

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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FEBRUARY 2010

498

REPORT ON THE DECEMBER MEETING (9/12/09)

Attendance was a little down, but participation in Show & Tell was excellent. Joe Wooding chaired the meeting in the absence of Chris McQuellin who was on holidays in New Zealand. Joe also contributed several 'Firsts & Funnies': happenings in Albury in the 1800s as expressed in a language we now find quaint.

Participants on the night were: Doug Royal, Michael & Catherine Browne, Roma Freeman, Jan Hunter, Bridget Guthrie, Helen Livsey and Pam Palffy. Several others added comment to the objects presented. It was a fine example of what a Show & Tell night should be.

In the absence of a question of the month, Joe Wooding posed his own question: When was Daylight Saving first imposed in Albury?

Several guessed correctly that it was a wartime measure, but none guessed the right war. Daylight Saving first commenced in Albury at 2 a.m. on New Year's Day 1917.

Twenty-six members enjoyed the Christmas Dinner on Saturday 12 December at the Commercial Club. The meal was excellent. A PowerPoint loop showed the variety of activities our members undertook during the year and the Christmas gift game provided entertainment.

ANOTHER CONNECTION WITH NOREUIL ALFRED HENRY CHAMBERS

By John Craig

The gentleman's name was Alfred Henry Chambers but to the family he was just "Pop". My brothers and I were young enough to believe in Santa Claus. The fact proven when on Xmas mornings the cake and bottle

**NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY
10 FEBRUARY 2010
7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury
Speaker: Kevin Wild "A
history of Mounted Police
in the Albury district."**

**QUESTION OF THE
MONTH
The Adelyn building, corner
Wodonga Place & Hovell
Street, was demolished
recently. What do people
know about its history and
various uses?**

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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Public Officer: Helen Livsey

President: Christopher McQuellin
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Vice-Presidents: Joe Wooding, June Shanahan
Secretary: Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671

Treasurer: Michael Browne

Minute Secretary: Catherine Browne

Committee: John Craig, Jan Marsden, Jill
Wooding, Doug Hunter, Ray Gear and Carole
Whitbourn

Journals & Stock: John Craig

Membership list & Bulletin dispatch: Ray
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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$22

Family: \$30

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

contents had disappeared. Pop could tell stories that we kids found believable.

I can remember family chatter about how the war (WW2) was going, and the influence it had on us kids during our activities in the parks and playgrounds: war games. One day, Grandma, replying to a question said, "Go and ask Pop, he was in the Great War". This we did and Pop then told us a story about his job in the Great War.

He was a "runner" and during the fighting he was required to deliver messages to other trenches. Pop said it was very dangerous because there were enemy snipers trying to stop runners from doing their job. To try and fool the snipers, runners would raise dummies above the trench top, or jump in and out of the trench at various points, so confusing the snipers.

The day came when Pop had another message to deliver, so starting at one end of the trench he ran flat out to the other end up and out into the open, only to be hit by the sniper's bullet.

"Knocked me over like a rabbit into the trench," said Pop. Then he showed us lads a scar on each side of his neck. The bullet had passed right through.

Another war story?

My family moved to the Armidale, New England District. After the war and two years later Grandma joined us. But where was Pop?

Grandma told us that Pop had to remain in Sydney.

The years moved on, but during my family history research my thoughts turned to Pop, so I looked through the WW1 nominal rolls for history of his unit and there found to my surprise: 3789 Sgt. Chambers, Alfred Henry (MM) 17th Battalion, 15-10-15 to 9-12-19.

Alfred Henry Chambers, like many in that war, saw action at the Hindenberg Line, Pozieres, Lagnicourt and Bullecourt in France, and Menin Road and Poelcappelle in Belgium.

His Military Medal citation was dated 25 April 1917 and read:

Private Alfred Henry Chambers--- For conspicuous gallantry during the attack by the enemy on the morning of the 15th April near Noreuil. On four different occasions in the face of murderous machine gun and rifle fire he took messages to Bn HQ., and returned to the firing line, his clothing being pierced in two places by bullets. By his coolness, daring and devotion to duty, he set an excellent example to the rest of the company.

A brave man, one of many brave men of the time, Pop died in Newtown 1949. As Grandma said, "Pop had to stay in Sydney."

SHOW & TELL ITEMS

PRUNE SCALES

Bridget brought along a recent acquisition by the LibraryMuseum: a set of scales used at the Pioneer Orchard Lavington in the early decades of the 20th century. The scales were used to weigh prunes for 1 pound gift boxes which were supplied to the Sydney and wider NSW market. The scales were last used about 1920. The Pioneer Orchard was founded by John Frauenfelder (1835 -1918).



