



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN



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DECEMBER 2014

552

REPORT ON NOVEMBER MEETING (12.11.2014)

A balmy night and an interest in voting for our new Constitution resulted in an increased attendance by members to our monthly meeting. In keeping with the military theme for November our President Michael asked us to remember the sacrifices made by Australians in the Great War of 1914-1918 and in all conflicts since. In keeping with these sentiments, Ray Gear spoke on the life and service of James Simpson, Albury's brave recipient of the Military Cross. Michael reported that several members had attended the unveiling of the Borella monument at Peard's Nursery which memorialises all VC recipients. Greg Ryan presented his before and after photographs which have been posted on our new Facebook page. The page and revamped Website have successfully reached out to a large new audience. Our President then opened the business part of the evening by reading the minutes of the last General Meeting. He presented the new constitution and moved that it be accepted as tabled. The Secretary confirmed that there had been no written objections received. There was extensive discussion from the floor on Paragraph 16(D) which relates to the powers of the Committee. The clause restricts the President from issuing media statements without consultation with the Committee. A vote was taken on the motion with 13 members voting for the new constitution, 11 voting against and 3 members abstaining. As there was not an overwhelming vote for the motion, Michael referred the issue back to the Committee. In the Members 15 minutes, Joe Wooding presented a fascinating original photograph of the Albury Time Ball. (See Page 6.) and Richard Lee asked for help in locating a wooden throne owned by Abe Nathan. (See Page 7.)

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 10 DEC, 2014

7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury
Speakers:
Father Kevin Flanagan
Early Days of the Sacred
Heart School

Members Show & Tell

**BEHIND THE LINES: THE
YEAR'S BEST POLITICAL
CARTOONS 2013
FINISHING 14 DEC 2014
A SELECTION OF WORKS
FROM AUSTRALIA'S BEST
POLITICAL CARTOONISTS
OF 2013.
ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM**

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

<www.alburyhistory.org.au>

Patron: Patricia Gould OAM
Honorary Life Members:
Howard Jones, Helen Livsey,
June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.
Public Officer: Helen Livsey
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Shanahan
Secretary: Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671
Treasurer: Catherine Browne
Minute Secretary: Catherine Browne
Publicity Officer: Jill Wooding

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Jill Wooding, Ray Gear, Marion Taylor,
Greg Ryan and Ron Haberfield.
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Journals, Stock: June Shanahan
Meeting Greeter: Jill Wooding
Bulletin dispatch: Ron Haberfield

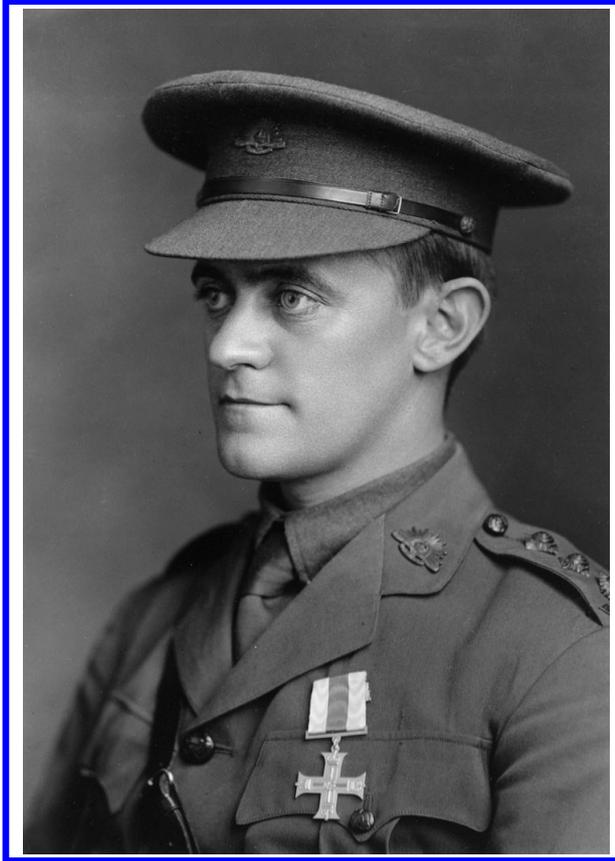
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the
month 7.30pm usually at Commercial
Club Albury.

