



The South Australian GENEALOGIST

May 2026 Vol 53 No 2



About Genealogy SA

The South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc. Founded in 1973

PO Box 3114, Unley, SA 5061

Library: 201 Unley Road, Unley SA 5061

Enquiries: (08) 8272 4222

Email: saghs.admin@saghs.org.au

Website: www.genealogysa.org.au

Society Branch:

Yorke Peninsula Family History Group

PO Box 260, Kadina, SA 5554

Enquiries: (08) 8821 1075 (Secretary)

Email: YPFHG@saghs.org.au

Member of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.

Genealogy SA is the registered business name of the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.
ABN 64 788 909 036

COUNCIL

President

Robert Blair, BA (Accy), FSAGHS

Email: saghs.president@saghs.org.au

Vice Presidents

David Ballinger, FSAGHS

Email: saghs.randd@saghs.org.au

Andrew Peake OAM, JP, BA, MLitt,

GradDipLocAppHist, FSAGHS

Email: saghs.council05@saghs.org.au

Secretary

Ann Catford, BNsg, GradDipAppSci(Anaes), PACU

Email: saghs.secretary@saghs.org.au

Treasurer

Robert Blair, BA (Accy), FSAGHS

Email: saghs.treasurer@saghs.org.au

Members

Graeme Adcock, CF

David Barber, ACA

Fiona Errington, BA, LLB, GDLP,

GradDipArchaeology

Dale Johns, BA (Accy), GradDipSystemsAnalysis,

CPA MACS, FSAGHS

Phil Lokan, GradDipPSM

Deborah Miller, B.Bus, CPHR

Beryl Schahinger, FSAGHS

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

General Manager

Carolyn Wass, BA

Email: saghs.genman@saghs.org.au

Librarian

Katrina McKinlay, DipLibInfoStud, DipFamHist

Email: saghs.librarian@saghs.org.au

Membership Officer

Gemma Morrison, BA, GradDipLibInfoMgt

Email: saghs.members@saghs.org.au

Administration Officer

Nicola Brewer

Email: saghs.admin@saghs.org.au

Events Assistant

Selina Lucarini, BA, GradDipLibInfoMgt

Email: saghs.events@saghs.org.au

Editor

Kathy Ahwan, BA (Hons), DipFamHist

Email: saghs.editor@saghs.org.au

Public Officer

Graham Jaunay, BA, DipT(Pr), FSAGHS

Email: graham@jaunay.com

Research Services Officer

Selina Lucarini, BA, GradDipLibInfoMgt

Email: saghs.research@saghs.org.au

Returning Officer

Meryl Stephenson

Email: saghs.retofficer@saghs.org.au

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COVER PHOTOS



Front and Back cover:

The Proclamation of South Australia, 1836, painting by Charles Hill (Image courtesy of the Art Gallery of South Australia, 0.893)

In this Journal Ian Sellick tells the story of John Hill, boatswain on the HMS *Buffalo* that arrived at Holdfast Bay. It was here on 28 December 1836 that Governor John Hindmarsh read a proclamation under a gum tree to mark the establishment of government in the new colony of South Australia, and the protection of legal rights for both settlers and Aboriginal people. John Hill had the privilege of raising the British ensign at the ceremony and later firing a gun salute from the *Buffalo*. Hill remained in the colony, continuing to attend celebrations for 'Proclamation Day' on 28 December each year under the Old Gum Tree (or Proclamation Tree) in Glenelg North. Hill died in 1885 and is buried in the Kapunda Cemetery.

Future Issue Deadlines

for advertisers and Genealogy SA contributions.

August 2026

Submissions by 30 June 2026

November 2026

Submissions by 30 September 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 60.

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

Council Nominations

With this issue of the Society Journal Council nominations for 2026 open.

Nominating for Council does not guarantee getting onto the Council because it depends upon how many nominations are received compared with the vacancies available. However, we need a member prepared to nominate and try for Council who would, if successful, stand for the position of Treasurer. Ideally this member would have some accountancy experience. We have looked at the finance function within the Society and much of the work is done by the office staff, with the Treasurer reviewing the monthly financial statements and presenting them to Council. The main task not fully covered by the office staff is the year-end financial statements, but even with this there is some assistance from the staff. The Treasurer would then be responsible for presenting these financial statements to members at the Annual General Meeting.

For the current year I have been filling the role of Treasurer as well as that of President. This can only be a short-term solution, and we need to have someone dedicated to the role of Treasurer in the longer-term. To be eligible for nomination for Council a member needs to have had membership in the Society for 12 months. Any member who is interested in being Treasurer, and prepared to nominate, should contact me (saghs.president@saghs.org.au) or Carolyn Wass, our General Manager to discuss the position and arrange

nomination. This needs to happen before the end of July when nominations close.

Membership Benefits – Society Databases

The Society's online database is the most significant benefit of membership in the Society. Most of the data that is found there is the end result of the many projects the Research and Development Committee oversees. A small team then takes the data and prepares it for inclusion in the online databases. The most used datasets are the birth, death, and marriage indexes. These are updated annually to include new records which have fallen outside of the embargo periods set by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Under an arrangement with the Registrar we are supplied with new records every year. Currently we only receive deaths and marriages because we already have births which extend into the embargo period. We will not be due for new births data until about 2030. In addition to receiving the data for the indexes we also receive images of the registrations. As paper recording of registrations ceased in 1989, we will only receive images up to the time everything was computerised. This is why we only have death registration images up to 1989. The Registrar has permitted the Society to provide transcriptions of birth, death, and marriage registrations through our Transcription Service.

Through the Society's projects we have accumulated an enormous collection of data which is gradually being added to the online databases. Currently, as at the beginning of

April, there are 21 datasets within the database and earlier this year the total record count passed the 10 million mark. We aim to have at least one dataset update every month; sometimes there are more and occasionally we might miss a month. It all depends upon the dataset and the amount of work required to get the data ready for inclusion. In addition to providing more data we are working on new features to the database which will affect several datasets. This is a major project and will be rolled out in stages later this year. The new features will be free for members; non-members will have to pay to access the feature. Stay tuned for further details on how to access all the features of our online databases.



Public Holiday Opening Hours 2026



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

King's Birthday 8 June 2026 (Monday)

Labour Day 5 October 2026 (Monday)



South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Soc. Inc. **53RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



ADVANCE NOTICE OF MEETING

The 53rd Annual General Meeting of the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc. will be held on Wednesday 28 October 2026 in the Society Library, 201 Unley Road, Unley, at 7.30 pm by order of the Council.

Notices of motion must be signed and with the Secretary by close of business on Tuesday 30 June 2026.

Ann Catford

Secretary

30 April 2026

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Full, Associate and Life Members entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Society may give notices in writing of motions, duly proposed and seconded, for any business to be put to the meeting.



From the Editor

by Kathy Ahwan

An Ethical Dilemma

When researching our family history we should be prepared to discover information that may be unexpected. The increased use of DNA may uncover relationships that were not what we thought. The question then is what do we do with information that may be considered criminal, immoral, bizarre or irresponsible behaviour? Should we consider the feelings of others, particularly those living?

The Family History Writers Special Interest Group will present some of the ethical dilemmas we may come across when researching family history, and what to do with them, at their meeting on 18 June at 7:00 pm via Zoom. If this is of interest register via our Events Calendar.

Meetings for all Special Interest Groups are free for all members. Members are welcome to register for any Special Interest Group session that may be of interest to their research. All sessions are recorded, and all registrants will be sent a link to watch the session later. So, if you have registered but are unable to attend at the designated time, you will not miss out!

Articles for the Journal

The Journal provides information about what is happening at Genealogy SA, but more importantly contributions from our members who wish to share aspects about South Australia family history. Without these contributions the Journal looks like another version of our monthly newsletter.

I often get emails from members asking if their article is of interest, and I haven't come across one yet that isn't. The topic of a particular article will appeal to different readers: one of the reasons why we aim to have a wide array of topics. As a South Australian society the focus is on local history and ancestors with a link to the state.

You may wish to write about the life and times of a South Australian family, a character in your family, rebuilding lives, breaking down brick walls, or about resources to further family history research. Everyone has a story to tell!

For the More Ambitious

While the Journal provides an opportunity for members to write about family history on a smaller scale, for those working towards a published book, the TT Reed Book Award is now open for books published during 2026.

The TT Reed Book Award is awarded by the Society to a book considered to be the best family history published in a calendar year. The book should be about a South Australian family or a family with strong ties to the state.

Copies of previous winners and entrants are available in the Genealogy SA Library. If you are inspired to write your family history, you are welcome to come in and browse the collection. A list of previous entrants is available through our online library catalogue on our home page.

Further details on the TT Reed Book Award are available on the Genealogy SA website under What's On. Entries close on 29 January 2027.

Volunteering Opportunities

Genealogy SA relies on its volunteers for a range of tasks from scanning, transcribing, and checking data to helping out with events, or serving on committees. Some roles can only be done in the Library, while others can be done from home. It is likely that there will be something to meet your skills and interests.

As reported in our last Annual Report there were 155 volunteers. This includes not only residents of this state but also interstate and overseas.

On occasions Genealogy SA will be looking for volunteers with specific skills. The current call is for a handy person, event and outreach volunteers, and volunteers to work on the Oral Histories Project and the Fiche Digitisation Project. Look out for further information in this Journal.

Save the Date

Council will hold the Society's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 28 October. The meeting will commence at 7:30 pm, although members are asked to arrive from 7:00 pm.

In accordance with the Society's Constitution 40 members are required for a quorum for the meeting to proceed. Last year a quorum was not achieved resulting in the meeting being adjourned. If you can attend put the date in your diary now.

A light supper will be provided after the meeting, providing an opportunity to meet with Council and other members.

Journal Contents

In this Journal we have four diverse articles that I think you will find of interest.

Jen Gilbert discovers an unknown object in a chest of drawers while clearing the house of her deceased aunt. The round metal object was affectionately dubbed 'The WG'

after the initials engraved on it. Jen and her sister set out to discover what The WG was, and what it was used for. Their quest continues through this state, interstate and overseas before discovering that the answer is close to home.

Les Davies writes about James Delehanty, an Irish immigrant who moved to South Australia from the eastern states in 1896. Delehanty held a variety of positions over his life: newspaper editor, life insurance agent and manager, temperance worker, evangelist and church worker. He was also the patent holder for a rotary engine in which Les's great-grandfather held a share.

Ian Sellick tells the story of John Hill, boatswain on the HMS *Buffalo* that arrived at Holdfast Bay. It was here on 28 December 1836 that Governor John Hindmarsh read a proclamation to mark the establishment of government in the new colony of South Australia. Hill had the privilege of raising the British ensign at the ceremony and later firing a gun salute from the *Buffalo*. Hill remained in the colony after the *Buffalo* returned to England, dying as a 'pioneer' in 1885.

Jackie Muller takes the information from a late aunt to trace the Brock family who arrived in South Australia in 1839 from Scotland. Jackie traces the family back through Scottish records and discovers the recurring use of 'Napier' as a surname, and later middle name, establishing a link to Merchiston. Her research uncovers a castle, logarithms and a link to Singapore as she goes back through the ages.

Happy Reading
Kathy

The Tale of The WG

by Jen Gilbert

This article tells the tale of how my sister, Penelope (Pep) BAILES and I discovered the provenance of a mysterious object we came to affectionately call 'The WG'. It is a tale of twists and turns, ups and downs, joy and frustration, but it does have a happy ending!



The WG (Image courtesy of the author)

Setting the Scene – The Gilbert family arrive in South Australia

Joseph GILBERT (1800-1881), our paternal great-great-grandfather, arrived in South Australia in 1839 from England aboard the *Buckinghamshire*. He settled near Lyndoch in the ranges east of the Barossa Valley. The 15,000-acre property came to be known as Pewsey Vale, in recognition of his birthplace in the Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England. Joseph married Anna BROWNE (1812-1873) and had four children, three daughters and a son named William GILBERT (1850-1923).

Joseph was a well-known pastoralist in South Australia during his lifetime. He planted the first Riesling grapes in the Eden Valley in 1847

and had a keen interest in breeding and racing thoroughbred horses. William continued his father's legacy, living at Pewsey Vale and maintaining the property, with the support of his wife, Mary Young CLINDENING (1854-1939). They had 11 children, nine of whom reached adulthood. The eldest of those children, Henry GILBERT (1880-1947), became a much-loved Adelaide paediatrician, and with his wife, Eva Winifred, nee SHORT (1879-1968) had four children, Nancy (1918-2017), John (1919-1973), William (1920-1996) and the youngest, our father Peter Driffield GILBERT (1922-1968).¹

The WG first appears

This tale starts with the death of our aunt, Nancy, on 6 September 2017, four months before her 100th birthday. Nan, as she was known to family and friends, never married and had lived alone for many years on Lansdowne Terrace, Walkerville, an inner suburb in the northeast of Adelaide, South Australia. Her unmarried brother, William Anthony (Tony) GILBERT, lived in his own house in the same street until his death in 1996.

After Nan's death Pep and I had the main responsibility of sorting and clearing her personal possessions and household goods prior to selling the house. It was during this process that we discovered a mysterious object in an old chest of drawers.

It was a round, metal object, which we guessed to be sterling silver due to the hallmarks, and it was engraved with the initials WG. It was made up of two plates which screwed together, and had a loose ring on the back plate, with the following dimensions: circumference 145mm; diameter

45mm; length of screw 10mm. As we had no idea what it was, we started referring to the object as 'The WG'.



Images of The WG (Images courtesy of the author)

This object was not listed in any of Nan's records or documents, but we did find mention of what we believed to be The WG in Tony's papers. Some of his documents were still in my possession because I had been one of the executors of his will. Tony had prepared a document to assist in the distribution of his possessions following his death. Many of these possessions had belonged to Joseph or William GILBERT, and Tony was keen that specified items be donated to South Australian institutions such as the Art Gallery of South Australia, the History Trust of South Australia and the National Trust.

In this list, entitled 'Disposition of Possessions' and signed and dated 14 July 1990, Tony had included:

Item 8) William G's Rug clip – believed designed by W.G., made by Steiner

We felt confident that the engraved initials referred to William GILBERT, our direct paternal great-grandfather. We were less sure of how The WG came to be amongst the possessions of our uncle, except that he was one of two of William's grandsons who were also named William.

What is the WG made of? Who made it?

The WG is made of sterling silver but was not made by Steiner as suggested in Tony's Disposition of Possessions list. The hallmark is not the one used by J Henry STEINER, who was a silversmith in Adelaide in the late 1880s.²



A comparison of the hallmarks used by Steiner and the hallmarks on The WG (Image courtesy of the author)

It was suggested to us that it had been made by Archer and Holland, the well-known Adelaide jeweller, as one of the hallmarks is A&H. Pep took The WG into the Archer and Holland business premises in the Adelaide central business district, where one of the proprietors was confident that it was not a hallmark that they had used. Further, the business of Archer and Holland was established in 1918,³ only four years before William GILBERT suffered a stroke in 1922, prior to his death in 1923. It seems unlikely that he would have commissioned and purchased such an item in the latter years of his life. The WG also shows signs of significant wear and tear, so we assumed it was a well-used item during William's lifetime.

