

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2020



Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.
3 Ann St Salisbury

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

CLOSED

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

These times may vary due to long weekends and school holi

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

COVID-19



*The SDHS Committee wish you and your families a safe, happy and
blessed Christmas and we look forward to bringing you more
interesting Salisbury and District related articles in 2021.*

Report from the President – Des Brown

Greetings, I trust you are all well as we continue to navigate through the ongoing challenges of COVID 19 and head into the festive season. My full 2019-20 report and detailed Financial Report were posted to all members in November. Due to social distancing restrictions and the uncertainty of what the near future holds, the committee agreed to cancel our open meetings as of the end of March and the AGM would be held over until 2021. This meant that the present position holders will remain until an AGM is called next year.

Vice President Delwyn Ayling

Treasurers Jan & Hugh Tonkin

Secretary Lynette Potter

Committee Members: Jim Trenorden, Glenyss Trenorden, Jennifer Paine, Alice Foster, Raelene Brown
Tanya Paine (Newsletter proof reader)

Auditor Anna Gordon

Council Rep Shiralee Reardon (Salisbury Council Rep)

The Financial Report summary from our Treasurer Jan Tonkin for 2019-20 is

Opening Balance \$4532

Income \$3,343

Expenditure \$2,759

Term Deposit \$10,000

Current Balance \$15,115

We are grateful to our Treasurer Jan Tonkin and to Anna Gordon who has audited the financial records for this period.

Our financial membership remains at 42, with an additional 5 Lifetime Members. I understand we have gained 6 new members for 2020-21.

Our Newsletter team over 2020 has again done a tremendous job producing 4 excellent publications.

I am pleased to advise that further to the update provided in our last newsletter, the City of Salisbury Council has now completed the major upgrade of the Water Wheel Museum. The SDHS would like to acknowledge the work of Ms Liz Sokolovic in managing the upgrade. The Water Wheel was maintained by the Rotary Club from 1986 to 2009, when the Council assumed full responsibility. The volunteers of our Society have enabled the Water Wheel to be accessible to the public since its opening in 1986.

Our committee plans to organise a members' luncheon on Sunday 28th Feb 2021 to start our new year and hopefully we will be able to continue with some general meetings in 2021.

I trust each of you are able to be involved in the coming year and help
"Keep alive the History of Salisbury"

President's Stop Press — Gawler Bunyip 18th Jan 1907

"The town (Salisbury) was never in such a flourishing condition as now. Several fine houses are in the course of erection, and a large number of hands are employed at the flourmill, where they expect this season to stack 40,000 bags. New machines are being put in at the mill to cope with the work. The hay and wheat harvest are turning out as well as last year. The fruit crop is good, and realising good process all round."

Subscriptions are now due for 2020-21.

If you have already paid, thank you, a receipt should be included.



Gepps Cross Abattoirs & Sales Yard

For some time, the City of Adelaide and suburbs were troubled by the uncontrolled activities at numerous slaughter yards. In 1899, the Town Clerk of Adelaide advised the Yatala Council that a committee had been set up to investigate the establishment of a centralised abattoir, however, it was not until 1906 that the majority of councils reported as favouring this approach.

The formation of a centralised abattoir meant the proposed closure of 140 private slaughter houses across the state, subsequently in 1907, a Bill was passed with an amendment to compensate these butchers once the centralised abattoir became operational with each butcher owner receiving compensation of £7,000.

611 acres of land was purchased in 1908 at Gepps Cross and in 1909 advertisements were placed for designs and workers who may be interested in employment. Ten designs were received, with Mr Charles A D 'Ebro of Melbourne winning the design contract.

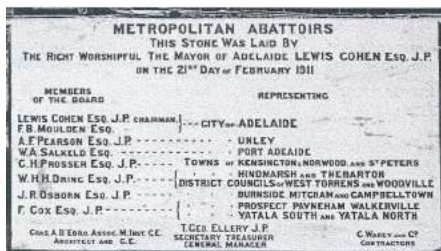
Construction was originally planned for 1910 however it was not until February 1911 when the Foundation Stone was laid to commemorate the start of construction.

A total of £350,000 was spent in providing suitable facilities to handle the daily slaughter of 500 cattle, 4,500 sheep and 280 pigs with market yards able to accommodate 3,000 cattle, 50,000 sheep and 2,000 pigs.

The abattoir was officially opened on 12 July 1913 with a workforce of 220 men and in its first year of operation, the livestock markets sold 826,186 animals.



Administration building



Also in 1910, 47 workers' cottages were built along Main North Road. These 3-bedroom cottages initially had no electricity with water heated by a wood-fired copper, they had high ceilings to aid cooling and each had a shed and outside toilet. These cottages were connected to power in 1921 and were later demolished in 1970.

