

DR ARTHUR ANDREWS

Refer also to his biography in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*:

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/andrews-arthur-5025>

Dr Arthur Andrews came to Australia in 1874 and spent 45 years as a medical practitioner in Albury before retiring to Sydney in 1919. He is best known though as a local historian, his two best known works being *History of Albury, 1824-1895* (1912) and *First Settlement in the Upper Murray, 1835 to 1845, with a Short Account of over 200 Runs* (1920). When he left Albury in 1919, the *Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times* of Friday June 20, reported:



DR ARTHUR ANDREWS

Dr Arthur Andrews, who for the past 45 years, was (till this week, when he resigned, owing to his departure), Government Medical Officer, and Visiting Surgeon to His Majesty's gaol at Albury, is a son of the late Samuel Andrews, of Hertford, England. Dr Andrews graduated from St Bartholomew's Hospital, in London, where he was one of the resident physicians. He practised his profession in Suffolk for several years till his health broke down, and he then decided to come out to Australia. He arrived in Melbourne by the old sailing vessel *Yorkshire*, in February 1874, the journey having occupied three months Dr Andrews was president of the Albury Mechanics Theatre at the time it was built, and this position he held for some time after it began to develop. He joined the Albury P A and H Society in 1879, and has been a member of it ever since Dr Andrew's was chairman of the Albury School Board while it was in existence and also president of the Albury Parents' and Citizens' Association for the first three years after its formation In all public movements aiming at the advancement of the district, Dr Andrews was always to be found lending his assistance and advice. For 12 years he was chairman of the Albury Pastures Protection Board, and he resigned only recently when he decided to leave the district in order to make his new home in Sydney. During his 45 years residence in Albury, Dr Andrews has been closely connected with the work of the Albury District Hospital and other public institutions. He has always felt that it was his duty, as a resident of the town, to foster its institutions, and to assist to develop the primary industries of this district.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/109855735>

Dr Andrews died on October 14, 1925. His obituary appeared in the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* of Friday October 16, 1925:

Than Dr Arthur Andrews, whose death occurred at Cremorne, Sydney, on Wednesday afternoon, nobody had done more for the institutions of Albury and District. His *History of Albury* and *First Settlement in the Upper Murray* testify to his industry and patience and his attachment to the district.

Dr Andrews had been in failing health for some time and during the past week his condition indicated that he was gradually sinking, and his son Dr A J Andrews, of Walla Walla, was called to his bedside. The late Dr Andrews was about 75 years of age. He was twice married. His first wife died in Albury, and he is survived by his second wife and a grown-up family. Mr Arthur Andrews, of Walla Walla, is the only son, and one of his daughters is Miss Dorothy Andrews, the talented pianist.

Dr Andrews's association with the town of Albury and district extended over a period of 45 years. He arrived in Albury in 1874, when he commenced as a medical practitioner, and he followed his profession for over 40 years in the town. He left Albury in June, 1919, to take up his residence in Sydney. On the occasion of his departure he was publicly farewelled at a gathering of the leading citizens of Albury, and many tributes to his sterling character and his services to the various public

institutions of Albury were expressed. It was stated at the time, that Dr Andrews, during his 45 years' residence in Albury, had been closely connected with the work of the Albury District Hospital and practically every institution in the town. He felt it a matter of duty to foster the town's institutions and to assist in the development of the primary industries of the district.

Dr Andrews's association with the Albury Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Society began in 1879, and he took a very keen and practical interest in that organisation's affairs. He occupied the society's presidential chair in 1894-6-7-8 and in 1903. In every progressive movement he was always prominent and influential. To him is largely, if not solely, due the existence of the Albury Museum. Despite his busy life Dr Andrews contrived to indulge the literary faculty which he possessed. He had a decided penchant for historical research, and the very fine collection of ancient coins, which he had gathered from all quarters of the world, was a striking evidence of his bent in that direction. Dr Andrews devoted a lot of time to marshalling facts concerning Albury's early history and its local institutions. His researches in those connections have been put on record in his *History of Albury*, covering the period from 1824 to 1895, which he published at his own expense, is a very valuable volume in the matter of historic records.

His *First Settlement of the Upper Murray* is another book of value supplying as it does details of the original runs on the Upper Murray. He was identified with the movement to erect the new hospital in Albury, was chairman of Albury Pastures Protection Board for many years, president of the School Board, chairman of Albury Gas Company, a church warden and faithful supporter of St Matthew's Anglican Church, and, generally speaking, one of the most resourceful, unselfish and energetic residents the town ever possessed.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/102326480>

The following is a biography by his daughter Mrs Dorothy North with additions by his granddaughter Mrs Patricia Gray, published by Albury & District Historical Society in 1989 to complement Dr Andrews' book "The History of Albury, 1824-1895."

