

# SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER



**SEPTEMBER 2019**



*Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.*  
3 Ann St Salisbury

**Museum Open**— 2pm-4pm on the 1st Sunday of the month

**Water Wheel Open**—2pm-4pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

These times may vary due to long weekends and school holidays.

The Museum and Water Wheel visits can be arranged at other times,  
please contact the President on 0408086545

## **2019 Program**

### **General Meetings and Activities**

**October 9th Wednesday 7pm AGM**

*“Show & Tell”*

**December 1st Sunday 12pm**

*Christmas Luncheon (details to be advised)*

**Committee Meetings 7pm on Thursday: Oct 3rd & Nov 7th**



“Happy Home” built in 1851 became an Inn in 1861, demolished in 1965.

Now “Happy Home Reserve”

An example of the many photos of Salisbury that can be viewed through our web page.

## Report from the President – Des Brown

### Greetings

I am pleased to advise that you are now able to view over 2,700 pictures of various aspects of the History of Salisbury. Access to our photo records can be made via our web page [www.salisburyhistory.com.au](http://www.salisburyhistory.com.au) and selecting the link under “Gallery” otherwise the direct Flickr address is [www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/).



Select the “Album” option to view the associated photos within specific subjects.

There is still however a considerable amount of work to do in adding details associated with each photo. If you have any photos of Salisbury’s past, our Society would appreciate being able to include a copy in our collection. Please contact us on [salisburyhistory706@gmail.com](mailto:salisburyhistory706@gmail.com).

At our last meeting we were fortunate to hear Dr Margrette Kleinig, who is a research assistant in the Arts & Social Sciences at Flinders University. Her topic was “*I would be most grateful for any news of him*”. This led to Margrette explaining how the formation of the Red Cross Bureau helped families anxious to hear news of their loved one during WW1.



Our latest addition to our Museum is the police uniform of the last serving officer who actually lived with his family in our local Police Station, now our Museum. Senior Constable First Grade Donald Tanner personally donated the uniform to our Society. Donald Tanner and his wife have both done extensive work on the history of the Montaque Farm area and are now residences at Dunbar Nursing home. They and their daughter Beverly are very pleased that we are able to put the uniform on display.

Our Society has signed an additional 5 year contract with TAFE SA for the ongoing utilisation of the original Police Station as our Folk Museum.



The condition of the Water Wheel Museum has been causing our Society some concern for the past few years as there has been no major maintenance since its installation 39 years ago. The Salisbury Council has advised that funding has been allocated for some major work this financial year, we are hoping this work is completed sooner rather than later. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM and “Show & Tell” our next meeting on 9 October.

