

'Relative Thoughts' published quarterly by
Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc.
PO Box 1078
Christies Beach North SA 5165.



**Quarterly Journal of the
Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group
Inc.**

Relative Thoughts

Volume 28 No. 1

January 2024



Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc.

The Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc. (FPFHG) was formed in October 1996 by local people with a common interest in genealogy and was later expanded to include local history. Most of our members either live on the Fleurieu Peninsula or have ancestors who resided in the area.

We have several Special Interest Groups including computer groups to help members with their research.

Our Resource Room holds a large variety of information on CD-ROMs, as well as a growing library of books, some are reference, but many can be borrowed by the members

Our Journal is published quarterly and emailed or posted to members.

Meetings - Third Saturday of each month January to November.

1:15pm to 4:00pm

Resource Room open from 12:00pm

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Cover Photo:

View south from Chapel Hill Road towards Sellick's Hill.

Photo by CR

Contents

Regular Items:

- 2 From the Editor
- 10 Where I Came From
- 15 Did You Know?
- 15 Book Review
- 16 Trove Trivia
- 16 A Short History of ...
- 17 In Case You Missed It
- 17 Upcoming Speakers

Feature Articles:

- 3 2023 AGM Reports
- 11 Southern Suburbs Volunteer Services Awards
- 12 Finding Your Convict Ancestor
- 19 The Knuckey Brothers

Onkaparinga Gorge
photo - CR

From the Editor

With our Resource Room closed for the Christmas break, I spent a day at the State Library, digging into boxes containing the 27 years of our Group's history. Our first Journal, titled *Fleurieu Family History Group*, was launched in November 1996. In April 1999, it became *Relative Thoughts*. By then we also had our very own website: <http://start.cgirealm.com/ifhaa/fleur/welcome.htm> (for the record, don't go looking for it there now!) The most recent format of *Relative Thoughts* was introduced in April 2009.

It has been a valuable lesson for me to see how our Journal has progressed over the years and I am in awe of the eight Editors whose steps I follow:

- Sherylle Allen
- Chris Whiteman
- Margaret Wing
- Vanessa Lawrence
- Jeanette Bell
- Julie Stokes
- Kath Fisher
- Christine Keen

So, I am 'Number Nine' on the journey. Unfortunately, this took me on another trip down memory lane, to The Beatles' sound collage *Revolution 9* recorded in 1968 for their 'White Album'. If you have not heard it before, I suggest you don't. (Perhaps the boys were on a trip of their own at the time.)

Moving on, November and December brought annual reports, awards and accolades. For those of you who were unable to attend our Annual General Meeting, you can read all about them here.



Last month I met with fellow member Jim Binning, who had kindly agreed to be my inaugural interviewee for what I hope to be a regular article in future Journals. You can read about Jim's journey in 'Where I Came From'. In Jim's case the title is a double entendre as Jim is a first generation South Australian.

While researching my three times great grandfather, I came across references in *Trove* to convicts absconding in Sydney under his watch. In 'Finding Your Convict Ancestor', I look at the fascinating information readily available to those of us either investigating their ancestry or who simply wish to explore Australia's convict history.

In July 2023, guest speaker Richard Venus spoke about the Overland Telegraph Line and its completion in 1872. In our feature article, Anthea Taylor tells the story of her ancestors, Richard and John Knuckey. Both men were employed on the Line.

Lynette Gibson reviews another wonderful book found in our Resource Room collection, Kerry Edwards investigates the history of ironing, we have our regular feature on recent guest speakers, and you will find two more new features, 'Trove Trivia' and 'Did You Know?' in the mix.

Enjoy.

Cheryl Willis

2023 AGM Reports

President's Report 2023

Welcome to another Annual General Meeting in November, which means time has absolutely flown and we have now just completed our 27th year. Membership numbers are relatively stable and though we have gained a few, sadly we have farewelled almost an equal amount for one reason or another.

This year, the Executive committee welcomed two new faces – Ian Blatchford, and Jim Usher who was seconded into a vacant position. They joined Ros Dunstall, Jenny Chapman, Joy Nieass, Nola Clisby, Kerry Edwards, Elizabeth Grocke, Peter Tuck and myself.

Each committee member has contributed greatly. Ros with her role as Secretary has ironed out some kinks in the email system, and Jenny as Treasurer keeps the finances under control. Nola has unfortunately been ill for much of the year so Peter Tuck, with support from other committee members, has stepped in when needed. Elizabeth put together a stellar speaker program to keep us all entertained, and Kerry has once again been on top of everything across our electronic media of Facebook and the website. Ian, as well as a committee position also took on the role of Resource Room Coordinator, and with his team has done a magnificent job of re-organising our library. Jim has been a great addition and has stepped up to help wherever needed. Joy has filled in as an unofficial Vice president and has been a great sounding board throughout the year.

Ian, Kerry and Nola are not continuing on the committee this year. Ian and Kerry are continuing with their other roles which we are deeply appreciative of. Nola will no doubt be helping wherever she can. So on your behalf and personally, I would like to thank each and every one of them for all that they have done this year.

I won't touch further on each of their positions as this will be covered in reports further on in proceedings.

Thank you to all of you, the members, who utilise what resources and groups that we have on offer for you, whether it be using the resource room, attending any of our special interest groups – Aussie group, UK/US group, DNA group, Computer group – or a workshop. Thank you also for attending the general meetings with our speaker program, using our Facebook page or checking out the website, and reading the journal.

A big thank you to: the Special Interest group convenors, Ros Dunstall and Heather Boyce; Ian Blatchford and the Resource Room team; the Pioneer Register team of Kath Fisher, Judy Dowling and Marie Noble; and last but certainly not least our Journal Editor for the last nine years, Christine Keen. Thank you, Christine. We have enjoyed your journals and wish you all the best in your move. We would also like to thank Cheryl Williss for putting her hand up to take over from Christine.

