without such disastrous consequences as in our case. The building was not of such an inflammable nature, and the fire did not occur at such an unfortunate time.

A Kind Action

Our family received an act of kindness from a fellow-colonist which will ever be remembered by us, and which deserves special mention here. Mr. J.B. Hack, immediately after we were burnt out of house and home, and when we were destitute and penniless, called on my mother, and in his quaint Quaker style said – "Well, never mind, old dame, cheer up, and I will supply you with another stock of goods if you can get a place to sell them in;" although probably there was something owing him on what had been burnt. A place was soon obtained from a neighbour in Buffalo row, who let us have his hut directly he got another to move into. This neighbour (Mr. Gason) for many years afterwards kept a labour office in the city. While we were in Buffalo row the captain of one of the vessels that called here brought from the Cape two or three casks of Cape wine, and, not finding a ready market for them, induced my father to take them at a low price. At that time, there being no licensed houses, he sold this out at 6d. a pint, and was not long in disposing of the lot. I have no idea what it was like, but have heard it was very common stuff.

The First Garden

The first garden of any note that I remember was near to the banks of the river, in a small valley between Buffalo Row and where the present Hindmarsh Bridge is. This was known as Allen's garden, and had been planted and kept by Mr. F. Allen, who later on built and kept the Southern Cross Hotel, at first in Currie Street, and afterwards removed the business to King William street, where the hotel, with various additions and alterations, still remains. Mr. Allen, sen., had the reputation of being a first-class gardener in the King's employ, which he left to come to Australia. In the first issue of The Register, on June 18, 1836, the following advertisement appeared:—"Allen, botanist, fruit and kitchen gardener, Fellow of the Horticultural Society of London, late chief gardener to His Majesty King William IV, landscape gardener and ground workman to the Honourable the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods and Forests in laying out and planting St. James's and Regent's Parks; botanist and cultivator to the Australasian Agricultural Company, New South Wales; appointed gardener and ground workman to His Excellency the Governor (Capt. Hindmarsh, RN) [*N.B.- T. Allen & Sons respectfully beg leave to offer their services to the gentlemen capitalists to select, lay out, and plan their gardens in the best manner, both for utility and ornament, on the most reasonable terms and with utmost dispatch.*"] –Ed]

Emigration Square

It was not long before the Government got a dozen or so small wooden houses brought to South Australia, which they had erected in the form of a square, with a large space in the centre where a well was sunk. These houses were for the accommodation of the families of newly arrived immigrants, who were permitted to live in them at a low rent until they could secure other accommodation. This place – Emigration Square – was situated on the west

park lands in a line with Currie street. It proved a great convenience to new arrivals and was generally well occupied. Not a few old colonists will remember Col. Light's bell, which was fixed at the top of a high post with a cairn of stones built at the bottom. The bell was rung at certain hours, principally, as I understand, to convey certain notifications to the surveyors engaged in laying out the city and surrounding sections. The position of the bell was on the rise of the hill not far from Col. Light's camp, and nearly opposite to the present Buck's Head Hotel on North terrace. In the same neighbourhood a little later on the Rev. T. Q. Stow kept a day-school, which had the reputation of being the best finishing school in the province, and was well patronised. The rev. teacher at stated periods during the summer took all his scholars to bathe in the river at a pool close to the site of the present railway bridge. On one of these visits to the pool a lad named Fordham, who was learning to swim, got out of his depth, and sunk in a deep part of the waterhole. He came up two or three times, and some of the boys tried unsuccessfully to save him, till at length my brother William, who was a good swimmer and diver, lifted him to the surface by the hair of the head, and he was with difficulty resuscitated. My brother received great praise for the part he took in saving Fordham's life.

Source: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article163077629.3>

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCTOBER
EDITION OF
RELATIVE THOUGHTS
MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN
16 SEPTEMBER 2019

LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED!! By Elizabeth Grocke



April 2019 *Cheryl Williss, Mabel Marryat and the League of Loyal Women*—With the centenary of the Armistice in 2018, and indeed with another Anzac Day now passed, we have remembered the men who served.

