

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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MARCH 2016

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REPORT ON FEBRUARY MEETING (10.02.2015)

Our February gathering had members chiselled to their seats with the tale of the tragic but fruitful life of Thomas Greenfield. We were left a little over awed with the brag book of Abe Nathan and then had our Scottish past interwoven with a display of panels from the fabulous Scottish Diaspora Tapestry. Thomas was a monumental mason who left a splendid legacy of leaves and stone in Albury. Greenfield escaped death by drowning at an early age, suffered the loss of his sister, wife and "wee boys" but overcame these tragic events to make a major contribution to the Albury community around the turn of the 19th century. The presentation by Jan Hunter was, as usual, thoroughly researched and illustrated with interesting photographs. A little more of the personality of Abe Nathan was revealed to us by Richard Lee. Abe was a man before his time who produced a photographic album which was presented to the Mayor of Albury, Alfred Waugh. Abe appears in these photographs of his extensive real estate portfolio as a colourful and entrepreneurial figure who is not concerned about documenting his considerable achievements. Recently the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry has been on display at the Albury LibraryMuseum and the A&DHS were privileged to have Jenny Bruce the Tour Director speak to our February Meeting. We were fortunate to be able to closely view several panels that she brought along with her. Jenny said, "When you see the whole exhibition, you're actually gobsmacked at just how much the Scots were entrepreneurs, they were pioneers, they were resilient and they took that opportunity to make good for themselves."

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

9 MARCH, 2016

7.30pm at Commercial

Club Albury

**Patrick Keighran- a tale of
a failed mutiny and swift,
cruel retribution en route
to Australia in 1795.**

Speaker: June Shanahan

**The Original Cumberoona
-a short but eventful life.**

Speaker: Greg Ryan

ALBURY LIBRARY- MUSEUM

**REACH FOR THE SKY: THE
AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
CADETS 75TH ANNIVER-
SARY**

**27 FEB 2016 - 30 APR
2016**

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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<www.alburyhistory.org.au>

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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



Thomas Greenfield's Family Monument

Photograph Courtesy: Jan Hunter

THOMAS GREENFIELD – **A WELL KNOWN ALBURY MONUMENTAL MASON BY JAN HUNTER**

Have you walked past the foundation stones of the Old Town Hall recently?
When did you last have a look at the Dight Memorial water fountain in the Botanic Gardens?
Have you stood in the shade of the walnut trees and watched the rugby?
The name, Thomas Greenfield connects those three places and tonight we'll explore his Legacy of Leaves and Stone.

Thomas Greenfield, a monumental mason, came to Australia from England in the early 1880s. His mother Jane, and a sister Annie, seem to have arrived at around the same time. They came to Albury very soon after their arrival but Annie died 'an untimely death' in 1886, aged 27. By 1884 Greenfield was in partnership with Leo Ballantine working from 489 Kiewa Street, in the vicinity of today's WestEnd Plaza. They also had a workshop in High Street Wodonga. Very early in the partnership, Ballantine & Greenfield were praised for their monumental work over the graves of local residents in the Barnawartha and Wodonga Cemeteries.

Thomas and Nurse Eliza Jane Smith (known as Lizzie) were married at St Luke's Church of England Wodonga in 1888. The Wodonga Sentinel reported that it was a quiet wedding and 'in the afternoon the couple travelled to Beechworth'. The couple first lived somewhere in Olive Street.

Twin sons, Thomas and Charles were born in 1899 but died seven months later from bronchitis. Greenfields built a house in North Street around 1900 but Lizzie died of tuberculosis in 1901, having been ill for some time. She left a six week old son, Alfred Francis, known as Frank. The photo shown above is the Greenfield monument in the Albury Pioneer Cemetery. The damaged monument in the front left is for 'our wee boys'. The inscriptions include those for Thomas's sister, his wife Lizzie, his mother and finally Thomas himself.