Thank you to all the helpers that have manned trading tables, set up chairs and

tables, set out afternoon tea, organised raffles and helped wherever asked or needed. It is greatly appreciated.

I feel a sense of pride when I hear comments from our guest speakers as to what a vibrant and friendly group we are. This is something the committee as a whole tries to achieve in meeting your needs, covering all the bases as far as duty of care etc., but still keeping it fun, friendly and imparting some knowledge of genealogy along the way.

Over the break enjoy your families, take lots of photos and jot down that story from that family member you have been meaning to catch up with. So as another year has drawn to a close, on behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season. See you all in 2024.

Sharon Green
President

FPFHG Pioneer Register

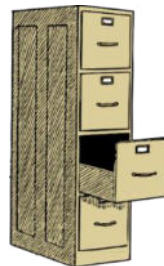
It gives us great pleasure to report on another successful and busy year. We exceeded our target of 700 and there are now 711 Pioneer Register files. Marie is delighted to have completed her file check of past files as well as a design of a new process to aid with monitoring, recording and presentation of incoming files more efficiently. Her report follows:

- Stage one of checking for inconsistencies in the pioneer project files is now completed. This process began, on the then 597 files, approximately 18 months ago following a request, from interstate, for information on one of our pioneers. The relevant file was found to be missing important

elements and therefore could not be used to meet the interstate request. In addition to a review of all existing files, the discovery kick-started a new intake process to standardise all future submissions ensuring pioneer status (i.e. dates and region), the inclusion of member research sources and inclusion of a Family Group Sheet.

- Stage one file check revealed:
13 non-pioneer
27 missing Family Group Sheet
242 missing record of member research sources. And, of course, revealed a mountain of valuable, interesting research by dedicated members!
- Stage two: A large chunk of the above findings have been addressed during this year. (Thanks Judy Dowling.) The aim now is to complete the process before the end of the coming year, particularly the inclusion of research sources that prove the value of the countless hours of members' dedicated research (Marie).

Judy has supported Marie's file check by following up with identifying sources and missing family information. As well as that she has completed a considerable number of new family searches for the Pioneer Register. Kath has taken on some of the challenges of more obscure families and has focused on a diverse range of places within the Fleurieu Peninsula. In addition, we are delighted to say that there has been an increase in members who have



made contributions. This is one of our aims and we thank everyone for their interest and involvement. A special thanks to Joan Davies who has continued to support the project through her extensive database and solving problems associated with researching common family names. Thank you to Sharon for continuing to scan digital copies of our files. This is an ongoing chore to ensure that we have back-up copies of the Pioneer Register files. It also ensures that another pair of eyes can identify problems missed in the past.

As always, we encourage members to help with researching for the Pioneer Register. There is a variety of ways you can select names to research: Adopt-A-Pioneer list, names local to where you live, people buried in cemeteries or names which intrigue you. Of course, own family names are encouraged. Please check the Pioneer Register names online to ensure that you have not chosen someone we already have. We look forward to an even more increased engagement next year.

Kath Fisher, Judy Dowling
and Marie Noble

Journal Editor

After 36 editions of *Relative Thoughts*, this is my final report as Journal Editor.

During this time, I've had the opportunity to share a wide variety of articles from our members, covering a wide range of topics: from family research to local history, poems, celebrations and memorials, stories from our speakers, and much more.

I would like to extend my thanks to Jan Lokan, Nola Clisby, Ros Dunstall and June Hudson for acting as proof readers, and to

Kath Fisher, who acted as both proof reader and backup editor. All your support and efforts have certainly made my job easier and have been much appreciated.

Thank you to Jeanette Bell for collecting the journal from the printers, labelling and posting it out each quarter.

A special thank you to the members of the executive committee for their continued support.

It has been both an honour and a pleasure to be your Journal Editor for the last nine years, and I wish Cheryl every success as she takes the journal in a new direction.

Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas.

Christine Keen

Resource Room

Firstly, I would like to thank our hard-working committee who are also generally the Resource Room helpers: Chris Grivell; Pauline Redman; Heather Boyce; Sharon Green and Jim Binning. They have been very supportive to me in my first year as the Resource Room Coordinator.

I would also like to thank Margaret Tickle, Jim Usher, Jeanette Bell and Cheryl Williss for their invaluable assistance throughout the year.

Once again, we also thank the Pioneer Register team of Kath Fisher, Judy Dowling and Marie Noble, who we feel are definitely part of our team as we endeavour to work hand in hand where we can. Their wealth of knowledge is invaluable in assisting us with the various pioneer queries we have received as well as where we can locate various family and local history information.

We have succeeded this year in completing our review of the library books for the entire Resource Room with only a few remaining tasks to be completed in the new year. We thank all those mentioned earlier for their efforts in helping us.

One of the more significant outcomes of the library books review this year has been the freeing up of space in the compactus units through the culling of redundant books no longer required. This will enable us to better organise our resources to make them more readily available for members.

We would like to thank Lynette Gibson and Cheryl Williss who have written book reviews on some of our library books for the quarterly journal, which provides members with an insight to some of the many interesting and numerous books we have in our library.

We have also updated the library book list on the website for the first time since 2019. This was a learning experience for us, and we could not have achieved this without the great efforts of Kerry Edwards.

Once again, the Resource Room committee would like to thank the Executive committee for their continued support.

We also take this opportunity to thank our members who continue to avail themselves of the resources we provide and hope you continue to visit us in the Resource Room next year and make use of our resources.

On behalf of the Resource Room team we wish everyone the very best for the festive season and wish you a wonderful 2024.

