



Relative Thoughts

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Quarterly Journal of the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc.

HOPE

By Florence Stopps

I have a special little word
I'd like to share with you.
I encourage you to use it
If you are in strife or feeling blue.

Just think about it quietly –
And try to pass it on.
The more that you share it around,
The more HOPE will make you strong.

Things you once thought impossible –
You will find easier another way.
With HOPE you find more confidence,
And life will improve in every way.

With HOPE we can make a better world –
Be more positive every day.
But always remember the MEANING –
Not just an easy word to say.



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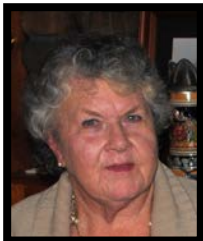


FPFHG Facebook
Group



View of Witton Bluff on Facebook and websites

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the second *Relative Thoughts* for 2020. It has been quite a start to a new year which we are still experiencing.

Before 2019 had finished many parts of the country were experiencing bush fires; some communities spent their Christmas fighting fires. This continued into the New Year and for many weeks, this was still happening when the rains came to some of the vast drought areas of this wide land. The fires came to our doorstep in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. We all watched the aftermath of both of these happenings. The aftermath of all of these fires was not only the loss of homes and businesses, it was the loss of vegetation, native animals large and small and many farmers who lost their stock. I am sure there are some of you who will have family members or friends who suffered or were involved in the many Volunteer organisations which assisted on the front lines and in many activities to support these wonderful people.

Now the country is being invaded by the Coronavirus. As you are aware we have taken the action to abandon all of our activities until further notice. It is a precaution the Executive Committee felt necessary to protect us all. As you know we have had information from many sources. Please protect yourself and we look forward to seeing you all when we find it is a safe time to meet. Enjoy the extra time researching and finding out more about your ancestors and their families and we will see you all again when it is safe.

The year for us started well - our first meeting in January was presented by the Resource Room co-ordinators who updated us with new additions to our collection and reviewed some of the resources which are available. Thank you to Sharon and Pauline and their happy band of helpers for organising this presentation. At our February meeting it was necessary to change our speaker due to unforeseen circumstances – Cheryl Willis stepped up and gave us an informative talk on the National Trust of South Australia, another intriguing part of our state history. Thank you Cheryl. We are hoping to reschedule our February speaker when she is available and now when we are able to resume our activities. We will need to reschedule some of our other speakers also.

Once again DNA is having an Impact on members' research and connecting with family. The workshops and evenings which Sharon and Peter hold help members to understand the information and all have been well attended. The Family Tree Maker workshops too have been well attended. As you know Sharon is a busy lady and assists members with their research in UK, USA and beyond.

It is with sadness I report to you the passing of one of our dear members, Raelene Crawford, a member since 2005. Rae attended Aussie Group and the General Meetings, a dear friend to many of our members. Our condolences to her daughter Bethany and her family have been forwarded from the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution by David Boyce to the Computing Evenings which have been conducted for many years – firstly meeting in member's homes then the Resource Room. Thank you David for your years of support for all members and to Heather

Boyce for now taking on the role of the Computing Evening co-ordinator. Thank you Heather. Another valuable person who is always there for our computing queries.

Attendance at the Resource room has seen increases and both old members and new members have been assisted by the volunteers led by Chris Grivell and Pauline Redman. The Pioneer Register managed by Kath Fisher and Judy Dowling continues to grow. (The total at the moment is 431 entries.) If you have an ancestor who settled in the area check the website as this is a valuable resource; if they are not in the current list maybe you could add your family. If you have any queries please contact Kath Fisher.

SAVE THE DATE – 15 August – “Footprints Across the Fleurieu and Beyond”

To assist our members and the members of other local Family History groups on the Fleurieu we are planning an Expo to be held during National Family History Month in August. Contact has been made with the local history co-ordinators at the Libraries in Noarlunga, Victor Harbor and Goolwa, Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association, SA Genealogy & Heritage Society, Yankalilla and District Historical Society, Mt Compass Archives, Macclesfield History Group, Marion Heritage Centre plus other centres which offer information for research. The format of the day will be visual presentations and the chance to meet and talk with the groups present. You may also make some new connections, perhaps catch up with an old friend or two.

The planning is in process and we will keep you informed as the event comes together. Sharon Green and I have visited these groups and all are enthusiastic and looking forward to sharing. *As this goes to print the function is still happening, but should we need to change the date we will reschedule – we will provide further details as needed.*

May is normally “Family History Month” in South Australia, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic this event has been cancelled for 2020.

The Committee will be watching what is happening with these restrictions and as soon as it is safe to do so we will be open for business. If you have any queries please contact any member of the Committee. Sharon Green has also advised of her willingness to assist members with their research and queries. Thank you Sharon.

The ‘self isolation’ may be a great time to research and contact the people whose names are on your DNA results – happy researching or time to once again look for ‘the missing link’.

As I finish this, I am thinking of you all, please be careful and take care of your health. We will advise you when our activities are able to resume.