Once we started our research, we contacted many people far and wide—in South

Australia, interstate and overseas. People kindly referred us on to others they thought might be able to help.

For example, the curator of the New South Wales Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences suggested we contact the Silver Society of Australia. John B STAUNTON, who was the President of the society at the time, was unable to identify the purpose of The WG, but he was very helpful in providing information about the origin of the hallmarks and the jeweller who was the most likely to have made it.

*That is a nice little piece of South Australian silver. The stamps on it are called pseudo hallmarks. They were made to look like English hallmarks, but there was no legal requirement for hallmarking in Australia, so silversmiths and retailers would basically make up their own. So that is the crown and lion stamp (which is why the MAAS thought it was Sheffield), the STL SIL is reference to sterling silver. The A&H would be the maker's or retailer's mark. I think this is probably for **Anderson and Hall** who were working in Adelaide around 1900-1905. The only mark I'm not sure about is the A in the Star of David. It is an interesting mark I haven't seen before. It may be a Retailer's Mark.⁴*

Anderson & Hall was set up by John George ANDERSON and Isaac Edward HALL in Adelaide in 1900 in Brookman's Building, Grenfell Street. Advertisements announcing the new business appear in a range of local newspapers including the *South Australian Register* in August 1900.⁵ Anderson & Hall manufactured and sold jewellery, watches and bespoke items such as badges for the Scottish Corps⁶ and trophies for sporting competitions.

It would appear that ANDERSON left the business in November 1904, as there was an advertisement placed in *The Register* on

10 November 1904 in the Public Notice section: 'I E Hall (late Anderson & Hall), Watchmaker and Jeweller, Gawler Place. opp Young Queen Hotel.'⁷

Based on this information, we could confidently place the commission and completion of The WG between 1900 and 1904 when the A&H hallmark would have been active.

What is The WG? What was its purpose? – Let the Search Begin

We received many suggestions as to the identity and purpose of The WG which included a plug, a love token from World War I, a brooch, and a waistcoat button. The unique features of The WG seemed hard to reconcile into one object: it was made of sterling silver; it was decorated with the monogram WG; it was made up of two plates that screwed together to hold something in place, it had the free loop at the back, and it had been well-used.

William GILBERT was an accomplished horseman; he and his father were both involved in breeding and racing thoroughbreds. Given that Tony GILBERT specified a 'rug clip' in the items listed in the Disposition of Possessions document, we pursued the idea that it was something to do with horses or horse tack or accessories.

Early on in our research, Anthony HURL of Tusmore Antiques provided this suggestion:

an item of leather which was silver mounted (saddlery or accoutrement etc.) with the initials of the owner and has the purpose of being a boss to stabilise the loop in the leather.⁸

Following the horse-related theme, and keeping in mind the GILBERT interest in breeding and racing thoroughbreds, we contacted the Victorian Racing Club. The Art and Heritage curator there suggested we contact the Australian Racing Museum,

located in Flemington, Victoria. The Collections Manager, Natalia BONNETT wrote the following:

I asked a former trainer (who was in the industry for over 30 years) and he has never seen anything like it. The only 'rug clips' he was aware of are the buckle at the back of the rug... Having said that, it seems quite an intricate and expensive item to use there!

I also looked in a horse equipment catalogue circa 1890 called Moseman's Illustrated guide for purchasers of Horse Furnishing Goods, Novelties and Stable appointments.⁹ I've attached some images from the book of various harness decorations and adornments. Is it possible that your item was similar to one of the monograms?¹⁰

Disappointingly, when we looked at the images, nothing seemed to fit The WG and our research came to a standstill.

During the following years, we did some intermittent research but nothing of interest came to light. There was, however, a strange twist in 2025. I was culling personal and family documents when I came across a donation form to the History Trust of South Australia dated 31 October 1996. The form listed several items to be donated, including a 'rug clip'. I recalled facilitating the donation of items based on Tony GILBERT's will and the Disposition of Possessions document, but I had no recollection of the actual objects which he had listed. This posed the question: if the rug clip had already been donated, what could The WG be?

Thanks to Corinne BALL, Senior Curator at the History Trust of South Australia, we learned that 'the donation (B0243) was a brass letter clip - shaped like a woman's hand, and made in Birmingham UK...The accession register shows that 'rug clip' was

entered but then crossed out and replaced by 'letter clip'.¹¹ So it seemed as if The WG was still most likely to be the 'rug clip' and the mystery remained unsolved.

The search continues

This was the impetus needed to go back to 'square one' with the research process. I decided to catalogue all the information we had received from the people whom we had contacted regarding the identity and purpose of The WG. Re-reading the emails from Corinne BALL,¹² Anthony HURL and Natalia BONNETT, I wondered if The WG was, in fact, part of a horse's bridle. I took special note of the page of illustrations of bridle rosettes from *Moseman's Illustrated Guide for Purchasers of Horse Furnishing Goods (1890)*.

I used Google as the most likely search engine to provide information about bridle rosettes and found a site listing conchos.¹³ I discovered that a concho is a metal disc, often silver, used as a decorative accessory for saddlery, clothing or other items. It seemed as if The WG could be a concho, but on further research, the back of a rosette or concho is very different from The WG, which has the two plates that screw together and the loose ring at the back.

There ensued a double-pronged search based on rug clips and bridle rosettes. More horse-related online searching brought me to an article by Dr Georgina DOWNEY, entitled *Rugging Traditions*.¹⁴ Dr DOWNEY replied to my online query. She had not seen any horse rug related item similar to The WG but offered to forward it on to a colleague for further investigation.

Sally MITCHELL, curator at the Museum of the Horse in Tuxford, Newark in England also replied to my online query. She did not think The WG was a bridle rosette or part of a bit.¹⁵

On one of the many days spent trawling the internet, I came across the term 'Lorinery'.

The website of The Worshipful Company of Loriners provided the following information: 'The Loriner makes and sells bits, bridles, spurs, stirrups and the minor metal items of a horse's harness, together with the saddle tree.'¹⁶

I found the website of Chelle MULLEN, a practising loriner in the United Kingdom. Chelle kindly emailed a response, agreeing that it was not likely to be a bridle rosette but that it could be a bespoke rug clip. She wrote:

I don't think it's a bridle rosette, partly because there would be no reason for it to be in two parts and have a screw closure, and also because it would dig in to the horse's head.

*The fact that it has a screw fixture would suggest that it was designed to hold something in place or together, and I would be pretty certain, given the info that you shared, that this was indeed a bespoke rug clip.*¹⁸

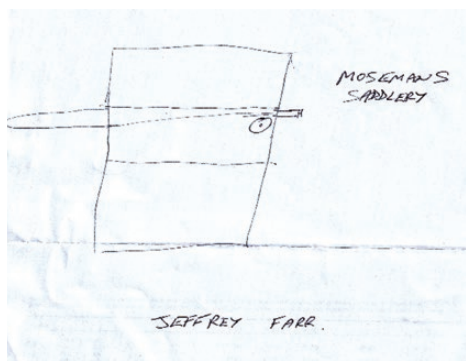
Caroline BALDOCK, from the virtual Museum of the Horse website replied to my request for assistance with the following: 'It is not a bridle boss, the ring tells you that. It is the right size though. The ring at the back is confusing, it must have been made to be hung somewhere, but it also needed a large hole to put the screw through. Clearly something was put between the disc and the screw, and then hung up.'¹⁹

It felt like we were getting closer as the options narrowed, leading us towards the rug clip again. We thought it might be helpful if someone currently involved in saddlery and leather work could see The WG 'in the flesh' rather than the photographs. We went to the premises of Iain MCHALE, a colleague of my husband. Iain has extensive knowledge and experience in horse matters and has his

own shoe repair and leather work business in Semaphore, a beachside suburb in Adelaide, South Australia.

Iain agreed with the information that we had gathered about The WG and its connection to horse tack, but he took it one step further. He suggested the possibility that it was related to a carriage harness in some way. We could not find any reference or photographs that pertained to The WG in the books he kindly showed us. However, what happened next proved pivotal in our search: Iain referred us to Jeffrey FARR, an experienced saddler, located at Adelaide Leather and Saddlery in Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

Off we went to Waymouth Street. We walked into the shop and asked if we could speak with Jeff. He came through, took one look at The WG, and said 'I know exactly what that is. It was attached to a carriage driver's apron (rug), and the ring is to hang it up between uses.' He spoke so knowledgeably because he used to make the carriage aprons. Later, he did the following sketch to explain:



The drawing done by Jeff FARR (Image courtesy of the author)

You can imagine our delight and appreciation. The WG was a mystery no more!

Now that we knew what we were looking for, I accessed a number of photographs and photograph albums contained in the GILBERT family archival material held by the State Library of South Australia (PRG 266). In an album of greeting cards and photographs, I found a photograph of the GILBERT family's wagonette, parked in front of the house at Pewsey Vale.²⁰ On the driver's body is a small shiny object which could be The WG in action. The driver, wearing a hat, leans to the left. Level with where his waist would be, on his right-hand side, you can see a shiny round object. It may be wishful thinking, but we believe it is more than a coincidence.

Finding the photograph seemed a fitting end to the tale of The WG. The mysterious 'rug clip' is indeed a rug clip – for a carriage rug or apron and belonged to William GILBERT of Pewsey Vale. The WG will now find a new home according to the wishes of Tony GILBERT, and will become a valuable contribution to the collections of artefacts of English colonists in South Australia.



The GILBERT family wagonette (Original image held by the State Library of South Australia, PRG 266/43)

REFERENCES

- ¹ Information about the Gilbert family can be found in many sources, both online and in publications and journal articles. Much information is held by the State Library of South Australia in the archival record PRG 266. For example, a pamphlet entitled *The Gilberts of Pewsey Vale*, edited by Geo C Morphet, President of the Pioneers' Association of South Australia, June 1949.
- ² <https://learnantiques.com.au/j-henry-steiner-the-master-of-silver/>, accessed online 28 June 2025.
- ³ <https://jewelleryworld.net.au/news/archer-holland-shuts-its-doors-after-106-years/>, accessed online 13 August 2025.
- ⁴ Email from JB Staunton, 12 September 2018.
- ⁵ Advertising, *South Australian Register*, 20 August 1900, p. 5.
- ⁶ The Scotch Corps Badge, *Evening Journal*, 15 August 1900, p. 3.
- ⁷ Advertising, *The Register*, 10 November 1904, p. 2.
- ⁸ Email from Anthony Hurl, received 4 April 2019.
- ⁹ *Moseman's Illustrated Guide for the Purchasers of Horse Furnishing Goods*, first published by CM Moseman and Brother, New York City, 1892. Further reprinted editions published by Bracken Books, with forewords by Charles Kauffman 1976, 1985, and James S Hutchins 1985.
- ¹⁰ Email from Natalia Bonnett, Collections Manager, Australian Racing Museum, received 21 December 2020.
- ¹¹ Email from Corinne Ball, Senior Curator, Collections, History Trust of South Australia, received 6 February 2025.
- ¹² Email and attached image of bridle from Corinne Ball, Senior Curator, Collections, History Trust of South Australia, received 23 May 2018.
- ¹³ conchosaustralia.com, accessed online 26 May 2025.
- ¹⁴ Dr Georgina Downey, *Rugging Traditions*, <https://horsesandpeople.com.au/rugging-traditions/>, accessed online 7 June 2025.
- ¹⁵ Sally Mitchell, Curator, Museum of the Horse, email received 8 June 2025.
- ¹⁶ <https://www.loriner.co.uk>, accessed online 27 May 2025.
- ¹⁷ <https://www.stormandgrace.co.uk/lorinery> accessed online 27 May 2025.
- ¹⁸ Chelle Mullen, email received 2 June 2025.
- ¹⁹ Caroline Baldock, email received 9 June 2025.
- ²⁰ State Library of South Australia, Album of greeting cards and photographs, c1890-1920, PRG 266/43.

Can you help?

AVERAY

Seeking descendants of Clifford, Hartley, Allan, Ross, Keith, Ernest, and Shirley, children of William Dennis AVERAY and Annie Emma KENT.

I have documents, photos and life histories relating to the above, which came into my possession after the death of my sister Wendy.

I would like to pass them back to their families. Please email your interest to lesleyjmoir@gmail.com.

Lesley Moir nee AVERAY (daughter of Ralph and Gladys AVERAY)

Does anybody recognise either of these distinguished gentlemen?

They were painted by my mother-in-law at an art school in Adelaide c1960s-70s, along with a third portrait of my father-in-law. They are professionally framed 600x460.

The three paintings have adorned our lounge wall for several years, but it is now time to find a relative of the two unknown gentlemen who will love them as much as we have.

The grey portrait has the name THATCHER in the bottom right corner, the other has none.

If you recognise these gentlemen, and are a relative, please contact me at lesleyjmoir@gmail.com.



Researching the History of James Delehanty and his Rotary Engine

by Les Davies

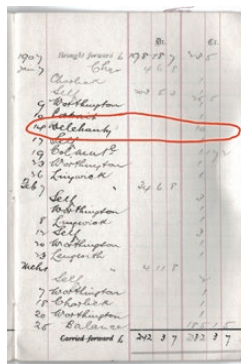
This article outlines what I know about my South Australian forebears' involvement with James DELEHANTY and seeks information from any readers who might have any information about DELEHANTY's Rotary Engine.

In his Last Will and Testament, dated 6 November 1907, my great-grandfather, Thomas DAVIES, of Bishops Place, Kensington, South Australia, bequeathed 'the share held by me in Delehanty's Rotary Engine unto my dear daughter FANNY JANE DAVIES'.

In my collection of family records, I have the original receipt (with attached one penny duty stamp) for £10 for 'One share in Delehanty's Rotary Engine'. The receipt was made out to Thos Davies Esq on 14 January 1907. Interestingly, it appears that the payment was made by Thomas's daughter Fanny, as evidenced by the 'Delehanty' entry for £10 in her Bank of Adelaide passbook on the same date.



