

# Relative Thoughts

January 2009

Volume 13 Number 1

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Trains on the Fleurieu
- Coincidences In History
- Fleurieu Clergy– Methodists

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## FLEURIEU PENINSULA FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.



Circus Road Train at Willunga c. 1893

Read the story of our cover picture on page 10

CONTACT US !!

#### FLEURIEU PENINSULA FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

#### The Secretary

Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc. PO Box 1078, Christies Beach North, South Australia 5165

President: (08) 7288 1092 E-mail: fleurpengroupinc@yahoo.com.au

Website Address: http://www.rootsweb.com/~safpfhg

#### MEETINGS

<u>Monthly Meetings</u> are held on the third Saturday of each month from January–October at 1:30 p.m. Resource room open from 12:00 each meeting day.

<u>The Annual General Meeting</u> is held on the third Saturday in November commencing at 1:30 p.m. Committee elections are held annually at this time.

Special Interest Group Meetings are held monthly. Contact the conveners for dates and venues:-

<u>Aussie Group</u>—Meets at 1:30 pm on 2nd Saturday monthly—convener Ros Dunstall 8386 2664.

**<u>English Interest Group</u>**–Meets at 2:00 pm on Thursdays monthly–convener Keith Jones.

Irish Interest -contact Tim Wing 8382 3406.

<u>Scottish Interest Group</u>—Meets Tuesdays—convener Ann Dow.

**Daytime Computer Group**—Monthly on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm—convener David Boyce.

**Evening Computer Group**—Monthly on Mondays at 7:30 pm—convener David Boyce.

<u>Brick Walls</u> —contact Tim Wing on 8326 3406 for assistance.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

#### Family Membership-\$25.00

Single Membership - \$20.00

#### Joining Fee-\$5.00

This fee applies to both types of membership.

Fees and subscriptions should be paid to the Treasurer prior to the Annual General Meeting each year.

President:-Keith Jones Phone: (08) 7288 1092 Email: <u>kijones2008@optusnet.com.au</u>

<u>Vice President:-</u> **Di Roberts** Phone: (08) 8382 9604 Email: <u>diroberts@adam.com.au</u>

<u>Secretary:-</u> **Ros Dunstall** Phone: (08) 8386 2664 Email: <u>rdunstall@picknowl.com.au</u>

<u>Treasurer:</u>- **Colin Talbot** Phone: 8382 1938 Email: <u>cbtalbot@sa.chariot.net.au</u>

Journal Editor:-Julie Stokes Phone: 0450 006 130 Email: jks58@adam.com.au

<u>Webmaster:-</u> Heather Boyce Phone: 0411 420 659 Email: <u>haboyce@adam.com.au</u>

#### Committee Members:-

Nola Clisby Email: <u>arno29@bigpond.net.au</u> Phone: 8382 0245

#### **Bob Beaton**

Email: rbeat@cobweb.com

#### Sharon Green

Email: cgreen@chariot.net.au

#### Lyn Dillon

Email: fleurpenlynn@yahoo.com

PUBLISHING

This Journal—'Relative Thoughts'—is issued quarterly to members. Items for inclusion should be submitted to the Editor by the end of March, June, September and December.

FPFHG shall not be held responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by the authors of submitted materials, nor shall FPFHG vouch for the accuracy of any genealogical data, offers, services or goods that appear herein.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any articles proffered for publication.

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### **Out-Going President's report**

In January 2008 I was Vice President of the FPFHG, but due to unforseen circumstances I became Acting President of the group which has about 148 members.

I would really like to thank each and every one who attended the meetings during 2008. Thank you for your support and encouragement. You are the ones that have made this strong by uniting with everyone to improve our group.

The committee have done a lot of hard work over the year and many changes have occurred. Our library has expanded and changed somewhat, making it easier for members to access information. We are still updating much of our information as this will be an ongoing occurrence.

We have enjoyed listening to many interesting speakers over the year and I'm sure 2009 speakers will be just as interesting. We have tackled many topics of interest.

Thank you very much to the committee and the group for all the united help we have received.

I am looking forward to being Vice-President for 2009.

Many Thanks Di Roberts Outgoing Acting President

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#### **INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It is with pleasure that I write my first report since our AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> November. I would like to thank the members for the confidence that they showed in me in electing me as President for the next 2 years.

The group & I are fortunate in having a very strong diversified team in the new committee. I can assure you that every one of us will do our best to carry out the wishes of the membership & make decisions we trust will be in the best interests of the group.

We already have an excellent number of speakers slotted in for next year & we have out-going committee member Vanessa Catterall to thank for compiling this list. It would be remiss of me if I did not thank her for her contribution to the Group, together with other retiring Committee members Barry Maslin & Jeanette Bell. All these people have given sterling service to the group over a number of years. They are all remaining members of the group & I am sure will still contribute in various ways.