Ian Blatchford

Website and Facebook

This year was my second on the Executive committee and therefore the end of my term. I've decided to not re-nominate for the next two-year period. I'm happy to continue looking after our website and Facebook page, both roles not requiring committee membership.

After two years using Word Press to update our website I've become more comfortable with the software, although it's not my favourite program as I still find it clunky to use. I'm happy to say every section of our website is now up to date with the latest part being the Resource Room list of library books.

Our Facebook group has a following of 770 members. This is way beyond our actual membership of 120 people. Some of the Facebook Insights (as they call them) are interesting. We have 77% women, 21.7% men and 1.3% groups (yes a group can be a member of another group). The breakup by age is: 42% over 65, 25% between 55 and 64, 18% between 45 and 54, 10% between 35 and 44 and the rest younger.

Not surprisingly the most popular country of origin is Australia, followed by United Kingdom and New Zealand equally, then the United States. Surprisingly, to me anyway, next comes Sweden, Malaysia, Canada, Israel, Fiji and Benin (in West Africa).

Our most popular locations in this order are Adelaide, Victor Harbor, Melbourne, McLaren Vale, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane, Whyalla, Mount Barker followed by Normanville.

Kerry Edwards

Speaker Coordinator

Well we seem to say this each year... where has the year gone!!

2023 I think presented a great variety of speakers: from authors to funeral directors; to Max and his adventures in Western Australia; and our October meeting with singing and dancing.

2024 I hope will again present a great variety of topics. To whet your appetite: 'Agatha Christie'; 'Family History Program'; 'Building Secrets'; 'Farming Life' and 'Hubert Wilkins'. Thank you for your tips, it does make my life a bit easier to present the speakers.

Raffles: thank you for supporting the raffles during the year and to Christine for her help with arranging.

Afternoon tea: I only buy the goodies, there is a team of volunteers who cut cake, get the cups and cutlery out, heat the water, get the coffee, sugar and milk ready for you, and wash dishes – even though there is a dishwasher it still needs to be loaded. Thanks to you all. It is very much appreciated.

I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to a great 2024.

Elizabeth Grocke

Australian Interest Group

Another incredible year for this group, the 19th we have been meeting to help members.

Members have had amazing successes, finding new family members and meeting them, travel to various areas where family lived and died, welcoming new additions to families and generally having the most fantastic results one could imagine.

Many thanks to the members who arrive each month to share an afternoon of seriousness and fun discussing many subjects.

I look forward to doing it all again next year.

Ros Dunstall
Convenor

DNA Group

Our DNA group has been small in numbers, especially in the cooler months. In the future we may have to look at some day sessions as many members do not like driving at night. Interest varies from month to month for those who have been doing their DNA for some time and who seem to have a reasonable understanding of it. So it is with the newer members we see the most interest, and of course we have the regular attendees. Thank you to all who attend, and a special thank you to Heather for her help and support with member queries.

Happy holidays and we will resume the DNA group in February.

Sharon Green
Convenor

UK/US Group

We have had a great year with many members attending. Attendance has averaged six members but we have had up to ten attending. This is a sight to behold, my home filled with trestle tables with members and their computers busily researching, sharing their discoveries and sometimes their frustrations at the brick walls we all encounter. We have one more evening this Tuesday coming and will then again resume in February. Thank you to all the members who have attended this year,

thank you Heather, and we both look forward to seeing you all again next year. Merry Christmas to you all.

Sharon Green
Convenor

Jared Award

This year's Jared Award winner is Nola Clisby.

Nola joined the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group in January 1999. Her involvement in the group accelerated the following year when she joined the Executive committee.

For more than 20 years Nola has not only sat on the committee but also been our membership officer: keeping track of member subscriptions, journal choices, and changes of personal details etc.

She has organised many new members' meetings, and organised certificates for presentations. She would ideally have liked to continue in this role, but her health has said the opposite.



Nola Clisby receiving her Jared Award
from our Secretary Ros Dunstall

We congratulate Nola for her outstanding contribution to our group.

Life Member

In September the committee received an email from a member who proposed the awarding of Life Member to Joy Nieass for her extended service to this group.

Joy joined the group in 2007 and was seconded to the committee for



Joy accepting her award from Sharon.

2011/2012. Joy stepped into the vice president's role in 2012/2013 and at the 2016 Annual General Meeting became President. When Covid hit and Joy had completed her two x two-year terms as per the Constitution, we all voted unanimously to extend her role by a further two years – we didn't need any extra disruptions than we were already dealing with. Joy finished her stint as President last year. When Sharon resigned as Vice president to take on the vacant presidency we had no vice president so Joy took this on in an unofficial capacity.

The committee as a whole fully endorse this proposal. Joy has shown an unwavering dedication to our group.

Honorary Member

The Fleurieu Peninsula Family History group would like to award an Honorary Membership to Christine Keen in



Sharon with Christine Keen.

appreciation of her services as Journal Editor to the group, from January 2015 Vol 19 No. 1, until her last journal, October 2023 Vol 27 No.4. Nine years of dedicated work.

Christine had only been a member for six months when she bravely put up her hand to take over the editor role. She was also new to the area and had a lot on her plate with being a mum of two. It has been a pleasure working with her, and on behalf of the group we wish her well in her new home at Port Pirie. We wanted to make sure we kept in touch and decided this was

the ideal way to do so, as well as to show our appreciation.

Congratulations to our Membership Certificate Recipients

20 Year Membership

Anne Dow, Kerry Edwards, Marcelle Edwards, David Mutch (absent) and Di Roberts (absent)

10 Year Membership

Gwyn Billinger and Barb and Tom Webb (all absent)

Christmas Raffle Winners

- 1st Bill Cocks
- 2nd Neville Smallacombe
- 3rd Danielle Binning



Sharon with Anne Dow, Marcelle Edwards, Kerry Edwards

End of 2023 AGM Reports

Where I Came From



Jim receiving his Jared Award in 2021.

