



The South Australian GENEALOGIST

November 2025 Vol 52 No 4



About Genealogy SA

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COVER PHOTOS



Front cover:

Father Christmas on his sleigh in the Adelaide Christmas Pageant, 1981 (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 1662/4/36)

The pageant is an iconic part of Christmas in South Australia, generally held on the second Saturday of November. First held in 1933, the pageant is recognised as a heritage icon by the National Trust of Australia. In this Journal Peter Lyster reminisces about Christmases past spent as a child in South Australia.



Back cover:

Queen's South Africa medal, bar Transvaal, awarded to Private Albert Palmer, 2nd Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Image courtesy of Liverpool Medals)

In his article *Last Man Standing: Who was the last South Australian Anglo-Boer War veteran?* Tony Stimson investigates whether Albert Palmer has a claim to be considered the last surviving South Australian veteran of the Anglo-Boer War.

Future Issue Deadlines

for advertisers and Genealogy SA contributions.

February 2026

Submissions by 31 December 2025

May 2026

Submissions by 31 March 2026

Other submissions will generally be published in order of receipt.

Submissions may be emailed to:

saghs.editor@saghs.org.au.

Please note the guidelines in 'Notice to Contributors and Advertisers' on page 72.

Do you receive our monthly email newsletters?

Subscribe or update your details via the link:

www.genealogysa.org.au/members/my-account



Genealogy SA
Helping find your family history

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A Message from the President

by Robert Blair

Awards Received by the Society

In recent months the Society has performed well in competitions for awards, receiving two awards.

Every year the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO), of which the Society is a member, makes an award for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand to encourage member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters.

The award, known as the Nick Vine Hall Award, honours the memory of the late Nick Vine Hall, who was prominent in a campaign to save Australian censuses in the mid-1980s. The award comes in two categories: Category A for societies with under 200 members and Category B for societies with 200 or more members. The first prize in each category is a certificate and \$300 to the Society and a certificate to the Editor, and the second prize is a certificate and \$100 to the Society and a certificate to the Editor. Genealogy SA is in Category B.

For 2025, the award was made on a 2024 publication, with Genealogy SA coming in second for its entry, which was the November 2024 issue of *The South Australian Genealogist*. The first prize went to the Genealogical Society of Queensland. Last year the winners in Category B were the Genealogical Society of Victoria and Family History Connections. Under the rules of the award the winner in a given year cannot enter in the next year so the Genealogical Society of Victoria was excluded this year.

That Society has frequently been an award winner in the competition, but for Genealogy SA it is the first time we have received an award. I congratulate our Editor, Kathy Ahwan, on her achievement.

The second award received was the Bernadette Bean South Australian Records Management Service Excellence Award in memory of the late Bernadette Bean. The award focuses on, but is not limited to, best practice and improvement in records and information management, archives management, knowledge management, and history, cultural heritage, museum and library collection management practices and solutions.

The Society's Research and Development Committee and teams were entered for the award for its work on preserving and digitising local and statewide records for the benefit of future historians. The Society has scanned and digitised records from numerous organisations and historical societies in recent years which are gradually being added to the Society's online databases. In the 2025 awards the winner was Christopher Mantle of the Port Lincoln History Group Inc. Genealogy SA's Research and Development Committee and teams came in runner-up for the award. As a runner-up the Society received a certificate and \$250. The judging panel were highly impressed by the Society's exceptional and sustained contribution to supporting local history groups and preserving South Australia's regional community and statewide historical records. They commended the Research and Development Committee and teams for their strategic, innovative,

and collaborative efforts in securing South Australia's documentary heritage for future generations of researchers, family historians, local communities, and the general public.

It is worth noting that other runner-up and merit awards made were to individuals or teams in government bodies and universities so for Genealogy SA (and Christopher Mantle) this is some achievement in recognition of work being done by genealogical and historical societies to preserve records.

Marriage Indexing Project

The 1938-1945 Marriage Indexing Project is progressing well. As at the end of September work was proceeding on the three years still to be done: 1943, 1944 and 1945, although work on 1945 has just commenced. By the time this edition of the Journal is published 1943 may well be completed and we are on track to have the project finished by early 2026 at the latest. This project may lead into another project which we are in the early stages of planning and discussion with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Christmas & New Year Holiday Hours

The Library will close at 4:30 pm Saturday 20 December 2025 and will re-open at 10:00 am Tuesday 6 January 2026.

The Office will close at 4:30 pm Friday 19 December 2025 and will re-open at 9:00 am Monday 5 January 2026.

Errata

The article '*Transcript of an Early 20th Century South Australian Farm Journal*' by Les Davies was published in the February 2025 edition of *The South Australian Genealogist* (Volume 25, Number 1).

Unfortunately the editing process introduced ambiguity to one of the paragraphs in Les's article.

The paragraph on page 12 as published read:

Ernest's journal illustrates that 'Sunnycroft' was one of the South Australian farms to diversify into 'mixed' farming, a matter considered unwise by the South Australian Government and Surveyor-General, George GOYDER, in the latter half of the 19th century because of the unreliability of rainfall.

This paragraph should have read:

Ernest's journal illustrates that 'Sunnycroft' was one of the South Australian farms to diversify into 'mixed' farming, a matter considered unwise by the South Australian Government and Surveyor-General, George GOYDER, in the latter half of the 19th century because the unreliability of rainfall meant that it was too risky for farmers to rely on cereal cropping as their sole source of income.



From the Editor

by Kathy Ahwan

The last quarter has been busy for Genealogy SA with awards and recognition of volunteer service.

As outlined by the President of Genealogy SA, our November 2024 Journal was judged runner-up in the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations' Nick Vine Hall Award for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand. Our Research and Development Committee and teams, led by David Ballinger, were also the recipient of a runners-up award in the 2025 Bernadette Bean South Australian Records Management Service Excellence Award for its work in preserving and archiving existing paper records. Further details on these awards can be found in the article *Awards and Achievements* in this Journal.

The recognition of Genealogy SA's work through these awards is testament to the hard work of its volunteers to provide valuable resources for members' research and general information.

In August 2025 Genealogy SA held its Family History Awards for 2024 which includes the TT Reed Family History Award and the Article of the Year Award.

While the judging panel did not nominate a winner for the TT Reed Family History Award for 2024, two books were recommended as 'good reads': *Hampton's Gold: The Hampton family of Echunga: Pioneers, Gold-seekers, Battlers* by Kay Boon, and *William Doudy: 1808-1886 and his descendants* by Colin Doudy and Alice Hyde. All nine books entered

for the TT Reed Family History Award for 2024 are now available in the library.

For members contemplating publishing their family history and looking for tips, previous winners of the TT Reed Family History Award, as well as all previous entrants, are available through our online library catalogue by searching for 'TT Reed'. The Family History Writers Special Interest Group is also available to support members to produce a record of their family's history, and on occasions have presentations from previous winners of the TT Reed Family History Award. The group meets via Zoom or in the library at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month (except January).

There were 21 entries for the Article of the Year Award for articles published in Genealogy SA's Journal, *The South Australian Genealogist*, during 2024. I was honoured to be awarded winner of the Article of the Year Award for my article in the November 2024 Journal, *Private William Horace Lamshed (1894-1917): Faithful Even unto Death*. Congratulations also to Ian Penrose and Selina Lucarini whose articles published in the February 2024 Journal were regarded as highly commended by the judging panel.

For a full report of the TT Reed Family History Award and Article of the Year Award refer to the article *Genealogy SA Family History Awards 2024* in this Journal.

At the Annual General Meeting the service of volunteers who have made a substantial

contribution to Genealogy SA over a prescribed number of years were recognised. Recipients acknowledged this year, and their contributions to the work of Genealogy SA, are listed in the article *Awards and Achievements* in this Journal.

In more good news, the trial meeting of the French Huguenot Special Interest Group on 26 August was a success, and Council has agreed to the formal establishment of the group. The group will be meeting on the second Thursday of every second month at 7:00 pm. Keep an eye on our online Events Calendar for meeting topics and registration details.

You may also notice some changes in the appearance of our Journal, as we look to improve its presentation. Feel free to let me know what you think.

In this Journal we have an interesting range of articles. Bojan Pajic reports on the stamps issued by the Serbian Post Office in 2024 to commemorate six Australian medical volunteers who served with the Serbs during World War I. Amongst the volunteers commemorated is Miles Franklin, better known as author of *My Brilliant Career*.

In his article Tony Stimson seeks to identify the last surviving South Australian Anglo-Boer War veteran.

Peter Lyster, now a resident in the United States of America, reminisces about Christmases as a child in South Australia.

Also writing about the Anglo-Boer War, Kathleen Emms tells the story of two buglers of the South Australian 3rd Bushmen's Contingent, Howard Gay and Bugler, the horse. As the contingent's bugler, Gay played a key role in signalling the advance and rallying of troops, while Bugler the horse played a key role in the raising of funds for the contingent.

On the theme of writing, John Carvosso provides some hints and tips for writing and publishing a family history. John was an entrant for the TT Reed Family History Award for 2024 with his book on his ancestor, *Samuel Carvosso (1814-1874): Coachbuilder & much more*.

So as another year rapidly comes to an end, for those catching up with families over Christmas and the New Year, I hope that you take the opportunity to ask questions, obtain photographs, and collect information and anecdotes to further your family history research before it is too late.

*Happy Reading
Kathy*

SUBMISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2026 JOURNAL



Love is in the air

Share the love
stories from your
family tree.

We are looking for stories of love—for example, everlasting love, lost love, a mother's love, a father's love, long-distance love, unrequited love—for our February 2026 Journal.

Articles between 300 and 3,000 words submitted to saghs.editor@saghs.org.au by 31 December 2025 will be considered for publication in this special edition.

Serbian Stamps Commemorating Australian Medical Volunteers in World War I

by Bojan Pajic

Australians were considered as British during World War I (WWI) and therefore Serbian histories did not mention the presence of Australians and New Zealanders who had served with the Serbs. Similarly, the Australian official history of the war, and all subsequent histories, omitted to mention the service of over 1,500 Australians and New Zealanders alongside the Serbs in WWI.

When my book, *Australians with Serbs in World War One*¹, was translated into Serbian by the Australian Embassy to Serbia and published jointly with the Institute for Recent History of Serbia in 2023, it attracted considerable media attention.

After consultation with Serbian historians, I proposed through the Australian Embassy in Belgrade that the Serbian Post Office consider publishing commemorative stamps about these ANZACs. To my delight, the Serbian Post Office agreed to issue several stamps in November 2024 on the 110th anniversary of the arrival of Australian medical volunteers in Serbia. I believe that this issue of Serbian commemorative stamps is the first time that another country has featured Australians who have served in that country and alongside its own people, as allies in a war.

Design of the stamps

The Serbian Post Office decided to issue six stamps of six Australian individuals who would represent all those who had served alongside the Serbs in WWI. They chose these individuals, all medical volunteers, from lists of those described in my book, and decided to design portrait stamps and two first day cover envelopes with three

franked stamps for each of the Australians. On the back of the envelopes were short biographies of each featured Australian.



First day cover envelopes issued by the Serbian Post Office, November 2024, commemorating Australian medical volunteers for their service in Serbia during World War I (Image courtesy of the author)

The war service of Australian medical volunteers with the Serbs

Australian and New Zealand medical volunteers commenced arriving in Serbia in November 1914 and they, and those who followed them, served with the Serbs throughout the war. We know from their

letters and memoirs that they joined the war effort to do their bit and were inspired to go to Serbia by the dogged resistance that the Serbs were putting up against repeated invasions by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and then by the combined armies of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

They joined voluntary organisations, sending staff and hospitals to Serbia such as the Red Cross, the Serbian Relief Fund, the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, the Wounded Allies Relief, the Royal Free Hospital and the First British Field Hospital. They knew that they were going to a country facing repeated invasions, and that atrocities had been committed by the invading armies on the civilian population and wounded and captured Serbian soldiers.

The hospitals that came to Serbia in 1914 and 1915 were organised to help treat those wounded in battles, but in 1915 they were also dealing with a typhus epidemic that spread from Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war whom the Serbs had captured.

The combined invasion of Serbia in late 1915 by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria forced the Serbian King, Government and Army (accompanied by civilian refugees) to conduct a fighting withdrawal southward towards the expected arrival of allied French and British troops sent to help the Serbian troops via the port of Salonika. Australian soldiers were involved in that Allied advance into Serbia.

However, the French and British forces were forced to withdraw into the port of Salonika and the Serbian Army then trekked along snow-covered mountain paths in an epic march to the Adriatic coast from where it joined the Allied forces in Salonika. From Salonika the three Allied armies, French, British and Serbian, advanced to the border of now-occupied Serbia and continued the

fight there until Serbia was liberated in September-October 1918. Australian and New Zealand soldiers, air force personnel, and six Australian River-class destroyers participated in that campaign.

Australian medical staff continued to serve with, or alongside, the Serbian troops from 1916 until 1918. Some followed the Serbs back into their liberated country after the war's end. Some served with the voluntary units that came to Serbia in 1914, others with British hospitals and several hundred with the Australian Army Nursing Service contingents sent to staff British hospitals. The French and British armies each provided 1,000 beds for wounded and sick Serbian soldiers to augment the Serbs' own hospitals on the Front.

South Australian medical volunteers who served with, and alongside, the Serbs

Doctors Laura and Charles HOPE, who served in Serbia with the Scottish Women's Hospitals, were detained by enemy forces when Serbia was invaded, but later released into neutral Switzerland. Nurse Alice Mary STIRLING served with another Scottish Women's Hospital unit in support of the Serbian Army. Dr John Joseph O'NEILL served with the Royal Medical Corps in hospitals near Salonika. Nurses including Effie EAGLE, Mary FERRY, Annie GALVIN and Ethelda UREN served with the Australian Army Nursing Service in British hospitals on that Front.

The stamps launch in Belgrade, 8 November 2024

In 2024, a delegation from Australia travelled to Belgrade for the stamps launch and Armistice Day ceremonies. The delegation comprised Ruth STEPHENS and Cathy BROMILOW (grand-daughters of Nursing Sister Ethel GILLINGHAM, who had served in Serbia in 1915-1916); Kathy HANCOCK and Ava HANCOCK, great-niece



Australian delegation at the Armistice Day 2024, Belgrade (Image courtesy of the author)

and great-great-niece of Dr Mary DE GARIS (who had served with a hospital of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in support of the Serbian Army in 1917-1918); Dr Robert WEBSTER OAM, Victorian State president of the RSL; Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Michael BUCKRIDGE RFD, President of Military History and Heritage Victoria; and my wife Robyn and me. We visited memorials to the medical volunteers in two towns where Australians had served.



Kathy HANCOCK, great-niece of Dr Mary DE GARIS, one of the Australians commemorated on the stamps, at the launch in Belgrade, November 2024 (Image courtesy of the author)



Penelope LAYTON-CAISLEY, relative of Miles FRANKLIN, one of the Australians commemorated on the stamps, at the launch in Belgrade, November 2024 (Image courtesy of the author)

The Serbian commemorative stamps of Australian medical volunteers were launched at the Serbian Post Office Museum in Belgrade on 8 November 2024 in front of a large media presence.²



The stamps issued by the Serbian Post Office, November 2024, commemorating Australian medical volunteers for their service in Serbia during World War I (Image courtesy of the author)

Presentation of the Serbian commemorative stamps to the families of the six Australians at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, on 23 November 2024

The Serbian stamps were presented to the Australian public at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, on 23 November 2024. His Excellency Mr Rade STEFANOVIC, Serbian Ambassador to Australia, presented a folder of the stamps and first day cover envelopes to a representative of each of the six families of the commemorated Australians.

At this presentation, a trailer of the documentary film *By Far Kaymakchalan*, which tells the story of the service of Australians and New Zealanders in the Serbian Campaign of WWI, was premiered. The documentary is planned to be launched in 2025. A booklet *Serving with the Serbs – Australian Volunteers of the Great War*, which describes the service of the six Australians featured on the Serbian stamps and of two Australian soldiers who served in Serbia and are featured in the documentary *By Far Kaymakchalan*, was launched.³

Honoured Australians on Serbian commemorative stamps

These short biographies are based on the book *Our Forgotten Volunteers – Australians and New Zealanders with Serbs in World War One*.

