



Newsletter #18
February 2008

Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday
of each month at 7pm at
The Old Police Station, Ann Street, Salisbury.

\$2 entry fee for non-members

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	Peter Applebee
Vice President:	Bev Burke
Secretary:	Margaret Flaiban
Treasurer:	Tammy Martin
Membership Coordinator:	Helen Stein
General Committee:	Sandie Francis Colin Withall Ivan Randall

Georgina Rowe has been added as a new General Committee Member by unanimous vote of the current Committee.

Due to the current workload, it has been decided to invite a member of the Group to fill a new position as Publicity and Promotions Officer. If you are interested in filling this position, contact Peter Applebee at andfhg@yahoo.com.au or approach any of the Committee Members at one of our meetings or open days. Any member is invited to apply.

RAFFLE

Congratulations to Sandie Francis who won our last raffle.
Thank you to all who supported us.

MEETINGS

Unfortunately, due to health reasons, Bernard Boucher from the Huguenot Society will not be able to join us tonight, instead Pete will be presenting an "Internet Night" giving information on what is available on the Internet to help your research. It should be an interesting night for current and new users alike.

*The group will not be held responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in this Newsletter.
All submitted articles and advertised offers of services are printed in good faith of accuracy.
The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for grammatical purposes if necessary.*

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members to our Group:

Anne WHITEHEAD

Researching: BURTON, CHANDLER, PIZARRO, BEER, HAMLYN and WEST

Anne McLEAN

Researching: FEARN, ALLSOP, ASHCROFT and BRADY

Marjorie TRIGG

Researching: MIDGLEY, FEARN, ALLSOP, CROWTHER and ASHCROFT

Marilyn THORSTEINSEN

Georgina ROWE

Researching: GALLOP, CROOKS, DANIEL/S and ROWE

CAN YOU HELP?

After further discussion at our last Committee Meeting, it was decided to make this column a free service to all members. Send in your "Brick Walls" and we will publish them, remembering that this newsletter is posted on the Internet, therefore reaches a much wider audience than just members of our Group!

My 4xgreat grandfather GEORGE BURN married AGNES TELFORD possibly around 1820/1825/1830. I have searched for this marriage in both England and Scotland for over 10 years without success. George was a Carter/Coachman in Wooler Northumberland, although he may have been in the Cornhill on Tweed area. I think he was born 1785 according to his death certificate. I have searched through all the Berwick on Tweed records, Union Bridge marriages, Gretna Green etc, as well as Edinburgh and Scottish Militia.

Very little is known about Agnes TELFORD. According to her death certificate, she was born 1800 probably in Coldstream, Scotland. TELFORD is a Cumberland name, but I cannot locate her birth nor any clue as to her family.

Any help would be gratefully received!

mflaiban@chariot.net.au

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I have been searching for the descendants of EDWARD WALTER MORRIS and DORA ANNIE nee JACOBSEN. They had three children, all born in Port Adelaide:

EDWARD WALTER TALWIN (Tom) MORRIS, born 181.2.1899

JOHN WILLIAM TALWIN (Jack) MORRIS, born 28.10.1902

DORA ANN TALWIN MORRIS, born before 24.11.1908

After their births, which were duly recorded with SA BDM, no further record of these individuals can be found. Any information would be very welcome!

steinhelen@hotmail.com

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Sorting and storing you family history hard copy information is imperative, and some sort of filing system is needed to keep control of all your information.

Most people will sort their information into family files or people files.

Loose pages can get lost quite easily, therefore we recommend using plastic sleeves and putting them into secure cota files

ANDFHG have been lucky enough to secure a few cota files and they are available for sale at the cost of \$2 for 10. This is a safe and secure way of keeping your plastic sleeves in order and they are archive safe.

Please see your friendly committee and they are most willing to show you how they work and help out in any way.

Internet Sites



Old and rare books on CD for local and family historians at an affordable price.
Postage FREE worldwide.

Parish Registers, School and College Registers, Directories, Local History, Topography and many more excellent and unusual printed resources from medieval times up to the 20th century to help with your research.

www.anguline.co.uk

Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Inc.

This is the official website for the above Society:
It contains many links to genealogical data all round Australia,
not just Victoria.

The “GenCircles” link (in the 4th column) is particularly useful as a searchable database for locating individuals within documented Family Trees.

<http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/>

Errol Chinner

On Thursday 17th of January, we were entertained by an enthralling talk given by Mr. Errol Chinner, president of the Historical Society of South Australia.