But few books have been written on Australian women's personal experience of the First World War and its aftermath, let alone specifically

South Australian women. Who were the faceless women behind the Trench Comforts Fund, the Red Cross depots, the nursing contingents, the hospital volunteers? And what happened after the men came home?



Women's active participation in the war effort – and long afterwards – not only gave them a stronger connection to their loved ones fighting overseas, but also proved their emotional resilience, freeing them from traditional societal boundaries.

Miss Mabel Marryat came from a close-knit, middle class family with strong Christian values, focused on helping those less fortunate. She was one of the first women to be admitted to a degree course at the University of Adelaide – and she was one of South Australia's first Red Cross workers.

In 1915, Mabel joined the newly-formed League of Loyal Women. The League's primary aim was to unite women of all classes in war work, overcome inefficiencies and duplication across the very many patriotic societies, and make sure all women had something to do in that very anxious time. Mabel was active in the League's emergency corps, 'a band of women who are prepared to give their service in any pressing need that may arise'.

The specific role played by South Australian women in the voluntary sector cannot be underestimated. Mabel Marryat was, essentially, a social worker, her skills honed over years of voluntary contribution. And she was one of many. The following is just a snapshot of the work of the League of Loyal Women between 1915 and 1922:

- They established what was ostensibly the first soldier enquiry bureau.
- They established the Trench Comforts Fund.
- By Christmas 1915, over 12,000 'Christmas billycans' filled with gifts were despatched to Egypt for distribution to the Forces. The following year the Trench Comforts Fund organised a Christmas Box scheme: 22,351 boxes were sent from South Australia, as well as 124 cases of Christmas cakes and 324 cases of plum puddings.
- In one year alone—from July 1917 to June 1918 the Fund sent £13,000 worth of goods overseas. That's well over a million dollars-worth, in today's money, in just one year.
- They collected newspapers for the trenches.
- The League established 'schools for mothers' – to encourage child health and welfare and domestic economy.

- League volunteers helped care for the patients at Keswick Military Hospital
- They helped establish the Edith Cavell Army Nurses' Fund
- The League's War Memorial Committee were responsible for creating the Cross of Sacrifice and Garden of Remembrance in Adelaide's Pennington Gardens
- The League was responsible for the establishment of the War Cemetery at West Terrace's Light Oval

In 1916 Mabel was appointed Honorary Supervisor of the Red Cross Depot at the Keswick Military Hospital: No. 7 AGH. After the war, the hospital was taken over by the Department of Repatriation and renamed RGH Keswick. And here Mabel stayed for 30 years. Besides running the depot, she organised weekly outings for the patients, fortnightly concerts, and 'handicraft' workshops where the men could learn a trade.

But over her lifetime, Mabel wore many hats – most of them on top of one another! She was also on the Executive of the Navy League, and secretary of its women's committee. Not long after the war, Mabel's administrative skills were put to good use when she was appointed to the Executive and Finance Board of the South Australian Branch of the Red Cross, a position she held until her retirement at the age of 83. By the time she retired, Mabel was, according to the Repatriation Commission, 'known to every Digger in Adelaide, if not South Australia'.

For her long and devoted community service, Mabel was awarded an MBE in the 1947 King's Birthday Honours. She died on 27 November 1949. Her death certificate recorded her occupation as 'Home Duties'.

May 2019



Leeza Peters, Elizabeth Woolcock—In 1873, Elizabeth Woolcock became the only woman to be hanged in South Australia. She was found guilty of poisoning her Husband Thomas and was executed on 30 December.

Leeza and her Father Allan have spent over 40 years researching Elizabeth's tragic story and along that journey, have produced two books, three stage productions and most recently, written a three-part Mini-Series. In 2011 Allan and Leeza sought a posthumous pardon from the Governor and are currently preparing for another attempt.

They have uncovered that at best, the evidence against her was scant, flawed and driven mostly by malicious town gossip. They found that her husband's Doctor had been prescribing him Mercury, the very poison she was supposed to have used to murder him! Elizabeth was assigned a grossly inexperienced lawyer who was up against one of the most powerful men in the state, and upon being found guilty, was denied mercy for 'fear of shaking the confidence in the Justice system'.

