

Below is the text of series of articles published in the "Albury Banner" March, April & May of 1924 and available on the Trove Website. Note that Number I is missing.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

(By "Murray.")

Number II

Among Government officers fifty years ago Capt. Marcus F Brownrigg stood out prominently in his position as police magistrate, as well as for his sterling good character. Firm, upright and just in his public duties, he was always among the foremost in any social or charitable movement. He, while having the bearing due to his position as a captain in the navy, was always affable and pleasant with those he met. Having been closely associated with him in many public duties, as well as social functions, the writer felt it not only a pleasure, but also an honour to work with him. His mental and bodily activity, though well on in his eighth decade, made one often forget, his years and admire his constant good temper. He was never happier than when arranging a dance for young people, and many an evening's amusement they had him to thank for. The great day of his year was May 24th, the birthday of Queen Victoria, when beside entertaining friends at his own house he always finished with a ball at the largest appropriate place.

When the first Albury exhibition was held in April, 1879, he was chairman of the committee and very active in promoting its success in many ways. One is glad to be able to note that this exhibition not only paid expenses, but had a substantial surplus.

On his retirement in January, 1882, an address and purse of sovereigns were presented to him and many expressed their sorrow at his departure. His resignation was caused by finding that he could not cope with increased work at 82 years of age. He had then lived in Albury 22 years. He spent his remaining days in Sydney.

Edward Brown, the clerk of petty sessions, etc, was well known as an ardent and capable cricketer. He was a genial companion with a marvellous memory and a thoroughly capable officer. He had many friends. Living in the same house one knew of many a kindness done without a word and he could always be depended on for help, to the extent of his means. He had a selection on the Howlong road which is now part of the Waterview estate. Here he had a hut with a Chinaman in charge and spent his weekends, unless he went further to visit his friends, the Dights, at Bungowannah.

In 1874 J H Wood was the district surveyor and quite an institution in the town. He lived at Holmwood till he built the house now occupied by the Grammar School. He had many friends and was always helpful in any matter connected with his office. It was a time when selection was largely extending and his advice was found valuable by many a settler. He is well and worthily represented in the town at the present day.

How many of your readers will remember J Crommelin, the appraiser of runs. A lively, skittish, lad of 65 or thereabouts, with his ever flowing succession of anecdotes and "titbits" of gossip. Always immaculately dressed in the height of fashion, and endeavouring to maintain the honour of his "blue blooded" English ancestors. He was a great favourite with the squatters he had to visit, and they vied with each other in trying to make his visits as pleasant to him as they were to themselves.

Again his son, J R Crommelin, the inspector of conditional purchases, who while considerate and firm in carrying out his duties, was not endowed with his father's mercurial temperament. He married a sister of Jos Dwyer, the solicitor, and lived in the house next to Holmwood.

James Singleton, inspector of police, had his headquarters at what is now Soden's Hotel. He was a man of strong character closely attending to his duties and generally well liked by those with whom he came in contact.

He was ably seconded by Senior Sergeant Lenthall, noted for his well developed 6 feet 6 inches and handsome face. When he was removed to Sydney he was considered to be the finest man in the force. He did not remain there long, as he inherited an estate in Ireland and retired to that place to spend his remaining years.

C G Norman Lockhart, was inspector of stock and had a large district, entailing almost constant travelling. He lived in a house where now the Presbyterian Church buildings stand. He had a large family, and some of its members have since taken a good position in Sydney. His early death was a source of great regret to a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

H G K Rose was Crown Lands Commissioner and spent most of his time travelling from one to another of the small settlements in his district, where he had to hold courts. He was a quiet, precise gentleman and very attentive to his duties.

James Swyny and his assistant, the jovial Pat Joyce, were in charge of the Custom House. At that time the collection of the border duties was by no means a sinecure, and the collector hardly knew from day to day whether he was to collect or not, as such frequent suspension's and changes in the tariff were made, with very short if any notice. The dispute between the two colonies over the Murray duties was at its height, and it speaks well for the officers that they were popular with the people, notwithstanding their unpleasant work and its uncertainties.

