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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 <u>Special Interest Groups including computer groups to help</u> members with their research.

Our <u>Resource Room</u> holds a large variety of information on CD-ROMs, as well as a growing library of books. Some are reference, but most 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 Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Road Christies Beach, South Australia 5165

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Cover Photos
Front Prospect Hill Museum.
Back Prospect Hill Exhibit directory.
Photos by CR

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Rapid Bay May 2024

From the Editor

Happy New Year from your Editor. There is lots of variety to enjoy in our first *Relative Thoughts* for 2025.

We congratulate our secretary, Ros Dunstall, whose Aussie Interest Group celebrated a special anniversary at the end of 2024. For 20 years Ros has hosted monthly group meetings in her home.

Thanks also to Ros, I received a copy of a talk presented to the FPFHG back in 2001, by the late Devron Booth who grew up in Morphett Vale. An edited version of 'Morphett Vale in the 1950s' is our lead article for this issue.

Devron's article reminded me of a conversation I had in 2015 with fifth generation South Australian, the late John Morphett. Named for his great-great grandfather, Sir John, he told me an amusing story about his Aunt Audrey. Apparently, one day she was driving along Morphett Road to the family home, Cummins House, when she was pulled over by a police officer for an alleged traffic misdemeanour. The story goes that when the officer asked for her name, she looked down her nose at him and responded curtly, "Audrey Morphett - as in Morphett Road, Morphett Street, Morphettville and Morphett Vale". We can only wonder the officer's reaction.

My apologies for shades of nepotism, having interviewed my partner, Colin Routley, for this issue's 'Where I Came From'. But after all, it was the Christmas



break. We spent part of it driving interstate and we had to talk about something....

It is no surprise that at least several of our members, including Colin, were past employees of Chrysler/Mitsubishi, either at Tonsley or Lonsdale — or both. Peter Tuck was a long-term employee. Barry Maslin was another. Three of my own family also worked there: a cousin and both of my parents. And Joan Davies' memories of working at Chrysler for this issue makes for wonderful reading.

Our cover photos were taken outside the Prospect Hill museum. At the time of writing, it is almost 42 years since the buildings that make up the museum were amongst the few to survive the devastating bushfires of Ash Wednesday. You can read about one special Prospect Hill resident in 'A Fleurieu Pioneer'.

Cheryl Williss

President's Annual Report 2024

Wow! Here we are, having just completed our 28th year as the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group. We have well and truly flourished over this period. Once again, with the support of our Executive Committee, Resource Room Committee, Pioneer Register and our Special Interest groups we have had a very good year.

Today, and for the next few months of 2025, we will be meeting in the Church while the hall has some renovations. The reverse cycle air-conditioning that was installed has certainly made it more comfortable. There will he some disruptions to using the Resource Room, but we will still have access to the Pioneer Register and be able to use the digital resources on the computers. This in turn may allow us to be more adventurous and try out some of our resources that have not been accessed nearly enough.

Our membership levels are stable; every year we welcome new members but sadly farewell others due to illness. This year we have added two more members to the 20-year club, and another five to the 10-year group. It is a great achievement that we retain members for considerable lengths of time — congratulations to these members who will feature later in this issue.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for the past year. Bronwyn Howlett has had to step down from her role as Vice President due to her changing work schedule. Thank you Joy Nieass, who has stepped into this role on numerous occasions, especially while I



was overseas, and Ros Dunstall our able Secretary who has also liaised closely with Joy. Thank you also Jenny Chapman, our Treasurer and who has re-nominated, and I know she would like to thank Kerry Edwards and Lynette Gibson for their help. Peter Tuck became the Membership Officer this year and has done a stellar job.

Elizabeth Grocke has as always done an outstanding job organising our Speaker program. And Mary Lou Williams and Jim Usher – well what can we say – if there is a job that needs doing, they are there to do it. Every member of the committee is a cog turning the wheels of our group, moving it forward. A heartfelt thanks to you all for making my job easier.

Ian Blatchford, as Resource Room coordinator, has retired from this role and is moving into helping with the Pioneer Register. Thank you to Ian, the driving force in the Resource Room this year, ably assisted by: Resource Room manager Chris Grivell; Pauline Redman, Resource Room volunteer coordinator; technical advisor Heather Boyce and our two Jims (Binning and Usher). Our Pioneer Register co-ordinators Kath Fisher, Judy Dowing and Marie Noble work alongside the Resource Room team on Wednesdays, with their band of helpers popping in and out.

Kerry Edwards has done another great job managing our Facebook page and our website.

Cheryl Williss as Journal Editor, and her right-hand man Colin Routley, have produced four fabulous editions of *Relative Thoughts* this year, and we look forward to many more.

Thank you to all of you for volunteering for these roles. You are what makes this group work and enjoyable to participate in our activities.

We also have many members who put up their hands regularly to help; I am not going to name them for fear I may miss someone. On behalf of the group I would like to thank each and every one of you. Please know that your help is appreciated.

Our Special Interest groups are a big part of the FPFHG, so a big congratulations to the Aussie Interest Group who have just celebrated 20 years, and an extra big thank you to Ros for convening this group in her home over this time — a great feat.

The Computer Group saw a move to daytime this year, which has proved to be a good move. Thank you to Heather Boyce. The UK/US Group and the DNA Group continue to be held of an evening, and the workshops have been well attended. Thank you to the convenors and all the members who participate. It's always a great way to get to know members a little better in a more intimate environment.

Well, as we wind up another year and head into the holiday season, on behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and healthy 2025.

Sharon Green

Jared Award 2024

This year's Jared Award winner is Kay Griffin.



Kay has been a member of the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group since February 2006.

Congratulations Kay and a big thank you for your contributions to our group over the years.

Congratulations to our Long-Term Members

20 years

Judy Dowling Mary Sedgemen





10 years





Jenny Chapman

Christine Schwarze Jim Binning

Eileen White

Jan Lamont (absent)





Congratulations Aussie Interest Group!





