

Albury & District Historical Society

November 2017

No 584

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

www.alburyhistory.org.au

For Membership Payments A&DHS account details are:

BSB 640 000 Acc No 111097776

Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019 ISSN 2207-1237



Wagner's Store

Photograph Courtesy: Jindera Pioneer Museum Website

Next Meeting

**Wed 8 November,
7.30pm Commercial Club
Speaker: Joan Fairbridge**

Joan received the Government Code and Cypher School Bletchley Park medal in recognition of her work as a traffic analyst during World War II.

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

Page 2 Jindera Museum
Page 4 Father Con Twomey
Page 5 Monthly Question

October Meeting not held due to the excursion to the Jindera Museum.

GERMAN FREE SELECTORS (Excerpt From the Border Post, 19 June 1867)

The German free selectors lately arrived from Adelaide have quite changed the face of the country at Dight's forest. Forty of these families have now settled there, and they have lost no time in improving their respective holdings. Substantial brick homesteads are being erected in all directions, as well as dwellings of a less pretentious character. Steps are being taken for the erection of a Lutheran Church and school-house, in the meantime divine service is held at the residence of one of the settlers. Clearing and fencing operations have progressed vigorously, and a great breadth of land has been sown. Trenching for vineyards will be commenced this season upon most of the free selections, for your Teuton believes in having a drop of wine in the cellar where-with to regale his friends and himself. The road to the forest through the gap on the Black Range is now one of the most picturesque drives about Albury, we are glad to see that the municipality have contractors at work upon it, repairing some of the worst places. But we shall soon have to drop the name "Dight's Forest," for this description will no longer be applicable. The huge monarchs of the forest are everywhere being laid prostrate, and the size and soundness of their trunks furnishes evidence of the depth and quality of the soil. Henceforth we suppose the place will take the native name of Jindera; and already there is a talk of forming a township there. In another two or three years Jindera will have become a place of some little note; but even at the present time those who are interested in witnessing the inception of the process by which human energy transforms the wilderness into a smiling valley, and causes the desert to blossom as a rose, will find themselves amply repaid by taking an eight mile drive to Jindera.



VISIT TO THE JINDERA MUSEUM

REPORT BY DOUG HUNTER

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2017

Seventeen members and friends of the A&DHS visited the Jindera Pioneer Museum following an enjoyable luncheon at the nearby Jindera Hotel. Our visit coincided with a very popular swap-meet at the recreation reserve so the hotel kitchen was a little overwhelmed especially as so many ordered the roast of the day. Nevertheless we all were adequately fed before proceeding to the museum. The museum website describes the facility as "consisting of the store and house, two large galleries, authentically furnished slab hut and wattle and daub cottage, a remarkable collection of farm implements and equipment and an 1872 era blacksmith shop, all set in two hectares of grounds."

It is that and more; it is a museum within a museum within a museum. First it is housed in a heritage building, the remarkable 19th century store and home that belonged to the pioneering Wagner family. The 'store' is stocked with authentic goods of the 19th and early 20th century. Residents of 1920, returning in a time-warp, would feel completely at home and ready to place their orders with the shopkeeper behind the counter. Next, passing through the store and into the museum proper, one might be struck with a sudden recollection of visiting a folk museum in one's youth such as Albury's first museum located on the upper floor of what was the Trade School, now the Conservatorium of Music on the corner of Dean and Olive streets. Having approached Mr Combridge, the manager of the building, one would be allowed into the world of dark stained cabinets packed with mineralogical delights, aboriginal artefacts, and furred and feathered examples of the taxidermist's art, and hung around with heavily framed photographs of state and local dignitaries. How better to spend an hour after school. I digress. Jindera has achieved much more than this, but it still retains the antique cabinets and the old style of presentation with many objects on display. Interpretation and ticketing is restrained, allowing the objects to tell their own story. Sometimes ticketing can be tantalising. Two small china figurines it seems have some association with Florence Nightingale. One would like to know more.

But contrast this with the fine interpretation of the late 19th century portraits of British and German royalty. As the display ticket explains these portraits were commonly displayed in Jindera homes when amiable respect for the heritage of both groups of Jindera residents existed, and indeed when close friendship existed between the royal cousins Albert, Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and Kaiser Wilhelm II.

In the grounds behind the store are the other buildings, the machinery shed, the slab hut and the more modern brick building containing works by renowned artist Russell Drysdale who incidentally, officially opened the Museum on 5 October 1968.