Beyond her tragic childhood, Elizabeth Woolcock was a victim of domestic violence, poor representation, a biased legal system and ultimately paid the price with her life.

Allan and Leeza firmly believe that in today's world she would never have found herself charged, let alone convicted and executed and they will not stop until a Posthumous Pardon is granted.

This fascinating presentation will leave you shocked that such mistreatment of a young woman could have occurred at anytime in our states history.

June 2019



Pam Rajkowski OAM, Afghan Cameleers—Pamela spoke to us about her research into, and the history of the Afghan Cameleers. She started her research in 1979, and during the 1980s travelled extensively across Australia researching their history.

In her book *Tracks of the Cameleers* it describes how over 50 years camels acted as a lifeline for the inland regions. With Indian and Afghan drivers they forged new paths across the heart of Australia. Camel strings brought stores, mail, building materials and fodder to the isolated settlements and on return to the coast they brought produce for the local and overseas markets.

Her story paints a vivid picture of the history of the camel-men, their families and communities, their way of life and of course their camels. It also records the crucial contribution to the opening up of this continent and to Australia's growth, development and prosperity.

This influence is still here today—from the Camel Cup and the Date Palms in Alice Springs, cemeteries in Broken Hill and mosques in Adelaide, to the Ghan train that runs through the middle of our country.

Elizabeth Grocke

A graphic with a white brick wall background and purple text. The text reads: "If at first you don't succeed, search, search again. That is why we call it re-search." The text is arranged in several lines, with "re-search." on the final line.

If at first you
don't
succeed,
search,
search
again. That
is why we
call it re-
search.

VISIT TO DUNLUCE CASTLE by Christine Keen



On 21 May, several members of the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group, along with family and friends participated in a visit to historical Dunluce Castle, located at Brighton. The Castle, was built in 1912 for Rev Alexander Macully.

On arrival, we were welcomed by our hostess Sarah Tinney, and provided with a delicious Devonshire tea. Sarah explained that all the china she uses for the teas has

been donated. After morning tea, we watched a video presentation, outlining the history of

the Castle, and the family. Stories included the network of smugglers tunnels that ran from the coast at Brighton to the grounds of the Castle and surrounding areas. Some of the tunnels still exist, but for safety reasons have been closed and are no longer accessible. Another story was the surprising fact that Kitty Macully, one of Rev Alexander's daughters—was the first recorded shark attack fatality in South Australia. In March 1926, while giving swimming lessons to children, she was attacked by a 3-4 metre shark. Despite being rescued and taken to the nearest hospital, only a kilometre up the road, she died of her injuries. A memorial fountain, erected in her honour, is located by Brighton Jetty.



After the video presentation, we had the opportunity to look around the Castle, with Sarah outlining some of the repairs and restorations that have been made. A great morning was had by all.

All proceeds received from those visiting the Castle go towards its upkeep and restoration. The only exception to this is the one Official History Month event, where proceeds are donated to the Cancer Foundation. Sarah also organises the 'Marilyn Monroe swim' on Valentine's Day at Brighton, with proceeds also going to the Cancer Foundation.

Christine Keen



Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc.

2019 Seminar

Words and Pictures

Date: Saturday 17th August 2019
Venue: Uniting Church Hall
23 William Road, Christies Beach
Time: 9.30am—4.00pm
Registration: 9.00am—9.15am

Cost: Full Day Single \$30/Couple \$50
Non members Single \$35/Couple \$60
Includes Morning & Afternoon Tea and Lunch
1/2 day Session \$20 includes lunch

Speakers

9.30am Kristin Weidenbach 'Growing up Moonta'
11.45am Helen Stagg 'Harnessing the River Murray'
1.00pm Nick Gleghorn Director NAA South Australia
2.30pm Bob Byrne 'Baby Boomer'

Information Tables

Enquiries

Elizabeth 8386 1182 or 0421 102 868
Joy 8536 4914 or 0434 466 182
Website <http://fleurieufamilyhistory.org>

EUGENIE'S STORY by Cheryl Williss

In 1836, eighteen-year-old Frenchwoman, Eugénie Desombre, was working as an embroiderer in a lace-making factory, in her hometown of Calais. Far from a glamorous job, this was back-breaking work, deemed suitable only for a working-class girl. But here she met and fell in love with Richard Goldfinch, an English lacemaker.

