

SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

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



SEPTEMBER 2023



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

2023 General Meetings and Activities

September 13th Wednesday 12 noon

Day Trip and luncheon to Adelaide's Old Gaol

Meet at Reepham Hotel at 12 noon for lunch. (Usual pub meals)

Churchill Rd. corner of Regency Rd.

Gaol admission for group of 10 or more is \$12.50 ea.

Self guided tour. Free parking on Gaol Road.

Accessible for wheel chairs, Toilets on site.

Please ring Terry Sloan on 8258 3154 if you will be attending.

October 18th Wed 7:00pm *AGM*

Show & Tell

December 3rd Sunday 12:30pm *Christmas Luncheon*

Acting President Report—

As noted in our June newsletter, we had an overwhelming response to our annual 'Walk Around Old Salisbury' which was held during History Festival Month in May. We received significant positive feedback from attendees who commended SDHS on the walk, how interesting and informative it was, along with how impressed they were with the homemade afternoon tea provided. Sincere thanks to Terry Sloan for conducting the walk and other committee members who assisted Terry, along with those who contributed to the afternoon tea and it's set-up. It was a great success and we look forward to inviting you to attend our walk again next year. In June we had an interesting presentation from Terry Sloan about the history of Penfield and WRE, please refer to Page 4 for a summary of his talk. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back our President, and to thank committee members for their support whilst I was acting in the position. **Simon Hales**

President Report—

I am very grateful that Simon Hales, over the past 6 months, was able to fill in for me along with the support of our committee members.

It was great to be able to attend my first SDHS general meeting for the year in August. At this meeting we were fortunate to hear from Michelle Toft who is currently the Historical & Culture Officer at the City of Burnside.



Previously Michelle worked as the Curator of the Birdwood Motor Museum where she researched and prepared an extensive display on Alice Anderson the first Australian garage owner. Michelle shared the very interesting story of Alice. Although it ended very tragically it laid the ground work for women's involvement in the motor industry particularly during war time.

Please note our next general meeting on Oct 18th is the AGM along with a Show and Tell, hope you can all make it **Des Brown**

President's Stop Press — Advertiser Saturday 11th Nov 1950

"The District Council of Salisbury has decided to honour the president of the RSL Sub Branch Mr W Banks by naming one of the streets in the new subdivision after him.

Mr Banks has been most cooperative with the council and made land available for the construction of a textile factory which enabled the council to extend the eastern boundary of the recreation park and to continue 11th Street which became know as Brown Tc on which a line of 17 war service homes is being constructed. Mr Banks is throwing open a roadway free to the council which enables York Tc to be opened and thus provide a much shorter route to the railway station and shops from the Middleton subdivision area."

(Banks St runs between York Tc & Salisbury Highway).

*You may recall in an earlier Newsletter **Don Tanner** was the last serving police officer who lived with his family in the original Salisbury Police Station, now our Museum. Senior Constable First Grade Donald Tanner personally donated his uniform to our Society and he and his wife have both done extensive work on the history of the Montague Farm area. This article was prepared by him in 2007*

Brief History of Pooraka

Initially Pooraka was Crown Land.

A large portion of the area known today as Pooraka was originally the “Montague Farms”.

On 14th June 1842 Sir Montague Lowther Chapman of Killua Castle, County Westmeath, Ireland was granted 2,200 acres of land numbered Section 97 in the Provincial Survey on the Dry Creek, north of the City of Adelaide.

During 1842 the original 2,200 acres was split up into 53 large blocks. Montague Village was laid out in 49 allotments on Block 32 with three (3) streets Dan Street, Mary Street and Watson Street. A portion of this area has been incorporated into Mawson Lakes.

In 1921 a subdivision of Section 97 was named “Paraville” by solicitors John Richard Baker and Herbert Angas Parsons and changed to Pooraka in 1928. The boundaries of Pooraka now being Bridge Road, Maxwell Road, Main North Road and South Terrace Pooraka.

The name POORAKA – a Native name said to mean “Dry Creek”.

There has been a school in Pooraka since late 1800s. The first school was in the same building as the Post Office. This building was in the area where the Caltex service station is situated on the corner of Main North Road and Montague Road Pooraka.

The present Pooraka Primary School opened in 1914 and was known as the Abattoirs School, fifty (50) children aged between 5-13 years attended.



It was built to cater for the children in the area particularly the children of the Abattoirs meat workers. The first Headmaster was Mr Daniel Adams. It was the only school granted a holiday for the “Butchers Picnic” because many of the students’ fathers worked for the Abattoirs. The name Abattoirs School was changed to Pooraka Primary School in 1941.