At the time the central abattoir was opened, Adelaide had a population of 200,000. It was the only Australian capital where the slaughtering of consumable meat was solely undertaken and governed by the authorities. Every carcase bore an official guarantee of careful inspection and scientific treatment.



A railway station on the Northfield Railway Line operated from 1913 until it was closed on 29th May 1987. The station was initially known as Abattoirs but later renamed Pooraka by the District Council of Yatala. The photo shows railway work across Main North Road in 1910. The land to the north of the railway line (stock yards) became part of the Salisbury Council and land to the south (abattoirs) was in the Enfield Council.

The first school in the 1800s was held in the Post Office, located then on the corner of Main North Road and Montague Road. The current Pooraka Primary School opened in 1914 on South Terrace and was then known as the Abattoirs School. It was built mainly to cater for the Abattoir workers' children. This school provided for about 50 children between the ages of 5 and 13 years, the first headmaster was Mr Daniel Adams. It was the only school in the state to be granted a holiday for the 'Butchers Picnic'. The Abattoirs School was renamed Pooraka Primary School in 1941.



One of a fleet of 17 lorries built by Holden used from 1913-1937; they had a top speed of 12mph and did 5 miles per gallon.

In 1932 The Great Depression had begun to be felt through the entire community and severely disrupted the fledgling export markets from the abattoir.





*Sheep stockyards
about 1915*

1950

In January 1943, meat rationing commenced due to WWII with adults restricted to 2.5 pounds per week and children under 9 only allowed on 1.25 pounds. People were issued coupons to surrender to a butcher, with sausages, edible offal, canned meats and pig feet not affected by restrictions. In July the same year, the Commissioner of meat supplies also passed a motion that compulsorily acquired one forequarter of each body of beef, processed at Gepps Cross that weighs 400 pounds or more, be used for canning to supply Britain.

By February 1946, Australia was experiencing a severe drought and the rationing of meat was further reduced by around 8%; further rationing cuts of 12% occurred by May with restrictions remaining in place until June 1948.

By 1950 the abattoirs was processing more than 90% of all SA livestock as the photo above shows, (Main North Road on the left.)

After the war there was a severe manpower shortage. In 1951 the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board used overseas labour in the form of new immigrants or displaced persons from war-torn Europe. There were many industrial disputes at Gepps Cross works due to this decision.

During the 1960s there was a workforce of over 2,000 people.

In 1961 Kangaroo Island supplied a large number of sheep sold to Gepps Cross; through this period sheep were loaded at Kingscote and sailed by coastal freighters to Port Adelaide then walked to Gepps Cross.

In 1967 the Gepps Cross facility diversified and began processing tuna from Pt Lincoln. Refrigerated tanks, areas for gilling, gutting and washing were installed with approximately 2,000 tonnes of fish processed per year.

In the 1970s the abattoir was working at its peak with wages high, the number of animals processed high and general prosperity in the community.

In June 1971, a lamb that sold for \$8.25 became the one millionth sold at Gepps Cross.

In 1972, the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board is replaced by the establishment of the South Australian Meat Corporation (SAMCOR). SAMCOR had profitability problems from its conception. The licencing of local abattoirs such as a large plant at Noarlunga and Murray Bridge signified the start of the decline of operation at Gepps Cross.

Women workers were introduced to the Gepps Cross Workforce in 1972 to alleviate the labour shortage at the time. The AMIEU stopped work in protest claiming that abattoir employees didn't want to see their wives and girlfriends working in the environment of meat processing, particularly during the lamb season when the pace was frenzied. 900 stopped work for two days in protest against the employment of women.

The bull ring auction area was used for the last time in 1974 which had been operating for 61 years; in 1984 it was used as a filming location for 'Robbery under Arms'.

By 1980, SAMCOR's accumulated losses were \$20m and the facility was now only processing 30% of SA's Livestock. In 1981 the SA Government became an 80% shareholder paying SAMCOR's annual interest bill.

In 1983 the facility had its lowest employment rate in 30 years and continued to face competition from private abattoirs.

The next many years continued to slowly but progressively see the demise of the Gepps Cross facility for various reasons, with plans announced by the SA Government in the 1990s to relocate the livestock selling yards to Dublin, with the Gepps Cross abattoir to continue working under new company Agro.

By 2000, Coles and Woolworths had supermarkets located either side of the Gepps Cross yards and were lodging complaints of stench. The Environmental Protection Authority conducted further tests and declared the yards had to be moved.

In December 2002 the last Gepps Cross cattle market was held before being transferred to Dublin.

By end of 2004 all trace of a once massive complex at Gepps Cross saleyards, ramps, platforms and offices had been removed.

In 2005 the former Gepps Cross cattle sale ring is destroyed by fire and in 2006 the derelict former Gepps Cross abattoir administration building is also destroyed by a deliberately lit fire.

The old water tower and surrounding land is now part of a large shopping complex.

