

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 40 years of "keeping alive the history of Salisbury"



SEPTEMBER 2021



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

General Meetings and Activities

February 28th Sunday 12:30pm

AGM and Luncheon

March 20th Saturday 9:30am

Clean up and Sausage Sizzle

April 21st Wednesday 7:00pm

Alice Foster "Life on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal"

May 16th Sunday 1:30pm

History Month Salisbury walk

June 16th Wednesday 7:00pm

Keith Ellison "Ferry Sound Industry"

August 18th Wednesday 7:00pm*

Paul Harvey "John Harvey"

October 20th Wednesday 7:00pm AGM

"Show & Tell"

December 5th Sunday 12:30pm

Christmas Luncheon (details to be advised)

***Please note - the General Meetings on August 18th will be held
at the Salisbury Institute, Wiltshire St.**

Committee Meetings 7pm on

*January 20th, April 15th, June 10th, August 12th, October 14th
and November 18th*

Report from the President – Des Brown

Greetings

As the Salisbury & District Historical Society progresses through its 40th year, it's timely to note that the society is based on the value of history and recognises that appreciating our past can give us hope for the future.

Over the past 40 years, our society has strived to keep alive the history of Salisbury.

On Wednesday 18th August some 50 people joined in the celebration of our society's 40th Anniversary, 12 apologies were recorded.

It was held in the Salisbury Institute, a fitting location which 163 years ago was the then Community Hub of Salisbury. A special welcome was extended to our Mayor, Gillian Aldridge OAM, the Honourable Francis Bedford MP and Councillor Shiralee Reardon. We were also privileged to have three of the original attendees at the inaugural meeting of June 17th 1981, James & Marilyn Potter and Mrs Joy Lower.

Lynette Potter, a Life Member and long standing Secretary read an abbreviated version of the original minutes of the inaugural meeting. This was followed by James Potter, another Life Member, Salisbury Living Legend and OAM who gave an overview of the work that the Society has undertaken over the past 40 years (*details of which are included in this newsletter*).

We were also privileged to hear Chris Shillabeer play a short piece of music called "Australia Fair & Free" originally written by Dr Ruby Davy. Ruby was born in Salisbury in 1883 and became the first woman in Australia to obtain a Doctorate of Music. Ruby played to packed audiences in the Institute and taught music at a very young age. One of her students was Angela Judd, the grandmother of Chris who too became a music teacher within our district.

Our guest speaker was Paul Harvey, the great, great grandson of John Harvey the founder of Salisbury. His talk was based on Pat Harvey's book "I Called it Salisbury" and how this young 18 year old lad from Wick in Scotland immigrated in 1839 and within 8 years had purchased land and subdivided it into streets and blocks that now make up what is the centre of Salisbury.

Our celebrations were concluded with the cutting of an Anniversary Cake by Mayor Aldridge, Francis Bedford MP and Marilyn Potter; this was later shared by all present.

President's Stop Press — Adelaide Observer Saturday 6th Dec 1884

Opening of Salisbury Institute Hall

"..On Wednesday evening there was a gathering of about 250 people at the opening ceremony.

Mr R Verco JP presided and gave a brief congratulatory address...

The land was a gift of Mr W Kelly valued at 82pounds.. The building cost about 768 pounds....

Mr F W Dancker is the architect, under whose supervision the work has been carried out by

Mr G Hudd... The walls are freestone, the dressing of front elevation, which is in Italian style, being finished in Portland cement, coloured to contrast with stone work....

The hall is 50 x 30 with a clear height of 23 feet."

1981 to 2021



**18th August
2021**

Salisbury Institute



Chris Shillabeer



Paul Harvey

Francis Bedford, Marilyn Potter, Gillian Aldridge



Photos courtesy of Alan Polkinghorne

The Salisbury and District Historical Society Inc.

40 years

“Keeping Alive the History of Salisbury”

Following the publication of John Lewis' book on Salisbury history in 1980 there aroused some interest in the history of Salisbury and the Mayor, Mr Ron White, called a meeting of interested people to discuss the possibility of forming an historical society. This took place at the council offices on Tuesday 28th April 1981 at 7:30pm. Over 50 people attended and at the meeting it was decided that an historical society be formed and a working party of six people were appointed to form a constitution and arrange an inaugural meeting.