Errol has a thorough knowledge not only of South Australian history dating from the arrival of Governor Hindmarsh in 1836, but also the history of Port Adelaide and the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area.

Errol had an extensive career in education, from the time that he was deputy principal and later Principal of Le Fevre School and it was there, as he explained, how he first became aware of the historical background of the original inhabitants of the Peter Peninsular, and when he found an old leather bound book dated 1878 and apparently written by two German Lutheran Missionaries and titled "The native language of the Aboriginal."

This book was the first time that anyone ever tried to set down the native language of the people now known as the Kurna (pronounced Garna) people, whose territory extended from Goolwa to the tip of the Peter Peninsular and the area now known as Outer Harbour., and who inhabited the Sandhill that extended from the area where the lighthouse and black Diamond corner is now located in Port Adelaide. Finding this book apparently changed Errol's life, because it wetted his appetite for tracing the history of the local Aboriginal people, however because it was the property of the school, Errol cunningly filed it away, possibly for later use and safekeeping.

He was later posted to Darwin, and was there during Cyclone Tracy in 1972, after which he found himself without a teaching position, or in fact any school, and it was not until he was returning to Adelaide and had stopped at Tennant Creek, that he was informed by the Education Department that the Principal of Le Fevre School had died, and the posting was his if he wished to take it. Upon his return to Le Fevre, he once again located the old book.

It was explained that the Aboriginals inhabiting the Port Adelaide area had been there for 12,000 years. Port Adelaide was mainly swamp land and was known to the Kurna people as "The land of the dead" the area was mainly mud flats and sand hills, nothing grew there, and no animals abound.

Errol explained that "Taperoo" in Kurna meant "possum" the main native animal found in that area. This was in contrast to a later book on the language of the Kurna people called "The Native Language of Australia" written by C.J. Titleman and a Mr. Sherman, in that book they claimed that the word "Tapparoo" actually meant "drum". Errol knew that there were only two Aboriginal people in Australia known to make and use a drum, and both of these people were located in the far north of Cape York Peninsular, and their drum was similar to that used in Papua New Guinea, so any statement that Tapparoo meant drum amazed him, and he set out to find the true meaning.

Much later he had the chance to interview an old Aboriginal man who had lived in Port Adelaide all his life, and when approached he verified to Errol that the Kurna word actually did mean drum, and claimed that back in 1912, when he was a lad, aboriginal women used to dry possum skins, by pegging them out on the ground using the sinews to stretch the skins tight, when they were dried, then apparently

took the skins, and folding them sewed the edges together using sinew for stitching, they then stuffed the semi enclosed skin with grass, and packing it very firmly before closing the skin and making it into a ball.

It was this ball that the women used whilst sitting cross legged on the ground, they placed the ball into their laps and pounded in with their hands, accompanying the singing men during their corroboree. Hence the name "Tapparoo" or later Taperoo does actually mean both descriptions of Possum and Drum.

The Aborigines of Port Adelaide sand hill area, used to hunt on the Peter Peninsular, and to get there they went over the river in canoes or swam across. Hunting was a tribal activity and the whole tribe were stretched across the neck of the peninsular, which is that piece of land that extends from Ethelton to Semaphore south on the Western side of the Peninsular.

Spacing the people about 10 metres apart, they marched all the way along the Peninsular driving the Kangaroos before them to the head of the Peninsular, which is where the present day Yacht squadron is located, there they hunted as much as they needed. This of course had some effect upon the native animal population because this could result in an uncontrolled slaughter.

Any Kurna having a word ending in "nga" which in itself means "the place of," and Midla means "spear thrower" hence Midlunga means "spear thrower place" and Wonga Shoal means "The place of the west." The Kurna believed that the sun paid an important religious part of their lives, because that is where the sun went at the end of the day, and when their tribal members died, that is where their spirits went, and from time to time their spirits would come back to visit them to see how they were treating the children and the tribe in general, similar to a supervisory visit if you like.

In fact when the "Buffalo" arrived in holdfast bay back in 1836, the natives saw white men aboard the ship, and never ever seen a Whiteman before, they believed that their ancestors had come back.

After Captain Matthew Flinders had visited the coast line of the area, and named Mount Lofty, from whence he could see the outer harbour and the Port River area, and thought that this would make a good place for a settlement.