Morphett Vale in the 1950s

As remembered by Devron Booth

Editor's note: Devron Booth was born in Reynella in August 1941. In 1947 the family moved across to Morphett Vale. In the 1950s, Devron's father, Lindsay, purchased four trucks. What started as a small business eventually arew to be a national company. As a Director of Booth Transport, Devron Booth was a driving force behind the Australian wine transport industry. His creation of the 'Booth Safety Rail System' has saved lives, and in 2004 he was inducted into the Road Transport Hall of Fame. Aged 75, Booth died in July 2017. The following is an extract from a talk he gave to the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group in 2001.

My name is Devron Booth and I am a descendant of Bannister Booth who purchased three sections (240 acres) east of Reynella (then known as Hurtle Vale). This was circa 1838, about the same time that John Reynell started his vineyard. My great-great-great grandfather also planted a vineyard.

Morphett Vale was a pretty town in those days, the main road running through a narrow strip of buildings; both sides of the road being planted with ornamental corress pines who

with ornamental cypress pines which started where St Mary's Catholic Church is now and finished around the corner on Beach Road, approximately where the Jehovah Witness Church is today. The surrounding countryside was farmlands and vineyards with the main crops being peas, barley, sheep for fat lambs and some dairying.

People obtained employment at local wineries, the quarry at Reynella, the railways, and seasonal work on the farms. During World War Two and until about 1950, there was a flax mill on Flaxmill Road, which employed local people and land army girls. People travelled to Adelaide by Briscoes Bus Service or by train. The train left Willunga at 6.30am and arrived in Adelaide just before 9am. The service ceased around 1954.

West of Reynella had a flying fox, which transferred crushed rock to the cement works at the bottom of cement hill at Marino. This is where the Marion Park Golf Course is situated.

The largest employer in Morphett Vale was Emu Wines on Wheatsheaf Road, which was surrounded by 500 acres of vineyard, kept in immaculate condition,



and managed by Mr Fred Grohs who drove a white horse in a red cart. Emu bought most of the wine produced by the other wineries in McLaren Vale, which was exported under their label to England and Canada. The wine was transported in wooden hogsheads and 2300 litre stainless steel tanks, and was loaded on the train at Morphett Vale station and

sent to Port Adelaide for shipping. The majority of wines were fortified and they made an excellent brandy, 'Marie Claire'. Most of the employees were large drinkers. Wine was given to them for morning and afternoon smokos, lunch time and knock off time. The foreman, Mr Frank Townsend, was known as 'a two bottles of brandy a day man'. However, he never appeared to be drunk, but he did have a very red face! He lived to a ripe old age of about 85. The entrance to the winery had two large emus shaped into the cypress hedge and an avenue of ash trees leading to the winery.

A bakery and delicatessen was run by Carl Sauer and his wife Gertrude and two of their daughters. They were very hard workers. A general store was in the centre of the town, next to the post office. It was run by a succession of people, and the ones I remember were Mattschoss, Zenka, Lynch, Linke and Lawson. These people also delivered groceries. This created employment for one local girl, Margaret Cox. Most products (sugar, flour etc) were in bulk and had to be weighed into paper bags. While people waited for their order to be filled, it was a chance to catch up on the local gossip.

The post office was run by Sylvia and Newt Clark. The exchange was a manual one so one local girl, Shirley Cox, was employed on the exchange during the day. After hours calls were expected to be made before too late in the day. Newt had a very short fuse, especially after a few pints at the Emu Hotel.

The closest butcher shop was in Reynella. Most people bought their meat from a

butcher's van. The two main butchers were Cas Pearson, who had a shop in Reynella and a van which delivered around the district, and Furlers who had a shop in Old Noarlunga. Fred Rayner, another butcher, was also based in Old Noarlunga.

In the mid-fifties, Cas Pearson built a new shop in Morphett Vale opposite the general store. This later became Stan Smith's shop.

Mr Hercock operated as a blacksmith opposite the hotel. The business closed in the early fifties. The site was taken over by Morphett Vale Garage, run by Jack Moffatt. This employed a local mechanic, Stan Collins. Mr Moffatt later built a new garage two doors north.

He also drove a Vanguard, and being an ex-racing driver he was even faster than Carl Sauer. He lived in Adelaide and travelled to and fro each day.

Greengrocers sold from their truck or van. The three suppliers were Le Seue (two brothers, Lance and George), in an old red International 1936. The quality of their fruit was fairly average and once when they came around and showed my father a beautiful basket sample of their wares, he grabbed the sample and said, "I'll have this one and you can easily make up another one from your van". Ernie Brittain had an old green Austin. He spent most of his time in front of the Emu Hotel. Hahn, who had the best quality goods, had an immaculate 1934 Chevrolet, but he would not travel off the bitumen.

Wood merchant Harry Cox, a short rotund gentleman, was always involved in

community affairs and was the local fire chief and knew the whole district like the back of his hand. He was a most popular man. Jim Kelly, who was as big as Harry was small, also did other jobs to supplement his wood merchant business.

Dressmaker Audrey Harris (later Hunt), made wedding dresses for the locals, even after her marriage when she moved further south.

Ice was delivered by Fred Pulleine and his opposition, Buck Taylor. They both employed brothers, local lads John and Les Mogg who formed part of the Mogg family of 13 children. The family lived in the old saddlery shop opposite the post office. Les later worked for my father for 48 years.

A hardware shop was established by FJ Wheaton in the 1960s. Before then, hardware supplies were ordered and delivered by

Southern Transport and Briscoes Bus Service. Some hardware items were also purchased from McLaren Vale Fruit Packers, through the General Store and Stock Agents.

The local ambulance service was managed by Port Noarlunga volunteers.

Gordon LePoidevin was a grave digger who travelled extensively by horse and trap. He was the last person with horses in the district. Graves were dug manually. Gordon, together with his father Richard and two brothers, Howard and Hurtle, were the biggest hay carters in the early 1900s. Their father was killed when he fell from his hay trolley in front of Christ

Church, O'Halloran Hill in 1913. He was my great grandfather. Howard bought one of the first trucks in the district in 1924.

