

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



JUNE 2022



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 19th Saturday 9:30am

Clean up and Sausage Sizzle

April 6th Wednesday 7:00pm

Ruth Gates (nee Magor) 'Gemima Magor' story

May 15th Sunday 1:30pm

History Month Salisbury walk

June 8th Wednesday 7:00pm

Bob Stace "Life & Times of Colonel Light"

August 10th Wednesday 7:00pm

Terry Sloan "Penfield & WRE"

October 19th Wednesday 7:00pm

AGM "Show & Tell"

December 4th Sunday 12:30pm

Christmas Luncheon (details to be advised)

Trip to Kapunda Historical Museum

Wednesday June 29th meeting at the Museum at 9:45am or at Map the Miner Kapunda at 11am.

Please contact Terry on 0427277302 for further details.

Report from the President – Des Brown

Greetings all; trust you are all well and enjoyed some of those lovely sunny Autumn days. Since our last Newsletter we have had the privilege of hearing Ruth Gates tell the story of Gemima Magor, a 1840s single woman settler and her struggles in the new colony. We also participated in the annual SA History Festival with an historical walk around old Salisbury. This was well attended with 25 people participating followed by the absolutely delightful home made afternoon tea.



President's Stop Press Bunyip 12th July 1940

Munitions Factory

"The Prime Minister announced that plans had been drawn up to duplicate Maribyrnong explosive factory in South Australia. Situated between the Gawler & Two Wells railway lines where they branched north of Salisbury. Factories for the manufacture and filling of brass cartridges and fuses will be set up at a cost of several million pounds. It is expected employment will be found for 6-8,000 persons. The Premier (Mr Playford) has agreed that the State shall assume responsibility for the necessary facilities, such as a railway, communications and the provision of electric power, roads and sewerage to the boundaries of the land. He offered the services of all the States surveyors, engineers and technicians to ensure speedy completion of the work."

Salisbury in 1850-1851

From "Colonist, Copper and Corn" in the colony of South Australia.

25th January 1851 - it was the evening of a very hot day that we took our departure from Adelaide to the North, the weather not permitting us to set out earlier. We passed through North Adelaide to Torrens forming the boundary of the Hundred of Adelaide and Yatala, district adjacent to West Torrens and Port Adelaide, through the latter of which we pursued our road, skirting Prospect Village at the back of Mr Graham's, director of the Burra Mines, capacious enclosure and fanciful residence (Graham's Castle). The vegetation about this spot has wonderfully grown up, and had produced the desirable effect of partially hiding the two incomprehensible pyramids erected there, which however still stick up in the premises like a couple of gigantic pastiles.

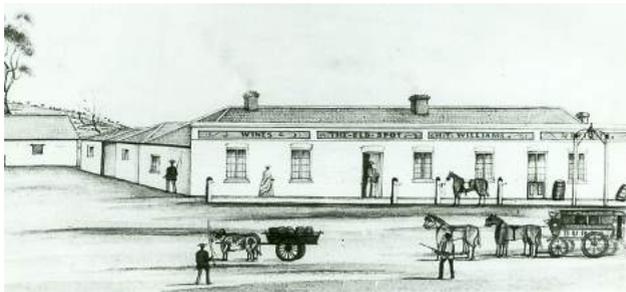


After some miles of uninteresting country, we put up at the "Grand Junction" Inn, Gepps Cross, at the corner of diverging roads, Grand Junction Road to Port Adelaide and Gawler Road to the North where, from our knowledge of the landlord and landlady we felt sure of a very

comfortable accommodation. The sphere is a new one to the parties who keep this house of entertainment, but from their long acquaintance with what constitutes comfort combined with elegance, which they themselves have enjoyed, no house on the road can furnish more substantial luxuries in everything of the domestic character. We have experienced that relief from insect torment which mosquito curtains afford, and were provided with a bed the goodness of which we have formerly appreciated on the Yankalilla Hills. The fare was as good as the sleeping accommodation, and a lady may safely trust herself to the attentions of the hostess of the Grand Junction.