Mr Stone, the Postmaster, was also an institution in the town. He had his office in a small gabled building where the post and telegraph office is now. It had a small garden in front, divided from the street by a low picket fence, and here in any hour of leisure the postmaster was to be seen pacing up and down and whistling softly for his own amusement. He was a man of moods, and it was remarkable how much he could express if anyone came to the office that he did not like, by absolutely ignoring them apparently, while still attending to any business of the moment. But he could never be charged with incivility.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/101521517>

Number III

To one Government officer of that time the people of the Albury district are specially indebted. This was Mr P Dooner the road engineer, to whose efforts the cutting down and making of the new road over the Jindera Gap was due. He also laid out and secured the making of an easy grade over the Western Hill, on the Howlong road. Thus two steep gaps, the scenes of constant mishaps and profanity, were skilfully avoided and carters enabled to take full loads in any weather. Only those who had to travel the old roads can form any idea of the enormous improvement and assistance afforded to the whole district. It is more to Mr. Dooner's credit that when surveying for these improvements he was suffering from serious heart trouble and yet carried out the necessary work on foot. Possibly the very easy grades are partly due to that very circumstance, but his character is shown by his perseverance in such arduous duty, when in a state that most men would have considered absolved them from all exertion. Soon after accomplishing these works he broke down completely and his life was soon terminated. Surely a great loss to the Government and the community at large.

The telegraph master of that day was Mr P W Maguire, whose office was on the site of the present Town Hall, the amalgamation with the Post Office not taking place till long after in

Albury. Mr. Maguire was very soon after succeeded by Mr McGauran. He was a skilled operator and took an active part in furthering the early experiments with telephonic communication between Melbourne and Sydney, Albury being then a repeating station. He was a general favourite and much respected by the residents.

Charles Hookins was head of the Public School, with about 300 names on the roll. He was very popular with the youngsters, and when he was promoted to the position of Inspector of Schools the public generally approved. Quiet, unassuming and well informed, he was a good friend and acquaintance soon grew into admiration and respect. When he retired he went to live in Sydney, where he spent his remaining years. His widow survived till but a short time ago, when she died well over 90 years of age.

Another Government official of that time is worthy of mention. This is Thomas Allen, who held the unenviable position of gaoler. He was naturally a nervous man and the criminal population of the time was much more difficult to deal with than it is now. In addition, the gaol yards were only enclosed by a high paling fence, which had passed its best days and could be seen to shake in a strong wind. The writer has seen Allen when he feared trouble with the prisoners doing "sentry go" with his revolver, outside the fence. He knew well that a rush by three or four determined men would end in overthrowing the fence and was kept in constant anxiety. The building of the present gaol with its substantial walls was an urgent need, and Allen was greatly relieved when he was transferred to another post.

Only one other Government official will be mentioned here. It is John Kennedy, the pound keeper. His office though a minor one, was in those years very important when fences were absent and many travelling stock about. Kennedy was probably the most active and athletic man the writer ever had to do with. His position gave him plenty to do, and not always to the pleasure of those with whom he came in contact. He had many friends as well as others who had no good word to say of him. These latter were mostly those that had been troubled by his attention to his duties, when they wished him absent. He was a strong character, and was well summed up one day by a leading business man who offered to "Back him for £5 to run, fight, or ride against any man of his age in the colony." At this time he was well over 60 years of age, but did not look anything near it.

Now lest your readers should begin to think that none but Government officers were at all prominent in Albury 50 years ago, I will refer to a few others.

The Anglican Church was presided over by the late Rev A D Acocks an active, earnest man, sparing himself no labour to supply the wants of his extensive parish, which stretched from Howlong on the west to the top of Kosciusko on the east. He was assisted by a curate, but at certain periods, had to take long journeys of several weeks, duration to hold services in distant centres. The churches at Thurgoona, Bungowannah, Jindera and Lavington, were greatly due to his exertions, to say nothing of the enlarged Church of St. Matthew's in Albury. He was also active in promoting the start of the Grammar School, and a very strong supporter of the Sunday School, the present building being largely due to his efforts. He was also chaplain to the gaol. Truly a well filled and busy life, with, weak health. His work is still remembered by those of his old parishioners who remain amongst us.