Greenfield owned land behind his house in North Street as well as land the eastern side of Alma Street which was known as Greenfield's paddock. At one stage, part of this land was offered for share cropping and it is assumed that the prize winning orchard was on this land also. He exhibited every year in the the Albury Show, the Albury Horticultural Shows and St Matthew's Flower shows. Greenfield was not averse to dropping in a dozen perfect plums or apples to the

CONTINUED:

THE LEGACY OF THOMAS GREENFIELD

Banner newspaper's office, which would result in a comment like 'well known orchardist, Thomas Greenfield's fruit is pest free this year.'

Thomas exhibited and won prizes for a virtual nursery catalogue - peas, onions, pumpkins, plums, quinces, oranges, 'English Stalks', sweet peas, cherries, 5 varieties of apples, and bottled fruit.

Under the front of the North Street house were cool store rooms with unsupported stone shelves for his fruit and vegetables. Geoff Colquhoun and his family lived in this house for over 50 years and as expected they used the under house rooms for general storage. The outdoor toilet was connected to the sewer but an indoor toilet was added with different owners.

Thomas was active politically and socially from the time he arrived in Albury. He served on the jury between 1886 and 1922, he was on the platform of visiting parliamentarians giving a vote of thanks in the 1890s and he was a member of the Albury Free Traders and Liberal Association.

When hearings were held concerning the proposed Federal capital, Greenfield testified at the Albury sitting that Table Top sandstone and Hawksview granite were world class, but none the less he bought his supplies from further afield as it was cheaper. Greenfield succumbed to pressure to stand for a vacancy on the Albury Council in 1903. He stood with Dr Kennedy for the Reform Party. In an election speech he said he 'did not want to go into council to assist in the slip-shod, go-as-you-please and come-and-have-a-drink management that had prevailed for some years past.' Perhaps that appealed to the public for Kennedy and Greenfield were elected.

However, when standing again in 1904 Thomas was unsuccessful.

There were changes in Greenfield's business arrangements. In 1907 the Ballantine & Greenfield partnership was dissolved and a long term employee, TT Molloy, took over the site in Kiewa Street. Greenfield set up an office, a workshop, and display centre on the corner of Englehardt & Kiewa Streets, later the site of the Hume Shire Offices. Thomas displayed stone from Denmark, Sweden and Norway and a massive monument in Malmsbury bluestone with a Celtic Cross caused press comment.

Greenfield married Eliza Margaret Ann White of *Stonehurst* Bungowannah in Melbourne, in 1912. Not long after their marriage the new Mrs Greenfield won a prize for exhibiting and milking a cow at the local show and she joined Thomas in exhibiting flowers, poultry, eggs, asparagus, potatoes and bottled fruit. She was reported as a 'finished needlewoman' for her 'ever useful apron' exhibited at Holbrook. There were no children from this marriage.

Thomas always seemed to have plenty of work. A memorial tablet was erected in memory of Fireman Bernard Gowing who was killed in the Boer War. It is still in the Civic Fire Station,



Greenfield's house built c.1900. in North Street, across the road from the Albury Golf Club. Alma Street.

Photograph Courtesy: Jan Hunter

CONTINUED:

THE LEGACY OF THOMAS GREENFIELD

Kiewa Street Albury. Greenfield usually donated the foundation stones for churches including St David's Presbyterian Sunday School, St David's church and St James Anglican at Lavington. He designed the George Edward Mackay Memorial Fountain for a Show Society stalwart. He erected the Charles Dight Memorial Fountain in the Botanic Gardens which was designed by William Powrie and has recently been completely refurbished by AlburyCity.

The advent of World War 1 brought more work for Greenfield from all around the district. The memorial tablet for Lieut Colonel J W Simpson (MC), of the Albury Grammar School was designed and erected by Thomas inside St David's Presbyterian Church. He also erected the obelisk outside the church (now a Uniting Church) as a memorial to those of the church who served.