In the Drysdale Room, one of our group was pleased to see the fine 'Sessions' mantle clock which had been presented to his grandmother Mrs W Keen & family by Jindera friends in June 1928. The Rosler headstones are hidden gems. Julius' story, his service in the Prussian army, his time in the French Foreign Legion, then a world away his involvement in the Jindera store with his son-in-law Peter Wagner and later his role in the establishment of Henty, is an extraordinary one.

VISIT TO THE JINDERA MUSEUM

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2017

The slab hut which was constructed at the site using materials from three similar structures in the district, shows the spartan conditions under which the pioneers lived. The wash board and the mangle on the porch together with a bullock yoke on the wall are reminders of a time long past. It was a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon for which we thank the volunteers of the Jindera Pioneer Museum.



TIMELINE FROM THE JINDERA PIONEER MUSEUM WEBSITE

1825 - Julius Herman Rosler born at Minden, Germany.

1841 - Peter Christian Wagner born at Oberellenbach, Germany.

1854 - J H Rosler lands in Adelaide.

1864 - P C Wagner lands in Melbourne.

1874 - Rosler and Wagner start a store in Jindera using the present tea rooms as the store and the three rooms behind as the dwelling.

1874 - 1905 First the North Wing of the residence is built, and later the South Wing is added.

1884 - J H Rosler leaves the partnership and starts a store at a site which is now the town of Henty.

1906 - The large cellar beneath the store was excavated in 1906.

1907 - Present store and adjoining storeroom built.

1914 - P C Wagner retires from the store and son Gustav takes over.

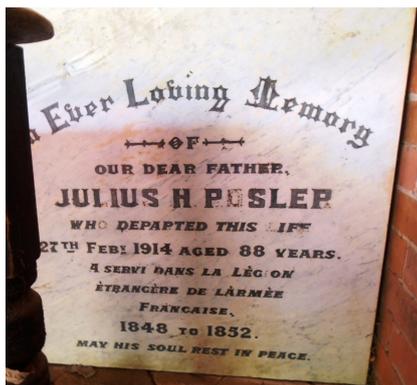
1927 - P C Wagner dies.

1950 - Gus Wagner dies.

1951 - Store sold to Arthur Burdack.

1958 - Store Closed.

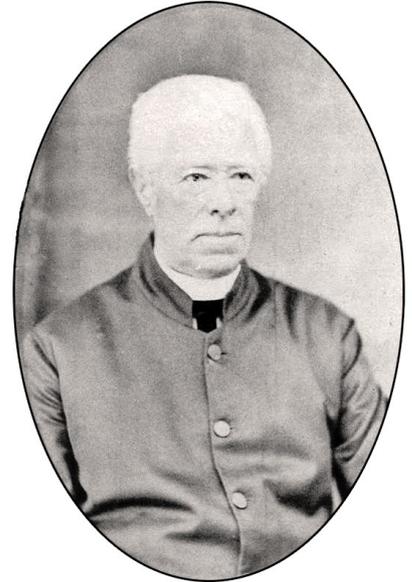
1967 - Jindera Pioneer Museum and Historical Society formed, and the store, residence and grounds purchased and restored to its old world charm by a committee of volunteer workers.



AN ACTIVE CAREER. HENTY. Friday. Julius Herman Rosler, 89, died to-day. He was the oldest settler here since 1888. His father was a general in the Prussian Cavalry. The deceased was a lieutenant in the Prussian Artillery at 18, in 1843 he won the King's prize with the rifle. Owing to taking an active part in a revolution, he left for France and joined the Foreign Legion. He was ship-wrecked and was rescued by a French frigate. Deceased saw much active service being mentioned with distinction. He arrived In Adelaide in 1854, and after travelling about for a number of years settled down here where he has resided ever since.

FATHER CORNELIUS TWOMEY

Father Cornelius (Con) Twomey was Albury's second Catholic Priest. He was born in Ireland in 1824, ordained there in 1852, and arrived Sydney 1853. He served his parishioners in Albury, and an enormous surrounding area from 1857 to 1868. During that time he was instrumental in the construction of churches at Tumbarumba, Albury, Deniliquin, Thurgoona, Bowna and Germanton (Holbrook), some of which were combined church schools. He was transferred to Tumut in 1868 and died in Melbourne in 1882 aged 57. Those who knew him well found him courteous, unostentatious, inoffensive and sincere. He is remembered for when he surprised and delighted a large proportion of his Albury congregation by preaching his Sunday sermon in German after studying the language for four months soon after his arrival in Albury. He also had a fine singing voice.