BENBOW, Thomas Alexander Palmer (1886-1971)

Medical Officer, British Red Cross, Awarded the Serbian Order of St Sava, Class IV

War service

Thomas 'Alec' BENBOW served with the British Red Cross Number One Unit and was in Serbia from late October 1914 to June 1915. Alec served in the Serbian Fourth

Reserve Hospital at Skopje, treating wounded and typhus patients. He and his colleagues were overwhelmed by the number of wounded arriving day and night for urgent care. He contracted typhus and diphtheria whilst on service.

Curriculum vitae

Thomas BENBOW was born in Ararat, Victoria, and graduated from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in June 1914, winning the prize of most worthy graduate. After his WWI service overseas, he returned to Australia, where he practised in Potts Point, Sydney, and took an interest in forensic science. Becoming something of an amateur detective, he proposed a solution to the 'Pyjama Girl' case. He also worked on international cruise ships. Alec died in Sydney in 1971.

DE GARIS, Mary Clementina (1881-1963)

Medical Officer, Scottish Women's Hospitals, French Red Cross, Order of St Sava, Class III, British WWI medals

War service

Mary travelled to England in 1916 and worked in London at the Manor Hospital for almost half a year, but following her fiancé's death in France, Mary joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals 'America' Unit and went to Ostrovo, near the Front, supporting the Serbian Army. Mary first served as one of the medical officers of the unit, conducting operations both at the base location and at advanced dressing stations. She was promoted to Chief Medical Officer in 1917, after the departure of Dr Agnes BENNET, the unit's first commander. Mary led the unit from February 1917 to October 1918. She was described as a strong but strict leader, who was meticulous in looking after both patients and staff. The Serbian Government awarded her the Order of St Sava, Class III, for her services in support of the Serbian Army.

Curriculum vitae

Mary was born in Charlton, Victoria, and attended Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne. In 1907, Mary became the second woman in Victoria to receive a Doctorate of Medicine. She worked briefly in Melbourne and spent over a year working in a hospital in Queensland before travelling to Europe and America to undertake postgraduate courses. She returned to Australia in 1910 and became Resident Surgeon at the Tibooburra Hospital in New South Wales. After the war, Mary became the first female medical practitioner in Geelong. She worked closely with mothers and babies, conducted medical research, and kept records of thousands of deliveries. She published work in medical journals in Australia and internationally. Mary worked as a practitioner until her late seventies. She died in Geelong in 1963.

DONALDSON, James Blair (1888-1971)

Medical Officer, Wounded Allies Relief, British WWI medals

War service

James, or Blair as he was more commonly known, was living in London when WWI commenced. He joined the Allies War Relief organisation and was sent to Kragujevac in Serbia in 1915. There he was put in charge of an X-ray unit dealing with wounded and sick Serbian soldiers and civilians. At some point during 1915, Blair moved south to Gevgelija, then in southern Serbia near the Greek border. There, between October and December 1915, he was attached to a French Army field hospital, Hospital d'Evacuation, No. 2, Secteur 503. French and British forces had advanced into Serbia at that time in order to link up with the Serbian Army fighting the invading Germans, Austro-Hungarians, and Bulgarians. He performed some surgery whilst awaiting the arrival of his X-ray equipment. Later, Blair worked in France again using X-ray equipment.

Curriculum vitae

James was born in 1888 in Rokeby, Victoria, the son of Dr James Blair DONALDSON. He studied medicine at the University of Melbourne but undertook further study and graduated from Edinburgh University in 1913. Upon his return to Australia in 1920 with his wife and child, he continued to practise as a doctor. James died in 1971 in Victoria and was cremated at Springvale Cemetery.

GILLINGHAM, Ethel May (born 1884-1952)

Nursing Sister, British Red Cross Society, Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), Awarded the Serbian Cross of Mercy, British WWI medals

War service

Ethel enlisted as a nursing sister with the British Red Cross Society in October 1914 and served with the 3rd Southern General Auxiliary Hospital, Milton Hill, Steventon, Berkshire, in the period October 1914-April 1915. She then joined the Second British Red Cross Serbian Mission at Vrnjačka Banja in Serbia and served with that unit in the period May 1915-February 1916. In November 1915 Ethel became a prisoner of war following the invasion of Serbia by German, Austro-Hungarian, and Bulgarian forces. Ethel's departure from Serbia was facilitated by the American Red Cross. She was part of a group of medical volunteers who were repatriated to England via Zurich and France in February 1916. Ethel wrote descriptively in a long letter of her exit from Serbia: *'Poor little Serbia! How my heart aches for her and her brave people. I really worked hard during those first weeks of the invasion, and my eyes were seldom dry.'* Aspects of her account were published in Australian newspapers. Ethel then served at a Red Cross hospital in Egypt from June 1916 until December 1917 and finally at Millbay V.A.D. Hospital, Plymouth, from July to October 1918.

Curriculum vitae

Ethel May GILLINGHAM was born and raised in Geelong, Victoria. She completed three years of nursing training at the Colac Hospital plus an additional year at Wangaratta Hospital for 'surgical experience'. Later, Ethel resumed nursing in Cairo, Egypt, where, on a blind date she met, and became engaged in less than 24 hours, to Australian Imperial Force Captain Theophilus Richard EVANS in September 1917. (Theo, an officer in the Australian Army Pay Corps based in Cairo, spent time on the Salonika Front in August 1917.) After the war, Ethel and Theo (known as Dick) EVANS raised a family with three children.

FRANKLIN, Stella Maria Sarah Miles (1879-1954)

Orderly, Scottish Women's Hospitals, King George V Jubilee Medal (1935), Queen's Coronation Medal (1953)

War service

In 1917, Miles, as she was better known, volunteered to serve with the Scottish Women's Hospitals 'America' Unit at Lake Ostrovo in Macedonia. She enlisted as a camp cook and served under the Australian Chief Medical Officers, Dr Agnes BENNETT, and Dr Mary DE GARIS. Apart from cooking duties Miles was involved in store-keeping for the unit. Miles kept a diary and wrote about her war service experience: a memoir called *Ne Mari Ništa: Six Months with the Serbs*, and a play *By Far Kaimacktchalan: A Play of the Balkan Front Today*. She suffered from various ailments and was looked after by Mary DE GARIS. She returned in poor health to London in early 1918.

Curriculum vitae

Stella Maria Sarah Miles FRANKLIN was born in 1879 in country New South Wales. She was an author, feminist, advocate for workers' rights and a great supporter of the arts in Australia. When she was a teenager, she

wrote her semi-autobiographical story, *My Brilliant Career*, and submitted it under the pen name Miles FRANKLIN. It was published in London in 1901 and became an instant success. Miles moved to America in 1906 seeking to publish new works. She worked with the National Women's Trade Union League of America and became a secretary to the president of that organisation. She then moved to London late in 1915 where she mixed in feminist circles and worked in a restaurant. After the war Miles stayed in London for a few years and worked for the National Housing and Town Planning Council. She returned to Australia in 1932 and devoted the rest of her life to Australian literature. She died in 1954 in New South Wales.

KING, Olive May Kelso (1885-1958)

Ambulance Driver, Sergeant, Serbian Army, Scottish Women's Hospitals. Awarded: Order of St Sava, Class V, Serbian Bravery Medal, Silver, Serbian Medal for Zealous Service, Serbian Cross of Mercy; King George V Silver Jubilee Medal (1935), King George VI Coronation Medal (1937)

War service

In 1915 Olive first volunteered for war duty with her own ambulance and went briefly to Belgium with a private organisation trying to help the medical services. In May 1915 Olive joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service as an ambulance driver and was sent to France with the Girtton and Newnham Unit. This unit was then sent to Serbia in late 1915 accompanying units of the French Army sent to link up with the Serbian Army then fighting an invasion from Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria. The French and British troops as well as Olive's unit were forced to withdraw to Salonika in late 1915. In 1916 Olive joined the Serbian Army as an ambulance driver for the headquarters of the Serbian Army Medical Service. She was decorated with the Medal for Zealous Service

and the Medal for Bravery, Silver, for her actions during the great fire in Salonika in 1917. Olive founded the Serbian Canteens in 1918 with funds raised in Australia and London by a committee established by her businessman father. Olive organised stores and staff for several canteens in newly-liberated Serbia and nearby places in the period 1918-1920. She established a trust to fund research at the University in Belgrade. She was personally thanked by Crown Prince Aleksandar for her work and, after his coronation, was invited to his wedding in 1922. Olive was decorated with the Serbian Cross of Mercy for her ambulance work and with the Order of St Sava, Class V, for her humanitarian service with the Serbian Canteens.

Curriculum vitae

Olive was born in Sydney in a wealthy family. As a young woman she was already a free spirit and, as some sources record, an 'unconventional woman with a flair for languages and a desire to travel'. She was educated at home and later at Sydney Church of England Grammar School for Girls, as well as in Germany. In 1910 she climbed Mount Popocatepetl in Mexico with a group of friends. She also developed an interest in motoring, including mechanics and rally-driving. She was in England when the war started and decided to volunteer as an ambulance driver. After the war Olive returned to Australia and was very active in the Girl Guides' Association for a long time. She later received the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal (1935) and King George VI Coronation Medal (1937). During World War II Olive completed a course in inspection at a Commonwealth Government aircraft school and worked as an examiner at de Havilland Aircraft Pty Ltd from 1942 to 1944.

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Last Man Standing: Who was the last South Australian Anglo-Boer War veteran?

by Tony Stimson

George Frederick IVES, the last known surviving veteran of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, was 111 when he died in 1993. Born in France to English parents who registered his birth in London to ensure that the lad was not liable for French military service, he enjoyed a short-lived career as a jockey until he put on weight and, having no other trade, volunteered for the Imperial Yeomanry and service in South Africa. The war over, he emigrated to Canada where in 1992 he said in an interview that his dearest wish was to attend Remembrance Day in London.¹

Within weeks, sponsored by a newspaper, and complaining that he had never been paid the war pension which was his due, George was on his way to London. There, in November 1992, he stole the show on Remembrance Day, laying a wreath at the Whitehall Cenotaph and afterwards meeting the Queen Mother, the Princess of Wales, Prime Minister John MAJOR and former prime minister Lady THATCHER. He died in his sleep a few months later. He had lived through the lifetimes of 21 prime ministers from GLADSTONE to MAJOR.²

What of the last Australians? Queenslander Gordon 'Pop' WILLIAMS, who died in 1988 aged 108, seems to have been the last Australian, but the last South Australian had gone 12 years earlier.

By the early 1960s, as their ranks thinned fast, South Australia's veterans of this long-ago war knew it would not be long before their South African War Veterans Association (SAWVA) had to be wound up. Not long after that they were all dead. By now George LACE, a World War I digger, had taken over as their honorary secretary, no South Africa veteran feeling up to the task. Blessed with a keen



*Veterans marching to their annual service, 1964
(Image courtesy of the Army Museum of South Australia Foundation)*

sense of humour, he stirred the pot when in his August 1963 letter he listed the 12 oldest members of the association, now down to 108 members, and concluded that the oldest was Jamestown's Jim RUNDLE, born 22 August 1871 and '92 this month'. He concluded: 'If any of you can break these records please let me know.'³

LACE knew his list would be contested as some members had never declared their age and other veterans had never joined the association. It was soon apparent that 95-year-old Philip JONES, another Jamestown man, who was born at Gumeracha on 8 August 1868, trumped RUNDLE by several years, but by the time LACE wrote to members a few months later he was satisfied that the oldest South Australian veteran was in fact one Arthur Walter BROWN living in a private nursing home at 3 Fourth Avenue, St Peters.⁴ Born near Crafers, South Australia, on 6 November 1866 to George BROWN and Celia LOVEL, he was a few months shy of 97.

LACE was a generous man who would pay the taxi fares of veterans who wanted to attend reunions, and he was quick to visit the old man. Blind, cheerful and still capable of

holding a good conversation, BROWN told him that he had been working in South Africa, where his family had joined him, when the war broke out, had then served with the Royal Engineers for two years as a telegraphist/signaller, and after the war had stayed on for several years before returning to Adelaide in 1907. All true, but it was not the full story.

BROWN had in fact been assistant postmaster at Millicent in 1899 when charged with five counts of embezzlement. He pleaded guilty, saying that he 'must have embezzled the money when in a muddled condition' brought on by insomnia and drink as he nursed his wife and a child through enteric fever, but Chief Justice Sir Samuel WAY was unsympathetic. One count of embezzlement might be explained as a momentary aberration but not five. It can have come as no surprise when he brought down a sentence of 18 months with hard labour.⁵ This suggests that he did not simply 'retire from the postal service towards the end of the last century',⁶ as a newspaper report later suggested, and that on release he took his family off to South Africa with the intention of enlisting there or finding work.

If so, he was not the only man with a chequered background to serve honourably in Australia's wars. He would enlist a second time in 1916, aged 49 but claiming to be 44, and sailed for France with his son Cyril Alfred BROWN who had enlisted with him in the same signals unit. He was discharged with 'general debility' in 1919 but by then the war was over: he had served overseas for two years and 59 days. He enlisted again, in 1942, knocking 16 years off his real age, claiming to be 59, but was ruled unfit for active service due to emphysema and spinal issues.

BROWN did not live long after LACE found him, dying on 14 June 1964 at the age of 98.⁷ All 12 men on LACE's August 1963 list would follow him to the grave before the last two South Australian veterans of the veldt war, Roy WOODFORDE and Albert PALMER, died in 1976. They died a few months apart.



Roy Woodforde,
The Advertiser, 10 September
1962

Both men have some claim to be the last South Australian.

If we mean someone who enlisted in a contingent raised in Adelaide for service in South Africa, the nod goes to John Roy WOODFORDE. Born on 5 January 1880 at Parkside, he was the son of Frank Dudley WOODFORDE and Jane BECKETT, and a grandson of the Dr John WOODFORDE who had accompanied Colonel LIGHT to South Australia on the brig *Rapid*. He was a clerk aged 21 when he enlisted in the 5th South Australian Imperial Bushmen (SSAIB) in March 1901, a stocky, dark-complexioned young man who at 5'4½"⁸ was of a typical height for a mounted infantryman. Like most members of the later contingents, he seems to have had no military experience and sailed with barely a fortnight's rudimentary training at Adelaide's Old Exhibition Grounds.⁹ Little wonder Lt. Col. Henry DE LISLE, SSAIB's British column commander, at first thought they were 'useless'.¹⁰

His wartime service 1901-1902 is a mystery. We do not know why he volunteered. Was it the lure of adventure or the prospect of regular army pay after the hard times of the 1890s Depression? We know nothing of his experiences at the front. No letters he may have written survive in the public domain and he is not referred to in the correspondence of other men who served in his contingent. We don't know if he was at Graspan on 6 June 1901, the State's worst day in the war, when

eight men died in about an hour, or at Grootvallei on 2 August 1901, two fights which led the brilliant DE LISLE to change his mind about his South Australians. All we can say is that he must have dodged bullets, shrapnel, enteric fever, and riding accidents, and done nothing conspicuously heroic, as he returned home with the contingent on 27 April 1902.

Roy WOODFORDE married twice and retired in 1960 after a stroke. His second wife died in 1966. An obituary suggests that he looked after himself at his home at 12 Partridge Street, Glenelg, South Australia, for another 10 years.¹¹ He remained an active member of the SAWVA committee until the association was wound up in 1971. He died aged 96 at the Repatriation Hospital on 24 May 1976. He was buried at North Brighton, South Australia, where his headstone states unambiguously that he was the 'Last S.A. Boer War veteran'.¹²

But was he? There is also a case for Albert Edward Alexander PALMER who died at 39 Mahood Street, Elizabeth South, South Australia, on 16 September 1976, four months after Roy WOODFORDE. He seems to have been born in Deptford, Kent. One source says he was 19 and a plumber's assistant when he enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own) on 23 June 1899.¹³ The headstone over his grave in the Mount Barker Cemetery, South Australia, where he is buried with his wife, says he was 97 when he died. Both point to a birth year c1880.

