

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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522

REPORT ON MARCH ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY MEETING 14.3.2012.

Fifty members and guests filled the Banksia Room at the Commercial Club to hear entertaining and informative presentations from John Haskell and Ann Brennan, supplemented by research-in-progress presentations from Emma Gibson and John Wheelahan.

In his opening remarks, president Chris McQuellin thanked Edward and Kay Dale for their work in organizing the recent visit to Henty where we met with members of the Wagga Wagga Historical Society. Chris also reported he has been interviewed about Albury's historical and heritage buildings by Kylie King (Media King Pty Ltd) who has been engaged by AlburyCity to do a promotion for Albury Tourism.

Chris emphasized the change of date and venue for the April meeting. In order to coincide with NSW Heritage Week it will be held on Wednesday 18 April at the LibraryMuseum in Kiewa Street. The theme for Heritage Week is innovation and invention. The program will include speakers on James Fallon, Blacklock and Fuller, Drs Kennedy and Woods, Sam Cossor, and the invention and use of poison carts.

John Haskell's resume is as interesting as his talk. He is a retired OHS manager still working part-time in NE Victoria. His hobbies are military history of the nineteenth century with a particular involvement in re-enactment groups and activities. John was a joiner by trade and that led firstly to him making wooden gun carriages, then to the complete restoration of muzzle-loading artillery. He has undertaken work for the Museum of

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

18 APRIL 2012

7.30pm at

LibraryMuseum

Kiewa Street Albury

as part of National Trust

Heritage Festival

"Amazing Stories:

Innovation & Invention"

Speakers: Chris McQuellin, Marion Taylor, Bridget Guthrie, Eric Cossor and Michael Browne

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Patron: Patricia Gould OAM

Honorary Life Members

Howard Jones, Anne Davies, Helen Livsey,

Public Officer: Helen Livsey

President: Christopher McQuellin
02 6021 3697

Vice-Presidents: Joe Wooding, June Shanahan

Secretary: Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671

Treasurer: Michael Browne

Minute Secretary: Catherine Browne

Committee: Jill Wooding, Doug Hunter, Ray Gear, Bridget Guthrie, Marion Taylor and Eric Cossor.

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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Membership list & Bulletin dispatch: Ray Gear

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.

Enquiries in writing with \$25

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

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

A&DHS website:

www.alburyhistory.org.au

Nauru, Fort Glanville in South Australia, the Sultanate of Oman, Port Fairy Visitor Centre and the Queensland Museum. John brought military tunics, a Brown Bess musket and two swords to illustrate his talk. Following the meeting many of the audience were able to handle the objects.

Ann Brennan presented a PowerPoint presentation on Doreen Widdison's family, the Lampitts, who conducted foundries in South Albury from 1887. The family had originated from the town of Banbury in Oxfordshire, famous for its association with the nursery rhyme, Banbury Cross. The bronze statue celebrating the event is modern, having been unveiled by Princess Anne in 2005.

Banbury was also a centre of heavy engineering and the Lampitts were involved in design and manufacture of mill machinery for generations prior to Doreen's great grandfather immigrating to Victoria in the 1850s.

MEMBERS' 15 MINUTES

Emma Gibson is a playwright who is writing a new piece of verbatim theatre. The work focuses on the Pyjama Girl case of 1934-1944. Emma is being mentored by Collette F Keen through JUMP, the Australia Council's national mentoring program for young and emerging artists.

Verbatim is a documentary style of theatre. The playwright interviews people about a particular topic or event and uses their testimony to construct the script. The play may also use other sources such as court records. Emma was able to record the contributions of people at the meeting. She will be away overseas till 9 April, but after that would like to hear from people who were not at the meeting and have memories, first or second hand of Albury's reactions to the mystery. Her phone number is 0407 320 654 and her email <pyjama.girl@gmail.com>

John Wheelahan is seeking information about an ancestor; Francis Wheelahan who was transported in 1833 and in 1847 was recorded as being a contractor furnishing supplies to the colonial agencies in Albury, possibly the police and government camps. In 1856, he was one of the petitioners objecting to irregularities in the election of Sir John Hay to the NSW Legislative Assembly. His

name on the petition indicated he was a man of sufficient property to have voting rights. John can be contacted at 62 Finch Street East Malvern 3145, or phone (03) 9571 2257.