Meet Jim Binning

How long have you been a member of the FPFHG and how did you hear about the group?

I joined Ancestry sometime in 2014 and as I recall I joined the FPFHG around the same time.

One of my neighbours, Di Roberts, was a member of the group. She had a tapestry of her family tree on the wall. We got talking and then she contacted (fellow member) Anne Dow and the next thing she had two marriage certificates for me. That was enough to get me going.

So your reason for joining was specifically to help with researching your family history?

Yes. I was born in Perth (north of Edinburgh, Scotland). I knew nothing about my own family. I knew my parents' and my grandparents' names but that was all. My mother died at the age of 30. It was from coming along to the Resource Room

regularly and getting help from others that I developed my own research skills.

Why did you decide to emigrate to Australia?

When I was a child, neighbours Greta and John used to let us come and watch their television – it was the first television in our street. One day I saw (the Australian singer) Slim Dusty performing *When They Muster on the Golden Plain*. It's stuck with me forever! Then and there I decided that one day I was going to live in Australia.

So what happened next?

Well I was only nine years old when I saw Slim Dusty sing so it took a while! But in 1970 I emigrated with my wife, two sons and baby daughter. My daughter was seven months old when we arrived. The *Fairsky* was the ship we came out on and when we got here we had exactly three dollars to our name. At first we stayed at the Glenelg Immigration Hostel. It wasn't too bad, the beds were okay and the rooms were clean. I got work straight away at Wylie's factory on South Road. There was plenty of work around then. But for the last 25 years before I retired, I worked at the Moomba gas fields. I started off 19 days on and nine days off but later it was a fortnight on, fortnight off.

Was there a particular reason for choosing South Australia?

Yes, quite simple really. I looked at a map and I said *I'm going to a small city*. Adelaide was a small city. After growing up in Glasgow I didn't want to live in a big city again. At that time we were living in a flat on the 18th floor in a block of high-rises up to 30 stories. We were stuck in the flat looking out the window at the view north

to the Highlands and I said *I'm not bringing up my children here.*

What have you learned about your own family history since joining our group?

I've found out a lot. My mother was English. I never knew that. She died when she was 30. Her family were from England but she grew up in Dunoon (on the western shore of the upper Firth of Clyde). In the 1911 census her parents were still in England. But my mother was born in 1913 in Scotland. I also found out that as a child I had all this family living near me but I never knew it. And I didn't know there were so many.

I've been back to Scotland ten times, but the last time was ten years ago. So all

those times I went and saw family back there I never knew any of all this.

Have you had a DNA test? If so, did you discover anything you hadn't known before?

Yes, I'm 46% English!

Editor's note:

To hear Slim Dusty sing *The Muster on the Golden Plain* go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2Ue578wURO>

An interesting read on the *Fairsky* can be found at <https://shippingtandy.com/features/fairsky-of-sitmar-line/>

Southern Suburbs Volunteer Service Awards

From our president Sharon Green:

On behalf of the FPFHG membership we would like to congratulate Kerry Edwards and Marie Noble for their 2023 Southern Suburbs Volunteer Service Awards, in recognition of the time and work they have put into the FPFHG. They have both shown dedication and commitment in the work they do on our behalf. They join many other members who have been honoured in the past. Well-deserved ladies, congratulations.

Kerry also received her award for her additional volunteer work at the Woodcroft and Morphetville Neighbourhood Centre.



Amanda Rishworth Mbr for Kingston, Kerry Edwards, Amanda Blair, Mel Kerton CEO Southern Volunteering (SA) Inc.

Editor's note:

Unfortunately, Marie was unable to attend the award ceremony on the day, but we hope to cover her story in time for the next edition of *Relative Thoughts*.

Finding Your Convict Ancestor

Last year I assisted Resource Room Coordinator Ian Blatchford with the review of our extensive library resources. Of particular interest to me were the reference books and pamphlets in our 'Not for Loan' section. While working through the plethora of information on our shelves, I came across a group of books from New South Wales, hand-typed in 1983 as a result of another project contributing to that decade's Australian Bicentenary. The primary purpose of this project, led by historian James McClelland, was to list all transported convicts and their ships – a mighty project indeed. The books in our library cover the years 1794 to 1810 only.

According to the State Library of NSW, during the first 80 years of white settlement 165,000 convicts were transported to Australia. Coincidentally, I had recently researched two of them.

In 1836, my three times great grandfather Andrew Harriott was the landlord of the Angel and Crown Inn, situated in Sydney's Rocks district near the original Customs House and close to what is now Circular Quay. That year, according to the New South Wales Government Gazette two female convicts absconded under Andrew's watch: Elizabeth Mahoney in early February, and Jane Scott in late June. On both occasions the women were soon caught.

Curiosity got the better of me and I allowed myself some respite from Andrew to learn a little more about these women. Where exactly did they come from? When were they sent to the Colonies? What

were their crimes? What happened to them after they were freed?

It didn't take me long to find answers to my questions – and more. Comprehensive digital resources are now readily available on several key websites, rendering the lists in the Bicentennial books obsolete. I have referenced these web sources at the end of this article.

I had only one difficulty with my research. My convict Elizabeth *Mahoney* had been referred to as Elizabeth *Maloney* in the Sydney newspaper of 1836. Fortunately the article had provided the name of her convict transport. I ended up typing in only her first name and working through all the convict Elizabeths. And I found her. Sometimes one does have to be a little persistent.

Here is what I have now drafted up for inclusion in my future book on great great great grandpa Andrew – based on information found in record time!

Transportation of convicts to the colony did not cease until 1840, so during Andrew's time there was still a ready supply of free labour. Runaways were a common problem, and their disappearance – and capture – would be billeted in the *New South Wales Government Gazette*.