The landlord showed us a skittle-alley of his own erection attached to the building, covered in, yet light and well ventilated, with accommodation for players and spectators. The game, he said, was an attractive one to a profitable class of his customers and he seemed rather proud of this auxiliary to his establishment. The North road from this spot to Gawler Town presents no attractions. It lies along an immense expanse of plain, interrupted only by the strip of vegetation of the Dry Creek and Little Para. There is an Inn at the former of these places, kept by Mr J. Merryweather where another instance may be found of persons education adapting themselves to the circumstances of so public a life.

There are many farms up the Dry Creek under the hills along a range extending probably ten miles, where good corn crops are produced and which have not altogether been so much affected by the season. About a mile from the Little Para opposite a road leading to the Township of Salisbury is a wayside Inn, the "Bull in Mouth" the property we believe of Mr Bean.



At the Little Para, the traveller will find accommodation at the "Old Spot" to us who visited it ten or eleven years ago. We could hardly recognise even the locality, from the alterations made by the enclosures and building, of the original inn nothing remains. The Landlord Thomas Williams is a very civil and intelligent person, and his wife a pleasant and obliging landlady. The house is in the process of improvement, and private sitting rooms and bedrooms are nearly finished. The Inn requires this, for although the present erection supersedes what was little better than a den, the bedrooms are too small, and without sufficient ventilation. Our own in addition to an almost air tight window, which we could leave open at night, as it was on the ground floor and close by the roadside, was ceiled, and contained a bed with a tester, which should be removed in summer, as the confinement produces at least a fancied difficulty of respiration. This discomfort will be removed by the new buildings. In all bedrooms when no chimney is carried up to a vent, an upper pane of the window should always be made to be open. We are of the opinion that the admission of the night air is more beneficial than otherwise at every season, periods of hot winds excepted.

The heat this morning, the 27th, was still oppressive as we walked over the plains of Salisbury. On our way we called on Mr Aubert whose residence west of the road among vegetation of the Little Para, we had not visited for many years. Here we found a manifest improvement Mr Aubert has carefully fenced his two sections, and in the one he lives upon has carefully preserved the vegetation. The land immediately around the dwelling is gently undulating, the section is agreeably timbered, and the slopes covered with silver wattle, with its lively green and through all the pasturage was very dry where half a dozen fine looking horses were feeding, the place looked rural and refreshing, and

the hut was embowered in creepers or some other verdure. Mr Aubert showed us into his cool room, where we found some fresh arrivals of French Literature and among others, translations of Dicken's "Cricket on the Hearth" and Coopers "Spy"... The rest of this immediate neighbourhood was not gained in appearance, even allowing for the season as a trying one, the wattles and other undergrowth near the inn have disappeared and the cuttings through the hills to and from the bed of the stream, make the place naturally desolate, look still more dreary and sterile. Below the hill on which Mr Broadbent has pitched his tent, is a small wattle scrub, almost the only green object, bedside a few trees in the bed of the Para. There are here a baker, a butcher, and a general store keeper. Behind the hills to the east the Roman Catholic Bishop, Rt Rev Francis Murphy DD, has a residence, and there are farms belonging to Mr H.H. and R. Blackham, 'Glemhor', and some others, where good wheat and other corn crops have been successfully raised.

A few miles in the same direction is the property of Messrs A.W. Thorald Grant J.P. 'Tyeka' seven miles south of Gawler, assumed the surname Thorald, 1850 and Butler, pioneer pastoralist (Redbanks) on River Light considerable sheep farmers.

Near Grant's house is a spring which, by an enlargement of the pool there for sheep washing before being shown, has thrown up a volume of water so great as to flow profusely along the plains. This flow if permanent, would be an inestimable advantage, but it may be the result of as before has been the case, of a confined body of water, which, in spending itself, may create disappointment. We came to Salisbury after a walk of about a mile and a half.