In 1834 Captain Jones was sent to survey the area of Port Adelaide, mainly under consideration was the requirements of three things that are needed for a settlement and a Port, they are (1) water deep enough for a ship, (2) Land on which to build, and (3) Fresh water for drinking. Jones went up what is now known as the Port River, and threw a bucket over the side and found fresh water, and this resulted in the area being selected for a virgin settlement.

We then heard that the settlers called the landing area "Port Misery" because the area abounded in Mud, Mangroves, and Mosquitoes. People chose to live in the area now called Semaphore (Aboriginal Pulti) to get away from the misery of the whole area, during 1836-1839.

We were then treated to some very old slides that were taken from the original glass negatives; one showed what the area of Port Misery was like during 1839 according to a old cartoon drawing, and illustrated the way people came ashore from the ships, women in their finery were carried ashore by sailors piggy back style, me waded

ashore from the row boats, food and stores were unloaded, some were lost over board, and in the cartoon barrels of lime and flour were seen to be floating, it brought home to the audience that times were certainly unwelcoming, because after coming ashore the newly arrived immigrants had to walk about 1 mile or 2 km, to the arrival station.

Several other slides featured the Port buildings, one in particular showed the British Hotel which was then a single story building, today that building now forms the cellar of the hotel, and what we see today is actually the two added stories on top of the original. This drastic change was caused by the land around Port Adelaide being built up so much from the original ground level.

In another slide we saw how 1865 they dredged the Port River, this was done by means of a small boat equipped with a long levered pole, one end was shaped like a spoon, this was scooped into the muddy river bed, the mud was then laden onto a row boat, which was then rowed to the wharf where it was unloaded onto a horse and dry, and carted away and used for landfill, this must have been tedious work but one that proved how industrious and forward thinking these settlers were, for this was just 29 years after settlement, and the Port area was a thriving metropolis, where solid buildings abound, streets laid out and the wharves timbered, ships were lined up for berthing.

The Port was a very busy one at this time, so much so, as indicated by one philatelist who has in his possession a letter sent from England and addressed to one of the ships captains in the line of ships standing in the Port River waiting for a berth, which indicates how busy it really was. Shipping was held for months on end outside of the outer harbour, and this was before the heyday years of the 1890's and the early 20th century.

Several other slides were of the commercial precinct of St. Vincent Street during 1869, and the wharves of the old Port. These were but a minute few of the many that Errol had with him, unfortunately time was against him and us, and the end of the evening came too soon, needless to say that a standing invite was made by all those present for Errol to return with his slides and we eagerly look forward to his return visit.



Believe it or not... .. !

Red Tape Stops Man 'Returning From The Dead'

January 30, 2008 : Article from: Reuters

Red tape is preventing a Polish man from returning from the dead.

Piotr Kucy, 38 and from the city of Polkowice in southwest Poland, was wrongly identified by authorities last August as a drowned man, only to show up a few days after his own funeral.

Despite pointing out the fact that he was alive to government officials, Mr Kucy still remains dead in official records, stopping him from working and paying social insurance.

But on the bright side, a local newspaper reported , he no longer needs to pay taxes.

"We are nearly through January, and my documents still say I'm dead," Mr Kucy told *Gazeta Wyborcza*, adding: "It's a bit of a joke."

But a registry office official was adamant about the situation. "This citizen does not exist," she told the paper.

Headstone Beats Man To Death

January 31, 2008 : Article from:  news.com.au

A man has discovered his own grave - including a headstone awaiting his death - while visiting a cemetery.

After being given six months to live, 71-year-old British man Andy Lees paid a funeral company for a grave and a headstone – but did not expect the gravestone to be erected until after his death, the BBC reported.

Mr Lees told the broadcaster that he was "shocked" when friends began calling him to see if he was still alive after seeing the headstone at a cemetery in Blackburn, in England's north west.

The father-of-four said he wanted to have his grave paid for before his death, but this was too much.

"I decided to pay for my own funeral before I died so that my kids didn't have to pay for anything," Mr Lees told the BBC.

"So I paid for everything but I didn't want anything erected – but the next thing I knew, I was getting phone calls from people asking if I was dead or alive.

"It was a shock seeing myself in a grave, my legs started shaking and I had to be taken home."

He said the funeral company had apologized over the incident.

"The funeral director said he was sorry and that he would take it down, which was a relief but the damage has now been done."

The headstone did not contain the date of Mr Lees' "death".