The Catholic Church was in the charge of the Revd. Father McAlroy, to whose efforts the erection of St Patrick's Church and the Convent are due. He also covered a very large district, not confining his work to the town. He established the Boy's School, which, in 1874, was presided over by the brothers Peter and Simon Cullen, and has now developed into the large

school in the charge of the Christian Brothers. Father McAlroy was active in pushing the interests of his people and several local industries owe their origin to his efforts.

The Revd. Giles was in charge of the Presbyterian Church, then in Smollett street. He was an earnest, hard working Minister and popular with his congregation. The writer had little personal acquaintance with him, as he was soon after called to another church in Victoria.

A Revd. Mr. Fry attended to the wants of the Independent Church and held services in the Court House, the church in Swift street not being built till somewhat later. The foundation stone was laid in December, 1874, by the late Mr J F Skinner, the then manager of the Commercial Bank in Albury.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/101521987>

Number IV

Legal talent was represented in Albury by five individuals. Fleming and Bradley were the leading firm, closely followed by Blackmore and Thorold, with Jos. Dwyer as the fifth. G T Fleming appeared to have the lead, and with his partner, George Bradley, did a large practice. Their office was in Dean street, near where Hunter and Stalling's shop stands. Fleming lived at Hautville, near the Murray Valley Vineyard, for many years. Bradley lived in Olive street, in the house so long occupied by Mrs. Vile. Fleming was a man of sterling character and most conscientious in all his dealings. His advice often saved his clients much litigation, even against his own personal interest. His partner, Bradley, was a jovial, happy sport, keen in the office, and had many friends.

S F Blackmore was a quiet, unassuming man, suffering greatly from an impediment in his speech, but a sound lawyer and having much tact he was enabled to carry on a good practice in conjunction with his partner, G C Thorold, for many years. He was the first proprietor of the "Albury Banner," and lived in Wilson street in part of the house now occupied by Dr Wilkinson.

G C Thorold came of a good English stock, and surprised the writer as a young man, by his extensive acquaintance with and ability to aptly quote Scripture on any occasion. Lawyers, then at least, were not credited with much knowledge of the Bible, and when one found that in any conversation but few remarks would pass before he quoted some appropriate text, even though often in a rather sneering manner, one could not but admire the readiness of his mind in suiting the subject.

The other lawyer was Joseph Dwyer, who always looked the picture of contentment. When he walked down Dean street, the style was that of a man who owned the whole place and was proud of the knowledge. He was a somewhat handsome man, and doubtless his manner made others feel more satisfied with themselves when in his company. He did not have a long career in Albury, and later the writer understands was but a rolling stone.

The medical profession was represented by Drs Cobbett, Hutchinson, and Keatinge. Dr Corbett carried on a large and exhausting practice, living in a cottage where now the A.M.P. buildings stand. He had left England for his health and the strain of long journeys, etc., in this new country tried him still more, so that his stay in Albury was only about six years. He then completely broke down and returned to England, where he lived but a short while. He was greatly missed both professionally and as a social unit, as with his good wife he was always ready to assist in any charitable movement or to help any desirable object. He was Government Medical Officer, visiting surgeon to the gaol, and police surgeon. In these offices his services were greatly appreciated and his retirement was cause of considerable regret to all that knew him.

Dr Hutchinson lived at the corner of Swift and Olive streets, in the house that Dr Kennedy so long occupied. He was one of the leaders in the Wesleyan Church, and in spite of a somewhat abrupt manner, carried on an extensive practice, chiefly in the country district. Later he moved to South Australia, and there practised for many years.

Dr Keatinge was almost the first doctor to settle in Albury. He arrived in 1847, and for a time lived at Doctor's Point, but when some brick additions were made to the Hume Inn, he moved there and his family joined him. Later he had a cottage in Townsend street, about where Carew had his boot shop so long. He was a great favourite with children, and a strong supporter of the Catholic Church. He died in 1876, aged 81 years, much lamented.

One of the foremost residents of the time was the late J Walker Jones, the popular manager of the Bank of New South Wales. He had opened the first bank in Albury in 1856, in a two-roomed building on the allotment whereon the present post office stands. This building had several changes. Built first for a court house, it later became the bank, and then for years it was occupied as the lock-up. Mr Jones had been educated as an engineer, but obtaining employment in the bank on his advent to Australia, he showed his capacity by his successful career in that work. He was an ardent cricketer and the soul of many a social function. Under his charge the bank was very popular, and very many of his clients had much to thank him for in the good advice he was always ready to give. Only those closely associated with him can form any idea of the extent of the good he did for many.