PALMER was not born in South Australia and did not serve in a contingent raised in Adelaide, but he did serve in South Africa with the West Yorkshire Regiment from 25 November 1900 to 4 April 1903. The Queen's South Africa service medal of '5542 Pte. A. PALMER. W. York Reg' was recently auctioned in Liverpool with a copy of his service records. Moreover he had emigrated as early as 1920 and spent most of a long life in South Australia. He too has a claim to be considered the last South Australian veteran.



Palmer's Queen's South Africa medal (Image courtesy of <https://www.liverpoolmedals.com/product/gsa-2nd-west-yorks-regt-australia>)



PALMER, Herbert MORLEY 11th Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry and WOODFORDE at the 1965 Anglo-Boer War commemorative service, *The Advertiser*, 13 September 1965

By chance, when 17 veterans gathered at the South African War Memorial for their annual service in September 1965, WOODFORDE, then 85, was photographed with an 'A. PALMER' who according to the caption was 89, and Herbert MORLEY, 84, who had also served in a British unit before emigrating to South Australia post war.¹⁴ If PALMER was 89 in 1965, this would have made him about 99 when he died in 1976 rather than 97 as shown on the Mount Barker headstone, but it has to be the same man. There was no other 'A. PALMER' amongst the ranks of Anglo-Boer War veterans or in

SAWVA's records, and no male of similar name and comparable age died in South Australia around that time.

Tony Stimson is a member of Genealogy SA and also President of the South Australian Boer War Association.

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Memoirs of an Antipodean Christmas: A day of thanks and atonement

by Peter M Lyster

I feel that it is time to thank Mum and Dad for all those Christmases past. Mum, cooking a Christmas lunch for us after long hours of work at the Home for Incurables in Adelaide, where she was a ward sister. Dad, finally getting a reprieve from delivering Christmas mail on the post office bike around Myrtle Bank doing double-shift. I tried to do that summer job once and got bored after two weeks. Then there was the amount of shopping they must have done surreptitiously to get us all our toys.

Our Christmas often started with a hot shirtless, sleepless night. This frequently bemuses my American friends—I once met someone who asked me if Christmas in Australia was in December. Among the presents I got was a plastic NASA spacecraft that was sprung open by a rubber band and a parachute came out—it never worked satisfactorily and ended up plummeting to earth, in pieces. For me that was entertainment. There was a circular track train that I found so boring by 10:00 am that I had an irresistible desire to disassemble the engine; it never worked again.

Mum gave us a cheap camera and we used it to take our earliest known informal photographs that would be around forever showing us aping Australian sports, the only entertainment at that time. Once I got a spinning top that was surprisingly fun because it flipped over neatly using some kind of magical forces from the string, and another time I got a pair of roller-skates. I would say these two were my favourite Christmas presents because they took more than half a day to master and so they managed to stay around for more than a week.

By midday we were in a cloud of ennui, surrounded by corpses of Christmas presents, mostly caused by me I am afraid. And I was at risk of terrorising the twins—they were the new darlings who had displaced me. Their fate was saved by Mum with a festive lunch of hams, salads and vegies, slices of pineapple jellied fruit, and sponge trifle: more sweets than we were allowed to eat in a year. Once a school friend dropped by for this lunch and I got the distinct impression he wished he had a family like ours.

And thank goodness for that large backyard, the scene of endless games, often of our own invention. The default was tennis-ball cricket; it was lucky we had enough boys to enable a competitive game. A friend who lived down the street told me his father complained that he was watching too much television and asked, 'Why don't you get outside and play like the LYSTERS?' That was the first time I reflected that perhaps my childhood was memorable; years of competing all summer holidays against friends and siblings can make you feel humble.

A typical summer's day in our household might involve an international cricket match on television and lying about on the couch drowning in Ceylon tea and making endless sandwiches using our father's backyard tomatoes. It gave Dad pleasure to grow a whole summer's worth of tomatoes for us, despite our mocking insistence that he missed his calling as a backyard market gardener. There was always a tinge of sadness in February when the plants faded. I still feel that way, and each year I re-pot some of my summer's tomato plants inside and nurse them through the winter.

Christmas Day was a challenge since the whole city was so quiet. Sometimes there was some excitement when our old bachelor uncle Pat appeared at the door from the searing heat outside. Tradition was he brought a bottle of beer for Dad and Woodies lemonade for the rest of us. If it was more than 100° Fahrenheit, and when we were lucky, Dad took us to the beach to give Mum some respite. We were a hatful of monkeys in the backseat of the Holden FX heading along Cross Road to the beach, hoping a train would show up at the crossing and block the road for our entertainment.

As we got closer to the ocean the water appeared as magic slivers between the beachfront buildings. The first kid to truthfully see the slivers got some kind of extra credit. There are the memories of sand in the car, the future discomfort from sunburn, diving 15 feet dangerously off the end of the jetty, having fish and chips, and rolling our eyes when Dad snuck off to have a beer. We also got an extra treat in the form of musk-flavored Lifesavers. Coming home from the beach we held our breath hoping Dad would miss the turn-off to our house, so we would get an extra joyride around the block.

A view over our backyard from a drone would have revealed a bull's-eye of chaos and noise in otherwise lifeless suburbia. I thought our neighbours hated the racket, and I averted my eyes from them, but years later Mum said that old, retired grazier, Mr FERGUSON, took great pleasure listening to our childhood chatter over the fence. All this chaos was mixed up with something which, in retrospect, might be called joy. This gives me hope. At the time I thought the horizon ended at Unley Oval. Since then, my siblings and I have become world travellers spurred on by the competitive spirit of childhood—pushback against the routine of a distant antipodean isolated and listless summer backyard and, shifting from one foot to the other, wondering what was

next. Back then we terrorised our parents with our boredom.

At least Mum and Dad got to sleep in on Christmas morning, possibly putting some soundproof sheets around the edge of the barred door. At the end of the day, we would sit in front of the television to watch the latest Mitch Miller special, which Mum and Dad really loved. Other times we were reduced to watching a blurry black and white documentary about snow in New York City, the last winter Olympics in Switzerland, or some travelogue about the Sammi people. Yes, someone thought it was a good idea to fly those videotapes out to Australia!

By 10 o'clock Mum pushed us off to bed and then got a couple of blessed hours to herself drinking more tea and reading every line of *The Advertiser* newspaper. Dad retreated to the shed for a glass of sherry. Later in the evening, as I tried to sleep, I heard Mum say to herself 'Thank God my kids are healthy.'

Did I thank Mum and Dad enough? I cringe at my selfish Christmases past. But there is some evidence in my defence. On a visit from America, I bought Dad a coffee at the Burnside Shopping Centre, and he said, 'I owe you \$5.' I said, 'No Dad, I owe you \$199,995.' He did a double take and laughed—always a great sight. I am going to score that as one thank you.

As Mum grew older, I called her every week and thanked her. When she was dying, she apologised for all the things she had done wrong. I told her the scorecard of atonement was still balanced against me.

Now, I would like to thank them again. It is a shame that they are up there in Centennial Park Cemetery in the southern suburbs of Adelaide, spending their days and nights staring up at Alpha Centauri. They would surely prefer nothing better now than to spend the day at the beach with us, with Dad sneaking off to have a beer. I would like to be there now and join him.



The Two Buglers of the South Australian 3rd Bushmen's Contingent

by Kathleen Emms

Howard GAY was born on 27 April 1879 in Adelaide. He was the youngest child of Archibald and Mary Watts (COLBEY) GAY who had six children, five of whom survived to adulthood: Florence Isabel (born 1870), Horace Denzil (1872-1872), Horace Denzil (1873), Archibald Ernest (1875), Beaumont 'Beau' Colbey (1876), and Howard (1879).

Howard's father, Archibald GAY, was a cabinet maker, furniture retailer and undertaker based in Hindley and Rundle Streets, Adelaide. He died at the Little Bay Infectious Diseases Hospital in Sydney in 1887 while visiting his brother Patrick. Howard was only eight years of age. His mother, Mrs Mary GAY worked as a nurse between 1886 and 1902. She died at her son Beau's residence at Highbury Street, Prospect, on 15 July 1906 and is buried in the North Road Cemetery.

Howard attended the North Adelaide Primary and Sturt Street Schools. After leaving school, he joined the South Australian Permanent Artillery based at Largs Bay. Fort Largs was established in 1885 as the Port Adelaide Battery to defend Port Adelaide following the 1877-1878 Russo-Turkish War.

The South African War, known as the Boer War, took place between 11 October 1899 and 31 May 1902. In response to the conflict Australian colonies sent troops to support the British war effort. South Australia's first and second contingents were financed by the colony's government and were filled by volunteers who had some previous military experience and were deemed to be medically fit and good rifle shots.

The third contingent, the South Australian (Citizen) Bushmen's Corps, took pride of place amongst the South Australian contingents. It was funded by public subscription and the philanthropy of wealthy individuals.¹ On 17 January 1900 at a town hall meeting chaired by the mayor of Adelaide, South Australians decided to form a Bushmen's Corps to send to the Boer War. New South Wales had raised citizen bushmen's troops and asked South Australia if they were interested in sending bushmen to South Africa as a viable force to counteract the Boer forces. The newly formed committee informed Sydney that they supported the Federal Bush Corps movement and stated that over £1,000 had been subscribed that day.² Squatters, said the mayor, could come forward with subscriptions of men and horses because 'they have a peculiar interest in the Bushman's Corps, inasmuch as all the members of it will be drawn from those connected with station life'.

Hundreds of men volunteered for service. It was announced that the first selection would be on 7 February 1900 at the Old Exhibition Grounds behind the Adelaide Hospital. Only 36 men over the age of 25 passed the first selection thus the committee decided that further selections would be made on 12 February and 15 February.

The third selection on 15 February 1900 at the Exhibition Grounds saw about 28 men chosen from a crowd of about 200 volunteers. Among the published names was 'GAY, H., 21, single (trumpeter)'.⁴ The men who were chosen to serve in the Bushmen's Corps were officially signed up at the Old Exhibition Building by Mr EG BLACKMORE on



Bugler Howard GAY at the Old Exhibition grounds near Frome Road, Adelaide, prior to his departure for the South African War, 1900 (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 631/2/174)

27 February. The final corps comprised one captain (Samuel HUBBE), three subalterns, one medical officer, one veterinary officer, one sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, four sergeants, one farrier-sergeant, eight corporals, six lance-corporals, one corporal trumpeter, one corporal cook, one saddler, 69 privates: a total of six officers and 93 of other ranks.⁵

As the Bushmen's Contingent was to be paid for by funds raised by South Australian citizens, this began a series of theatre performances, continentals, concerts, bazaars, auctions, race meetings, sales of books and other fundraisers. One 'conspicuous success was characterised by the sale of a horse named 'Bugler' by auctions in the leading cities and towns of the province'.⁶ The idea suggested itself to Mr JCF JOHNSON, who purchased the horse, and then arranged for Lieutenant S DYKE to start on a mission of successive auction sales

and no delivery. The first auction took place outside the Adelaide Stock Exchange on 6 February 1900, the last at Glenelg on 3 March 1900. The result was that Mr JOHNSON handed to the fund the remarkable amount of £2,500.



Lieutenant Samuel DYKE riding 'Bugler' raising funds for South Australia's 3rd Contingent (Bushmen) to the South African War (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 27821)

BUGLER.

DETAILS OF ACCOUNTS.

Mr. J. C. F. Johnson, who gave effect to the idea of selling the hunter Bugler for the benefit of the Bushmen's Corps Fund, has handed us the following final statement of his account with the Executive Committee of the corps:—

RECEIPTS.

Adelaide	£749 4 1
Aspenda	124 15 0
Hamley Bridge	20 0 0
Gawler	200 2 0
Burra	22 12 6
Petersburg	104 3 2
Jamestown	116 0 9
Gladstone	72 8 10
Laura	12 2 6
Port Pirie	317 9 7
Angaston	219 12 7
Port Adelaide	124 9 0
St. Peters	101 3 7
Enley	11 2 7
Lyndoch School	1 0 0
Norwood	42 9 2
Glenelg	74 0 4
Hindmarsh	25 13 4
Wallaroo	49 19 2
Royal A. & H. Society	56 1 0

Total £2,619 19 10
Balance paid by Mr. J. C. F. Johnson,
not including price of horse 23 1 6

Grand Total £2,643 1 4

DISBURSEMENTS.

Lieutenant Dyke's expenses, &c., £29 5; net cost of presentation photographs to purchasers, £52 16; office (including clerical assistance, stationery, printing, travelling expenses, &c.), £56 10; amount paid to the Executive Committee Bushmen's Corps, £2,500; total, £2,619 1/4.

Result of fundraising by Mr JCF JOHNSON selling Bugler for South Australia's 3rd Contingent (Bushman) to the South African War, Evening Journal, 23 Apr 1900, p. 2.

But this was not the only result. The precedent set was followed by others, notably by the mayor, who realised for the fund the sum of £500 by the sale of a bullock on the 'Bugler' principle; by the Mount Gambier committee, who sold and resold a mare for close on £350, and then presented her to the corps, by a Port Augusta committee, to whom a donkey returned £73.⁷ The success of this auction type of fundraising became known as 'The Bugler System' and was continued during World War I to raise funds for the troops.

Forty-eight days after the first meeting in the mayor's office to consider forming a South Australian Bushmen's Corps, the Corps, led by Captain SG HUBBE, was farewelled with a banquet hosted by the mayor at the Adelaide Town Hall on 6 March 1900. Forty-nine days after the meeting, the Bushmen's Corps, accompanied by regiments of the local Defence Force, rode on horseback through the city in a public farewell. Streamers and flags flew from buildings, and the streets were crowded as a half-holiday had been proclaimed.



Third Contingent, South Australian Bushmen Corps, showing teams of horses harnessed to wagons, with tents and buildings in the background (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, SRG 435/7/21)



Captain Samuel HUBBE and his 3rd South Australian Bushmen photographed at the Old Exhibition Grounds behind the old Adelaide Hospital, shortly before embarkation in March 1900. HUBBE was killed in action six months later. The only bugler in the Corps was Howard GAY, seated with his bugle, front, third from left (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, PRG 631/2/174)

On 8 March 1900 *The Advertiser* reported that 120 horses and 100 men of the South Australian Bushmen's Corps were loaded on the troopship *Maplemore* the previous day at the Ocean Steamer's Wharf, Port Adelaide.⁸ Already on board were some of the Queensland and New South Wales contingents. On 10 March 1900, the *Critic* reported: 'The S.A. Bushmen are fortunate in having secured such a good bugler for their contingent. Trumpeter Gay, who belongs to the Artillery, is the best trumpeter and bugler in Adelaide, besides being a thoroughly good horseman.'⁹

On 13 March 1900 the Western Australian Bushmen and their horses were loaded on the *Maplemore* at Fremantle. *The Advertiser* had a 'Special Correspondent' on board the troopship who reported: 'Three trumpeters came on with the Westralians, and we now have six on board. Trumpeter Gay, of South Australia, has been appointed head trumpeter and gives the others a lesson every day.'¹⁰ While serving in Western Transvaal in June 1900, Howard GAY was promoted to Sergeant-Trumpeter.¹¹ The Bushmen landed at Beira, crossed Rhodesia, then entered the western Transvaal in June, where they operated until their return to South Australia in June 1901.

