



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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MAY 2007

468

REPORT ON THE APRIL MEETING (11/4/07)

This was a well attended meeting with a good measure of participation especially in response to the Question of the Month. Members suggested resources to discover Albury's history including: older residents, books, newspapers, annual reports of companies and institutions, oral histories on tape and CD, internet, A&DHS Bulletins, cemetery records, letters and diaries. Reference was made to the work of Society member Howard Jones, *A bibliography of local history in Albury-Wodonga and the border district*, revised 1995. To round off, our Research Officer Helen Livsey shared a little of her experience.

THOUGHTS ON RESOURCES

By Helen Livsey

When we receive letters from people asking for general information about their

families in Albury I usually suggest obituaries as a starting point, and it is surprising how many people don't think of referring to newspapers - possibly because obituaries are not very frequent these days.

As a contrast to that I receive phone calls from people who have walked all over the Pioneer Cemetery, not knowing that cemetery information is in the Library. I receive a lot of phone calls from people asking where to look for information so I direct them to the history room at the Albury Library.

If people are desperate for any shred of material I can check numerous lists which vary from the 1857 and 1867 Residents Lists compiled by Howard Jones; a couple of electoral rolls; small Trades Directories published by newspapers; the roll of 45

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007

8pm at Albury Library
Swift Street
Convener:
Carole Whitbourn
Please bring a plate for supper
Guests always welcome

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the origin of the game of tennis and its strange system of scoring?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 13 June 8pm at the Commercial Club.

Please give thought to nominations for all positions

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

Patron: Harold Mair OAM
Public Officer: Helen Livsey
President: Doug Hunter
02 6021 2835

Vice-Presidents: Max Barry, Joe Wooding
Secretary-Treasurer: June Shanahan
02 6025 1324 june37@tpg.com.au

Minute Secretary: Jan Marsden

Committee: Helen Livsey, Helen Pithie, John Craig, Carole Whitbourn and Ray Gear

Journals & Stock: John Craig
Honorary Auditor: Harold Mair
Membership list & Bulletin dispatch: Ray Gear
Bulletin Editor: Doug Hunter 02 6021 2835
djhjrhlaptop@bigpond.com

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$22
Family: \$30
Corporate: \$50

History Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month 8pm at Commercial Club Albury.
Committee meets 4th Tuesday of the month 5.15pm at Albury City Library.

A&DHS website:
www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum/heritage

pupils of the National School in 1850; people who had dealings with the Post Office in 1871 - who are mostly listed in alphabetical order; Returns of the Colony in 1885, which is a list of stock owners, compiled by Max Eberle who has relatives in this area; competitors in a music competition in 1908; and even a list of shareholders in the Albury Woollen Mills in 1923. It is not particularly easy to deal with because people are listed by occupation - with a lot of Farmers, listed separately from Graziers; another long list as *Our Womenfolk*, and one as *Taken by Parents for Children*.

Addresses are hard to come by - even though Albury got house numbering about 1922. By 1938 half the residents didn't use their house numbers and not many houses have survived with their original names still displayed.

The Society charges \$20 an hour for research and there are lots of sources to be explored but not many people are willing to spend more than the initial \$20.

Some of the enquiries we receive get a goldmine of information and some only get shreds, like a warder at the Albury Gaol by the name of Mudd. He was listed in 1901 and 1903 and I referred the enquirer to the Archives Resource Kit at the Maitland Library in the hope that she can do some work herself.

A recent enquiry as to whether a lady received land as a returned soldier under the Soldier Settler Scheme after WWI was not satisfied. I'm not optimistic enough to think

a woman would be favoured with land in those days and there are no electoral rolls available here (that I know of) between the first and second world wars.

Recently a man sent an advertisement about his grandfather, a church organist and choir master, indicating that he had commenced duties in the Bowral district in 1903. Particulars could be obtained from the School of Music, Albury. A search of Albury papers a year prior showed that J. Macmillan had been Organist at St Matthew's Church, sometime Assistant Canterbury Cathedral, Eng., late Master Coerwull Academy, NSW, and King's College, Auckland, N.Z. and his address was Mrs Selle's Terrace, Smollett Street. It listed all the musical instruments he taught, as well as singing and drawing - all that history in just one advertisement.

The last story is from a man whose great grandmother was buried on the day he was born. Although a lot of research had been done he could not discover the names of her parents. It was a case where her mother died by the time she was four and six children were admitted to the Benevolent Society, by order of an Albury Bench Magistrate in the 1870s, and then they went to the Randwick Institute for Destitute Children. By the time I was invited to join the fray all the hard work had been done by professional researchers - and the enquirer had found a reference to his ancestor on the internet. All I did was a newspaper search, working on the dates he provided. Court reports listed the children, their

ages (not necessarily correct), and their fate. I received a most wonderful letter - he and his daughter were so grateful for the information in the newspaper articles - but we still don't know the names of his great grandmother's parents!