J F Skinner was the manager of the Commercial Bank, which then had its office in Townsend street, in the building now known as the Commercial Hotel. He was a quiet little man, very fond of a game of whist, and could always be depended on to assist any good movement. Possibly he erred in being too obliging to his many friends, and later suffered somewhat for his kindness.

The third bank was a branch of the Australian Joint Stock Bank, and the office was in the two-storied building where later Cohen had his jeweller's shop. The manager was the late A S H McKee, a nervous, excitable man, seemingly generally in fear of raids by burglars or bushrangers. The writer remembers one scare that started in his premises when a supposed burglar had been said to have shot at him. The whole street was roused, but after much investigation it was concluded that the only shot fired came from the manager's own revolver, from the inside of the house. In banking matters he was fairly popular and had good support.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/101523493>

Number V

The "Albury Banner" was in 1874 piloted by the late Foster Cooper for the proprietor, Mr George Adams, with an office in Dean street, about midway between Kiewa and Townsend streets and the printing office as at present in David street. It was then the leading local paper with promise of the large development realised in late years. It had already become the chief source of news for the country man, and was eagerly looked for on arrival of the mail.

A little further west, in the two-story building next the Bank of New South Wales, Affleck and Gray, conducted the other paper, "The Border Post." This started in 1856, and passed through several hands, sometimes once, at others issued twice weekly. It finally ceased in 1904. The office file was then presented to the Albury Museum by the remaining proprietor, Mr T Affleck. The latter also had a small property at Lavington Springs, and there made a decided effort to introduce the silk industry, but unfortunately without success, though he secured a medal at the Paris Exhibition, about 1876.

J S Gray was a very quiet unassuming man, who devoted himself to his office duties, and owing to delicate health took but little part in public movements. He lived in a house in Dean street opposite the present Market Reserve, but later removed to Young street, facing the showground.

Who that knew Albury fifty years ago can possibly forget the late Samuel Mudge, the then town clerk. He had a small office partly cut off the "Border Post" printing room, and appeared to feel that all the town and its concerns were in some way his special care. He was prominent in most public functions. As provincial Grand Master of the MUIOOF and in his regalia marshalling the procession to their annual sports on his white horse he was a sight to be remembered. On such an occasion, as looking after children at sports or arranging a public reception of some notable visitor, he was indefatigable in his duties. For one thing he should be remembered, he being the first to plant trees in the streets, making a start in front of his own residence in Olive street, so long known as "Glenair." He was generally the first to be thought of when a secretary was wanted for any movement and the number of offices he held at various times is almost beyond count. He is worthily represented by his son, Mr E F Mudge, at the present day.

The veteran J. H. Paine, who at one time was town clerk and generally known among his friends as "Grand-papa," was another who did yeoman service for the town and district in a quiet unassuming way. The writer understands that he is now in feeble health, highly respected by all that know him. As a true and conscientious Freemason he will be long remembered by his brethren as one that has "marked well."

The commission agents of that time were S C V North, W C Steel, Moore and Waller, and in a smaller way, C Sparrow. Mr North had lived in the town from 1857, and later started as a stock and station agent, soon securing a substantial business. He was always considered to be one of the best judges of a horse ever seen in Albury. However when a wave of depression came over the district, he with many others, suffered severely. Some years after he removed to Sydney, where his last days were spent in quiet retirement.

W C Steel was a grandson of Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell, and had a large connection chiefly among horse owners and racing men. He was very fond of the sport and generally had two or three promising youngsters and possible cup winners in training. After leaving Albury he lived quietly in Melbourne a good many years.

The firm of Moore and Waller consisted of Ogle J Moore and Thos Francis Waller. Moore, before starting in Albury, had for some years owned Dora Dora Station. Their office was in the building next on the west to the Bank of New South Wales. Soon after 1874 the firm dissolved, Moore moving to the opposite side of the street, where Davidson has his shop, while Waller carried on in the old place. In a few years we find Moore moving to a town further north, and in 1879 Waller sold to the late C L Griffith and retired to Sydney, where he was often engaged in various commissions of enquiry.