Doctor Fox had rooms built next to the Morphett Vale School (now Blackwell's Funeral Parlour) and consulted on certain days. He also did home visits in his Vanguard and was a regular drinker at the Emu Hotel. Very abrupt manner,



especially late in the afternoon with a skin full of grog. He also drove a Vanguard like a maniac.

There was no dentist back then.

The nearest hospital was at McLaren Vale, built around 1950.

A police station and Court House was located in William Street. Policemen: Litster, Milhinch, McInerney, Schwerd.

A library was situated in Institute in William Street and run by volunteer Amy Jared.

Clothing:

Drapery delivered by van (Vincent and

Pattersons). Dulcie Woolcock started to sell some women's fashions in Reynella. Prior to this they only sold moderately priced women's clothing and work clothes.

Fishing was done by the locals and in some cases they sold from door to door.

Milk vendors delivered primarily by Lloyd of Reynella. Some people with cows sold milk to their neighbours.

Sand and Metal

There was a large sandpit in Christies Beach (Rosewall) which supplied a large part of the sand for Adelaide, and trucks travelled nonstop up and down South Road and were the main source of traffic at this time.

There were local dances nearly every month held in the Institute. These dances supported the local community. They included the Institute Ball, The Catholic, Blossom, Vintage, Almond Blossom, Basketball and Football Club balls. They were all fundraisers, and the money raised helped our little community. Everybody worked very hard in those days and supported each other when times were difficult.

One of the highlights of the dances was the homemade suppers, and the excellent milk coffee which was made with Lion Coffee Grounds placed in a muslin bag, put in the copper and boiled up. Supper was always held after a set dance called the Alberts. The first dance of the evening was the Queen's Waltz, followed by the Progressive Barn Dance, usually 60/40 old style. We would know 80% of the people at the dance. Quite a lot of the older ladies

sat around the edge of the hall observing all the young ones. This formed their entertainment for the week. Young girls sat around the hall with the young men standing around by the door, eyeing off any prospective catch!

The Institute also held picture nights regularly, the projectionist being Eddie Rowe. He also ran the pictures at Port Noarlunga. Later, a new hall was built at Reynella and picture nights in the Morphett Vale Institute were disbanded.

Card nights (bridge and euchre) were held at the Morphett Vale Primary School during winter and spring middle term. Pictures were also held on this night, to entertain the school children while the parents played cards. This was the first big night out for a lot of children and was very exciting. While the ladies prepared the supper the children played out in the dark, hiding behind bushes and scaring each other. If the adults had not finished the card game, the projectionist (Eric Shearer) would play the film backwards. Gales of laughter always erupted from the children.

Usually once a year the Adelaide Hunt Club had jumps running adjacent to Christies Creek, starting from where Thaxted Park Golf Club is now and finishing at Dyson Road.

The Emu Golf Club was east of the Institute. Nine holes. Club house rear of Institute. Each year Kingscote Golf Club and Emu Golf Club had a weekend competition held alternately.

The men's bowling club competed against Reynella, Clarendon, Meadows, McLaren



Vale, Willunga, Myponga and Yankalilla. Women's bowls formed in early 1954; my mother was a foundation member.

Football, cricket, tennis, basketball (now netball) and table tennis were held at the Baptist Church run by the Youth Group.

A branch of the Country Women's Association was formed in June 1951. They are celebrating 50 years this year (2001).

Editor's Disclaimer: No responsibility is taken for possible omissions or errors of fact in this article.

A full transcript of an interview with Devron and his brother Brian Booth, by historian Rob Linn in February 2003, is also available in the State Library of South Australia's J.D. Somerville Oral History Collection, OH 692/12.

Land Army Girls working at Morphett Vale.

SLSA B-59940 SLSA B59943



Sir John Morphett

by Cheryl Williss

On 6 October 1835, five and a half months before he left the shores of England, a young John Morphett publicly declared,



SLSA B61199

"In heart I am now a South Australian".

The 27-year-old son of a London solicitor first stepped onto South Australian soil at Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island on 11 September 1836, as a private paying passenger on board the Colonisation Commission's barque, Cygnet. The Cygnet had brought one half of Colonel William Light's survey team and for the time being it remained at the Island awaiting further instructions from Light. But Morphett grew restless waiting. It wasn't long before he hitched a ride on a sealers' boat to the mainland, with Deputy Surveyor George Kingston and other members of the survey team, where they met up with Light's team from the Rapid. According to grandson George Morphett, when they reached the shallow waters of Rapid Bay, Kingston and Morphett jumped overboard together and had a race to the shore.

Two months later, Morphett reached Holdfast Bay. Here a temporary settlement was established. Morphett was not a surveyor; his mission was to be land agent for the Province of South Australia. But he now had the privilege of joining in the exploration of the coastal plains and finding what came to be known as the River Torrens.

On 28 December 1836, His Majesty's Ship *Buffalo* finally arrived, the ninth and final ship to reach South Australia that year. Besides carrying the ship's captain and about-to-be-declared Governor, John Hindmarsh, the *Buffalo* carried another special passenger — 19-year-old Bessey Fisher, eldest daughter of the soon-to-be Resident Commissioner and later Adelaide Mayor, James Hurtle Fisher.

Apparently, Bessey was one of the last of the *Buffalo* passengers to be rowed back to the ship that night. According to her sister Fanny's diary:

The day we first landed, John Morphett soon made himself known to Bessey and escorted her about. We had seen him at meetings at Adelphi Terrace before leaving England.

On 15 August 1838, Bessey "walked from our bush hut in the parkland" to Trinity Church, where she and John — later Sir John — were married, combining two families whose political and civic contributions to South Australia cannot be underestimated.

Morphett's own land acquisitions included 134 acres not far from Holdfast Bay, where in 1844 he built a house for his family.



SLSA B-61206

'Cummins', named after his mother's family home in Devon, would become the residence of five generations of the Morphett family over the next 132 years. From the late 1870s onwards, the land was gradually sold off, but a century later the Dunstan Government secured Cummins House, saving an important part of South Australia's heritage.