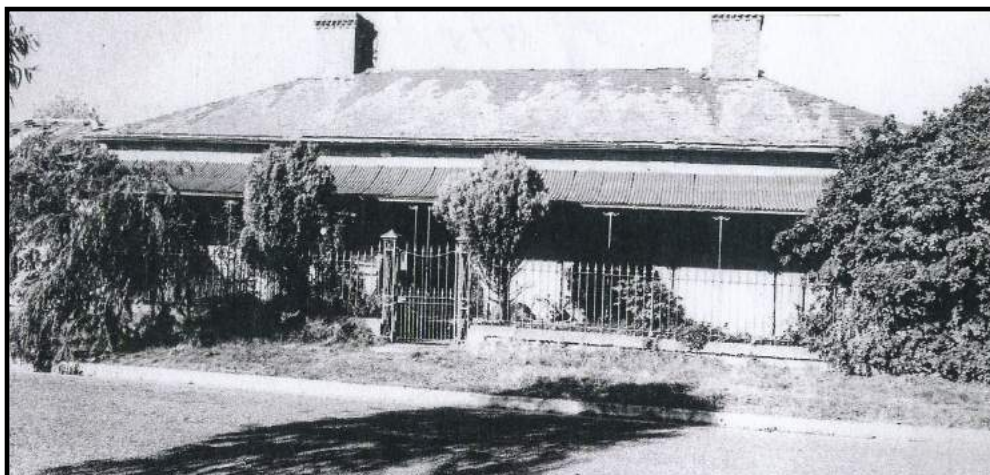
---

## President’s Stop Press— Mail 3rd August 1935

### “About Salisbury

*I thought I could tell you a little about Salisbury. It is about 12 miles from Adelaide. There are many farms at Salisbury, as well as orange gardens. The recreation park is very popular for picnics and the tennis courts, bowling greens and the croquet grounds are situated on the left side of the football or cricket fields. The recreation grounds are surrounded by trees, which is beautiful and you have to go through the Memorial avenue to get to the park. The school children planted many flowers in the avenue on Arbor Day. There is a statue with names of the soldiers who died in the war. The main street of Salisbury is John St., where the shops are placed. The playground is opposite the school, which is in Mary St. The Institute is next to the playground. Salisbury is situated in the Adelaide Plains.*

*Ethel Thomas (15) Para St Salisbury”*



## **SHIRLEY HALL**

One of the oldest and probably the most spectacular residence in Salisbury is “Shirley Hall”, also known as “Chelsea”, built in 1857 it was considered the ultimate in modern fashion and practicality. It was built 20 years before other outstanding South Australian buildings, such as the Adelaide Town Hall, Supreme Court and St Peter’s Cathedral. It can be found at 7 Robert Street just east of Waterloo Corner Road.

It was originally built for William Green Coulls who came from England in 1842 after The South Australian Railways approached him to act as overseer for the construction of a railway line from Adelaide to Gawler on a salary of 400 pounds p.a. He had had some 20 years’ experience with railway construction in England. The railway was officially opened on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1856 in Salisbury. Shortly after William purchased three allotments (28,29,30) of section 2190 from W.P. Trevaskis on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1857.

The design of “Shirley Hall”, Salisbury, is a replica of a residence of the same name in Yorkshire England. The homestead had a number of features which gave it special significance, dual chimneys, imported English slate on the hipped roof and bluestone walls with brick quoins. The concave veranda was supported by decorated iron posts with two extra posts flanking the cedar front door with ornate leadlight.

The main part of the house consisted of seven rooms. Some of the features inside included marble and slate fireplaces with archways either side of them. Timber floors, panelled doors and ceiling roses. There was a very large kitchen which stood apart from the rest of the house. It had a flat roof with a look out platform with iron railings surrounding it, which matched the fence in front of the main building. There was a separate pantry and cellar. They had an underground water tank and a well, equipped with a windmill. There was a substantial coach house and a stable, a loft and coachman’s quarters.

Although the house fronts on to Robert Street, the allotments front onto William Street with the buildings occupying lot 28 on the corner and part of lot 29. The remainder was set out as a formal English garden of Rosemary bushes, lilacs, apple and pear trees, with a fountain and a bird bath. Unfortunately William was only able to enjoy it for four years as he passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1861. The property conveyed to his widow, Susan Coulls in December 1867. She sold it to John Winch in 1874 and two years later it was sold to Edward Irish, who died in August 1890. The Irish family sold it on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1898 to James Thompson, and it remained in their family for the next 76 years.



James Thompson of Yorkshire ancestry was born “on the banks of the Torrens” on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1840. He was never educated and always signed his name with a cross. As a youth he worked at the Kapunda copper mines. He then took to farming. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 1865 he married Mary Spain. They had six children, their youngest daughter Cicely taught at the Salisbury Primary School in the 1890s. He owned farms in Penfield and Parafield. Later his interests spread to property dealing and land investment. In 1897 he became proprietor of the Governor MacDonnell Hotel. He then retired and in 1898 purchased Shirley Hall and changed the name to “Chelsea”. James lived there until he passed away in 1924 at the age of 84.

His younger son, James Benedict Thompson took it over and his family continued to occupy it for another 50 years. James had married Johanna Quinlivan in 1890, they had 17 children, with only 12 reaching adulthood. The second eldest Gertrude Veronica, who never married, together with her bachelor brother, Edward, remained in the house until 1975, both moving into nursing homes. By this time the property had fallen into a state of disrepair with the council issuing a demolition order on it.