Another aspect of Thomas Greenfield's life was his active involvement with St Matthew's Church of England. He served on the parochial council and was parish auditor in the early twenties. He was active in the formation of the St Matthew's Men's Club which was aimed at maintaining the physical, spiritual and moral welfare of young men living in boarding houses. It was open to all denominations. Thomas also was an active member of the local British and Foreign Bible Society. After WWI finished St Matthew's wanted a memorial for the Anglican men who served and those who died. Greenfield went to Melbourne to view various memorials in that city and he submitted plans to the church in Albury. There was a great deal of discussion before a design was finally chosen. The call went out for names to be submitted so that Greenfield could cast these in bronze on the faces of the obelisk.

The dedication was a grand affair in April of 1922. The monument was moved to the rear of the church after the fire in 1991 and is now part of QE11 Square.

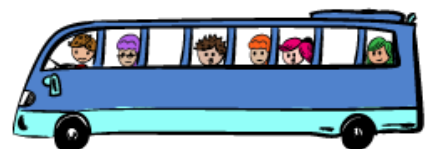
The Albury Pioneer Cemetery holds many gravestones designed and erected by Thomas Greenfield. The grave of James Fallon, Albury's first mayor is a splendid example. Designed by friends of Fallon and in collaboration with Ballantine & Greenfield it takes the form of a Celtic Cross, sculptured from pure white Sicilian Marble on a bluestone base of 5'6" high. Into the base are six marble panels stating that J T Fallon died May 1886. All over the monument stands 12'6" high. The grave was refurbished and repaired in 1997 by the staff, students and parents of James Fallon High School under the guidance of stone mason, Mr Frank Spagnolo.

Another elaborate memorial is for Robert Rand of Mahonga station, erected c 1884. The draped urn was a common symbol in funerary art and generally is thought to represent the ancient custom of storing the ash remains in an urn and the draped cloth seems to represent the veil between this life and the next. Draped material was used in many symbols of mourning.

Greenfield died in 1927 aged 72 after a protracted illness. Thomas had escaped death in his twenties, when he nearly drowned in the Murray near Kelly's Point. He was rescued by a fellow swimmer, Charles Manns, a wheelwright. At 68, Greenfield cut his finger on a jagged kerosene tin chook feeder. The finger was later amputated, but that same year he still won prizes for his produce. He later spent some months in bed with a leg injury but went back to work after surgery in Melbourne. His business continued to advertise until the early 30s, operating under the name of Barklamb Bros trading as Greenfield's Ltd

The photo on Page 7 will bring back many memories for Albury people. These are some of the tiny houses built for munitions workers in 1942 by the government. They began at the North St Bridge near the present John King Park and continued into Alma Street. Because of the walnut trees remaining from Greenfield's orchard they were promptly nicknamed 'The Walnut Shells'. Greenfield Park was designated for public recreation in 1949 and is now the site of the rugby ground, Greenwells Fishing club and Albury Racing Pigeon Club. The remaining Greenfield trees are being cared for and replaced if necessary by AlburyCity as befitting their heritage status. The legacy of Thomas Greenfield, born in England in 1855 and who died at North Street Albury in 1927 is all around Albury. The leaves and green sward of the park named after him and the tablets and memorials of his work, remind us of a community minded citizen, a church goer, an avid horticulturalist and a craftsman and artist in stone.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR A BUS TRIP TO BYRAMINE
HOMESTEAD
YARRAWONGA
9 APRIL
COST \$30 MEMBERS \$ 35 NON-MEMBERS**





To His Worship The Mayor of Albury.

Alderman A. Waugh.

*From Abe Nathan JP
As a token of esteem.*

Abe Nathan's Photograph Album

All Photographs Courtesy: Albury Library Museum

As you may be aware in December I released a book on The Commercial Abe Nathan: The Furniture King. In my research we found many things of interest about Abe and Albury and I would like to share part of a photo album.