Committee meets 3rd Wednesday of
the month 5.15pm at the Albury
LibraryMuseum.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25
Family: \$33
Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.
Enquiries in writing with \$25



Photograph Courtesy: Mapping Our Anzaacs NAA

JAMES WILLIAM ALBERT SIMPSON
MC, MID, 1882-1917
BY RAY GEAR

James William Albert Simpson was born at Preston, Victoria on 26 October 1882. After schooling in Preston and Geelong he became an undergraduate of Melbourne University, later marrying Grace Elizabeth Handley and they had a son, Halliday James Simpson. In mid 1904 Simpson was appointed Assistant Master of Albury Grammar School and soon after became the school's Sports Master and the school's cadet corps leader. According to the Border Morning Mail on 13 December 1912, he was popular with the students and staff of the school. He was also a member of the Citizens Military Forces holding the rank of Lieutenant and was well known in the community being an active participant in most forms of sport.

War involving countries from around the world came on 4 August 1914 following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Austrian Crown Prince. This assassination saw two powerful alliances, known as the Allied Powers and the Central Powers, set aflame the

long standing tensions between the two powers resulting, in war. On the 5 August 1914 the Albury Daily News advised the citizens of Albury & District that the Australian Prime Minister Joseph Cook had announced that Australia, as part of the British Empire, was at war. Two days later in the same newspaper Simpson, Commanding 'F' Company, 44th Infantry Battalion that was raised in Albury in July 1914, notified some 132 members of the Company including men from Albury, Chiltern and, Wodonga, to be prepared to be called up in the event of mobilisation. Simpson enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 18 November 1914 and, was assigned to the 13th Infantry Battalion. Twelve days later on the 30 November his application for a Commission in the 13th Infantry Battalion was granted. Having been appointed to the rank of Captain, Simpson sailed from Melbourne on the 22 December 1914 for Egypt, on the Transport A38 'Ulysses'. After a six week voyage they disembarked at Alexandria then, travelled to Heliopolis, north-west of Cairo to encamp for training.

During his military service, Simpson kept a personal diary, part of which was quoted in the Albury Daily News between 30 November 1915 and 9 December 1915 beginning from an entry dated February 9, 1915 when he wrote:

'We have been in Heliopolis one week to-day, quite enough time to satisfy us that it is a land of dust, hot days, cold nights, filth and sin. On Sunday, the 7th, we went to the Pyramids and spent a most instructive day.'

Other entries indicate that between training, time was spent sighting, visiting or being visited. On the 16 March he notes that 'on Sunday, old boys of the School came to visit me - Les Hore, Stan Ogilvie, Vic Fowler and Carl Baker'.

On Monday 12 April 1915, men of the 13th Battalion left Alexandra on the H.M.A.S 'Ascot' under the command of Lt. Col. Granville John Burnage. In a diary entry dated April 13 Simpson reported 'our ship has 900 odd men and, 298 horses; she is terribly crowded'. In a later diary entry he reported that on the Wednesday night:

'the band gave a fine concert on board. It is typical of Australians to be one day's sail from the shores of the enemy, yet they will have their fun and amusement'.

Two days later on Friday, April 16, they arrived at Mudros Harbour, Lemnos Island in the Aegean Sea, some one hundred kilometres from the Gallipoli peninsula. After some nine days waiting in Mudros Harbour, they moved out for the peninsula, with the aim of controlling the Dardanelles Strait.