The land on which this village or township is situated was the property of Mr Harvey formerly the landlord of the "Travellers Rest" who has sold it out in half acre allotments. It fronts in its main street on a road which runs parallel to that from Hindmarsh to North Adelaide, to Gawler Town and bids fair to rival the old road in traffic. Salisbury, until lately, was unknown to us, and seems to have sprung up like a mushroom to be, however, more lasting and substantial. A road runs west through the Township to the North Arm of the Port River, Port Adelaide. Salisbury contained already fifty houses and shops, and the population of at least 200 persons.



There is a small building intended for the service of the Church of England, St Johns Church of England (1846 the old church still stands) which will contain a congregation of one hundred, but it is as yet unfinished, and wants ceiling and seats. A little assistance would complete this desirable erection. It is at present used as a school, and we found between thirty and forty children there under the teaching of we believe, a Mr Kleeall (if we rightly caught the name.)

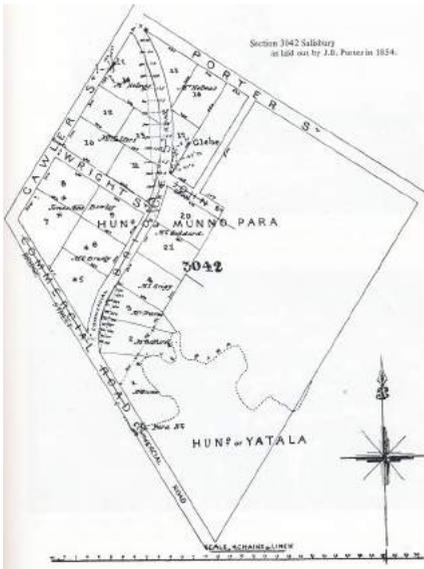
We understand, that from various neighbourhoods, 150 children would be gladly sent to receive instructions here were proper measures taken to promote it. The Rev Mr Coombes of Gawler has kindly furnished books, and otherwise assisted as far as practicable. The village is on the banks of the river, here also, as elsewhere, nearly dry, and crossed by a decent bridge. There are several butchers, two bakers, two blacksmiths, as many wheelwrights and carpenters, one tailor, and, as our informant added, one doctor. Races were recently held there – the course, as pointed out to us, being the front road, and thence around the township.

Objection was originally made as to the site of Salisbury for the want of water, and this objection was increased by diggings near the opposite hills to the depth of 13 feet, without success. Water, it seems, however, was at last found, but it appears that the locality selected for trial was injudicious this necessary of life being afterwards discovered at much less depths north and south of the spot in question.

The first difficulty, unjustly, for wells were shown to us in the township where good water, which we tasted, was obtained at a depth of fifty-four feet, and it has since been got at twenty-seven feet, it averages, however, everywhere no more than forty-five feet. This we were told and believe but we must add, that if water is to be scarce in summer, which does not appear to be borne out, we fear, on considering the situation of the township, that there may be more than enough of it in winter.



There is a good Inn, with rooms upstairs called the “New Road Inn” kept by Mr Wright, a proprietor of land and patron of builders. Two brickmakers are established in this place and a manufactory of roofing and flooring tiles, of which we saw samples singly and en masse. The roofing tiles are sound and good, and are charged at 2.2s pounds per thousand, and the flooring tiles, excellent, are 1s.6d per dozen and will apparently stand rough usage. Bricks are delivered at 28s. per thousand – Hindmarsh price, by which the market here is governed, and good stone for building is said to be found in the neighbourhood. These particulars, and many others, we heard from an intelligent person named Smith, in the employ of Mr Wright and who seemed from his own account to be well digger general to the township. Many gardens are in progress and good supplies of vegetables have been already produced, a market gardener has also settled here.



Eastwards, behind the township are several large farms, where a great deal of corn is grown. A Mr John Winzor, arrived in 1838, (Lord Goderich) holds seven sections, a Mr Fidge, four, and Mr W. Trevascas and Messrs Miles and Raymond have farms in the same locality. The latter of four sections belonging to Mr Fenden have grown in the present season corn crops averaging thirty-five bushels to the acre.

