

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 40 years of “keeping alive the history of Salisbury”



DECEMBER 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

To be advised in 2022



On behalf of the SDHS Committee I wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and we look forward to bringing you more interesting Salisbury and District related articles in 2022.

Des Brown

COVID-19
 **VACCINATION**

Safe. Effective. Free.

Report from the President – Des Brown

Greetings all, the end of the year is fast approaching and this is our last Newsletter for 2021. I am pleased that in this edition we have been able to include an interesting and revealing article about John Harvey, researched and compiled by Beth M Robertson, Manager, Preservation, State Library of South Australia and Member, Professional Historians Association (South Australia).

Our last meeting on Nov 18th was our AGM and I refer you to the back page for those who were elected into the relevant positions for 2021-22. Our membership this year is 48, with 5 Lifetime Members. We especially acknowledge Lynette Potter, a Life Member, who has stepped down as Secretary after 20 years of service. Thanks also to Jan & Hugh Tonkin for their work as Treasurer over the past 5 years.

Despite the Covid restrictions during the past year we have been able to hold our General Meetings and continue to work towards “keeping alive the history of Salisbury”

Again this year we participated in the May History Festival Month and conducted a “Historic Walk around Salisbury” which included 8 historical sites. Due to Covid we had a restriction of 20 participants. The walk was followed by the usual, very enjoyable and much appreciated afternoon tea provided by our members.

The main highlight of the year was being able to celebrate our Society's 40th year at the old Salisbury Institute which over 160 years ago was the Community Hub of Salisbury.

I would especially like to thank our Committee and Newsletter Team for their support and efforts during this last year. We have appreciated articles from Helen Geytenbeek (nee Jenkins) which have been informative and interesting.

Our quarterly Newsletter continues to be printed courtesy of the office of the Honourable Zoe Bettison MP. A complementary electronic copy is forwarded to Councillors of the City of Salisbury.

Our digitized photographic records are now being used by many, particularly the City of Salisbury as part of their new Discovering Salisbury Web page

We are again appreciative of those who have been part of the Roster that allows us to open the Folk and Water Wheel Museum throughout the year.

President's Stop Press — Bunyip 28 Jun 1947

“Monty” to Visit Salisbury *the residents of Salisbury will have the opportunity of greeting world-famed Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery when he passes through Salisbury on Tuesday, 8th July. Through efforts made by the head teachers of Salisbury and the District Clerk, scholars and residents will be able to greet FM Montgomery when he drives to the Munitions Factory which is to manufacture the latest rocket bomb... children will assemble near the site of the historic meeting place of early days- “The Coach and Horse Hotel” on Commercial Rd*

(this hotel would have been opposite what is now St Augustine's Primary School)

John Harvey – the founder of Salisbury’s African descent



John Harvey, 1823-1899, by Townsend Duryea, c. 1872. (SLSA, B 8235/1/2Y)

I became fascinated by John Harvey the first time I saw his photograph among the 708 men depicted in Townsend Duryea’s 1872 mosaic, ‘Old Colonists 1836-1840’. Like my great-great-grandfather Edward Stirling, who is also included in the mosaic, John Harvey is clearly of African descent. However, when I consulted the 1990 biography written by John Harvey’s great-granddaughter-in-law, I was surprised that there was no mention about his racial heritage.¹

In 2020 I wrote an article for *History SA*, the newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia, about Edward Stirling and John Harvey as ‘descendants of slavery’. It is one of a series of eleven articles, to date, featuring some of the diverse men and women who came forward in the early 1870s to have their photographs taken by Duryea and Henry Jones for mosaics celebrating colonists who arrived in South Australia before 1841. I was delighted when Des Brown asked me to adapt the article for this newsletter.²

According to Harvey’s descendants, there was no knowledge of his racial heritage passed down in the family. Moreover, the 1990 biography does not refer to Harvey having parents. This is despite the author relying on an extensive newspaper article from 1896 reporting Harvey’s reminiscences three years before his death. He described his father by the ambiguous term ‘a native of St. Helena’.³ Neither of Harvey’s parents have been identified to date but his West African heritage has been confirmed by DNA tests undertaken by descendants.