Heather Boyce has made a very generous offer to provide us with a new computer which will have more ram & more hard disk drive space which will enable us to make better use of the resources we currently hold & those which will be procured in the future. Sharon Green and her husband Chris have indicated that they intend to donate a 17" LCD monitor which will be a great improvement. It is most pleasing to see both these new committee members making such generous donations.

I should also welcome other new Committee members, Lyn Dillon & Bob Beaton who will both make their own contributions in different ways.

Ros Dunstall should receive our gratitude for withdrawing from the ballot for President & agreeing to nominate for secretary again. Without a secretary the committee's job becomes impossible.

Joan Jones, Jeanette Bell & Di Roberts have spent a considerable amount of time recently in the library, sorting & compiling revised lists of the 500 plus books & other material which the Group has in it's possession. Much work is still to be done & any help with that venture or any other facet of our operations is always welcome eg. the preparation of afternoon teas.

The New Year is with us & may I take the opportunity to wish you all well for the coming 12 months. If you have suggestions for the betterment of the group please do not hesitate to discuss them with myself or any other member of the Committee.

With Best Wishes

Keith Jones President

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### ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

		A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC OVEMBER 2007 TO 31 OCTOBER 200	08
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RECEIPTS	Actuals	PAYMENTS	Actuals
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Operational items	
Operational items	1,252.50	Audit fees	31.75
Subscriptions 2008	1,252.50	A.G.M. Expenses	124.05
nterest	1.31	Bank fees	8.00
nterest	1.017	Postage	230.50
		Stationery	82.65
		Guest speakers	174.00
		Printing	445.16
		Insurance	887.50
		Subscriptions	40.00
Fund raising		Refreshments	12.85
Frading table	733.30	Equipment	1,176.00
Holiday raffle (07)	362.00	Raffle costs	30.00
Quiz night	557.15		
Monthly raffle	478.80	Books & magazines	418.31
Tea money	373.85		
Sale items		Cost of Sale items	
PRO vouchers	72.00	PRO vouchers	0.00
Wall charts	95.00	Included in printing cost	
Viscellaneous		Miscellaneous	
City of Onkaparinga grant	1,123.00	City of Adelaide donation	100.00
Donations	458.55	Hall rental	982.40
Sundry receipts	80.00	Presidential allowance	200.00
ABC visit	275.00	Sundry expenses	252.39
Advance items		ABC entry fee	123.00
Subscriptions 2009	415.00		
Total receipts	6,277.46		5,318.56
Balance 1 November 2007	2,113.67	A/C balance 31 Oct 2008	3072.57
		Cash on hand	0.00
	8,391.13	Total	8,391.13
Total	8,391.13	lotai	0,391.14
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Drea	m saver account	
Receipts		Payments	
Balance 1 November 2007	2160.9@		Nil
nterest	66:96 /		0 007 00
Total	2,227.86	Balance 31 Oct 2008	2,227.86
	and the second se	ed balance 31 Oct 2008	
General account			3,072.57
Dr	eamsaver acc	ount	2,227.86
DOM A.	Total		5,300.43
Bildnaplin	1		
Barry Maslin, Hon. Treasurer	T	6 Nov 2008	
I hereby certify that I have exa	mined the fina	ncial records for the Fleurieu Peninsula	
Family History Group Inc for th	e year 2007/2	008 and found them, in my opinion, to	
be a true and accurate record.	VY III		
	MANICA	MACN . 11/11/08	
K.Morrison, Honorary Auditor,			

#### AGM ELECTIONS

The New Committee for the coming terms are -

President - Keith Jones

Vice President – Di Roberts

Secretary-Ros Dunstall

Treasurer- Colin Talbot

Journal Editor-Julie Stokes

Webmaster-Heather Boyce

Committee Members—Nola Clisby, Sharon Green, Lyn Dillon and Bob Beaton.

Note—Colin Talbot offered his services as Treasurer after no nominations were forthcoming at the AGM. The elected Committee have co-opted him to the position as of a special committee meeting held 3 January 2009.

#### NEW MEMBERS

This issue we would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:-

**Chaye Oliver** 

Lynette Gibson

Klaus Bachmann

**Bob Stupple** 

Joan Davies

Lynette Elford

Faye Hayes

#### LATE MAIL

The annual get together of the **Barwell Boys & Little Brothers Scheme Descendants** will be held on March 25th. All descendants of participants in these schemes welcome. Contact Nola Clisby for further details.