Salvation came when it was purchased in 1976 by Dennis Kenney who commenced restoration. He sold it three years later to Graeme and Joan Strudwick who subdivided the property, disposing of lot 30 and part of lot 29's eastern portion. The name reverted back to “Shirley Hall”. In 1986 there was further subdivision and a southern portion was sold.

The property changed hands several times over the next eighteen years until in 2004 Peter Box purchased it. He completed the restoration and modernised the facilities and it still continues in prestige condition today.

Now over 160 years old it is a precious jewel in the history of Salisbury and needs to be preserved for future generations.

*Submitted by Jennifer Paine from details compiled by J Potter*



# ANN PITMAN HARVEY

Ann Pitman was born on 9 June 1826 in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England. Ann was the second daughter of William Samuel and Emma (nee Angel) Pitman. William was born in 1799 in Trowbridge to James and Mary Pitman. William married Emma on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1819 at St James with St Stephen in Trowbridge in the presence of James Pitman and Miss Nightingale. Emma was born in 1798, also in Trowbridge, to Thomas Angell and Margaret Ashman.



William Pitman



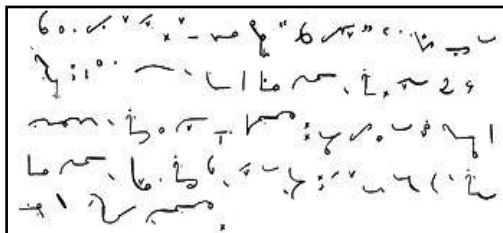
Ann Pitman



Emma Angel

Ann was baptised in 1833 and had 9 siblings.

Ann's brother, Thomas Pitman was a successful builder in South Australia. Her cousin was Sir Isaac Pitman, a teacher of the English language who developed the most widely used system of shorthand, known now as Pitman shorthand. Isaac was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1894 for his contribution to society with his shorthand method which was widely used by all spectrums of society, especially publishing short stories and novels by Arthur Conan Doyle of Sherlock Holmes fame.



In 1840, William and Emma, accompanied by their children, left their small farm and sailed for Australia on the ship Fairlie. The voyage took three months and upon arriving in South Australia they had difficulty in finding accommodation, they were subsequently forced to stay in Emigration Square.

Emigration Square was situated west of the junction of North Terrace and West Terrace. It consisted of canvas tents and make-do dwellings of mud and grass, saplings and river reeds. The emigration agent, who oversaw the migrants' welfare, accommodation and employment had his office and infirmary there.

Ann married John Harvey on 29 July, 1843 at the age of 17 in the Church of St John in Halifax Street, Adelaide (sometimes known as St John's in the Wilderness).

Ann and John had 5 children – James, John, Mary Ann, William Salisbury and Allan Herbert.



John named Salisbury after Ann's home town in England and they resided in the Old Spot Hotel.

Ann passed away on 14 August 1917, aged 91, she is buried, alongside her husband, in the St John Cemetery, Salisbury.

At the time of her death, Ann had thirteen grandchildren and 26 great grand children.



The family's arrival into South Australia is listed in the Biographical Index of South Australia as:

**PITMAN William** parents James and Mary nee Pain born 1799 Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England.

Died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1859 at Norwood, SA.

Arrival 1840 - Fairlie. Occupation builder. Res. Adelaide, Norwood. Religion : C/Em: 7.11.1819 Trowbridge Wiltshire England

**Emma nee ANGEL b:** 1798 Trowbridge Wiltshire, England died 21.1.1866 at Norwood SA

*Buried :* West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide

Children John 1820-1907, Mary 1821, Martha 1823, Samuel 1823-1941. **ANN HARVEY 1826-1917**, Eliza Bristow 1827-1907, Emma DuRieu 1829-1904, William 1832-1878, Thomas 1834-1925, Jane 1840

*Submitted by Alice Foster*

*Information compiled by the Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc. for the Salisbury Historical Society by Ivan Randall and Margaret Flaiban.*

## Salisbury Ploughing Competitions



Ploughing competitions were introduced to the colony of South Australia only a few years after settlement. *“Similar exhibitions are calculated to do good to the colony by exciting a spirit of emulation amongst that most useful of classes, the farm labourers.”*

The first Salisbury Ploughing Competition took place on a section of land belonging to Mr Gillett on the Para Plains on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1851. Entries were taken at the New-road Inn on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

The match sprung from the exertions of a few spirited individuals forming the committee of Thomas Abbott, John Fidge, John Harvey, Henry Bryant and T. Aubert. Mr T H Turner acting as secretary.