Harvey and Stirling were not the first men of African descent to reach South Australian waters. The trans-Atlantic slave trade generated a black Atlantic seafaring tradition that was well established by the end of the eighteenth century.⁴ American whaling ships in southern Australian waters from 1803 had ethnically diverse crews in which Africans – slave and free – often comprised over one-third.⁵ African Americans were also among the Kangaroo Islander sealers in the pre-colonial era.⁶ Court reports in early newspapers reveal several ‘men of colour’, also referred to as ‘negroes’ and ‘American blacks’, living in Adelaide.⁷

Harvey’s descent from slavery was probably paternal. He identified his birthplace as the northern Scottish harbour town of Wick in the county of Caithness. His characterisation of his father as ‘a native’ of St Helena suggests that his father had been born on the remote South Atlantic island, where the British East India Company had relied on slaves since 1657 to maintain the island’s economy.⁸ If so, it is unlikely that his father’s surname was Harvey; the name does not appear in a detailed history of slavery in St Helena.⁹ It is likely that Harvey’s father was a seafarer, and that Harvey was the illegitimate child of a local

Scottish woman. This is supported by a singularly explicit tribute to Harvey published in a Broken Hill newspaper after his death:

He came into life with the handicap which a half-caste always carries in a world full of prejudices. In his case his father or grandfather was a negro, a boat's cook; and John Harvey was born by a Scottish wharf-side. Naturally, he grew up a gutter-boy.¹⁰

The author of this obituary, using the pen name 'Argentum', is probably Port Adelaide-born William Rodolph Thomas whose father was Harvey's contemporary.



*Wick Harbour during the herring fishing, 1875.
(Hulton Archive/Getty Images)*

Harvey's mother may well have earned her living in the Wick Harbour herring industry; salted herring from Scotland was a cheap source of protein for slave plantations in the West Indies.¹¹ Harvey maintained that his father had given him 'a good education at the Grammar and High Schools' at Wick.¹² However, family historian Ally Morgan has not been able to find any record of Harvey's parents or birth, let alone his education.

Harvey came to the attention of Allan McFarlane, a local Fishery Officer and, by the 1830s, tenant farmer. McFarlane had 12 children and, finding it 'impossible to procure beneficial employment for such of them as are

sufficiently advanced in years' he was 'anxious to emigrate to South Australia'.¹³ He was granted an £86 retirement annuity.¹⁴ Young Harvey, aged about 16, was employed as a labourer when he sailed with the McFarlane family onboard the 'Superb' on 11 July 1839.

McFarlane took up five sections of the Mount Barker Special Survey of the well-resourced lands of the Peramangk people. The property, which was watered 'from a tea-tree swamp', was immediately stocked with sheep and cultivated for wheat, oats, and potatoes.¹⁵ Harvey was also employed as a weighman at the Glen Osmond toll gate as part of the privatised scheme to fund the construction of the road to Mount Barker.¹⁶

Between 1842 and 1847 Harvey transformed himself from labourer to stock and landowner. In 1842 he 'took up' part of Country Section 342 south of Enfield. 'In that first season [he] had two horses and sowed 10 acres of wheat'.¹⁷ This enterprise might explain how he came into the vicinity of the Pitman family of Walkerville. In July 1843, aged about 20, he married Ann Pitman, three years younger than him and five months pregnant. He signed his name 'John Harvy' [sic]; Ann, who was accompanied by her father William, signed with the mark of illiteracy.¹⁸

It appears, to adopt the words of historian R. M. Gibbs, that Harvey was one who, 'unable to pay £1 an acre to buy a large holding outright, operated on the frontier of settlement'.¹⁹ He became a squatter on Kurna, Ngadjuri and Peramangk land 'from Port Gawler to Mount Torrens'.²⁰ Nor could he afford to buy stock; instead, he directed overlanders to his pastures and was paid in kind with cattle. He also earned cash carrying the mail between Adelaide and Gawler²¹ and working for publican Mary Ann Crafer at the Little Para Pass inn.²² By 1847 he was the inn's licensee²³ and was able to purchase two nearby sections – 172 acres – for £227.²⁴