In November 1840, Richard and Eugénie eloped, crossing the Channel to wed in Dover, before returning to Calais. Eugénie was illiterate and, as was common in those times, she signed her marriage certificate with a cross. Richard and Eugénie's son, Richard junior, had been born two years earlier. Over the next six years, Eugénie would give birth to three more sons: William, George, and Henri.

By 1848, close to three thousand English were living and working in and around Calais. But now, Europe was gripped in economic depression – and the French were about to have another revolution. The lace factories closed and most of the English fled back to their home country. But those left behind saw the futility of returning to an England also under financial distress. The English didn't want them either; there were no job opportunities and its work-houses were full. The chance to immigrate to the colonies, especially South Australia, was a far better alternative. They turned to the English government for help.

By now, the families were destitute. But with the support of the English Consul in Calais, a specially formed 'Committee for the Relief of British Workmen, Refugees from France' came to the rescue. Appeals launched in England managed to raise half the funds needed for emigration, which the English government matched pound for pound. From April to June 1848, three specially chartered ships departed English shores, carrying in total almost seven hundred men, women and children. These young families came to be known as the Lace-makers of Calais.

On the night of 3 May 1848, 45 Lacemaker families lined the docks of Calais, ready to be transported by steamer across the Channel. After reaching Deptford in the early hours of the following morning, they were transferred directly onto the *Harpley*. No-one was permitted to step onto English soil. On 12 May, the *Harpley* left its moorings. While the other ships were headed for New South Wales, the *Harpley* was bound for South Australia. Eugénie, Richard and their children were among those onboard the *Harpley* – South Australia's first political refugees.

According to family hearsay, Eugénie's father wanted her and the boys to stay in Calais, but Eugénie refused – her place was with her husband.

Funds supplied by the Relief Committee were used to fit out each family with the basics. With 45 families to be provided for, the deck of the *Harpley* transformed into a haberdashery as men, women and children were supplied with clothing, toiletries, general cleaning supplies and cooking utensils. By now, Eugénie was in the early stages of another pregnancy, and would certainly have endured seasickness until – with luck – she found her sea legs. With four young boys to look after, especially toddler Henri, the first weeks could not have been easy.

Despite the *Harpley* remaining at sea the entire journey – in those times most ships to Australia stopped at a couple of ports along the way – it was 112 days before the passengers sighted land again, two weeks longer than the average journey to Adelaide. And even then, the *Harpley* had to ‘hold fast’ at Holdfast Bay to ride out a storm, before at last reaching Port Adelaide.

Together with other Lacemakers, the Goldfinch family settled in the village of Thebarton. All the Lacemakers were prohibited from practising their craft in Australia; instead Richard sought work as a labourer.

And here was Eugénie, a Frenchwoman in a land totally foreign to her. English was her second language, and she was a Catholic in a distinctly protestant country. Ten weeks later, Eugénie gave birth to their first daughter, Mary Ann. In January 1851, another daughter was born. They named her Annette, otherwise known as Annie. Just three months later, after all the family had been through, tragedy struck. Nine-year-old George was playing with friends when he fell into the River Torrens and drowned.

When gold was discovered in Victoria, Richard was quick to join the male exodus across the border. Early gold escort records indicate he may have had a little success. Later records have not survived, so we do not know the extent of Richard’s fortunes, but it appears he travelled back and forth on a regular basis, leaving the family behind. In 1853 the couple’s third daughter was born and they named her Charlotte.

In early 1855 Richard was away again. After more than six years in the colony and in the early stages of yet another pregnancy, Eugénie was again destitute. She had no other choice but to try and find work in Adelaide. On 2 February, she was referred to the Destitute Board for rations assistance. At the time, she was living with her children in Gilbert Street in the south-west corner of Adelaide, camped on the spot where not long afterwards the Duke of Brunswick Tavern was built. This was a year when cases of destitution reached record numbers, leading to a colonial enquiry.