The ground was admirably chosen and in first rate condition. The horse and bullock teams were adorned with ribbons and decorations. At 5 o'clock all competitors had completed their work. The judges went over the ground carefully and handed their decision to the secretary to announce at the dinner. List of competitors:

<b>Ploughmen</b>	<b>Teams</b>	<b>Owners</b>
James Goddard	Bullocks	James Goddard
William Coker	Horses	William Coker
Thomas Harris	Bullocks	Thomas Harris
William Vince	Horses	H. Bryant
James Ferguson	Bullocks	James Ferguson
W. Brown	Horses	P. Ferguson
George Barton	Bullocks	G. Barton
George White	Bullocks	G. White
William Gill	Bullocks	W. Gill

First prize of £4 was won by James Goddard, second prize of £3 went to William Vince, third prize of £2/10s went to P. Ferguson, fourth prize of £2 to George Brown, fifth of £1/10s to George White and sixth of £1 to T. Harris.



## Ploughboys

Frederick Fidge .....age 17	Horses	J. Fidge, sen.
James Hook.....17	Bullocks	J. Hook, sen.
Thomas Abbott.....18	Bullocks	T. Abbott, sen.

The first prize of £2. went to Fred Fidge, second prize of £1/10s went to T. Abbott jun. and third prize of £1. Went to J. Hook jun.

A dinner took place in the evening at Wright's Hotel (Salisbury Hotel) with a comparatively small charge of 2 shillings and sixpence. The usual toasts were given and responded to and the event went off to the satisfaction of all concerned. This became an annual event.

In 1853 a meeting was held promoting the formation of the Salisbury Agricultural Society.

In 1858 the ploughing match took place on the property of Mr. Raymond. The conditions determined upon by the committee were, that the ploughing should not be less than five inches in depth and not more than nine inches wide. Either horses or bullock teams were admitted but no difference in time allowed for ploughing which was five and a half hours. The quantity of ground to be ploughed by each competitor was half an acre, to be ploughed in one ridge and two and a half ridges; the furrows to be equal. The competition began at 9.30 am.

1860 showed an attendance of 400 people with 17 competitors. The ploughing standard was judged as excellent. The match was followed by a dinner at the Salisbury Hotel.

In 1861 there were 27 competitors in the ploughing match. The competition took place on a section of land belonging to Mr D. Stewart and situated at the back of the Scottish Chief Hotel. In the champion class there were only two competitors, Mr Coker and Mr Fergusson, the acknowledged champion ploughmen of South Australia. The winner was Mr Coker.

In 1862 the match included a show of horse stock.

In 1865 the Salisbury ploughing match and show of stock took place on a section of property belonging to Mr J Harvey of the Salisbury Hotel and situated an easy distance from the town. On the field there were respectively, two refreshment booths belonging to Mr Scott of the Governor MacDonnell Hotel and Mr Jackson of the Railway Inn.

The Salisbury Stock show and ploughing match of 1873 was held on the property of Mr. J. Middleton, near the Railway Station. The ground, composed of a strong rich soil, was in excellent order for ploughing and the entries were numerous.

*"An energetic band of music enlivened the proceedings and there was nothing to mar the general harmony. During the afternoon as the weather seemed inclined to clear a considerable number of visitors of both sexes put in an appearance, but their hopes of passing a pleasant holiday were somewhat dampened by the frequent showers and cold wind. Through the praiseworthy exertions of Mr J. Nash several well-contested foot races were got up and added much to the interest of the proceedings. There would be less monotony about ploughing matches if whilst the judges are going their rounds, athletic and other sports were engaged in as a set-off against the slow progress of the regular business."*

1874 saw the introduction of agricultural produce; the event took place in Mr Harvey's paddock and was considered to be the best to have taken place in Salisbury for some time. There were 22 competitors in the ploughing match with the show including a display of vegetables, dairy produce and poultry.

