

# Albury & District Historical Society

October 2017

No 583

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

[www.alburyhistory.org.au](http://www.alburyhistory.org.au)

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## Next Meeting

**Sunday 15 October,  
Jindera Excursion  
Lunch Jindera Hotel 12 Noon  
Jindera Museum 1pm**

**ALBURY  
LIBRARYMUSEUM  
CAPTURING I DO  
7 OCT – 3 DEC**

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## REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MEETING (13.09.2017)

As we are blossoming into Spring, members have the opportunity to venture out to Jindera in October as a replacement activity to our normal meeting. The Jindera Museum will be welcoming us on Sunday, 15 October around 1pm. Entry fee to the Museum is \$3 per head. Members are also encouraged to meet at the Jindera Hotel for a counter lunch at 12 noon. The question was asked if members wish to continue the traditional Xmas dinner function in December. Numbers have been dwindling over the last few years. Suggestions have been made of an informal gathering in the gardens or a supper after the December meeting. The guest speaker (for the evening) in September was John Vogel who manages the Albury City Cemeteries. His talk informed us of the extensive maintenance programs and innovations that are being actioned in the our city cemeteries. Members were glad to hear that a new secure fence and gates are going to be erected around the Pioneer Cemetery to combat vandalism. The upgrading of the signage at the cemetery and the Name Search facility on the Council website will be most helpful to historical researchers.

Chris McQuellin gave a talk on Foster Cooper who was the Editor of the Albury Banner for nearly 50 years. He died at his home 'Bonegilla' in Kiewa Street in 1923. The house still stands on the North West corner of Kiewa and Wyse Street.

Eric Cossor told of the on going confusion about street numbers in Holmwood Cross over the years in the monthly feature of Heritage in my Street.

Richard Lee spoke on the Griffith brothers who were the pioneers of the Stock and Station industry in the Albury district. President Joe related the story of JT Fallon's dilemma of disposing of a large quantity of dirt from the excavations for his extremely large cellars in Kiewa St.

Albury City cares for three cemeteries, the Pioneer cemetery, Waugh Rd cemetery and Glenmorus Memorial Gardens. There are four full time ground staff including an apprentice and two full time administration staff. The total area is 32 hectares or 78 acres of land to maintain. Along with regular cemetery business, staff receive up to 15 requests for family history information per week. Over recent years at the Pioneer Cemetery there has been a significant amount of vandalism so a perimeter fence and gates will be installed similar to the one in Waugh Rd. The gates will be locked each evening and opened in the mornings. Damage to historic headstones is expensive to repair and this remains the responsibility of family members. New developments will include a name search facility for all WW1 veterans in the Albury Cemeteries.

In the past at the Pioneer Cemetery some families were unable to afford to memorialise their loved ones and there are a number of unmarked graves. A rock garden has been installed which is a memorial to these lost souls so that future generations can remember them. There will be an official opening on a future date to be advised.

As a lot of gravesite enquiries are received out of hours, a gravesite locator information kiosk will be installed at Glenmorus Memorial Gardens. Hopefully future funding will enable the installation of similar kiosk at the other cemeteries. There are currently 645 lawn graves and 634 monumental and granite wedge graves available at Glenmorus. The Glenmorus Landscape Master Plan involves the development of additional burial and memorial sites by expanding the current area. This plan creates the framework to extend the life of the cemetery by at least forty years by developing 4600 burial sites alone. Stormwater harvesting will be improved by the building of additional dams. Non potable water will be used for irrigation. The integrated planting plan will utilise species more suited to the area's environment using more native and drought tolerant species which require less maintenance. Plantings will include maples, smooth barked apple and white box.

The proposed landscape master plan of the Pioneer Cemetery will be developed over the next eighteen months. There will be improved location signage including the replacement and upgrading of existing signage. Some graves have two location references due to a change in the mapping system. New drainage and storm water storage and harvesting will be improved. Protection of deteriorating and vandalised gravesites will be prioritised, hopefully using funding from the NSW State government. New pathways will be installed and existing pathways will be improved using road base. Self guided tours using smart phones and iPads are planned for the future.