Joy Nieass
President

THIS IS MY HOME IT'S CALLED AUSTRALIA

This is my home it's called Australia

By Suzanne Schutt

This is my home it's called Australia, Now scorched and brown its crop's a failure
In the tinder dry grass a spark is born, No one there to see, no one to warn
Small fingers of orange lick across the ground, still nobody sees no one is around.
The soft breeze that blew now becomes a roar and the flames lick high, now here comes
more.

Trees explode animals flee, oh God what will become of me.
Blue sky's turned black then angry red, choking thick smoke people are dead
Day turned to night, the fight goes on we help one another tho everything is gone.

This is my home it's called Australia, Now covered in ash we need a saviour
People are lost homes are gone, Where animals once grazed now there are none
We pray for rain we know it will come and hope it's not too late for some.
And the rains will come as they always do, the air will clear and the sky will be blue
The land will flood that's how it always has been, Once more alive as all turns green.

This is my home it's called Australia

LACEMAKERS OF CALAIS by Kath Fisher



People who have been attending meetings will be aware that a few members have discovered that they are descended from ancestors who came to South Australia in 1848 on board the ship the *Harpley*. I am one of those and we decided that we would like to tell our ancestors' stories as a presentation in July (to be rescheduled).

It could be that some members missed those couple of sessions who are also descendants and would like to join our group's presentation. If your ancestor came on the *Harpley* as an emigrant then

you are definitely descended from a Lacemaker or associated worker or family from Calais. Many originated from Nottinghamshire. Two other ships, the *Agincourt* and the *Fairlie* went to Sydney as part of this group. Some others travelled separately over subsequent years and they have been identified on a website.

Following is a list of those family names who came on the *Harpley*. If your ancestor went on one of the ships to Sydney I am happy to check the lists:

Barnett, Brown, Burgess, Clarke, Cope, Crowder, Davis, Dixon, Donisthorne, Dormer, Dunk, Freestone, Goldfinch, Hall, Hemingway, Hemsley, Hibbert, Hiskey, Holmes, Hopkins, Irons, James, Lander, Lee, Longmire, Mather, Matthews, Mountenay, Mountney, Needham, Oriel, Parsons, Paul, Peat, Pepper, Pike, Revel, Richmond, Rushton, Samuels, Sansom, Selby, Shaw, Smith, Street, Stubbs, Sumner, Sweeney, Taylor, Watts, Wells, Widdison.

The list is unlikely to be complete as the only remaining sources are newspapers of the time.

Please contact me if interested.

Kath Fisher

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome new members:

Jill Szczurko, Judith Hubbard

Pamela Beamand, John Rutherford

Nola Clisby

LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED!! by Elizabeth Grocke



January 2020 Resource Room—Information Day. Sharon introduced the team...it is unusual, they have more males than females on their team ...which is great.

Kath Fisher spoke re the Pioneer Register, which has been worked on for several years and takes in the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Pauline Redman spoke about our Library Collection, both what is Reference (not for loan) and the many interesting titles for a one month loan.

Sharon gave a short chat on Drop Box, what is available on USB and the 9Boot Camp DNA info.

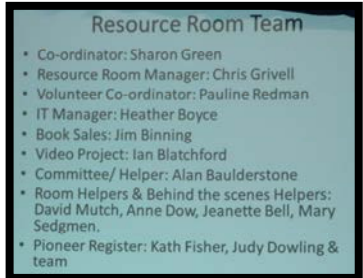
We were reminded that we have an in-house photocopy and laminating service when the Resource Room is open—at a small cost.

Next we had a short demo on our hand held scanners and the slide scanner, (these are also available for loan) and the use of our light board to make life a little easier when looking at negatives and making out those faces.

We also have available for use on Wednesdays when the Resource Room is open *Ancestry*, *Findmypast* and *Digger*, so please make a bee-line to the room on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday of the month to avail yourself of these programmes. (Bookings required)

Thanks to the team for an informative afternoon, but SORRY we missed again Rellie Bingo, 3rd time lucky, we will just have to wait.

Lynette Gibson—Compilation of her mother's diaries. Lynette shared how she discovered a suitcase containing her mother's diaries, and how she has turned them into a book. It was the discovery of the diaries that first got Lynette interested in family history.





February 2020 Cheryl Willis—Heritage and Advocacy: The Formation of the National Trust of South Australia. The formation of the National Trust of South Australia came about through the concerted efforts of an ever-growing group of influential individuals and organisations, spanning two decades.

Harold (Bill) Lindsay was better known as an author who, in 1946, founded a Bushman's Club. But if you look him up in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, you'll find no reference to his part in the push for a National Trust in South Australia.

Geoffrey Clarke was a man of many talents. He was an accountant, a Liberal MP, and Secretary for many groups and associations. Apart from his absence overseas working for the Red Cross during World War II, he was Secretary of the Pioneers Association for 32 years.

For many years these two men lobbied relentlessly for a National Trust in this State. While Clarke's principal interest was in preserving historic buildings and Lindsay's concerns centred on conserving natural bushland, each envisioned an organisation that would care for both aspects of the environment. Initially they acted independently, unaware of the other's actions, but later got together.

Step back further in time to 1885. This was when the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (RGS) was formed. In 1927, the RGS created a Historical Memorials Committee to commemorate pioneers and explorers.