Prunes were a key product of the orchards in Lavington. The major thoroughfare, Prune Street, earlier known as Prune Lane, recognises the importance of the industry.

DEAN STREET PHOTOS

Helen Livsey showed two photos given to the Society with the information that they were purchased about 1950. Both photos show a street scene in Dean Street. They are identical except the signage on the Globe Hotel has been altered. Seemingly the adage "the camera does not lie" has not been true for a long time, if ever.

GUN CLUB PHOTO

Pam Palfy had a photo of the Albury Gun Club taken about 1908. It came from a Mullavey family collection currently in the possession of Cheryl Ryan who has compiled a Mullavey history. The only person identified in the photo is Charles Mullavey. He was born in 1870.





Joe Wooding was able to add that shooting was a very popular sport in the early 1900s and shoots were conducted at the Albury Sportsground. Schoolboys caught starlings and sold them to the Gun Club for use as targets. Joe is interested to know the method used to release the birds so that they flew away from the shooters and onlookers.

PARKINSON STREET

Doug Royal displayed a street sign from Parkinson Street East Albury, one of the streets that disappeared when the Hume Freeway was constructed in early 2000s. Parkinson Street, one of Albury's early streets, was named for Samuel Parkinson, a surveyor with the NSW Surveyor General's office in the 1850s.

The sign signifies the angst and community discord that accompanied the decade-long debate over the route of the Freeway through or around Albury. It is a reminder that the history of the internal-external campaign will need to be written, but perhaps it is too soon to address the divisive and heated issue that swung back and forth from one decision to the other.

Jan Hunter mentioned that Wood Street in North Albury was known as Parkinson Street North until 1926. This would indicate the street predated the railway (1881) and Alexandra Park (c.1875).

CLOCKMAKER'S DYE SET

Michael Browne had a set of clockmaker's dies used to repair very small screw threads used in clock making. He purchased the set at a swap-meet recently.



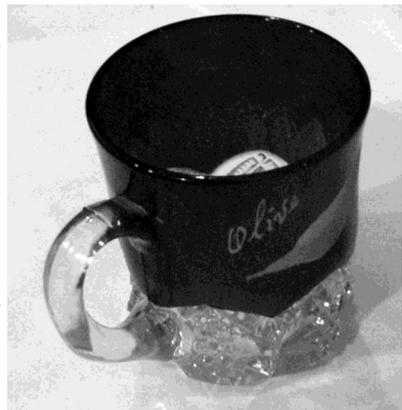
CHRISTMAS CARD SAMPLES

Catherine Brown had a sales rep's set of Christmas Cards dating from the 1970s. Representatives visited stores during the year to take orders especially for personalised and corporate cards. This was in the days before computers

and desktop publishing made this business obsolete.

ALBURY SHOW GLASS

Roma Freeman showed a red glass cup bought by her father as a souvenir of the Albury Show in 1927. The cup is engraved with her mother's name, Olive.



These glass souvenirs had been a feature of agricultural shows for many years. Jan Hunter has a example dated 1912.

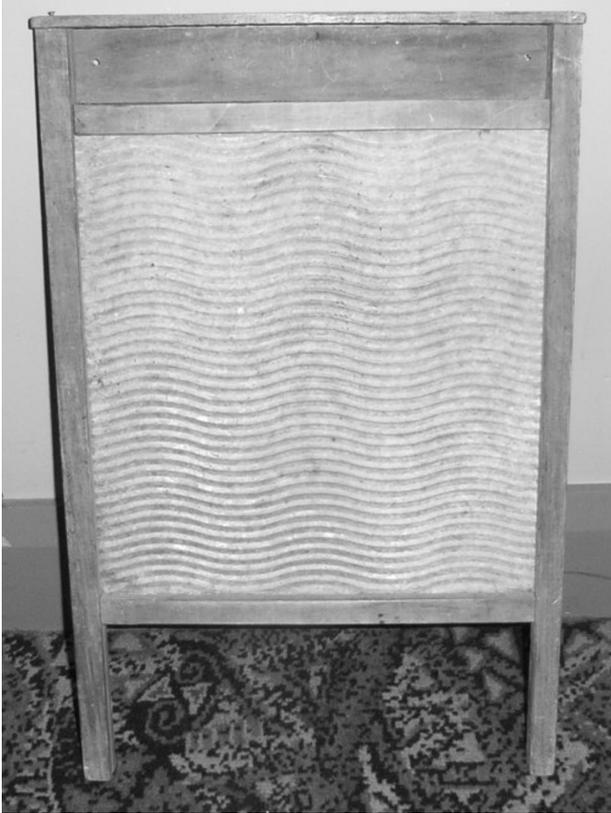
MELODY MAKERS ?