Copy of original receipt (with attached one penny duty stamp) for £10 for 'One share in Delehanty's Rotary Engine' (Image courtesy of the author)



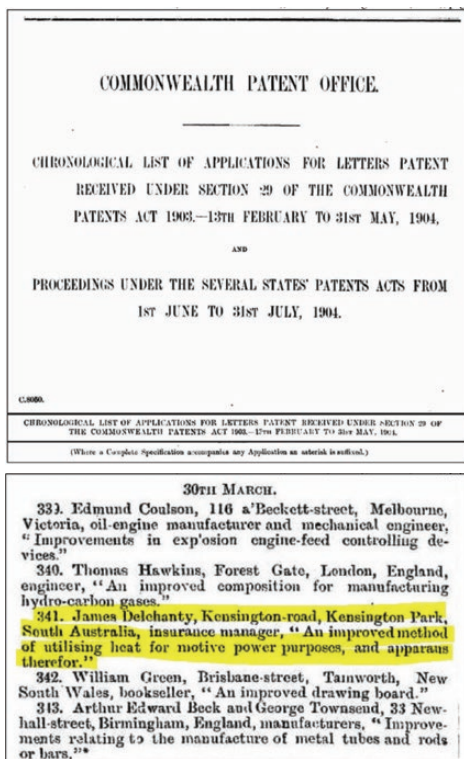
Copy of page from Fanny Jane DAVIES's Bank of Adelaide passbook showing the £10 share in DELEHANTY's Rotary Engine (Image courtesy of the author)

A search of South Australian records on the Trove website, using the terms 'Delehanty', 'engine' and/or 'rotary engine', and 'patent' recovered two 'hits'.

An entry in the *Commonwealth Government Gazette* of 18 August 1904 lists an 'application for letters patent' in the name of James DELEHANTY of Kensington Park. The application was for an 'apparatus' which 'turns heat into motive power'. Entry no. 341 under 30 March reads:

James Delehanty, Kensington-road, Kensington Park, South Australia, insurance manager, "An improved method of utilising heat for motive power purposes, and apparatus therefor."

The second item retrieved appeared in *The Gadfly*, a weekly magazine founded by the South Australian poet CJ DENNIS and published in Adelaide between February 1906 and February 1909; it commenced as an outlet for Australian writers and artists, but broadened in scope to include social gossip, and news and comments on stage and sport.¹ An entry in a section headed 'The Chosen Few' (a gossip and social column) on 21 November 1906 reads:



Application for Letters Patent by James DELEHANTY, Commonwealth Government Gazette, 18 August 1904

James Delehanty, late Adelaide manager to the Mutual of New York Insurance Society, has invented some sort of a patent that is likely to bring him in a thousand or two. Delehanty devotes his spare time to inventing and local preaching.²

A search of the website of the Australian Patent Office ('IP Australia')³ found significantly more detail about DELEHANTY's rotary engine; in fact, two patents in the name of James DELEHANTY and relating to rotary engines were found: Application no. 1906005374: 'Improvements in rotary engines'; filing date 02 March 1906; and Application no. 1912003936: 'Improvements in gas and oil engines'; filing date 14 February 1912.

Clicking on the application number directs the search to the 'Application Details' pages; clicking on 'Download specification (AU-B0)' on these pages downloads copies of the respective patent applications, as follows:

- Patent application No. 5374/06 (dated 2 March 1906) for 'Improvements in rotary engines' (four pages plus schematic diagram). The object of this invention was 'to provide a rotary engine of simple construction having few wearing parts capable of easy renewal' and which is 'easily adapted for compounding purposes so as to secure increased economy in the use of steam or other elastic fluid'.
- Patent application No. 3936/12 (dated 14 February 1912) for 'improvements in gas and oil engines' (three pages plus schematic diagram). The application stated that 'this invention relates to an engine of continuous rotary movement together with mechanical contrivances connected therewith to provide a working fluid by the admixture of air under pressure with the results of combustion of gas or oil in a combustion chamber in such proportion and in such manner that the mixture so provided shall be capable of being used to drive the said engine...'

An examination of the schematic diagrams in the two patents clearly indicates that these cover two different designs for rotary engines. It is not clear whether either of these patents relate to, or are different from, the invention referred to in the 1904 application for letters patent for 'An improved method of utilising heat for motive power purposes, and apparatus therefor'.

Who was James Delehanty?

Although there appears to be a paucity of information about whether DELEHANTY's rotary engines ever went further than the pages of their patents, there is a plethora of

information about James DELEHANTY himself, especially his life in South Australia. A good starting point is his obituary published in *The Register* on 14 July 1920:

Mr. James Delehanty, who for many years was a prominent figure in South Australian temperance circles, died on July 8, at the Methodist Manse, Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, from cerebral hemorrhage. Mr. Delehanty was born at Ballinakill near Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland, on February 2, 1854, and landed in Sydney with his mother when 10 years of age. At Rockhampton (Q.) he was sub-editor of The Daily Northern Argus. Subsequently he edited papers in Townsville for four years. Then he entered the service of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and became its resident agent for Northern Queensland. For 12 months he was inspector of the company's agencies in New South Wales, and later, as its manager for South Australia, opened the first Adelaide branch of the prosperous company. In 1907 he was appointed secretary of the S.A. Temperance Alliance, which position he held until 1913, when he was chosen as secretary of the Australian Chapman-Alexander Bible Institute at Wayville, and made all arrangements preparatory to the work of the institute being begun in 1914. In June, 1919, he resigned that office, and was succeeded by the Rev. W. Gray. Shortly afterwards the Methodist Church—for which he had for many years been an acceptable lay preacher—placed him at Kingscote in charge of the work of that church on Kangaroo Island. As a temperance organizer Mr. Delehanty carried on much important propaganda and organizing work in connection with various local option polls, and was also editor of the Alliance organ for six years. He was also a Vice-President of the South Australian

*Christian Endeavour Union. Mr. Delehanty's first wife died in 1915, and he subsequently married Miss Hewett, of Port Wakefield, who survives him.*⁴

The same edition of *The Register* also contained a notice of his death:

*DELEHANTY. - On the 8th July, at the Methodist Manse, Kingscote, of cerebral hemorrhage. James, beloved husband of E. A. Delehanty. Aged 66 years. "He walked with God and was not, for God took him."*⁵

The obituary was also reproduced in *The Kangaroo Island Courier* on 17 July 1920.⁶

Thus, we know from his obituary that he moved to Adelaide from the eastern states to become manager of the South Australian branch of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. A newspaper article titled 'Mr. J. Delehanty', published in 1900, suggested that he arrived in Adelaide to take up this role in the first half of 1896.⁷ The company had been registered in South Australia earlier that year and its New York managers announced that the company's offices would be located in the Bank of Australasia Chambers at 73 King William Street.⁸

Life Insurance Agent and Manager

A search of South Australian newspapers and gazettes for the period 1896 to 1920, using the search terms 'Delehanty AND insurance' in Trove found 1,141 hits. While the majority of these (1,018) were advertisements, either promoting the 'largest and best life insurance company in the world' or seeking 'industrious and capable' men to act as insurance agents and canvassers in different parts of the state, there were 111 news articles which mentioned James (sometimes abbreviated 'Jas') DELEHANTY.

In an article titled 'Modern Insurance. Lecture By Mr. Delehanty', *The Advertiser* of 13 August

1898 reported that Mr DELEHANTY had given a free public lecture on 'Modern insurance; its possibilities' in the Eastern Annexe of the Exhibition Buildings on Friday evening, under the auspices of the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures. Mr DELEHANTY was reported as saying that:

*insurance was at once the product of and a factor in the higher evolution of civilised society. It required also the settled, complex inter-dependent relations of civilised social conditions in order that insurance might be borne. Insurance was, in short, a compliance with the sacred injunction, "Bear ye one another's burdens."*⁹

Another article in *The Advertiser* of 27 September 1898 published extensive details, provided by Mr DELEHANTY, on how the company's 'income life policy' worked.¹⁰

Temperance Worker

James DELEHANTY's obituary indicated that, in 1907, he was appointed secretary of the S.A. Temperance Alliance, a position he held until 1913. This move coincided with, or resulted from, the closure of the South Australian business of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.¹¹

One may speculate that a detailed exposé of the life insurance industry by an American writer and editor, Burton Jesse HENDRICK in 1906 (as a series of journal articles in *McClure's Magazine*) and 1907 (as a book titled *The Story of Life Insurance*) led to these events.^{12, 13} This exposé followed an investigation, begun in late 1905, by the 'Joint Committee of the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York to Investigate and Examine into the Business and Affairs of Life Insurance Companies Doing Business in the State of New York' (referred to as 'the Armstrong Committee').

The following text was abstracted from an 'In Memoriam' article headed 'Mr. James Delehanty' which appeared in the *Australian Christian Commonwealth* of 24 September 1920; it provides more information about Delehanty's temperance work in SA:

*When the New York Society closed its South Australian business, Mr. Delehanty found a sphere of congenial service for the Kingdom of his Lord as secretary of the S.A. Temperance Alliance and editor of the Patriot. Multitudes know what efficient help he rendered in many ways in the early days of the "Six o'Clock" campaign, and the great cause of Prohibition. He computed and published for some years the "South Australia Annual Liquor Bill". His position brought him, of course, into the arena of controversy. It needs grace and some genius to be fair and considerate in debate. In all, his courtesy was unfailing, and his statements were reliable.*¹⁴

The South Australian Annual Liquor Bill was a calculation of the annual expenditure on alcoholic drinks, by total cost and average cost per head of the SA population; these figures were calculated and published by Mr DELEHANTY from 1909-1919.¹⁵ There is no doubt Mr DELEHANTY was extremely active in the temperance movement in South Australia; a search of South Australian newspapers for the years 1896-1920 retrieved 1,613 results using the search terms 'Delehanty AND temperance', of which 1,151 were articles which mentioned James DELEHANTY, while 455 were advertisements giving notice of forthcoming temperance orations by him.

The temperance work of James DELEHANTY obviously impinged on the consciousness of many South Australians at the time; for example, a 1908 obituary of one Adelaide 'character' reads:

"TAFF" EVANS, who died last week, had just seen his eightieth summer. Evans was one of the old school who, when reminiscent could relate tall stories of the early days and the hair breadth escapes he had from annihilation at the hands of our black brothers.

"Taff" spent many years in Stepney, the birthplace of many notable S.A. characters. He was an inveterate fisherman from Largs Bay Jetty, loved his pipe to the end, and, despite Henry Gainford and James Delehanty, was never a teetotaler.¹⁶

Evangelist and Church Worker

The 'In Memoriam' article cited above also provided information about DELEHANTY's Christian zeal, as in the following three excerpts:

*His services were at the same time ungrudgingly given to many causes, which involved a good deal of careful work—Sunday School Union, Christian Endeavourism, Social Reform Bureau, Botanic Park Services, and the Council of Churches.*¹⁷

While he was still the manager of the New York Assurance Society in SA,

*On the Sabbaths and at frequent missions during the weeks he and Mr. J. H. Sinclair (now S.M. at Port Adelaide) were diligently engaged together in calling sinners to repentance and pointing penitents to the Saviour. Those were days of great zeal, of joyous service, of power and of rich blessing.*¹⁸

DELEHANTY's final ministry was on Kangaroo Island:

In 1914 Mr. Delehanty was appointed secretary of the Bible Institute at North Unley, and served diligently and successfully as evangelist for the Institute in different parts of the State. In December, 1916,

*Mr. Delehanty married Miss Hewett, daughter of the late Mr. E. M. Hewett, whose name was so closely associated with Port Wakefield Methodism for many years. During their brief companionship Mr. and Mrs. Delehanty were as one in all evangelistic missions, and in the work on Kangaroo Island, which they undertook about a year ago. The Island was reported to be a difficult outpost. The people are very scattered and helpers are but few. The journeys, I understand, are trying, and the finances perhaps difficult. However, the situation was courageously faced in reliance upon God. In the services, amongst the children, in private conversations, two faithful workers were about the Father's business. And there, in the midst, as it seemed, of diligent and hopeful labour, God's finger touched him and he slept. His grave is amid the scenes of his last brave efforts for the King's Kingdom of righteousness and peace and joy.*¹⁹

It appears that my great-aunt Fanny DAVIES made several donations to Mr DELEHANTY for his Church work; listed as payments from her Bank of Adelaide accounts in 1909 were the following two entries:

8 June 1909

Mr Delehanty 1-0-0 Donation for Church [Cheque book stub]

14 June 1909

J. Delehanty 1-0-0 [Entry in bank book]

Inventor

As outlined above, in 1904, while living in Adelaide, DELEHANTY applied for a patent covering an 'improved method of utilising heat for motive power purposes, and apparatus therefor'. In subsequent years, two Commonwealth patents relating to rotary engines were granted, one for 'Improvements in rotary engines' (filed on 02 March 1906),

and another for 'Improvements in gas and oil engines' (filed on 14 February 1912).

However, newspapers in New South Wales and Queensland carried earlier reports than these, in 1889 and 1890 respectively, of other patents issued to James DELEHANTY and Walter Howard TUNBRIDGE, of Townsville, Queensland, as follows.

In an article titled 'Sanitary Apparatus. New South Wales Patent for Townsville', *The Telegraph* of 15 January 1890 reported:

*Townsville, January 15. Letters patent have been granted to Messrs. Tunbridge and Delehanty, of Townsville, by the Government of New South Wales for an improved method and apparatus for treating nightsoil and improvements in sanitary closets. This is the first occasion of a patent outside the colony being secured by Townsville inventors.*²⁰

The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser of 2 November 1889 printed the following text:

*No. 1782. October 23, James Delehanty and Walter Howard Tunbridge, of Townsville, Queensland, for improvements in sanitary closets or privies*²¹

while the 9 November 1889 edition of the same masthead contained the following:

*No. 1798. October 29, James Delehanty and Walter Howard Tunbridge, of Townsville, Queensland, for improved method and apparatus for treating nightsoil and other noxious matters.*²²

Both these entries appeared under the heading 'Patents Office Transactions'. It seems likely that ideas behind these two New South Wales issued patents (numbers 1782 and 1798) were related.



Published photograph of Mr J. DELEHANTY, The Evening Journal, 27 October 1900

In Summary

There is no doubt that James DELEHANTY became well-known in South Australia in the early 20th century, following his move there from the eastern states in 1896. Numerous newspaper articles reference him in his roles as manager of the South Australian branch of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, as a temperance crusader, as a campaigner for early closing of hotels and pubs ('the six o'clock campaign'), as a compiler of annual figures for the total cost of alcoholic drinks in South Australia (for the years 1909-1919), and as a Methodist minister. In addition to this extensive list of activities, there were references to his involvement with the Sunday School Union, Christian Endeavour, the Social Reform Bureau, the Chapman-Alexander Bible Institute at Wayville, and the Council of Churches.

With his career in insurance, then his life as an evangelist, in Church ministry, and as a leader in the South Australian temperance movement, James DELEHANTY was obviously a keen inventor! There is limited information about his 1904 application for a patent for an 'improved method of utilising heat for motive power purposes', but the Australian Patents Office ('IP Australia') has digital copies of his 1906 and 1912 patents for rotary engines. Much less is known about the sale of shares in 'DELEHANTY's Rotary Engine' and whether

any of DELEHANTY's inventions ever made it into production, either as test models or for commercial release; in this regard, it would be interesting for a mechanical engineer to examine the 1906 and 1912 patents and assess whether the engines would actually work!

In conclusion, available reports suggest that James DELEHANTY was 'a warm-hearted Irishman' whose different occupations brought him into arenas of controversy; however, he was 'fair and considerate in debate' and 'in all, his courtesy was unfailing'.