It was around this time that the residents of Port McDonnell in the State's south-east persuaded the State Government to purchase and restore nearby *Dingley Dell*, the 1860s home of poet Adam Lindsay Gordon. For many years this was the only State-supported historical museum.

But there was still not a lot of interest in preserving the physical evidence of history in South Australia.

That all changed in 1935 with the formation of the Pioneers Association of South Australia. These first historical societies looked to the State's beginnings as a British colony and honoured pioneer achievements, just as the early National Trust would do.



There was a crossover in membership of the Royal Geographical Society and the Pioneers Association, so it was logical for them to combine their efforts in conserving history. Together these two organisations campaigned to retain and preserve early buildings and bushland.

But now we were entering the Playford era. Sir Thomas Playford was Premier from 1938 to 1965. The most sustained population growth in South Australia's history took place from the World War II years through to 1970. Fuelled by the baby boomer generation, prosperity and post-war immigration, the population grew at a faster rate than that of any other state. Factory production increased markedly. The rural community was also enjoying the good times, and in agricultural production South Australia was leading the rest of the country. But all this progress came at a cost to existing buildings and landscapes.

Years of persistent lobbying eventually brought success. *The National Trust of South Australia Act* was legislated on 8 December 1955. It was only the second National Trust in Australia, and the first by an Act of Parliament.

Today, the National Trust of South Australia has over 6000 members and volunteers. It holds over 130 properties across the state, and there are currently 45 country branches.

And we can all thank the unsung heroes, Bill Lindsay and Geoffrey Clarke, for their many years of commitment and dedication to the cause.

Elizabeth Grocke

20 & 10 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

The Executive Committee would like to acknowledge the following member who was awarded their 20 Year Membership at the January meeting—Nola Clisby.



The Executive Committee would like to acknowledge the following member who was awarded their 10 Year Membership at the January meeting—Heather Leske.

MY FIRST FLEET CONVICT ANCESTORS AND OTHERS by Jenny Chapman

My family tree research started some years ago and at that time my knowledge of my paternal Bolitho family was confined to the facts that they had come from Cornwall in the 1870s and settled in Bendigo, Victoria. My father was born there in 1909 and in 1910 his father brought him and his mother and brother to Port Augusta, where the family established a new life and where some of my cousins still live today. Grandfather Sam was a blacksmith and he came to work on the railways as Port Augusta was being established as an important central point on the East West Railway between Perth and the eastern states.

On continuing to build my tree I discovered that my great grandfather **WILLIAM BOLITHO** had arrived in Bendigo in 1871 with his mother and some siblings after the death of his father in Cornwall. Two of his older brothers had already arrived and established themselves in the colony and could sponsor their mother and siblings. William was 17 and he went to work in the gold mines in the area becoming, in later life, a well-respected mine manager and captain of the Long Gully Volunteer Fire Brigade. Thus I believed most of my paternal ancestry was Cornish until I discovered that 10 years later in 1882 William married **ELLEN SHARD**.

A few years later I made contact with a 3rd cousin on my Bolitho side and she gave me a book about the Shard family history. I there found a very interesting revelation about my great grand-mother Ellen's lineage.

Ellen was the great grand-daughter of two First Fleet Convicts, **NATHANIEL LUCAS** and **OLIVIA GASCOYNE**. Their son **JAMES LUCAS** married **ELIZABETH MURRAY**, who was also the child of two convicts **KENNEDY MURRAY**, a Scottish convict, and **ANN WHITE**. Their daughter **ELIZABETH LUCAS** married **CHARLES SHARD**, who was also a convict, arriving in Van Diemens Land in 1826. Thus I actually have five convicts in my ancestry but this story is mostly about First Fleeters, Nathaniel and Olivia and their journey from England to this new land.

NATHANIEL LUCAS was born in Surrey in 1764 and at the age of 20 he was convicted of theft and sentenced to transportation for seven years. After three years imprisonment in various places he was placed on board the ship *Scarborough* which set sail from Portsmouth in May 1787 as part of the First Fleet commanded by Captain Arthur Phillip.

OLIVIA GASCOYNE was born in 1763 in Worcestershire and at the age of 23 was convicted of larceny and sentenced also to seven years transportation. She was placed on board the convict ship *Lady Penryn* which sailed with the First Fleet.

A journey of seven months followed and finally in January 1788 they sailed into Botany Bay. As Captain Phillip (soon to be Governor) decided the place was not suitable for a settlement, the ships sailed further north and passed through a gap of high cliffs and into the wide waters of a beautiful natural harbour. On 26 January 1788 the colony was proclaimed on the shore of Sydney Cove.

In February 1788 Governor Phillip charged his deputy Philip Gidley King with the task of

setting up another subsidiary colony on Norfolk Island, 1600 kilometres north east of Sydney Cove. He set sail on board the *Sirius* with 15 convicts chosen for good conduct but also no doubt for their skills and five free men and arrived on 6 March 1788. The convict group included Nathaniel and Olivia who soon formed a partnership as did most of the others. Between 1788 and 1805 Olivia bore 11 children two of whom were killed when a tree fell on their home. Nathaniel and Olivia married in 1791 when a minister visited the island to perform the services. My 4th great grandfather James Lucas was born on Norfolk Island on 23 January 1798.