Charles Sparrow was a kindly, good-natured man, but not possessed of the requisite "push" to make a large business. He had his office in a small building on the allotment now occupied by the Commercial Bank. When the writer last saw him he was keeping the post office at the Granya Diggings, and a favourite with those that came in contact with him.

Among the storekeepers the first that must be mentioned was the late T H Mate. He had settled at Tarcutta in very early days, and combined storekeeping with grazing. In 1849 he opened his store at the corner of Hume and Townsend streets, and his successful career is too well known to require much notice. His business has gradually increased till it stands almost, if not quite at the head of Riverina commercial affairs. His manager, the late W N M Edmondson, was well

known as an ardent musician and active in the early attempts to form a philharmonic association. He also acted as hon. organist of St Matthew's Church for several years. After leaving his position with Mr Mate he started for himself in the Exchange buildings. His house on the western hill, in what was formerly known as "Roper's Paddock," has been for many years a landmark.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/101527089>

Number VI

J T Fallon, in the early seventies, was pushing hard for the introduction of Australian wines on the English market. He had been one of the early storekeepers of Albury, and had acquired a fair property, including the Murray Valley vineyard, the large cellars in Kiewa street and the Globe Buildings. The cellars under the latter he used about 1874, in an attempt to manufacture champagne, but the natural temperature of the place made it impossible to properly mature it. One of the amusements of the time for the small boys was to stand in the street and listen for the "pop-pop" of the bursting bottles. Though unsuccessful in this, he certainly did as much or more than anyone for the favourable recognition of the Australian wine industry. Personally he was a pushing, hard-working man, though considerate of those he employed, and well thought of in business circles.

His brother, P E Fallon, was on the other hand a quiet, placid man, who could well be thought to be of a studious nature, rather than one carrying on a good business, chiefly wholesale, among the country centres. His place of business was just opposite the courthouse in Dean street, and he is well represented by the present owners of the Murray Valley vineyard.

S and J Downie carried on a large store, on the allotment next south of the present gas office, and had a good sound connection among the farmers. Later the business was removed opposite the courthouse. They were men of strict character for honesty, and well thought of by all who dealt, with them.

A little further south, in Kiewa street, Hugh Moffitt had a general store, doing a quiet, sound business. He had already been over 10 years in Albury, and was one of the leaders in the Wesleyan Church. He was ably assisted by his wife, and the estimation in which she was held is shown by her being selected to lay the foundation stone of the Wesleyan Church in 1865. Of him and his family, it can be said without fear of contradiction, that they were esteemed and respected by all. His sterling, honest business principles could always be relied on, and his sons worthily represent him in their turn.

Kenneth McLennan was one of the most popular business men, full of spirits and kindness. His place of business in 1874 was next the present Bank of Australasia. "Hail fellow, well met," with most men, he still adhered to his strict rule of "early to bed, early to rise" in spite of its being directly opposite to the custom of the time. He had an extensive drapery connection, and later moved into the premises still occupied by the firm. His residence was in Kiewa street, and there he would entertain his squatter friends, for whom he kept practically an open house. A canny Scot, he had troops of friends and no enemies.

A E Heath had a large general store in the building next the back entrance of the Globe Hotel in Dean street. He was a quiet, unassuming man, doing a large, sound business among the farming community, and proved a good adviser and friend to many a newly-settled selector. His premature death, a few years later, was a source of regret to many beside his family. By some of the latter he is still well represented in the town.

In 1874 George Day had but lately finished his house in Dean street, now part of the Bank of New South Wales. He had carried on the Fanny Ceres Mill for some years with success. Earlier he was largely concerned in the Yarra Yarra run and other country properties. With his brother James, who lived at Thurgoona, he practically owned all the block on the south side of Dean street between Kiewa and Townsend streets. He represented Albury for years in Parliament, and was prominent in many important movements. Later he removed to Sydney and sat in the Upper House the rest of his days.

The Fanny Ceres Mill, in 1874, was in the hands, of James Hayes. It stood behind the present Beehive Buildings, and dated from 1851, when the late James McLaurin built it. Hayes was a sound and successful business man and the backbone of many an appeal to the charitable. He was associated with his brothers in mills in other parts, and in after years retired to spend his remaining years in Sydney.