On Wednesday 10 February 1836, the New South Wales Government listed the 25 runaway convicts apprehended over the previous week. Elizabeth Mahoney, a widow from Manchester, was among them. She had been reported missing by 'A. Harriett, Sydney'. At the age of 33, Elizabeth was one of 140 convicts transported on the *Numa*, leaving London's docks on 3 December 1833 and arriving in New South Wales on 13 June 1834. She had

been sentenced to transportation after being found guilty of stealing some linen from her employer, then attempting to pawn the articles.

ELIZABETH MAHONEY was indicted for stealing, on the 15th of March, 2 sheets, value 14s.; 1 handkerchief, value 2s.; 1 rule, value 1s.; 1 pair of stocking, value 1s.; and 3 napkins, value 2s.; the goods of William Stewart.

WILLIAM STEWART. I live at Limehouse, and am a bricklayer; the prisoner had lived servant in my house eighteen months or two years before this; she was at this time a charwoman; on the 15th of March, I sent her away for getting drunk – she was afterwards taken up for something else, and then these duplicates were found on her – I am married, and my wife lives with me.

JAMES LAMB. I am a pawnbroker, and live in Waterloo-terrace, Mile-end; I have a handkerchief pawned for 1s. 3d., a sheet for 2s., a pair of stockings for 6d., a rule for 6d., a towel for 4d., and a sheet for 5s., all by the prisoner. (Property produced and sworn to.)

Prisoner's Defence. The officer had a spite against me, and said he would see me transported for this - I have worked for the prosecutor for seven years; I had a good character till I pawned these things; I was going to take them out when I was taken.

GUILTY. Aged 30. – Transported for Seven Years.

Elizabeth earned her certificate of freedom on 30 December 1841. By this time she was married to one William Wheat, a former convict who had been transported to the colony in 1832. It appears that Elizabeth died in 1851. Seven years younger than his wife, William died in July 1860.

The disappearance of 27-year-old Jane Scott, was also reported by Andrew in June 1836 while he was still working at the Angel and Crown. Jane was described as '5 feet ½ inch, ruddy and freckled complexion, dark brown hair, hazel eyes, arms freckled'. She was captured the following week.

Born in Manchester in 1809, like Elizabeth, Jane was a widow when she was transported aboard the convict

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.

No. 447/109 8 May 1841

Date, 8 May 1841

Prisoner's No. 447/109

Name, Jane Scott

Ship, Roslin Castle

Master, Richard Smith

Year, 1836

Native Place, Manchester

Trade or Calling, Housewife

Offence, 30 days

Place of Trial, Dublin City

Date of Trial, 11 December 1835

Residence, 11 December 1835

Year of Birth, 1809

Height, 5ft 1 1/2 in

Complexion, Ruddy & freckled

Hair, Dark brown

Eyes, Hazel

General Remarks, None

ship *Roslin Castle*, for 'stealing a sack and a cloak'. The transport left England on 28 October 1835. Upon arrival on 25 February 1836, Jane was first sent to the female factory at Parramatta. It appears that Jane also settled down after her initial absconding. An application was made to marry one Patrick Corcoran but no marriage was registered. Jane gained her certificate of freedom in 1841.

Back to the convict lists in our Resource Room. I cross-checked a number of names from the 1983 lists to verify the accuracy of the digital records, and like my convicts Elizabeth and Jane, I easily found each one, together with further information,

including – sometimes but not always – original documents scanned.

I was struck by the unusual Dedications in each of McClelland's books. I found the following in *Index No. 4*. Although not specifically relevant to our local history, I felt it deserves inclusion.

All or most Australians have heard of Ned Kelly, Ben Hall, John Donohue, Thunderbolt, and many other law breakers, who by breaking our laws are remembered in the bushranger folk lore of our country.

But this volume is not dedicated to bushrangers, it is dedicated to the following members of the N.S.W., and Queensland Mounted Police who were shot dead by bushrangers whilst protecting ordinary settlers.

Sergeant E. Parry – shot dead by John Gilbert, November 1864

Constable Samuel Nelson – shot dead by John Dun at Collector, N.S.W. in January 1865

Constable E.M. Webb-Brown – shot dead by Captain Moonlight at McGlede's farm near Albury, N.S.W. in 1880

Constable M. O'Grady – shot dead by John Clarke at Nerrigundah, N.S.W. in 1866

Constable J. McCabe, Queensland Mounted Police – shot dead by Captain Starlight at Erringoa, N.S.W.

Sergeant T. Wallings – shot dead by bushranger, Midnight, near Dubbo, N.S.W. late 1880s.

In the Braidwood Cemetery, N.S.W. is the grave of four bounty hunters, people who hunted down bushrangers for the reward money, yes, the people of the Wild West of

America were not the only people who had bounty hunters, but in this case the N.S.W. bushrangers shot the bounty hunters dead.

So please next time you hear someone glorifying our bushrangers, spare a thought for the above Police Officers – strange how folklore seldom remembers them.

References:

<https://mhnsww.au/>

<https://mhnsww.au/archive/subjects/convicts/?filter=articles|guides|indexes|webinars>

<https://convictrecords.com.au/>

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/categories/auconvicts/>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers>

Also of interest:

<https://mhnsww.au/guides/female-factory-parramatta/>

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

Cheryl Willis

Did You Know?

The term 'pawn' involves the exchange of an item of value for a loan, while a 'pledge' involves the use of an item of value as collateral for a loan.

Many prosecutions and convictions of theft involving pledging can be found on the website Old Bailey Online.

Editor's note:

Many thanks to Shirley and Ray Frost for their kind assistance.