Your Committee for the coming period -L to R front: Lyn Dillon, Julie Stokes (back), Keith Jones, Heather Boyce (back), Ros Dunstall, Nola Clisby, Sharon Green, Di Roberts, Bob Beaton. (missing is Colin Talbot)

#### UPCOMING SPEAKERS

January: 17 Elspeth Grant–South Australia's British Farm Apprentices of 1913-1914

February 21: Patrick Guilfoyle-Shipping

March 14: LDS Family History Centre trip

March 21: Andrew G. Peake-Sources for SA History

April 18: Mark Staniforth-Inconstant girls

May 16: Nicolas Grguric-Noarlunga Volunteer Rifles

May 30: History Week Seminar—4 speakers including Graham Jaunay, Di Bellamy, and 2 others yet to be decided upon.

June 20: Georgina Bliss-Fishers lost at sea

July 18: to be announced

August 15: to be announced

September 19: to be announced

October 17: to be announced

November 21: AGM-to be announced

Phone (08) 8382 0245

#### TRANSPORTATION ON THE FLEURIEU

Before the days of fast cars, helicopters, jet planes and other forms of modern transport, people moved from place to place by means of horse drawn carriages and buggies, walked, or caught a train. In those days—just on a hundred years ago—rail travel was the easiest way to get from Adelaide to the southern areas and the towns on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

There were two main lines to the southern areas—the Victor Harbor line and the Willunga line. Of these, the line to Victor Harbor was opened quite a number of years before the one to Willunga. There were stations and sidings dotting the landscape from place to place along both lines. Today, the Willunga line terminates at Noarlunga, whilst the Victor Harbor line is now used only in the cooler months of the year by the Steam Ranger Heritage Railway which runs between Mt Barker and Victor Harbor.

#### The Willunga Line

In its heyday, the Willunga line boasted some sixteen stops along the way. These were the stations and sidings on that line, and their respective geographical locations at points south of Hallett Cove -

**Patpa**—believed to have been at a crossing of what is now known as Lander Road.

**Happy Valley**—located 300 metres north of the South Bridge over the railway near Reynella.

**Reynella**—located at the south end of the town where the present day bus interchange is situated.

Pimpala—located at the Pimpala Road railway crossing.

Coorara-located at the Bains Road railway crossing.

**Morphett Vale**—located just to the south of Wheatsheaf Road.

Yetto-located at the Doctor's Road railway crossing.

**Hackham**—located just to the south of the South Road railway crossing.

Korro–located at the River Road crossing.

**Noarlunga**—Located between the Onkaparinga River bridge and Seaford Road. A large palm tree marked the place for many years.

**Moana**—located just to the north of where present day Griffiths Road crosses the old railway reserve.

Tuni-located at the present day Victor Harbor Road



Train on the Willunga line at the opening of the line in 1915. The line officially closed in 1954. [Photo courtesy of the State Library's Searcy Collection]

crossing of the railway reserve.

**McLaren Vale**—located on land bounded by Semmens Road and Railway Terrace.

**Pikkara**—a stopping place located near the McMurtrie Road railway crossing.

**Taringa**—a stopping place close to the Binney Road railway crossing.

Willunga-at the location of the Willunga Railway reserve.

Today, most of these sidings are closed and the railway terminates at Noarlunga Centre.

#### The Victor Harbor Line

On the Victor Harbor line, there were 29 stations, stops and sidings, starting at Mt Barker Junction where the line joins the main Adelaide to Melbourne line. The stops on this line were—

**Mt Barker Junction**—located on the Balhannah— Littlehampton Road, just out of Balhannah.

Littlehampton—located near to where the Littlehampton Brick Company is today.

**Mt Barker**—located at the junction of Gawler Street and Railway Terrace, the station still operates today as part of the Steam Ranger project. [Your editor lived in the Station Master's house—now demolished, in 1977/78].

**Wistow Siding**—there was a siding at Wistow in the early days of the line, on the Fidler Road crossing, but it has long since disappeared from any maps or records.

Phillcox Hill-a siding near Wistow at the top of the longest

#### TRANSPORTATION CONT...

uphill climb on any track in the state.

**Murapena**—a siding only a short distance from the Phillcox Hill stop.

**Bugle Ranges**—approximately a mile further along the track from Murapena.

**Nonedia**—located at a railway crossing off the main Wistow to Strathalbyn road.

**Gemmells**—located at a crossing on the road that runs through property that belonged to the Gemmell family.

Panketyi-a siding on the Highland Valley Road crossing.

**Strathalbyn**—located on the Victor Harbor Road on the south side of the town.

**Strathalbyn Racecourse**—a siding adjacent to the Strathalbyn Racecourse. Trains would stop there on race days only.

Lowana–Situated at the Lowana Road crossing and accessible from Brookdale Road, off the main Strathalbyn–Victor Harbor Road.