But local council records of September 1855 list Richard as a freeholder, so hopefully by then the family were back together again. We do know they settled in George Street. Although named for Dr George Mayo, for Eugénie it was a memorial to her lost boy.

In October another daughter, Eugenia, was born, affectionately known as Janey.

Throughout the 1850s and 60s, the residents of Thebarton frequently complained of disorderly behaviour on their streets. For Eugénie, her daughters could be quite a handful. On one occasion, together with a group of young friends, teenagers Charlotte and Annette ended up on the wrong side of the law. But eventually, Eugénie’s daughters settled down. In the same year as her younger sisters were getting into strife, Mary Ann became a bride. And by 1882 all the Goldfinch children had wed.

In 1876 Richard died of tuberculosis. No doubt the industries of Thebarton would have made prime breeding ground for this insidious disease.

But in 1884, after losing her dear son George all those years earlier, Eugénie stood proud, when Governor Sir William Robinson presented her 19-year-old grandson, John Goldfinch, with a medal from the Royal Humane Society, for his ‘courage and humanity’ after jumping fully clothed off a jetty into the sea and saving a ten-year-old boy from drowning.

In 1891, and now in her 70s, Eugénie acquired a property in her own name, a small cottage in George Street where she quietly spent the rest of her days.

Back in 1840, when a young Eugénie Desombre wed her Englishman, she could neither read nor write. Over half a century later, and now on the other side of the world, Eugénie Goldfinch of Thebarton signed her name to the petition that gave South Australian women the right to vote and stand for Parliament – the first in the world to achieve both. It would be another half a century before the women of Eugénie’s birthland would be granted the same liberty.

Eugénie died on 20 August 1898, survived by three sons, four daughters, 36 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

Eugénie was my great-great-great grandmother. For me, the Goldfinch name ceases with my maternal grandmother, Clementina, William’s granddaughter.

Cheryl Williss ©

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Website, Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais <https://www.lacemakersofcalais.com.au/>

GOLDEN WEDDING OF DAVID STOTT and HARRIET REDMAN by Graham Redman

David Stott Redman's father, John (born 1787), was my great, great grandfather's brother. This article was supplied, as typed and photocopied by Gay Allen, of Bega, NSW—a family member.

Hill End 1908

Perhaps the most unique and pleasing function that has ever taken place in this district was the celebration of the Golden Wedding of Mrs and Mr DS Redman (senr) by a social at their sons residence, Fumina, on Wednesday evening the 14th instant when a large gathering of people met at the invitation of Mr DS Redman (jnr) Mr AE Redman and Mr J Went (son in law) to congratulate the aged couple on such a happy and auspicious occasion. At 8 pm the large rooms of Mr D Redmans house were more than comfortably crowded by the numerous friends of the family, and from thence till daylight there was not a dull moment.

Dancing interspersed with songs recitations palour games etc made the time fly gaily, old and young entered into the fun with spirit and zest that showed that they were all thoroughly enjoying themselves.

One room was entirely devoted to the well known game of "BoBs" and I think poor "BoBs" did not get a rest that evening.

A nice feature of the evening was the recitation of that fine stirring poem, entitled "The Ship on Fire" rendered by Mr Redman, who is now in his 80th year, never once faltered in this long piece, which showed that his memory, for a person of such advanced years is beautifully clear and retentive. Needless to state the old gentleman was loudly applauded.

Another feature was the magnificent wedding cake provided, this was a veritable work of art, the artist being Mr Geo Faulkner of Fumina who is in his element in this particular line but with this cake he fairly excelled even himself. It was a double decker and splendidly garnished, the decorations being very appropriate as besides the usual amount of leaves berries etc were imitation horseshoes (standing on their points and standing up from the lower deck, from the centre of each horseshoe being a tinkling golden bell) which had a remarkably pretty effect.

It has been said that "a thing of beauty is a joy for ever" but I am afraid this beautiful thing is well alas no more.

Supper being ready, the health of Mr and Mrs Redman (snr) was proposed, and responded to by the old gentleman, in his well known humorous style.

A word or more should be said in praise of the excellent refreshments provided during the evening as they were splendid, as is always the case at this hospitable house but on this

occasion all previous efforts were certainly excelled.

