



A.N.D.F.H.G. Inc. News Sheet

Issue 81 – Sept. 2016

ELECTED COMMITTEE 2016-2017

PRESIDENT	Peter Applebee
VICE PRESIDENT	Ivan Randall
SECRETARY	Suzanne Smith
TREASURER	Suzanne Smith

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MINUTE SECRETARY	Tammy Martin
PUBLICITY	Jeff Cook
	Helen Stein
	Ian Cowley
	Margaret Flaiban

APPOINTMENTS

LIBRARIAN	Margaret Flaiban	FAMILY TREE MAKER CONVENER	Peter Applebee
DOCUMENT SCANNERS	Sharon Norman	LEGACY USERS GROUP CONVENER	Shirley Bulley
	Bill O'Neill	AUDITOR	Shirley Bulley

September Calendar

Thursday, 1 September
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Monday, 5 September
7:00pm - 8.30pm
Legacy Users Group Meeting

Thursday, 8 September
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 10 September
1:00pm - 4.00pm
Committee Meeting - Research Day

Thursday, 15 September
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 17 September
1:30pm - 4.00pm
Family Tree Maker User Group Meeting

Thursday, 22 September
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 24 September
1:00pm - 4.00pm
Colin Withall - Making sense of old handwritten records

Thursday, 29 September
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Disclaimer

The Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc. does not accept any responsibility for the opinions or the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter

From the Committee

Hello Members,

As you can see from the Committee names above, not a lot has changed since last year. We would like to thank those who attended the AGM. We are now officially 10 years old and we are all looking forward to another year ahead with some interesting items on our agenda. This Newsletter is slightly different in that it gives Interesting Historical Articles as normal and basic information on the club calendar to the right of this article.

There will be another posting to you called The Bulletin, this will give you more detailed calendar of future events. It will be via Email Only. This will include items of interest like the Unlock the Past Family History Conference details in early October which will be invaluable to all family historians. The Conferences and Fairs we have attended and been part of in the past, have proved invaluable so we hope you will try and visit at least for one day. The Bulletin may go out more than once a month, if we the Committee needs to get information out to the membership.

The Volunteers will still be on hand every Thursday for research purposes and our Legacy and FTM Groups will still be ongoing. Both sub-groups will continue as before.

Thank You

THE RAJAH QUILT

By Margaret Flaiban

Whilst researching with Jeff Cook a few weeks ago, discussing the social history of Australian Women, he mentioned about the Rajah Quilt. I knew nothing about this until I searched the internet and read about this marvelous piece of social Australian history. Similar to the English and Scottish women in my own family, their hands were never idle, except in Church. Most women had to be industrious to the point of making clothes for the family, knitting socks or mittens or even unraveling old woollen items to be recycled into another garment.

The "Rajah" was a commercial ship built around 1835 with a young Scottish Captain Charles Ferguson as its Master. The ship traded between India, Australia and Britain carrying passengers and merchandise. In late 1840 it was commissioned to take convicts to Van Deimans Land. At the beginning of April 1841 the "Rajah" sailed from London to Hobart with 180 female convicts the majority of them were English with approximately 37 Irish Women, some of whom were expert in needlework. A donation of needles, thread and patchwork pieces were given by Elizabeth Fry's organization known as the British Ladies Society for the Reformation of Female Prisoners to keep the women busy on their long voyage, and so began the quilt.



The finished quilt measured approximately 325 by 337 centimetres (approximately 10.6 feet x 11 feet)



The dedication panel on the lower edge of the quilt reads: "TO THE LADIES of the Convict ship Committee. This quilt worked by the convicts/of the Ship Rajah during their voyage to Van Diemens Land is presented as a testimony of the gratitude with which they remember their exertions for their welfare while in England and during their passage and also as a proof that they have not neglected the Ladies kind admonitions of being industrious June 1841"

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One can only imagine the conversations amongst the women and most possibly arguments too, whilst making this beautiful piece of work, which was given to the Governor's wife Lady Jane Franklin on their arrival in Hobart. It is possible that Lady Franklin may have returned to England taking the quilt with her to be presented to Elizabeth Fry, but this is only speculation. It is also possible that Captain Ferguson took it back to England on one of his many voyages, but the true facts are unknown. The quilt was discovered 147 years later in Scotland and is now held by the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. Due to its size and the fragile nature of the quilt, it is only made available once a year for viewing. Incidentally, at some point, the young Captain Ferguson proposed marriage to a Kezia Hayter (a free woman). She had been recommended by Elizabeth Fry to assist Lady Franklin with a view to forming a branch of the Ladies Society. Kezia and Captain Ferguson were engaged in Hobart and married there on the 1st July 1843 on his return from his many voyages.