Jan Hunter showed an unusual artefact, a wooden toilet roll holder, one of a set of two, which came from Logans Timber and Joinery Works located in Swift Street between Spencer and Macauley Streets. Several workers had written their names and the date they started work at Logans on the back. The earliest date is 1921.

Logans ceased trading in 1980 and the building was demolished in 1985 to make way for an office building for the Murray River County Council. It is believed the artefact was removed just prior to demolition.

DONATION

The Society has received a gift from Charles Stitz of Books on Dean, of a *Border Morning Mail* supplement for the opening of the Hume Weir, 1936, and an *Albury Banner* supplement for the 1924 Hume and Hovell centenary celebrations. Charles also gave a photograph of the 1970 Under 8 Miniball (Biddyball) Premiers—Jets. Names on the reverse of the photograph are: Mrs K Lucas (coach), C Przibella, C Larkin, D Lewis, B Stephens and A Lucas.

PATRON OF THE SOCIETY

In a brief business session, Doug Hunter moved a committee recommendation to invite Councillor Patricia Gould OAM to become the patron of the Society. The position of patron fell vacant on the death of Harold Mair OAM on 7 September 2011.

Eric Cossor seconded the motion and it was carried by acclamation.

Cr Gould was first elected to Albury Council in 1974 and has served 37 years on that body. She held the position of mayor for five years and one year as deputy mayor.

In the community, Cr Gould is a director of the Albury Wodonga Cancer Foundation, the Mercy Health Services Board, the Trinity Anglican Board and the Upper Murray Regional Library.

Cr Gould was awarded an OAM for her service to the Community and Local Government. She has received a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and was also the recipient of the "Emeritus" Award by the Local Government Association of NSW for her service as Mayor of AlburyCity.

A keen swimmer, Cr Gould is a Life Member of three swimming



Councillor Patricia Gould OAM as mayor of Albury planting a tree in 2009 celebrating 150th anniversary of Albury as a municipality.

clubs, the Ovens & Murray Association and three Community Groups.

Cr Gould's husband Noel died last year. She has five sons.

HENTY VISIT

Twenty members and friends of our Society met with an equal number from the Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society for a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining visit to Henty on Sunday 11 March. We were met at the Henty Library by Edward and Kay Dale who welcomed us to Henty and guided us to the courtyard behind the IGA supermarket for a country style morning tea.

We then visited the Cellar Museum under the IGA store and the Printing Museum in the building at the rear of the store. The cellar was once used to provide cool storage for perishables such as butter and cheese. When it was rendered unnecessary by refrigeration, it was converted to a folk museum where people could donate items used in earlier days. Interesting items in the collection include a manual telephone switchboard, a cheese cutter, an ambulance litter and a collection of lamps which show the evolution from candle to kerosene, to the 'Tilly' pressure lamp.

The *Henty Observer* was first printed in 1906 on the site of the Printing Museum. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1933 and replaced with the current building. Les and Mary Dale, the proprietors of the IGA supermarket, bought the printery in 1980 when the *Observer* was sold to the *Rural Press* and ceased printing in Henty. The building came with some machinery and several type-face cabinets. Merv Death, well known Albury printer, added his collection of Platen machines to the museum. A large linotype press is the most recent addition to the museum.

An excellent hot lunch was served at the Central B & B by hosts Warren & Elaine Heycox. The building was originally the Central Hotel, erected in 1905 by prominent Wagga builders, C Hardy & Co. The bricks used in the construction were made by Hardy's Federal Steam Brick & Pottery Works.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 13 February 1907 reported that the workers at the said Federal Steam Brick and Pottery works went on strike over a demand for a wage rise from 7 shillings to 8 shillings a day.

The hotel closed in 2000 and the licence was sold. The current owners purchased the building in 2009 and have made sympathetic alterations to the remarkably well maintained structure and op-

erate it as a B & B and function venue.

The afternoon visits began at the Henty Craft Shop for a couple of jars of jam followed by



Lunch at the Henty Central B & B. The venue was originally the Central Hotel built in 1905 by Wagga Wagga builder C Hardy & Co using bricks made at their own brick works.



the Headlie Header Museum. Headlie Shipard Taylor designed and constructed the first harvesting machine that cut the heads of grain from the stalks. This was a revolutionary advance on the stripper which pulled the head of grain from the stalk. The header could operate in climatic and crop conditions which were impossible with a stripper.