Abe Nathan presented a album of around fifty photographs of building and land to Alderman Alfred Waugh, Albury's Mayor.

The writing on the frontispiece reads; 'To his worship the Mayor of Albury Alderman A. Waugh from Abe Nathan JP as a token of esteem.' The photographs are by Salmon Studios, Albury. My research dates the photographs to the period around 1926 to 1928.

It was reported that Abe owned up to 100 houses in Albury. My book reveals many of these houses and locations.

Abe's collection of real estate included houses, cottages, industrial buildings and blocks in Albury, Wodonga, Beechworth, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Ebden, Macauley, Dean, Hume, Reserve, Townsend, Rau, Elizabeth, Kiewa and Thurgoona Street were some of the Albury addresses represented.

The main street portfolio included 609 Dean St, The Nathan Building or the old Nolan Sports store. Raie Langley Milliner. She was possibly related to Abe as his wife Emma was a Ottolanguai, many of the Jewish people changed their name to Langley. She originally had a store in the Block Arcade Collins Street Melbourne. The Block Arcade was owned by Abe's cousin Benjamin Nathan of Maples Furniture fame. Molan tailor Ladies & Gents Tailor. Abe seemed to be mates with many tailors and rented them stores including the Scharenberg's of Albury and Wagga.

In August 1937 Abe had an advertisement for 24 properties In the Border Morning Mail for sale with Arthur G Colquhoun & Co the agent.

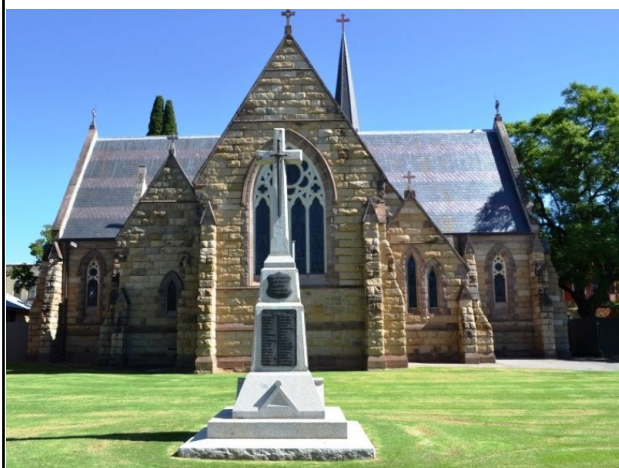
The album also includes a photograph of the Albury Woollen Mills, stating that Abe Nathan is one of the largest shareholders.



‘Abe ever generous, giving a boy a penny or something. The writing says; a large factory Townsend Street to be converted into 6 modern flats. We all know this as Elm Court Motel, Townsend Street. Prior to that it was Higgins Coach business which opened in 1885. When this photo was taken the sign writing says it was Shanks Riverina Fibrous Plasters.



A house in Macaulay Street. I think Abe is having a bit of a joke at the fact he can lay on the policeman’s front lawn. Does anyone know this house?



St Matthew's World War One Memorial, Albury
Photograph Courtesy: Tom Bird

St. Matthew's Church of England War Memorial, Albury, was unveiled on Wednesday last. The memorial, which stands in the church grounds at the main entrance of the church, was erected by parishioners to the memory of those members of the congregation who fell in the great war and also to those who served. The monument is of light blue granite and engraved on handsome bronze tablets are the names of those in whose commemoration it stands. It takes the form of a cross, surmounted on a broad base, and upon the facade facing the main gate is a drawn inverted sword. The monument was designed and erected by Mr. Thos. Greenfield, of Albury, and does his craftsmanship the highest credit. The bronze work is amongst the most effective we have seen. (Albury Banner and Wodonga Express 21 April 1922)



The "Walnut Shell" Houses, Alma Street Albury built in 1942.
Photograph Courtesy:
Albury LibraryMuseum

TRUNK CALLS

A trunk call is a call that connects one telephone switchboard (eg Albury switchboard) with a second switchboard (eg Melbourne). It is also often referred to as a long distance call. Before STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling), a trunk call would require the assistance of two operators (telephonists) one at each switchboard with calls being manually timed and recorded.