Sunday night 25 April 1915 saw the Battalion, off Kaba Tepe on the Gallipoli peninsula. Recording the arrival Simpson wrote:

' the guns are booming in the distance, and shells are bursting around the ship. It is just like a bioscope film. We first heard the guns at 11 o'clock this morning, and the din grew louder and louder. We came into sight of the Dardanelles at about 2 o'clock this afternoon, and firing has been continuous ever since. The Navy seems to be doing splendid work for us, as their shells are bursting on the slopes, splashing up gigantic columns of dust and smoke. Just at dusk the Turks responded from the shore with their batteries, but their shells seemed to be bursting high, although one or two shells burst around our troops landing on the beach. Our balloons and aeroplanes are moving overhead, keeping a watch over us. The large white hospital ship stands with her green port holes and red crosses along the side illuminated with electric light. I have just been on the bridge, and firing seems to have ceased as there is only an odd shot being fired. When the battleships fire broadsiders the shells whistle through the air, and there is a continued roar like thunder. We are expecting to land any time during the night or early in the morning. One of our Companies is on shore'. Later he wrote: 'Landed 4am Monday 26th at Fisherman's Hut, being carried off in torpedo boats, and then in rowing boats. We were not hit at all whilst landing. Immediately we were on shore we marched off into the firing line and have been there ever since. I am in a little dug-out in the side of the hill, while the shells and bullets whizz overhead. The shells bursting shake the dust in on top of me'.

In a diary entry dated May 3 Simpson wrote: ' I was cut off the first night and attached to the 16th. Infantry, and remained second in command to Major Mainsbridge for six days '.

These first days on Gallipoli were spent on Pope's Post and Simpson's dash and bravery are recorded in the Melbourne Argus newspaper of July 16th.

Captain J. W. A. Simpson, the Albury schoolmaster, at this stage showed that conspicuous dash and bravery that has since won for him one of the greatest honours that can come to a soldier. Declining to accept advice from a superior to retire from a particularly warm corner, he held on only a handful of men with such good effect that the enemy were beaten off, and instead of giving way his little force actually advanced, and seized a position on higher ground, near the spot now known as Pope's Post.

On the 6 May, Simpson in his diary noted that he had been appointed Adjutant as a consequence of the death of Major Ellis on 2 May. He makes no comments on his own actions on the night of 2 May other than noting that, he has 'been mentioned in dispatches by Colonel Burnage in leading the Battalion in position and visiting trenches on the nights of May 2 and 3'. An account of his actions on the night of 2 May are however reported in the Border Morning Mail on 4 November, 1915. It recorded that on:

'May 2 with a signalling officer, an orderly, and six volunteer scouts, Captain Simpson crawled through the scrub to reconnoitre the enemy's position. All of the party were hit, except Simpson and the signalling officer'.

On May 29 Simpson was wounded by a bomb however his diary entries of May 29 and 30 makes no mention of this fact. Later in a interview with the Border Morning Mail newspaper of 27 November 1915, Simpson described that during the attack on May 29 he 'was in a trench but owing to a bend in it, a bomb burst only caught him on the left side of the body, severely bruising and shaking him, but not drawing blood, except from his eye'.

While he kept on fighting, thinking he could get over the wounds, he had five days later, a severe attack of gastritis, and his temperature rose to 103. He was then evacuated from Gallipoli, to Malta. After a month hospitalised on Malta, Simpson was taken by the H. S. Dongoli to England for convalescing landing on the 24 July at Southampton Water. Originally hospitalised at the Third London General Hospital at Wandsworth, he was later transferred to No 6 Australian Military Hospital.

During his recovery in England he was allowed out to tour as seen in his diary entry dated August 4 where he wrote, 'first day out in London. Lieuts. McIntyre and Leslie and self hired a taxi and in pyjamas and dressing gowns went for a drive for an hour'. On 30 August he was presented with the Military Cross by King George V in a presentation held at Buckingham Palace. On 20 October 1915 he returned to Australia for twelve months leave, on the H. S. Kanowna. Simpson arrived in Albury on the 26 November 1915 and was welcomed home at the railway station by the Mayor Stuart Logan and the citizens of Albury. According to the Daily News newspaper of 26 November 1915 he was, 'Albury's most distinguished soldier in the present war'. On 7 December a public reception was held for Simpson but because of the number that turned up, the reception had to be shifted from the Town Hall to the adjoining Mechanics' Theatre where, he was presented with a Silver Salver in recognition of his conspicuous gallantry. Ten weeks later on 17 February 1916 Simpson delivered a lecture at the Town Hall which had a threefold aim, firstly to gather funds for the Red Cross, secondly to talk about the bravery and discipline of the Australian soldier and lastly to appeal for recruits.