ALBURY, N.S.W.,

August 22nd, 1862.

My Dear Father Bennett,

Your kind letter, with two of the latest reports of ALL HALLOWS, one for Father Tierney and the other for myself, duly reached me, for which I sincerely thank you. It must indeed be very consoling to all the clergymen who studied in All Hallows, to know that, under Divine auspices, the College has made such a rapid progress. It is now time for me to give an account of my mission. With the assistance of my parishioners, I have erected a beautiful stone presbytery adjoining our church, at a cost of £1,400 or so. The building is capable of accommodating two clergymen, though at present I am the sole occupant. We have certainly some facilities for building purposes in this town, as there is a large range of excellent granite within a quarter of a mile from where I reside. I got a temporary church erected on the Tumberumba gold-field, where I officiate occasionally. The Rev Father Power has now charge of Deniliquin, a town on the Edwards River, formerly visited by me; on the other hand, Wagga-Wagga a town on the Murrumbidgee River, about eighty-five miles from this, has been added to my district. On Sundays I celebrate two Masses at Albury when at home, preach, and instruct the youth. The confessional is attended on week days before Mass, and on Sundays about four in the afternoon. My people, generally speaking, are attentive to their religious duties. We had an efficient choir some time since, but I have discontinued the music and singing until such time as I can make arrangements with some Catholic gentleman to conduct the choir. On Sunday evenings we have night prayer in the Church with the Rosary or the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin. I celebrate Mass at Wagga-Wagga once a month, preach and administer the sacraments there, as often as time permits, during my cursory visits. In order to give all my flock an opportunity of going to the sacraments, I celebrate Mass at the houses of the settlers throughout the district at Christmas and Easter. On those occasions I sometimes travel four or five hundred miles before I return home. It is necessary to adopt this plan, as numbers of the congregation live a great way off and could not attend any of the churches. You cannot imagine what a pleasure it gives them to see a priest even twice a year. I have obtained from the archbishop the privilege to invest in the holy order of Mount Carmel. There are now a good many members in the town and country. It is most edifying to see them approach Holy Communion together. This district has been much benefited by the erection of a jail and hospital. I administer the sacraments in both houses. The doctors give their services to the hospital gratuitously for twelve months.

FATHER CORNELIUS TWOMEY

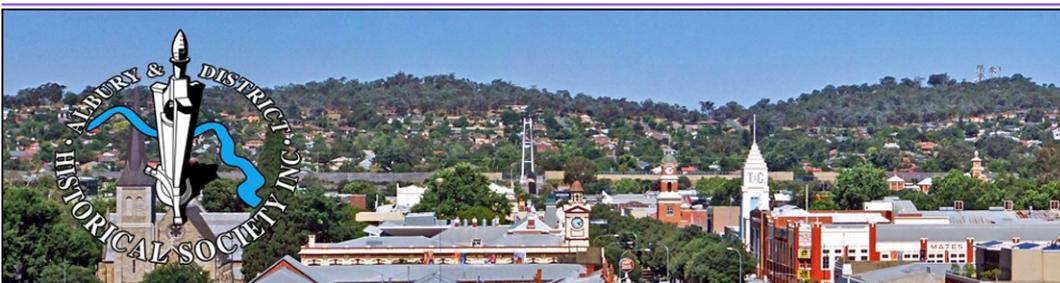
You will be glad to hear that his Grace, the Archbishop, in company with Dean Hanly of Yass, visited Albury on the 18th of last June; confirmation was given on the 22nd. On their arrival at the church gate, which was at night, the German young ladies went in procession, with lighted candles in their hands, into the church, which looked brilliant on the occasion. The Archbishop, after a short exhortation, retired to rest at the presbytery, and indeed he wanted it, as he had travelled four hundred miles from Sydney to this town. The children were well prepared for confirmation. I had the satisfaction to see seventy persons confirmed altogether, a few converts and some adults included. On that Sunday, the Church was crowded to excess. Several Protestants also attended, and were, I am sure, much edified from what they had that day both seen and heard. When all was over, a procession was formed to the presbytery, where the Archbishop made suitable presents to the children just confirmed. On the following Tuesday, Albury was again enlivened, as the Bishop of Melbourne, who was on a visitation through his diocese, came across the Murray to meet the Archbishop.