The author of this article would be very interested to hear from readers who might have any information about 'Delehanty's Rotary Engine'. His contact details are as follows:

Les Davies

Canberra, ACT

Mob: 0428-841-897 (National)

+61-428-841-897 (International)

Email: lpdavies@tpg.com.au

REFERENCES

- ¹ Wikipedia entry titled 'The Gadfly (Adelaide)' [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gadfly_\(Adelaide\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gadfly_(Adelaide)).
- ² The Chosen Few, *The Gadfly*, 21 November 1906, p. 7.
- ³ <https://ipsearch.ipaustralia.gov.au/patents/>, accessed 4 March 2025.
- ⁴ Concerning People, *The Register*, 14 July 1920, p. 8.
- ⁵ Family Notices, *The Register*, 14 July 1920, p. 6.
- ⁶ The Late James Delehanty, *The Kangaroo Island Courier*, 17 July 1920, p. 2.
- ⁷ Mr. J. Delehanty, *The Evening Journal*, 27 October 1900, p. 5.
- ⁸ The Local Government Association, *The Express and Telegraph*, 29 February 1896, p. 4.
- ⁹ "Modern Insurance." Lecture by Mr. Delehanty, *The Advertiser*, 13 August 1898, p. 5.
- ¹⁰ The "Income Life Policy", *The Advertiser*, 27 September 1898, p. 11.
- ¹¹ In Memoriam. Mr James Delehanty, *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 September 1920, p. 13.
- ¹² *The Story of Life Insurance* by Burton J. Hendrick, 1907. [Public domain copy available to read or download at https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Story_of_Life_Insurance]. A publisher's note accompanying the publication of the book, *The Story of Life Insurance*, stated, *inter alia*, that "the evils disclosed by the Armstrong Investigating Committee had existed for many years. Necessarily also, any adequate explanation involved a discussion of life-insurance principles,

for it was the abandonment and perversion of sound life-insurance ideas that made possible the dishonest and extravagant use of life-insurance funds".

- ¹³ A DBpedia article about Burton Jesse Hendrick is available at https://dbpedia.org/page/Burton_J._Hendrick.
- ¹⁴ In Memoriam. Mr James Delehanty, *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 September 1920, p. 13.
- ¹⁵ South Australian Drink Bill, *The Register*, 8 December 1920, p. 10.
- ¹⁶ The Chosen Few, *The Gadfly*, 9 December 1908, p. 3. The Reverend Henry Gainford was a Congregational minister actively involved in temperance work.
- ¹⁷ In Memoriam. Mr James Delehanty, *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 September 1920, p. 13.
- ¹⁸ In Memoriam. Mr James Delehanty, *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 September 1920, p. 13. Senior Magistrate JH Sinclair was appointed to the Port Adelaide Magistracy in 1912, see article Mr. J. H. Sinclair, S.M., *The Evening Journal*, 9 May 1912, p. 1.
- ¹⁹ In Memoriam. Mr James Delehanty, *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 September 1920, p. 13.
- ²⁰ Sanitary Apparatus. New South Wales Patent for Townsville, *The Telegraph*, 15 January 1890, p. 5.
- ²¹ Patents Office Transactions, *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 2 November 1889, p. 1002.
- ²² Patents Office Transactions, *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 9 November 1889, p. 1046.

Volunteering Opportunities

Genealogy SA is currently looking for volunteers for these specific roles:

Event and Outreach Volunteers

Do you have a few hours a month to assist with our events and programs? We are looking for volunteers who can help out with event support, both in the library and as part of our outreach program. This could range from being a support person for events in person or via Zoom, up to presenting topics (with full content, support and training provided).

We are looking for someone to co-convene our Huguenot Special Interest Group.

We are also keen to add new members to our Marketing and Promotions Committee. Have your say about the Society's future programs and promotions!

Oral Histories Project

Would you like to be a part of our Oral Histories Project and collect memoirs for the Society? We are looking for volunteers who love a good story and can operate recording equipment (full training provided). This could be performed in the library, from home via Zoom, or some travel may be required from time to time to visit interviewees.

Fiche Digitisation Project

As part of our digitisation and preservation projects, we will be scanning our microfiche and microfilm collection, and have already purchased a new ScanPro machine for this endeavour. We are looking for volunteers who can come into the Library a couple of hours a week, fortnight or month to undertake the scanning of the fiche to be saved to our databases. The project will be undertaken in two steps: scanning of the fiche and the use of AI to transcribe and collate the information. Full training provided.

Handy Person

We have a number of odd jobs around the building, such as painting and patching, that require the deft touch of a skilled handy person. If you are skilled and available for a few hours on an ad hoc basis we'd like to hear from you. All equipment supplied.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these roles contact our General Manager, Carolyn Wass on 8272 4222 or email: saghs.genman@saghs.org.au.



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/whats-on/events-calendar



Photographic Corner

'Research suggests that excessive screen time in children, especially young children, is likely to lead to unhealthy outcomes in the short and longer term.' Australian Institute of Family Studies <https://aifs.gov.au/resources/short-articles/too-much-time-screens>.

A browse through old family photograph albums can provide not only interest for today's children ('you look so different, Grandma') but also provide suggestions of different activities they can try. Photos in our collection demonstrate the way children entertained themselves before screens 'ruled'.

Indoor activities included jigsaw puzzles, Snakes and Ladders, Chinese Chequers, Fuzzy Felt, and Snap. Comics, Enid Blyton stories, and book annuals were read while old clothes were stored in a box for dress-ups.



Dressing up was often a part of playing 'make believe', where children could pretend to be mothers, babies, soldiers, farmers, fairies, etc.



(P00198-437)



Children imagined they owned items by using objects around the house as other things, such as a tennis racket for playing a guitar or a tin as a drum. Having a pretend tea party with friends was great fun.

(P00198-273)

'Go outside and play' was said to most children. Many made the most of the environment around them. Water running in gutters could be used to pretend that float sticks were boats, and when playing with another child, competing to see whose stick won the race.

(P00219-77)



While lucky children had a proper sandpit others played in piles of sand or dirt.

(P00201-132)



Owning a pet animal was common. They could be dressed in cast-off clothes or towed around in small carts.

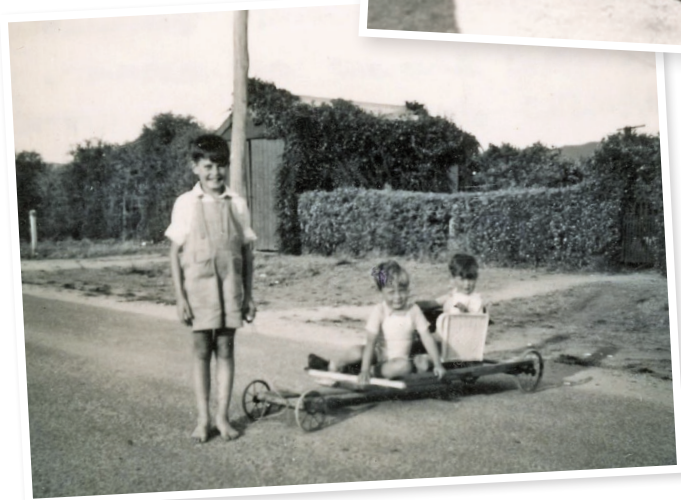
(P00242-045)

Children had fun using scrap materials to make things. The shed was searched for discarded boxes, wood, wheels and rope to make billy carts, or bitzers.

(P00198-097)



(P00241-73)



While many children still entertain themselves in these ways today, seeing 'oldies' at play may entice them to spend more time being imaginative and active, and less time on screens.

John Hill, Boatswain

by Ian Sellick



John HILL hoisting the flag, The Proclamation of South Australia, 1836, painting by Charles HILL (Image courtesy of the Art Gallery of South Australia, 0.893)

One individual who was in the first group to land on the shores of Holdfast Bay from the HMS *Buffalo*, and then had the privilege of hoisting and unfurling the Union Jack on 28 December 1836, was John HILL, the ship's boatswain. For performing this significant act, John HILL was treated as a minor celebrity throughout his life in South Australia by many of the population, a status that extended long after his death with many a visit to his grave site by his friends and admirers.



Oil painting of the Old Gum Tree at Glenelg by Jack BALITHO, 1838 (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 44055)

Mr Hill had been asked by Governor HINDMARSH to help with the construction of the first Government House and to thatch the roof as he had a good knowledge of the trade. Being in the employment of Governor HINDMARSH, Mr HILL decided to remain in South Australia after the *Buffalo* had sailed, and this continued up until Governor HINDMARSH sailed for England.

John married Mary ANDERSON at the Holy Trinity Church on 14 May 1838 and took up residence at the Halfway House on Port Road, making his living as a drayman. They had five children at the Halfway House being William (born 1841), John (1842), Sarah (1843), Robert (1846), Thomas Henry (1847) and George Edward (1850). Sarah passed away in 1850.

Three of the sons, William, John and Thomas Henry, were the members of the HILL family that had farmed at Arkaba in the north of the state, along with some time in Wilpena Pound where their farmhouse still remains.

The First Commemoration Day

With the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Colony of South Australia fast approaching, a public meeting was held at the St Leonards Hotel on 28 November 1857 to discuss the details of having a 'Day of Celebration' on 28 December to mark this important milestone. At the meeting the following resolution was passed unanimously by the 120 attendees present.

"That, as of the 28th December next, will be the twenty-first anniversary of this colony, it is desirable to commemorate the event by a public celebration, under the Old Colonists' Tree." The Old Colonists' Tree was the name of the tree under which the colony was originally proclaimed—the tree where Governor Hindmarsh proclaimed the colony on his arrival here.¹

The committee formed to organise the day's events had also decided to invite John HILL to re-enact the unfurling of the Union Jack as he had done in 1836. The final preparations for the day included the erection of a large pavilion to accommodate the luncheon and the official reception on the sands in front of Government Cottage on Adelphi Terrace, along with a number of tents and booths for the entertainment and refreshment of the visitors.

The commemoration festival was reported in the *Adelaide Times* as follows:

The commemoration festival of the twenty-first anniversary since the colony was proclaimed by Governor Hindmarsh, came off at Glenelg, on Monday last. For several days previously public expectation had been excited to an extraordinary degree in anticipation of considerable enjoyment in celebration of an event no less novel than interesting, and arrangements had been made in every direction, to participate in the festivities provided by a committee

of gentlemen, on a scale of extraordinary amplitude and variety. Various were the conjectures on the two previous days of the weather wise as to what would be the state of the elements on the all important day... A little before 10, it became apparent that rain was not far off, and not long after a clap of thunder made it almost a matter of certainty that the festivities were doomed to suffer, and much of the anticipated enjoyment was considered at an end. Notwithstanding, hundreds of vehicles continued to deposit their living freight and pedestrians arrived by scores only to wander about in the rain, or take shelter in some of the tents and public houses... Precisely at a quarter before 12 the signal gun announced that the time approached for that part of the interesting ceremony mentioned in the programme, and which had been looked forward to with peculiar interest, viz, the presentation of the deed of conveyance of the land on which the memorable "old gum tree" stands, by Mr Hector to his Worship the Mayor of Glenelg, and the permission he intended to grant to Mr J.H. Fisher to affix the plate to "the Old Gum Tree," which stands something short of a quarter of a mile from the beach. Near the tree a platform was erected to enable persons to witness the fixing of the plate, &c. After waiting upwards of an hour in expectation of the Mayor of Glenelg and the permission he possessed granting to Mr Fisher to affix the plate to "the Old Gum Tree," which Mr Fisher his Excellency Sir R.G. MacDonnell to affix, which done, three cheers were to have been given for the Queen. Simultaneously with this the Royal Standard was to have been unfurled, and a salute of twenty-one guns. Seeing that his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and other notables were not likely to be present, Hill, the boatswain of the Buffalo, unfurled the flag, cheers were given, and a couple

of bottles of wine broken, when the company dispersed.

The signal gun was fired at a quarter before 12, directly after which the rain began to descend in torrents, and hundreds of persons were seen anxiously enquiring how they could return home.

The festivities included a luncheon for the attendees:

A commodious tent had been put up capable of enabling between four and five hundred persons to partake of luncheon, and many and rare were the good things provided. Some two hours or more before the guests arrived, they had been placed in profusion on the tables, but in less than half an hour the rain was seen dripping in every direction, and notwithstanding plates were put over dishes of roast and boiled to keep them dry, dishes of geese, ducks and turkeys were, in progress of time, all but afloat in cold water. The canvas roofing was in no part waterproof, and it was only at the last moment that a sail was procured and placed over the raised dais, where sat his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Lady MacDonnell and the numerous old colonists and their ladies, who were also present.

On 26 February 1858 a plate recognising the proclamation of the colony of South Australia was attached to the old gum tree, by his Excellency, accompanied by the Hon JH FISHER, President of the Legislative Council, SPH WRIGHT, Esq., the Mayor of Glenelg, and John HECTOR, Esq.

John HILL and family took up residence in Kapunda during the 1860s and had a house built in Hill Street.

In 1883 a letter appeared in the *South Australian Register* calling for the government to grant a pension to John HILL for his services to the colony:

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—On December 28 last the forty-sixth anniversary of this province was celebrated at Glenelg, when an unusually large gathering of holiday seekers assembled. Amongst other visitors was one of whom, with your permission, I purpose saying a few words through the medium of your paper. An old man named John Hill, in the dress of a man-of-war'sman of more than a quarter of a century ago, was introduced to the members of the committee at the end of the Glenelg Jetty. This man, whose age is now 75 years, was the boatswain of his then Majesty King William the Fourth's ship Buffalo, which arrived here and anchored in Holdfast Bay on December 25, 1836, with Governor Hindmarsh on board. Hill landed with the first party, and on the 28th of the same month, by order of the Governor, hoisted with his own hands the British Ensign on the old gumtree at Glenelg when this province was proclaimed a British colony. On the same day Hill fired a salute from the two old guns from the Buffalo now lying on the seawall. At this time he had been twelve years in the navy, and three years' more service would have entitled him to a life pension. He was ordered to remain on shore, assisted in building the first Government House, and himself put the thatch roof upon it, being the only man of the party who knew how to thatch. Governor Hindmarsh returned to England after remaining here for about a year, and Hill was left behind, and has remained in the colony ever since. He visited Glenelg on the day the province attained its twenty first year, and again hoisted the ensign on the old gumtree, and then identified the particular tree which has since been preserved as the first landmark

of the early settler. I am informed Hill bears an excellent character, but has not been fortunate enough to secure a competence for himself in his declining years, and now at the extreme age of seventy-five he is without means of his own, and is entirely dependent for support upon his relations and friends. The old man, whose intellect is still bright and memory perfect, himself told me the few facts I have briefly narrated, and added if God spares him for another year he will come to Glenelg on the next 28th December. Seeing the many thousands of colonists who annually visit Glenelg to commemorate the foundation of this province, it occurred to me that something ought to be done for Hill to enable him during the few years he probably has to live to enjoy immunity from dependence upon others for the necessities for life which he now so keenly feels. I shall be glad, Mr Editor, if you can see your way to take this matter up, and that your so doing may lead to the Government granting some small pension to Hill for the rest of his life, which, under the circumstances, I believe would be done if represented in the proper quarter. If, however, the Government, when requested, decline to assist Hill, the matter ought to be taken in hand by the colonists. I for one will willingly contribute towards a fund for such a purpose. I believe very few indeed remain of those who arrived in the old Buffalo; in fact I only know of one other besides Hill, namely, Mr H.T. Morris, of Anlaby, who I know heartily sympathizes with me in the object of this letter.