The inaugural meeting of the Salisbury and District Historical Society was held on 17th June 1981 with Cr David Plumridge as chairman; 43 people attended with 19 apologies. A constitution was presented and with a few amendments was adopted. A committee consisting of President; Mr Noel Brown, Vice-President; Mrs Olive Stewart, Mrs Mavis Rix, Mr Murray Thomson, Mrs Diane Paropot, Mrs Gillian Pearson, Mr James Potter, Mrs A Waddell and Mr Norm Batten (council representative) was appointed. Membership subscriptions were set \$5 pa, for dual or family at \$7 and for pensioner or student \$2. The City Council gave the society a grant of \$200.

The first committee meeting was held in the library on 1st July 1981 at 7:30pm. Mrs Mavis Rix was elected secretary, Cr Pat St Claire-Dixon, Treasurer; Mr James Potter, Publicity Officer. It was decided that committee meetings be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm and general meetings held on the third Wednesday at 8pm. The first general meeting was set for 16th September with Dr Arnold Hunt as speaker. Committee meetings continued to be held in the library and the general meetings in the John Harvey Gallery adjacent the library. For a while this was available rent free from council but later on a rental fee was imposed.

A newsletter was distributed to all members prior to each meeting. In 1982 there were five meetings, a walk around historic sites of Salisbury, three excursions, a picnic and a Christmas dinner at the John Harvey Restaurant in Bridge Street. 1986 came the South Australian Jubilee 150 and this caused an increase in the interest in local history. As a project for the occasion we published our first book “A Pictorial History of John Street”. This was launched at the council office on Sunday 2nd November 1986 by the Hon. Lyn Arnold MP. This was in association with a “Folk Re-Union” and historic display in the gallery; many old Salisbury people attended.

For some time the Salisbury Rotary Club had been rebuilding the Little Para Waterwheel as a Jubilee 150 project. It was now completed and ready for setting up for display. A special building was erected to house it for public access. Our society became involved and were responsible for the historic display within the building. The Waterwheel Museum was officially opened by Sir Mark Oliphant on 21st December 1986. Our society agreed to open it to the public on Sunday afternoons.

About this time we moved both the committee and general meetings to the Uniting Church Youth Room.

The Australian Bicentenary came in 1988 and we had representation on the local Celebration Committee. We had a display in the Parabanks Shopping Centre including a "T" model Ford car for a week. Also as a project we set up plaques to honour John Harvey, the founder of Salisbury, and Ruby Davy, Doctor of Music, in Parabanks. They were unveiled at a ceremony attended by 60 people. Bob Robertson, Chairman of the Celebrations Committee, unveiled the plaque of John Harvey and Mayor, Pat St Clair-Dixon, that of Ruby Davy. They were mounted on the lift housing in Parabanks. In 1990 we published our second book "*I Called it Salisbury*". This was a biography of John Harvey compiled by Mrs Pat Harvey; it was launched by Bob Robertson at a ceremony held in the library on 5th December 1990 with 80 people in attendance.

By now we were tending to accumulate donated historical artefacts and we were faced with the problem of what to do with them, so we needed to look for a building suitable for a museum. The SA Government were planning to establish a College of Technical and Further Education in Salisbury, they



had the old school property and the police station buildings and acquired further allotments adjacent and south of these properties. We registered an interest in the possibility of leasing either if they became available however several other groups did the same thing, so ensued a series of meetings and negotiations. Eventually it was agreed that the groups join together to form a 'Cultural Centre' and TAFE agreed to lease the police station. As a result we were able to house our artefacts in two of the rooms and share the other two rooms.



Additions to the rear of the building were occupied by TAFE Visual Arts School. The inaugural meeting of the Salisbury Cultural Centre was held at the police station on 5th November 1993. The new building of TAFE was officially opened on Thursday 19th May 1994 and our society assisted with a 'time capsule' which was placed under the stairway.

The society held a ceremony to officially open the museum on 10th April 1994. Mr Harry Bowey OBE cut the ribbon across the doorway and the 80 people who witnessed were able to have a first view of the display. An historic walk on Sunday 18th April attracted 49 participants. At the Australia Day Celebrations of 1995 we received the award for "The Event of the Year 1994" with the opening of the museum.

Our third publication "*Ruby Davy*" written by Rita Wilson was launched at the gallery on 19th November 1995., then on 14th April 1996 we launched "*Be Still*" a history of the Congregational Church in Salisbury written by James Potter. This was launched by Senator Alan Ferguson, a great, great grandson of Rev. James Ferguson, Pastor of the Church 1865 – 82. In 1997 we published "*Little Para Pilgrims*" a history of the Methodist Church in Salisbury by James Potter; this was launched on Sunday 7th December by Don Hopgood, Moderator of the Uniting Church.