Morphett's enthusiasm towards the development of South Australia is evidenced by his active involvement in the progression of the colony. While Bessey was busy providing him with five sons and six daughters, Morphett threw himself into community work. He was part of a committee for 'the protection of Aborigines'. He was instrumental in the founding of the South Australian Literary and Scientific Association and the Mechanics' Institute on North Terrace. He was a Justice of the Peace, one of the earliest members of the Botanic Gardens Board and a director of the Adelaide Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Across the years he was also vice president of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia, president of the South Australian Subscription Library, the South Australian Cricket Club and the South Australian Jockey Club, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a director of the South Australian Railways. Active in Parliament, in 1851 he was elected Speaker and in 1865 he was elected President of the Legislative Council. In 1870, the Honourable John Morphett was knighted for his contribution democracy. Three years later, he retired from public life.

After contracting pneumonia, Sir John Morphett died in his sleep on 7 November 1892. He was 83. Bessey died aged 90 on 6 May 1905.

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SA History Hub:

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MORPHETT VALE (Co. Adelaide) is a postal township in the hundred and electoral district of Noarlunga, and under the control of the district council of Morphett vale. It is situated in a fertile valley on the Great South road, on a creek generally known as Anderson's creek, from a gentleman of that name through whose ground it flows. To the E. lies a range of hills which separate the Morphett vale and Clarendon districts. In the township is a small flour mill, but operations have ceased there for some years past. The district is an agricultural one, wheat being extensively grown, and there being also many well cultivated vineyards. The Worthing copper mines lie about 5 miles N.W., but nothing is at present being done there. The country generally, however, bears strong mineral indications, and will most probably at some period be found worth the working. The nearest places are Reynella, 2 miles N., and Hackham, 2 miles S.E. With these places, as with Adelaide, 15 ½ miles distant N., the communication is by Rounsevell's mail coaches and omnibuses. Morphett Vale has 1 hotel—the Emu; it has also a mechanics' institute, 2 government schools (duly licensed by the central board of education and well attended), a Foresters' court, Presbyterian (John Knox's), Baptist (union chapel), and roman Catholic (St. Mary's) churches, all under the charge of resident ministers. The ruins of an edifice, formerly a church of Scotland, are still standing, and give an older appearance to the township than is seen in most places in the colony. There is a local court (with the usual number of magistrates in attendance, possessing all the magisterial powers invested in such institutions), a police court, a public pound, a post and money order office, several stores, workshops, &c. There are also a number of neat residences, many of which have fine vineyards attached, from which wine of excellent quality is produced, some being favourably known as being really sound and valuable wine. There are also several orangeries, to which considerable attention has been paid of late years, with a most gratifying result. The surrounding country is elevated, the formation being generally limestone and sandstone. The population of the township and surrounding district numbers 930 persons.

Extracts from Bailliere's South Australian Gazetteer and Road Guide, compiled by Robt. P. Whitworth, F.F. Bailliere, Publisher, Adelaide, 1866

A Fleurieu Pioneer

by Cheryl Williss

For this issue, I am taking a less conventional approach. I would like to introduce you to a Fleurieu pioneer descendant – Joyce Nestor Smart, a truly extraordinary woman.

For all but the first five years of her life, Joyce lived at Prospect Hill. She was a direct descendant of James Harvey and Elizabeth née Winter, who were amongst the first settlers in the area.

For many years, Joyce worked tirelessly to ensure the preservation of the social history of the Prospect Hill community. She was also a founding member of the Meadows Valley Camera Club. In 1968, she became the club's secretary, a position she went on to hold for the next 50 years.



I met Joyce just once, but she left a lasting impact. We met on a Sunday afternoon about ten years ago when, for the first time, I visited the Prospect Hill museum. Joyce was at her usual spot just inside the entrance, greeting visitors. Here we commenced a conversation, during which I learned all about what happened to Joyce — and her Milligan Road farm — on 16 February 1983.

On that day, I was safely at home in beachside Hallett Cove. I clearly remember standing in my baby son's bedroom, changing his nappy; at the same time I was looking out the window beside me, watching the swirling rage of a scorching summer wind and thinking to myself, Something's not right here, this is not good.

How could anyone forget that day? You could sense it. And when I turned on the radio, I heard the news. But here on the coast at Hallett Cove, my baby and I were safe. And, at the local school, so were his older brothers.

That day was Ash Wednesday.

Joyce's community was hit hard by the bushfires of Ash Wednesday and Joyce was one of those who lost almost everything on that day. Joyce told me that while the bushfires raged, she refused to leave her farm – the property on which she had lived since she was a small child and now managed on her own - even when there was no hope of saving it. With two dogs as well as her pet possum on board, Joyce drove her trusty Mini Moke to the top of a paddock where her dairy cows were cornered. In the choking fire everything was black, but she knew they were all there. Reaching a small patch of grass that for some reason had refused to she called the whole herd individually (they all had their own names of course), and they ran through a wall of flames towards her, keeping their heads held high in an attempt to protect themselves. The tips of their tails burned off, but otherwise they were all okay.

And, they had a couple of surprise additions in tow. Joyce had only recently acquired a bull which, according to Joyce,

sulked and kept to himself. But now her bull had found the herd and ran with them to Joyce, clearly deciding that she was a friend after all. And another surprise; a kangaroo had joined them — a big grey. They all stayed with Joyce as she steered her Mini Moke into a dam. And there they all sat, as Joyce's house and almost all her possessions burned to the ground. But Joyce had saved every one of her livestock — and the kangaroo.

Joyce lost many significant photos that day, as well as the camera club's records. But there was one thing she did manage to save — the perpetual trophy she had won for a landscape image she had entered into a competition. Joyce told me that each year, that same trophy was still being passed on.

Prospect Hill itself lost many historical sites in the bushfires. Fortunately, the former post office and general store survived and is now home to the Prospect Hill museum. Despite ill health in recent years, when I met Joyce she still volunteered most weekends, caretaking at the museum. And she was still managing her farm, which she had determinedly built back up. Many people walked away from their homes that day. But Joyce had fought back. After the fire the kangaroo moved on, but very shortly afterward he returned to the property. And this time he brought a mate. Joyce told me she was sure that the colonies of kangaroos now living on her land were the descendants of that big grey.