I am, Sir &c. W.F. STOCK.

Florence House, Glenelg, January 1.⁵

It is assumed that the request for a pension was not forthcoming, as on 26 January 1883 the *Adelaide Observer* reported a performance at the Royal Theatre, Adelaide, organised for the benefit of John HILL.

On Friday evening, "Lady Clancarty" was performed for the benefit of John Hill, boatswain of the Buffalo. After the conclusion of the second act the venerable beneficiary appeared before the curtain, supported right and left by Messrs W.F. Stock and H.T. Morris. Mr Stock said it gave him much pleasure to introduce John Hill, for whose benefit the entertainment that night was given. Hill desired him to return his thanks to those who had attended for their presence that night, and would remind them he arrived here in 1836, when William IV was King. Mr Stock stated that he had only met Hill last Commemoration Day at Glenelg, and discovered the ancient mariner to be in bad circumstances. Mr H.T. Morris, a fellow passenger aboard the Buffalo, and Mr. John Mullen, of Kapunda, had for many years taken Hill under their protection and assisted him as might be required. Mr Stock felt that something tangible could be done publicly for Hill, and taking the matter up met with a most cordial response from all to whom the circumstances were mentioned. Messrs. Allison and Rignold on being appealed to at once promised their aid, Mr. Rignold declaring that he would cheerfully forego his own benefit in order to assist the bo'son of the Buffalo. On Hill's behalf Mr. Stock begged to thank every one concerned for sympathy and support, especially Mr. Rignold and the ladies and gentlemen who took part in the performance. The veteran himself said – "I am very thankful, ladies and gentlemen, for your kindness here to-night," and the curtain fell.⁶

John HILL passed away in Kapunda on 2 April 1885. Mary passed away in Hawker at her son's home on 2 April 1893. Both were buried in the Kapunda Cemetery.



Gravesite of John and Mary HILL, Kapunda Cemetery
(Image courtesy of the author)

The gravestone, made of a 'fine slab' of marble 'of a pinkish tint from the quarries of the Kapunda Marble and Building Company' was made by local masons Messrs Russell and Cowley.⁷ On the stone, in imperishable letters, the following words were transcribed:

*"To the memory of John Hill, who died at Kapunda, April 2nd, 1885, aged 77 years. He arrived in South Australia by H.M.S. Buffalo, 1836, and had the honor of unfurling the British Standard at the proclamations of the colony." Above this is a carved representation of the old gumtree at Glenelg and the Union Jack, and surmounting the whole in a curved line are the words "A pioneer."*⁸

The *Kapunda Herald* published a biography of John HILL, supplied by WF STOCK, on 14 April 1885:

John Hill, late boatswain of His late Majesty King William the IV's ship Buffalo, was born in Cheshurst, Hertfordshire, in January, 1808.

He early expressed his determination to be a sailor, and not being one of those who 'praise the sea, but keep on land' entered the Royal Navy—a lad of 16...Hill, having high testimonials from the commanding officers of each ship he had sailed in, soon joined H.M.S. Buffalo as boatswain. She was commanded by Captain Hindmarsh (the first Governor of South Australia), and left England on the 3rd of August, 1836, for Australia, calling at Rio and putting in at Port Lincoln. Here the Signet joined them; and leaving in company, they sailed into Holdfast Bay—the first ships to 'break that unknown sea.' On the 28th December, 1836, they landed from the Buffalo and proclaimed the colony; Mr. Stevenson, the Governor's Private Secretary, reading aloud the Proclamation under the old gum tree, while they stood round with hearts beating high with joyful pride. Cheerily some of the crew rigged a temporary staff to the old tree, and Hill taking the halliards hoisted the British Flag as three cheers rang out for King William. A company of marines fired a feu de oie in rather an erratic manner, and Hill assisted in firing the first Royal Salute from the guns of the Buffalo. Two of those guns now stand on the seawall at Glenelg. As soon as Colonel Light had fixed the site of Adelaide, the Governor selected Hill as one to assist in erecting Government House. It was built not many yards from the present one, chiefly of pines; and Hill being the only man on board who understood thatching, did most of the roof, which was a thatched one. Governor Hindmarsh secured Hill's discharge and took him into his service, where he remained during His Excellency's stay in the colony. By remaining three years longer in the navy Hill would have been entitled to a pension—this he forfeited by leaving in 1836. On the Governor's departure he gave high testimonials to Hill, who led the average colonist's life,

*sometimes up sometimes down, but always steady, respectable, and sturdily independent. Hill settled in Kapunda very many years ago, where he passed the remainder of his days. He died as already recorded on the 2nd of April at the ripe age of 77 years.*⁹



John HILL, c1880 (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 6859)

REFERENCES

- ¹ Twenty-First Anniversary of the Colony, *Adelaide Times*, 30 November 1857, p. 2.
- ² Majority of the Colony, *Adelaide Times*, 29 December 1857, p. 2.
- ³ Majority of the Colony, *Adelaide Times*, 29 December 1857, p. 2.
- ⁴ District Councils, *Adelaide Times*, 27 February 1858, p. 3.
- ⁵ The Boatswain of the Buffalo, *South Australian Register*, 2 January 1883, p. 5.
- ⁶ Entertainments, *Adelaide Observer*, 27 January 1883, p. 26.
- ⁷ Local Industry, *Kapunda Herald*, 14 July 1885, p. 3.
- ⁸ Local Industry, *Kapunda Herald*, 14 July 1885, p. 3.
- ⁹ The Late Mr. John Hill, *Kapunda Herald*, 14 July 1885, p. 3.

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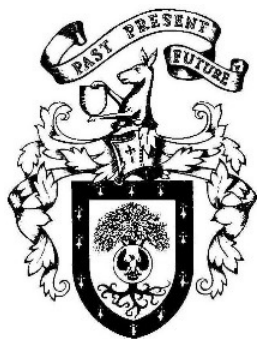
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South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.

201 Unley Road, Unley, SA 5061
PO Box 3114, Unley, SA 5061

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

This insert contains important information about vacancies on the Council for 2026–2028, and the nomination of members to fill those vacancies



South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.

201 Unley Road, Unley, SA 5061
PO Box 3114, Unley, SA 5061

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

To nominate a person for the new Council to be elected at the 53rd Annual General Meeting, you are required to complete the form opposite and forward it to the Returning Officer by NOON on 31 July 2026.

If there is a need for an election, the Returning Officer will advise the nominees and request a statement and a photograph for inclusion in the August 2026 Journal of the Society.

This year there are **six** vacancies on Council.

The following Councillors' terms of office conclude at the 2026 Annual General Meeting and all are eligible for nomination and re-election:

Graeme Adcock

David Barber

Ann Catford

Fiona Errington

Deborah Miller

Beryl Schahinger

The Council has appointed Meryl Stephenson as Returning Officer.

ML Stephenson
Returning Officer
30 April 2026



South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.

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COUNCIL 2026-2028 NOMINATION FORM

(Please **write** in **block capitals** except signatures).

Name of Nominee: _____

Member Number: _____

Name of Proposer: _____

Member Number: _____

Signature: _____

Name of Seconder: _____

Member Number: _____

Signature: _____

ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION

I, the above-named nominee, accept this nomination, being eligible in accordance with the Rules of the Constitution relating to Membership of the Society and to the Council.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

**This form must be with the Returning Officer by NOON on 31 July 2026
in a sealed envelope addressed to the Returning Officer.**

The names of those nominating will remain confidential until the close of nominations.

If there are more candidates than vacancies, a statement of no more than 200 words and a photograph will be requested from the nominee by the Returning Officer for publication in the August 2026 edition of *The South Australian Genealogist*.
If more than 200 words are submitted, the Returning Officer may edit the statement.

A photocopy of this form is acceptable.



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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.

BLACK, Ms Briony (**GOTTSCHALCK, REIMERS, ROOK, WACHTEL**)

BURNS, Ms Sharon (**KEMP, MOAT**)

BYRNE, Ms Sharon (**BYRNE, JAMESON, MUNDEE, PRITCHARD**)

COX, Mr David (**PEARSON, SMITH**)

CULLEN, Ms Marianne (**KELLY**)

CURRY, Mrs Pat (**COLE, DALE, ERRINGTON, JACKSON, PRITCHARD**)

DE SIRA, Mr Matt (**DE SIRA, VASSALLO**)

DENNISON, Miss Anna (**EGAN**)

DOWDY, Mr Esmond (**DOWDY**)

ELLERY, Mrs Sue (**BRADDOCK, SKIPWORTH**)

FARINOLA, Mrs Cheryl (**AWEGE, BROOKER, BROWN, BULLOCK, CHURCHWARD, COOK, CURD, DAVEY, FARINOLA, FILSELL, FRICK, FRISCH, GADD, GOODLIFF, HAYSOM, HEDDLE, HILL, IRVINE, JOHNS, KOTTE, KUHN, LOADER, LOECHEL, MCKAY, PARKER, PERRY, PITT, ROBERTS, RUSSELL, SAMPSON, SHAW, STOECKEL, THEODORE, TILLEY, URE, VAUGHAN, WHITE, WILLIAMS, ZADOW**)

GUNNING, Mrs Sheralee (**TIMPSON, WALDEN**)

HARDCASTLE, Ms Carmel (**NEWTON, SULLIVAN, SUTTON**)

HARRIS, Ms Ellie (**JONES**)

HARVEY, Ms Rae (**LIEBICH, MURPHY, QUINN, REHDER**)

HAYWARD, Ms Mel (**DUNSTAN, HAYWARD, MCCALLUM**)

HOLDEN, Mr Chris (**CURNOW, DAVIS, MULLER, O'DEA, PAYNE, SAMMELS, SCHMIDT, WAIT**)

KELLY, Mrs Claire (**ANTHONY, SWEET, TILLY**)

KENNEDY, Mrs Barbara (**GOODWIN, HEYLEN, KENNEDY, THOMSON**)

KINNEAR, Ms Lucy (**CUNNINGHAM, ELLIS, KINNEAR, STEINE**)

KIRKE, Mr Mike (**LOGAN, SMITH**)

KRONK, Mrs Valerie (**GRUHL, HENNIG, PURMANN**)

LEWIS, Mrs Sharon (**SAMPSON**)

LINNEY, Mrs Jodie (**DART, GREGOR, HORNSBY, ROBERTS**)

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MARKEY, Mr Peter (**HASSE, MARKEY**)

MARKWICK, Ms Brownyn (**TICKLE**)

MOYLE, Mrs Trish (**BISHOP**)

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NIELSEN, Mrs Cheryl (**BAKER, BOULD, BRYANT, DABOVICH, GELLERT, MOORE, PENDLEBURY, POWER, RIDGEWAY**)

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SPEIL, Mr Frank (**KILIAN, KOSTER**)

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STOKES, Mrs Karen (**STOKES, TREMELLING**)

SURMAN, Mrs Mary (**LIPSON**)

TAYLOR, Mr Brett (**SMITH**)

THORNTON, Mrs Faye (**HENDERSON, WOODWARD**)

TINGLEY, Mrs Wendy (**KERNICH, MULLER, MURRIE/MURRAY, SCRIMSHAW**)

TOOLE, Ms Sharon (**JACKSON, MILLINGTON, MURPHY**)

WHITE, Ms Sally (**COLE**)

WHITTERS, Mr Colin (**WHITTERS**)

WILKINSON, Mr Paul (**ALLEN, HANTKE, REED**)

YOUNG, Mr Ian (**STRONG**)

South Australian Soil, Scottish Roots: The Brock Family's Napier Connection

How a child's middle name unearthed a hidden link to Merchiston

by Jackie Muller



*Robert Gosden BROCK and Louisa BROCK nee WALSH
(Image courtesy of the author)*

Upon opening an envelope from my late aunt, I discovered several handwritten notes, an 1816 Scottish marriage record, and a few photographs. One image depicted Auntie's grandparents: Robert Gosden BROCK, seated with a book, and his wife, Louisa, standing beside him.

Robert was born in South Australia and Louisa in New Zealand. They married in Port Adelaide in 1881, and around 1902 had moved with their children to Broken

Hill, New South Wales, where Robert's mother Anna had recently settled.

The marriage record included with Auntie's letter pertained to William BROCK and Jean BAIRD, Robert's paternal grandparents, and from this, I began my investigation into the wider family's history.

I begin this story first with Wallace, Robert's younger brother, whose path proved both revealing and influential in unlocking the past.

From Golden Paddocks to the Silver City



*St Kitts, South Australia, landscape, photograph
taken 30 December 2019 (Image used with
permission of Ross JONES)*

St Kitts, South Australia, is a farming region with abundant warm golden paddocks, dirt tracks, and gum trees. Though now marked by stone house ruins, it was in this rural setting that Wallace Bruce BROCK was born on 8 February 1871, one of 13 children of William BROCK and Anna GOSDEN.¹

The BROCK family, like many others, went through hard times and loss. One example was Jane 'Beard' BROCK, who died of whooping cough at just two years old. Her death was recorded in the *Adelaide Observer*

Wallace's father, a farmer, died in Truro on 6 February 1894. By 1900, Anna had relocated to Broken Hill, to join family there.³



Walter, Wallace's brother, had previously left South Australia around 1885, at the age of 16, to work on the construction of the Hawkesbury Bridge.⁴ It was later that he, Wallace, and several older brothers successively joined the ranks of underground mine labourers in Broken Hill.

Their new hometown would soon become a spectacle of industry. As one observer wrote in 1908 from the vantage point of Reservoir Hill ‘... the Mines, brilliantly lit... the very semblance of a group of battleships, with that leviathan, the ‘Big Mine,’ prominent in the centre.’⁵

By that stage however, Wallace had made other plans.