On the 11 February 1916, Simpson was passed fit by the District Standing Medical Board in Sydney to return to active service. According to the Albury Daily News of 14 February he was to join the 33rd Battalion raised at Armidale, NSW, as second in command. In May the Battalion left Sydney on the "Marathon" arriving in Plymouth, England two months later on 9 July 1916. Three months later Simpson transferred from the 33rd Battalion to the 36th Battalion with the temporary rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The 36th Battalion on 22 November 1916 saw themselves proceeding to the town of Armentieres, embarking at Southampton for France. Disembarking at Le Havre they were, by the 25 November at Bailleul, moving onto Hamear Farm where officers attended a Gas School. On the 28 November the Battalion, consisting of 1011 personnel, left for nearby Armentieres, a town on the Belgian frontier. Seven days later on the 4 December 1916, the Battalion took over the trenches at Houplines Crossing.

In a brief entry in the Battalion's War diaries dated 21 January 1917 titled, 'Trenches' it noted, 'that Colonel Simpson and Lieutenant J McGrath were killed at top of Cambridge Avenue. Very little shelling to-day'.

Simpson, like all who died overseas, was not returned to Australia. A day after he was killed he was buried at the Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France. In Albury a memorial service was held in St David's Presbyterian Church on 18 February 1917. Three months later on 26 May, 1918 a memorial tablet was placed in St David's Presbyterian Church. In addition, Simpson name appears on a memorial erected at the front of St David's Church.

References: Albury Banner and Wodonga Express. Albury Daily News and Wodonga Chronicle. Border Morning Mail. Melbourne Argus. Australian War Memorial, Infantry Battalion War Diaries. National Archives of Australia, WW1 Attestation Papers.





The Tintaldra General Store and Former Bakery is a largely intact building, built in 1864 and extended in 1928. The original section was built of timber by Edwin Jephcott for Sydney Grandison Watson, and has operated continuously as a store since then. The property has represented the social and commercial centre of the surrounding district for 125 years.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE WALTON AFFAIR?

On 16 November we went for a drive to the Hume Weir – and continued on – over Tarrangatta Creek and all the way to Tintaldra. There was a huge gathering of people, some telling the stories of their ancestors who had connections with the Tintaldra Store, which was built in 1864 and was celebrating its 150th birthday. Storytellers were members of the families of Sydney Grandison Watson, Edwin Jephcott, Charles Trench Armstrong, Ted and Fred Thomas, Tom Jarvis, Edith Bowd, and the present owners, the Walton Family – and what a family!

The children and grandchildren served home-cooked food and tank water tea to the visitors while the matriarch, Betty Walton, recited poetry and lead the singing to music by Trevor Best and his team on guitar, saw and lagerphone.

After an inspiring afternoon of history, verse and song, while taking leave of Betty Walton, I mentioned Dr Joseph Knight Barnett who practiced in Albury 1858 to 1871. She reached for the book she wrote in 1987 about Tintaldra and pointed out a photograph of Dr Barnett outside his slab building which was next to her store. He had worked in the town for some years until his death there in 1885 at the age of 51, and was buried in Corryong.

It is a picturesque drive to the Tintaldra Store and Tea Rooms, including history books, and Bett's B & B. Phone/fax enquiries to Betty Walton 02 6077 9201.

Not many timber buildings are allowed to live for 150 years. Long may it last.

Helen Livsey

JOURNALS

1. Links 'n' Chains - Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc. No 108 October 2014
 - (a) Photographic moments in Australian history now available on line.
 - (b) General Terms in Family History
2. Place names Australia Sept 2014
 - (a) Thredbo - an Aboriginal Placename
 - (b) The origin of Humula in the Riverina 'Everyday is a Journey'
3. Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society. No. 409 - Oct - Nov 2014.
 - (a) The Pomingalarna Inn - Uranquinty
4. History - Royal Australian Historical Society No. 12th Sept. 2014
 - (a) Searching for the light in the window
 - (b) Fitzroy Iron Works Mittagong
 - (c) Interwar Journeys to a country town.