In 1877 a thousand people attended and the first prize for ploughing was £10.

In 1879 the Salisbury Agricultural Society amalgamated with Virginia and the shows were to be held alternately in each place.

The first combined Virginia and Salisbury show was held at Salisbury in August 1880 and included exhibits of dairy products. The attendance was large and some first-class stock was exhibited. A dinner took place in the evening at the Salisbury Hotel.

The last ploughing match took place in 1882 and there were only 8 competitors. The work was well finished and was altogether good all-round ploughing. Mr H March in the general double furrow plough class was the only competitor but his work was so exceedingly satisfactory that the judges had no hesitation in awarding him first prize.

In 1883 the Salisbury show was held in a paddock near the public school. The Salisbury Agricultural Society decided due to the lack of competition to dispense with the ploughing match.

The Salisbury Show 13 September 1884. "It was formerly the custom to hold a ploughing match in connection with the show, but in common with other societies The Salisbury association discontinued the matches two years ago and it is not proposed to renew them. This is to be regretted as these competitions tended to improve the style of tilling the soil adopted by farmers and also taught youthful agriculturalists who witnessed the struggles for supremacy to become good ploughmen. "

*Submitted by L Potter*



## Salisbury Past Resident



### Thomas Keyworth Carpenter & Undertaker

1847-1913

#### Mr Thomas KEYWORTH

- Born: about 1847 - England  
Died: 21<sup>st</sup> July 1913 aged 86 years in Salisbury  
Salisbury Methodist Cemetery
- He came to South Australia on the ship "Ascendant " on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 1849  
along with his wife Priscilla Rowles  
They had 10 children between 1849 & 1867
- Had success at Bendigo Gold fields in 1851
- Mr Keyworth was the local carpenter and undertaker and served on the  
Salisbury Institute Committee
- Helped with the erection of the Congregational Church in 1855
- He was a foundation member of the Loyal Wellington Lodge in 1854
- Mr Keyworth was one of the original purchasers of blocks sold off by  
John Harvey in 1852.
- He was also one of the first to purchase land in the new township of  
St Kilda in 1873.
- Priscilla died 16/7/1896 aged 72 years in Salisbury.



## *Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.*

PO Box 838, Salisbury, SA, 5108

*The Salisbury & District Historical Society was established in 1981. The Society was formed to promote the discussion and study of South Australian and Australian history, particularly within The District of Salisbury.*

*Other tasks include the collection, recording and classification of works, source material of all kinds relating to the history of the District of Salisbury and to facilitate access to the collection by the community.*

### ***SDHS Committee 2019***

President: Des Brown 0408086545

Vice President: Delwyn Ayling

Secretary: Lynette Potter

Treasurer: Jan & Hugh Tonkin

Salisbury Council Rep: Shiralee Reardon

#### *Committee Members:*

Jim & Glenyss Trenorden, Jennifer Paine, Raelene Brown, and Alice Foster

#### *Editing Team:*

Jennifer Paine, Lynette Potter, Alice Foster, Tanya Paine, Raelene and Des Brown

*Web-site Mangers:* David Murren

### **Disclaimer:**

Views and opinions expressed in the Salisbury Historical Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Salisbury and District Historical Society Inc.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the articles printed, responsibility is not accepted for any errors they may contain that are out of our control.

***Web-site: - [www.salisburyhistory.com.au](http://www.salisburyhistory.com.au)***

***E-mail: - [salisburyhistory706@gmail.com](mailto:salisburyhistory706@gmail.com)***

***Facebook: - [www.facebook.com/SDHS706](http://www.facebook.com/SDHS706)***

***Photo Gallery: - [www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/)***

***Our Newsletter is printed courtesy of the Office of the  
Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Member for Ramsay***