Sandergrove-situated just near Sandergrove township.

Finniss-situated near the locality known as Finniss.

**Gilberts**—located about a mile or so south of the Finniss siding.

**Black Swamp**—located immediately south of the bridge across the Tookayerta Creek. This was a major watering stop in the days of steam.

**Murtonga**—located on the main Goolwa to Adelaide Road right near the Canoe tree.

**Moonoerp**—located at the level crossing on Adelaide Place at Currency Creek.

Wirlpana—located at the Goolwa to Mount Compass road crossing. This was the junction of the Strathalbyn to Middleton horse railway and the steam railway to Goolwa. The formation of the old horse railway can still be seen today.

Goolwa-located in the centre of the town.

**Tarooki**—located at Goolwa Oval opposite the Methodist Church and was probably last used in 1954 when the Centenary of Railway was celebrated.

**Tinbalang**—located at the Houlden Road crossing, a short distance from the old Goolwa Cemetery on the corner of Kessel and Houlden Roads.

**Middleton**—located in the centre of the town.

Parangal-located at the Basham's Beach Road crossing.

Port Elliot-located in the centre of the town.

Adare-located at the end of the driveway to a property named 'Adare'.

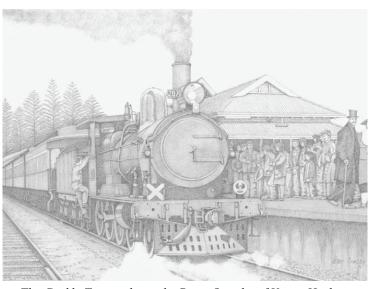
Victor Harbor–located at the northern end of the town and is the terminus for this line. The station operates today as part of the Steam Ranger project.

Today, the only trains that run on the Victor Harbor line are those belonging to the Steam Ranger Heritage Railway project and the celebrated Cockle Train. During the cooler months, Steam Ranger locomotives haul passengers from the Mt Barker station to Victor Harbor on day trips, while the little Cockle Train runs from Goolwa to Victor Harbor for most of the year & worth the trip if you are down that way.

I would like to thank *Mr. Anthony Presgrave* of Goolwa and the National Railway Museum for providing me with the information for this article. I would also like to thank *Mr Peter Ormsby* for the use of his beautiful drawing of the Cockle Train used to illustrate this story.

The National Railway Museum is at Lipson Street, Port Adelaide and their website is at <u>www.natrailmuseum.org.au</u>. The Steam Ranger Heritage Railway is at Mt Barker and can be contacted by phone on 1300 655 991 - their website is at <u>www.steamranger.org.au</u>

Peter Ormsby's railway artworks can be found at <u>www.steamtrainartist.com</u> or he can be contacted at PO Box 836 Victor Harbor SA 5211, phone 08-8552 6456.



The Cockle Train-drawn by Peter Ormsby of Victor Harbor

#### FAMILY REUNIONS

**STOKES**—Descendants of Joseph Stokes & Ann Adams of Mt Barker & Wistow. To be held on Australia Day—26 Jan 2009 at Keith Stephenson Park, Mt Barker—BYO Barbeque gear & drinks (the park is a Dry Zone). Contact Lorna Stokes (08) 8391 5709. All welcome—meet near the Tim Stokes memorial barbeque at 12:00 noon. Further information and directions to the location available from Julie Stokes at jks58@adam.com.au if required.

**KERNEWEK LOWENDER**— For all those with Cornish connections, the festival will be held 11th—17th May 2009 in the Copper Triangle. Details available on their website—www.kernewek.org (book your accommodation now or you may miss out all together)

#### NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

We received notification late last year (2008) that the **National Archives office in Adelaide** will be opening their **Angas Street reading room** as follows:-

9:00am – 1:00pm Saturday 31 January 2009 Saturday 28 March 2009 Saturday 30 May 2009 Saturday 25 July 2009

#### Saturday 19 September 2009 Saturday 21 November 2009

Records required on Saturdays should be ordered 2 days prior to your attending. For further information phone 08 8409 8400.

The National Archives office in Adelaide is at 78 Angas Street, Adelaide.

#### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Due to health & other issues, some of our regular volunteers on meeting days are unable to continue to carry out the various services that they have been providing constantly for a number of years. For this reason, we are seeking other members to volunteer a couple of hours of their time to help out wherever possible on meeting days.

In particular we need someone to coordinate the afternoon teas—Jeanette Bell has been doing this continually and requires some assistance. As she will not be available for every meeting this year, she is willing to train someone if need be—see Jeanette in the kitchen at the next meeting you attend.