At the time of meeting Joyce, I was part of the way through a professional writing course. I was so impressed with her story that I found a way to include it in a writing assignment. Since then, I have discovered that she and other long time Prospect Hill residents were interviewed for an oral history project, then released as a book, *Prospect Hill: Memories of a Burned Village*, published by Wakefield Press. My article for *Relative Thoughts*, however, has been extracted from my own clear memories of my conversation with Joyce, aided by the assignment I wrote at the time.

Aged 87, Joyce died on 9 May 2018. In her obituary, the *Prospect Hill Community News* wrote that she 'will be long remembered for the love and time dedicated to her beloved Prospect Hill'.

If you would like to hear more about Joyce, as well as Prospect Hill's history and heritage, the oral history interviews can be heard here: https://prospecthillheritage.wordpress.com/

The Prospect Hill museum is open to the public on Sunday afternoons, 2.00-4.00pm. You will always receive a warm country welcome.

Did you know?

Prospect Hill was previously known as McHarg's Hill, after the squatter John McHarg whose daughter Sarah went missing in 1841 (see *Relative Thoughts* July 2022, pp 20-22). In 1873, a new church was built, a general store opened and a spring cart service to and from Adelaide commenced. Apparently, after a chance remark by a resident at the time, "Better prospects are ahead!", the locals renamed their village 'Prospect Hill'.

Where I Came From

Meet Colin Routley

How long have you been a member of the FPFHG?

I joined the group in 2017. Cheryl Williss and I attended a meeting to hear the late Kingsley Ireland who was guest speaker that day. We knew Kingsley well via the Pioneers Association of SA.

Had you done much family research before you joined?

Yes, heaps. But I have learned much more since. For starters, I realised that Cheryl and I have much more in common than we thought! Cheryl had long known that she was a direct descendant of a 'Lacemakers of Calais' family (as is Kath Fisher, as well as Kingsley Ireland). Several years ago, I discovered that I too am a Lacemakers descendant. Then I discovered that Cheryl's former husband's three times great grandfather was George Williss. I'm a direct descendant of George's sister Jemima!

Tell me more about your Lacemaker ancestor.

His name was George Crowder and he settled with his family in Thebarton, as many of the Lacemakers originally did. As they weren't allowed to practice their craft in SA, he earnt his living as a butcher, a baker, a carrier and a farmer. In his late years he was employed as a shepherd in the mid-north as so many older men did. No pensions back then...

Were you born in the Fleurieu?

No. I grew up at Mundoora, on the northern Yorke Peninsula, east of Port Broughton. Two of my ancestors jumped



ship. Great grandfather Charles George Routley jumped ship at Port Pirie, later buying land just south of Port Broughton. He married the daughter of a Danish sailor by the name of Peter Meyer, who jumped ship at Port Adelaide, later moving with his family to a farm near Collinsfield. Peter had a fishing boat moored to the original Port Broughton jetty. One night he left the hotel to retire to his boat and slipped. His body was discovered the next day floating near the mangroves.

Have you found any family connection to the Fleurieu?

I have recently found one who arrived here with a letter of recommendation to the Reverend Ridgway Newland, who had established the Congregational community at Victor Harbor. But I'm still researching that one.

Did you complete all of your schooling in the country?

Like my grandfather and father, I started school at Port Broughton Higher Primary School. Later I drove daily to Port Pirie to complete my Leaving and Matriculation. In 1971, I went to Whyalla for a mechanical engineering traineeship working at the Shipyards. I met my late wife Jean at a Rural Youth Ball at Port Broughton in April 1974 and we were married that December.

Jean was born near Bristol, later moving to Cobham in Surrey. Her father was in Kenya during WW2 and could no longer tolerate British weather. They emigrated to SA in 1960.

Then you moved south?

Yes, after a further three years in Whyalla and a few months in the UK and Europe we returned to our trust home in Whyalla. We moved to Aberfoyle Park after accepting a job offer from Uniroyal at Edwardstown. Two years later I applied for a job at Chrysler Tonsley Park. I started working for Mitsubishi Motors in November 1980.

In 1982, we purchased a ten-acre property in the hills, backing onto Cherry Gardens. During 1985/86 we built an 'earth-sheltered house'. I put the garage up first and we lived in that with our two young daughters during the final stages of the house construction. The land had formerly been part of one of the area's early dairy farms and, apart from a couple of red gums, the land was clear grassland. I set out to change all that and planted 700 trees. That brought the wildlife back.

Cheryl has reminded me that when we first met, the first thing I said (after introducing myself) was that I wasn't moving anywhere for anybody. Cheryl and her cat moved here in early 2008. The cat was only allowed outside under strict supervision though.

We have recently calculated that over the years the property has been home to at least 30 different species of native birds; along with the occasional kangaroo, koala, echidna and possums. Plus thousands of skinks, lizards and a few snakes. Over the last two years we have also given a couple of young possum families a new home,

courtesy of Cheryl's niece who is a wildlife rescue volunteer.



Have you had a DNA test?

No, but several years ago I was contacted by a distant relative in England; a bachelor who occupied himself in the long London winters visiting parish churches seeking records of the Routley clan. In 2021 he was interviewed by a local newspaper, not long before his 101st birthday.

Keith has traced his own family back to the 18th century, discovering he comes from a family of Somerset farmers and that his great-great grandfather was sentenced to death for burgling, but managed to escape this fate by going to Australia wherein he was then hanged for murder.

My Routley ancestors originate from north-west Somerset.

Also, two people contacted me via *Ancestry*. Each of them had one of the three war medals awarded posthumously to Alfred Henry Routley, younger brother of George Horace, and my grandfather Charles Wilfred Routley. Alf died on the Somme. I visited his grave in 2007 whilst I was visiting my younger daughter, who was at that time working in Bath. The medals had been sent to my great grandmother, and sometime after her death they had been sold.

The Year 1969

by Joan Davies



In 1969, after three years as a fulltime stay at home mum, I was keen to get back into the workforce to help Ken pay off the mortgage on our new home as quickly as possible. Initially, I worked part time for an import agent just on Saturdays, and then later on from 10am to 3pm on weekdays. In March 1969, I was fortunate to score a full time job as a sales analyst in the Market Planning Department of Chrysler Australia Limited at Tonsley Park.