On 12 September 1900 South Australian Captain HUBBE was killed at Ottoshoop, South Africa; an eyewitness report of the engagement and his death was sent to Corporal George HAMMOND of the South Australian Permanent Artillery by his comrade, Howard GAY. This report was published in the *Adelaide Observer* on 1 December 1900:

I suppose you heard of the death of Capt. Hubbe. It was the hardest luck a man could have. During the day's fighting we had the most dangerous position right through, because we were in the centre, and that was the warmest part. We had to make a charge over 1,200 yards of clear country to get at the Boers, who were planted in a big kopje. We were only 58 strong, and the shouting and yelling we did was enough to frighten the devil. Well, when we reached the first kopje the Boers had left, and taken up another position, which was too strong for us to take on. After we had held the first position for about an hour we got the order to retire, which was done in splendid order under the poor captain's orders, and when we were out of range, as we thought, we thanked God for the escape we had made.

It was like a shower of leaden rain-not a man hit-but not half a minute later our captain received his bullet, which I think was the last fired that day, September 12. We have placed a headstone on his grave, which is nicely laid out.¹²

Howard GAY embarked on the troopship *Morayshire* at Cape Town on 29 April 1901, and arrived in Adelaide with other troops on 3 June 1901.¹³ No horses returned to South Australia.¹⁴ Left in South Africa were:

- the commanding officer, Captain Samuel Grau HUBBE, killed in action, 12 September 1900, Ottoshoop, South Africa
- Corporal Walter Buchannan CURRIE, killed in action, 3 February 1901, Uitralskop, South Africa
- Trooper Charles Frederick MILLMAN, killed in action, 31 October 1900, Kaffirs Kraal, Western Cape Province
- Trooper James David SLOAN, died of accidental injuries (compound fracture of the thigh), 1 January 1901, Cape Town, South Africa

- Sergeant Charles Justinian Byres MERCER, died of enteric fever, No. 3 General Hospital Kroonstad, 21 December 1901 after remaining in South Africa and joining the Fifth Contingent, and finally the Sixth Contingent.¹⁵

What of the famous horse *Bugler*?

When Mr JCF JOHNSON purchased the well-known hunter *Bugler* from Messrs John Hill & Co. for presentation to the Bushmen's Contingent, it was expected that the gelding would leave with the Bushmen's Corps for the front in South Africa after he had been sent around the colony to be sold and resold as a fundraiser.



JCF (Joseph Colin Francis) JOHNSON, donor of '*Bugler*' (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia B 9387/88)

The horse was eight years old, bred at Mount Gambier, and had been hunted by Mr Cecil BRAY. He was a handsome bright bay with black points, by *Argus Scandal*, and stood a little over 15 hands, a good pacer and jumper, and had taken prizes at several shows in the South-East.¹⁶

The Bushmen's Corps fundraising had been hugely successful; the nett proceeds of £9,319 7s 11d would keep the troops for 465 days from 19 March 1900.¹⁷

The famous *Bugler* did not load on the *Maplemore* on 7 March 1900 with the other Bushmen's Corps horses, and at an April Bushmen's Corps committee meeting, it was decided that the horse would be handed over to Mr JOHNSON, who had initially purchased him.

After being spelled at the Reed Beds, *Bugler* was auctioned for the last time on 1 May 1900 in front of the Adelaide Stock Exchange. He had no mane because of 'the ravages of country girls upon Bugler's mane, it had been thought advisable to trim it right off'.¹⁸ The bidding was started at 'a pound a leg' and slowly reached £11, at which figure Bugler was knocked down to Mr LAWSON, of North Terrace. The lance, on which was affixed a handsome silk pennant, and which was carried through the memorable campaign of horse and rider, was also put up for auction, and fell to Mr AS FOTHERINGHAM for £2 10s.¹⁹

After the installation on 14 July 1901 of a bronze plaque at St Peter's Cathedral in honour of those killed in South Africa, it was the same Mr JCF JOHNSON who suggested that 'a thoroughly artistic column and statue of heroic dimensions should be reared in some commanding position'.²⁰ He suggested a statue to beautify the city and express the esteem in which South Australians held the memory and the deeds of her citizen soldiers. 'The rider', suggested Mr JOHNSON, 'should be a young mounted soldier in the uniform of the South Australian Bushmen's Corps. The young Australian is at his best when mounted, and we shall thus be typifying the Austral horseman and the Austral horse.'²¹

Shortly after Mr JOHNSON's proposal of a memorial statue, the *Evening Journal* of 22 July 1901 proclaimed 'Bugler to resume active service'.²² This was followed by an article in the *Adelaide Observer* on 27 July 1901 whereby Mr JOHNSON suggested as a means of advertising the scheme, the horse *Bugler* would be ridden around the country by a member of the first contingent,

accompanied by the soldier's dog *Nelson*, who had been wounded and captured by the Boers before being restored to the first contingent after having been a prisoner for six weeks.²³



Nelson the Newfoundland, the South Australian regiment mascot during the Boer War (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, BRG 216/12/11)

Bugler had been repurchased by Mr JOHNSON for the express purpose of assisting the statue fund and had been lent by him to the committee free of charge. *Bugler* and the dog *Nelson*, were taken around the country towns by Troopers BATES and PETRIE, with 'the view of arousing interest in the movement by the delivery of lectures on the war, but the result in comparison with previous efforts was somewhat disappointing, as the profit of the tour amounted to only £155 10s'.²⁴

After *Bugler's* second tour, Mr JOHNSON gave him to Mr Abraham SHANNON of Yatara, near Kapunda, for safekeeping and a good home. The ceremonial handing over took place at the front of the Stock Exchange on 2 June 1902, the place where Mr SHANNON 'bid £110 for him' when first put up for auction.²⁵

On 25 February 1907 *The Advertiser* reported: 'Mr. Shannon has faithfully carried out his promise to give Bugler a life of ease, and the steed is now in capital health, and is living a life which can only be compared with that

of a retired gentleman possessing all the comforts that wealth can command.²⁶ Bugler's death was reported at Mr A SHANNON's estate, *Marandellas*, Eudunda in 1912.²⁷

South Australian memorials to the South African War



South African War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 25976)

The South African War Memorial located on the corner of North Terrace and King William Street, Adelaide was unveiled on 6 June 1904. It was the first war memorial erected in Adelaide.²⁸

Prior to the erection of this statue a memorial to South Australian soldiers who had fallen in the South African campaign was unveiled by HRH the Duke of Cornwall and York KG, on 14 July 1901 at St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide.



South African Campaign Memorial, at St Peter's Cathedral (image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, SRG 94/A1/71/27)

Among the audience were many relatives to whom the ceremony recalled the poignant sorrow of their recent loss, and while the bishop offered up prayer, light sobs from bereaved mothers and sisters broke the stillness here and there throughout the church. As the last words of the prayer died away the notes of a bugle rose at the other end of the nave, and the beautiful music of the last call was rendered with a pathos which moved the hearts of all hearers. The bugler was Sergeant GAY. A crash of drums and kettledrums rolled through the cathedral as the bugle sank, and the National Anthem was sung by all.²⁹



Howard GAY's attestation paper, 1906 (Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia, B4418)

Almost twelve months after Federation *The Advertiser* published a public notice on 25 December 1901 asking for all returned South African soldiers who wished to return to the South African war to send their names and addresses to Colonel J STUART.³⁰

On 6 January 1902, the day a South Australian unit was authorised for the Second Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse, Howard GAY, after serving 1 year and 120 days with the Third Contingent, signed for further service in South Africa.

The troopship *Manchester Merchant* embarked five officers, 116 troops and 121 horses of the 2nd Battalion Commonwealth Horse, South Australian Unit on 20 February 1902 at the Ocean Steamer's Wharf, Port Adelaide. Already on board were troops and horses from New South Wales and Tasmania; further troops and horses were loaded at Fremantle.

The battalion disembarked at Durban 14 March 1902. They saw service around Newcastle and Botha's Post before being part of operations from Klerksdorp to Devondale Siding. There were no deaths.

Peace was declared on 31 May 1902 with the surrender of the Boer forces. The Australians handed over horses, saddlery and other items at Elandsfontein before they entrained to Newcastle and then Durban where they embarked on troopships for return to Australia.³¹

Howard GAY never married. After travelling to Canada, he died 17 August 1907, aged

27 years at Victoria, British Colombia. He is buried in the Ross Bay Cemetery, Victoria, British Colombia.³² A family notice published in the *Chronicle* on 19 October 1907 noted his death:

GAY.—On the 17th August, at Victoria, B. C., Canada, Howard, youngest son of the late Mary Watts Gay, in his 28th year.³³

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Have You Hit a Brick Wall in Your Family History Research?



The Genealogy SA team of experienced researchers may be able to help.

General research can be done either at an hourly rate or a fixed fee.

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* Genealogy SA members who live more than 100 kilometres from our Unley Library, or those unable to attend for disability/mobility reasons, are eligible for two hours free research annually.

Vale Maxwell Leonard Shackelford (1932-2025)

Maxwell Leonard Shackelford was born in Peterborough where he spent his childhood.

He began his teaching career as a junior teacher at Hallett. Following his training at Adelaide Teachers College, he spent time in a number of one-teacher schools.

He married Mary Joan Hoffmann. Their two sons, Leon and Paul, also became teachers.

Max was transferred to the Whyalla South School to take charge of a special class in 1958 which began his career in special education. The 1960s saw a rapid increase in facilities for these children, and Max opened the first country special school at Berri in 1961.

When the family moved to Adelaide, Max became principal of Parkside Psychiatric Hospital School and finally completed his teaching at the Piddington Centre at Strathmont. He later became a lecturer at Torrens College and finally became Superintendent of Schools for Special Education.

He resigned from the department in 1987 after he had joined the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc. in 1986, with membership number 3033. He soon became a library volunteer which he did for 30 years.

He was a Council member from 1987-1993, President from 1988-1990 and Vice President 1987-1988 and 1991-1993. He was a member of the Library Committee from 1987-2010 until it ceased to exist.

He was a member and chairperson of the Family History Book award judging committee from 1992-1995 and also a speaker at

Beginners Workshops, seminars, on radio and to interested groups.

Max was president when the books 'South Australians 1836-1885' were published for Australia's bi-centenary in 1990, and continued his efforts by working on the BDM project which saw the creation of the indexes to South Australia's birth, death and marriage records. Max was on this committee from 1998-2006 when the indexes were completed.

He was awarded Fellow of the Society in 1996 and Life Membership in 2018.

Max has written/edited four books: his Shackelford family, two books on the history of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Flinders Street where his funeral was held, and on the development of facilities for handicapped children in South Australia.

Max, after ceasing library duty, worked as a volunteer doing data entry for the research and development records for the Society.

Max died peacefully on Tuesday 16 September 2025, aged 93 years. He will long be remembered for his work for the Society and his contribution to its continuance.

Nancy Baldock
Genealogy SA



Genealogy SA Family History Awards 2024



Entries for the Genealogy SA Family History Awards 2024

TT Reed Family History Award

The TT Reed Family History Award was established several decades ago to improve the standard of family histories, by creating an award through which histories could be upheld as examples of high-quality family histories, which could be used as models for future writers.

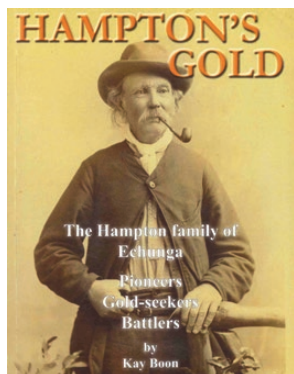
Nine family histories were submitted for judging for the 2024 TT Reed Family History Award.

The decision was made not to make a TT Reed Family History Award for 2024, as none of the histories submitted could be upheld as an exemplar of a high-quality family history. The judges decided that there were problems in the histories presented.

However, two family histories were assessed as telling a good story and were regarded as a 'good read'.

These two family histories were:

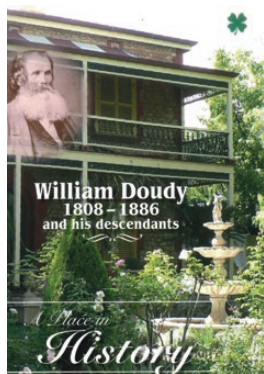
***Hampton's Gold: The Hampton family of Echunga: Pioneers, Gold-seekers, Battlers* by Kay Boon**



'This book commemorates the lives of my Hampton Ancestors. It celebrates the life of Henry Hampton from his Sussex childhood to his 60 years in South Australia as a farmer and bullocky, and to his role in finding gold here. It celebrates the lives of his two stoic and loyal wives Louisa Lane and Elizabeth Hardiman. And it celebrates their legacy through those among their 21 children who themselves produced large families.'

The judges felt that the author presented a family history largely focused on the life of Henry Hampton, with extensive and well-researched detail. In contrast, coverage of subsequent generations is brief and selective, with the third generation receiving only a cursory mention. As a result, the work does not fully meet the spirit of the TT Reed Award. The book would have benefited from editorial input, particularly to improve structure and flow. More charts would have helped readers navigate the complexities of such a large family. Quoted material is used heavily, sometimes in place of narrative integration, which affects readability. That said, the author deserves praise for her excellent indexing, a valuable bibliography, and well-supported endnotes. The section on the Hamptons' involvement in the Echunga Goldfields is especially appealing and informative. Overall, this is a valuable and engaging resource for members of the Hampton family and those interested in their history.

William Doudy: 1808-1886 and his descendants by Colin Doudy and Alice Hyde



'Born in Ireland in 1808, William was to overcome the handicaps of a basic education, poverty, a convict record and the prevailing prejudices against Catholics and the Irish to become a prominent landholder and farmer, eventually leaving a tidy fortune upon his death...This book is largely dedicated to establishing William Doudy's rightful place in the early history of South Australia.'

The judges' view was that the author provided a unique perspective on the Doudy family, tracing their journey from transportation origins to becoming a financially secure and highly respected family. The book includes useful charts and is complemented by a wealth of high-quality images. Appendices offer a generational overview, and there is a reasonably helpful index to assist researchers. However, the book would have benefited significantly

from the inclusion of footnotes or endnotes, along with proper citations. Many of the images lack proper accreditation, and more detailed maps would have enhanced the reader's understanding. At times, the author veers slightly from the central focus of the book, and there are moments where tighter editorial control would have been beneficial. Overall, this is an engaging and informative book that offers valuable insight into the Doudy family and their contribution to South Australia's history.



Andrew Peake presents Kay Boon with her certificate for her book on her Hampton ancestors

The Society has a Family History Writers Special Interest Group which meets on the third Thursday of each month; its role is to help the researcher do what its name suggests. Many of its members have been awarded the TT Reed Family History Award in the past. Intending authors should make use of this group, as it has much to offer the family historian.

I wish to thank my fellow Judges, Nancy Baldock, Barry Horner and Judy Smith, for their contribution in judging the histories submitted.

Andrew Peake OAM
Chair of Judges
Genealogy SA



Andrew Peake presents Colin Doudy with his certificate for his book on William Doudy



Helen Livingston presents Kathy Ahwan with her certificate for Article of the Year



Ian Penrose with his certificate for his article published in the February 2024 Journal



Helen Livingston presents Selina Lucarini with her certificate for her article published in the February 2024 Journal

Helen Livingston
Chair, Marketing & Promotions Committee
Genealogy SA

Article of the Year Award



All articles published in *The South Australian Genealogist* are eligible for consideration for the Society's Article of the Year Award.

This annual award is presented to the author or authors of the most outstanding article(s) published in the journal within a calendar year.

Visit www.genealogysa.org.au for further information.

We would love to read your stories.



Awards and Achievements

2025 Nick Vine Hall Award

The Nick Vine Hall Award is awarded annually by the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) to member societies (in two categories based on membership) for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand. AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters, and to honour Nick Vine Hall AM.

I am pleased to announce that our November 2024 Journal was awarded second prize in Category B (for over 200 members) at the AFFHO National Family History Month opening ceremony on 1 August 2025.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the people 'behind the scenes' who assist me in putting the Journal together. This includes contributors to the Journal, the Editorial Working Group for providing oversight of the production of the Journal, our proofreaders for reading through drafts, and our graphic designer for the layout of the Journal.