Note : to see the beautiful colours of this quilt, please look at the sources or google "the Rajah Quilt".

Sources : <http://www.convictrecords.com.au/ships/rajah/1841>
 National Gallery of Australia website <http://www.nga.gov.au/rajahquilt>
<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/review/stitches-in-time/>

HOLDING IT TOGETHER

Every day we use countless methods to hold things together - ranging from buttons to Velcro for clothes and staples to paper clips in the office. Some of these everyday items have rather interesting histories.

Our primitive ancestors used thorns, sinew and bone pins to hold their clothes in place but it is claimed that buttons were in use as early as the bronze age.



From the 13th century buttons became a status symbol - with men competing for the most elaborate design. During the reign of Louis XVI, in the 1700's, courtiers tried to outdo each other with their button displays made from gold and silver. Ivory, mother of pearl, brass and rubber were also used before celluloid and the present day synthetic materials.

Although the zipper was patented in 1917 [as the Separable Fastener] it was not readily accepted by the clothing industry. Initially the zipper was used for boots and tobacco pouches, but by 1937 the French fashion designers had begun to use zippers in mens' trousers and in that year the zipper beat the button in the 'battle of the flies'! Esquire magazine declared that it would 'exclude the possibility of unintentional and embarrassing disarray'. That's providing, of course, that the wearer remembers to close the zip or it doesn't get stuck or break!

In this situation the humble safety pin could be useful. The safety pin was patented in 1849 by Walter Hunt, but he could not claim to have invented it as forms of this fastener have been in use since the days of ancient Greece. It would appear that there were numerous forms of the pin and clasp used during the classical periods of Greece and Rome and these designs were so distinctive that they can often be used to date archaeological finds. According to Homer a gift of safety pins was presented, to Penelope [the wife of Odysseus] indicating that these were highly valued items.



Walter Hunt was a prolific inventor and it is reported that he 'invented' the safety pin as he was short of money and needed to repay a debt to a friend. After taking out a patent he sold the rights and was able to pay his friend.

One of the most widely used fasteners today would have to be Velcro, which it could be said was discovered by accident and was patented in 1955 by George de Mestral, a Swiss inventor. George it seems was also a keen walker and, on returning from a hike one day in 1948, he noticed that some plant burrs were sticking to his trousers. He examined these burrs under a microscope and discovered that they had small hooks which clung to the loops in the material of his trousers. This revelation inspired George to invent a fastener following the same principles and he combined the first three letters of the French words Velour and Crochet [hook] to form 'Velcro'. His invention met with some resistance but George persisted and the Velcro Industries Company is now a multi-million dollar industry.

Seventy years before Velcro was invented a patent was issued for what has been described as the perfect fastener. The practical and reliable Press Fastener earns this title and has the added advantage of being 'hidden' when attached to a garment. There is of course one other fastener which is usually hidden and in use daily by most women. The hook and eye continues to be the most popular choice by bra manufacturers and has stood the test of time for reliability!



Moving on to the office we'll look at just one invention – the paper clip. The most common shape is the Gem which was patented in 1892, but

the earliest patent dates back to 1867 with the triangular shaped Philadelphia but one of the most unusual is the 1904 Common Sense design



In 1899 John Vaaler, a Norwegian, was forced to register his paper clip design in Germany, because Norway did not have any patent laws. Forty years later, during World War II, the paper clip was worn by Norwegians as a protest against the occupying Germans and as a sign of loyalty to the Norwegian king. This unique use of the paper clip illustrates that it has other uses apart from that for which it was designed - and I'm sure you can think of a few more practical ones!

RECOLLECTIONS OF BYGONE DAYS. By Colin Withall.