Joan Jones has been working in the library for quite a while and needs some help in filing, cataloguing and so on. If you can spare some time—see Joan in the Resource Room on meeting days. John Bell has done a wonderful job with the PA system over the years. He is in need of a break if someone could help out there it would be great—John has prepared a "How To" manual for whomever would like to help.

There will be a requirement for a number of volunteers to help out during the History Week Seminars in May. Please indicate your willingness to assist to Ros Dunstall or one of the other Committee Members. A more detailed description of what will be required will be published closer to the date.

The Committee is made up of only 10 people. We can't be in all places at all times. We need the support and assistance of our members to make the Group the success that is has been and we trust will continue to be into the future.

So put your hand up and be counted... There is great satisfaction in volunteering.

#### FLEURIEU CLERGY-METHODISTS

The following learned Gentlemen were Methodist Ministers in churches on the Fleurieu Peninsula from the beginning of Methodism in SA until 1889 as recorded by Martin Dyson, The Parsonage, Drysdale, VIC, 1889 (Note there are later dates included as well)

Note also that some Ministers served in more than one Fleurieu Church.

#### Yankalilla Methodist Church

1857 Bennett, Nathaniel 1858 Bennett, William M. 1859 Burgess, Henry T. 1860 Bath, Henry 1861-1862 Goldsmith, Charles H. 1866-1868 Edmeades. Thomas 1869-1871 Newman, Charles T. 1872-1874 Worth, William S. 1875-1877 Read, James 1878-1880 Rowe, Thomas M. 1881-1883 Watts, John 1884-1886 Hanton, Walter H. 1887-1889 Barber, Edward 1890-1892 Angwin, Thomas Britton 1893-1895 Hall, George 1896 Hodge, William

#### Goolwa Methodist Church

1862 Allen, James 1863 Wylie, David S. 1866 Watsford, James J. 1867 Newman, Charles T. 1868 Spence, Joseph 1869 Thomas, Paul C. 1870-1871 Worth, William S. 1872-1874 Allen, James 1878-1879 Read, James 1883-1885 Wylie, David S. 1886-1888 Goldsmith, Charles H. 1889-1891 Bray, Albert W. 1892-1894 Nairn, John 1895 Read, James

#### Mt Barker Methodist Church

1851-1853 Dare, Joseph 1855-1857 Flockart, Robert C. 1858 Ussher, Peter R.C. 1858-1859 Williams, John Spencer 1863-1865 Lloyd, Thomas 1866-1868 Goldsmith, Charles H. 1869-1871 Edmeades, Thomas 1875 Worth, William S. 1876-1877 Laurance, Thomas Clarke 1878-1880 Allen, James 1881-1882 Stubbs, Albert 1883-1885 Thomas, Paul C. 1884 Wheatley, George E. 1885 Kendrew, George W. 1886 Nicholls, Jonathan J. 1886-1888 Kelly, Robert 1889-1890 Hopkins, Joseph 1891-1892 Rowe, Thomas 1893-1895 Mather, W. Benson 1896 Allen, James Clarendon Methodist Church

1855-1856 Bennett, Nathaniel 1861-1863 Bennett, William M. 1864 Ussher, Peter R.C. (part year only) 1865-1867 Allen, James 1868-1869 Worth, William S. 1870-1871 Spence, Joseph 1872-1874 Nicholson, Joseph 1875-1877 Allen, James 1880-1882 Thomas, Paul C. 1883-1884 Stubbs, Albert 1885-1886 Mather, W. Benson 1892 Haslam, James

#### Willunga Methodist Church

1852 Symons, John Christian 1852-1856 Harcourt, John 1860-1862 Flockart, Robert C. 1863-1865 Goldsmith, Charles H. 1866-1868 Burgess, Henry T. 1869-1871 Greer, John S. 1870 Allen, James 1872-1873 Edmeades, Thomas 1874-1876 Haslam, James 1880-1882 Rofe, William H. 1883-1885 Goldsmith, Charles H. 1886-1888 Langsford, John D. 1889 Teague, H. Henwood 1890-1892 Rooney, Isaac 1892-1894 Stubbs, Albert 1895-1896 Perry, Isaiah

These may help someone work out who the ministers were that officiated at burials, marriages and baptisms in these areas.

#### RESOURCES & JOURNALS

New Journals since October 2007:-

 Journals received from—Tweed Gold Coast; Wyalong District; Caloundra (including members' interest supplement); Kensington & Norwood; South East (SA); Busselton; Adelaide & Northern Districts.