Editor, Kathy Ahwan, with the runner-up certificate for the 2025 Nick Vine Hall Award for the Society's November 2024 Journal

2025 Bernadette Bean South Australian Records Management Service Excellence Award

This award recognises and celebrates demonstrated records, information and archives management service excellence in honour of the late Bernadette Bean.

The focus areas of the award include best practice and improvement in records and information management; archives management; knowledge management; and history, cultural heritage, museum and library collection management practices and solutions.

Genealogy SA's Research and Development Committee and teams, led by David Ballinger, was the recipient of a service excellence Runners-up Award for its 'strategic, innovative and collaborative efforts in securing SA's documentary heritage for future generations of researchers, family historians, local communities and the general public'.



Volunteers checking the transfer of data from paper-based records for uploading into Genealogy SA's database

The Award recognises the Society's digitisation program to preserve and archive existing paper records. The Award also acknowledges the Society's outreach program, working with local community groups to scan their records. The local

community group receives a copy of its own archive, and the Society securely stores and manages the digitised version under best practice disaster recovery measures.

Recognition of Volunteer Service

Volunteers contribute in many ways to the operations of the Society—in operational roles in the Special Interest Groups, in the library, on our many projects and in seminars, events and courses or in the research service. No matter the role in which they volunteer, it all adds up to make the Society what it is.

Each year the Society confers Certificates of Appreciation or of Merit on those volunteers who have either made substantial contributions to the Society over a prescribed number of years (10, 20, 30, 40 or 50), or others who have provided an outstanding effort in a particular sphere of our operations.

At the 2025 Annual General Meeting the following volunteers were recognised for their service to the Society:

Certificate of Appreciation for 10 Years Volunteering: Paul Foord

Paul is an active member of the Research and Development Committee. He has led the Irish Born South Australians Project, which has resulted in the publication of a dataset available in Genealogy SA's database. He is currently leading the Cornish Born South Australians Project, with data currently being validated to ensure consistency with the Irish-born dataset. It is anticipated that this data will be published following approval by the Society.

Certificate of Appreciation for 10 Years Volunteering and Certificate of Merit: Barbara Hall

Barbara is an active member of the Research and Development Committee. She originally started volunteering working on transcriptions

and data corrections and later scanning records of the Uniting Church History Society. Looking for more challenging work, Barbara was handed the Quaker records, converting them from an unsearchable file into a format that could be added into Genealogy SA's database. She was also given the shipping files to manage, and still serves as the passenger list team leader, with the information released into the database providing a valuable resource. As well as managing the shipping records, Barbara still helps with data entry, checking and corrections.

Certificate of Appreciation for 10 Years Volunteering: Joan and Wayne Vears

Joan and Wayne can be found assisting members and visitors in the library with their family history research, primarily with access to the microfiche collection and databases in the computer room. They have also attended working bees to check data prior to uploading into the database.

Certificate of Appreciation for 10 Years Volunteering: Inta and Peter Warner

Inta and Peter commenced volunteering at the working bees checking data for uploading into Genealogy SA's database. They then trained as scanners and were involved in the scanning of records at external organisations such as the Mt Barker Anglican Church, St Saviours Anglican Church Glen Osmond, Lameroo, Penola, Uniting Church Historical Society, Greek Orthodox Community of SA and the Whyalla Family History Group. Inta and Peter have also been involved in the archive scanning of all paper-based cemetery records and newspapers, including 70 years of the *Naracoorte Herald*.

Certificate of Appreciation for 20 Years Volunteering: Larysa Cheary

Larysa can be found assisting members and visitors in the library with their family history research, primarily in accessing the microfiche collection and databases in the computer room. Larysa enjoys her role in volunteering and using her knowledge and skills, particularly in Eastern European genealogy, to help others.

Certificate of Appreciation for 20 Years Volunteering: Pat Button

Pat can be found assisting members and visitors in the library with their family history research. She also assists with the checking of school records prior to release into Genealogy SA's database. Pat is also the author of Genealogy SA's book, *A Free Passage to Paradise?*, a compilation of passenger lists of United Kingdom emigrants who applied for free passage to South Australia between 1836 and 1840.

Certificate of Merit: Judi Carr

Judi is an active member of the Research and Development Committee. She started as a volunteer working on data entry and corrections before moving into the role of team leader for war memorials and community commemorations, in which she still plays an oversight role. Judi also took on the role of BISA extension team leader working on unpublished records which resulted in the Biographical Index of South Australians – Supplementary data collection consisting of some 7,160 records in the database. She also assists with the Headstone Image Project managing volunteers to photograph cemetery headstones and correct missing information in existing cemetery databases.

Certificate of Merit: Richard Merry

Richard served as the inaugural convenor of the DNA Special Interest Group for 14 years, retiring earlier this year. Over his 20 years of volunteering he was also the co-convenor of the Computer Special Interest Group, served on the Library Committee, and helped in the library assisting members with their research. More details on Richard's work in the Society was published in the May 2025 Journal.

Certificate of Merit: Aileen Preiss

Aileen first joined the Society in 1999 to research her German ancestry. She joined the Germanic & Continental European Special Interest Group, later serving as co-convenor from 2009 until her retirement in June 2025. She is well-known and highly respected in the Society, and willing to assist members with their research. More details on Aileen's work in the Society was published in the August 2025 Journal.

Happy 100th Birthday



Shirley Sampson OAM with fellow first Council Members, Kingsley Ireland (left) and Andrew Peake OAM (right) at Genealogy SA's 40th anniversary, 2013

Our best wishes go to Shirley Sampson OAM who celebrated her 100th birthday in January 2025. Amongst Shirley's many achievements, she is a foundation member of Genealogy SA, and served as one of the first Council members and the first librarian.

My Writing Journey and the Tools Used

by John A Carvosso



I found writing and publishing the book, *Samuel Carvosso (1814–1874): Coachbuilder & much more*, absorbing, and I learnt many things along the way. My spouse remarked how much of my working life's project management and engineering skills were brought to bear: 'so different' from the approaches used by others.

I have listed the steps in chronological order, although there was plenty of back-tracking and iterations along the way.

Define the intended audience and purpose of the book and keep it in mind throughout

I used to write to a narrow band of technical people but realised I wanted to reach 15 year-olds through to PhD level readers. Quite a breadth. I kept this in mind throughout, keeping the typesetting on each page simple, and improving readability with many figures, while packing plenty of detail in the appendices and endnotes for the researcher.

Focus on Samuel's era and immediate family—both women and men

A previous Genealogy SA TT Reed Book of the Year Award winner told me that he had been challenged by his niece to include all the women descendants too. This he did, although it doubled his work. I followed suit. This led me to focus on both Samuel and, where limited information was available, his wife Louisa. Their descendants were limited to only one or two generations. Otherwise, the research and size of the book would have been overwhelming. These decisions proved foundational, allowing me to focus on my research and writing.

Show not tell

I found this writing suggestion a little hard to understand until I reframed it to 'tell the story but don't provide my insights'. Taking this approach, I hope that my wide range of readers will have the freedom to make their own conclusions about Samuel, Louisa, and the rest of the family.

Legal issues

Writing a published work requires looking at the legal issues. This was a little daunting. However, the following principles were followed:

- *Quotes* were limited to:
 - <400 words per block
 - <800 words from all quoted work. I did quote one author for more than 800 words in the appendices. He graciously gave written permission to use his words.

Where I exceeded this, I received written approval from the originator (copyright holder).

- *Newspapers*: This book was for family history, not a commercial project, where for newspapers published pre-1955, the quote/content falls under the 'open license for newspaper content'. This greatly reduced the permission-seeking work, but I did provide a reference for each source in the endnotes.
- *Illustrations* required permissions, typically requiring a fee to be paid. This put a break on how many I used as the costs soon added up. Fortunately, some sources gave their permission without charge. Besides the State and National art galleries, I also used the State Library and the Cornwall Royal Institute.

- *Copyright Council of Australia* fact sheets proved informative: <https://www.copyright.org.au/browse/book/ACC-Family-Histories-&-Copyright-INFO042/> and <https://www.copyright.com.au/copyright-licence-news-magazines/>.

Pamphlets from the Society of Authors—Self-publishing books

I found their pamphlets online to be useful. Nevertheless, there were also many online sites and library books on self-publishing that I also read.

Style Manual

The Australian Government's Style Manual, <https://www.stylemanual.gov.au>, was familiar to me from my professional working life. I started with this format protocol, though I had to adjust it from technical writing to the industry norm for biographies. The main impact was how I treated quotations. For less than 20 words, I used single quotation marks within the paragraph. For longer quotations, I used an indented quote block without quotation marks. The publisher's typesetter took final control of the formatting.

Writing style books

I browsed several books from the library and my wife's bookshelves. I can recommend the following, but the list is far from exhaustive:

- Lamott, Anne, *Bird by Bird: Some instructions on writing and life*
- King, Stephen, *On Writing*
- Swain, Dwight V, *Techniques of the Selling Writer*

Grammar books

In the end, I relied on *Grammarly* to correct and ensure a uniform approach. Word's more recent Editor is also excellent. However, the following book was useful throughout my writing: Strunk Jnr, William and White EB, *The Elements of Style*.

Research sources

- *Trove*, the National Library online site for a large range of newspapers, [Newspapers & Gazettes Home – Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](https://www.nla.gov.au/newspapers), proved my most valuable source of information. I did need to trial various spellings in 'Search' because both the original publications and the OCR text conversions created errors.
- *State Library of South Australia's* family history section has a large range of family histories, biographies, state history, almanacs/yearbooks, and microfiche. All proved useful sources and helped me decide on a unique approach for my book.
- *State Records of South Australia*: The Research Centre at Gepps Cross was most helpful in providing access to boxes of original documents.
- *SAILIS*, the online site of the Land Services SA provided land sales documents including listings of land owned and sold in the early years <https://sailis.lssa.com.au>.
- Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery advised where Samuel was buried (unmarked) and provided a list of the family members in the same 'family' plot.
- The Historical Society of the Uniting Church in South Australia.
- British Newspapers was not free but gave similar access to UK newspapers as Trove did for Australian. I paid for a month and went hell for leather. <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>
- *Royal Cornwall Institute* <https://www.royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk/>
- *Lloyd's register of ships online* provided ship details, voyages, and ships' captains. [Lloyd's Register of Ships Online | Archive & Library | Heritage & Education Centre \(lrfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.lloydsregisterofships.com/)

- [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) provided a rich though sometimes inaccurate source of details. Its message system put me in contact with family members I would otherwise have not found. Or rather, they found me!
- PhD paper searches provided two surprising sources of information and the authors willing to support me.
- Web articles.
- Google maps, Google earth.

Scrivener

I was very familiar with Word but its limitations against purpose-built authoring software were too apparent. My wife already had Scrivener from a creative writing course recommendation. Checking the pros and cons I saw it was one of the best for a biography/family history book. It was particularly useful for controlling many versions, and enabling quick reshuffling of material until I was happy with the structure of the body and the appendices.

Research folders which contained much of my reference material could be saved in one file. It did become large, so backups were taking up a lot of space. I later moved much of the reference material, especially images, into an archive folder to reduce the Scrivener file size.

Target hours, and hours to go per chapter and sub-chapter, could be set up and appeared on the screen while typing.

Styles were used, which were later easily exported to Word for the editor check, proofreading and typesetting.

There were many other features I used or tried. The only downside was the pages of shortcut keystrokes worth learning. If only I was writing another book to use my knowledge!

Zotero

I used Zotero to manage my bibliographical references, as commonly used in tertiary courses. It also allowed me to store text and PDF copies of source material against the reference. A single click recorded the complete reference from a newspaper article.

The Chicago Manual of Style was adopted by a single key stroke at setup of Zotero.

I used Zotero throughout my research of sources, and then used Scrivener for inserting references with automatic numbering and assembly of endnotes.

The downside was creating the endnotes once exported to Word. There were several procedures available on the internet. However, I wanted numbered endnotes. No single procedure worked for me. It took some hair-pulling time to develop a procedure. I now have a workflow you may request for free.

Figures and tables

Sources and permissions: About 60 illustrations and 10 tables were selected to immerse the reader into the era, but the costs for permissions and the time for quality improving and insertion were much greater than expected.

Vector software for maps and family trees

The best advice I found about family trees was to custom draw your own. I chose a free vector software package, Inkscape, to draw the portions of family trees off Ancestry as would be useful for the reader. Vector format ensures crisp images with small file size. It did take me a week to learn how to use it from online free tutorials, and then another week to draw my trees and two maps, but it was worth it.

Structure

I gave the structure a lot of thought and trailed different versions by moving portions of text around in Scrivener. I chose a chronological approach, with each area of Samuel's life given a complete section of its own. This was settled by the completion of the Beta version. Beta reviewers had only one suggestion, to split up the Cornwall section into more chapters, which I adopted. I had a lot of material which, if added, would take away from the focus on Samuel. So, I placed this in the appendices for further reading and a starting point for others to research.

Publisher

The initial meeting with the owner of Greenhill Publishing (GHP) was foundational for setting up the size of book, overall typesetting style, paper colour, and use of greyscale images. This moved me from what I was thinking as an amateur, to a professional product. The final book has been readily accepted by libraries and buyers as a professional book. The selection of fonts and styles was left entirely to GHP with a very pleasing result and no loss of sleep for me. The advice and setting up in IngramSpark and AmazonKDP, legal library deposits, proof copy checking, etc. have all been professionally managed by GHP, releasing me from a lot of worry.

Cover

Friend Alex Gatley, a graphic designer, came up with a timeless cover which I am very pleased with. I looked at a range of biography and family history covers but I think Alex nailed this!

Word and pdf

I left exporting to Word until I was nearly finished in Scrivener. The editor needed Word for tracking changes, and the publisher for importing into their typesetting package. Only when all changes and corrections were made did I proceed with populating and fine tuning the table of contents, table of figures, tables, and endnotes (bibliography) created from Zotero.

Indexing

This was laborious. I first used Index Generator to generate a Concordance which listed all words. The list was reduced manually to what I considered the important index words people may want to look up. Word then inserted an index, using the separate Concordance document. It automatically added field codes throughout the document and listed the words with page numbers in an index section. Finally, I deleted unhelpful page number references in the Index by deleting its field code on pages throughout the book. I am a great fan of indexes, so I considered this week-long activity worth it. *How to Geek*, www.howtogeek.com, is one site that takes you through the steps.

Grammarly versus Word Editor

During the latter stages of editing, Word launched its Editor. This proved helpful though Grammarly has far more features including writing style suggestions and plagiarism checking. It can also be your check editor saving the cost of employing an editor. My proof editor found little to correct for grammar and spelling.

Lessons learnt for next time (both the good and the bad)

I am still thinking about this, but hopefully I will have greater confidence to ask for reviewer comments.

- *Edit Check* in Scrivener, before exporting to Word for final type setting by the Publisher:

- many other grammar and style checks at sentence, then paragraph then chapter level
- read aloud and/or playback with speech
- check chapter and/or section numbering
- check figure and table numbering
- check proper names to be sure they are spelt consistently and capitalised
- check superscripts against endnotes to be sure they correspond and that none are missing
- check every cross-reference
- check quotation marks to be sure that all are paired and that there are no double quotation marks within double quotation marks
- run spell-check again
- correct images used for each figure.

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Photographic Corner

Sending short messages by texting or emailing is commonplace today but the situation was very different for our ancestors. They wrote letters and posted them until Doctor Emanuel Herrmann, a professor of Economics from Vienna, came up with a new idea—the postcard. In 1869 Austrian Post put his idea into practice. They produced a blank, light-brown card, 8.5 cm x 12 cm, with space for a short message and the address on one side and an officially imprinted stamp on the other. It cost half the price of a normal letter. The practice was soon followed by other countries and in 1870 Samuel James Way brought a British postcard back to Adelaide. The *Evening Journal* of 24 November 1870 gave a full description of this innovation and commented 'Many would be glad to see something of the sort introduced here.' South



(P00282-001)

Australian postcards appeared in 1877. At the time they were for written messages only, with picture postcards being developed during the 1890s, which led to them becoming highly popular in the early 20th century.