Another prominent business man was W J Jones, who combined store-keeping with building and undertaking. From the latter he acquired the name "Coffin Jones," which served to distinguish him from his brother at the Salutation Hotel, the manager of the Bank of New South Wales, the landlord of the Exchange Hotel, and others of the same name in the town. His place of business was at the corner of Dean and Townsend streets, where later Abe Nathan flourished.

At the corner of Smollett and Townsend streets R C Thomson had a good saddler's business. He was noted for the good material and work he put into his products, thereby securing plenty of support. Personally a rather hasty man, the boys at times took pleasure in annoying him in various ways, but he never allowed his feelings to interfere with business.

One prominent, personage has almost been forgotten, and that is F A Selle, who had a large furniture shop opposite the Mechanics' Institute. He also did considerable business in buggies, chiefly among his German confreres. Another branch of his work was undertaking, and in this for some years he was the leader. He amassed a good property, but, unfortunately, did not live to enjoy it long. He died when on a voyage to his native country, and was buried at sea.

Among the hotelkeepers of the time Lewis Jones, of the Exchange, certainly took the lead, though the Globe, under Webb, had the name of being "more select." The Exchange Hotel was one of the oldest in Albury, and still stands in the occupation of the Farmers and Graziers' Co. Jones was ably assisted by his wife and six daughters. The house being the office of Cobb and Co, many coaches stopped there, bringing a profitable business to the place. Visitors were well looked after, and generally were quite satisfied to renew their visits when again in town. The theatre was attached and was largely availed of for dances as well as by visiting companies. Jones was a strictly honest, upright man, whose word was as good as his signature.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/101527730>

Number VII

Cheerful, Louis Duchatel, with his buxom French wife, kept the Criterion Hotel in Hume street, and carried on a quiet, respectable business. This house was converted into a boarding house many years ago, when business left that end of the town and newer houses were opened. The Imperial, in Townsend street, is another that has disappeared, but this time being completely consumed by fire, was kept by Mrs. Kilfoil and her brother. It stood where afterwards Sammons, Edwards and Co. had their office, and was quite a landmark in Albury. It was almost always full and much fun and frolic was to be found there at race time, etc. It was burnt in 1879, so it is probable that but few will now remember it at all.

The most popular boniface of that day was certainly the late Charles Schmiedt. In 1873 he opened business at the bridge, in the building afterwards converted into the brewery. The following year he removed to near the present Bank of Australasia, and in 1875 secured the land and built the Albury Hotel. He was a bluff, jovial man, and soon obtained a large connection and for years was most prosperous. Originally a sailor, his conversation was freely sprinkled with the peculiar expressions common among the seamen of that time. More than one rather amusing instance has been related when his unconscious remarks caused something of a shock to his hearers.

Mrs King kept the Rose Hotel in Kiewa street, and it was noted as a quiet, comfortable house to stop at, being somewhat removed from the busiest parts. The Globe, which at that time claimed to be the only first-class house in the town, was in the hands of a man named Webb, formerly a coach driver for Cobb and Co. The writer often wishes that some of its present day patrons could see it as it was in 1874. The building was much smaller than now and there was no balcony and many of the internal arrangements were most primitive. It was before the day of sewerage or the pan system in Albury, and the yard was surrounded by extensive stabling. The horses and vehicles of a large coaching firm (Crawford and Co) were kept there and either starting or returning at all times of the day and night. A large bar business tended to keep things lively inside. Webb and his wife did what they could to make visitors comfortable and a fair table was kept. There were other so called hotels, but memory does not recall the names of the landlords nor what patronage they secured.

Among the tradesmen of the time, one must mention Luke Gulson, who with his brother, carried on a brick making and pottery works in Macaulay and David streets. Gulson was a man of great energy and made his mark in the town council. He was mayor in 1884. He was a strong supporter of tree planting in the streets, and the final decision of the varieties to be planted in Smollett street, as the approach to the railway station was left to him.

Again, Thomas Plummer, also was a bricklayer working in Olive street, and had a large business till the place was worked out, when he removed to near the railway, lower down the street. The writer understands that he still lives, and is glad to be able to testify to the respect that his sterling, honest life earned for him many years ago. He had a large family and will be long remembered by a large circle.