The rivers Murray and Murrumbidgee are some of the largest in the colony, and are navigable for hundreds of miles. The intercourse from here to Melbourne has been facilitated to a considerable extent, in consequence of a wooden bridge constructed here on the Murray, for the sum of ten thousand pounds. There is also a bridge in course of erection on the Murrumbidgee at Wagga Wagga, which, when completed, will be a great boon to the colonists generally, and particularly to teamsters bound for the Lachlan and Lambing-Flat gold-fields, where we at present get a market for our agricultural produce. Our vintage here is of the first class, and you will be pleased to ascertain that most of our vine growers are sound Catholics from the Rhine. At an exhibition of Victorian wines, some time ago in Melbourne, Albury alone obtained about half the premiums. The Germans say that the soil of Albury is admirably adapted to the cultivation of the vine, the climate is also most genial, and the vines are protected on all sides by hills from excessive heat and cold. The Germans have certainly, by their industry and sobriety at this pursuit alone, realised a handsome independence. The colonists now, generally speaking, prefer our own to any imported wines.

Another great article of commerce has sprung into existence here: I allude to the tobacco plant. A gentleman of this town planted some tobacco seed on his property, a few miles from Albury, he reared the plant with great care, and succeeded in obtaining a premium for it at the late exhibition in Melbourne. The cotton plant has in like manner just attracted our attention here. I dare say in a few years the valley of the Murray will have its cotton plantations. Now that civil war rages in America, I presume many of our English capitalists and artisans will visit our shores and pursue in these colonies that avocation with which they are so well acquainted in all its details. I perceive from your staff of professors that Father Barry is the only one among them with whom I am acquainted. Be pleased then to present him my best respects.

I remain, my dear Father Bennett, Yours, etc.,

CORNELIUS TWOMEY.



Visit our website for photos of old Albury, history articles and much more. Go to: <https://alburyhistory.org.au/>

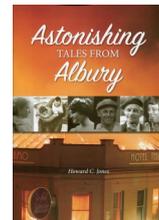


Find us on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Albury.DHS>

ASTONISHING TALES FROM ALBURY:

Howard Jones new book will be launched at the Albury LibraryMuseum on 18 November at 10am by John Walker. The book will retail at \$20 but there will be books available at the November meeting for Society members.



WALBUNDRIE- RIVERINA CROSSROADS

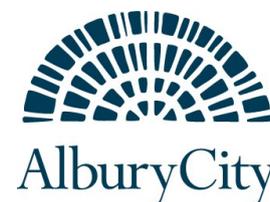
A revised and reprinted edition is available from Leo Coyle at \$20 (Members).
Ph: 60259951

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

British Royalty has been seen in Albury. Who, when and where did they stay ?

A&DHS Corporate Sponsors

Albury & District Historical Society receives generous support from the following sponsors. Please click on the logo to visit their respective websites.



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.

Disclaimer:

The Albury & District Historical Society Inc., and/or its members, through this newsletter, endeavours to provide accurate and reliable information, but does not warrant or make any representation regarding the accuracy or reliability of information contained within this newsletter.

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Society and/or its members shall not be liable for any damages of any kind relating to the use of this information, including without limitation, direct, indirect, special, compensatory or consequential damages, loss of profits or damage to property, even if the Society and/or its members have been advised of the possibility of such damages.

Patron: Patricia Gould OAM

Honorary Life Members:

Howard Jones, Helen Livsey,
June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.

President: Joe Wooding

Vice-President: Greg Ryan

Secretary: Helen Livsey

02 6021 3671

Treasurer: Ron Haberfield

Minute Secretary: Jill Wooding

Publicity Officer: Jill Wooding

Public Officer: Helen Livsey

Committee: Richard Lee, Doug Hunter,
Marion Taylor, Eric Cossor, Ralph
Simpfendorfer

Bulletin Editor: Marion Taylor
marion.taylor7@bigpond.com

Publications & Stock Officer: Ray Gear

Bulletin dispatch: Richard Lee

Meeting Greeter: Jill Wooding

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.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25 Family: \$33

Corporate: \$100

Note: There is a \$10 surcharge
for mailed Bulletins.

Research undertaken, \$25 first
hour. Enquiries in writing with
\$25