Utopia or Bust

In 1895, Wallace and his companion Annie AESCHE joined William LANE's plan to establish a 'New Australia' in the jungles of Paraguay—an idea likely galvanised by drought and the aftermath of the Great Shearers' Strike of 1891. They travelled by steamer, first aboard the *Innamincka* from Port Adelaide, then the *Hauroto* from Sydney, New South Wales, joining earlier settlers from the *Royal Tar*.⁶

The *Barrier Miner* transcribed Wallace's impressions in early correspondence from Loma Rugua, Las Ovejas, Paraguay:

Before reaching Asuncion the golden color of the river changes to a tint like that of sarsaparilla...⁷



Hand-drawn map of Paraguay showing New Australia and Cosme colonies near Villa Rica (Image drawn by John LANE)

Wallace and Annie married in Loma Rugua, but they soon discovered an autocratic leader and a fractured colony, and they, like others, became disillusioned. The couple secured passage aboard a cattle boat, working their way across the ocean. Having drained their savings, they 'reached the London docks nearly penniless.'⁸

The couple eventually returned to Broken Hill, hoping to reunite with Wallace's brother Walter. However, Walter and his older brother Alex had already departed for the Northern Territory to pursue prospecting. Undeterred, Wallace and Annie decided to join them there.⁹

Prospecting and Parenthood

During their time in the Northern Territory, Annie and Wallace BROCK had three children: identical twins Maurice Bruce and Walter Napier (born 1899), and Bruce (born 1907). Sadly, Walter died in May 1901, prompting his parents to commission a monument in the Darwin Pioneer Cemetery: a sculpture of a sleeping child, modelled on his twin brother, Maurice.¹⁰



Walter Napier BROCK's grave, Darwin Pioneer Cemetery, photograph taken 27 October 2025 (Image used with permission of David HANCOCK)

Wallace and Walter spent several years prospecting together across the Territory and later in New Zealand. During these heady times, there were accidents and illnesses. Whilst exploring Roper River, the brothers both contracted malaria, one of them apparently also contracting blackwater fever. After reportedly being unconscious for nine days, Wallace later expressed his gratitude for his recovery to Port Darwin's medical staff in the *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* (1907).¹¹

Orchards and Optimism

In 1912, Wallace BROCK became an early and enthusiastic settler in the Murrumbidgee irrigation area when he purchased land in Yanco, near Leeton, New South Wales. A tree-planting ceremony was held at Wallace's block, with newspaper editors and ministers attending.

A convoy of 22 buggies and wagonettes pulled up at Wallace's prepared land, where rows of dug holes awaited an orchard.¹² As later quoted in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Wallace declared: 'This is a miner's dream, to retire to a life under his own vines and fig trees.'¹³

He soon planted his acreage with stone fruits and oranges, later claiming success despite others asserting that the soil was poor, and in 1916, he championed the region's potential in the press.¹⁴ In 1919, Wallace was appointed to the Special Land Board for Yanco.¹⁵ That same year, Walter, who had also farmed nearby, sold his orchard to Arthur MAYOH of Kidman & Mayoh shipbuilding for £4,550.¹⁶

By 1922, Wallace had also sold his property, ending the BROCK brothers' agricultural chapter in Leeton.¹⁷ He died in 1927 in North Sydney, the city home at odds with the countryman's earlier dream.

Against All Odds

Wallace's son, Bruce BROCK, expressed his love of rural life through poetry—his piece 'Bushland' appeared in the *Narandera Argus* in 1921, and another entitled 'Our Land' was published in *The Murrumbidgee Irrigator*.¹⁸

Two decades later, Bruce's path led far from home. As a captain in the 2/2nd Battalion during World War II, he participated in campaigns across Libya and Greece. When German forces overran the Pinios Gorge in April 1941, Bruce and his mates were cut off and, with no ammunition, they were forced to retreat through mountains and swampland in a desperate 37-day escape. With no food and little equipment, they relied on the courage of local Greeks and Turks—villagers who risked their own safety to shelter them, share bread, and even slip coins into Bruce's pocket to pay fishermen.

At one-point, German vehicles stopped nearby for a toilet break. Bruce and his companions threw themselves into roadside ditches, lying flat in the dark. One soldier wandered off the road and nearly stumbled over Bruce. The vehicle headlights shone brightly ahead, but they also cast shadows in which Bruce lay motionless, almost soaked but silent. The Germans returned to their vehicles and drove away.

The troop crossed the Aegean by island-hopping, dodging aircraft, and clinging to hope. In Turkey, they were met by soldiers who had once fought Australians at Gallipoli, but were now allies in kindness.

Fitted with civilian clothes and rations, Bruce's group boarded a train to Alexandretta, then a Norwegian tanker to Egypt, finally re-joining their unit in Palestine on 25 May 1941.

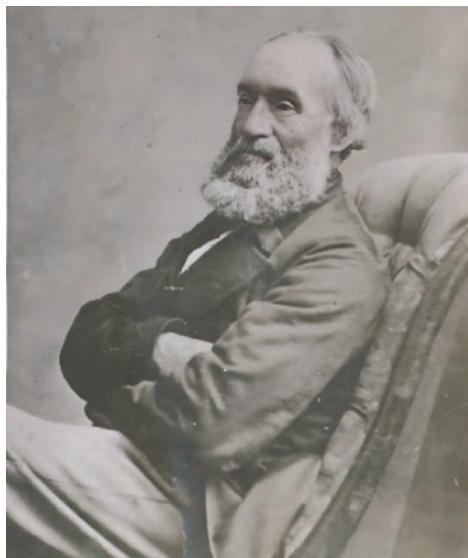


Captain Bruce BROCK with Effogi on the Kokoda Track, 1942 (Image courtesy of the Australian War Memorial)

This story was part of the Australian War Memorial's 'Against All Odds' exhibition. Curator Dianne RUTHERFORD described it as one of 'endurance, kindness and luck.'

Bruce returned to Australia in 1942, together with the memories of those generous strangers who helped them survive.¹⁹

Migration to South Australia



John BROCK Snr, early settler and Justice of the Peace in South Australia (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 11324)

Thanks to Auntie, I now had one of Wallace's grandparents' 1816 marriage banns. It was issued in Denny, Scotland, for William BROCK of Loanhead and Jean BAIRD of Leith. Additional research located the missing second bann issued at the bride's parish.

This second record revealed two key details: Alexander BAIRD, the bride's father, had witnessed the marriage, and the bride's full name was given as 'Jane' Napier BAIRD (Jane and Jean are well-known interchangeable names in old Scottish records.)²⁰

Could Wallace's grandmother be the inspiration behind the naming of Walter *Napier* BROCK? The salient connection certainly felt significant.

The couple's children—Alexander Baird, Robert, John, William, George, Walter, Agnes McVey, and Elizabeth—were born in Denny. Walter died young in 1846.²¹

Scotland experienced extreme upheaval during the mid-19th century, including changes in land ownership, the mechanisation of farms, and rapid population growth. As a result, roughly two million Scots migrated to other countries—the BROCK family's arrival in Australia unfolded amidst this wave.

John, the pioneer, arrived in 1839 aboard the *Fairfield*, helping build Gawler's first hotel—later 'The Old Spot.'²² In 1843 he married Isabella BAIRD, whose family had arrived on the *Navarino* in 1837.²³ Before emigrating, Isabella's mother had re-married James GREIG in Scotland, though the BAIRD children appear to have retained their surname.

After initially settling in Adelaide, Isabella's family later resided at 'Gleeville'—prior land of EB GLEESON—from about 1843 until 1848.²⁴ Several formative events took place during this period, including the birth of Isabella and John's first son, William, in 1844. Isabella's brother, James BAIRD—first publican of Langhorne's Inn—married Elizabeth MCHARG in 1844. Sarah MCHARG—Elizabeth's sister—was lost in the bush near Currency Creek in 1841, leaving a final poignant note to Elizabeth in her Book of Psalms.

James GREIG died at Gleeville in 1845.²⁵



'Gleeville', prior residence of EB Gleeson (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 17485)

I should also mention Marion BAIRD—one of Isabella's sisters—was first married to William COULTHARD, a pioneer who arrived on the *Buffalo* in 1836.

William died of thirst in 1858 while exploring north of Port Augusta. His etched canteen, found months later, now resides with the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia.²⁶

John and Isabella later settled in New Mecklenburg and Tanunda, South Australia, where John became a farmer and a respected community figure—serving as a Justice of the Peace and chairing the District Council. Isabella, hearty even at 95, could still recall witnessing the blaze that destroyed Colonel LIGHT's papers in 1839.²⁷

George, a carpenter, and Robert BROCK, an engineer, also emigrated, while sisters Agnes McVey and Elizabeth appear to have remained in Scotland.²⁸

Wallace's father, William (born January 1825), Alexander, and William BROCK senior arrived in South Australia between 1849 and 1850, aboard the *Nestor* and *Royal Shepherdess*, from Glasgow.²⁹ The senior William died in 1868 at John's home in New Mecklenburg and was buried at the Gomersal Schoenborn Lutheran Cemetery, along with son Alexander, who passed away in 1870.³⁰

No evidence suggests Wallace's grandmother, Jean Napier BAIRD, came to South Australia; her ultimate fate remains unknown.

I sat back from my computer, feeling the weight of these colonial stories. I had just finished reading an article from 1934 describing vandalism to the statue memorialising Wallace's baby boy, Walter Napier BROCK.³¹ I stared at the child's middle name: Napier. A name now familiar, but here it felt different—a whispered thread connecting generations. This century

spanning name connection, paired with the article, was unexpectedly stirring, its imprint renewing my resolve and re-energising my quest.

Quagmires and Quests: The Perils of Pursuit

I've quickly learned that old records and obituaries can include well-meaning but frustrating pitfalls. For instance, the 1934 vandalism event was reported in multiple newspapers, with conflicting reports that linked Brock's Creek, Northern Territory, to either Wallace, Walter, or William BROCK.³² After some confusion, I discovered that the NT Place Names Register clarifies the location was actually named after William, a government inspector on the Overland Telegraph Line.

Surveyor William MCMINN assigned the name in 1870.³³ Charles Henry JOHNSTON's diary identifies a 'sub-overseer' named BROCK working during the Overland Telegraph Line development, and William's 1917 obituary confirms this.³⁴ An interesting escapade from the 1860s came to my attention while reading about William's time with John MCKINLEY and surveyor EDMUNDS.



Overland Telegraph Party, including W. MCMINN (top left) (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 10451)

The explorers had journeyed inland from Escape Cliffs when floodwaters rose, and they became trapped. The group constructed

a makeshift punt from saplings and fresh horse hides slung across the frame. They then navigated down the East Alligator River—closely followed by crocodiles. After being nearly swamped multiple times, they finally landed, emaciated with their clothes in tatters, but safe.³⁵

Analysis of sub-overseer William's obituary indicates he was the son of John BROCK—making him a cousin to Wallace and Walter BROCK, thus offering additional familial evidence.³⁶

At this juncture, a small but telling detail deserves mention. One of John BROCK's daughters, Mabel, married Edward LUCAS in 1890 (later knighted in 1921).³⁷ LUCAS was twice elected mayor of Gawler and later appointed South Australia's Agent in London in 1918. Sir Edward and Mabel had five children, the youngest being Cedric Napier LUCAS, born on 27 July 1901, two months after the death of Wallace's son, Walter Napier BROCK.³⁸

The Napier Thread

So far, I had learned only that Jean Napier BAIRD's father was Alexander BAIRD, but I had yet to identify her mother.

I consulted Scotland's People records and was pleased to locate a definitive birth entry. Jean Napier BAIRD was born in 1800 at Dunipace to Agnes MCVEY and Alexander BAIRD.³⁹ It was no coincidence that William BROCK and Jean later named one of their children Agnes McVey BROCK, a tribute to Jean's mother, and importantly, it reflected the Scottish naming tradition of the time.⁴⁰

Digging further, I located Agnes MCVEY's birth record. Born in 1777 in Kirkintilloch, Scotland, she was the daughter of Jean NAPIER and John MCVEY, a merchant.⁴¹ Clearly, Agnes adhered to Scottish tradition, naming her daughter after her mother, Jean NAPIER.



Sir Edward LUCAS and Mabel Lucas (née BROCK), daughter of John BROCK (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, B 7111)

Agnes had an elder brother—Napier MCVEY—who was born in Kirkintilloch in April 1776.⁴² Notably, their parents, John and Jean, are listed as living in Craiggannet, Stirlingshire, on four of their other children's birth records—a detail that later proves significant.⁴³

This is where the story begins to unfold in unexpected ways.

A Name Recalculated

Intrigued by Napier MCVEY's name, I ran a quick search. The top result was a Wikipedia page for Macvey NAPIER, and, to my surprise, the page stated that Macvey NAPIER was born as Napier MCVEY—the very person I had been searching for. Discovering that they were one and the same was an unexpected revelation.

Macvey was a legal scholar and long-time librarian of the Signet Library in Edinburgh, Scotland. He wrote for the *Edinburgh*



Sculpture of Macvey NAPIER, legal scholar and son of Jean NAPIER (Image courtesy of the University of Edinburgh Art Collection)

Review, later becoming its editor, and taught legal conveyancing at the University of Edinburgh. He also edited the seventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.⁴⁴

Macvey married Catherine SKENE in 1798, and together they had seven sons and three daughters, all of whom were recorded under the surname NAPIER. Notably, two of these children—Jean and John—were dually registered under both NAPIER (Edinburgh) and MCVEY (Dunipace), suggesting a deliberate nod to Macvey's parents, whose names they shared. Another son, William NAPIER, was Singapore's first law agent and a co-founder of the *Singapore Free Press*; Napier Road is named after him.⁴⁵

A biographical dictionary provides further information about Macvey's ancestry: his mother was the natural daughter of NAPIER of Craiggannet. At that time, 'natural born' implied that Jean NAPIER's parents were unmarried, a status considered controversial in that era.⁴⁶



John NAPIER of Merchiston, discoverer of logarithms and ancestor of the Craignannet line (Author unknown)

Further sources revealed that Macvey's grandfather was John NAPIER of Craignannet, and he was a direct descendant of John NAPIER of Merchiston—the 17th-century discoverer of logarithms.⁴⁷ Publications from the Internet Archive, including one gem from 1722, chronicle the line as part of the Merchiston heritage.⁴⁸

Suddenly, the name NAPIER wasn't merely a genealogical clue—it was a link to one of Scotland's most notable mathematicians.

Macvey reportedly reversed his name at his grandfather's request, evidently an effort to preserve their NAPIER identity. Albeit permissible, this act drew Macvey into a traditional Scottish flying—a verbal duel marked by insult and sharp exchange.

The details of the flying are extensive—and believe me, I delved into every word of it.

The Scottish Flying

In the preface to his 1834 book *Memoirs...*, biographer Mark NAPIER—known also for other controversial opinions⁴⁹—publicly

questioned Macvey's claim to the NAPIER surname, calling it unfounded. He claimed no genealogical link existed between Macvey and the Merchiston line, stating 'A very minute acquaintance with the history of NAPIER...does not enable me to record the most distant genealogical connection...'⁵⁰

Although he regarded the matter as largely inconsequential, the Professor's private response included peerage sources and family specifics to show his descent from the NAPIER family. His reply maintained: 'John NAPIER of Craignannet...had a daughter, Jean, who married John MACVEY...Professor NAPIER was the eldest son.' He revealed that his name change, made more than forty years prior, was not capricious but a legitimate fulfilment of his grandfather's express wishes.⁵¹

Mark later conceded that the Craignannet family was descended from the NAPIER family of Merchiston, though he insisted the male line had ended with John NAPIER of Craignannet, who died a bachelor.