Nathaniel was a carpenter by trade and soon made himself indispensable to Gidley King and the small colony, planning and building jetties and mills to grind flour. He was eventually appointed Master Carpenter and granted 75 acres of land on which he farmed. In 1806 Nathaniel and Olivia and their family moved back to Sydney Town where he soon established himself as a builder. In 1808 he was appointed Superintendent of Government Carpenters and was involved in building some well-known constructions such as the Rum Hospital, the parsonage at Liverpool and St Lukes Church at Liverpool for the architect Francis Greenway. Sadly in 1818, due to disagreements with Greenway, his health declined and he was found drowned in the river near Liverpool. He was buried in the churchyard at St Lukes on 6 June 1818.

In his 30 years in the colony he had certainly made his mark prior to his sad ending. His wife Olivia moved to Tasmania where her son Nathaniel junior had set up business and the next few years were spent between there and Sydney managing the other family businesses. She finally settled near Launceston in 1829 but the tumultuous events of their early life finally took their toll and she died on 12 June 1830 aged 67 and is buried in the Cypress Street Cemetery in Launceston.

In January 1819 my 4th great grandfather James Lucas married Elizabeth Murray, who was the daughter of Kennedy Murray and his common law wife Ann White. Elizabeth was born in 1802 also on Norfolk Island. When the colony on Norfolk Island was abandoned in 1812 most of the inhabitants were resettled in Tasmania including Elizabeth and her mother and siblings.

KENNEDY MURRAY was born in Dundonald, Ayrshire, Scotland in 1771 and, in 1786 at age 15, was convicted of theft for the second time and sentenced to transportation for 14 years. He sailed on board the convict ship *Pitt* which arrived in Botany Bay in 1792 with the first group of Scottish convicts. In 1796 he was transferred to Norfolk Island where he met Ann White. No formal record is known of a marriage but they had two children by 1802 when his sentence expired and he left the Island deserting Ann and the two children. It is known that in 1809 he was granted 30 acres of land at Penrith outside Sydney. He led a chequered life with a subsequent liaison with another woman Ann Parker who bore him three more children. He died in 1853, aged 82, in Tasmania at his oldest son's home and is buried there.

ANN WHITE was born in Croydon Surrey in 1771 and in 1789 was convicted of theft and sentenced to seven years transportation. She arrived in Botany Bay in 1790 on board the *Neptune* as part of the Second Fleet. She was transferred to Norfolk Island where she formed her partnership with Kennedy Murray. After he deserted her and their two children she married Richard Sydes with whom she had three more children. In 1813 the colony on Norfolk Island was abandoned. Anne White sailed on board the *Lady Nelson* to Tasmania

with him and all of her children. She died there in 1820 aged 49.

This accounts for four of my convict ancestors all of whom arrived in the very early days of settlement in the fledgling colony of Australia.

On 12 February 1821 **ELIZABETH LUCAS** was born in Launceston, Tasmania. She was the daughter of James Lucas and Elizabeth Murray, both children of convicts as listed above. After the death of her first husband she met an ex convict named Charles Shard whom she married in 1856 in Launceston.

CHARLES SHARD was born in 1812 in Manchester, Lancashire, England. In April 1830 he was convicted and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He arrived in Van Diemens Land on board the convict ship *John 1* in January 1831. He was assigned as a servant to a Mr Gavin in the Launceston area. He was always in trouble for one thing or another receiving sentences of 25 lashes on many occasions. Charles had extra time added to his sentence on more than one occasion and also served periods on the chain gangs several times. He finally received his Ticket of leave in July 1848 and promptly left Van Diemens Land for Victoria no doubt to try and make some money at the gold fields. By 1856 he had returned to VDL and met and married Elizabeth Jones nee Lucas. They sailed for Victoria again in August 1856 accompanied by her children and settled near Geelong where their own children were all born including my great grandmother Ellen in 1859. Elizabeth Shard nee Lucas died in Maldon, Victoria in December 1870 and Charles Shard died on 3 May 1878 in Sandhurst (Bendigo) in Victoria.

CHARLES SHARD was the fifth convict ancestor in my tree.

Nathaniel and Olivia Lucas created the foundation for over 100,000 descendants in Australia of which I am proud to be one.

Jenny Chapman (Bolitho)

SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS for JULY edition

If you have an article, story, poem etc to share, please contact me, either via email or by phone (if you don't have email).

Christine Keen

WISDOM OF WAR by Florence Stopps

WISDOM OF WAR

By Florence Stopps

As Anzac Day again returns
We think of days of long ago.
When so many young were sent to war,
To far-off lands they did not know.

They fought with valour and with pride.
Many too young – they could not vote.
They braved the carnage and the cold –
We learned from letters that they wrote.

On Anzac Day world leaders will chant
The same words they said before.
But do they mean “Lest we forget”
When again they send our young to war?

It’s families and friends who know the true meaning
Of the words that they chant on this day.
Their grief is life-long and life-changing,
Not something felt only on Anzac Day.

When will world leaders find the wisdom
To learn from those who have gone before,
And find more peaceful ways of living,
Instead of always resorting to war?

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING

by Joshua Dyer

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING

By Joshua Dyer

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men.