Book Review

Schools of the Western Fleurieu Peninsula

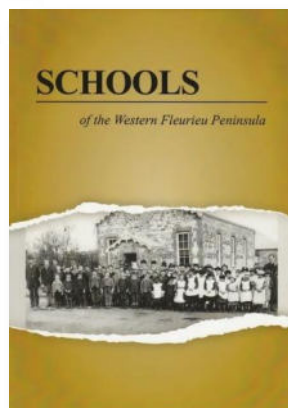
Researched and compiled by
Joy L Nunn

Many small schools existed on the western Fleurieu Peninsula before 1875 when the Education Act came into being. This meant all public schools were under the administration of the Council of Education and attendance of pupils was compulsory.

There were two types of schools – a public school and a provisional school – where the teacher was not accredited and instead of receiving a normal salary, was instead paid four pounds a year for each student attending the school.

These small schools catered for the surrounding area and many children walked many miles. Some of their well-worn tracks eventually became narrow roads.

In time many of these schools closed down because of the dwindling population and, in more recent times, for



the students to receive a broader education the rural and area schools came into being, with students being transported to and from school by bus.

There are many class photos throughout this small book with the names of students and teachers listed. So if you had relations living in the area you might see them with their classmates. Even without having a connection to the area it is very interesting to see where these small schools existed and shows the resilience of the students and teachers.

Reviewed by Lynette Gibson

I, EDWARD STRIDE, of Adelaide, having on the 28th inst., shot a pigeon belonging to H.R. Wigley, Esq., by which I have subjected myself a prosecution; and, as he (Mr. Wigley) has kindly consented to forego such prosecution, I hereby, confess I have done wrong and ask Mr. Wigley's pardon; and I promise to be more circumspect in the future.

Witness my hand, the 30th August, 1838,
EDWARD STRIDE.

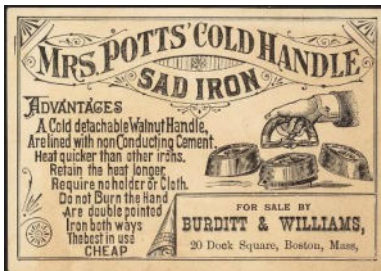
Witness, Matthew Smith.

*South Australian Gazette and Colonial
Register, Saturday 1 September 1838*

A Short History of ...

Ironing!

- 400BC: Ancient Greeks used "goffering irons" (metal bars) to make pleats in clothes.
- 200BC: During the Chinese Han Dynasty, clothes are ironed using a metal flat-bottomed scoop filled with hot coals.
- 1000: During the Viking period, small, round, glass linen smoothers are used.
- 1300: Throughout Europe, flatirons are used to smooth creases in clothes, similar in design to today's irons with a



handle and a flat iron base. The iron is heated over a fire. A cloth is placed between the sooty iron and the clothes to protect them.

- 1400: The hollow box iron is invented, allowing the inside to be filled with heat-retaining material while keeping the soleplate clean. This remains in use for hundreds of years.
- 1871: Mary Florence Potts patents an iron with a removable wooden handle to prevent burnt hands.
- 1882: Henry W Seely patents the electric iron, but with no temperate control.
- 1926: US firm Eldec produces the first electric steam iron.
- 1939: Steam-O-Matic is the first commercially successful steam iron.
- Today: Scratch-resistant soleplates, auto-off protection, anti-burn features and lightweight materials are common.



from Kerry Edwards

In Case You Missed It

Naomi Hicks and Maureen Humes

Owing to illness our booked speaker was unable to present at our October meeting. Fortunately, at the 11th hour Naomi and Maureen came to the rescue.

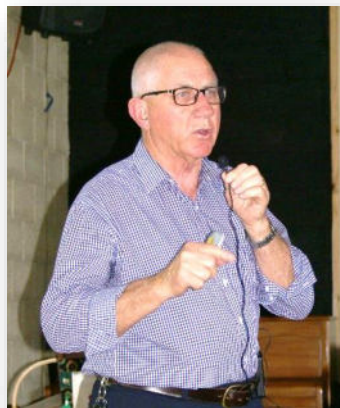


Naomi is a powerful, spiritual Traditional Owner of South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, Northern Territory, and New South Wales, and has bloodlines to eight 'Worldwide Connections'. She speaks and sings from her heart, with personal and universal spiritual messages, from passed family and Ancestors. Naomi has created a Universal Welcome to Country to honour ALL who live on Traditional Country today.

Maureen is a strong, spiritual 'Traditional Owner', of South Australia and Western Australia, and has bloodlines to 13 'Worldwide Connections'. Maureen has gifts to see and hear messages from her spiritual family and Ancestors. She acknowledges her past, and present family's guidance throughout her life.

Tony Elliott

At our November AGM Tony had members on the edge of their seats as he spoke about the mysterious Somerton Man.



Tony has been a funeral director for 50 years. He is the managing director of the Elliott and Trevelion group of funeral firms and co-owner of Bowen Funerals at Felixstow. Born and bred in Hindmarsh where his father's family had been established as funeral directors since 1838, Tony grew up in a home which was also a small funeral parlour.

In 1996, Tony inherited from his uncle Laurie, a file of clippings about the mystery body found at Somerton Beach in 1948. Laurie embalmed the body a few days after death and he and Tony's father were the funeral directors who buried the man in June 1949.

The man's identity and cause of death have been the subject of intense speculation from the very beginning. Why had the identifying labels on his clothes been removed? What does 'Tamam Shud' mean? Was he a Russian spy or perhaps a jilted lover? Was he an illegal immigrant escaping post-war Europe? Was he simply an unfortunate person, down on his luck, who simply gave up the will to live. Perhaps he was an estranged father seeking to re-establish connection with the mother of his offspring? A mysterious set of letters, which appeared to be some sort of code, was found hidden in his clothing. Could this help unravel the mystery? What did the Coroner conclude?