Mr and Mrs Redman were the recipients of such a numerous list of presents that it would be taking up too much of your valuable space to forward the full list.

Mr Redman was born in England in the year 1828 and started out at the early age of 12 to seek his fortune arrived in the good ship "Wallace" at Port Phillip on 20 November 1840.

He is therefore a colonist of nearly 68 years, and has had many ups and downs during that time.

On arrival he took to farming and in the year 1844 when but 16 years he showed his adventurous spirit by joining a party of three others to travel on foot between Casterton and Adelaide, the blacks being very bad at the time.

The party had some exciting and serious encounters and after suffering some privations arrived safely at Adelaide.

Some time after Mr Redman accompanied Bowman Brothers, exploring north from Adelaide out on to Wakefield, and he drove the first wheeled vehicle over the Flinders Rangers South Australia.

On this trip the blacks were again very bad, and Mr Redman was instructed to return to Port Lincoln on horseback.

After having ridden 40 miles he came to a hut where the blacks had just killed a woman leaving her very young baby girl unharmed.

Mr Redman took the baby on the saddle in front of him and with one change of horses reached Port Lincoln that night with the child safe a distance of some 75 miles and it is pleasing to added that the girl is living at present.

Mr Redman travelled across country to the Bendigo rush in the year 1852, where he did very well and after a time returned to Port Adelaide where he joined the Coastal Pilot Service. It was here about this time that he met his future partner of life the wedding taking place on March 4th 1858. After a time he left the pilot service and became superintendent of bridge for the South Australian Government. Later on taking to contracting and in building the Rapid Bay jetty, through the bungling of surveyor Mr Redman was plunged in a very costly law suit with the S A Government which ended disastrously for him.

He then followed various occupations till the year 1895 when he reached Gippsland and settled in this district where he has resided since.

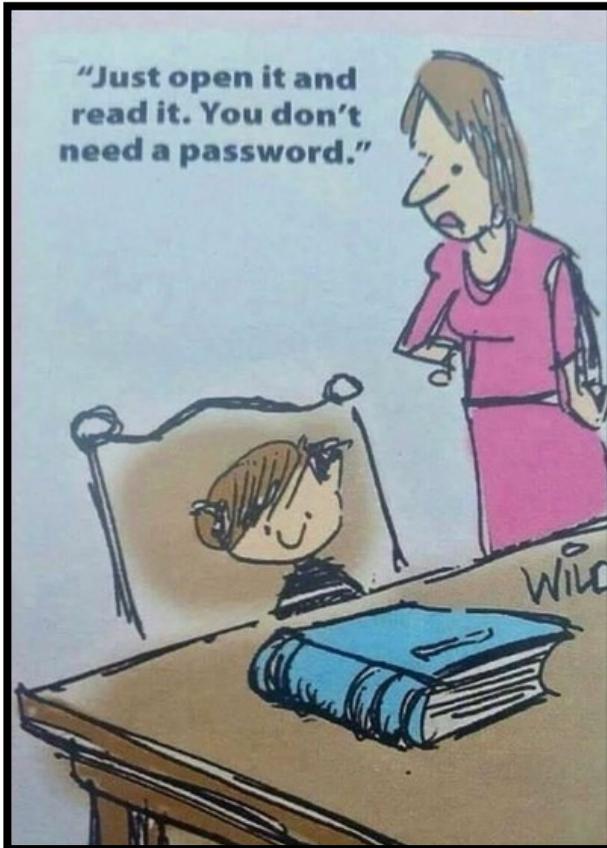
Two sons and a son in law with their families also reside here and the whole family are amongst the most respected people throughout the locality.

Mrs Redman (who was also born in England) arrived in Port Adelaide in the sailing ship "Boyne" after a passage of 18 weeks, on Jul 24th 1850. She is therefore, a colonist of 58 years.

As before mentioned the marriage took place on March 4th 1858 and a family of 10 children has been the issue, several of whom are scattered over the larger part of the Commonwealth, but representatives of all the families were present at the Golden Wedding some from the remote parts of South Australia and others from even more distant gold fields of

West Australia. Mr Redman is amongst the oldest Oddfellows in the Commonwealth having been a financial member for the past 52 years in the Manchester Unity and has been through all the chairs and held every office. Mr and Mrs Redman are still hale and hearty and let us hope that they will be spared their health and strength for a long year yet to come.