SUNSHINE FROM THE NORTH - AUTHOR TALK

When: Sunday 21 December
2.00pm

Where: LibraryMuseum, Corner of Kiewa and Swift Streets, Albury

Price: Free

Sunshine from the North tells the true story of Cherry Cole, from her dramatic birth in 1893 to her engagement to Albury's Horace Stelling in 1927. Told through letters, it paints an intimate portrait of life in the early 1900s. Nancy Sarre has crafted the letters into a heart-warming story of true love. Join us for the author talk and launch of this wonderful book.

Bookings on 02 6023 8333

Very rarely these days do we get an opportunity to obtain original examples of early photographs (1860-1870) of our district. These photographs are extremely scarce and highly sought after by collectors.

Therefore, when the A&DHS was offered such a photograph of the Albury Telegraph Office and the Albury Time Ball the Committee quickly jumped at the chance. The Albury Time Ball was erected in 1861 outside the Telegraph Office. This occurred due to the need to synchronise local times due to great time differences (up to half an hour), in various local clocks. Every day at 1pm a signal would be received at the Albury Telegraph Office from Sydney, and the time keeper would drop the ball. The ball was approximately three foot across and made of black and white calico. As the ball flew on the top of a high mast it was visible from most parts of Albury.

The photograph was taken by Mr Henry G. Thomas who first advertised his business in Hume St in November 1865. As the Time Ball was moved in 1868 to where the Art Gallery is now, we can date the picture to between late 1865 and 1868. The Albury Time Ball was not without problems, a fact reported in the BMM of 1916, when it was stated: "Half a century ago a time-ball was used at the Albury Post Office, but it soon got into disfavour through it failing, on wet days, to do its duty. The pole used to expand with the wet, thus preventing the ball from going either up or down. The only official in charge also, on different occasions, used to forget to haul up the sphere, with the result that somebody reported him, and then the red tape was spun out. After that there was no more time-ball for Albury."

Even after a town clock was installed on top of the Post Office tower in August 1879 there were still ongoing issues with the accuracy of time in the town due to problems with the new clock.

Time balls were installed in the capital cities in 1853 (Williamstown, Melbourne), 1854 (Melbourne) and 1855 (Sydney).

Post Script by Helen Livsey:

In 1867 H.G. Thomas re-opened his portrait rooms in Albury "for a short time", and it was still there three years later.

In 1871 W.P. Cunningham bought the business and worked from Townsend St opposite the Fanny Ceres Mill.

Burton Brothers started in 1877 and, in 1880, announced that they had purchased the negatives taken many years ago by H.G. Thomas.

In 1895 W.H. Oakley bought Burtons. William Oakley died in 1919 and Ern Tooley operated the business, still under the name of Oakley Studios.

In 1932, Mrs Elizabeth Mason, who was highly qualified in colour and photographic work, came from the Western district of Victoria to operate Oakley Studios.

Jack Dallinger started business in the Ritz Lane and later took over the old enterprise of Oakley Studios. The Dallinger family are still in operation today as Foto Supplies.



WYMAH MUSEUM

Wymah was a pioneer settlement with a small thriving township in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It featured one of the earliest ferry river crossings which conveyed both people and livestock. Nothing remains of the township except the Victoria Pub (now Fairview), opposite the original ferry crossing and the school and school house. The original pioneer families still farm the area and their histories are highlighted in the museum's many displays. The museum offers a selection of rotating local themes and includes pioneer family history and research facilities, the history of the Wymah Ferry, Wymah School History, the rise and decline of the Wymah township, and many more.



OPEN: Sundays from 1pm-3pm.
Or by appointment
Ph: 60202027 or 60202005

MARCH OF THE VETERANS: A PROUD HISTORY OF THE ALBURY RSL SUB-BRANCH, BY HOWARD JONES,

This new book by Howard Jones has a Foreword by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial. It was launched on November 6 by Keith Payne VC. The book contains 12 chapters including Anzac Day in Albury and the Albury War Memorial.