My father, Arthur Andrews, was born in Hertford, Hertfordshire, England, on February 4, 1848. He was one of a large family of brothers and sisters, and left home at an early age to study medicine in London. He trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital, Smithfield, London, and when qualified became resident physician there. I always understood that he began his training about the age of seventeen, but my brother remembers his saying that he was in charge of his first hospital at twenty-one. This must have been a reference to his resident physicianship at Bart's, so it looks as if he must have been even younger when beginning.

During his time at the Hospital London went through a bad smallpox epidemic, and it was his experience at this time that stood him in such good stead when outbreaks of the disease were threatened in Albury. He believed very strongly in vaccination, and did his best to see that all babies he had anything to do with were immunised at the proper time.

After leaving Bart's he practised for a time in Farnham, Surrey, as junior partner to a Mr Sloman, surgeon, whose son entered and left the hospital at the same time as himself. In 1872 he went abroad, primarily to take certain courses of study in Vienna. The journey to the latter city took him three days, going by Belgium, Calais, Brussels and Liege to Cologne and so on down the Rhine to a final stop and change at Passau on the Danube, and then to Vienna. Arrived there he enrolled for three courses of study - surgery at Billroth's Clinic, Politzer's *Course of the Ear* and Nieumann's *Diseases of the Skin*.

After these studies were completed he continued travelling on the Continent, particularly in Italy and Switzerland, and then returned to England where he had a practice in Stowmarket, Suffolk, for a short time. However, his health showed signs of breaking down, so he decided to try a different climate and embarked for Australia in the sailing ship *Yorkshire*. After a journey of

four months the ship reached Melbourne in February 1874. Talks with passengers on board decided him to settle in the country. He moved to Albury and went into partnership with Dr Newbury Cobbett whose people he had known in England.

Dr Cobbett was at that time Government Medical Officer in Albury, and when he resigned in 1876 my father succeeded to that appointment, and held it till his retirement forty-three years later. He also became visiting surgeon to the Gaol. He married first in 1875, Miss Edith Cookson, who came out from England to join him. She died in 1876 and there were no children of the marriage. In 1879 he married again, Miss Caroline Lemarch and my mother, who had lately come from India with her father, retired from the Indian Army. My sisters were born, one in 1880, and one in 1881, then my brother in 1883, and in 1885 another brother, who died eighteen months old.

In 1888 my parents and the three children went to England intending to stay two years, but my father was obliged to return hurriedly at the end of the first year for business reasons, and his family followed later in 1890. In 1891, I was born, and five years later another daughter who only lived ten days.

During the forty-five years of his practice in Albury, my father of course saw great changes in the conditions under which doctors worked. In the early days there were no private hospitals, and public ones were few and far between, and what would be now considered primitive! As children, we heard many stories of his experiences when called upon to attend cases in the country round about, and where he frequently had to act nurse as well as doctor.

My mother often spoke of a ninety-mile ride he did in connection with one case, being up all night with the patient as well, and how he practically tumbled off his horse at her feet with fatigue when he rode into the yard on his return home. Driving down what used to be called the "Jindera Gap" in the pitch dark was another feat that had often to be undertaken, and on one occasion he told me the horses - he was driving a pair - pulled up and refused to budge. After some coercion he got down to try and find out what was the matter, and discovered that they were one on each side of a tree, and the road was somewhere else!

I believe also that in times of flood he used to take a saddle in the buggy, so that if the water became too much for driving he could ride one of the horses instead. As Government Medical Officer many unpleasant duties fell to his lot, and one in particular stands out in my memory. It was, I think, about January 1904, and the town was surrounded by bush-fires. The worst day was known as "Black Sunday" for some years and a whole family was burnt to death, I am not sure where, but a fair distance from Albury. My father told me afterwards that his drive out and back to the place on the Monday for the inquest was one of his worst experiences, as he had to keep stopping to kill half burnt and dying animals including sheep that he couldn't leave in misery.

Of his experiences at the gaol, I remember best what he told us about Chinese prisoners. The great difficulty was to keep them alive. If they decided to die, they would lie down in a corner and proceed to do it. My father would be sent for in a hurry and he and the wardens between them would keep the men walking or running up and down until they decided to live instead! Also his attendance, compulsory, at an execution, once, took pride of place, I think, in his memory, as the very worst of his experience.

One of his biggest fights in Albury was to stamp out typhoid, which when he went there was rife, particularly among the houses on the river flats. This, I think, he succeeded in completely, and went a long way towards doing the same thing with diphtheria, though not soon enough to

save his own little son. I remember an outbreak of small-pox in Victoria not long before I went to England - I think about 1913. One case reached Albury, but after that, no more.