The first machine was built by Headlie Taylor in his blacksmith shop on his property 4 Km north of Henty. It was displayed at the Henty Show in 1914. H V McKay purchased



Brick forge in Headlie Taylor's blacksmith shop which was move in its entirety from the family farm to the Headlie Taylor Header Museum, Olympic Way Henty.

the patent right in 1916 and mass produced the header at its Sunshine factory near Melbourne. This header is regarded as the greatest single contribution to the development of the world's grain industry.

Headlie Taylor's blacksmith shop has been moved in its entirety and placed in the Museum.

We moved on from the Museum to the Henty Cemetery where the good townsfolk provided afternoon tea followed by a guided tour of the neat, well marked cemetery.

We came away having had an excellent outing and agreed Henty is a credit to its people.

A MAZE OF CHARLES LAMPITTS

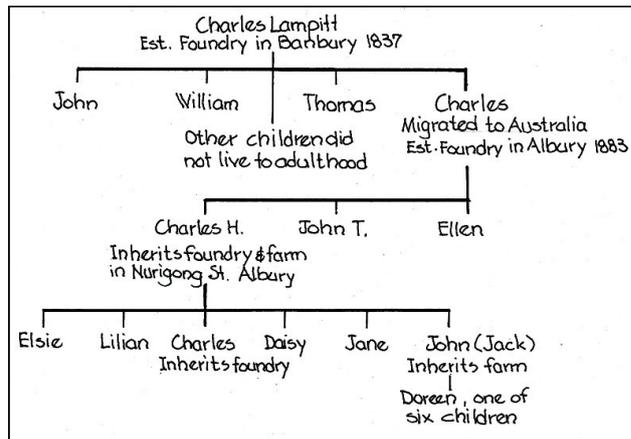
DOREEN WIDDISON OAM (NEE LAMPITT), A HISTORY
 Compiled by Ann Brennan from Doreen's memories and material from *The Lampitts of Banbury* by Professor John Lampitt, Doreen's distant cousin in England.

Doreen's family story begins in Banbury, Oxfordshire. In the 18th century, the family were wheelwrights and carpenters engaged in the construction of waterwheels and windmills that powered water pumps and flour mills. Doreen's great great grandfather Charles Lampitt, together with his eldest son John, established the Vulcan Foundry in 1837 where they designed and built gears for tractors based on naval engineering. Their first mobile steam engine was built in 1847. It was described as a simple design, ideal for driving grinding mills, chaff cutters, corn crushers, pumps and lathes. The Lampitts had several entries in the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. They also built a steam engine which powered the Hunt Edmunds Brewery in Banbury for many years.

Charles Lampitt had four sons who survived to adulthood: John, William, Thomas and Charles Henry.

Charles Henry Lampitt, the youngest of the four sons of the Vulcan Foundry founder, worked at the family foundry before migrating to Australia in the 1850s. He settled at Beechworth where he prospected for gold at Reids Creek. He married Ann Dundon, the daughter of a miner, in 1859 and they had three children, Charles Henry 1865, John T 1871 and Ellen 1883. The family lived in Loch Street Beechworth and Charles worked at Billsons Brewery.

The family moved to Albury in 1883 where they lived in a brick house in Hume Street and Charles established The Hume Foundry in Townsend Street. Mr Laughton was an apprentice at the fac-



Family tree key to Lampitt history

tory and four years later purchased the business for £50. [See Bulletin 483 September 2008]

Charles Lampitt, in the meantime inherited an amount of £1600 on the death of his brother John in England. This enabled him to purchase a property at 611 Nurigong Street. The property included a foundry and engineering works and house, and a second house on an area of farming land.

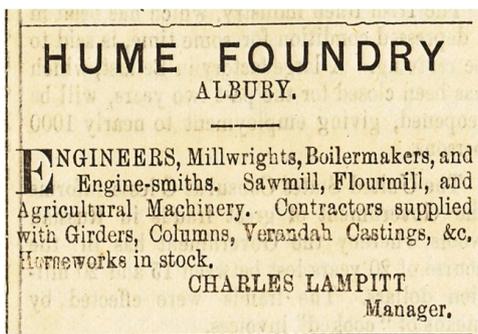
Records show that in 1888, Charles Lampitt's son Charles (jnr) was working with him as an iron founder; was living in Albury with his wife Jane (nee Trenchard) the daughter of a butcher at Hurdle Flat, Beechworth.

When Charles Lampitt died in 1900, he left the business and property to his son Charles (jnr). His wife Ann and the other two children moved to Sydney, apparently disinherited. No evidence has been found that he left provision for them.