Another was W E Lamport, a road contractor, etc., who lived in a cottage close to the present railway station, which was resumed for the use of the department. He took an active part in many public movements, and when speaking was always listened to with interest.

Many others might be mentioned, such as Carson, the gardener, in Wilson street, Jordan, the painter, Jos Adams the carpenter, Charles Waite and Samuel Richardson, carriers, always on the road and noted for carefulness of their loading, etc, but time blots out much that might prove interesting and a mere list of names would express little to your readers.

The writer has to apologise for not making more comment on the ladies, many of whom were most enthusiastic in helping their husbands and organising many charitable and other movements. He must leave them with the general statement that their good qualities were too numerous to detail and their actions above criticism. Also he would refer them to the few who still survive, and with the mention of Mesdames Edmondson, Wigmore and Acocks, well stricken in years, will close these fugitive notes on fifty years ago.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/101520300>

A few weeks later, "M.D" wrote in response:

ALBURY IN THE SIXTIES – SOME RANDOM NOTES.

(By M D)

Recently there appeared in the pages of the "Banner" some interesting notes entitled, "Albury Fifty Years Ago," by "Murray." The writer, who would scorn to have had access to documentary evidence, was in the main very correct, so far as my memory goes. Though I have never kept a diary, some notes on the period between 1860 and 1870 (years fraught with issues as momentous as those of any decade since) may be of interest to your readers, particularly in view of the approaching celebration of the centenary of the crossing of the Murray River at Albury. And here I may say that, having spent my childhood days on the spot where the Murray was first crossed, I am now writing from a town in Victoria almost on the route afterwards taken by the explorers on their arduous journey overland.

It was in June, 1860, that with my parents I arrived in Albury, and well do remember that day, though only seven years of age. It was the occasion of the celebration of the first anniversary of the incorporation of Albury as a municipality. And when I see and read of the great progress made by your beautiful town in the 64 years that have elapsed, I cannot help thinking how much you are indebted to the councils and the aldermen of the early days, as also to the pioneers, who, though, not seeking such prominence, did equally good work in laying the foundations for the Queen City of the South and its fertile district. The names of those first aldermen deserve placing on record. They were: — Messrs J T Fallon (mayor for two years), Peter Davis, John Horsley, Lewis Jones, Jas McLaurin, Adam Kidd, John McGall, John Roper, Wm Wise, with Mr S F Blackmore, solicitor, as town clerk. Meetings were held in the Court House on each alternate Wednesday.

Perhaps what impressed this celebration on my memory more than anything else was the manner in which it was carried out. It was a night affair, a procession of young and old parading the streets, shouting, singing, cheering. Tar barrels on fire were rolled along, fireballs thrown about in all directions, and then followed a fireworks display. For those who did not take part in those displays of enthusiasm a banquet was held in a hall at the rear of an hotel in Swift street, about where Dr Woods' private residence now stands. The licensee was, I believe, Mr John Horsley. This hotel, it may be stated, was afterwards occupied as a girls' school, conducted by Mrs Edwards, and later as a grammar school, under the supervision of Mr T P Fenner. I am not sure who was the officer in charge of police then, but Sergeant Patrick was one of the force and Constable H Ringwood another.

In 1863 there was considerable change in the personnel of the council. Mr Blackmore had retired from the position of council clerk, and, having secured a seat at the council table, was elected mayor. The other aldermen were:— Messrs John Nichols, Kenneth McLennan, Lewis Jones, Thomas Bullock, Thomas Field, Charles Murphy, Henry Rau and Arthur Walker. The liquor interest was pretty well represented, there being four hotel-keepers, a brewer and a vigneron. Mr Nichols ("John, the Cash Man," as he was called) kept the Rose Hotel, Kiewa street. Mr McLennan, with a partner (Mr J C Middleton) carried on a stationery, grocery and bakery business in the same street, about where the Albury Hotel sample rooms are. Mr Jones was the licensee of the Exchange Hotel, corner of Townsend and Smollett streets, where there was also the only theatre.