They say that Life was not meant to be easy, and certainly in the modern world of the Twenty First Century many people complain about their life and how hard it is, and the young complaining that they have nothing to do and are bored, and cannot survive without their IPod, or mobile phone and texting. But spare a thought about life not that long ago, when in the late 19th and early 20th Century.

I grew up in the Yorke Peninsula town of Kadina at a time when life was much simpler, and lacked the modern luxuries, what people never had they never missed, or desired to be any better than what they were, hard working, hard living and honest folk.

ENTERTAINMENT:

To many the only form of entertainment available was what one made for their self, people were inclined to turn to music, which explains for the many brass bands that existed in those days. The popularity came from the Cornish Miners, and as consequence every town, Mine corporation, or Lodge, including the Salvation Army. (A charitable and religious organization to evangelise and to care for the poor and homeless) had a brass band.

Band competitions were held between the towns of Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta, and other Yorke Peninsular towns, as well as inter band competition within the towns themselves. The competitiveness between the bands was fierce, with some members of a band also being members of another. For example a member of a Mine or Lodge band may also be a member of a Town or the Salvation Army Band, consequently the Salvation Army band did not compete in these competitions, but would attend to give demonstrations of their playing abilities.

All Town Parks possessed a rotunda, where on shopping days and weekends the Bands used to play in the evenings. Families often gathered on a summer's night, with their picnic teas, or just sit and listen to the band playing military airs and popular tunes of the day.

Each Sunday evening the Kadina Salvation Army Band, consisting of the Officer in Charge of the area, and band members (called brother soldiers) as well as women (sister soldiers) who were either a timbrel (tambourine) player, with a chorister or two would congregate on a street corner in the town, form a circle and play Christian Hymn tunes. Prayers would be offered whilst collections of money were made from amongst the number of bystanders, to help fund the charitable work of the Army.

Sometimes one of the elder child members of the church would be given the honour of carrying the hurricane lamp,(An oil lamp with a glass chimney and perforated metal lid to protect the flame from high winds.) attached to a pole, which provided the all important lighting enabling the band to read their music books.

After the "*Open Air meeting*" as it was called, the band formed into ranks, and with a "*Soldier*" carrying the church flag in front, the hurricane lamp carrier alongside, the band would march in formation, back to the meeting hall (known as the return to barracks) On the return journey, the band would play Christian Hymns. All the while the bass drum beat out the march time continuously. The band was often accompanied along the way with spectators, town children on bicycles following behind. These meetings were very popular with the townsfolk.

Quite often the Local Salvation Army Corps at Jericho or Kadina would hold a " Penny Concert " featuring local talent and of course the brass band. A "Penny Concert" was just that, it was concert for all the locals, featuring "Army" children and adults, and the cost of entry was one Penny. (equally about 1 cent, but with the buying power of 50 or 60 cents today) the highlight of the night, a plate of hot, thick, boiled green peas, which lashings of vinegar or tomato sauce, a real favourite on a cold night.



Periodically a travelling vaudeville style show came through the area; one such was "The Harold Raymond Shows". Harold Raymond was a Blind travelling entertainer and his shows were held in the Kadina Cinema Theatre in Graves Street featuring singers, jugglers, sketches and magic acts. There were lucky seat prizes, with clocks, and wooden ornaments such ashtray sets, probably many homes still have these prizes as treasured family possessions.

Ah! The good old days. "Truly, they were interesting times." - to be continued

BACK HOME

If I had the power to turn back the clock, to go back to that house at the end of the block. The house that was HOME when I was a kid, I know that I'd love it more now than I did.

If I could be back there at my mother's knee and hear once again all the things she told me, I'd listen as I never listened before, for she knew so well just what life had in store.

And all the advice my Dad used to give, his voice I'll remember as long as I live, But it didn't seem really important then what I'd give just to live it all over again. And what I'd give for the chance I once had, to do so much more for my mother and dad, To give them more joy and a little less pain a little more sunshine – a little less rain.

But the years roll on and we cannot go back whether we were born in a mansion or in a shack, But we can start right now in the hour that's here to do something more for the ones we hold dear.

And since time in its flight is travelling so fast, lets not spend it regretting that which is past, But lets make tomorrow a happier day by doing our "good to others" – TODAY.

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN).



Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc.

Committed in Promoting Family History Research.