While I was at work, our daughter Karen was cared for by 'Auntie Von', a wonderful lady who ran a day care centre and kindergarten on Sturt Road in Seacombe Gardens. Auntie Von and her staff were fantastic with the children and Karen loved going there each day to be with her friends. How fortunate we were. Sometimes, she was enjoying the activities so much that we had trouble convincing her it was time to go home at the end of the day.

Working for Chrysler in 1969 in the Marketing Division was an amazing experience, and I loved my job and the people I worked with. Chrysler Australia Limited was a subsidiary of the US Chrysler Corporation then, and most of the senior managers were American. I'd never worked with Americans before, so this was an interesting experience. People in senior management roles were all male and it was rare for any manager to be in the same position for more than a few months. Formalities seemed to be important to the Americans. Managers were always addressed as Mr, never by their Christian names, and they also addressed other staff as either *Mr* or *Mrs*.

Our clerical work was all done manually in those days. The analysis of daily sales and market share by state was prepared from lists of vehicle registrations that arrived by snail mail each day. There were no PCs, only typewriters, and calculators to work However, we did have a huge mainframe computer housed in separate building, with a large staff of girls who keyed information prepared by clerical staff for processing. Data was processed at night after close-off, and reports were available the next morning. By today's standards, when we can get up to date information at the touch of a button, this system can only be described as archaic.

At that time there were only a few female clerks in Administration and although we did similar work to our male counterparts we were only paid two-thirds of the male wage. In 1969, the struggle for equal pay became an important issue, and the Clerks Union fought very hard to achieve this, but it didn't actually happen until a couple of years later.

The first Australian Valiant was manufactured at the Tonsley Park plant in March 1964. By the late 1960s, the vehicle was so popular that the company had trouble satisfying demand. In 1969, Chrysler sold more than 42,000 Valiants, and posted a net profit of around \$7.2 million – the best year ever.

Unfortunately, the company's success didn't continue and Valiant sales began to decline during the early '70s.

The American marketing strategies at that time were very exciting, and the huge

advertising campaign associated with the launching of the new models was a real buzz. I remember the guys from Young and Rubicon, who managed Chrysler's advertising and promotions, being flamboyant in every way. Their appearance, hair styles and the clothes they wore could only be described as outrageous. Obviously they wanted to be noticed because they often sported large ties with odd looking patterns, shirts with unusually patterned collars, brightly coloured suits, socks that didn't seem to match, and fancy looking shoes.

The introduction of the big luxury Chrysler 'VIP' sedan in May 1969, the launch of the face-lifted VF model Valiant and the four-door Chrysler 'Pacer' later that year, was a very exciting time. The Pacer was limited to a range of three vibrant colours: Wild Red, Wild Blue and Wild Yellow. With its sporty look, body striping, mag wheel covers and powerful 3.69 litre six-cylinder engine, the Pacer certainly stood out from other vehicles available at that time.

Somehow the Americans had a way of getting everyone hyped up about the new product range. In September 1969, following the success of the Pacer, Chrysler released the VF Valiant Hardtop in an attempt to provide competition for the popular Monaro and Falcon GT. The two-door Hardtop was an attractive looking vehicle, with its classy range of two-tone paint colours and distinctive vinyl roof finishes.

Product launches for the new models of 1969 were held in a huge marquee erected on the Chrysler Oval at Tonsley Park, and the circus-like atmosphere was an experience I'll never forget. This was the era of the 'large' family car with big

six-cylinder and V8 engines. 1969 was also the year when optional air-conditioning became available for Valiant models. How times have changed. These days we take it for granted that new cars automatically come with air conditioning.

Unfortunately, there are very few of these vehicles left now. Whenever I'm lucky enough to see one, the memories of the wonderful years I spent at Chrysler come back to me. When I joined Chrysler in 1969, I was impressed with the Staff Social Club activities that were organised regularly for the staff and their families. I took my family to almost everything. There were picnics, cabarets, Christmas parties, special events, sporting activities and a whole lot more. We had so much fun back then.

Sadly the Chrysler era came to an end in 1980 when the company was acquired by Mitsubishi. By the time I took a



redundancy package in 1984 the organisations culture had become much more subdued. Chrysler was a great company to work for and I think most of the people who worked there during the successful years would agree.

Huge Automobile Output Predicted For 1936

It was estimated towards the end of last year, that more than 5,000,000 new cars and commercial motor vehicles would be produced in the motor manufacturing countries of the world during 1936 and it appears that this prediction may be more than fulfilled. In the first six months of this year, U.S.A. and Canada alone had an output of 2,595,000 new automobiles. As the production of new automobiles in Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Russia, Japan, and Belgium for the six months ended June 30 would exceed 500,000 vehicles, it means that less than 2,000,000 units will need to be made in the last half of 1936 to reach 5,000,000. It is computed the American people alone spent more than £527,000,000 on new cars and trucks last year. This year, expenditure will be considerably higher, as the output of new machines for the first half of 1936 was 34 per cent higher than for the same period of 1935. Increasing outputs are also reported from most of the motor manufacturing centres of Europe.

Advertiser, Tuesday 1 September 1936

In Case You Missed It



We had a swap around for our last two meetings of 2024. Our member 'Show and Tell' took place a month early. So, in October our presenters were Ros Dunstall, John Bell, Joan Davies, Cheryl Williss, Kerry Edwards and Heather Boyce. Turn to the next page to begin reading the stories.

At our November AGM, David Jarman gave us an insight into the 'Secrets of Some Buildings along North Terrace'.



Upcoming Speakers

Meeting date:	Speaker	Торіс
January	Alison Hicks	Schools in the Fleurieu's Early Years
February	Peter Christopher	An update on the clipper ship <i>City of Adelaide</i>
March	Dr Keira Lindsey author	The Convict's Daughter, a biography of her three times great aunt, Mary Ann
April	Marie Noble, Ian Blatchford, Shirley Frost	In House Focus: Our Fleurieu soldiers

All meetings are held at 1.15 pm, 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

http://fleurieufamilyhistory.org

Connections – Parsons, Dunstall, Fleurieu Peninsula

from Ros Dunstall

Surprising finds while doing my family research and finding connections.