The above poem was written by Joshua Dyer, aged 14, a student at Tenbury High Ormiston Academy, Tenbury, Worcestershire. It was written in an hour as a school task for Remembrance Day 2019, and was shared to Facebook by his mother. It has since been shared far and wide.

RAYMOND JOHN SMITH

I was born in Mount Gambier on 27 March 1942. Dad was in the Airforce hence the family moved considerably during the Second World War. After about three years we moved back to Millwood to live with Mum's mother who had built the house and mum was born in it in 1916. After schooling at Goodwood Primary and Urrbrae Agricultural High School, I entered work for Dalgety Company on 5 January 1959, one of 12 new staff, on £6-2 6 salary. The last two years at Urrbrae I entered the Royal Adelaide Show Sheep Judging and came 2nd the first year and won it the second year. Still have copy of stock journal "Urrbrae Student Tops State in Sheep Judging". I joined Dalgety to be a Wool Classer having done the course at Adelaide University. I was placed in the Livestock Department where I was going to markets three and four times a week. Rumour went around that we were selling our Wool Store at Port Adelaide. This did eventuate when Dalgety bought out Bennett and Fisher, Farmers Union and Coles Bros. I approached the Livestock manager for an opportunity to Auction. He took me up to the roof of Dalgety House where he asked me to auction of flower pots to him. He was impressed and told me that on Tuesday I would sell 10 Sow Pigs. From that point on I was an Auctioneer for 43 ¾ years.

During 1959 there was a bad drought across most of Australia. In April in the Sale yards at Gepps Cross one Tuesday, all agents yarded 145,000 sheep and lambs. Most sheep were bare shorn and we mixed vendors and types having mixed lines of 3-5,000 selling at 3 pence and 6 pence each.

In 1965, I was sent to Willunga to replace the Stockman Peter Chewings who committed suicide by shooting himself in the front seat of the company car. I had to clean the front area and get a bullet hole fixed in the roof. After two years at Willunga I was also auctioneering one day week at Gepps Cross. Management asked me to open a branch at Yankalilla. I rented a house next to the Barber Shop and had a desk and phone in Jim Brooks Mobil Service Station. In 1970 the company allowed me to purchase a house as I was getting married. This house is the current Health and Medical Centre. During five years at Yankalilla I made a profit in the first year, then this continued for five years. I was Secretary of the Football Club and played 'B' grade. In 1972 I moved back to Willunga as Area Manager. Here I stayed for two years, then got sent to Adelaide Stock Department as Auctioneer with a client base of North of Port Augusta to SA Border Birdsville Track and a 100 mile radius, Strezlecki Track, Lucindale, Hindmarsh Island and Mundoo Island. In 1978 I was appointed as a Valuer for the State and Federal Governments during the T.B. and Brucellosis Campaign.

I was stationed in Katherine for about nine months. I visited properties from Elliott to Darwin, then to the WA border and Borroloola on the Queensland border. I conducted auctions of the cattle sent in by stations at Elliott, Katherine and Darwin. For one auction Tipperary Station sent in 600 Brahman bulls 1-6 years old not drafted. I and a colleague attempted to draft them into lines. However the yards at Elliott were one foot deep in sand. After being knocked over a couple of times and trampled on we ran 200 into each of three yards and sold on average. The vendor was paid at my valuation which was much more than their meat value. Meat buyers came from Adelaide, Alice Springs, Katherine, Darwin and Queensland.

During this T.B. programme Clifton Hills Station on the Birdsville Track had to destock twice.

First time 20,000, then four years later 5,000 which were all brought in tested free. The owner and I went to Hamilton and Baskerton Victoria to the January Yearling Sales and we purchased 4,000 Poll and Horned Hereford Heifers 12-14 months. These cattle took 12 months to acclimatise. Presently this station carries 20,000 cattle and was sold last year for \$38 million.

I conducted many sales at Woomera for the Defence Department. There were 500 houses, large steel framed sheds, carports, fencing, sheds and rainwater tanks. I restricted numbers to 70 houses at a time to keep the value up. Government auctions were held at Grand Junction Road, Ethelton. Over a period I sold 100-130 motor vehicles, surplus, machinery where sales went on for five years, held three monthly. At one of these auctions after 100 motor vehicles, amongst the general items was a new coffin, mortuary refrigerator and slab, also two real human skeletons. These made £50 each.

I flew with my boss Daryle Young to Perth, then Broome, then Brooking Springs in the Kimberley. We purchased 900 cows for \$290 per head, road transport to Alice Springs, then train to Bowmans. After three weeks spelling we conducted a very successful auction.

The following year I went alone to Darwin, then hired a plane to Fossil Downs Station, then Brooking Springs Station. I inspected 950 cows which were \$300 and \$100 freight. I had a premonition not to make an offer, owners were sad. I then flew to Roebuck Plains Station and looked at 800 Old Horned Hereford cows with one to two month old calves, all very poor condition. I declined to offer at \$500 per head. These cattle wouldn't have made it from Broome to Alice Springs then train to Bowmans SA. There would have been big losses. I got back to Darwin that night and rang my boss, who was upset with me not purchasing and he told me to ring the State Manager who was sympathetic. He said had Daryle told me the cattle market had crashed \$100 that day and then over about four weeks the values dropped to cows 8-9c/kg and bullocks 10-11c/kg.