Harvey went on to establish the township of Salisbury on his land, serve the region as politician and magistrate, champion the District Council and Real Property Acts, and become a noted horse breeder.²⁵

John Harvey's story helps reveal that South Australia's earliest colonists were not only of white British and German stock. It also demonstrates the relatively egalitarian nature of early colonial society. Such was Harvey's success in the colony that his racial background was never openly acknowledged during his later life in South Australia, and was forgotten by subsequent generations. Today, we can celebrate the founder of Salisbury as a man of colour.

Endnotes

1. A. P. Harvey, *I Called it Salisbury* (Salisbury and District Historical Society, 1990).
2. I am indebted to Harvey family historian Ally Morgan for sharing invaluable sources with me. This article is my interpretation of those and other material.
3. 'A grand old pioneer', *South Australian Register* (Register), 25 March 1896, 6.
4. W. Jeffrey Bolster, *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail* (Harvard University Press, 1997), 66.
5. Graham Russell Hodges, *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895* (Oxford University Press, 2006), 167.
6. J. S. Cumpston, *Kangaroo Island, 1800-1836* (Roebuck Society, 1970), 119.
7. For example, 'Session of gaol delivery', *Register*, 8 July 1837, 4.
8. 'St Helena, slavery and the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade', www.museumofsainthelena.org.
9. Colin Fox, *A Bitter Draught. St Helena: The Abolition of Slavery 1792-1840* (Society of Friends of St Helena, 2017).
10. *Barrier Miner*, 26 June 1899, 2.
11. Alison Campsie, 'How Scots fishing towns boomed from sale of salted herring to slave plantations', *The Scotsman*, 9 August 2020, 12.
12. *Register*, 25 March 1896, 6.
13. Profiles of Allan McFarlane and Margaret McFarlane, formerly Horne, by Nat Campbell, www.wikitree.com/wiki/McFarlane-2030.
14. *John O'Groat Journal*, 1 April 1836, 1 & 25 November 1836, 1.
15. Rodney Cockburn, *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia* (Publishers Limited, 1925-1927), vol. 2, 6; *Register*, 7 August 1841, 6.
16. *I Called it Salisbury*, 26.
17. *I Called it Salisbury*, 31.
18. St John the Evangelist Church, Marriage Registers 1841-1968, SLSA SRG 94/A3/5 Vol. 1.
19. R. M. Gibbs, *Under the Burning Sun: A History of Colonial South Australia, 1836-1900* (Peacock Publications, 2013), 107.
20. *Register*, 25 March 1896, 6.
21. *I Called it Salisbury*, 33.
22. *South Australian*, 5 July 1844, 2.
23. *South Australian*, 9 March 1847, 6.
24. *I Called it Salisbury*, 47.
25. *Pastoral Pioneers*, vol. 2, 224.

Beth M Robertson

Manager, Preservation, State Library of South Australia

Member, Professional Historians Association (South Australia)

James Goddard 1823 – 1897

The following is Part 2 of an article researched & written by Heather Geytenbeek, the daughter of Gordon Jenkins, Salisbury orchardist and District Council Member.



James Goddard's great interest however, soon lay in prospecting for gold. It was in the early 1850s that gold was discovered in Victoria and James, like many other men in South Australia, travelled to the goldfields there, seeking riches not easily gained by every-day means. Having sold his bullock team, he initially went to Victoria by sea, but returned after a short while, bought another team for £140 and went back over-land. Because of heavy floods, the trip took fourteen weeks! Indeed, the party was forced at one place to construct a raft and float provisions for a considerable distance. These provisions were most likely bags of flour for the gold diggers in Victoria. Good money was to be made by carting South Australian flour to the goldfields. Indeed, family sources claimed that James once took bags of flour to Victoria on a River Murray paddle boat.