Merchiston Castle, ancestral seat of the NAPIER family

There is, of course, much more to this chapter, (including spirited discussion surrounding a painting of John NAPIER of Merchiston, inherited by Macvey), but I will spare you the full volley of their exchanges. Suffice to say, Macvey responded diplomatically—sidestepping the irony that Mark NAPIER's own surname arose from two ancestral reversions of the names BRISBANE and SCOTT. From a modern perspective, these

hereditary changes, though associated with a title, illustrate aspects of the pattern levelled against Macvey.⁵²

A Quiet Legacy

After John NAPIER died at the 'House of Braes', Dunipace, Stirlingshire in 1789, the Craigannet farm passed to his sister, Helen, who had married John FORRESTER. Helen died in 1802, at Stirling.⁵³ A 1916 article in *The Brisbane Courier* sheds further light on the estate through Helen's descendants.⁵⁴ It reads:

FORRESTER. —On January 16th, at her residence, Stirling, N.B., Catherine Forrester, of Craigannet... and last direct descendant of Hugh Forrester, Governor of Stirling Castle, and of John Napier, of Merchiston and Craigannet (the inventor of logarithms). Inserted by her cousins, J.A.P. and A.B.P.

Though Craigannet passed through Helen's line, Jean's family were not forgotten. The MCVEY family thereafter retaining connection with the House of Braes until at least 1806.⁵⁵ According to Macvey's will, John NAPIER's family portraits—along with a silver tea-set engraved with the family arms—were

bequeathed to him and passed down to his heirs suggesting that Jean's legacy endured quietly alongside the more public inheritance.⁵⁶



Teapot engraved with Craigannet arms, crest and motto (Image from the MetMuseum.org, accession no. 68.141.88)

Far-removed from South Australia's paddocks, these memories charted a surprising course shaped by a family determined not to be forgotten—a journey kindled by a wee babe named Walter Napier BROCK, born in Darwin in 1899.

Acknowledgments

The author gratefully acknowledges Janice SMITH (MLitt, RQG, ASGRA) for her expert confirmation of my research on key genealogical connections in this article.

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Research & Development Committee Update

by David Ballinger

Online Databases

As at 30 March 2026, we now have 10,062,882 records in our online databases!

In the February 2026 Journal I reported that in 2025, there were 20 updates across the online databases giving a total of just over 1,200,000 new records. So far this year, up to the time of this report (end of March 2026) we have had 10 updates across Deaths Registrations, Marriage Registrations, Newspaper Marriages, Church Records—Baptisms, Church Records—Marriages, and All Other Records.

There is also a new dataset, Church Records—Other. This dataset contains, at the moment, records of the donated certificates that had previously been in other datasets. This is now the nucleus for additional records currently being worked on. They include church membership lists, church meeting minutes, church sporting groups, confirmations, Sunday School rolls and any other records pertaining to Church Records.

Database preparation work is currently being carried out on the Newspaper Deaths, Newspaper Births, All Other Records, Hospital Admissions, Passenger Lists and Cemeteries databases.

New Collaborative Project – A Tale of Two Cities

Genealogy SA is a senior partner in the ‘A Tale of Two Cities: Long run social and economic mobility in Australia’ project. A brief outline on the project is:-

‘A Tale of Two Cities: Long run social and economic mobility in Australia’ brings together participants from four [sic] universities to work with five partner organisations and combines a range of diverse research disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach brings together economic, social, historical, computational, and data visualisation skills which will provide new insights into factors impacting social mobility in Australia.

This project brings together academics in history from Adelaide University (and the former University of South Australia), University of New England, Monash University, and the Digital History Tasmania Project.

The end result will be a database of immense proportion that will combine, in one place, a digital snapshot of individuals living in South Australia up to 1901. Externally, access to this database is restricted to registered researchers. However, because of our involvement, Genealogy SA members will have unrestricted access to this database as well as the Digital History Tasmania Database.

From the work that will be undertaken, using our databases as templates, we will be able to expand our already existing registrations databases to include all of the additional record fields that previously had not been transcribed. So we are doing one job and having two outcomes from it.

Also, as this project expands Australia-wide, as the lead partner organisation, we will continue to be involved. This, in the future, will give access to many restricted source

records interstate for our members.

Preparatory work has commenced on this project, and we are expanding our transcription team. If you are interested, please contact me to discuss your involvement. Note that, due to the source records being used, and the restrictions in place on where they can be viewed, all work can only be conducted in the Genealogy SA Library.

External scanning (Outreach program)

The scanning program for 2026 commenced with an initial trip to the Penola History Room. This was successful as our volunteers scanned additional records, and also trained local volunteers in how to achieve similar results to our scanning.

We will continue scanning records at the Uniting Church Historical Society, and Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, as well as our own source data from our storage shelves.

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?

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 resounding successes in completing a large amount of backlog work and adding new volunteers to the teams.

The schedule for General working bees for 2026 is:-

Sunday 3 May 2026

Sunday 5 July 2026

Sunday 16 August 2026

Sunday 13 September 2026

Sunday 1 November 2026

Sunday 29 November 2026

The working bees will involve work on paper checking, computer corrections, and headstone image file renaming.

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



News from the Special Interest Groups

Family History Writers Group

We finished 2025 on a high, joining a number of other Special Interest Groups for an informal Christmas Party, held in the Society Library. I think everyone who could be there welcomed the opportunity to catch up in person.

Our program for 2026 is off to a good start: in February our Journal Editor, Kathy AHWAN joined us online via Zoom to discuss writing articles for the Journal; and in March Carmel DUNDON related the story of how she became an 'accidental writer'—an interesting story and one enjoyed by everyone. That meeting was a hybrid event, which worked very well.

In April we hosted Adelaide writer, Jennifer Mackenzie DUNBAR, in a hybrid meeting. Jennifer's writing draws on her love of history, music and mythology and she explores the stories often left untold in conventional historical accounts. A writer of both fiction and family history brings an interesting dimension to our group discussions.

In May, Carmel GALVIN has kindly offered to speak to us about her blog site, an interesting way to record your stories and keep in touch with family and cousins. She will also discuss using Canva, a graphic design tool used by a number of family historians.

In June, a panel of speakers will present some of the ethical dilemmas we may come across when writing or recording our stories—everything from finding unpalatable truths in our families and what to do about them, to the use of AI. It should be an interesting and thought-provoking session.

It is always interesting and useful to hear how other people write their stories. It gives us fresh ideas and a different perspective. These

meetings are designed to help writers learn new ideas and ways of writing your stories, to develop new skills, and to think about the wider context your story sits within.

Please let us know which specific topics you would like to hear and learn about, or if you would like to share your writing journey with us. Remember to register for our meetings, even if you are unsure you can make that particular date. The link to watch the recording later will be emailed to you if you have registered. Other interesting snippets and links are also included in our follow-up email.

Check the Events Calendar for coming meetings and registration links.

Co-convenor: Judy Smith
on behalf of Emily Richardson and Doreen Kosak

saghs.FHW@saghs.org.au

Irish Group

The Irish SIG meets on the second Monday of each month (excluding January). Our meetings are held via Zoom. We currently have over 150 members in our Irish SIG and are always delighted to welcome new members. We are a helpful group and are very happy to offer assistance to anyone working through the complexities of Irish research.

At our February meeting we went back to basics! We like to start each year with a session on the essential records for Irish research—this is useful for those starting their Irish research and is a good reminder of available resources for those who are more advanced. As Ireland has no complete census records from the 1800s it is important to be aware of what records are available and where to find them.

Our March meeting combined with the Family History Writers Group, and we investigated various ways to tell the story of our Irish ancestors. Judy SMITH talked about the process of writing articles and books, and Paula RITCHIE looked at other options, such as PowerPoint presentations.

At our April meeting we looked at the transport options available to our families in Ireland in the 1800s. We were particularly looking at how families moved around Ireland and how they travelled to the various ports before emigrating to Australia.

Convenor: Paula Ritchie
saghs.irish@saghs.org.au

Scotland Group

The topic for our first meeting for the year was 'Your family: Where did they live?' Finding out where your family lived in Scotland is a key to understanding their story and to finding more information about the family from Scottish resources.

The place to start is to find as much information as you can from our records in Australia. I gave an example in the presentation where I was only able to find my great-grandmother's family in Scotland after I had viewed the registration of her death in South Australia. This information gave her place of birth in Scotland which turned out to be correct but was also some distance from where I had been expecting to find her.

There are many sources of information about where people lived. The main source is the census records. Other sources are church records, birth, death and marriage records, newspapers, postal directories, local histories, local archives, family history societies, tax records and maps.

The topic for our meeting in March was 'Is the National Library of Scotland (NLS) a useful

source for your family history research?' The NLS has an extensive collection and resources. The NLS was established in 1925 when the Faculty of Advocates (an independent body of lawyers, who have been admitted to practise as advocates before the courts of Scotland, that has existed since 1532) gifted to the nation its whole non-law collections comprising 750,000 books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps and sheet music. The collection has grown considerably over the last 100 years.

Unfortunately, some of the NLS's collections that have been digitised are not available online to researchers who are not resident in Scotland. However, there are 3 main collections that have been digitised and are available to us. These are the Directories (Postal and Military), their Map images and the Gazetteers.

The Postal directories were published annually and potentially provide information on where people lived in between the censuses which happened every 10 years. Unfortunately, not every household, business or tradesman was included. However, as time progressed the directories became more comprehensive.

The Map Images collection is extensive, including maps of Great Britain and Ireland from the 1500s to the present day. The site has several functions to make it easier to find the maps available for a particular location, to view the changes that occurred over time as towns and cities grew and has the ability to compare current day satellite images with historic maps. There are even some maps that include the names of the residents in the various properties. Some more recent maps include the street numbers which might allow you to find exactly where your ancestor lived.

The Gazetteers provide a lot of information about the places where people lived—

whether in larger towns and cities or small villages and hamlets.

I encourage you to have a look at the National Library of Scotland site, read the site and research guides and explore. My conclusion about the NLS site is that while it doesn't provide any primary sources of information (such as births, deaths and marriages and so on), it does provide a wealth of information about the places where people lived and therefore is a very useful source for your family history research.

This was our first hybrid meeting. We intend to continue using this format so people can attend the meeting in the library and also remotely using Zoom.

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

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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.

MAY 2026

- 3 Working Bee – General**, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library
- 4 South Australia's History Festival:** Family History: Researching the connections to tell your story, 10:00 am, Brighton Civic Centre, 24 Jetty Road, Brighton (bookings required)
- 6 Wednesdays@1:** A Tale of Two Cities: Long-run social and economic mobility in Australia, 1:00pm to 2:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 6 Genealogy Computer Users Group:** 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 7 England Group:** England Parish Records: More than just baptisms, marriages and burials, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 9 South Australia's History Festival:** Library Tour, 2:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library (bookings required)
- 11 Irish Group:** Release of the 1926 Ireland Census – how it can help with your family research, 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 12 South Australia's History Festival:** Connect With Your Family History, 10:00 am, Walkerville Town Hall, 66 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton (bookings required)
- 12 Family Historian Software Users Group:** Sharing Your Information Using Reports, Books, Websites, CD-DVD, Flash Drive, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 13 Germanic & Continental European Group:** Paving the Way, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 17 Sharpen Your Research Skills (Part 1),** 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, via Zoom
- 18 South Australia's History Festival:** Your Family History Journey: Discover every connection, 10:00 am, Burnside Library, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore (bookings required)
- 20 DNA in Family History Group:** Why You Should Sign Up for the DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA, 7:30 pm, via Zoom

- 21 Family History Writers Group:** Blogging for Family Historians: How, where and why, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 24 Sharpen Your Research Skills (Part 2),** 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, via Zoom
- 26 South Australia's History Festival:** Library Tour, 11:00 am, Genealogy SA Library (bookings required)
- 31 Sharpen Your Research Skills (Part 3),** 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, via Zoom
- 31 Scotland Group:** The Clearances: Economic 'improvement' and social disruption for the Highlands, 2:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

JUNE 2026

- 2 Twilight Talks:** Mapping Your Ancestors, 7:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 3 Genealogy Computer Users Group:** 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 4 England Group:** Recusants and Dissidents and Tolerance, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 8 Irish Group:** 7:30 pm, via Zoom
- 9 Family Historian Software Users Group:** From the Beginning: How Family Historian organises information, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- 10 Germanic & Continental European Group:** Bridging Two Cultures: German Roses in Oakbank, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 11 French Huguenot Group:** Innovation and Adaption, 7:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom
- 13 Library Tour:** 2:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library
- 14 Using DNA for Family History (Part 1):** 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library
- 17 DNA in Family History Group:** X-DNA Basics for Genealogists: RootsTech2026, 7:30 pm, via Zoom

18 Family History Writers Group: Ethical Dilemmas: Decisions for writers, everthing from family secrets to AI', 7:00 pm, via Zoom

28 Using DNA for Family History (Part 2): 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library

30 Library Tour, 11:00 am, Genealogy SA Library

JULY 2026

1 Wednesdays @ 1: Investigating the History of Old Objects, 1:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

1 Genealogy Computer Users Group: 7:30 pm, via Zoom

2 England Group: England, Britian, Great Britain, United Kingdom: What's the difference, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

5 Working Bee – General, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library

8 Germanic & Continental European Group: 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

11 Library Tour: 2:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library

13 Irish Group: 7:30 pm, via Zoom

14 Family Historian Software Users Group: Letting FH7 Help You Tell the Story 7:00 pm, via Zoom

19 Genetic Genealogy: Beyond the Basics, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library

15 DNA in Family History Group: 7:30 pm, via Zoom

16 Family History Writers Group: 7:00 pm, via Zoom

28 Library Tour, 11:00 am, Genealogy SA Library

AUGUST 2026

2 Scotland Group: 2:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

5 Genealogy Computer Users Group: 7:30 pm, via Zoom

6 England Group: The Industrial Revolution, 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

9 Getting Started with your Family History, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, via Zoom

10 Irish Group: 7:30 pm, via Zoom

11 Family Historian Software Users Group: Personal Experiences with SA Research, 7:00 pm, via Zoom

12 Germanic & Continental European Group: 7:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

13 French Huguenot Group: Art, Craft and Survival, 7:00 pm, Genealogy SA Library or via Zoom

16 Working Bee – General, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, Genealogy SA Library

19 DNA in Family History Group: 7:30 pm, via Zoom

20 Family History Writers Group: 7:00 pm, via Zoom

23 Genealogy SA Family History Awards: Genealogy SA Library

24 DNA Painter Workshop, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, via Zoom

25 Library Tour, 11:00 am, Genealogy SA Library

Special Interest Groups

Meetings of Special Interest Groups are held each month 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)

French Huguenot Group: 2nd Thursday of every 2nd 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)

New Books in the Library



These items are now available in the Genealogy SA Library. The second copies are available for loan. To find these items and more you can search our library catalogue at www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/society-library/about-the-library.