Jan Hunter had 3 photographs of a concert group on stage in Albury possibly the "Melody Makers". They probably date from the 1950s and were organised by Ms Raie Langley, a hairdresser & milliner, who had a keen interest in community fund-raising and entertainment in Albury.

During WW2 she organised a group of performers, the Victory Vanities, who conducted countless concerts to entertain troops from nearby Bandiana and Bonegilla and also to raise money for Comforts Funds. When Victory Vanities disbanded at the end of the war it is thought Melody Makers came into existence some time after and contained many of the same performers. One of Jan's sisters, Zelma Chick is in the photos.

WASHBOARD

Jan Hunter also had a washboard. The item evoked considerable discussion that followed divergent paths. A number of people remembered parents and grandparents using washboards of various sizes as part of the routine of washday; fuel coppers, and wringers mounted onto the lip of the concrete laundry trough, were mentioned.



Others remembered the washboard as a musical instrument played to accompany a guitar. Howard Jones took up the washboard with a practised hand and explained that he had played the instrument in a skiffle band when aged 10. Other instruments in the band were a kazoo and a tea chest bass.

EVERY INCH THE LADY

ABIKHAIR EXHIBITION AT ALBURY LIBRARY-MUSEUM

“Every Inch the Lady” is the title of a new exhibition at the Albury LibraryMuseum. It is the work of Sally Boyle, currently working at the Museum while completing her studies through Coffs Harbour TAFE. The exhibition features items from the S M Abikhair store.

When the emporium, located on the corner of Olive & Swift Streets, closed in 1996 Albury City purchased the remaining stock for the Museum.

The exhibition was opened by the mayor of Albury Councillor Alice Glachan on 10 December. Several members of the Abikhair family attended the opening.

CATCHING THE TRAIN TO MELBOURNE.

Joe Wooding came across this item during his research :

In 1886, it was necessary for NSW passengers to go by coach from Albury to catch the train at Wodonga even though the Victorian line extended through to Albury Station. The reason was

the need to pass through Victorian Customs just over the Union Bridge. Joe had a newspaper report of a tomahawk being used to open a tin luggage box when the key could not be produced at the Customs House.

Presumably passengers from Melbourne could travel right through to the Albury Railway Station, because no customs restrictions applied on entering NSW.

More research is needed to clarify the situation.

GOLF CLUB MINUTE BOOKS

Thank you to Ian Condon who has donated a number of Minute Books from the Hume Country Golf Club to the Society. Ian took the books together with some photos into safe keeping years ago when the club closed believing this part of Albury’s history should not be lost.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following is a list of financial members for the year ending May 2010. If your name is not there and you think it should be, please contact the Treasurer.

Corporate: Lester & Sons (P Harbick).

Life: W Chambers, N Douglas, B Geddes, Albury City Council & Commercial Club.

Honorary Life: A Davies, H Jones, H Livsey

Families of: M & C Browne, E & F Dale, H Glachan, R & B Haberfield, R & J Harrison, D & J Hunter, W & B Moriarty, K & S Monte, B & M Pennay, N Reid/ L Rayner, E & K Scholz, J & J Wooding and C & P Whitbourn.

Individual: E Allan, A Brennan, D Bartsch, J Bullivant, , R Boadle, J Craig, V Colley, K Crossley, M Comitti, E Cossor, M Curtis, , R Freeman, G Fagan, , R Gear, V Gherashe, B Guthrie, A Holloway, L Howard, F B Higgins, J Henwood, T Jelbart, A Kelso, H Leggatt, D Lindner, C McQuellin, H Mair, J Marsden, J Moore, A Newnham, A Nugent, R Paech, L Passant, M Passant, D Royal, M Royle, , S Schubach, B Stewart, V Symons, , P Strachan, F L Stevenson, J Shanahan, R Symes, P Scott, G Trampusic, J Whitla, J Wilson, D Widdison, P Waterstreet and V Wharton.

GRAY FAMILY GATHERING/REUNION

Were your ancestors George Gray (Morley 1817) and Mary Connor (Elizabeth 1828)? All descendants of “Poppa George” and “Pejar Mary” are invited to attend a family reunion on 30th October 2010 at the Crookwell Showground.

“Poppa George” and “Pejar Mary” settled and raised their children in the Pejar district near Crookwell NSW

Names of interest include, but are not limited to: Gray, Seery, Seary, Levett, Leary, Dalton, and Druitt.

For further information about the gathering/reunion please contact one of the following:

Barry Gray: 1 Queen St. Bradfordville, via Goulburn 2580 Phone: 02 48215202.