Appendices include the "Last Lads of 1914-18" and an Honour Roll which lists 124 names from World War I and 80 from World War II, plus one from the Boer War and 14 from the Vietnam War (first time they've been listed together in any publication). There is a list of presidents and other officers from 1918 to the present, and an index with over 300 names.



The book is available only from the Albury RSL at Anzac House, Wilson Street, price \$10.

HELP NEEDED TO FIND THE MISSING THRONE

Richard Lee is currently researching local Albury business man Abe Nathan. While undertaking this research he uncovered a story about a large wooden throne and stool that had been made by a railway ganger in London from walnut and oak. This piece of furniture, which had taken seven years to make was then presented to Queen Victoria and ended up in the British Museum. Madam Tussaud bought it from the Museum and then sold it to John Nathan who gave it to his son Sam Nathan of Elizabeth St, Melbourne. The throne was then shown in the Exhibition in Melbourne which was opened by King George the Fifth and Queen Mary. Abe Nathan subsequently purchased the throne from his brother Sam and loaned it out to many Queen carnivals and coronation ceremonies around the Riverina. Richard is very interested to know "Does the throne still exist and if so, where is it?." Please contact him on rlee024@gmail.com.

PRESIDENTS XMAS MESSAGE

The year is rapidly drawing to a close and it is time to gather together and celebrate living in the best part of Australia. Albury and district is an area rich in history that began when the land cared for by the indigenous tribes was discovered by explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell on their way to Port Phillip. The story of pioneer families making a living as settlers, along with the story of the townspeople who prospered as the town of Albury grew to become the city it is today, is told in many publications. This past year has seen many things happen in our area and I would like you as members of our Society to write down one or two notable things that you feel were important so we can record the years' events for future generations. Bring them along to the December meeting or email them to me president@alburyhistory.com.au and we can put together a list.

This months' meeting will have examples of what sort of things the Society is involved with both locally and internationally. Come along and see for yourself.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Michael Browne

XMAS PARTY FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 6.30PM FOR 7PM

NOTE: THERE IS A CHANGE OF VENUE TO THE COMMERCIAL GOLF RESORT IN NORTH STREET
PLEASE BRING A KRIS KRINGLE PRESENT TO THE VALUE OF \$5

BUFFET MEAL \$38.00 A HEAD

BOOKINGS TO JUNE SHANAHAN 60251324 BEFORE WED. 10 DEC

MENU.

ON THE TABLES. AN ASSORTMENT OF WHITE CHRISTMAS BITES, SHORTBREAD, CHOCOLATES, TRUFFLES AND CHRISTMAS SLICE, ASSORTED NUTS AND BON BONS.

FROM THE BAKERY - FRESHLY BAKED BREAD ROLLS, GRILLED FLATBREAD AND BAGUETTES.

FROM THE BUFFET - HOT DISHES.

MAPLE GLAZED LEG HAM WITH AN APRICOT AND GINGER GLAZE.

ROAST BREAST OF TURKEY - WITH HAZELNUT AND CRANBERRY SEASONING.

VEGETABLES.

CAJUN CHAT POTATOES

HONEY ROAST PUMPKIN

MEDLEY OF VEGETABLES

CAULIFLOWER AU GRATIN

SALADS

GARDEN SALAD ORANGE COUSCOUS SALAD

TURKEY AND RICE NOODLE SALAD

TRADITIONAL CAESAR SALAD

APPLESLAW

DESSERT

PLUM PUDDING WITH BRANDY CUSTARD

PAYLOVA ROULADE FILLED WITH FRESH BERRIES AND COULIS

WHITE CHOCOLATE AND RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE



You can now find the Albury District Historical Society on Facebook!
Greg Ryan has been adding some excellent before and after photos of the city of Albury.
Tell your friends. It is not necessary to sign up for Facebook to view the page. To have a look please go to <https://www.facebook.com/Albury.DHS>