Over the past three year the team has:

Installed concrete beams at the Baby Section, Glenmorus and Waugh Rd.

Replaced the crematorium roof at Glenmorus with Colorbond.

Name search facility has been added on the Albury City Council website.

Implemented structural and pro-active works programs.

Bi-annual maintenance is now reduced to annual maintenance. (February clean up.)

Drainage installed in Waugh Rd cemetery to mitigate flooding.



Cremator furnace relined, serviced and re-bricked.

Fence completed at Waugh Rd.

Mapping of existing assets (with a focus on irrigation.)

Reduction in water useage through better irrigation and turf management.

100 new graves developed in the existing sections.

Improved customer service through the use of appointments.

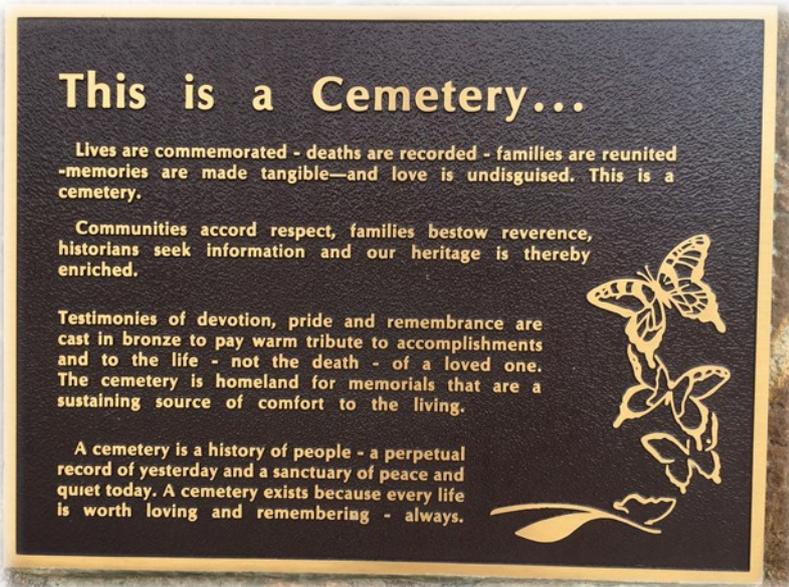
The family history name search facility is available on the Albury City Council website under Albury Cemeteries where you click on a photo titled Cemeteries Interactive Map, Family History Name search. Type in the surname which will give you a list of names, burial number and location. Click on the correct name and this will take you to the grave site on the map.

Then you can screenshot, print out or save the image as a pdf file.

More promotion of the cemeteries is now happening with increased media exposure and the distribution of pamphlets.

Unusual activities undertaken in other cemeteries around the country include West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide where they produce olive oil from their trees. Bunuronong Memorial Park has three function centres which accommodate family gatherings, plays, school concerts and weddings. Rookwood Sculpture Walk has some different and sometimes confronting installations. Friends of Rookwood is a not for profit organisation made up of volunteers. Helping Hands is group of enthusiastic gardeners who give their time to special projects. Voluntary guides conduct public tours within the cemetery on the first Sunday of every month. Photographs are taken for family history requests cost \$15 for the first and \$5 thereafter.

A crematorium/cemetery open day in Albury will be conducted in the future on a date to be advised.



### 2017 International Earth Building Conference

On Monday 6 November there will be a guided tour of the rammed earth buildings at Charles Sturt University led by the architect, Marci Webster-Mannison, followed by a local tour of selected earth buildings. They will be visiting some historic earth buildings that day and Frauenfelder Cottage in North David St is on the agenda, as is the Thurgoona Catholic Church. There will be two tours and they will include Moorwatha, Beechworth and Yackandandah.