My father met every train, and no suspects got across the border he also held public vaccinations several times a week, when the surgery was full and overflowing, literally hundreds attending each time. His practice was always a very large one, and to answer calls three times in a night was a common place. He rode his bicycle wherever possible at night, rather than callout the groom and the horses. Even as late as just before I went to England in 1914 when he was in his middle sixties, I can remember his passing and re-passing the verandah where I slept out, to and from the bicycle shed, as it seemed to me, on and off all night.

In the early days he bred his own horses, generally having two pairs going at the same time, one pair actually in use, and the other resting at a farm he owned just outside the town. He was fearless in driving, as he was in most things, and some of his horses were so full of spirit that they had to be put in the buggy in the street. My father would sit in the buggy holding the reins, while the groom finished harnessing them, and could hardly hold them until the traces were done up. The instant that was done they would bolt away and he would drive them round and round until they were quiet enough to come back and pick up the groom. At this period the family was living at "Chelvey," Olive Street. Afterwards we moved to "Wheatleigh," Wilson Street, and remained there until his retirement to Sydney in 1919.

About the year 1910 Dr J Shellshear joined my father as partner, but after joining the AIF in 1914 he did not return to Australia for many years, and Dr Paton took his place. Besides my father's medical work he had a great many other interests, some might be claimed as hobbies, but many were really other forms of work undertaken mostly for the benefit of the town.

He was Deputy Sherriff under the Department of Justice for fifteen years - it was in this capacity, I think, that he had to attend the execution I mentioned before and this was at a comparatively late period as I remember well the members of the Court down from Sydney for special sittings, coming to our house in Wilson St on Sundays.

He held many important offices in the town. In 1879 he was active in the reconstruction of the Committee of the Albury and Border Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Society and was a member until 1919 without a break, being its President five times in 1894, 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1903. He was also the first President of the Mechanics' Institute.

He was always active in fostering education and was for a time, Chairman of the Albury School Board. When the Albury Parents' and Citizens' Association was formed at a public meeting in the Town Hall on October 19, 1909 he was elected its first President and served for three years. He was asked to open the new public school building on August 13, 1912. Early in 1972, Mr Percy D Burrows wrote to say that he had donated a perpetual prize for the Albury Technical College with the proviso that the names of Dr Arthur Andrews and Mr S Burk be especially associated with it. He says of Dr Andrews: "Dr Andrews stood out as the children's friend in the matter of firstly primary education and then of technical education."

One of his greatest interests was the Museum, and he was largely responsible for its establishment and continuation. He also worked very hard and successfully I believe, for the reconstitution of the hospital. In other directions he was one of the promoters of the Gas Company, and the Butter Factory and its branch in Cootamundra, both valuable in the development of the town. He was a Foundation Member of the Albury Club and he was a Freemason of some standing and achievement.

Of his own immediate interests and hobbies, the two most important were particularly his collection of coins, particularly Australian Tokens, and his very lively of the district interest in the

history of the district and history generally. His coin collection was said to be the third largest in Australia, its arrangement in specially made cabinets, made by himself, was meticulous and his knowledge of all his specimens very comprehensive. Australian Tokens interested him most it seemed, and he had a very fine collection of them which he eventually sold to Mr W Dixon, who had a still bigger one. Mr Dixon presented the whole collection to the Mitchell Library, and my father was asked to catalogue them, the result being the book *Australasian Coins and Tokens*. The Library presented him with a beautifully bound copy of it in hand-tooled leather with an appreciation of his work inscribed. I'm glad to say I have this copy.

A Numismatic Society was formed in Victoria in 1914, and my father was its first President and remained in office till 1917. He was also a member of the Australian Numismatic Society, becoming President in 1921. His historical works, beside the *History of Albury* and the *Settlement of the Upper Murray*, include a pamphlet entitled *Notes on the History of the Border Duties*, really a paper read to the Victorian Historical Society, printed in their magazine, and *First Settlement of the North East of Victoria*, another paper read to the same Society.

A minor interest was sea shells which he and my mother collected in the early days of their marriage whenever they were on holidays, and which he also housed in a cabinet he built especially for them. Carpentering occupied any leisure he had at home, and a great deal of our furniture was made by him. I still have his large bookcase and desk combined, another bookcase, altered on account of its size, an inlaid table and several other things.

As he was a voracious reader, and kept up to date with all developments in the medical world, it is hard to believe that he had time for all these other things, but I believe that a practically photographic memory was a great help. Farming and grazing, particularly the latter, attracted him very much, and with several other men he formed the Riverina Pastoral Company which owned extensive grazing property in the west of NSW. Unfortunately continual drought years spoiled the success of this venture.

He lived in Sydney during his retirement, at 80 Murdoch St, Cremorne, during which time the book for the Mitchell Library was written, but his health was steadily breaking and he passed away on October 14, 1925.