Biographies

<i>Vaules Augustus Wordie 1852-1907: He Won the Respect and Esteem of Those Around Him</i> by Richard Armitage and Yvonne Wells	REF/WOR/A/BIOG	e-book also available in library
<i>Captain of Solitude: The Collet Barker Story</i> by Bob Innes	REF/BAR/A/BIOG	
<i>Wouldn't Have Missed it for Quids: Memoirs of a South Australian Railwayman</i> by Cliff Olds	REF/OLD/A/BIOG	
<i>"Monty": The Biography of C.P. Mountford</i> by Max Lamshed	REF/MON/A/BIOG	
<i>Croweaters from Cornwall of Mine: Keith Johns' Ancestry and Autobiography to 1948</i> by Keith Johns	REF/JOH/A/BIOG	2nd copy
<i>From Oak to Wattle: The Life and Times of Oscar John Lines, Old Colonist of South Australia</i> compiled by Raelene Draheim	REF/LIN/A/BIOG	2 copies
<i>Rewards of the Years – One Man's Story</i> by W.A. (Bill) Gourlay	REF/GOU/A/BIOG	

Family Histories

<i>The Dalton Families of Nairne: A History of the Migration and Settlement of Three Dalton Families from the Medway Region in Kent, to Nairne in the Eastern Mounty Lofty Ranges of South Australia (second edition)</i> by Raymond V Duance	FH/DAL	
<i>Update 1972-2005 to the Paech Family History, 1800-1972</i> by Rev Walter H Paech by David O Paech	FH/PAE	
<i>Johann Friedrich Christian Vogelsang in Australia 1866-2021</i> by Kevin Fielder	FH/VOG	
<i>The Last Will & Testament of Felix Philip Frederick Dcaux (1822-1887), Farmer & Pioneer of Dingabledinga, South Australia</i> by Graham West	FH in Storage – D	
<i>Treasure Girl: Unearthing Mother's History</i> by Una Myrtle Martin	FH/BIS	
<i>John and Mary Blencowe: Pioneers of Rural Australia as told</i> by Anne K Blencowe	FH/BLE	
<i>The Tonkin Tribute: Descendants of John Charles and Jane Tonkin</i> by Pam Green	FH/TON	2nd copy
<i>The Elusive "Man": The Story of George Alder and his Family</i> by Frederick George Sharon	FH/ALD	2nd copy
<i>It All Began at Wadnama: The Family of John and Mary Plew, 1842-1984</i> by Yvonne Nicholson	FH/PLE	2nd copy

<i>The Larwoods of Edwardstown</i> by John Larwood	FH/LAR	
<i>The Sumner Family Genealogies</i> by Doreen Kartinyeri	FH/SUM	4 volumes, 2 copies held of each volume
<i>The Wilhelm Family History 1846-2025: Family History of the Descendants of Johann Gottfried Wilhelm and his Wife Anna Christina Fengler in Australia</i> researcher Lorraine Willoughby	FH/WIL	
<i>Featherstone: Featherstone's Providence: The Extraordinary Lives of Londoners Mihael Featherstone (1804-1854) (Adelaide), and his Sister, Esther Smithson (1807-1860?) (Hobart and Auckland)</i> by John M Bishop	FH/FEA	2nd copy
<i>Built from Hardship: The Life and Times of Jonathon Swann and Family Members in Maitland</i> by Glenda Hocking	FH/SWA	
<i>Diary of Caroline Ann Short (nee Swincer) 21.3.1874-18.5.1994</i> by Caroline Ann Short	FH/SWI	3 volumes

Local Histories

<i>Glen Osmond Mines: A Guide to the Historic Mine Site</i> by the SA Department of Mines and Energy	LH/GLEN OSMOND [pamphlet box]	
<i>Sevenhill: A Tranquil Place to Visit, Clare Valley, South Australia: A Visitors' Guide</i> by Richard Shortall	LH/SEVENHILL	2nd copy
<i>One Tree Hill Sketchbook (5th edition)</i> by Steven A Hill	LH/ONE TREE HILL	2nd copy
<i>City Of Munno Para Heritage Survey prepared</i> by Sarah Laurence and Taylor Weidenhofer	LH/MUNNO PARA	
<i>The Grange Golf Club: A History of the First 70 Years, 1926-1996</i> by Geoffrey H Manning	LH/GRANGE	
<i>White to Black: Oodnadatta School 1892-1992</i> by John Dallwitz and Daniel Fazio	LH/ODNADATTA	2nd copy
<i>One Remarkable Year</i> by Meredith Resce	LH/MELROSE	
<i>Call Back Our Yesterdays: 1. A Wirrabara Boyhood, 2. A Salute to the Pioneers</i> by Arnold D Hunt	LH/WIRRABARA [pamphlet box]	
<i>Introducing Kapunda</i> by the Kapunda Historical Society	LH/KAPUNDA [pamphlet box]	
<i>Mallala Institute Centenary, 1885-1985</i> by Rosemary Jenkin	LH/MALLALA	2nd copy
<i>Low Bank School History 1913-1842</i> by Cheryl Paschke	LH/LOWBANK	2 copies
<i>Memorial Rock at Corny Point</i> by Bruce Gould	LH/CORNY POINT	
<i>Explore Glenelg: An Expedition into the Past to Discover Places, People, and Events, Which Made This City</i> editor Bill Lyne	LH/GLENELG	
<i>A Study of the Hindmarsh (South Australia) Community: Research Report</i> by MG Duigan	LH/HINDMARSH	

Reading Computers

**Joseph Alexander Hatfield and Mary Rachel Davis –
Their Stories (e-book)** by Terry Liddy

version 2022.03

Reference - Cemeteries

Monumental Inscriptions: Yass Cemetery and St Clement's Churchyard
edited by Pam Ray

REF/CEM/A/NSW amended 2014

Reference - Huguenot

The Huguenots of London by Robin Gwynn

REF/GWY/HUG

The Huguenot Heritage: The Story of the Huguenots at the Cape
by Lynne Bryer and Francois Theron

REF/BRY/HUG

The Huguenot Exodus (L'exodus des Huguenots) by Samuel Bastide

REF/BAS/HUG in French with
booklet translation

Reference - Indigenous

Survival in Our Own Land: "Aboriginal" Experiences in "South Australia"
1836 told by Nungas and Others...

REF/NUN/INDIG

Reference - Military

The Gunners: A History of Australian Artillery by David Horner

REF/HOR/WAR

No Battle Honours: A History of the 10 Tank Attack Regiment
by Stuart Kieselbach

REF/KIE/WWII

**Courage in the Skies: The Untold Story of Qantas, Its Brave Men and
Women and Their Extraordinary Role in World War II** by Jim Eames

REF/EAM/WWII

Backs to the Wall: A Larrikin on the Western Front by GD Mitchell

REF/MIT/WWI

Reference - Religion

St Francis Xavier Seminary. The First Fifty Years 1942-1992
by Margaret M Press

REF/PRE/A/REL/CATH 2nd copy

Reference - Shipping

**The Diary of Winifred Mary Evans 1911-1912: London to
Adelaide S.S. 'Wairama'** by Winifred Mary Evans

REF/EVA/SHIP 2 copies, original
diary located in Rare Books
Collection

**The Deserters: A Complete Record of Military and Naval Deserters in
Australia and New Zealand, 1800-65 (revised and enlarged edition)**
by Rae Sexton

REF/SEX/SHIP

Reference - Australia

The Ulysses Story by Stephen Dearnley

REF/DEA/A

The Changing Face of Australia: A Century of Immigration 1901-2000
by Kate Walsh

REF/WAL/A

Life on the Australian Goldfields by Derrick I Stone and Sue Mackinnon

REF/STO/A

Reference - South Australia

<i>Cornish Australians in Industry and Commerce (2025 Biennial Cornish History Seminar)</i> editor Noel Carthew	REF/COR/SA	
<i>For South Australia's Children: A History of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia 1905-1985</i> by John Carmichael	REF/CAR/SA	
<i>To Hear is to Speak: A History of the Cora Barclay Centre for Children with Hearing Impairment 1945-94 (formerly the South Australian Oral School)</i> by John Hutchins and Elizabeth Hutchins	REF/HUT/SA	
<i>Along the Heysen Trail: A Practical Guide to the Mount Magnificent to the Mount Lofty Section of the Heysen Trail, South Australia</i> edited by David Corbett and Derek Whitelock	REF/COR/SA	
<i>Holding the Line: A History of the South Australian Dog Fence Board, 1947-2000</i> by Leith Yelland	REF/YEL/SA	
<i>R Keith Johns, OAM: Bibliography of Publications, Maps, Addresses and Awards</i> by Keith Johns and Bernard O'Neil	REF/JOH/SA	
<i>Teachers Stories: Before They're Gone: Stories from Primary School Teachers, 1948-1988</i> collected & edited by Glen Woodward	REF/WOO/A/SA	2nd copy
<i>Honouring North Road Cemetery's Remarkable Women</i> by the North Road Cemetery	REF/NOR/SA [pamphlet box]	
<i>Celebrating the Completion of the Overland Telegraph Line</i> by the North Road Cemetery	REF/NOR/SA [pamphlet box]	
<i>Shaping the State: Honouring North Road Cemetery's Educators</i> by the North Road Cemetery	REF/NOR/SA [pamphlet box]	
<i>Triumph to Tragedy: Sir Ross MacPherson Smith</i> by the North Road Cemetery	REF/NOR/SA [pamphlet box]	
<i>Diamond Jubilee: A Commemorative Record of Resthaven's 90th Anniversary Year – 2025</i> by Resthaven Incorporated	REF/RES/SA	
<i>Souvenir of Adelaide, South Australia: Containing 29 Views of the City and Surrounding Districts</i>	REF/SOU/SA [Rare Books Collection]	
<i>South Australian Tragedies: Bordertown Coonalpyn Tintinara</i> by Richard Dutschke	REF/DUT/A/SA	2 copies
<i>The Towitta Tragedy: The True Story of the Bertha Schippan Murder</i> by Richard Dutschke	REF/DUT/SA	2nd copy

Reference - Victoria

<i>Our Yallourn</i> by Lauris Stanger-Brill	REF/STR/VIC	
<i>Sixteen Tons of Clunes Gold: A History of the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company</i> by John Woodland	REF/WOO/VIC	

Reference - England

<i>The Victorians and Edwardians at Play</i> by John Hannavy	REF/HAN/ENG	
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Reference – Cornwall, England

<i>Voices of the Cornish Mining Landscape</i> by Sharron P Schwartz	REF/SCH/ENG/CON
<i>The St Just Mining District</i> by Cyril Noall	REF/NOA/ENG/CON
<i>A First History of Cornwall</i> by John Jenkin	REF/JEN/G/ENG/CON 2nd copy

Reference – Kent, England

<i>The Isle of Sheppey</i> by Sheila M Judge	REF/JUD/ENG/KEN
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Reference – Lincolnshire, England

<i>The Book of the Lincolnshire Seaside: The Story of the Coastline from the Humber to the Wash</i> by David N Robinson	REF/ROB/ENG/LIN
<i>A History of Bourne</i> by JD Birkbeck	REF/BIR/ENG/LIN

Reference – London, England

<i>The Map of London: From 1746 to the Present Day</i> by Andrew Davies	REF/DAV/ENG/LDN
<i>On Lambeth Marsh: The South Bank and Waterloo</i> by Graham Gibberd	REF/GIB/ENG/LDN

Reference – Somerset, England

<i>Blackford: The Story of a Village and its People</i> compiled by Susan Hartnell-Beavis	REF/HAR/G/ENG/SOM 2nd copy
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Reference - Ireland

<i>Ballynacally Lissycasey The Parish & its People Book 2</i> by Mary Hester in association with the Clare Roots Society	REF/HES/G/IRL
<i>Irish Ordnance Survey Maps: A User's Guide</i> by Paul Mulligan	REF/MUL/IRL 2 copies
<i>No Ordinary Women: Irish Female Activists in the Revolutionary Years 1900-1923</i> by Sinéad McCoole	REF/MCC/IRL

Reference – Wales

<i>Copperopolis: Landscapes of the Early Industrial Period in Swansea</i> by Stephen Hughes	REF/HUG/WLS
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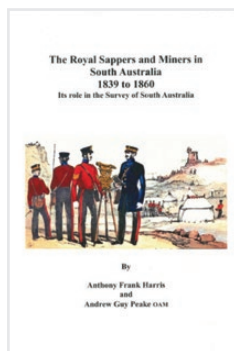
Genealogy SA is always looking for volunteers.

Our volunteers play an important role in pursuing our objective of promoting genealogy, and contributing to our resources of South Australian family history information.

A number of volunteer roles are available.

If you are interested, visit our website www.genealogysa.org.au and register online.

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.

\$35.00 (Members: \$30.00)

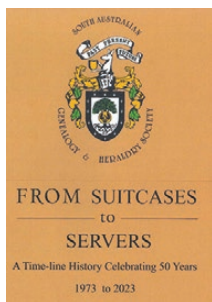


Coromandelians: South Australian Pioneers of the Coromandel

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.

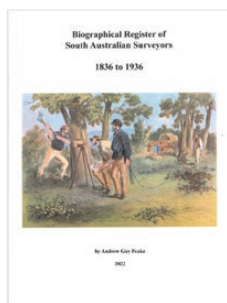
\$66.00 (Members: \$60.50)



From Suitcases to Servers, A Time-line History Celebrating 50 Years 1973 to 2023

Marking the history and growth of the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society – from our early days, transporting our records in suitcases and cartons, to our modern organisation.

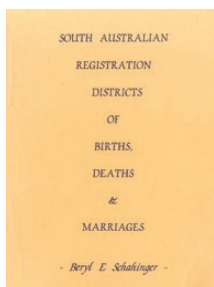
\$12.00 (including postage)



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.

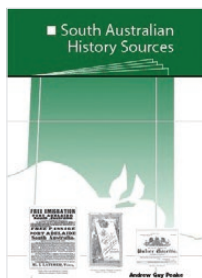
\$30.00 (Members: \$25.00)



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.

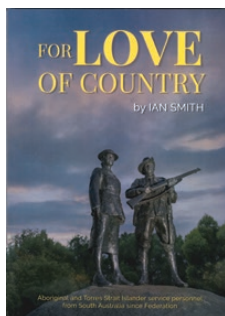
\$30.00 (Members: \$25.00)



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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Website: www.genealogysa.org.au

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saghs.computer@saghs.org.au

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saghs.dna@saghs.org.au

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saghs.england@saghs.org.au

FAMILY HISTORY WRITERS GROUP

saghs.FHW@saghs.org.au

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