For those holidaying, picture postcards were a cheap and easy way of sending photographs of places they visited to others, or to keep as souvenirs of their experiences. Some were printed as a folding set providing different points of interest around the one area.



(P00198-683)

Postcards were a means of having photographs of special events, such as the completion of the Indian Pacific railway line when two construction teams, one starting from Port Augusta and the other from Kalgoorlie, finally met on 17 October 1917 after five years of hard work.



(P00095-144)



(P00159-18)

During World War I postcards were commonly used by service men and women serving overseas to send short messages to their family and friends.



(P00198-754)



(P00152-005)



People found picture postcards a convenient way of showing others about their local area. Today they demonstrate the changes that have taken place over the years, such as the Glenelg tramline once being a trainline and a horsedrawn tram providing public transport on Unley Road.



Photographic studios offered customers the opportunity of producing portraits on postcards as a way of sending photographs to others. When home cameras became available to the general public people could have their home snaps developed on postcards.



(P00161-14)

Collecting postcards has become a popular hobby with organisations formed for buying, selling, trading and giving advice about postcards. Since 2019 World Postcard Day has been celebrated on 1 October, marking the anniversary of the first postcard sent in Austria in 1869.

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for more information.

*My Film Story looks forward to
working with you to tell your unique
story for generations to come.*

New Members & Their Research Interests

If you wish to contact any members listed below, please email the Society at saghs.members@saghs.org.au with your contact details.

BAKER, Mr Mike (BAKER, BAYLISS, CARMICHAEL, EDGECOMBE, NEWBOLD, O'LOUGHLIN, REDDING)

BEECH, Ms Martha (JONES)

BELLMAN, Mrs Jen (PADGHAM, WARD)

BOOKER, Mrs Jill (DIEKMANN-LEWE, MULLER-BERNDORF, STASINOWSKY)

BURGWIN, Mrs Pauline (BINGHAM, CAMPBELL)

CAMPBELL, Mrs Leah (CAMPBELL)

CLEMENTS, Miss Lyn (FORBES, LARKING, MOSS, WHITHALL)

DAVIE, Ms Boronia (BALL, BIRT, O'BRIEN)

GLASSON, Mr Allen (GLASSON, QUICK)

HANRAHAN, Ms Jo (ATLEE, BELL, CRABB(E), HANNA, MANN, MCGEOCH)

HILL, Mrs Vittoria (REICH, WHITE)

HOLLIS, Ms Anne (O'LOUGHLIN)

HULL, Mrs Raelene (HULL, WICKS)

HUSSEY, Mrs Leanne (GREEN, HILL)

HYDE, Mr Peter (MATHESON)

JARRAD, Mr Gary (JARED, JARRAD, JARRED, JARRARD)

KEANY, Ms Angela (BOLGER, CLARK, GALLAGHER, JACOB, KUHN, MCCANN, MCGEE, MCGOVERN, MCLEAN, POWER, WESTON, WINTON)

LATHLEAN, Mr Richard (BISHOP, DEMPSEY, DOWNER, LATHLEAN)

MACKAY, Mrs Jenny (BASTIAN, CAMPBELL, DELISSER, LEAN, LYMBURNER, READ)

MAHER, Mr John (CORCORAN, GALVIN)

MATHEW, Ms Peggy (HAMER, MATHEW)

MILLER, Mrs Shirl (BOULTON, CLARK, KINDLEYSIDE, MILLER, MILLIKAN, WESLEY)

MORCOM, Mr Ron (MILL, MORCOM, PORT, SMITH)

MULLER, Mr Dave (MULLER, WEIL)

NOBLE, Mrs Debbie (BURGESS, ELLIS, GUNTHER, NOBLE, ORCHARD, WALTER)

PHILLIPS, Mrs Christine (PLEW, PROVIS, STODART-HUGHES)

POLLARD, Mrs Joy (PRIDHAM, RUDDOCKS)

RAWLINGS, Mrs Pam (BRUCE, BURKETT)

SPENCER, Mrs Wendy (COOK, SPENCER)

STANLEY, Ms Kym (FINIGAN, STANLEY)

TAYLOR, Ms Julie (COULTER, EAST, RANN, RUTT)

WEDDELL, Ms Jo (INGLIS)

WIESE, Mrs Glenys (JERRED, NEAGLE, WALTER)

WILKINS, Mr Brian (ANDERSON, WILKINS)

WISE, Mr Darryl (JOHNSON, MALONE, MIELS, WISE)



Research & Development Committee Update

by David Ballinger

Marriage registrations project

We are continuing the work on the transcription of seven years of South Australian marriages between 1938 and 1945.

We have so far completed the marriage registrations for 1938 to 1942 and sent them to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and released the information into our databases. Of the other years, 1943 is 5% completed, and is expected to be released into our databases by November 2025. The registration of marriages for 1944 is 75% complete, and 1945 is 30% complete.

We welcome any interest in assisting with this project either as data entry or checking or correction.

Due to restrictions on viewing the original images this work can **ONLY** be done in the Society Library.

External scanning (Outreach program)

The scanning program for 2025 is underway again. This will entail multiple trips into country areas to work with the Lamerook and District Historical Society, the Mallee Tourist and Heritage Centre (Pinnaroo), the Penola History Room, Millicent History Room, Yallum Park Homestead, and Whyalla Family History Group.

We will continue scanning records at the Uniting Church Historical Society and Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia.

Three teams are working from home scanning various records from the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (South Australia),

Whyalla Family History Group, Mallee Tourist and Heritage Centre, and various small groups as well as our own source data.

The future for scanning

We are looking for additional people to be trained to use the scanners to supplement those volunteers already working in the program. Once trained you could be doing scanning in the library or onsite at suburban or country locations.

Wishing to become a part of the database volunteers?

As always, we are always looking for additional volunteers to do either data entry, data checking or data corrections.

Work can be done either at home or in the SAGHS Library.

Working Bees

Our working bees have continued to be popular, and all have been successful in completing a large amount of backlog work and adding new volunteers to the teams.

A general working bee will be held on Sunday 16 November 2025. This will involve work on paper checking, computer corrections and headstone image file renaming.

Online Databases

So far this year, we have updated the marriage registrations, newspaper births, South Australian school admissions and have added a new dataset – Biographical Index of South Australians – Supplementary.

Database preparation work is currently being carried out on the newspaper deaths, newspaper births, all other records, hospital admissions, and cemeteries databases.

For further information

If you would like to:

- assist in our projects with data entry, checking or corrections or scanning of records,
- be involved with our working bees, or
- suggest potential scanning sites that may be a valuable addition to our databases,

please contact me on

saghs.randd@saghs.org.au.

Thank you!

Finally, my thanks to all of the Research & Development Committee, Project Team Leaders, and volunteers for your continued devoted work during this time. Because of your work, we are in a better position now than ever. Well done!

David Ballinger FSAGHS

Chairperson, Research & Development Committee

The Early Days of the Colony of S.A.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly



The Early Days of the Colony of S.A.

This 2nd edition is an important addition to the story of the colonisation of South Australia with the hope of providing an honest view of the interactions between the European settlers and the native population. The book is divided into three sections: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.

The Good section begins with the story of the search for a Governor for South Australia, and his appointment, to the Proclamation and then to other stories of the progress of the colony including many other stories of the good interactions with the native inhabitants.

The Bad section contains stories of the criminal problems experienced with the ever-increasing arrival of convicts from the neighbouring colonies and how Governor Hindmarsh and the law courts dealt with the problem. As a result there were many individuals who suffered the ultimate fate of execution by the hangman, for the terrible crimes they had committed. Many of the tried and convicted runaway convicts from the other colonies were sentenced to transportation back to New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land. The articles also detail the complexities faced by the government and the courts when dealing with crimes committed

against Aboriginals, and by Aboriginals against other Aboriginals and white men, especially when the language barrier meant that an Aboriginal person on trial or as a witness was unable to communicate successfully with the court officials.

The Ugly section tells a range of stories of deaths by accident or just individuals behaving badly towards others or incidents of floods or even dog attacks along with many other general nuisance stories.

This 176-page book is available from the author, Ian Sellick via cedric@senet.com.au at a cost of \$29:50 plus postage



News from the Special Interest Groups

Family History Writers Group

The Writers Group meets monthly from February to November on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Most of our meetings are held via Zoom, but we are also now occasionally enjoying getting back into the Genealogy SA Library for some face-to-face time as well. These meetings are all hybrid meetings so that those not able to be there in person can still join in via Zoom. Hybrid meetings have not been without some challenges, but we are gradually getting used to different ways of doing things and hopefully continue to improve everyone's enjoyment of them.

The Writers Group tries to cover a wide variety of subjects relating to all things writing, whether that be assisting with articles, memoirs, short stories, or books, in whatever format that may take. Recording your research for posterity is important to you and your family, other family historians and sometimes to the broader community. Anything relating to writing about our families and their histories, we like to explore - examining the many aspects all that entails, and of course to talk about it all! Everyone has a story and sharing with other would-be writers is a good way of learning how to begin. Experienced writers are also happy to gain new ideas and different perspectives—it's all grist to our collective mills.

Our recent meetings have included presentations on how to get started with your actual writing, sharing unexpected finds whilst researching and then writing about them, and copyright for family history writers.

Our three convenors, Doreen Kosak, Emily Richardson, and Judy Smith are always looking for new topics and ideas for our group. We

want to learn from members what they would like to hear or who they would like to listen to, please let us know. If you would like to share your story with our group, please contact us via email: saghs.FHW@saghs.org.au.

Co-convenors: Doreen Kosack, Judy Smith & Emily Richardson saghs.FHW@saghs.org.au

French Huguenot Group

On the evening of 26 August 2025, Genealogy SA hosted a trial meeting designed to assess community interest in the formation of a new Special Interest Group dedicated to the story and culture of the French Huguenots. The evening attracted a strong and enthusiastic audience of around 40 people, both in person and online, confirming that there is both curiosity and commitment within South Australia's genealogical community to explore this significant chapter of world and Australian history.

The guest speaker for the evening was Robert Nash, representing the French Huguenot Society of Australia. Robert delivered what can best be described as a masterclass in history and storytelling. His presentation provided not only a thorough chronological account of the Huguenots, but also an engaging and entertaining narrative that kept the audience absorbed throughout.

Robert began by addressing the central question: Who were the French Huguenots? He traced their origins in France during the Reformation, describing the rapid growth of Protestant communities and the turbulence that followed. He spoke candidly about the religious persecution faced by the Huguenots, culminating in the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, which forced many to flee their homeland in search of safety.

The talk then widened its lens to chart the extraordinary migration journeys undertaken by these communities. Robert explained how the Huguenots scattered across Europe, settling in countries such as England, the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland, before extending their reach to North America, South Africa, and Australia. Each wave of migration contributed unique skills and traditions to their host societies, and Robert emphasised the enduring cultural, intellectual, and economic legacy of these displaced people.

For the South Australian audience, one of the highlights was Robert's exploration of famous Australians of Huguenot descent, including several prominent South Australians. These examples brought the story closer to home, illustrating that the Huguenot influence is not only part of Europe's history but also embedded in Australia's own social and cultural fabric.

The presentation succeeded in doing more than providing a history lesson; it created a sense of living connection between past and present. Robert's balance of detailed scholarship with lively anecdotes made the Huguenots' journey both accessible and inspiring.

I am delighted to share that, thanks to the strong interest and support shown at the trial meeting, Genealogy SA has now formally approved the establishment of a French Huguenot Special Interest Group. Having proposed and led the trial, I am honoured to convene this new group and look forward to curating an engaging and varied program of activities in the months ahead. With the welcomed support of others, my vision is to include, though not limited to, general discussions, presentations and exploration of the traditions, customs, and enduring lessons of Huguenot history.

Most importantly, the spirit of the evening affirmed that this will be a group open to all who are interested—whether they have Huguenot ancestry, or are simply eager to learn more about this remarkable community.

The successful pilot meeting has thus laid a strong foundation for what promises to be a vibrant and inclusive Special Interest Group within Genealogy SA. Further information on the SIG's calendar of events will be communicated shortly.

Convenor: Shaun Devison
saghs.huguenot@saghs.org.au

Scotland Group

The topic for our August meeting was 'Scottish Clans; are they relevant to genealogy?'

The word, clan, derives from the Gaelic form of '*clann*' meaning children or stock. Clan has the generic meaning of a Gaelic kindred group, with a common surname and common ancestor, stemming principally from the Highlands and Western Isles.

It is generally recognised that the Scottish clans evolved and became established in the 13th century. The Scottish Crown had taken back control of the west of Scotland and the Western Isles from the Norse. Authority was weak in the Highlands and the people banded together in clans for mutual protection.

The clan consisted generally of 'native men' and 'broken men'. The 'native men' were those who were related to the chief and to each other by blood ties. This blood relationship is an important fundamental in the clan system and was a strong element in the patriarchal system of government. The 'broken men' were individuals or groups from other clans who had sought and obtained the protection of the clan. The clan often also contained 'septs' or branches composed of

clansmen who had become powerful or prominent in some way and founded families almost as important as that of the chief.

Having a clan surname does not automatically mean that you are descended from a clan chief. The ability of a clan to defend its territory from other clans depended greatly on attracting as many followers as possible. Being a member of a large and powerful clan became a distinct advantage in the lawless Highlands and followers might adopt the clan name to curry favour with the laird, to show solidarity, for basic protection, or because their lands were taken by a more powerful neighbour and they had little option. Conversely, not all members of a clan used the clan surname.

Kathy HANCOCK gave an excellent presentation to the group about the Clans of DRUMMOND and MCCULLOCH and her links with these clans, both of which have an interesting history. Badges for these clans have been handed down through Kathy's family; however, Kathy hasn't been able to establish a genealogical link to these clans.

Clan societies have been established in many countries where there has been significant Scottish migration. These societies aim to preserve and promote the heritage of Scottish clans and offer opportunities for individuals to connect with their Scottish ancestry, participate in cultural events, and learn about clan history and traditions. Some clan societies maintain genealogical records for their clan. The Scottish Australian Heritage Council has information about the clan societies in Australia at <https://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au/>.

A comprehensive reference text is the 'Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia' by George Way and Romilly Squire which is available on the Internet Archive. The SAGHS

library also has a number of publications on clans in the Scotland reference section.

At the September meeting we discussed 'Scotland's Poor Laws'. The first Act that contained provision for the poor in Scotland passed in 1425, and drew a distinction between the able-bodied beggar and those unable to earn a living for themselves.

The establishment of the Protestant Church of Scotland following the Scottish Reformation in 1560 introduced a simplified church structure based on the local parish administered by the Kirk Session (or church court—the minister and elders of the church). Poor relief was made a responsibility of the parish and the heritors (local landowners) following an Act passed in 1579. Funds for relief came from voluntary contributions and other income such as fines and payments for marriages and baptisms. The parish could also decide to impose a legal tax assessment if these funds were insufficient.

Poor relief became a major political issue in the early 19th century due to unemployment and social disruption resulting from the industrial revolution. In 1843 a Royal Commission of Inquiry was appointed to enquire into the operation of the Poor Law in Scotland and to make recommendations to improve the system. The recommendations of the Commission led to the adoption of the *Poor Law Amendment Act* of 1845. The major changes concerned the administration of the system of relief. A central body, the Board of Supervision, was established to oversee operation of the Act with Parochial Boards established and Inspectors of the Poor appointed in each parish.

The Inspector of the Poor could decide to provide indoor relief (for those in the poorhouse), outdoor relief (payments to those not in the poorhouse) or refuse the application. A right of appeal was available

through the Sherrif Courts. The unemployed able-bodied were denied any right for relief. This was the major difference between the English and the Scottish systems.

The responsible parish was the parish of birth or where the person had been living for the past five years. A pauper could be transported back to their hometown, or another parish could be asked to pay the relief. Many Irish or English applicants applying for relief in Scotland were sent back to Ireland or over the border if they did not meet the 5 years 'settlement' in a parish.