The link to the conference web page is:

<https://www.ebaa.asn.au/2017-earth-building-conference/>



Frauenfelder Cottage David St

## FOSTER COOPER

## CHRIS MCQUELLIN

Foster Cooper was born in Brighton in Sussex England in 1839. His family were well off because his early years were spent at private boarding school, some years at public school and followed by some time at University. He immigrated to Australia seeking the fortune that the gold fields presented. He arrived in Melbourne in 1858, as a nineteen year old. His early years in Australia were not that easy as the lure of the goldfields was to prove enticing and Cooper followed the various rushes in Victoria, New South Wales and even to New Zealand. He was however to drift into journalism after getting some articles accepted by the Argus, The Australasian and The SMH.

In the 1860's he visited the Ovens goldfields and remained in Beechworth for some time, being associated with the Ovens and Murray Advertiser. It was not until 1872 did he come to live in Albury after an association with George Adams (the founder of the Albury Banner newspaper). It was here in Albury he accepted the position as editor of this paper. The Banner had been running for about 12 years and Cooper was in a fine position to see expansion in the content of the paper to that newspaper researchers will know about.

Foster Cooper was to eventually become a partner in this newspaper. He was Editor for almost 50 years (prior to his death.) He was also the Albury and district reporter for the 'SMH' and 'The Age' for over 30 years. In his early days at the paper he was the only journalist doing all the literary work necessary. His involvement was not just journalism for he was to become a leader in the establishment of the Albury Volunteer Infantry in 1885.

England was at war in the Sudan and NSW had sent a military contingent. The Government was keen to have a defence capability and Cooper was the catalyst locally. He was the secretary, publicist and formation Captain (elected) of one of the two companies of the 1st Regiment NSW Volunteer Infantry located in Albury. Of note there was to be a 115 year local association with Albury and the Army from 1885 until the year 2000. It was then that the Reserve unit and Museum moved to new quarters in the Bandiana Military precinct. Cooper in his post as editor of the 'Banner' always reported on local military matters and significant was the publishing to Albury and Districts on the Boer War and WW I stories covering local soldiers.

His editorial authority offered to Albury and district readers obviously had some influence over the period 1872-1922, because we still know editorials can affect political and social outcomes. An editorial can invoke public debate and align thinking amongst readers and can influence voting patterns. Cooper's impact on Albury society for those 50 years cannot ever be underestimated.

He retired from the Albury Banner in 1922 after nearly 50 years at the paper. He had been a long term Justice of the Peace and had taken a keen interest in the Agricultural Society here in Albury. Unfortunately he was dead just one year later aged 84, but had been unwell for about 15 months with a heart condition. He was recognised as 'a cultured gentleman and a man of generous and kindly impulses and a loyal and progressive town man.'

He died at his home 'Bonégilla' in Kiewa Street in 1923. (The house still stands at the N/W corner Kiewa and Wyse Street.) He left a wife and seven children - three boys and four girls. His funeral service was entrusted to Messrs. Trappold and Lester and he is buried in the Catholic section of the Albury Pioneer cemetery.



Banner Staff Albury 1890. Foster Cooper is seated in the front row, white handkerchief in his front pocket.

Photograph: NSW State Library

Thomas Hunter Griffith (1842-1913) and Charles Lucas Griffith (1848-1923) were Stock and Station agents, two pioneering brothers who founded this industry in Albury. Charles Lucas Griffiths married Isabel Georgina Branton in 1880. She was born in 1862 in Limerick, Ireland. Their children buried in the Pioneer Cemetery were Lucy Mary an infant of 10 months and Gerald Thomas (born 1884, Albury), who was accidentally killed at Albury railway yards in 1915. Other children were Henry Hunter born 1887 (Major Harry of the AIF), a Doctor memorialised at the cemetery as he died in London of Influenza in March 1919 age 31, he was buried at Kilburn, Greater London. Geoffrey Carmichael born in 1889 and died in France he was with the 14<sup>th</sup> AIF Battalion, buried in the British Cemetery in the Somme, France. Thomas and Charles worked in the same Stock and Station business called Charles L Griffith & Co in the Beehive Building, Dean Street, Albury. The brothers were born to Irish parents in the West Indies. Their father, Thomas Griffith owned a sugar plantation in St Croix, Virgin Islands. He was killed or murdered at the time of the slave revolt in the West Indies. These revolts lead to the emancipation of all slaves and the collapse of the plantations. His wife Mary Ann, then with her two sons and a daughter returned to Ireland.