In 1998 Salisbury celebrated its Jubilee 150 and as a project we conducted the “Ruby Davy Music Competition”. The response from high class competitors culminated in a concert at St Johns Auditorium on Saturday September 26th 1998, where awards were presented. It gained “The Event of the Year” award at the Australia Day awards in 1999. On 20th November 1998 TAFE held an official function to name the Music Auditorium in their building “The Ruby Davy” Music Auditorium”.

About this time we moved our meeting venue from the Uniting Church to the museum. In 2001 we celebrated our 20th birthday with a special event in the John Harvey Gallery on 18th June and we set up an historical display there for a week. In September 2002 the council, in the reconstruction of Church Street to accommodate a bus stop, removed three of the historic Kurrajong Trees. These were part of 18 trees planted by the Methodist Church to honour the men from the Church who enlisted to serve in WW1. As a means of compensation they agreed to erect a plaque on the cemetery fence to acknowledge the significance of the remaining five.

In 2003 TAFE vacated the rear section of the police station and stables and we were able to lease them meaning we were able to start moving artefacts in there from June. The other groups that shared the building began to find other venues for their meetings and eventually the Salisbury Cultural Centre was disbanded and we became the lessee of the building. We then admitted the Adelaide North Family History group as sub lessees.

In 2006 we celebrated our 25th birthday. For this we had a special meeting in the John Harvey Gallery on May 22nd during History week with Margaret Anderson, the head of History SA as guest speaker. We also featured a historical photographic display in the gallery for a week; this was officially launched by the Mayor Tony Zappier at the gathering, he also joined David Plumridge to cut the cake.

Our 30th birthday was also celebrated with a week long display in the John Harvey Gallery during History week 21st to 28th May 2011.

More recently the task of scanning into digital format and making available over 3,000 historic photos for access by the community through online Flickr account. Gauging by the number of requests to make use of these photos this is proving a very popular asset to our community.

Compiled and presented by James Potter OAM



James Goddard 1823 – 1897

The following is Part 1 of an article researched & written by Heather Geytenbeek, the daughter of Gordon Jenkins, Salisbury orchardist and District Council Member.



James Goddard was born in the village of Angemering in West Sussex. His father, William was a head game-keeper to the Duke of Norfolk at the nearby Arundel Castle, while his mother is recorded as being born Sarah White. There is no record of any connection by Sarah to the Earl of Arrundel and Sussex as claimed by James. Sources vary as to James Goddard's year of birth (1820 – 1823) but his baptism in February 1823 (usually performed a few days after birth) as well as the birth of some of his sisters indicate that 1823 is the most likely year even though subsequent certificates and his own accounts suggest that James may have been born as early as 1820.

According to family lore, his older brother William killed a pheasant, but put the blame on eleven – year – old James who, in order to escape a thrashing from his game – keeper father, ran away and found his way to the Isle of Dogs (a peninsula on the banks of the River Thames in London). Here James became a “pot boy” and later a “river boy” in the yard where the first steamers were being constructed and where the Great Eastern was later built.

James' vivid account of the brutal and heartless treatment he later received as a young sailor boy by the crew of the coaling ship Forester as it plied between the Thames Estuary and Newcastle on the east coast of England is in sharp contrast to the kindness shown to him by various individuals (both male and female) living along the banks of the Thames including at Poplar and Wapping Old Stairs. His experiences were indicative of those Dickensian times when “social pariahs” such as James had to live like “ground frogs”- out of sight and finding their own shelter.

However, his longing to go to sea came to fruition when James made several voyages to the West Indies over a period of three happy years. The captain owned an estate there and James witnessed the end of slavery on the islands. James also made two trips to the Baltic Sea. In England, he chanced to witness Victoria's Coronation procession in 1838.

However, his decision to join the two – masted brig Enterprise on a voyage to Australia proved to be a fateful one, especially for James. The ship left Gravesend in June 1840 and arrived at Port Adelaide on October 11 after a journey of 130 days. The journey was not without incident. Approaching the Cape of Good Hope, the ship struck a rock, knocking seven feet off the ship's keel and on another occasion, James was washed overboard but was kept afloat by a cowhide until rescued.

There were only seven passengers aboard as the cargo consisted mainly of machinery, furniture and food supplies. There was also a consignment of farm animals destined to augment the small stock numbers in the new colony. It consisted of a Durham bull, two donkeys, one calf, four pigs, one dog, six fowls, four geese and four peacocks and peahens. According to James, only the donkey and the heifer calf survived the journey due to neglect. Legal proceedings were instigated in Adelaide against the captain and substantial damages awarded. As he gave evidence against the captain, James discretely left the ship and for a while assumed the name of George Moore.