Charles (jnr) and Jane had six children, two boys and four daughters. When Charles died in 1924, the foundry was left to his elder son, another Charles, and the farm to the younger son, John, known as Jack. The four girls, all listed as 'home duties', married and moved to different towns in the district.

The elder brother, Charles, who married Jane Nash and had four children, continued to operate the foundry in Nurigong Street. He eventually sold the business to Mr Flood of Guinea Street. When the foundry closed the patterns were sold to a company in Shepparton.

Doreen's father, Jack, married Ann Trow from Balranald in 1927 and continued to run the farm. He later bought more land on the Mad Mile (Lincoln Causeway). Doreen, as one of six children, grew up in the old house in Nurigong Street and spent much time with her cousins at the foundry. When floods came, she remembered having



Advertisement in the Albury Banner & Wodonga Express 1887
 Exactly the same advert was being run ten years later.

to swim cattle and pigs to higher ground, getting them over the railway line between trains.

MARRIAGE

Doreen married Ray Widdison in 1948 following Ray's return from the war. Ray established a butcher's shop in Urana Road in partnership with another ex-serviceman, Ken Tonkin. Later Ray and Doreen had their own butchery business, with a shop in Olive opposite the Police Station and later in Dean Street. Doreen learned the butchery trade from Ray and was active in the shop.

For a while in the early 1950s they operated the Meatmobile; a complete butcher shop on the back of a truck. The Meatmobile drove to various locations in residential parts of Albury. They had a cool store in Smith Street. Manoeuvring the large vehicle in residential streets was difficult and the truck was never reliable because spare parts were hard to get.

The Widdisons finally left the butchery business in 1974 and bought the Electra Street Store. They ran the shop for 20 years, opening 12 hours a day 7 days a week.

RETIREMENT

Doreen Widdison began working with Woodstock Support in 1983 and continued after retiring from shopkeeping in 1994. She served as president for 20 years, stepping down in 2005. She said she had noticed a great change in attitudes towards disabled people in her time there.

Through her work with Woodstock and the provision of regular bingo at the Albury SS & A Club, she and the dedicated people with whom she worked helped raise funds to buy two houses for permanent accommodation for adults with a disability.

Speaking at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Friends of Woodstock Disability Services, Member for Albury Greg Aplin MP said: "I have known and admired Doreen Widdison for many years. She is one of those most valuable community members who serve in so many different roles. Whether it is on the executive of the local branch of the War Widows' Guild, the Albury Show Society, or catering at church or school functions, Doreen is there and everything is under control."

She also served as president of the Albury and District War Widows' Guild, Girl Guides in Albury and the Albury Trefoil Guild.

RECOGNITION

Doreen was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2012 Australia Day honours for service to the community of Albury, particularly through Woodstock Support.

LIGHT HOODS & BULLETINS

The A&DHS has purchased two light hoods for use with the reader printers in the Info Zone at the Albury LibraryMuseum. Valued at \$250, these

hoods were designed to minimise glare from the overhead lights to assist researchers using the Library's microfilm readers.

The A&DHS has also donated a copy of the Society Bulletins, valued at \$40, to Vision Australia for use by the radio presenters on Vision Australia's local radio station 101.7FM.

WAR IN THE TIME OF NAPOLEON 1779-1815

Report on a talk by John Haskell

The Napoleonic War, by its geographic scope, was arguably the second world war, the first having been the Seven Years War between Britain and France. The Napoleonic War began with the invasion of France by Prussia and Austria in 1792 in a bid to restore the monarchy; an invasion that was beaten off by the French. Then following the execution of the king in 1793, Britain joined the alliance against republican France. Napoleon took command of all French forces in 1795 and formed an alliance with Spain. The land war was fought mainly in Europe, but the maritime war spread to the Mediterranean, the Americas and Asia.

The land war was fought by foot soldiers (infantry) on both sides armed with smooth bore muskets which had a slow rate of fire, perhaps three shots a minute and a killing range of about 90 metres. The infantry were supported by artillery firing muzzle loading cannon and cavalry armed with lances and swords. Communications relied on signal flags and semaphore stations. Once battle commenced however, a thick blanket of gun smoke lay over the battlefield and all messages and orders had to be carried by messengers on horseback, usually officers.

Napoleon revolutionised military tactics. He deployed artillery to smash gaps in the opposing armies then followed up with columns of infantry directed against weak spots in the enemy line. His cavalry would attack the enemy as it lost cohesion.