The two brothers made their way to Australia and farmed in the Loddon Valley. Chas had arrived in Albury in October 1878. He purchased a business from Mr Waller which was chiefly a land agency business. In the early days, farmers from the district would take their stock to the Beechworth markets and the butchers would drove the cattle back to Albury for slaughter. Chas recollects seeing Andrew Hore taking his cattle to markets at Beechworth and then seeing him a few days later returning with the same cattle but in a much more deteriorated state. From that time the penny had dropped and the business was formed of Charles L Griffith & Co.

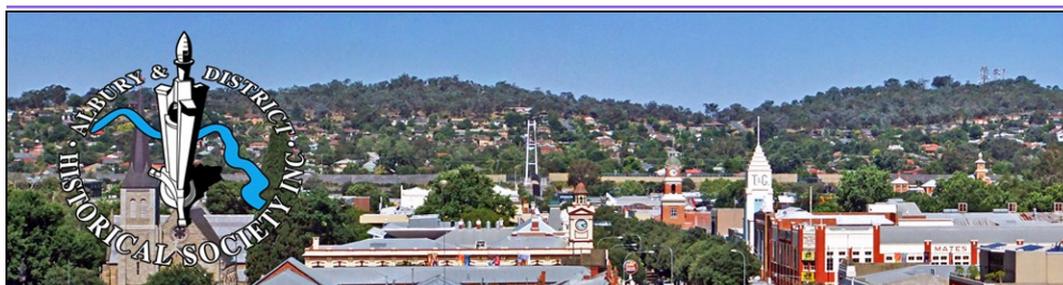
His first market yards were near the corner of Smollett and Townsend Street. Later the sales took place at the present site of St David's Uniting Church. Following that yards were erected at 'Woodstock,' on the East side of the Railway station. This is where Chas would build his home and a large market yard. The town cattle yards at Newmarket weren't opened until November 1888. Mayor Ald Daniels in 1910 said; 'After the failure of others to establish a stock market here, Messers Griffith came along, and they made the stock business a success, the stock sales led to the wool sales. Had there not been the stock sales there would probably not have been any wool sales.' That observation was very profound as the wool industry would turn Albury into a City. However the brothers that started the industry would not get to see what their hard work created with Amalgamated Textiles mill providing a state of the art factory. The 27 acres of land for the factory were part of Charles 'Woodstock' property. Dalgety, Younghusband and Farmers & Graziers all built huge wool stores and the Commercial Club established the Wool Exchange.

A commentary found discussing the Griffith style of Auctioneering was I quote '...Mr George Robina's style of auctioneer with the black suit and rose in the button hole about him: in fact, if that gentleman could raise from his grave, he would blush with astonishment at the liberties taken in the profession of this modern auctioneer. If bidding is not brisk, off goes the coat, and by the time his hearers have warmed to the subject, Mr Griffith may be seen without a coat, waist coat, collar or necktie; his whole soul in the business which has placed him at the top of the tree as a cattle salesman.' Chas was described as being blunt. People said; 'Go to 'CL' and he will either do it or tell you to go to \_\_\_\_'. The man who stood up and did not crawl came out best. Popularity was much over estimated in business. Thomas and Charles were focused on building the business and they would '...travel 50 or 60 or 100 miles in order to do business. These journeys were often done on horseback not in a motor car as the young men wanted now.' Trips to Narrandera or Corryong were very common. Charles Lucas Griffith died in retirement at his home in Toorak, Melbourne and was buried here in the Pioneer cemetery.