Graham Redman



UPCOMING SPEAKERS & EVENTS



All meetings are held at 1.15pm, Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Road, Christies Beach. If you have a suggestion for a suitable speaker please contact Elizabeth Grocke with details.

20 July—Val Oldfield, Mungeranie Station

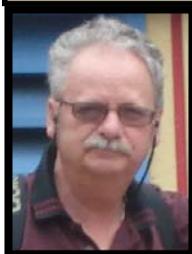
17 August—Biennial Seminar—**NO GENERAL MEETING**

21 September—Steve Kettle, History of Mount Compass

19 October—Margrette Kleinig, Irish Girl Migrants inter war period

16 November—AGM and ‘Show and Tell’

RESOURCE ROOM OPENING TIMES



The Resource Room is available to members for research. During the opening time before the Saturday general meetings, Resource Room volunteers will not be available to give assistance with ‘Family Research’, but books, newsletters and magazines can be borrowed from 12.00pm to 1.15pm, and during the afternoon tea break.

Other opening times for the Resource Room will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons during February to October, and the 1st Wednesday in November, from 1.00pm—3.30pm.

Members wishing to access *findmypast* during resource room openings, are now requested to contact Chris Grivell and book a specific time. Chris’s contact details may be found at the front of the journal.

Opening dates for this quarter are: 3 July, 17 July, 20 July, 7 August, 21 August, 4 September, 18 September, 21 September, 2 October, 16 October, 19 October, 6 November and 16 November.

EVENING COMPUTER GROUP



The evening computer class is held in the Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Street, Christies Beach. A gold coin donation is requested to help cover the cost of the hire of the hall. The Group meet monthly on the second Monday night of the month at 7.30pm.

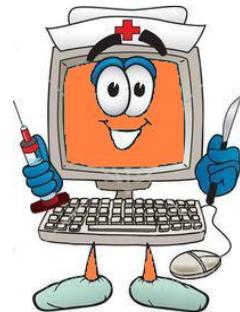
The program consists of a presentation on a specific topic followed by a question and answer session. Bring a tagged laptop from home but if you cannot you will be seated with someone who has a similar operating system to you.

Contact David Boyce if you are interested.

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VOLUNTEER RESEARCH

Research can be undertaken for anyone seeking information on ancestors in our local area. Please forward requests to Volunteer Research, PO Box 1078, Christies Beach North SA 5165.

EDITOR'S NOTE by Christine Keen



Wow, what a jam-packed quarter of activity. Hopefully, you all got to participate in plenty of activities during History Month. Thank you to all who have sent contributions for the July edition.

You will note that the layout of this Journal is a little different. While I had been planning to look at changing the format a little—it became a necessity during the construction of this journal. There is still some tweaking to do, but it's getting there. I welcome any feedback you have on the changed layout.

Remember this is your journal—articles do not have to be connected to the Fleurieu Peninsula—so feel free to share your successes (or failures) with family research. You might just help someone else.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OCTOBER MUST BE RECEIVED

NO LATER THAN 16 SEPTEMBER

Christine Keen

WHEN & WHERE

MEETINGS

The monthly Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from January—October at 1.15pm, Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Street, Christies Beach. The Resource Room is open from 12.00pm each meeting day.

Annual General Meeting is held on the 3rd Saturday in November commencing at 1.30pm. Committee elections are held at this time.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Aussie Interest Group—meets at 1.00pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month. For information contact Ros Dunstall.

United Kingdom Interest Group—meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. For information contact Sharon Green.

Evening Computer Group—meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. For information contact Dave Boyce.

DNA Evening Group—meets at 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month. For information contact Sharon Green.

DNA Day Group—meets at 1.00pm on the 1st Monday of each month. For information contact Peter Tuck or Sharon Green.

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A \$5.00 joining fee applies to all new and lapsed memberships.

Fees should be paid to the Treasurer prior to the November AGM each year.

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