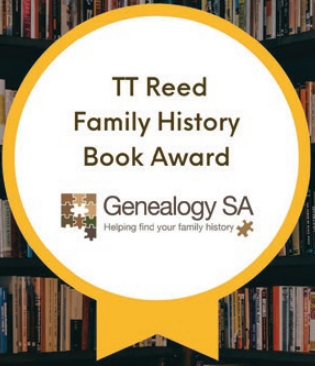
Prior to 1845, payments to the poor were often recorded in the Kirk Session accounts or minutes that are available on the *ScotlandsPeople* site (although with little detail). Records of applications for relief under the new system post-1845 include comprehensive information about the applicant and their situation. Some of the surviving records are available online but many are held by local archives and family history societies.

Chris WRIGHT presented the information that she had found in the Kirk Session records about a family member that she had been researching.

There are many sites that have information about the poor laws. An interesting site is workhouses.org.uk. Details of the poorhouses in Scotland are available on this site as well as information on where records can be found for each county.

Our last meeting for 2025 will be on Sunday 30 November when we will have a 'Members Show and Tell' which will give members of the group an opportunity to present an aspect of their research, family history or even a trip to Scotland.

Convenor: Marcus Thornton
saghs.scotland@saghs.org.au



The logo for the TT Reed Family History Book Award is a yellow ribbon-like shape with a white circle in the center. Inside the circle, the text "TT Reed Family History Book Award" is written in a serif font. Below this, the "Genealogy SA" logo is displayed, featuring a small tree icon and the text "Genealogy SA" in a sans-serif font, with the tagline "Helping find your family history" underneath.

Entries for the 2025 TT Reed Family History Award are now open.

The TT Reed Family History Award is for a book published in 2025 by a South Australian, or substantially about the lives and times of a predominantly South Australian family.

This award is made annually by the Society to a person or persons producing, in the opinion of the Society, the best family history in a given calendar year.

For further details and an application form visit www.genealogysa.org.au.

**Entries close 4:00 pm
Friday 30 January 2026.**

What's On

Listed below are upcoming events held by Genealogy SA. These events are current at the time of printing. Visit www.genealogysa.org.au/whats-on/events-calendar for updates.

NOVEMBER 2025

- 5 **Wednesdays@1:** How Much Evidence is Enough?, 1:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 5 **Genealogy Computer Users Group:** 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 6 **England Group:** The Legacy of the Vikings, 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 9 **Sharpen Your Research Skills:** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, via Zoom
- 10 **Irish Group:** Land Records – analysing Griffith's Valuation and other land records including FamilySearch's Full Test Search, 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 11 **Family Historian Software Users Group:** Renovating Family Historian: A tiered approach, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 12 **Germanic & Continental European Group:** From Saxon Soil to the Great Southland: the Petschel Wends seek a place to settle and farm, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 16 **Working Bee – General:** 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library
- 18 **Library Tour:** 7:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library
- 19 **DNA in Family History Group:** Hunting Down Blank Profiles & Matches with No Tree, 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 20 **Family History Writers Group:** 'A Strange Man', From an Idea to a Book, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 25 **Library Tour:** 11:00 am, Genealogy SA Library
- 30 **Scotland Group:** Members Show and Tell, 2:00 pm, via Zoom

DECEMBER 2025

- 4 **England Group:** Christmas Gathering – Present Your Interesting Family History Story, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 8 **Irish, DNA, Scotland and Family History Writers Groups:** Combined Christmas Party, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library
- 9 **Family Historian Software Users Group:** Custom Facts: Pros and Cons, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 10 **Germanic & Continental European Group:** Following a German Family Around South Australia, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library
- 20 **Genealogy SA Library:** closes for Christmas/ New Year break, 4:30 pm

JANUARY 2026

- 6 **Genealogy SA Library:** re-opens for research, 10:00 am
- 13 **Family Historian Software Users Group:** Open Session – Bring Your Questions, 7:00 pm, via Zoom

FEBRUARY 2026

- 1 **Scotland Group:** 2:00 pm, via Zoom
- 4 **Genealogy Computer Users Group:** 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 5 **England Group:** Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 9 **Irish Group:** 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 10 **Family Historian Software Users Group:** 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 11 **Germanic & Continental European Group:** 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 12 **French Huguenot Group:** 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 18 **DNA in Family History Group:** 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 19 **Family History Writers Group:** 7:00 pm, via Zoom

Special Interest Groups

Meetings of Special Interest Groups are held each month online via Zoom or in the Genealogy SA Library.

For more information on joining a Zoom meeting please contact the Genealogy SA office on (08) 8272 4222, saghs.admin@saghs.org.au or visit the Genealogy SA online Events Calendar www.genealogysa.org.au/whats-on/events-calendar.

Regular Meeting Dates

Genealogy Computer Users Group:

1st Wednesday of every month
(not December and January)

England Group:

1st Thursday of every month (not January)

Irish Group:

2nd Monday of every month (not January)

Family Historian Software Users Group:

2nd Tuesday of every month

Germanic & Continental European Group:

2nd Wednesday of every month (not January)

DNA in Family History Group:

3rd Wednesday of every month (not January)

Family History Writers Group:

3rd Thursday of every month (not January)

Scotland Group: 1st Sunday of every
2nd month (not January)

French Huguenot Group: 2nd Thursday of
every 2nd month (not January)



Public Holiday Opening Hours 2026

The Genealogy SA Library will be
OPEN from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on

Australia Day

26 January 2026 (Monday)

Adelaide Cup Day

9 March 2026 (Monday)

Easter Saturday

4 April 2026 (Saturday)

ANZAC Day

25 April 2026 (Saturday)

King's Birthday

8 June 2026 (Monday)

Labour Day

5 October 2026 (Monday)



Library Tours

Have you walked into the Library and felt overwhelmed, not knowing where to start?

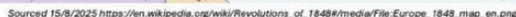
Why not join one of our Library tours and learn more about the many resources that we have to help you with your family research?

Tours are free for members. Check our Events Calendar for dates and times at: www.genealogysa.org.au/whats-on/events-calendar

News from the Germanic & Continental Europe Group

So, although the word Buchsfelde can be loosely translated to 'Field of Books', this wasn't how the name of this farming community came about, and memorialising Buchsfelde became important to me as this little community had a significant impact on the wider fledgling South Australian colony.

The complexities relating to what caused this uprising have too many intricate and interrelated parts to provide sufficient details to allow for a detangled causation in this article, but it warrants an overview as Otto SCHOMBURGK was responsible for the public announcement advising the date and details of the funeral procession to the cemetery of those killed on 22 March 1848.²



Otto had previously been sentenced to death for his participation in pushing for personal and political liberties such as freedom of the press, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom to practice a trade or profession and freedom of movement.³

Otto Schomburgk's documented incarceration dates

1832 - Otto likely participated in the Hambacher Fest on 27-30 May 1832 as a member of 'Die Germania' fraternity, 'reife'.

1834 - Arrested 5 December 1834 - 5 February 1835 when a student of Theology in Halle.

1836 - Arrested again in March 1836 for being a 'Vermittler' and a member of the student fraternity 'Burschenschaft' and transferred to the SAHJ's Office Berlin. Remanded by Mr von Kampe in the Magdeburg Fortress for preliminary punishment on 28 May 1836.

1836 - Sentenced on 4 August 1836 to loss of cap badge, confiscation of property and death by beheading for being a member of a treasonous organisation (i.e. a student fraternity).

1836 - In March the death sentence was commuted to life (30 years) imprisonment.

1837 - Imprisoned 1837 in the Magdeburg Fortress.

1840 - Released 14 August 1840, as a result of the amnesty signed by Friedrich Wilhelm at Sans Souci on 15 August 1840.

1848 - Incarcerated and/or court-martialed for participating in the March Revolution of 1848/49. Mr Alex Mendelssohn-Strauss issued a warning to Carl Schomburgk (cousin) in Hamburg Germany, on Otto's behalf.

Incarcerated for 4 years and 7 months



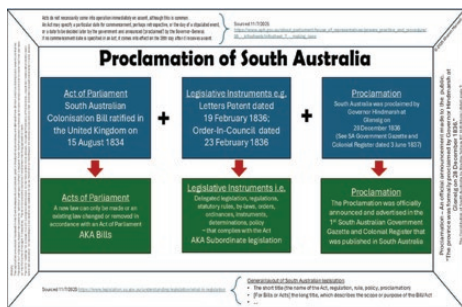
Release

1832 - 1834
1834 - 1835
1836 - 1840
1840 - 1848
1848 - 1850

The SCHOMBURGKs amongst others found their names on the 'blacklist' because of their involvement in the 'Liberality' movement and they soon realised the only option available would be to leave their homeland.

This resulted in the ship *Princess Louise* being chartered and German revolutionaries, intellectuals, artists and engineers⁴ and their families, set sail for Australia in March of 1849.

This group of high-minded Germans sailed to the other side of the world and 134 days later arrived in the infant colony of South Australia, which had been proclaimed a dozen or so years earlier.



Proclamation of South Australia

As there are many views about whether Proclamation occurred and when it occurred in South Australia,⁵ I shall devote a few lines on the subject.

A learned South Australian⁶ who had been honoured by some of Australia's sharpest legal minds wrote:⁷ 'The province was formally proclaimed by Governor HINDMARSH at Glenelg on 28 December 1836.'⁸

This person was Bradley Maxwell SELWAY (1955-2005) and he was the Solicitor-General for South Australia from 1995-2002, and a judge of the Federal Court of Australia from 2002 until his death.⁹

He was appointed Kings Council in 1994 and was a former adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide.¹⁰

Therefore, if anyone could accurately identify when South Australia was proclaimed, it would be Brad SELWAY as he was involved with legislation all his working life and knew the intricacies of when an Act of Parliament was proclaimed.

The birth of Buchsfelde, South Australia

As mentioned previously, the catalyst for the birth of Buchsfelde was political persecution and to a lesser extent economic insecurity that resulted in the SCHOMBURGK brothers and some other well-educated friends forming the 'Berlin Emigration Society',¹¹ which later appears to have become the 'South Australian Colonisation Society'.¹² It is likely these two organisations were registered in Prussia.¹³

A similar group that was incorporated in South Australia in 1850 was 'The German Immigration Society' and their executive appears over.

Chairman	FW Jansen	JW Jansen
Secretary	R Reimer	
Members	C Boehne (sic)	Dr C Boehme
	Dr C Muecke	Dr C Mueke (sic)
	B Nollenius	B Nollenius
	R Reimer	R Reimer
	Dr Otto Schomburgk	O Schomburgk
	J Scramm	J Schramm

German Immigration Society
instituted in South Australia in 1850
The Royal South Australian Almanack, page 75

Buchsfelde came into being upon the purchase of the 84 acres on the Gawler River by the SCHOMBURGK brothers and others. Otto and Richard SCHOMBURGK purchased 63 acres and August Albert KLEY from Berlin had 7 acres and Friedrich Otto Leberecht PIEPER from Tangermunde had the remaining 14 acres.

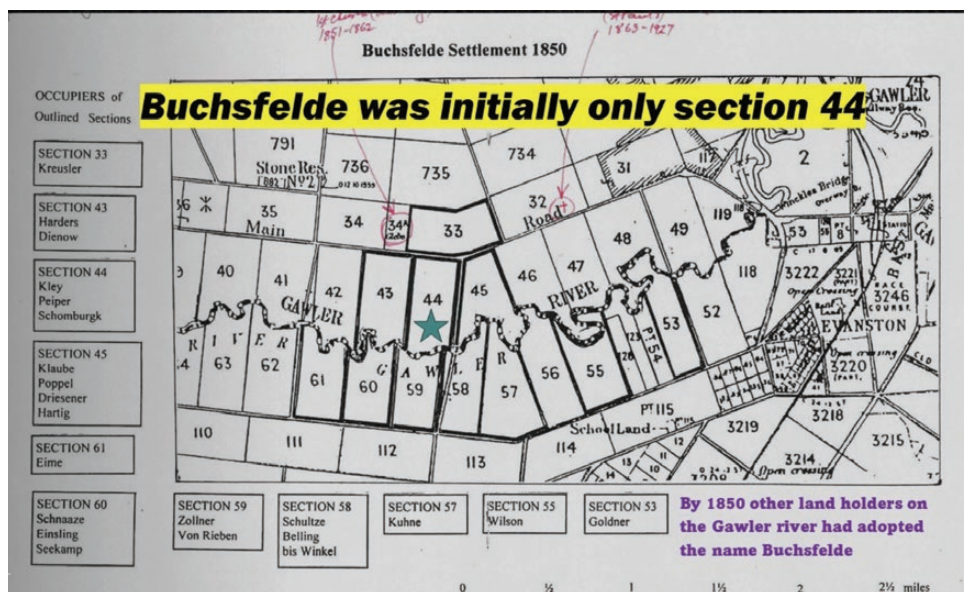
Prior to this, the first grant of Section 44 Hundred of Mudla Wirra went to Robert LOWES in 1848 and within 12 months it had been transferred to Friedrich Wilhelm TEMME¹⁴ and then to the SCHOMBURGKS on 19 September 1849.

‘The German speaking immigrants who settled in Buchsfelde, near Gawler, had supported the 1848 revolutionary uprising in the German principalities. They were liberal intellectuals and educated elites who valued political freedom, social democracy and the pursuit of science and rationalism.’¹⁵

‘They were not religious refugees like the Lutherans who had arrived in 1838 and 1839. They were political and to some extent economic migrants. Their contribution to South Australia’s history, science and culture would be great and long lasting.’¹⁶

Nomenclature of Buchsfelde

The SCHOMBURGK brothers named their farm at Section 44 ‘Buchsfelde’ in honour of a notable geologist named Leopold VON BUCH, who upon their departure from the fatherland, presented them with 300 thalers, accompanied by a note stating that in case he ever visited South Australia he would want the shelter of a roof, and therefore he wished to contribute towards the provision of one.¹⁷



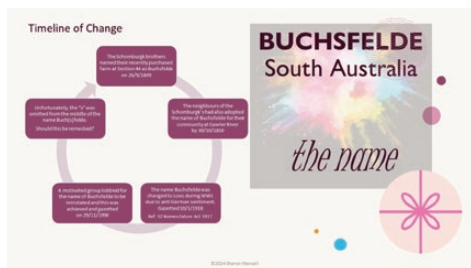
Prior to the SCHOMBURGKs arriving in 1849, the area was referred to as 'Gawler River'. It doesn't appear to have suffered too much of an identity crisis, despite having been referred to by many names over the past 176 years.

Other residents living at Gawler River adopted the name 'Buchsfelde' for their community. This official name remained in place for this small portion of postcode 5118 for 69 years. Then after World War I when so much anti-German sentiment was rife, the name changed as the Teutonic name was considered a 'name of enemy origin'.

The Buchsfelders were mortally offended when the state nomenclature committee decided to eliminate the name of Buchsfelde along with 68 other place names considered to be of alien origin, because they felt to do so was disrespectful and disingenuous to one 'who rendered some service to the State.'

The name that was ultimately decided upon was Loos, which was named after a town in France where the biggest British attack took place between 25 September and 8 October 1915.

So, in early 1918 the name for the community of Buchsfelde officially became Loos.



A newspaper article in 1929 indicated the then Premier of South Australia (Hon RL BUTLER) wanted to restore certain German names of historic value and Buchsfelde was one of them. It was stated the name Loos should be changed back to Buchsfelde to

commemorate the work of German settlers who hold a definite place in the records of pioneering efforts and the development of the state.¹⁸

Regardless of many prominent persons in South Australia also promoting the cause, it was not until 1990 that the name officially returned. Therefore, it took 72 years following the end of World War I to come to fruition when the name Loos once again became Buchsfelde, albeit with the 's' missing from the middle of the single word.

One historian commented thus:

'Buchsfelde's name returns!'