There are also many small allotments to five acres and upwards, laid out and sold by Mr Porter where several Irish families are located. From Salisbury we crossed again the “Old Spot” at the Little Para to proceed to Gawler.

KESTERS OF PARA HILLS

George Kester, born on 6 November 1848 in Cambridge England, migrated from England with his family, father William and mother Ann, at the age of six in 1854.



George married Jane Judd in 1877. Jane was born in Clarendon, Wiltshire, England on the 20 September 1849, second child of Joseph and Ann Judd who migrated to Australia in 1851.

The early part of their marriage was spent at Kapunda, where George carted wool and wheat with a bullock team, travelling as far as Burra for loads.

Jane who was said to be a very astute business person convinced her husband to purchase the Para Hills Dairy Farm with money she had inherited from her father.

In 1894 they bought Para Hills Dairy Farm from the Walsh family. They purchased 141 acres for 3 pounds per acre. Their family consisted of 3 sons, John, Henry, Ernest and four daughters, Emily, Eliza, Annie and Alice. There was a small low ceilinged stone cottage already on the property which they lived in until they built "Pleasant View" alongside the original cottage, at the turn of the century. It was a six roomed limestone house located on Bridge Road. The original cottage was demolished by the family in the late 1920s.

Early farming methods of broadcasting seeds by hand and harrowing in did not result in many good harvests, no such things as fertilizers or seed drills at that time.



To make some sort of income to keep the family fed Jane would travel in a spring cart once a week to the Adelaide Market with one pound in her purse, some eggs and a few pounds of butter which she would sell. She would then buy supplies for the next week. Their diet regularly consisted of bread and dripping. She also sent cream by train from the Salisbury station to a butter factory in the city.

Water was a problem in the area until 1911, when a small main was established from the Main North Road to Bridge Road via Kester's Road. In 1914 another pipe was laid down McIntyre Road, which serviced the Goodall and Kester properties. Up until then the farm had to rely on wells and rainwater tanks.

Henry Richard Kester married Adelaide Badcock in 1907 and ran the Para Hills property with his brother Ernest after his fathers' retirement in 1913. George and Jane moved to Yatala. However Ernest only remained on the farm a few years before retiring due to war injuries.

Jane died in 1917 aged 67, George died in 1937 aged 88.



The Kesters' engaged in mixed farming, growing oats and wheat mainly for hay. A common task was to hitch five horses to a four-ton load of hay and take it to the horse tram depot at Walkerville. As farming techniques improved it became one of the best hay growing farms in the state. One year the family harvested 500 tons of hay. They also ran a large dairy and kept fowls, sheep, pigs, and about 12 horses on the property for work and riding.



Henry retired in 1950, but still remained on the farm till his death in 1962. Adelaide moved to Waterloo Corner Road in Salisbury, then to Beulah Park where she passed away in 1972. They had six children Irene, Norma, Allen, Mavis, Melva and Laurel. They all attended the Salisbury Public School, travelling by pony and trap unlike their father who had a four and a half mile walk to school each day.

Additional land adjoining their own was purchased in 1934. Allen married Muriel Tohill in 1935 and they built another house on Bridge Road, which still stands today. They had 5 children, Gwenda, Shirley, John, Margaret and Robert. Further adjoining land purchases were made in 1950 and 1951 to enlarge the family holdings.

Allen remained at "Pleasant View" running the property with the help of his eldest son John until the property was all sold in 1959 to Reid Murray Development Pty Ltd. for the Para Hills housing subdivision.

Allen and family moved to a new property at Benayeo on the Victorian border thus ending an era of 4 generations of Kester farmers at Para Hills.

Submitted by Jennifer Paine

Snapshots from the past



THE COACH & HORSES HOTEL
Commercial Road
1854



Governor McDonnell Hotel 1920s
Built by Joseph Broadstock in late 1800s

*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.

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*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 2022

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Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Member for Ramsay*