On his return to Salisbury, James began farming and won several prizes at the very popular ploughing matches of the time, including a £30 champion prize at a government match at Goodwood. However, drought years followed and James again went overland to the Victorian goldfields before returning home through country infested with bushrangers. Despite meeting some very suspicious characters, James came home with a double shot – belt full of gold.

Meanwhile, the Goddard family had been expanding. The eldest son, William was born in 1849, Ellen in 1851, Jane in 1854, Emily in 1856, Walter in 1858 and Sarah in 1860. Obviously, James was at home in Salisbury at regular periods during these years!

James Goddard returned to farming in Salisbury, but, yet again he was lured by the prospect of easier riches – this time to be found not only in Victoria, but in New South Wales and southern Queensland in which states he is reputed to have prospected for six and a half years. It is not known if James returned home during this period but no more children were born.

Fortunately, his wife Eleanor who had to care for the farm as well as their eight young children was a strong resourceful woman and no doubt their elder son, William (now in his early teens and a farmer in later life) helped her with the farm work.

However, James Goddard's life was to make a remarkable new turn. On his return home, he went to the Barossa Goldfields (south – east of Gawler) and then prospected in the ranges to the south. In 1870 James found evidence of gold in Hamlyn's Gully at Humbug Scrub – a locality now situated between One Tree Hill and the present Little Para Reservoir. However, the main source of gold was not alluvial, but in the form of an underground reef. Indeed, the initial shaft had to be sunk some 40 feet.



To extract the gold required mining and James did not have the expertise nor the financial resources to develop a gold mine from scratch. As a consequence, a company was formed by several financial and experienced men. The mine met with initial success and was named "The Lady Alice". Meanwhile, resourceful as ever, James Goddard built a large wooden building near the mine. This served not only as a residence for himself, his wife Eleanor and several of their children, but also as an hotel, a provision store and a post office. No doubt James ran the hotel, his wife ran the store, while his daughter Ellen is on record as being the post mistress.

As new reefs were discovered, many prospectors as well as their families flocked to the site which quickly became a tent city with just a few wooden buildings. The only stone buildings were the manager's house and a chapel which doubled as a school building during weekdays. No doubt the hotel, cum store, cum post-office prospered on such an isolated site. However, being in the form of reefs, the gold had to be dug out from below the surface by the many prospectors.

Meanwhile, the company was not always working to a profit, and in 1874 the mine was worked on tribute by James Goddard and several others. Indeed, the Government stepped in to subsidise work in the 1880s and 1890s. Furthermore, the mines were subject to flooding from the overflow of nearby dams – indeed one dam actually burst its banks. The continual flooding was largely responsible for the mine being eventually closed around 1908.

Fortunately, James Goddard did not live to see the closure of the Lady Alice Mine as he died in 1897, still convinced that the main reef of paying ore had yet to be discovered. In his latter years, his prized collection of mineral specimens (collected mainly from the eastern states) was a source of great pride as he displayed the stones to visitors.

James left his £400 estate entirely to his widow, Eleanor who relocated to Salisbury after her husband's death, living in a cottage (perhaps her original home) not very far from her daughter, Jane Jenkins at the northern end of Commercial Road.

At a later stage, the extensive wooden building at Humbug Scrub was dismantled, the sections removed and reconstructed as a large multi-purpose shed on the Salisbury property of Arnold Jenkins which was not far from Eleanor's cottage. (Arnold was one of James and Eleanor's grandsons.)

Eleanor was remembered by fellow church goers at St. John's Salisbury as a small, upright figure, dressed in black. She died at the home of her daughter, Ruth Clark at Prospect in 1913.

Both James and Eleanor are buried in St. John's Church of England cemetery. Unfortunately, their gravestone was damaged by vandals many decades later and,

although no longer erect, it is now firmly positioned horizontally above their grave. James and Eleanor were predeceased by three of their children – William, Emily and Walter, all of whom died of an enteric disease such as typhoid which was very common at the time, especially in mining situations.