Tony has researched this topic and augmented the original file and spoken to over 200 groups about the case over the last 26 years. The man's identity and cause of death remained a mystery until



July 2022, when there were some startling revelations, based on sophisticated DNA analysis. An alternative theory as to the man's identity has since been suggested.

A genuine, lingering mystery with international overtones, staged right on Adelaide's doorstep.

Upcoming Speakers

| Meeting date: | Speaker | Topic |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 20 January | Nick Solomon | Maps and Family History |
| 17 February | David Filner | Agatha Christie, Author |
| 16 March | David Jarman | Hubert Wilkins, Explorer |
| 20 April | Anthea Taylor and Cheryl Williss | The Kangaroo Island WW2 Soldier Settlement Scheme |

All meetings are held at 1.15pm, Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Road, Christies Beach. If you have a suggestion for a suitable speaker please contact Elizabeth Grocke with details by phone on 0421 102 868 or by email on philiz@esc.net.au

Up to date details of speakers can be found on the webpage at
<http://fleurieufamilyhistory.org>

The Knuckey Brothers



PRG 742/5/87 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

Overland Telegraph Party at the Roper River 1882

SLSA PRG-742-5-87

On 20 June 1914, an obituary for Mr Richard Randall Knuckey recognised him as one of the best bushmen in Australia, with some of the widest experience in Central Australia, possessing a remarkable memory that meant he never forgot country once he had crossed it, and that there were few parts of Australia where his name was not a household word.¹

While Richard (Dick) Knuckey was feted around Australia for his work bringing telegraphic communication to Australia, another lesser-known Knuckey brother, John had connections to Kangaroo Island, often toiling on the same telegraph construction projects with his older brother.

Richard (Randall) Knuckey (b. September 1842) and John (Randall/Reid/Hugh) Knuckey (b. March 1845) were the youngest of eight children born to Richard and Persis (Reed) Knuckey, of Stithians, Cornwall. Neither boy was baptised with a middle name and history does not record where the name 'Randall' originated, although the names Reid and Hugh do have family connections.

Both the Knuckey and Reid families had deep roots in the agricultural town of Stithians. In the 19th century the river running through the town worked a flour mill, several gunpowder mills, machinery at a foundry, and a paper mill. The 1841

Census shows Richard Snr's occupation as a miner.

Richard and John arrived at Port Adelaide on 3 January 1849 with their parents and six siblings, on the *William Money*. It is



R R Knuckey c1868
SLSA B -16791

possible that the family went first to the Gilles mine at Glen Osmond, but by 1852 Richard, Persis and the younger children were living in Burra.

Persis died at Burra on 29 April 1852. But the family struggled on, with Richard and John attending the Burra and Kapunda schools. By the time Richard Knuckey Snr died, on 30 January 1858 at Koorunga, Richard had left school and was working as a grocer's assistant at Kadina.

In 1866 Richard joined the Survey Dept as a chainman, later moving up to cadet surveyor. In 1868 he was engaged as a second-class surveyor by George Goyder for the expedition to survey Darwin and surrounding country. Goyder named



Stithians Church c2019

Knuckey Street and Knuckey Lagoon in Darwin for Richard.

Richard then assisted Goyder with the surveys of Snowtown and Port Wakefield, followed by an inspection of the south-eastern drainage works. In 1870, on Goyder's recommendation Charles Todd appointed Richard to the survey team for the Overland Telegraph (OT) line. In early 1871 he was overseer of one of the parties constructing the line from Charlotte Waters, running north for nearly 193 km. Richard then took charge of constructing the next stage that ran 1330 km north to link up with the northern section. Richard remained with the northern section until the first telegraph was sent from Darwin to Adelaide on 22 August 1872.

In 1873 Richard was appointed overseer of the expedition to replace the timber posts on the OT line with iron, from the Roper River to Daly Waters. Listed as one of the team members on this expedition was John Knuckey, labourer at a wage of five shillings per day.

Todd had struggled with the planning involved to get a telegraph line to Kangaroo Island. The biggest issue was how shipping entering Spencer Gulf would impact on laying the cable. Two different approaches were considered:

1. Yankalilla/Cape Jervis to Kingscote
2. Yorke Peninsula (Cape Spencer) to Cape Borda

By 1865 he had resolved to run the cable across Backstairs Passage to Kingscote, either from Yankalilla or Cape Jervis. The Government called for reports and finally settled on Yankalilla to Kingscote as Yankalilla gave the easiest and most functional access. The rocky bottom and strong currents off Cape Jervis led to concern about cable breakages and other issues. The cable for the Yankalilla to Kingscote section arrived in November 1875 and the *South Australian Register* reported on 1 January 1876 that the work of laying the cable and splicing it to the Kingscote section had been completed at about 3.00 pm Christmas Day.

In March 1875 John was appointed surveyor for the Kingscote to Cape Borda telegraph line. While the distance between these two points is about 84 km in a direct line, the telegraph line ran for about 108 km due to the terrain and denseness of scrub. The line followed the Cygnet River valley out of Kingscote, then over the backbone of the island, parallel to the coast to Cape Borda. Provisions for horses and bullocks were brought over from Port Adelaide and constant supply runs were made back to Kingscote. By December 1875 only about 56 km of the line had been surveyed. However, construction using wooden poles moved quickly and the line opened in August 1876.

While John was on Kangaroo Island, construction of the new telegraph line between Port Augusta and Eucla (on the SA/WA border) commenced. Richard was appointed overseer of the 371 km Fowlers

Bay to Eucla link, which began in July 1876 with 38 men and 89 horses. Supplies and men were unloaded at Fowlers Bay and they immediately began constructing a telegraph station and large supply base.