I could say these connections are all on my maternal side of the family, with some slight movement to the right and some anomalies.

My maternal family connections began with William Parsons and Mary Cross, who arrived in South Australia in 1850 on the *Stag*. Their son William, born in 1847 at Merton, Surrey, married Amy Jane (Cook) Smith on 3 June 1881. Their best man was James Dunstall. James had married Amy's daughter from her first marriage, Ettie (Esther) Smith in 1867, so given the timeframe they had known each other for many years. James died in 1902 at

O'Halloran Hill – possibly a victim of robbery.

William and Mary had a daughter, Eliza Ann, born in 1854 at Tusmore. She married Charles Endersby who died in 1875, Eliza then married John Macklin in 1877 and eventually moved to Murat Bay (now Ceduna). Eliza and John's daughter, Lucy May, married Norman Clement and in 1929 they purchased land at Mudamuckla, east of Ceduna. We discovered on a trip to Ceduna that the people who owned the land across the road from Norman was a Dunstall family.

Lucy and Norman's daughter, Daisy aka Betty, had a daughter who married a Dunstall. I worked for the Hardy Wine company from 1999 to 2008 at the old Reynella Wine site. During that time we were organizing the FPFHG WW1 Anzacs book. I found an article on Trove of William Curtis Dunstall's letter home to his mother, mentioning that his Commanding Officer was Carew Reynell. This letter described the sad event of Carew's death.

Recipes

from Joan Davies

One of the oldest books in my collection is a book called *RECIPES*. This book was published after the First World War, and originally belonged to my maternal grandmother who passed it on to my mother. The author's royalties from the sale of the book went to the Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society, to help provide comforts for returned soldiers who were still in hospital. The price of the book was two shillings.



Family History

Carl Richard Lieblinger (1857-1919) and Isabella Millar (1769-1900) were my maternal great grandparents. Richard and Isabella had two daughters, Edith and Elsie, who were born at Swanport, near Murray Bridge. Edith was my maternal grandmother.





Edith was living at Caloote when she met my grandfather, Charles William Kubank (known as Will). Will and Edith were married in 1912. For the next seven years,



Kubank children



Thelma, Eva and Phillis

they lived in Mannum, and this was where their four children, Phillis (Phyllis), Eva, Thelma and Lance were born. (Phyllis) was my mother; she was born in 1913. In 1919 the family moved to Port Pirie. Then, in 1923, they relocated to a fruit property at White Hut near Clare where they lived for the next 22 years. My mother and her siblings attended the White Hut School until Grade Seven. At the age of around 13, the children all left school and got jobs. The girls generally worked as cooks or domestics on local properties in the area, including the Bungaree Station where they lived on the site. Their brother Lance worked on local farms as a labourer.

The girls were all good cooks. Many of their favourite recipes were obtained from their employers. In addition to preparing regular meals they also enjoyed making cakes, pastries, confectionary, pickles, chutnev and iams. Mν grandmother also made wine from grapes, peaches and other fruit that was grown on the property at White Hut. Over the years, the girls acquired a huge collection of recipes. Most of their recipes were handwritten and recorded in



Thelma, Lance and Eva

exercise books. However, none of the handwritten recipe books have survived.

Fortunately, a few of the published books from my mother's collection including the book, *RECIPES*, did survive. My mother loved this book and it's obvious from its condition that it was used regularly.

'The Home Doctor' chapter in the book is interesting. Here are three examples from this section.

Dog Bites

Remove the clothing. Apply a ligature above the wound. Destroy the entire surface of the wound either with a hot iron (the hotter the iron the less pain), or by rapidly applying a stick of Silver Nitrate over the wound.

One Night Cold Cure

A Chest or Head Cold can be cured in one night if treated in time. Put on a flannel night dress, and also wrap a blanket well over that, then sit for 15 minutes with the feet and ankles in a mustard and water footbath as hot as it can be borne, adding more hot water if necessary. Meantime sip a pint of hot strong home-made Lemonade (or a glass of hot Whisky). Next dry the feet quickly and get into bed instantly.

Keep the blanket still wrapped around you, as the touch of cold sheets could undo all the work. The cold will be gone in the morning.

Headache

We would warn our readers against the ever-increasing use of Aspirin and its substitutes, which besides being harmful are only temporary in their "cure". Aspirin

should, in our opinion, be registered along with other dopes, and only administered under medical supervision. The juice of half a lemon in a cup of black coffee without sugar or milk seldom fails to cure a case of Headache.

Many of the recipes in the 'Home Doctor' chapter are obsolete treatments and very few would be considered for use today.

I've Found Henry!

from Cheryl Williss

'Henry' was actually Johann Heinrich Christian Wege. The family were among 70 refugee immigrants who arrived in South Australia in early 1846, thanks to the assistance of Pastor Kavel.

But no one has found where or when Henry died. There is no death registration anywhere; nor had his death been recorded on any family history website. My dear late Uncle Bill, who had published a family history book 21 years ago, hadn't found him either and that must have frustrated him greatly.

So, what ever happened to Henry?

A few years ago, Henry's first home was the site of an archaeological dig organised by the Hahndorf Branch of the National Trust. Henry had transferred the property to one Traugott Boehm, who expanded the building and established the Hahndorf Academy. (Later, Boehm sold the school to Douglas Byard, father of May Reynell.)

Next we find Henry in Blumberg, where he turned from carpentry to flour milling on the site of what is now the Birdwood Motor Museum. But Henry's wife died and he went to pieces and went bankrupt. His address on the document that lists his bankruptcy indicates that he was now living at Gilles Plains.

Then he turned up in Mount Gambier. Six years after he dropped the milling business, he was back as a carpenter and wheelwright in partnership with another German. And he had married a German widow, who had arrived in South Australia a year earlier. The last I have found of Henry in Mount Gambier is in 1870, when he advertised that he was no longer responsible for any debts incurred in his name. Then – nothing.