Resources since October 2007:-

 New Zealand Marriage Index 1836-1956; NZ Genealogical Index Vol 5

#### VALE IRENE WHITEHEAD

It is with great sadness that we advise members of the passing of Irene Whitehead (Janson/Jankovsky) of Willunga on 7th January aged 88 years. Our sympathies to her family

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Sir Douglas Mawson, famous Antarctic explorer, appeared in the Morphett Vale Court on Friday, 13 September 1929, charged in relation to a motor vehicle accident that he was involved in on Tapleys Hill Road at O'Halloran Hill on Sunday 21st July the same year. He had been visiting the Kuitpo Mills with member of parliament Mr. Anthoney, when he attempted to pass a wood carrying wagon, and Mr. Hunt's vehicle appeared in front of him. Both vehicles swerved and then collided with Mr. Hunt's vehicle being overturned. The occupants of the Hunt's vehicle sustained cuts and abrasions, as did Mr. Anthoney. Sir Douglas received no injuries at all and left Adelaide the next day to embark on his famous Antarctic Expedition.

#### WHAT'S ON THE COVER THIS ISSUE

#### When The Circus Came to Town

From around the mid 19th Century, Circus performances were one of the only "family" oriented forms of entertainment to be had. From Robert Avis Radford's first circus in a timber building next to the Horse & Jockey Inn in Launceston, Tasmania in 1847, to the start spangled events presented by Cirque du Soleil today, the smell of grease paint and sawdust have thrilled children of all ages for centuries.

Over the years, Australia has been home and host to a number of well known and world renowned circus troupes — Ashton's, St. Leon's, Sole Bros., Perry Bros., Bullen's, Fitzgerald Bros., and Wirths to name but a few.

In the early days, the circus came to town on horseback, by camel train, by wagon, and if there was a railway line, by train. Wirth's circus had a steam engine that ran on the road and pulled a group of wagons behind it, like the one on our cover this issue.

During the last few years of the 19th Century, some of the more famous American and British circuses visited Australia, but these mostly only went to the capital cities—names like Cooper & Bailey and Chiarini's Royal Italian Circus came to town. At the height of their popularity in Australia, there were no less than 17 separate circuses on tour around the country at any given time.

It is interesting to note that the Circus industry is very similar to a large family tree. In fact it could be said that most of the better known circuses of our time are all related, and in fact they were. There were many marriages between circus families over the years— Ashton's with Wirth's; Ashton's with St. Leon's; Bullen's with Wirth's and so on. Even today some of the top circus families are related to one another—the Gassar family of Circus Royal and Silvers' Circus— a member of this family also runs the Lipizana Dancing Horse School in Perth. Mervyn King, who was a lion tamer with Wirth's circus, later married Emily Kear who worked with Silver's circus. Mervyn King became the owner of Silver's in the 1950's and his daughter married Anton Gassar.

I don't know anyone who has ever been to a circus who hasn't been glued to their seats from the first moment until the last of any performance. There is something truly magical about a visit to the circus.

[Mark St. Leon 5th generation Circus performer & historian]

#### PAGES IN TIME

#### Register

August 4th 1866

Yankalilla

[From our own Correspondent]

#### Yankalilla August 1st

Another of the numerous accidents connected with building occurred here on Thursday last (26th). As Mr George Roads, of this place, was engaged in fixing the slates on the roof of Mr Butterworth's new house the scaffolding on which he stood gave way, and he fell to the ground, a distance of about 17 feet, breaking his right arm a little above the wrist, and otherwise injuring himself severely.

Alarm has been created in this neighbourhood by several attempts at robbery and one or two actual perpetrations during the dark nights. At first it was supposed to be attributable to the numerous loafers and vagabonds who are being driven out of town by the police; but the opinion now is that some local worthies are guilty. The police are on the alert.

The contract for our new jetty having been taken, and the highly promising appearance of our Gorge Mine, gave sanguine hopes that ere long business will be in a flourishing state in Yankalilla.

The Jury on the late Mr Bryant assembled again on Saturday last. The Coroner read them the result of the analysis by Messrs. Thomas and Ey of Adelaide, which was somewhat lengthy. The following is the gist of it-"The result of our examination must be that though there are distinct evidences of the presence of morphia and its acid, with antimony, the question is whether they were there in more than medicinal doses. The quantity found of the latter metal distinctly says not; while the fact of laudanum having been administered shortly before death will account for the presence of the others." The Jury asked permission to have time allowed them to consult. At the end of about two hours the public were again admitted, and the following verdict read-" The Jury are of the opinion that Mr George Bryant, of Normanville, died of apoplexy, but the majority are of opinion that such disease was brought on by trouble and anxiety of mind." The Coroner-Gentlemen, it is usual in these cases to say-"We are of opinion that the deceased died of such and such disease, and from no other cause." The Foreman (Mr. Lewis) - "We have recorded a verdict according to the evidence we have been able to procure, and we are not disposed to make such addition."