On another occasion I sold 400 transportable houses at Inverbrackie (Woodside) for the Department of Defence. The remaining ones were used to accommodate 'The Boat People'.

In 1980 the sheep market collapsed to 'no value'. Vendors sent in their sheep where we unloaded them at Gepps Cross Boiling Down Works. Vendors received nothing. I started auctioneering cattle in the Cattle Ring at Gepps Cross, sheep and lambs in the pen selling and pigs in pens at Gepps Cross. New cattle yards transferred the sale to pen selling. New sheep and lamb yards, then new yards at Dublin. Pigs at Gepps Cross then Dublin. As part of history I auctioned the last pen of sheep at Gepps Cross, then the first pen at Dublin. I learnt how to be an Assessor for cattle, sheep and lambs sold by computer. I was the first Wesfarmers Landmark Auctioneer to qualify in this new trend of selling.

I would say that my values for auctioneering were improved as I was looking at animals as a dressed carcass, suitability for use for example – domestic, export, store. Previously I valued breed, colour, condition, suitability for market. One day at Gepps Cross Cattle Market I was unloading a double deck load of cattle from Witchelina Station. The driver did not convey that there was a very wild cow amongst the mob. During unloading this wild horned Hereford cow ran from the mob trying to get out of the pen. My offside waved his hands at her as she ran for the open gateway. She stopped and turned left straight into me. She hit me up against the fence then backed off six feet, lowered her head and hit me against the fence

with one horn in my left hip and the other straight through my abdomen. Her horns were about 12 inches long. She then ran off with me on her head. She shook me off on the concrete laneway where I was covered in 'cow manure'. As I was on the concrete she came at me again and when her eyes were about two feet from mine, she was blowing snot at me. She then lowered her head to rake me with her horns. I fortunately had a whip in my hand so hit her on the flesh of her nose. She stopped over me, I immediately moved from under to try and climb a fence. She woke up that I had moved then tore my shirt off me with her horns then ran down the race. I got off the fence to find a hole in my left hip and a hole in my lower abdomen about one inch above my penis. This hole took over 22 stitches and three months to heal, as the cow's horns were covered in manure when it penetrated me I was infected.

In 1978 I led 28 farmers, plus my wife to New Zealand for 22 days. After the second day my wife decided to sit with Trevor Bartholomew, owner of Lobethal Abattoirs, Murray Bridge Abattoirs, Viking Ski Lodge Mt Hotham, and 15 race horses. He was 15 years older than she was, after returning 10 days she told me she was off with the children aged eight and six years. We had been married for 12 years. She lived with Trevor for 22 ½ years until he died of cancer. She got married two months ago to her fifth male friend. I have been divorced for 41 years and intend to stay single. During my working life I visited 56 countries. On a trip to England I went into Dalgety's Head Office and met the Great Grandson of Mr Dalgety, who started the company. We went to Smithfield Market and saw lamb, mutton and beef from T&R Pastoral Company Murray Bridge, South Australia for sale.

Some special highlights during the years – I was the first person to auction a 'seized Indonesian fishing vessel' in Darwin for £3,000, first person to auction a full township – Leigh Creek. This was a coal mine 600 kms north of Adelaide, consisting of: 580 houses, garages, carports, jail, mortuary, service station, hospital, surplus buildings, dentist, hotel, doctor's surgery, police station and fencing. There were two auctions conducted where the first had 280 houses, mostly transportable, plus other items; the other, six months later, with 280 houses plus other items sold. There were only six transport companies available for the house. The auctions took eight hours nonstop with me doing both auctions.

In the year 2000 management asked the three of us auctioneers to go to 'Daily Hire'. The other two agreed, however, I wouldn't. When I got to 2002, I resigned and left on Friday 13 September, after 43 ¾ years of service. I devoted my entire working life to the one employer 'Dalgety and Co Ltd', 'Wesfarmers, Landmark' and enjoyed every moment.

Ray Smith

FIRIES TRIBUTE by Florence Stopps

FIRIES TRIBUTE

By Florence Stopps

We hear the comforting alarm bells ring
On the approaching fire trucks of red.
The sight of the Saviours coming to help
Calms the mind of looming dread.

The Firies save us from the fires and floods
And many other types of harm.
Whether humans or properties Firies will come,
When we call the emergency alarm.

They save our properties when they can,
And all flora and fauna protect.
But nature sometimes takes command
And disaster reasons are sometimes suspect.

Firies put their health and lives at risk
Such bravery we greatly admire,
But if injured or they pay the ultimate price,
Lets pledge support for all they require.

Our thanks go out to all who help,
Including all the Volunteers too.
We greatly appreciate your sacrifice -
In turn we will always help you.

© 2020 Florence Stopps

MEMORIES OF THE COLAC HOTEL by John Cornish

MEMORIES - OF THE COLAC HOTEL PORT ADELAIDE – DURING THE WAR YEARS

The poor old Colac; history oozing from every wall, now a sad abandoned monolith. May be that one day it will be resurrected into a new model to suit the modern 'jet set' brigade emerging into the Port's places of old - oblivious to, and uncaring of its history.