J R Knuckey c1880
SLSA B 7233

John joined Richard's team again to work on this stage of the line, which was to be completed within two years according to the timetable set by Charles Todd. All poles and provisions had to be sent along the line from either the base at Fowlers Bay or a base set up at Eucla. On 16 July 1877, messages were exchanged between Eucla and Adelaide celebrating both the completion of the Eucla section in just one year and 11 months, and that the South Australian team had beaten the Western Australians to that point!

Richard was now promoted to overseer of telegraph extensions in general, and he returned to Kapunda to marry Evelyn Faith Hawke on 14 November 1877.

Meanwhile, John was preparing for his own wedding. While surveying the Kangaroo Island line, John had met the Calnan family, early pioneers of Kingscote. Louisa Calnan, daughter of Charles and Mary Ann of 'Charity' cottage, caught John's eye and they married on 29 January 1878 at Trinity Church, North Adelaide. Settled in a house they bought at Kensington, John and Louisa celebrated the arrival of five daughters and a son. By the late 1880s John held the position of Inspector of Telegraph and Telephone Lines, reporting to Todd, who was Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.

Todd had a close connection to both the Knuckey brothers, and he was a great support to Louisa after John's untimely and unexpected death, aged only 40, on 19 July 1890. Todd was one of the chief mourners when John was buried at West Terrace Cemetery.

Within a month of John's death, Louisa was forced to sell the family home and move to rented accommodation. After some urging by Todd, in November 1890 Sir ET Smith asked about John Knuckey during the House of Assembly question time, specifically whether the Government was going to pay his widow a 'retiring allowance'.²

On 6 Dec 1890, the *Adelaide Observer* reported that the Chief Secretary (Sir JC Bray) had replied to Sir ET Smith's



*West Terrace House - Louisa Knuckey far right
c1902
SLSA B-62202*

questions as follows: *John Knuckey was employed for 17 and 1/3 years, but not continuously as he took one break of 8 weeks in 1875 (unpaid) and another break of 4 weeks in 1878 (for his wedding, also unpaid). John had started on wages of 5 shillings per day and was on a salary of £220 per annum when he died. Unfortunately, under the Act, in this case no retiring allowance was payable to his widow.*

On 30 December 1890, Louisa gave birth to another daughter (Louisa Randall) at

Kensington Park. Six months later she was advertising for boarders at a house she was renting at 52 Barnard Street, North Adelaide. Charles Knuckey (Charlie), John's only son, recalls the family moving house several times.

In 1896 Louisa leased and ran the Refreshment Rooms at the Port Adelaide Railway Station, moving her family to a residence at the back of that property. The family moved back to rented accommodation in Kent Town in 1897, with boarders forming their main source of income, many of them family members.

The Todd family continued to help the family wherever they could. Charlie recalled Todd's son, a doctor, making home visits, and Todd continued his push for some type of compensation for John's family. On 17 December 1898, over eight years after the death of her husband, *The Advertiser*³ reported that a proposed compensation payment of £115 to Mrs JR Knuckey had been supported by the Government and agreed to. With this payment, Louisa purchased a property at 4 Marlborough Street, College Park, living there until her death in August 1923. She was buried with her husband at West Terrace Cemetery.

Richard had been appointed Inspector of Postal and Telegraph Services in 1880 and he held that position until retiring from the SA Services in early 1889 to take a survey position with the NSW Government. At the time of John's death, Richard was working on construction of a telegraph line for the NSW Government and was unable to return for the funeral.

Completing the work in NSW, Richard took on a variety of jobs in NSW and WA, in either telegraph services or mining. Returning to Adelaide in 1911, he lived at Kensington Park with Louisa and her younger children until he was hospitalised with a liver complaint in June 1914. He died of heart failure at Miss Hill's Private Hospital, Adelaide on 14 June, and was buried at North Road Cemetery. Evelyn outlived Richard, passing away on 31 August 1923 in Adelaide. She was buried at Payneham Cemetery.

Anthea Taylor

¹ *South Australia Chronicle* Saturday 20 June 1914

² *S A Register* 28 Nov 1890

³ *The Advertiser* 17 Dec 1898

Resource Room Opening Times

The Resource Room is available to members for research and borrowings from midday to 1.15 pm prior to Saturday general meetings and during the afternoon tea break.

The Room is also open from 1.00–3.00 pm, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, February to October, and the 1st Wednesday in November. During these times volunteers are available to assist with your research.

If you would like to book access to *findmypast* during resource room openings, please contact Chris Grivell on 0409 670 183.

Subscriptions

Membership with Electronic Journal:

Family (2 people) - \$40

Single - \$35

Membership with Printed Journal:

Family (2 people) - \$50

Single - \$45

A \$5 joining fee applies to new and lapsed memberships.

Meeting attendance fee - \$2 per meeting or \$15 per year.

Visitors - \$5 per meeting.

Fees should be paid to the Treasurer prior to the November AGM each year.

Membership Fees Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible.

A \$5.00 rejoining fee is payable for membership not paid by 28 February.

Special Interest Groups

Aussie Interest Group—meets at 1.00pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month. For information contact Ros Dunstall, phone 0419 851 761.

United Kingdom and USA Interest

Group—usually meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month but may vary. For information contact Sharon Green, phone 0419 760 496.

Evening Computer Group—meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. For information contact Heather Boyce, email haboyce@adam.com.au.

DNA Evening Group—usually meets at 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month but may vary. For information contact Sharon Green, phone 0419 760 496.

Up to date details of special group meetings can be found on the webpage at <https://fleurieufamilyhistory.org>

Publishing

This journal is issued quarterly to members. Items for inclusion should be submitted to the Editor by March, June, September and December. FPFHG shall not be held responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by the authors of submitted materials, nor shall FPFHG vouch for the accuracy of any genealogical data, offers, services or goods that appear herein. The Editor reserves the right to edit any articles proffered for publication.

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