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#### Register

August 29 1866 Births, Marriages & Deaths BARBER— On the 7th August, at Goolwa, the wife of Captain W. Barber, of a son.

GREGORY-On the 24th August, at Hopeview Farm,

Hindmarsh Island, the wife of Mr. R. Gregory, of a son, Both doing well.

**NICHOLLS**—On the 11th August at Wellington, River Murray, Mrs. S.F. Nicholls of a son.

**MEADOWCROFT–LEWIS**—by license at St George's, Magill, by the Rev. T.R. Neville, John Meadowcroft of Goolwa to Eleanor, youngest daughter of Mr. Robert Lewis of Echunga.

**RENISON-READ**—On the 31st July at the Manse, Strathalbyn, by the Rev. J. Anderson, John H. Renison to Agnes P. Read, both of Long Valley.

**HILLIER**—On the 26th July at her residence, Bull's Creek, Martha, beloved wife of Mr. Moses Hillier, aged 44years, deeply regretted by a numerous circle of friends.

**WALD**—On the 14th August at Yankalilla, of consumption, Robina, the wife of Alexander Wald, late of Kirkwall, Orkney, aged 42 years.

**WALLIS**—On the 23rd July at Noarlunga, John Wallis, in the 74th year of his age.

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#### Register

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**LAURIE**—On the 17th July at Southcote, Port Elliot, Mrs. Laurie of a daughter.

**BUCKHURST—STOCKWELL**—On the 2nd July, by license, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. T. Elmeades, Alfred, only son of Mr. G. Buckhurst of Normanville, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr John Stockwell of Belvoir, Yankalilla.

**DAVIES—CORNELIUS**—On the 8th July at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. H.T. Burgess, Mr. William Davies to Emily, second daughter of Mr. James Cornelius, both of Willunga.

**BOUNDY**—On the 5th July at Inman Valley, Kitty, the third daughter or the late John Boundy, aged 32 years.

**BRYANT**—On the 8th July at Normanville, Mr George Bryant, aged 33 years [*Editor's Note*—refer story at left, 4th paragraph.]

**MAIDMENT**—On the 18th June at Strathalbyn, Esther Fanny, relict of the late Mr Charles Maidment, aged 66 years.

**RICH**—On the 24th June at Port Elliot, after a long and sever illness, borne with most exemplary patience and Christian fortitude, Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Alfred and Bridget Rich, aged 20 years.

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#### GUIDE TO HIRING WOMEN IN 1943

The following is an excerpt from the July 1943 issue of Transportation Magazine. This was written for male supervisors of women in the workforce during World War II.

Eleven Tips on Getting More Efficiency Out of Women Employees: There's no longer any question whether transit companies should hire women for jobs formerly held by men. The draft and manpower shortage has settled that point. The important things now are to select the most efficient women available and how to use them to the best advantage.

Here are eleven helpful hints on the subject from Western Properties:

- 1. Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters, they're less likely to be flirtatious, they need the work or they wouldn't be doing it, they still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently.
- 2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. It's always well to impress upon older women the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
- General experience indicates that "husky" girls those who are just a little on the heavy side—are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
- 4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination—once covering female conditions. This step not only protects the property against the possibility of lawsuit, but reveals whether the employee-to-be has any female weakness which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.
- 5. Stress at the outset the importance of time the fact that a minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules. Until this point is gotten across, service is likely to be slowed up.
- 6. Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they'll keep busy without bothering management for instructions every few minutes. Numerous properties say that

women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but that they lack initiative in finding work themselves.

- 7. Whenever possible, let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
- 8. Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.
- Be tactful when issuing instruction or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they can't shrug off harsh words the way men do. Never ridicule a woman—it breaks her spirit and cuts off her efficiency.
- 10.Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she'll grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.
- 11. Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point can't be stressed too much in keeping women happy.



#### COINCIDENCES IN HISTORY

This article came across my desk during the Christmas break, and whilst it isn't Australian in nature, I felt it worth publishing.

Please Explain.....

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in the US in 1846; John F. Kennedy in 1946...

Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the US in 1860; John F. Kennedy in 1960...

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights; Their respective wives both lost children while living in the White House...

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday; Both were shot in the head...

Abraham Lincoln had a secretary named Kennedy; John F. Kennedy had a secretary named Lincoln...

Both were assassinated by Southerners; Both were succeeded by Southerners; Both successors were named Johnson...

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln was born in 1808; Lyndon B. Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy was born in 1908...

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839; Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939...

Both assassins were known by their respective three names; Both names of the assassins comprise 15 letters each...