Due to the commencement of the Abattoirs meat works in 1914 a number of homes were erected in Pooraka, however most of the area was farmed until 1950s.

In 1958 there were 283 homes and a population of 1,027 persons in Pooraka. By June 1980 the number of homes had increased to 1,534 and a population of more than 5,000 persons. Presently (2007) there are 2,901 homes and a population of 6,855 persons. (2001 census Pooraka had 2,856 homes, population was 6,889 persons.)

Early pioneers and residents of Dry Creek (Pooraka) circa 1850-1900 include Mr Dan Quinlivan Senior, Bell Freeman, Manager of Levels Station, Mary Batten, Larry O'Brien who ran the Post Office and School, Pat Trimboli and family, John Turbill, James and Mary Watson. Others included James Buttress Rowe and family and Chambers family.

The major hotel in the district "The Bird in the Hand", circa 1-4-1947 to 1877 operated on the north east corner of Main North Road and Montague Road, Pooraka. (At the time the Main North Road was called Great North Road.)



For more information on this subject refer to:

"The Forgotten Montague Farms" by Dr Denis Binnion OA in June 2018 Newsletter and "Gepps Cross Abattoirs and Sale Yard by Des Brown in December 2020 Newsletter.

***At our general meeting in July Terry Sloan spoke on the Penfield Munitions Factory.
The following is a brief review of his talk.***



Looking East

Penfield Munitions Factory was located 5 km. North-West of the Salisbury township.

As Salisbury residents were adjusting to the war in Europe, events took a severe change in June 1940 when the Allies were defeated in France, and were forced to retreat to Great Britain from Dunkirk. The Australian Government realised that this war would be very long. To enable supplies for the military to meet the increased need it was decided to begin large scale production of ammunition at a secure location.

The site chosen was at Penfield, a small village North of Adelaide and remote from the chance of attack by Axis forces. It's location between major rail corridors and close enough to a large resource for personnel and materials was another major advantage. With the urgency of the situation obvious, compulsory acquisition of the site was necessary. The Commonwealth Government purchased 3,838.5 acres of land bounded in the South by the rail line between Salisbury and Virginia, to the North by Penfield and Bellchambers Roads, on the East by the Gawler rail line, and on the West by Heaslip Road. A further 1,280 acres was acquired for building the Smithfield Munitions Store about 1.5 kilometres further North. Penfield, before the war, was a village of 5 houses, 2 stores, a church, a school and a hall, supporting the needs of the small farms located nearby.

To make South Australia's position even more attractive to the Commonwealth, Premier Thomas Playford offered to provide water, electricity roads and railways into the site (Albury/Wodonga had been a consideration.)

The go-ahead was given in June 1940, with construction of the Smithfield store beginning in August, and construction of the Munitions Filling Factory beginning in November 1940. The quick action was fortuitous, given the later entry of Japan into the war following the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7th December 1941.

The purpose of the factory was to manufacture explosives and fill them into a large range of munitions. Those explosives were Cordite, Fulminate of Mercury, T.N.T., Tetryl, Lead Axide, Lead Styphnate and Pyrotechnics.

To enable the massive volumes of munitions to be made, it required the construction of 1,405 buildings, 95 large capacity explosive stores at Smithfield, 41 miles of roads, 34 miles of cleanaways, 13 miles of std. guage railway, 32 miles of water mains, 16 miles of sewer, 150 miles of power lines, 6.5 miles of u/g telephone cables, a sewage treatment works, an electricity power generating station, a 40 bed size Hospital, 27 miles stormwater drains, 35 miles of fencing, 82,000 cubic yards of concrete, laying of 5 million bricks, 6,350 tons of steel and 842,000 tons of earthworks. All of this construction proceeded as the construction and internal installation of the

machinery required also took place.



A workforce of 3,000, many working 7 days a week for a year, were employed on the site.

In addition approximately 290 Cabin Homes were built in the centre of Salisbury, 24 brick homes in Penfield Avenue North of Commercial Road, and 12 brick homes along Argent Road Smithfield.



A workforce of 6,400 at its peak were employed over 3 shifts for manufacture of the explosive and filling of the munitions.

Over the life of the factory the production list extends to 3 foolscap pages, but I can only show you the following representation;

Cordite 10,722,111 lbs. T.N.T. 10,624,140 LBS. .303 Bullets 1 Billion, 243,000

3 inch Mortar Bombs 1,251,768 25pdr. Artillery Shells 4,374,912

Contact Mines 582,060 Depth Charges 5,369.

My thanks go to Ron Smoker for his contribution to research.