Thomas Hunter Griffith (1842-1913) married Elizabeth Heylinger West Dewhurst (1842-1911) in December 1872. The 1891 census says they lived in Wilson Street with four boys and 3 girls. The cemetery burial site has the following buried or memorialised.

The eldest son Charles Hunter Griffith born in Victoria 1879 he was interned in Melbourne. He married Evelyn Alice she is buried here in 1911 age 33 years. They had 3 boys and two girls the youngest boy Harold Dewhurst an infant of 23 months born December 1906 and died 1908. Thomas's eldest son also Harold Dewhurst buried here in 1906 age 29 years and the last Dr Claude Hamilton Griffith a dentist served in the 57<sup>th</sup> AIF Battalion as a Lieutenant in WWI. He was born Loddon Victoria, and died October 1929.

By 1908 these brother had put Albury/Wodonga on the map as the largest markets in country Australia. Then the noted firm of 'Dalgety & Co.' came along and bought the brothers out. They remained in the business for another two years and then retired. The Dalgety business flourished with further generations of Griffiths managing the Albury branch. Charles Hunter Griffith became manager around 1910. Articles written stated that he didn't have to report to the Australian head offices but only the London office, the sense of importance of King and the old country which England still held over Australia. Later Thomas Hunter managed Dalgety's Albury. This was followed by John Hunter Griffith in the early 1970's Thomas was quoted as saying that *'while the Griffith name is involved within the firm of Dalgety never a shady thing would be done.'* Properties owned were 'Delaware' at Splitters Creek and was an original purchase by Thomas from the Bungowannah run and remained in the family for many years. Chas Griffith lived at 'Woodstock' and owned land at the 'Benambra Estate' between Culcairn & Holbrook, he then subdivided it successfully. Thomas also had property called 'Weeroona', at Walbundrie. Dr Andrew's farewell speech to the brothers in 1910 stated that these men *'called an object lesson to the younger men of to-day that the eight hour business was no good. He also added that not tens, but in hundreds, of cases had these two brothers helped to maintain farmers who but for them might have gone under.'* ... John Campbell draper added *'as soon as they were satisfied themselves that it was a deserving charitable object or movement, the only question was, he believed, how much was wanted'*. Charitable work for the community was a very important aspect of the time. Both wives were also praised for their charitable work for the town at this meeting. Foster Cooper of the *Albury Banner* said *'Chas had to his mind always been the beau ideal stock and station agent a good judge of men, enterprising, courageous, and exercised that peculiar magnetic faculty of making men buy things even if they did not want to.'* Cooper also wrote two illuminated testimonials, bound in book form for the brothers at this time. Thomas Griffith along with his work was an alderman of Albury Council 1886 to 1892 and Mayor 1887 and 1891. He was elected to the seat of Albury in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly in July 1898, holding the seat until July 1904. What a great time to see the ushering in of Federation. He was president of the Albury Club and first president to the Albury Bowling Club. Thomas Hunter died of cardiac trouble at his property 'Weroona,' Walbundrie in 1913. These two men Charles and Thomas should be congratulated for the vision of setting up the stock markets. To establish a market and watch it grow to such a great extent was truly amazing. To be the founders of the cattle and wool industry of Albury is outstanding. The net benefits derived from these two brothers had helped every aspect of Albury's growth.