Mr Bullock's brewery was situated in Dean street, where Mr Davidson's saddlery establishment stands. Mr Murphy was a boot-maker in Kiewa street, nearly opposite the Rose Hotel. Mr Field conducted the Horse and Jockey Hotel, corner of Townsend and Hume streets. Mr Rau had a

large vineyard where the police superintendent's residence and the Fire Brigade Station are now situated, his residence being immediately opposite. Mr Walker was the landlord of the Advance Hotel (now Soden's) and later of the Globe Hotel, corner of Kiewa and Dean streets. The most popular of these gentlemen—to the little ones like myself, at any rate—was Mr McLennan, for when sent by our parents for anything in the grocery line we were bound to find our way to his shop, and the genial Mac saw that we did not leave without a few confections. In later years he went out of this business, and went in for drapery, etc, in Dean street, founding the present well-known establishment carried on since his death by his nephew (Mr John Campbell) and his son (Mr Ken McLennan).

The population of the town in 1860 would, I should say, be well under 1000. I suppose it would be nine or ten times that number now. Mail coaches were of course then running from Sydney and from Melbourne, those from the latter place crossing by punt, piloted over the Murray by "Jimmy" Franks, who resided near the entrance to what is now known as Noreuil Park. The route from Sydney was via Goulburn, Gundagai, Germanton (now Holbrook) and Bowna. The contractors for the Germanton to Albury length were Messrs. Sheehan and Garry, and their driver was Jim Brooker, who used to wake us up in the midnight hours with blasts from his bugle as he entered the town. The route in the town which he had to follow was via Wilson street to Kiewa street, down this to Smollett street, thence to Townsend street and the post office, which was in a building next to Mate's old store, and in charge of the late Mr W N M Edmondson. It was afterwards transferred to a building near what was then the Commercial Bank, but is now the Criterion Hotel.

Mr T H Stone then took over the duties of postmaster, but when a new office was erected on the present site (previously nothing but a depot for rubbish, and with a couple of gumtrees growing on it), the late Mr John Gleeson came from Sydney as first letter carrier. Mr Chas Kraegen was in charge of the telegraph office, which was worked conjointly with Victoria whose interests were looked after by Mr E W Deverill. Charges for telegrams were on some sort of a zone system, and a few of these may be of interest as a comparison with those of today. It cost 4/ for 10 words to Sydney and 3d for each additional word; to Goulburn or Yass, 3/6 and 3d; Gundagai or Tumut, 2/6 and 2d; Wagga and Kiandra, 3/ and 3d; Urana, 3/6 and 3d; Deniliquin, 4/ and 3d; Beechworth, Yackandandah, Chiltern, Wahgunyah or Belvoir (Wodonga), 2/ and 2d; Melbourne, 4/ and 3d.

Sir John Robertson's Land Act (free selection before survey), which came into force in 1861, was an important factor in the history of the border districts. The town lost a few residents who resolved to take on farming, etc. Amongst these I bring to mind the Doubleday, Dornans, Munceys, Ellis, Keighrans, and Lesters, most of whom secured blocks on Bungowannah and Dight's forest stations, of which Jindera is now the centre. A fine class of settler was also attracted from Victoria and South Australia, those from the latter State being mostly of German extraction. These generally travelled in parties, carrying their household goods in two-horse waggons with deep sloping sides. It was fortunate for Albury that in these settlers she secured such a fine backbone of settlement for the town, as the years that have since passed have amply proved.

The Act on the whole was a beneficent one, though in the earlier years many undesirable means were used by squatters and speculators to prevent the acquisition of land by any but their own relatives. A story is told of a district station-owner who desired to secure an area which, by its position, would give him complete control of a more extensive tract of country. He and his family had already taken up all they were entitled to. What was he to do? A happy idea struck him. A new arrival was expected any day—whether boy or girl they could not say. So the

squatter came to Albury on land office day (Thursday), and duly lodged an application. This was made out in the name of Francis—on reaching home he learned that the expected one had arrived. But it was a girl. This difficulty, however, was easily surmounted, and the statement that he had made a mistake in the spelling of the Christian name—it should have been Frances—was accepted by the lands officer. A few years' experience led to many anomalies being rectified, and the Act gave a great impetus to settlement throughout New South Wales. The late Mr Geo Adams, proprietor of the "Albury Banner," it may be mentioned, rendered great assistance to probably thousands of new settlers in securing homes in the Riverina.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/101524158>