A local call is from a local switchboard to local telephone subscribers (no second switchboard involved).

STD is a telephone system allowing subscribers to dial trunk calls without operator assistance. The term was introduced when it first became possible for long-distance calls to be dialled directly.

In 1956 the first STD calls in Australia were possible between Melbourne and Dandenong. This enabled trunk calls to be made as quickly as a local call, and marked the beginning of a truly fast, national telephone system. In 1962 the broadband link between Sydney and Melbourne was opened and this brought STD dialling to Albury. Initially Albury's STD code was 060 so to dial Albury from a telephone exchange outside Albury a person would dial (060) xx xxxx. Then in August 1997 the STD code became 02 and 60 was added at the front of all our local telephone numbers, so the STD number dialled was (02) 60xx xxxx, as it remains in 2016. As to the reasons why long distance calls were called trunk calls, we can only hazard a guess. Perhaps it was because the telephone network was analogous to a tree. The twigs were the customers lines to their local exchange; the branches were the lines from the local exchange to the main exchange; the trunk was the lines to other main exchanges. Some wags may suggest that the cables that connected the major centres were large and therefore similar to an elephant's trunk.

SCOTTISH DIASPORA TAPESTRY

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry consists of half metre square panels of exquisite hand embroidered works recording several centuries of a global emigration by Scots.

The panels are stitched by volunteers from 28 countries in Europe, Southern Asia, Canada, the Americas, Africa, Britain and Australia. The exhibition helps people view and relate to the history of the Scottish people who have played an integral role in the growth and development of many nations.

Scots have migrated all over the world and have often had a profound impact on the areas where they settled. This project brought together stories from more than such communities, documenting their Scottish connections in more than 300 embroidered panels. It is a remarkable and heart-felt homage to the determination, courage and achievement of Scottish migrants and their descendants across the centuries.

Jenny said that people are very proud that the contribution of Scottish immigrants to the founding of Australia has been honoured in such a way and that many families personal stories have been told. The Rutherford Collie panel has connections with the Armstrong, Telford, MacPherson, Ormiston, Oliver, Ross, Gilchrist, Scott, Murray, Polson and Sutherland families. Jenny was interested to note that Mad Dog Morgan, considered one of the most brutal of Australian bushrangers, was captured on Peechelba Station near Wangaratta in 1865. Peechelba was jointly owned by Messrs. MacPherson and Rutherford, both of who had homesteads of their own on the property not far distant from one another. Robert Telford, who was then the Station Overseer, and his daughter, lived with the McPherson's.



Marion Taylor and Jenny Bruce with the Rutherford Collie tapestry panel.



Stitchers for this panel: Jennifer Bruce, Joan Murray, Ros Hulme, Muriel Aimey, Rona Ellis, Linda Letton, Anne Sinclair, Gerry Wood (Caithness). Many shepherds from the Scottish Borders migrated to Caithness and Sutherland in the late 18th and early 19th century as part of the introduction of Cheviot sheep. The descendants of some then took their skills to Australia. One well known example was the Rutherfords, who arrived in Kildonan from Roxburghshire in 1803: six of their sons emigrated. In 1864 John Rutherford asked for two Border collies to be sent on to him in Australia. Named Clyde and Lassie they became the progenitors of a new breed called the Rutherford Rough Collie. John became a successful breeder and took part in many sheepdog trials in both Australia and New Zealand.



Find us on
Facebook

**You can now find the Albury District Historical Society on Facebook.
Our webmaster Greg Ryan has been posting many unpublished photographs of
significant local buildings that are sadly no longer with us.**

It is not necessary to sign up for Facebook to view the page.

To view our popular page please go to <https://www.facebook.com/Albury.DHS>