Lincoln was shot at the theatre named 'Ford'; Kennedy was shot in a car called 'Lincoln' made by 'Ford'...

Lincoln was shot in a theatre and the assassin ran into a warehouse; Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and the assassin ran into a theatre...

Both John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald were assassinated before their trials...

A week before Lincoln was killed, he was in Monroe, Maryland; A week before Kennedy was killed, he was with Marilyn Monroe... And this one is just as creepy..

In 1898 merchant seaman and budding author Morgan Robertson wrote a story about an extremely large and supposedly unsinkable ship. He named his fictional vessel *Titan*. His story was rejected by publishers numerous times for almost 15 years as being too unbelievable.

On the night of April 14, 1912, the largest ship ever built at that time, *Titanic*, struck an iceberg and sank, taking a large percentage of her passengers and crew with her to the bottom of the ocean.

The similarities between the two stories are quite amazing -

The fictional *Titan* story was written in 1898; the actual events relating to the *Titanic* happened in 1912...

The names of the two ships are similar—*Titan* and *Titanic*.

Both the fictional disaster and the real one occurred in the North Atlantic Ocean...

*Titan* was on its 3rd voyage from New York to London; *Titanic* was on its maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York...

Both ships hit ice bergs; Both ships were sailing at excessive speeds...

Both ships carried too few life boats; Both ships were touted as the "largest afloat"...

Both ships carried the elite as passengers; Both ships had 3 propellers...

Both ships had orchestras that played the hymn Nearer My God to Thee as the last item before they sank; Both ships sank at night in April...

The truth is often stranger than fiction... or so close to it that is scary!

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Since there are no letters to the editor this quarter, I have turned the column over to more Can You Help items.

#### Simpson Descendants

For a number of years I have been working on the production of a family history which I intend to publish later this year. I am still seeking information relating to some of the family lines. The sorts of things that I am seek are anecdotal stories, photographs etc. If you are descended from or related to any of the following people, please contact me at jks58@adam.com.au with the information.

**Berry**—descendants of James Berry & wife Sarah Jane nee Simpson of Mt Barker, Callington & other locations

**Berry**–descendants of Joseph Barclay Berry & wife Mary Ann Simpson of Callington SA, Horsham VIC and other locations.

Simpson-descendants of William Simpson & wife Isabella Elizabeth Munt of Wagga Wagga NSW

**Simpson**–descendants of Walter Simpson & wife Mary Ann Scammell of New Town & Glenorchy VDL, Mt Barker, Blakiston & Red Creek SA.

**Sigmont**—descendants of Charles Abercrombie Dignum Sigmont & wife Fanny Simpson of Mt Barker and Richmond SA.

**Splaine**—descendants of Henry Hove Splaine & wife Fanny Simpson/Sigmont of Richmond SA.

**Brown**—descendants of Charles William Brown & wife Emily Simpson of Mt Barker & Edwardstown SA and other locations.

**Peters**—descendants of Richard Luke Peters & wife Ellen Simpson of Adelaide & Parkside SA.

Simpson–descendants of Walter Simpson & wife Margaret Amelia Byrne of Hilton & Portland Estate SA.

**Caust/Bowes**—descendants of Albert Caust who was raised by his aunt & uncle—Mr & Mrs Alfred George Bowes after his mother Adelaide Caust nee Berry died, and who married as Albert Bowes.

Any help gratefully received and recognised at publication.... Julie Stokes jks58@adam.com.au

#### CAN YOU HELP

#### Membership Renewal Forms

During the last quarter of 2008, the previous Committee sent out Membership Forms to all members and asked that the forms be completed and returned to the then Acting Secretary.

Only a small number of members have returned their forms, with some declining to complete them altogether. The purpose for this request was so that we could update our records of members' personal details, and their research interests.

If you have not done so, please complete the form sent to you with the 2008 election papers, and return them to the Secretary as soon as possible, or contact the Secretary for a replacement form.

We need this information to assist us in helping you with your research. It is pointless having your research interests listed that are out of date or that have incorrect contact details.

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#### Old Days, Old Ways

I was sifting through some old documents of mine the other day and came across some pages of stuff from members of some mailing groups that I used to belong to. Among them were reminiscences of Old Days and Old Ways, where people had sent in their own personal memories of days, ways and things gone by. I would like to do an article later in the year on this subject. So if you have any old days or old ways that you would like to share with members, please drop a line to The Editor, Relative Thoughts. I would like the information for the October edition, so would need to have your stories by the second week of October. Things like medicines & tonics used when we were children, games you played as a child, the baker in his cart, the travelling salesman, and so on are the sorts of things I am after. Send your items to jks58@adam.com.au

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