Please note addition information of the function of Penfield Munitions Factory can also be found in our Sept 2017 Newsletter prepared by Lynette Potter



Penfield Store &
Post Office
J Dunstone Proprietor
c 1936

Penfield Village
Intersection
Argent & Penfield Rds
C 1940



Farm House
H White 1953
On what became
Long Range Weapons Est

Salisbury Primary School Band

The school did not always have a band but in 1915 there are records that indicate the school had a fife & drum band headed by the Head Master W Tribe that lead the Australia Day procession in August 1915.



By 1930 the Salisbury Public School had a piccolo band under the leadership of the Headmaster J Severin, but apparently it only lasted a year.



In 1935 Harry Nardebaum joined the teaching staff of the school, probably his first appointment.

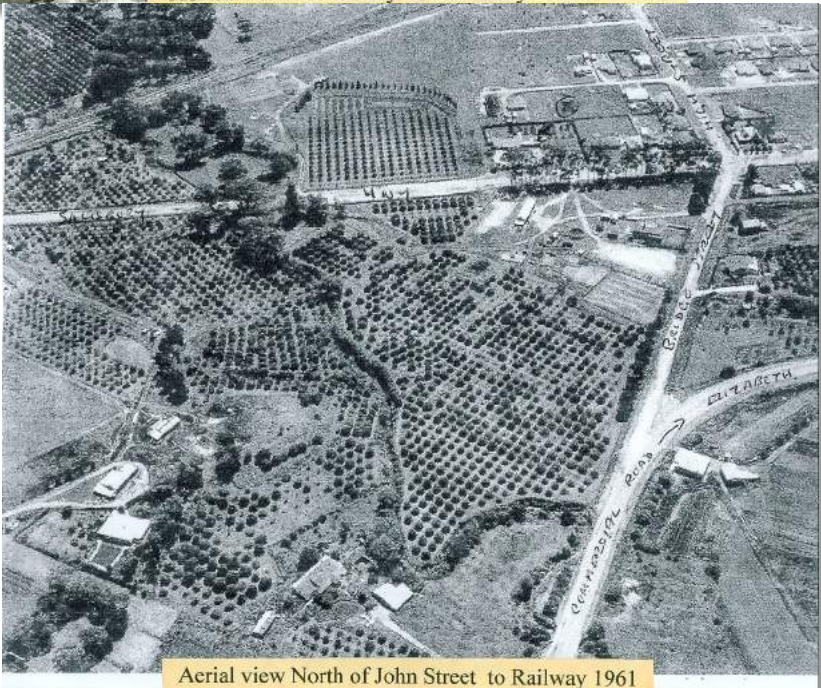
He reintroduced the idea of a drum and fife band and set about forming one. He enlisted the students mainly from Grades 5 and 6 and soon had them playing fifes. They progressed sufficiently to form a band and built a

repertoire of marching music. So, by early 1936 it was decided that they should be in uniform like other schools. School bands were becoming very popular and competitive. Salisbury had their uniforms for each band member, tailored by John Martins, and by mid-year it was completely fitted out. The band was fit to perform and it did. When Salisbury celebrated the Centenary of South Australia with a procession through the town in October 1936 the School Band marched proudly in the procession. The band provided a substantial part of the program for the school concert at the end of the year. It was the only band in the town at the time and it made many public appearances. On Anzac Day at the ceremony at the War Memorial the School Band supplied the music for the National Anthem (God Save the King) and the hymn "Abide with Me". The uniforms were passed on from one year to the next, and the band continued for about 8 years.

The uniform worn by The Drum Major, that being, Bob Brooks in the photograph is on display in our Folk Museum Ann St



Aerial View Salisbury & Salisbury North – 1953



Aerial view North of John Street to Railway 1961

If you wish to see more historical photographs, please refer to our
Flicker account www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos and select the "Album" option
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VILLAGE OF SALISBURY
ABOUT 1938



MAIN NORTH RD
FENDEN RD
COMMERCIAL RD
SAVIER S
RAILWAY
TO SAVIER

BRIDGE RD
MAIN NOD
CROSS KEY
RAILWAY
FROM ADEL
SALISBURY
HIGHWAY
WINZOR S

COULD BE FIRST AERIAL PHOTO OF SALISBURY
LOOKING EAST. — RAILWAY BISCUIT PHOTO HORIZONTALLY.



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 2022-23

President: Des Brown 0408086545
Vice President: Simon Hales (Acting President)
Secretary: Jennifer Paine
Treasurer: Tanya Paine
Salisbury Council Rep: Shiralee Reardon

Committee Members: Jim & Glenyss Trenorden, Delwyn Ayling, Dennis Wright ,
Alice Foster and Raelene Brown

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

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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.

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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