But then, I found his second wife Anna Luisa's grave, across the border in a little town called Murtoa, just north of the Grampians. She died in February 1885. But to add to my frustrations, her death registration lists her next of kin as the name of her first husband, who had died back in Germany before she emigrated. I don't think Henry and Anna were together anymore!

But I hate giving up, don't you? I had searched 'Johann Heinrich Wege', 'Johann Heinrich Christian Wege', 'Henry Wege'. I

had tried spelling 'Wege' in so many different ways, it was ridiculous. Then that little light went on. Henry had advertised in Mount Gambier under the name Heinrich Wege, so I simply googled that name – and there was a record.

The Queensland archives held a digital copy of an inquest into Henry's death. It included the statements of three men. And I now realised that my family was wrong. He hadn't called himself *Henry* — clearly it had always been *Heinrich*. But more importantly, through the statements of those three men I learnt so much more about my three times great grandfather and the last days of his life.

Heinrich had died a poor man in July 1885, in a German settlement at Pimpama, not far from what is now Queensland's Gold Coast. I was also able to find where he is buried — and it's just a 20-minute drive from the hinterland town of Nerang, where my eldest son now lives.

My 114-year-old Photograph

from Kerry Edwards

The baby in this photo is my grandmother, Irene Margaret Stuckey, born 4 July 1910 in Wallaroo. On the right are her parents, William Vincent and Meta Sophia Stuckey (née Kruse). The woman on the left may be Ellen Talbot (née Nestor), Irene's great grandmother.

Irene (or Rene as she was later known) is the mother of my mother, Marcelle. My mother and I hadn't seen this photo before until my Uncle Graham (her brother) died last month and his wife Betty cleaned out his belongings. Graham and Betty had two children, both disabled and therefore there won't be any grandchildren to pass down Graham's family albums to. Betty gave all his family things to me.



Irene Margaret Stuckey and family.

And now for something completely different.... Rough Ghost

from John Bell

As a five-year-old, I had just learned how to spell 'rough' so the comic book my ten-year-older brother was holding had to be 'fost rider'.

He told me it was the ghost rider, but I was smart enough to know that big brothers often fib to you.

We disagreed over ghosts and fosts most of the way from Alice Springs to Adelaide on the Ghan railway.

I guess you could say it has developed into a life-long fascination.

Start off with ghost or ghetto where the 'h' is silent,

Then we go to ough at the end of a word

Rough – ough is uff

Put a 't' in front and you get trough – and the ough becomes off

Add a 'th' in front and you get through – and the ough becomes oo

Add a 'tho' in front and you get thorough - and the ough becomes A

'Edinborough' (Edinburgh) – ough becomes urra

Dough - ugh gets lost and word becomes doe

Enough of rough – lets diverge to 'gh' at the end of the word

McDonough – ough become A or ar

Tree bough - ough becomes ow

Haigh - gh has a silent h

Greenhalgh – gh becomes sh

Mr Murdaugh – it is not murder—augh becomes och

Then there is 'gh' in the middle of a word

McLaughlin - augh becomes ock

Callaghan – the g is silent, or some people go for a silent h

O'Donoughue – ug goes silent

Meagher (name) – eghe goes silent and word becomes Ma or Mar

Night - ight becomes ite

Caughey – augh becomes ow

Hughes – gh goes silent

Last is Willoughby – where the ugh gets lost

I hope this gives someone's daughter some laughter.



Book Review

Reviewed by Lynette Gibson



The original book was written by the first author in 2001, to cover the establishment of the church in 1871 up until 2001. This was done with the finding of minute books dating from 1869 to 1981. Later in 2021, the latter two people shown above brought the history of the church up to date.

A group of locals joined forces to establish a church in the district of Glenburn (later Delamere) around 1870, and James Cole donated a section of land near the corner of Cole and Main South roads. The church and furnishings were mainly due to the generosity of the local people, guided and aided by the Reverend CW Morse, who had been appointed to Christ Church Yankalilla.

The book details not only the establishment of the church, but commitments the congregation made; not just the giving of their time but their money, as the Diocese in Adelaide

The Anglican Church of

St James' Delamere

1871-2021

by Maurice V Carter and Peter Filsell and Margaret
Morgan

expected each parish to not only pay part of the priest's stipend, and maintain the church and grounds, but also to donate four times a year to charities designated by them.

The building of a church hall and cemetery and memorial gardens are discussed, plus the installation of electric lighting in 1957. As time went by, the congregation numbers declined, until in the latter years services were taken by priests from other churches.

The career of the long serving priest CW Morse, whose diocese covered not only nearby churches, but also Meningie and Kangaroo Island, is acknowledged. Reaching the latter in the early days required crossing in a rowing boat with one Mr Christie who took the mail to the island.

The latter section covers the merger of Christ Church Yankalilla and St James Delamere to form Western Fleurieu Anglican Pastoral District; thus combining resources and closing the Delamere account. It also meant that St James no longer had its own priest full time. Services of both churches now occurred on a rotational system.

The section also looks at the history of the hall in more depth, the priests who served in the parish, and a reflection in 2021 of the 150 years history of this church.

Resource Room Opening Times

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

The Room is also open from 1.00–3.00pm, 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.

For computer bookings please <u>text</u> Chris Grivell on 0409 670 183 and advise what you would like to book, e.g. Digger, Find My Past, Ancestry etc.

Membership Subscriptions

Annual Membership:

Electronic Journal:

Family (2 people at same address) - \$45 Single - \$38

Printed Journal collected:

Family - \$55 Single - \$48

Printed Journal posted:

Family - \$67 Single - \$60

- Printed Journals can be collected at General meetings or on Resource Room open days.
- You may arrange for another member to collect it for you, but please notify us first.
- Only those who have paid postage will be posted.

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

Meeting attendance fee - \$2 per meeting or \$18 per year. Visitors - \$5 per meeting.

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.

Computer Group—meets at 1.00pm to 3.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday 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 our website, at https://fleurieufamilyhistory.org/event-calendar/

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