It was necessary to develop counter tactics. Prominent in this was Arthur Wellesley, later to become the Duke of Wellington. During the long campaign in Spain and Portugal, Wellington adopted 'linear tactics' where extremely well trained and disciplined troops were deployed in thin lines to minimise the effect of artillery fire and produce the greatest volume of musket fire. Bodies of troops were trained in specialist roles: light infantry who move and deploy faster than normal infantry and riflemen armed with a more accurate rifled musket, which skirmished ahead of the main line picking off enemy officers. The culmination of these tactics was the battle of Waterloo where Napoleon was defeated bringing an end to 20 years of war between the European nations.



Royal Marine tunic (c.1805) together with a Brown Bess musket and an officer's pistol. Part of the display which John Haskell brought along to the meeting.

Wellington's linear tactics became the standard for European armies for a century, succeeding in the Crimea where the 'thin red line' routed the Russians, but failing in the battle of the Somme in 1916 owing in the main by machine guns and barbed wire. Linear tactics had not adapted to improved weaponry.

Following the war, large numbers of soldiers were discharged adding to unemployment in Britain. About 6,500 veterans of the Napoleonic War came to Australia in the years that followed; most were convicts. There is a veteran of the Highland Light Infantry buried at Beechworth.

RE-ENACTMENT

John has a great interest in re-enactment groups. He showed pictures of re-enactors from three regiments who participate in pageants and festivals in Australia. These were the 42nd Highlanders, the 73rd Regiment of Foot and the 95th Rifles Sharpshooters.

The uniforms worn by the regiments differ. This was done so friend could be distinguished from foe on the smoke shrouded battlefield, and individual regiments could be identified by the colour of their tunics and the shape of their hats.

The 95th wear a jacket of rifle green with black facings and a black shako, a tall cap with a coloured tuft. They carry a Baker rifle and a sword bayonet. The 42nd Highlanders wear a kilt in the Black Watch tartan, a red jacket with wide white cross straps and a bonnet with a checked band, blue woollen top and red pom-pom. They carried the regulation Brown Bess musket. The 73rd which incidentally was Governor Macquarie's regiment, wore grey pantaloons, red coat and a tall black 'stove pipe' shako and coloured tuft. They also were armed with the Brown Bess musket.

Re-enactors in Australia come from all walks of life. Those not of anglo-celtic ancestry sometimes prefer to join regiments such as the 21^{eme} *Regiment d'Infanterie*

de Ligne, a unit of Napoleon's army. They wear an indigo blue jacket with white facings and red collar and cuffs. Headgear is a shako with a flared crown and the soldier is armed with a flintlock musket and a short triangular bayonet.

John told of mock battles where wounded were carried to the surgeon's tent and rough treatment was enacted. Sometimes it was so realistic that spectators fainted. "It had to be toned down a bit," John said.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists Journal, December 2011.

- Where there's a will there's a way – for genealogists;
- Notes and news by Heather Garnsey.

The Muster: Central Coast (Gosford) FHS Journal, February 2012.

- In the footsteps of Rev Fredrick Charles Hall. *Murrumbidgee Ancestor: Wagga Wagga FHS Journal*, February 2012.

- The Bonynges and Wagga Wagga;
- Dame Mary's recollections, aged 92.

The Argyle: Goulburn HS and FHS Bulletin, February 2012.

- Father Timothy McCarthy from Cork and the Ben Hall gang.

Links 'n' Chains: Liverpool GS Journal, February 2012.

- The notes of a water diviner *Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter*, February/March 2012.

- Lester Brain 1929-2004, benefactor to the Wagga Wagga Historical Society.

Richmond River (Lismore) HS Bulletin, March 2012.

- Matrons of Lismore hospital.

Heritage: Heritage Council of NSW Magazine, December 2011.

- Heritage listings, visits and grants.

Insites: Historic Houses Trust NSW Magazine, March 2012.

- Exhibition: 'The Force: 150 years of the NSW Police;'
- Exhibition: 'Home Front: Wartime Sydney 1939-45;'
- Events calendar Autumn 2012.

Wodonga Cemetery Walk

Sunday, April 15, 2pm.

Hear about the families of Mulqueeney, Schlink, Trudewind, Heckendorf, Boyes, and school teacher Davis.

Relatives of these families will speak at this Wodonga Historical Society event.

REMINDER

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL AT THE LIBRARYMUSEUM COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.