Of James and Eleanor's eight children, the eldest, Harriet Dunn ran the general store at Tea Tree Gully for many years. Ruth Clarke became a nurse and midwife at Prospect after the death of her husband in Western Australia. William became a prospector and later a farmer at Appila. Ellen Allen – the post mistress at the Lady Alice mine, later moved to Western Australia with her prospector husband. Jane Jenkins was the strict mother of twelve children at Salisbury, while Emily Carwithen and her husband, Augustus (another fossicker) later became hoteliers in Adelaide and Broken Hill. The younger son, Walter was a carpenter and wheelwright in South Australia, and later a fossicker at Coolgardie WA. Finally, Sarah, who is believed to have had an intellectual disability, died in her mid-forties. It is not surprising that three of the Goddard daughters, Ruth, Ellen and Emily came to meet their husbands at The Lady Alice township.

James Goddard officially resided in Salisbury for about 30 years, his wife for 45, but the Goddard's chief contribution to Salisbury society would have been through their Jenkins grandchildren who became involved in sporting activities, St. John's Church, the citrus industry and community affairs. Eight of the grandchildren settled in Salisbury, Elsie (Carey), Leslie, Verna, Archibald, Eleanor (Ella Harvey), Arnold, Gordon and Esric. Of these, perhaps Ella, Arnold and Gordon were the most well-known and active in the Salisbury community of their time, while Elizabeth Bowey (nee Harvey) in the next generation, was Lady Mayoress for many years.

However, it must be remembered that although James Goddard's optimistic spirit led him to many career changes during his lifetime, it was his wife Eleanor, with her quiet courage, hard work and Christian beliefs who was the mainstay of their family through many difficult years.

The winding Goddard Drive in the suburban Salisbury Park of today may well have been part of the route taken by James Goddard in his horse and buggy as he drove between the small township of Salisbury and the developing gold mine at Humbug Scrub – his land of promise.

Heather Geytenbeek



1930s



1941

Commercial Rd looking south from "Leary's Hill"

The Epidemics of Infectious Diseases in Salisbury during the 1930s

The 1930s was a decade when childhood infectious diseases were common in South Australia. While the usual measles, mumps, chickenpox, whooping cough and German Measles epidemics only caused occasional complications, diseases such as diphtheria and infantile paralysis proved to be the most dangerous to all ages. I can recall that when a little girl that lived nearby died from diphtheria, my mother made me gargle with kerosene! Obviously, my parents were extremely worried and turned to so-called preventative measures in desperation. This was shortly before one of the first vaccination clinics against diphtheria opened up at Prospect and children were able to receive their first inoculation against this disease. This was a new experience and I recall some nervous children fainting even as they waited in line.

Antibiotics were yet to become available and sadly my best friend, Margaret Gore died from pneumonia after contacting measles at the age of twelve, while an adult family friend died from poliomyelitis even though she was placed in an iron lung to assist her breathing. During that particular polio epidemic, primary schools were closed for several weeks at the beginning of the school year in an effort to stop the infection from spreading. I recall looking forward to the daily lessons which were published in The Advertiser.

As children, we were largely unaware of the dangers of these epidemics, but my worried mother would have known that, several decades earlier, a distant relative lost five daughters from scarlatina in the space of a few weeks! There may well have been other serious cases of infectious diseases in Salisbury and even deaths which I was unaware, but no wonder our parents were worried in situations over which they had little control and no effective remedies. Ninety years later, does the above sound familiar?

Heather Geytenbeek

An article by Gary Wotherspoon, former academic of the University of Sydney and NSW History Fellow, in 2008 said "A new epidemic, regardless of where it starts, will now travel round the world and reach Sydney in days rather than months. Sydney's history shows that if care is not taken, hysteria, panic and prejudice can take over very quickly." How right he is.



Salk polio vaccination of schoolgirls in 1950s

From the State Library of NSW

Snapshots from the past

The Commercial Rd Bend



1940s
John St in the
background



Late 1960s Power Pylons

1950s Little Para flooding



1980s
Parabanks in the
background

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



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

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*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