Submitted by D Brown & T Paine

Enfield & Northern Villages H J Lewis

Sate Library

australianabattoirs.com extracts from a publication by Richard Maurovic,



Salisbury Town Band 1886
St Johns Church in the background
(photo N R Brown)



Salisbury Brass Band 1979



If you wish to see more historical photographs refer to our
Flicker account www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos and select the "Album" option



"Happy Home"
Waterloo Corner Rd.
Inn in 1861, then Urlwin's farm house
Demolished in 1965
Now Happy Home Reserve



Allan Hall
Hay Carting around 1910

Blacksmiths of Salisbury

Prior to the railway line coming to Salisbury, Commercial Rd, between Park Tc and John St, was the major commercial street of the town. Blacksmiths were one of the key industries required by the community. The Smith was the busiest tradesman in the district during the days of the horse-drawn vehicles and became the centre of communication where local gossip was exchanged. According to the records of the original sale of land, subdivided by John Harvey, a number of purchases were from people with a blacksmith trade. I have found some old newspaper records indicating there were several people who were trading as Blacksmiths.

Names included N. Goodman 1848, C. Charlton 1860's, G. Burnett 1869, F Dunn 1874, J & J Jnr O'Riley 1880, W Sexton 1891, Thomas James 1905, F Gurney 1910 and C. Rice 1926. It appears one of the first blacksmiths to set up in Salisbury was Nicholas Goodman who in 1848 purchased a lot on Commercial Rd from John Harvey. Part of his business was a Wheelwright shop. Goodman came from Cornwell and was a member of the Wesleyan Church. He made available his workshop for the Primitive Methodists Sunday service. These gatherings were probably the first Christian services in the town.

In 1853 Goodman sold off his business land and obtained land on the outskirts of Salisbury to become a farmer.



Cyril & Howard Rice

Another Blacksmith occupied the corner allotment of Wiltshire St and Commercial Rd, now part of the Salisbury Hotel. It was known to be in operation by 1873 but probably dates from the 1850's, this could be the business that J Harvey was advertising for lease in 1892 & 1898. About 1900 Thomas James became the proprietor followed in 1926 by Cyril Rice. "C Rice purchased the goodwill of James Blacksmith's business together with all tools and machinery for the sum of 122pounds."



In 1869 another blacksmith, wheelwright business was owned by George Burnett. Burnett also had a second business in Naracoorte.

The Salisbury business was located on the corner of Gawler St and James Lane (now chemist shop).

G Burnett advertised his business for sale or let in 1871. In the 1910's as the photo indicates it was

owned by Mr F Gurney. In 1940 Cyril Rice closed his business on Commercial Road and took over the Gawler St business, from where he retired in the 1950 to his small farm on Fendon Rd.

The old building of Cyril Rice on Commercial was later refurbished and served as a meeting place for the Buffalo Lodge. The Salisbury hotel extensions took it over in 1988.

The blacksmith furnace, bellows and tools from Cyril Rice's business are now on display in the old stable building at the rear of our Folk Museum .

Submitted by D Brown

Salisbury Past Resident

The Winzors of Salisbury



Albert Winzor



Stewart Winzor



Deal Court

John Winzor born near Deal in Kent England 1908. Immigrated with his wife Harriett and 3 daughters on “Lord Goderiche” in 1838.

In 1845 they settled on the northern bank of Little Para River west of Pt Wakefield Rd and named his property “Deal Court”. They had 9 children, 2 sons and 7 daughters. One daughter Sarah married John Harvey Jnr in 1867.

John Jnr the eldest son married Mary Lovelock in 1862. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter. The eldest son Albert born in 1866 inherited Deal Court on the death of his father in 1904, Albert’s mother Mary died in 1923. Albert married Ada Fridge in 1888, they had two sons and a daughter. Albert combined dairy, grazing and mixed farming with a herd of 60 cows. He became chairman of the Munno Para Council and later Yatala North Council. Albert died in 1913. On his property in May 1910 the first power flight took place (refer our Dec 2018 Newsletter).

John Jnr’s youngest son Winter was born in 1876 and married Isabella Fraser in 1900. He launched out on “Strowan Grove” a property purchased for him by his father. The property bounded Waterloo Corner Rd , Winzor St. and the Littler Para. Winter had an orange orchard and dairy. In 1933 he built a new home on the opposite side Waterloo Corner Rd for his retirement. Winter died in 1951. His son Stewart took over “Strowan Grove”.

In 1951 most of the property was sold off. Stewart married Frances (Cath) Le Lievie in 1936, and they lived in the house at the end of Theta St until his death in 1984.



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 2020

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

Auditor: Anna Gordon

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

E-mail: - salisburyhistory706@gmail.com

Facebook: - www.facebook.com/SDHS706

Photo Gallery: - www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/

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