I lived there during the last of the war years, 1944 –1946. My maternal grandparents owned the hotel and I was not two years old when my mother and I went to live there while my father was overseas serving in the war effort.

It's amazing how some things are vividly remembered from one's infant years. The Colac, being just across the road from a main wharf, was a busy place that catered for thirsty men after their knock off time from loading and unloading ships. Each afternoon from about four o'clock the bar would start to fill.

Lines of men leaned on the bar and put one foot on the long brass foot rest which was about eight inches above the floor. A stainless steel sand tray sat under the footrest for cigarette butts and was also used as a spittoon for many workers who were suffering from respiratory problems caused by hazardous dust on the wharves. Occupational Health and Safety provisions did not exist in those days.

The six o'clock swill was the closing time feature of the day. I clearly remember men standing, and some not quite standing, on the footpath and spilling out on to the road as a newspaper boy walked among them selling South Australia's afternoon paper *The News*.

I had my first entrepreneurial experience by taking some old newspapers from the hotel and 'selling' them to men during the swill. I climbed onto a ladder that leant against the six foot high fence on the Santo Parade side of the hotel and copied the newsboy's 'call'. On more than one occasion the wharfies gave me a penny for a paper, transacted over the fence that kept me in and them out.

I was terrified some nights when the ships were being loaded, or unloaded with steel. The noise upset me so much that I would not sleep. It was made worse by the activities going on in almost complete darkness. Blackout regulations meant that men working on the ships and wharves had to work under subdued 'black lighting'. This was to alleviate the risk of being spotted by any possible enemy planes that might have strayed over Adelaide.

Smoking outdoors was also forbidden for fear that even a cigarette being drawn on could be spotted from the air. My grandmother and a friend often prepared a trolley full of complimentary tea and coffee and scones for the men in shed 1. They would wheel the trolley over the road in time for their 2am smoko break which was always inside the shed with the doors closed to stop light escaping. Blackout police would patrol the area.

Two policemen on a motor bike with side car would idle around the wharves. The only light on their outfit being a blacked out headlamp which threw out a moonlight type shadow, just enough illumination to see about 10 meters (sic) ahead.

Saturday afternoons were for women to come to the Colac with the men. Some of the

women would have drinks in the parlour just off the main entrance passage, but never with the men. Only 'tarts' would enter the bar. Other women would sit outside in the back seat of cars and consume ponies or small hard drinks that their husbands would bring out on a tray.

This ritual would be repeated several times during the course of the afternoon — in some cases continue right up to swill time at six o'clock. Then the men would stagger into their cars and wobble their way home. I remember hearing the crunching of gears as the Essexes and Chevrolets turned left into Ocean Steamer's Road. My grandfather's 1936 Oldsmobile was more refined and rarely ventured out from the garage.

Sunday mornings was stock take time. I usually went down into the cellar while my grandfather counted the bottles and barrels stored underground. It was also the day to do any repairs in the bar area.

I used to climb a ladder to wind up the pendulum clocks high up on the wall in the bar and the one in the saloon lounge. Most Sunday mornings two policemen would knock on the door. They were on the watch for any illegal out of hours sly grog trading. My grandfather always welcomed them and offered them a drink, which was always gratefully accepted. Sometimes they even accepted two drinks — scotch whisky was usually close by for this purpose. After the visit the police would get back on their motor bike and side car and continue their patrol duties, presumably to the next pub.

There were no ghosts at the Colac.

John Cornish

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveSAhistory/>

This article was supplied by member Ros Dunstall, and was reproduced with permission from the author John Cornish.



MAY REYNELL by Christine Keen

In honour of International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March, I bring you the story of a pioneer of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

May Marion Reynell (nee Byard)



May was born in England about 1883 and was the eldest child of Douglas John Byard and his wife Matilda Eunice (nee Rogers). They migrated to Australia in 1884 and settled in South Australia. She married Carew Reynell on 11 May 1910 at Hahndorf. They made their home 'Greenacres', near the family winery at Reynella, and this remained May's principal residence until late in life.

May was the Inaugural president of the women's branch of the Liberal Union, formed at Morphett Vale in October 1911 (McMullin 2012:494), and was an energetic participant in numerous war related activities, including the collection of eggs for soldiers, working for the Red Cross, and organising the creation of warm clothing by schoolgirls at Reynella for 'children of the London poor' (McMullin 2012:496). She was remarkably active while her husband, Carew, was serving at Gallipoli – organising the Red Cross Sock Club, which recruited knitters to provide thousands of pairs of socks to the Defence Department; she and three other women assembled large numbers of comfort items such as chocolate and tobacco which were then despatched to the Australian troops. In addition, May was active in the Cheer-up Hut Society and the inaugural Violet Day on 2 July 1915 which commemorated the Australian troops killed at Gallipoli.

League of Loyal Women

Along with Muriel Farr, May Reynell established the League of Loyal Women of Australia in July 1915. With the motto, 'For God and the Empire', the aim of the league was to 'promote a strong sense of fellowship and imperial duty amongst women, and to link together all those who were engaged in patriotic and national service to the mutual benefit of their respective associations' (Williss 2018:128). The League had 11 objectives which were published prior to its first public meeting, held in the Town Hall on 26 July 1915. Membership was open to women over the age of 16, who identified with the league's philosophy. The membership fee was one shilling per annum (Williss 2018:134). Control of the league was vested in a general council, with officers elected by the members. The inaugural president was Lady Galway, the Governor's wife. She was assisted by 29 vice presidents, a treasurer and May and Muriel as joint secretaries.