But does it really matter? We don't really need to trace our ancestry back to Adam and these newspaper reports showed the family why this great grandmother was reluctant to speak about her background and became annoyed when asked about her childhood.

The last word is that, with all the resources available, the Pioneer Cemetery would be the most utilised for historical research.

THE ALBURY BATTERY: ALBURY'S CITIZEN SOLDIERS 1903-1940

Extract of talk by Doug Hunter.
A monograph on the history of the Battery 1903-1940 will be out this year.

1905 CHURCH PARADE

At a function to farewell Colour Sergeant G A Williams, Major Wilkinson took the opportunity to announce a church parade to be held at St Matthews with the Battery assembling at the Drill Hall and marching to the church accompanied by the Citizens' Band.

The church parade proposal was criticised in a letter to the *Albury Daily News* the next day signed "Grand Mamma." The letter was obtuse and the criticism possibly had much more to do with conflict between the 'old' Town Band and the newly formed Citizens' Band, than with the church parade itself. The debate continued in letters to the paper over the next week, with Major Wilkinson himself writing to explain that he was reviving a practice that had existed some years

back and that it was intended to hold future parades in other churches in turn. He then posted a wager of £5 if the first writer was in fact a woman and a further £5 if she was a grandmother as claimed by the nom-de-plume 'Grand Mamma'.

The parade took place as planned with the Citizens' Band under the leadership of Mr F E Quintrell, leading the march from the Drill Hall. There was a large congregation; the Band joined with the organ to lead the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers"; Rev Bevan preached "a very interesting and effective sermon"; and at the conclusion of the service the Battery marched along Dean Street and Olive Street to Swift Street where they were dismissed.

1934 ROYAL VISIT

On 22 October 1934 the Albury Battery was involved in an historic event in Albury, the visit of HRH



Captain L J Colquhoun
26th Battery AFA AIF.
Commander Albury Battery
1919-1926, 1928-1936

the Duke of Gloucester, The Battery provided a guard of 50 men at the Albury Showground and guns and crews to fire the 21 gun salute. The guard was under the command of Captain E J Wilson and Lieutenants C W Manning and G Barrow

The royal train was met at the Albury Railway Station by a mounted guard of 20 men from the 8th Light Horse Regiment and escorted through the streets of Albury to the Showgrounds. The guard commander was Captain Chambers of Rutherglen and the light horse

men were drawn from Rutherglen, Wahgunyah and Corryong.

Not everything went as planned on the day however. The 21 gun salute was fired twenty minutes prior to the arrival of the royal train. The error was put down to a 'false signal'. The premature firing of the salute raised the level of anticipation of the crowd at the Showgrounds and they became restive, so the band played 'stirring music' to 'engage their attention.'

CANCELLED CAMP

With the Royal Visit over, the Battery turned its attention to the annual camp scheduled for November. The camp was cancelled at the last moment to the dismay of the Battery Commander Major L J Colquhoun who approached the chairman of the social committee, the mayor, Alderman A Waugh to see if something could be done as both volunteers and their employers were to be inconvenienced by the late cancellation.

Alderman Waugh went to Melbourne immediately and spoke to the Secretary for Defence who understood the problem and phoned General McColl, the Base Commandant for Victoria. The mayor returned to Albury with the good news the camp would proceed as planned. His ready access to the highest authorities was facilitated by his frequent contact in relation to the visit by the Duke of Gloucester.

GUESS THE YEAR

Questions & answers taken from A&DHS Bulletins

1. The railway reached Wodonga?
2. The foundation stone was laid at St David's church cnr Wilson and Olive Streets?
3. The first commercial radio station 2AY began broadcasting?
4. The Governor-General Sir Isaac Isaacs and Lady Isaacs visited Albury for Carnival Week?
5. The Uiver landed at Albury racecourse?
6. The first group of post-war migrants arrived at Bonegilla?
7. The new Mercy Hospital in

Poole Street opened?

8. 2REM (Radio Etamogah) 107.3 FM began broadcasting?

9. The RAAOC museum at Bandiana was renamed 'Army Museum'?

10. The Albury cemetery in Waugh Road, Buckingham Street & St James Crescent consecrated?

11. All England XI played Beechworth XXII?

12. The Globe Hotel cnr of Dean and Kiewa Streets opened?

[Answers page 4]

OUR WATERWHEEL

The waterwheel donated to the A&DHS in 1968 by Mr David Beer and re-erected in Australia Park has an interesting history. Jan Marsden obtained this information from Janet Duncan who grew up in Eskdale. The Waterwheel was first owned by the Ellis family. The wheel is made of iron and has a diameter of 17 feet 1½ inches (5.22m) and a width of 28 inches (0.71m). It has 60 buckets each holding 6½ gallons (30litres) each.