Initially, James applied for work with a Mr Holmes (the commissary of stores), but Mr Holmes suggested that James apply to Alexander Tolmer, the Commissioner of Police as he was looking for recruits at the time. However, James was unimpressed by the other troopers whom he described as a “society of swells”, whereupon Mr Holmes arranged for him to join a survey party which was about to depart for the lower reaches of the River Murray.

While surveying in the area, the party found the remains of some of the survivors of the brig Maria, which had run aground in a storm just north of Cape Jaffa. The crew and passengers had made their way north along the Coorong in the hope of reaching civilization. Although originally befriended by the local Aboriginal people, they were later murdered. The survey party found some of their bodies concealed in wombat holes and although the bodies were beyond identification, an ear ring was later removed from one of the victims which later led to her identity being established.

It was while he was in the vicinity of Victor Harbor that James became aware of the whaling station at Encounter Bay. He subsequently spent two seasons at the whale fishery near The Bluff under Captain Hart, during which he had the unnerving experience of a harpooned whale smashing his boat to pieces. Fortunately, James was a good swimmer and was able to rescue another whaler, a Mr Montgomery as he swam ashore.

It was about this time that James was recognised by a man called Noel who had been employed on the Duke of Norfolk’s estates. On his return to England, this man contacted James’ mother who must have been delighted at hearing news of her runaway son. She subsequently wrote to James and also sent much – treasured photographs on glass plates of herself and James’ three sisters, Eliza Stafford, Ellen Netteley and Emma (reproductions of these photos are much prized by descendants of James Goddard.)

James Goddard finally settled down when he purchased Sections 446 and 447 at Edwardstown in 1844. He is recorded in a local almanac of the time as having grown 16 acres of wheat, 2 of barley, 35 of oats and one acre of garden.

It would have been also about this time that James met and on January 7, 1844 married Eleanor Warner at St. John’s Church, Halifax Street. Eleanor was seventeen years old at the time while James was recorded as being of “full age” but he may have been as young as twenty.



Eleanor (1826 – 1913) arrived in South Australia on the Eliza with her parents, Edward and Harriet (nee Wooler) and at least five of her siblings. The Warner family had emigrated from the village of Alfriston on the south coast of East Sussex where, according to family lore, this farming family had also been engaged in smuggling! The Warners initially settled in Adelaide (where no doubt James met Eleanor) before moving to Upper Hermitage in the Adelaide Hills where they and some of their family, especially Eleanor’s brother John Warner, became well-known farmers and orchardists.

Meanwhile James and Eleanor had two daughters born while they were living at Edwardstown; Harriet in November 1844 and Ruth in July 1846. It was also in 1846 that James with two other men started a branch of the Hand and Heart Oddfellows Lodge – the second in South Australia.

Soon after copper was discovered in South Australia in 1845, James Goddard, like many others at the time purchased a wagon and bullock team and started carting copper from the mines in the mid – north of the state down to Port Adelaide. On his way he probably stopped at the little township of Salisbury overnight, for bullock teams only travelled at the rate of twelve miles a day – the distance from both Adelaide and Port Adelaide to Salisbury, which in turn was twelve miles from Gawler (together with their proximity to rivers, this factor may have had a big bearing on the location of Salisbury and Gawler. On the other hand, Dry Creek and Smithfield were lunch – stops for the bullockies.)

No doubt for reasons of convenience as well as the attractive locality, the Goddard family moved from Edwardstown to Salisbury c 1948. Indeed, the Munno Para Assessment Book of 1854 records that James Goddard owned a house and two acres of land in Part - Section 3042 at Salisbury.

James and Eleanor Goddard became parishioners at St John's Church of England, while James is reputed to have been a member of the Oddfellows Friendly Society which met of an evening in the Assembly Room at the Salisbury Hotel. Having been uprooted from their friends and extended families, these early settlers sought support from familiar institutions in their new surroundings.

Heather Geytenbeek

Don't miss Part 2 in our next edition and read about James Goddard's gold mining adventures.



Left to right

Eleanor Goddard,

Muriel Eleanor Harvey (nee Jenkins)

Jane Jenkins (nee Goddard)

Child—Rita Harvey

About 1908

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

Snapshots from the past



Salisbury Institute 1902



*Kindergarten
Debutante
Ball
1955*

*Dr Ruby Davy
Performing
1941*





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 2021

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:

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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*

We recognise the Kurna Aboriginal People as the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains in South Australia