The league initially had an office, provided rent free at 46 North Terrace. They were later offered temporary use of surgeon, Arthur Cudmore's medical rooms at 188 North Terrace, while he served at the war front. An information office was established at this address for relatives and friends of those at the front. This was later discontinued after the Red Cross opened its Enquiry Bureau (Williss 2018:135). In October 1915, the League was appointed as the official channel for all comforts to South Australian combatant troops by the Department of Defence, leading to the creation of a 'trench comforts committee'. Comforts included

food and clothing, such as: socks, mittens, scarves, shirts, tinned fruits, milk, sweets, sauces and biscuits among others.

The League of Loyal Women had a regular supplement in *The Red Cross Record*, from September 1916. This supplement outlined the objectives of the League, as well as reports from its various committees. Details of how people were able to donate to the various causes to support soldiers at the front were outlined, as well as including excerpts from letters of soldiers at the front showing their appreciation for the comforts from home. May Reynell stepped down as secretary in February 1917 due to ill-health.



Six months after her husband's death at Gallipoli in August 1915, May went to Egypt where, with Mrs Miell, she set up a tent opposite the training camp of the Light Horse at Heliopolis, for the purpose of providing light refreshments. This 'tea room' was funded completely by May. While visiting Gallipoli, arrangements were also made to install an 'engraved iron cross' on Carew's grave at Hill 60.

While May was a prominent member of the Navy League, the Red Cross and the League of Loyal Women throughout World War I, she often took on additional responsibilities in other organisations, including becoming president of the 9th and 11th Light Horse Regimental Club. She devised a medal for women whose relatives had joined the armed forces and were serving at the front, and then organised the registration and distribution of the medals. Each medal had a bar for each relative that had enlisted. By mid-1917 applications for more than 10,000 bars had been received, not only from within South Australia, but also from interstate and overseas.

During World War II, May held regular garden parties in the grounds of Reynell winery to raise funds for the war effort. In December 1940 she established Goodwill Week to bring together community residents from different backgrounds and religions (Williss 2018:292-3). In 1954, she donated land from the family estate on which the Reynella Memorial Hall was built.

May died aged 85 on 20 May 1967, at McLaren Vale. She is buried in the Reynell family plot at the Christ Church Cemetery, Main South Road, O'Halloran Hill.

Special thanks to the following people for their provision of information, and assistance with research:

Kath Fisher, Member, PPFHG

Joan Davies, Member, PPFHG

Emma Taylor, Noarlunga Library

Lee Clark, Archivist and Historian, SA Red Cross

Sources:

McMullin, Ross (2012), *Farewell, dear people*. Scribe Publications Pty Ltd.

Williss, Cheryl (2018), *Miss Marryat's Circle : A not so distant past*. Wakefield Press

Christine Keen

UPCOMING SPEAKERS & EVENTS



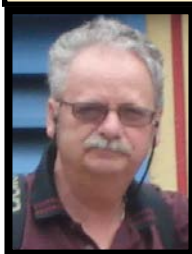
All meetings are held at 1.15pm, Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Road, Christies Beach. If you have a suggestion for a suitable speaker please contact Elizabeth Grocke with details.

As all meetings have currently been cancelled, speakers, where possible, will be rescheduled once we are able to recommence meetings.

15 August—"Footprints Across the Fleurieu and Beyond" Expo

The Expo will be rescheduled, if we are still unable to meet by this time.

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 unavailable. **We will advise when the Resource Room will re-open.**

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 Heather Boyce if you are interested.

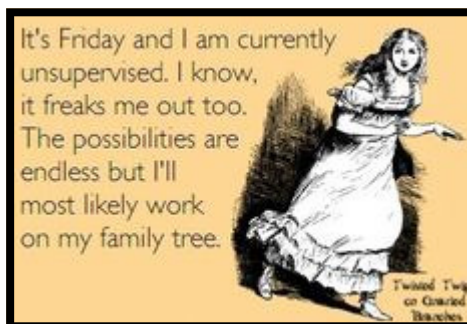
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VOLUNTEER RESEARCH

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



Thank you all for your contributions to this edition of the Journal.

As we do not know when we will be recommencing our meetings, it would be great to use the journal to stay in touch. So with that in mind, if you have something to share—stories of your research; need help with a problem; have tips for others; a poem; come across something that others will find interesting— then please email them to me. If you don't have email—then contact me (details inside the front cover) and we can find another way to get contributions to me.

Special thanks to Florence Stopps for your inspirational poems—just when I needed something to put on the front cover, I received your email.

I hope you are all finding ways to keep busy. Look after yourselves and your families. Hoping to see you at a meeting when we are back up and running.

Stay safe.

Christine Keen

WHEN & WHERE

**** ALL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ARE
CURRENTLY SUSPENDED ****

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 Heather 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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Single—\$25.00

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Single—\$30.00

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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