Many German place names in South Australia were anglicized in the early 20th Century, when the British empire was at war with Germany. Most South Australians will know many popular towns whose names were juggled about in this way, but thankfully have now been restored to their original names. Buchsfelde too was a casualty of war and lost its name to – Loos. However, it is believed that the Buchsfelde name has, or is being restored and the original name (incorrectly spelled) now appears in current editions of the UBD Street Directory. Our contact tells us that this incorrect spelling is the next thing to be addressed.'

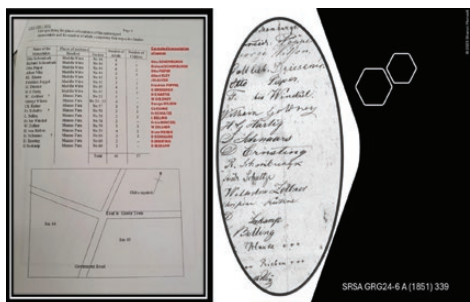


Where is Buchsfelde?

These days its boundary is now identified as Gawler River on the south; Northern Expressway on the west and north and the Gawler Bypass Road on the east.

Otto SCHOMBURGK wrote on Christmas Day in 1849 about Buchsfelde:

*'On 30°41' southern latitude and 138°54' eastern longitude lies the former section 44 with 84 acres at the Gawler river. To the south of it lies the Gawler with the friendly shade of eucalyptus trees, on the northern border is the so-called Pine Forest, on the eastern border a not yet used governmental road and in the west it is bordering to some sections already settled.'*¹⁹



Who were Buchsfelders?

The earliest and most inclusive written record of Buchsfelders has been sourced from State Records SA, when an application was made for a glebe for the church and schoolhouse at Section 34A.



Although it is widely believed that Buchsfelders arrived on the *Princess Louise*, my ancestors who purchased Section 45 had arrived on the *George Washington* and the list of persons who subscribed their names for the glebe were mostly from *Princess Louise*, but the

next greatest number of the earliest inhabitants had arrived on the *George Washington* in 1846.

They were 'Latin farmers' living north and south of the Gawler River and within months of purchasing land, this group of progressive pioneers who held a balanced aptitude between head, hand and heart (i.e. analytical intelligence, hardworking and human esteem) chose to create a society where process and needs were optimised through collective consciousness.



In the beginning, the SCHOMBURGKs lived in dugouts in the banks of the Gawler River and from such humble beginnings emerged a group of South Australians who paved the way for a better quality of life for future generations; they not only 'envisioned the light at the end of the tunnel, but proactively ignited it'.

It has been stated in *The First Hundred Years of Foreign-language Journalism* on page 9 that Otto SCHOMBURGK was the founder of *Sued Australische Zeitung* and that he later sold his business to Gustav DROEGE. The same article states 'In the 1860's the editor of the paper was the versatile Dr Karl [sic] Muecke, a refugee of the 1848 revolutions and one of the founders of a Utopian Community of German intellectuals in Buchsfelde, now Loos SA.'²⁰

MUECKE has also been described as 'perhaps the most talented German and one of the most learned men ever to come to South Australia prior to World War 1.'²¹

It is recorded in Adelaide A-Z 'The Gawler Institute Museum was bolstered by a strong input from the local Buchsfelde community of German 1849 settlers.'

So it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to believe the story provided by my great-grandmother that some specimens collected by persons living at Buchsfelde are housed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, considering that Richard SCHOMBURGK became the Gawler Museum's collection curator.

Important flora and fauna specimens were contributed by Otto SCHOMBURGK and scientist Marianne VON KREUSLER (1811-1892) whose collection of insects was considered to be the best in the colony. Part of her collection was sold to the South Australian Museum in Adelaide.

The SCHOMBURGKs along with some Buchsfelders and others, have been highly regarded in colonial writings and one of these is titled *Remembering German-Australian Colonial Entanglement: An Introduction*. It is stated; 'they brought their 'epistemic traditions' to Australia, and not only became 'deeply entangled with the Australian colonial project' but also were 'intricately involved in imagining, knowing and shaping colonial Australia.'²²

High praise indeed by peers of elevated standing within the national sphere who were not content to accept the status quo, but actively strove to achieve optimum outcomes for all.

Others who lived in Buchsfelde and likely contributed specimens that were either retained or exchanged with world-renowned museums were taxidermist and naturalist Johannes ODEWAHN (1831-1876) and GOYDER's forgotten botanist, Frederick SCHULTZE (1804-1902).

An article in the *South Australian Weekly Chronicle* stated:

'Our German fellow colonists as a class do not often bring themselves into particular public notice. They are a quiet, respectable, plodding industrious section of the community, who seem contented to "jog on light of heart", as Carlyle says, minding their own business, and not interfering with that of other people. But because they are quiet and plodding they are not the less an important class of colonists – in fact, many of the British inhabitants of the province might learn some valuable lessons from them. They are just the right kind of people for a young colony, as their steady industry and easy temperament enable them to bear up under hardships and difficulties, and slowly but surely to work their way into a comfortable independence.'

The Constitution Act of South Australia established self-government in the province with what was the most advanced democratic constitution^{24, 25, 26} in the world at that time.²⁷

South Australia's Constitution included:

- the right to vote;
- the right to trial by jury for certain offences;
- some protection of freedom of religion;
- an implied right to freedom of political communication; and
- the right to be paid a fair price if the government compulsorily acquires your property.

How grateful Otto must have felt to have known that his adopted country valued the same democratic rights that he did, even though he only lived for another 10 months after the *Constitution Act 1856* was proclaimed.

Likely he would have thought it was all worth it, given the protracted imprisonment he had received in the fatherland.

Another Buchsfelder was Dr Ulrich HUBBE. Horst K LUCKE states in his book *The Germans in Early South Australia*:

*'...Another was Ulrich Hübbe. These men were exceptions. It was the failure of the liberal German revolution of 1848 which caused many a well-educated, disaffected liberal to turn his back on Germany and seek greener pastures overseas, including in Australia. There was Dr Carl Muecke from Berlin, who worked for the Südaustralische Zeitung, which had been founded by Otto Schomburgk, father [sic] of the renowned Richard Schomburgk, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. In medicine, Dr W H Scholz, founder of the Willows Hospital, opened in 1883, deserves to be mentioned.'*²⁸

An article in *The Advertiser* states other *Princess Louise* passengers initially situated at Buchsfelde were: VON RIEBEN, PIPER, DIINOW, KREUSLER, HARDERS, KLEY and GUNTER families.²⁹

Two cemeteries 1.5 kilometres apart on Two Wells Road



The first church/chapel was built to accommodate 20 families, and Otto SCHOMBURGK writes on 25 December 1849:

'Soon 5 friendly looking white coloured huts sprang up. They were all built by the inhabitants without the help of a mason, a carpenter, a cabinet maker or a glazier from the foundations to the chimney.'³⁰

At the time when the wooden church at Buchsfelde blew down, it was claimed that more rain fell in one week than had fallen in the previous nine years, and the Gawler and Para Rivers had broken their banks flooding the countryside.³¹

The second church was built by the ROEDIGER brothers and their father; from solid freestone (quarried nearby).³² It was officially opened on 20 December 1863 and was largely free of debt in part due to the Tanunda Liedertafel Orchestra and the sacred concert they held on 24 August 1863.

Dr Carl MUECKE was ministering to the Buchsfelders after the death of Otto SCHOMBURGK. At this time, he was also ministering to his parishioners at Tanunda and other localities (Lyndoch, Concordia, Schonfeldt, Kingsbelt, Pine Hut and New Mecklenburg), and was instrumental in arranging a concert by the Liedertafel in the Tanunda Chapel for the benefit of the Buchsfelders who had lost their chapel in a windstorm the previous year.

'Dr. R. Schomburgk and Mr, Winkel [sic], of the Buchsfelde congregation, were present, and the amount collected was placed into their hands by the Secretary of the Liedertafel...'³³

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Book Review: The Royal Sappers and Miners in South Australia 1839-1860

by Barry Horner

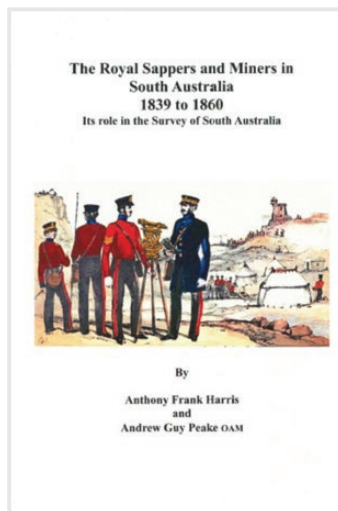
The Royal Sappers and Miners in South Australia 1839-1860: Its role in the survey of South Australia, by Anthony (Tony) Frank Harris [deceased] and Andrew Guy Peake OAM. Published in 2025 with support from the History Trust of South Australia.

This book is a fascinating collaboration stemming from two complementary backgrounds: Tony Harris's military focus and Andrew Guy Peake's wider expertise in early South Australian history. Peake's aim was to create a logical sequel to his *Biographical Register of South Australian surveyors: 1836 to 1936*, and together, they have produced an invaluable work.

While the book's primary structure is a series of detailed biographies of the men who served with the Royal Sappers and Miners (RS&M) in South Australia between 1839 and 1860, the work captivates all readers interested in the colony's founding years. The chosen starting date, 1839, is highly significant. It marks a period when South Australia was in severe peril of failing due to its unique, non-convict-supported founding model. The book wisely begins by providing a succinct overview of the complex issues that obstructed the colony's early progress and prosperity.

Research and Clarity

The depth of the research and the authors' approach to the biographies are immediately apparent. From the outset, the text is prolifically supported by solid citation, making it easy for future researchers to follow in the authors' footsteps. The breadth of research



is evident as the reader moves through the individual lives.

A particular strength is the authors' efforts to clearly distinguish between cited facts and their own commentary or qualifications, ensuring high clarity on the provenance of all information.

The systematic biographical approach ensures the authors track the full profile of each serviceman's life. For most, the story ends either with death in South Australia or a return to England. However, thorough research sometimes reveals a continued civilian journey, such as that of Private Joshua Wormold, whose family emigrated to America where he subsequently died.

Lasting Legacy and Hardship

The book offers valuable insight into the early naming of many geographical features within

the colony. It highlights how features were often named after members of the survey party rather than prominent colonial figures. This was not a fixed system; what stands out is the fluidity of such naming practices—names could be altered with a simple stroke of a pen, sometimes without clear attribution. For example, Private Pasmore, a member of Captain Frome's 1843 expedition, initially had a river named after him, which was later changed to Wilpena Creek under unclear circumstances. This practice extended to country streets, many of which still bear the names of survey party members, further illustrating the lasting, if sometimes historically murky, legacy of these men.

The narratives are punctuated by gems of information that, while not always pleasant, underscore the immense hardships of the pioneers. The book conveys this history through vivid imagery, such as the account of the death of Private Thwaites' daughter, Emily Julia, in somewhat gruesome circumstances.

The authors have made every attempt to canvas the facts of each RS&M member. Where facts are speculative or unclear, this is made very apparent, reflecting an in-depth understanding of the workings of the Royal Sappers and Miners and the Survey Office of the time.

Beyond the individual biographies, which are arranged in alphabetical order, the book provides a truly impressive supporting apparatus. A comprehensive index of all personal and ship names ensures ready access to any needed reference. This is further complemented by the inclusion of four detailed appendices, which consolidate key data: a calendar showing each serviceman's service, trade, and ship of arrival; an overview of each serviceman's family; a listing of ships and the servicemen who travelled on them; and finally, a summary of British Regiments in South Australia.

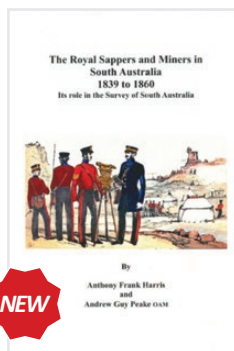
Conclusion

This is a highly commendable book not only for its meticulous detail on the individuals but also for shedding much-needed light on a crucial period of South Australia's history. It documents the transition away from the 'ostrich' management style of those back home in 'The Adelphi' (the Colonial Office) and towards a pragmatic approach that enabled the vital land sale momentum needed to rescue the colony from bankruptcy. Furthermore, the legacy to family history researchers—having family details and supporting citations preserved within these pages—will be immense.

The Royal Sappers and Miners in South Australia 1839-1860 is a welcomed and essential addition to the repository of books attesting to South Australia's history, and the History Trust of South Australia's support for its publication is fully acknowledged.

Editor's note: This book is now available in Genealogy SA's Shop for \$55.00 (Members: \$50.00).

Bookshop

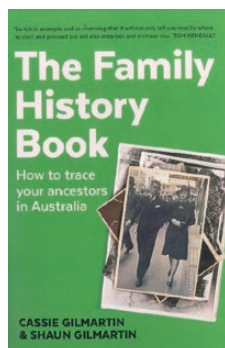


The Royal Sappers and Miners in South Australia 1839 to 1860: Its role in the survey of South Australia

by Anthony Frank Harris and Andrew Guy Peake

This book includes biographies of sappers and miners involved in the survey of South Australia. These sappers and miners were the backbone of the Survey Office for two decades in South Australia, and their officer in charge, Captain Edward Charles Frome, set the ground rules for surveying in South Australia. One of his lasting legacies was his instruction that indigenous place names should be used wherever possible.

\$55.00 (Members: \$50.00)



The Family History Book

by Cassie and Shaun Gilmartin

The Family History Book takes you through the steps of researching and building a family tree, finding records of births, deaths and marriages, looking up newspaper archives and probate records, researching immigration and shipping, examining military records, as well as discovering your story through DNA testing.

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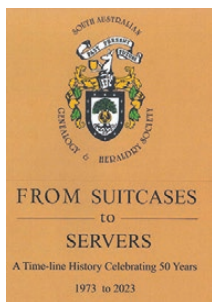


Coromandelians: South Australian Pioneers of the Coromandel

by Brian Stace and William Othams

The full story of the ship *Coromandel*, its voyage to South Australia in 1836–1837, its passengers and crew and their contribution to colonial South Australia, with detailed biographies.

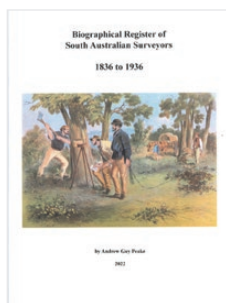
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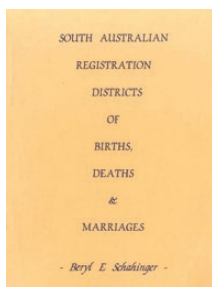
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Biographical Register of South Australian Surveyors 1836 to 1936 by Andrew Guy Peake

The Biographical Register attempts to provide some basic information on the birth and death, and the surveying achievements, of over 460 surveyors who operated in South Australia.

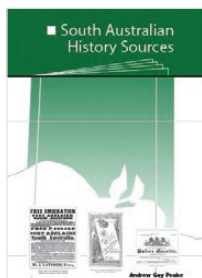
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South Australian Registration Districts of Births, Deaths & Marriages by Beryl E Schahinger

This is a history of South Australia's registration districts and the records available, together with a wealth of practical suggestions for genealogists and family historians accessing South Australian vital records.

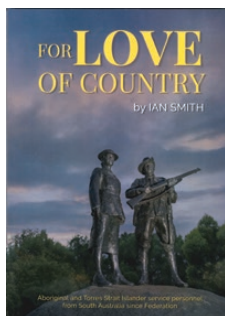
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South Australian History Sources by Andrew Guy Peake

An essential reference guide for local and family historians researching in South Australia. This book is a revision of the 1977 edition, providing an update of South Australian history sources. The author notes the changes in record repositories, the increasing access through the internet, and the impact of privacy concerns on access to records and their content.

\$50.00 (Members: \$45.00)



For Love of Country

by Ian Smith

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service personnel from South Australia since Federation. This book chronicles the military service to Australia rendered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service personnel who have a verifiable link to South Australia. This book animates the lives and service of 422 men and women as a factual record of their service, their life and times before, during and after their service.

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Family History for Beginners & Beyond

by The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc

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Electronic submissions only.

Email: saghs.editor@saghs.org.au

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