Samuel Ellis and Sarah Morris were married in England in 1864 and shortly after came to Australia, settling at Chiltern where Samuel's brother Henry had settled some time earlier. The exact date is unclear; however Samuel and Sarah selected land at Tallandoon and raised a large family of 5 sons and 5 daughters. They named their farm "Millbrook". They purchased the waterwheel in the 1880s and arranged for Harper Bros team to transport it to "Millbrook" where it was assembled and used for gold mining. In the early 1890s, the Ellis family built a saw mill to satisfy the increasing demand for sawn timber and needed greater



Harper Bros team of 16 bullocks that moved the waterwheel twice in the 1880s, early 1890s.

power. So the iron wheel was dismantled and replaced by a much larger wooden wheel with buckets 3 feet 6 inches (1.07m) wide. The Ellis family still farm the property and the location of the wheel is still evident.

Harpers bought the dismantled wheel and moved it to their own property located at the end of Harpers Lane in 1892, and reassembled it to run a chaffcutter and a saw for fire-wood. Later it was used to drive a milking machine.

Harpers Lane was renamed Lockhart's Gap after the Lockhart brothers who drove the first motor vehicle from Huon Lane to the Omeo highway at the Tallandoon Bridge.

By the time Rupe Beer purchased the Harper property the SEC had extended the electricity grid through the Mitta Valley and the wheel was no longer needed. Rupe Beer's son David gave the waterwheel to the Albury & District History Society.

The wheel was transported to Albury and with the help of local businesses re-erected in Australia Park in memory of the Pioneer Miners of the District. It was presented to the City of Albury at a ceremony on 21 November 1969. Society president C C Hazelwood, Esq. presided at the official opening and P D Burrows, Esq. a former mayor of Albury, 1916, performed the unveiling.

BRICK MAKERS

Bulletin 455 recorded William Kinton Smith as a brick maker 1868

-71, but advertisement in the *Border Post* 4 October 1873 reads: "Bricks for sale in any quantity at W K Smith's Brick Kiln near bridge."

MUSEUM IN A BOX

Carole Whitbourn brought along a portable display from the Australian War Memorial. It comprised photographs, badges, a tin hat, wartime training booklets, insignia of rank and much more. It is intended for loan to schools and similar organisations. All items pack neatly into a suitcase-like box with casters and a handle. The Albury Library Museum is an agent for these portable displays.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

Richmond River (Lismore) HS Bulletin, March 2007.

1. Bert Gullivert (1898-1987) an old saw-miller in Dunoon.
2. Norca Butter Factory in Nimbin: gas, smoke, ammonia and butter.

Wagga Wagga FHS Newsletter, February 2007.

1. John Robertson Edney: soldier and policeman.
2. "Thunderbolt", Fred Wordsworth Ward.

Answers to guess the year:

- (1)1873 (Bulletin 424); (2)1905 (Bulletin 455); (3)1930 (Bulletin 439) (4)1933 (Bulletin 427); (5) 1934 (Bulletin 428); (6)1947 (Bulletin 445); (7)1957 (Bulletin 450); (8)1980 (Bulletin 439); (9) 1997 (Bulletin 431); (10)1858 (Bulletin 441); (11)1862 (Bulletin 440); (12)1860 (Bulletin 445).

Federation of Australian Historical Studies (FAHS) Newsletter, December 2006.

1. Reports from the States & Territories.

Parramatta Packet: Parramatta FHS Newsletter, March-June 2007.

1. Parramatta buildings: "Kia Ora", "Perth House" and "Linden House."

2. Old Parramatta District historical notes: Church, Ross and Pennant Streets.

Inherit: Heritage Council of Victoria Magazine, February 2007.

1. Melbourne Olympic Games Heritage Register with Olympic connections.

2. Chinese past uncovered: archaeology of a Chinese brick making kiln.

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YOUTH FRONT:

BORDER IMPRESSIONS OF WAR

Doug Hunter participated in the opening of this poster, film and audio exhibition highlighting youth attitudes and impressions of war, on 27 April at the Lavington Library.

It is the work of Karlie Hawking in a cultural project of AlburyCity. It is to be shown at city venues including the Youth Café, some shopping centres and the Lavington Library.

The exhibition covers WWI, WWII, the Vietnam War and young people of today.

Reminder

**VENUE FOR MAY 9 MEETING
ALBURY LIBRARY**