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**ASTONISHING TALES FROM ALBURY:** Howard Jones is self-publishing this book of 50 true stories, Howard describes them “mad, sad, bad or bizarre stories but all part of our history.” They recall grim tragedies such as a mass drowning of canoeists on Lake Hume, a midwife's ghastly railway death and a love story that ended tragically at Albury Gaol. There are scandals like the Tietyens collapse and the deplorable crimes of a once-admired priest are recorded. Howard writes of religious bigotry cases, why frightened gay men formed a club in 1986, and why an Albury crowd pelted a Communist teacher with eggs. Local tales are told of Don Bradman, Nellie Melba and Bert Hinkler and of the murderer Mr Stinky. Among the happy or funny stories is the “Concorde's landing here” April's Fool joke. And then there was the case of the maid who swallowed her false teeth...and the woman buried in two graves.

The book will retail at \$20 but society members can pre-order copies at \$15 by emailing [hjones45@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hjones45@optusnet.com.au). Payment to be made on delivery, expected early November.

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### **CAPTURING I DO**

When: 7 October - 3 December 2017 10am—4pm.

From the formal studio portraits of the 1950s to the outdoor extravaganzas of today, the way we capture our precious wedding memories has changed dramatically over the years. A name synonymous with wedding photography in Albury for much of last century was McPherson Studios, which operated in Dean Street from the 1930s to the 1980s. This exhibition looks at the ways in which weddings, love and marriage have been captured by photographers. Featuring wedding portraiture from the 1930s to

1970s, photographs by Diane Edmondson, who trained at McPherson Studios, from the 1970s to 2000s, photographic technology, wedding gowns and film, Capturing I Do is a fun exhibition that celebrates wedding trends of the past as well as looking at what marriage means in society today and into the future. The LibraryMuseum would like to make the McPherson Studios Collection of studio portraits available to the public. To do this, we require permission from the people featured in the photographs. If you believe that you or members of your family may have had portraits taken by McPherson Studios between 1955 and 1970, we would like to hear from you.

### **Albury LibraryMuseum**



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### **NSW REGIONAL GROWTH FUND GRANT**

In an effort to secure funding aimed at increasing the digitisation of Albury newspapers on Trove, the Society has submitted an application to the above fund for a \$65,994 grant. Should our submission be successful, co-contributors have been asked for. The Society has pledged \$10,000, the LibraryMuseum \$3,000 and Bruce Pennay \$100 towards this project. It will be late October before we are notified if we can proceed further. Time restraints prevented more discussion from taking place prior to this action.

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**The General Sir Harry Chauvel Foundation** encourages descendants of Light Horsemen and other interested writers to research and write about their Light Horse ancestor or hero for possible inclusion in an online anthology. Submissions may include articles, fiction and non-fiction and poetry and can be illustrated with drawings, photographs and maps. Closing date for submissions to be announced. For more information visit the General Sir Harry Chauvel Foundation at

[www.chauvelfoundation.com](http://www.chauvelfoundation.com) This opportunity is not just for historians, it is for everyone who is interested in the Light Horse and its history. There are some wonderful, yet untold stories out there - it would be marvellous to read them. The Foundation is already accepting submissions although its official launch is on 11th November 2017.



## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

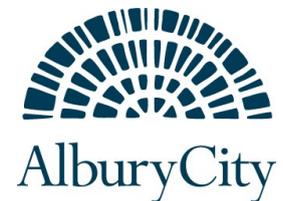
Widely known as CML Corner since 1925, what was the corner of Olive and Dean referred to prior to that time and who was in business on that site?

The corner was known for some time as Daniels' Corner. A G Daniels, one time mayor of Albury, had the drapery store until 1909.

Oliver Gilpin took over in 1913 before the site was sold to Colonial Mutual Life in 1923 for 12,000 pounds.

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Special thanks to the Commercial Club Albury Ltd for supplying a meeting room for many years and also for their continued support. Please click on the logo to access their website.

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**Webmaster:** Greg Ryan

**Meetings:** Second Wednesday of the  
month at 7.30 pm usually at the  
Commercial Club Albury.

The Committee meets on the  
third Wednesday of the month  
at 3 pm at the Albury  
LibraryMuseum.

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