



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

Issue 86 – April 2017

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 SCANNER	Sharon Norman	LEGACY USERS GROUP CONVENER	Shirley Bulley
		AUDITOR	Shirley Bulley

April Calendar

Monday, 3 April
7:00pm - 9.00pm
Legacy Users Group Meeting

Thursday, 6 April
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 8 April
1:00pm - 4.00pm
Committee Meeting -
Research Day

Thursday, 13 April
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 15 April
1:30pm - 3.30pm
Family Tree Maker User Group

Thursday, 20 April
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 22 April
1:00pm - 4.00pm
Colin Withall - "Women in
History their successes and
misfortunes"

Thursday, 27 April
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Disclaimer

From the Committee

Hello Members,

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter which has a variety of information for you from Matthew Flinders to Seminars and a not so happy colonist. We are always on the hunt for interesting snippets of information and articles that we can share with all of you, so if you have a short story or an interesting member of your family, please let us know.

As you can see from the diary on the left of this newsletter, Colin Withall, our lifetime member, will be giving us a talk on "**Women in history their successes and misfortunes**" at the end of April. We cannot elaborate any further on this subject, so you will have to come along and find out for yourselves what this means ! If you have heard Colin talk in the past, especially about his maritime Withall family, then we can expect something interesting. For those current members who use the Family Tree Maker Program and regularly attend the meetings, please note that the next meeting will be held **on Easter Saturday 15th April at 1.30 p.m.**

Any member who is thinking about a genealogical program, either Legacy or FTM, you are welcome to come along and 'sit in' to find out if it is for you. Everyone is welcome especially our newer members and any questions you may want to put forward may hopefully be answered. Our Legacy Meetings are held on the first Monday night of the month at 7.00 p.m. and the Family Tree Maker Group is held on the 3rd Saturday in the month at 1.30 p.m.

Keep checking the diary.

Happy Hunting !

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

NOT HAPPY IN THE COLONY!

(compiled by Ivan Randall and Margaret Flaiban)

The people who came to South Australia expected to work hard and make a better life for themselves and to leave some legacy to their children. Not everyone was happy with the conditions they came to and we can only imagine the harsh life they led, especially outside of Adelaide. We can piece together the feelings of the people who first came to South Australia from journals and surviving letters. Here is one of the letters sent by a PETER POTTER - a Sussex man who wrote to his friends and family members back in England. Here is the transcription and sources with a copy of the original newspaper entry – if anyone is interested in the very large Potter family who lived in the Lyndoch area, you can contact Ivan. For your information, Peter Potter stayed in South Australia without ever returning to Lewes.

Printed in the Sussex Advertiser, Monday, 16 November, 1840, page 3.

ADELAIDE. -The following is a copy of a letter written by Peter Potter, who emigrated to South Australia two years since, from Lewes, which we extract from the Sussex Advertiser. Such an unfavourable description of the land of "promise" we have not yet seen:-

Adelaide, March 14, 1840.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, - I write these few lines to you, hoping you are as well, as we are at present; but this is quite a different country and place from what is represented in England, I do assure you, and if all would write truth, there would not be half so many come out; for eight out of ten working people that I have spoken to about their circumstances say they should be glad to get back again if they knew how to do so. I think of making another move to New Zealand, or somewhere else where it is colder, as it is so alarming hot here. I shall be glad to hear from you, for I would not advise any mechanic to come here whatever with a family. Although wages are high, provisions are very dear, and so is rent, for we now pay 12s per week for a mud house, about fit for a pigsty, but it is called quite a comfortable house. Here are plenty of London bugs and fleas - the ground quite swarms with them. I do assure you it is a most dreadful place to bring a family to; drunkenness and vice of all descriptions are practised here to an alarming height. The accounts you have sent to England come back to us again, and they are anything but the truth. I do assure you, instead of this being a land of butter and eggs, it is a land of sand and vermin; if we lie down and sleep in the day, the flies will blow our eyes, ears or nose, and there will be maggots in a few hours. Thomas Harman got a little fresh on Christmas-day, and fell asleep, got maggoty in his ears, and was nearly crazy. The doctor took out 9, three-eighths of an inch long, and one-eighth in size. We have only had one die that came from Lewes, that is James Harsey. (1)

You may show this letter to any that talk of coming out, as I cannot wish any of my friends to come to us by any means at present. I have sent you some manna, such as the Israelites did eat; we get it about 20 miles up the country, it is found on the ground; they use it for medicine; and some castor oil seeds, some for you and some for Caleb (2). We are all at work and doing middling. Here is plenty of work, and I expect to be in a shop of my own soon. We are all within three miles of one another. I have seen Mr Godley, and they are all doing middling. I told you I would send it as I found it, and so I have. Many say they do not like to make their friends uneasy, and so write what is not the truth. Let Mr Davis see this, and tell him I shall always write the

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“ Let Mr. Davis see this, and tell him I shall always write the truth. Money is very scarce ever since we have been here, but plenty of trade and an over-stock of hands. Tailors, smiths, and all sorts of trades are going into the forest splitting timber. I have been at work in the city ever since I have been here. The natives are the most ugly, dirty race that ever was in this world, I do believe. I must tell you about them, for I do not wish you to come and see them at present at any rate.

“ We are very backward in all agricultural pursuits, but all sorts of cattle are very plentiful, and doing very well; if let run in the rough they get very fat. Our sand storms are worse than your snow storms, I assure you, and when it does rain, there is no mistake about it, and I have thought the whole would be blown away together, and I don't know if it would be of much consequence if it did. If you come you must expect to live a life like hogs, I can assure you; it is not worth any one's time and trouble, in my opinion, until we can grow our own corn. Last year we sowed about 100 acres, and this year about 1,000. People are leaving for the country very fast, for farming, as it is more healthy than the city. There is a great mortality in it, and plenty of work for the doctors. When the Buckinghamshire people came out, Francis told me they lost 100 souls. I have known seven or eight at a time lie dead, so you must not believe all you hear about this beautiful place.

“ I remain, your affectionate brother,

“ P. POTTER.”

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P. Potter.

#1. James Hearsey married Barbara Burfield in 1825. Together with their children, they arrived on the “Somersetshire” in August 1839 with Charles Gaston and his wife Rebecca Burfield, and the Potters.

#2. Caleb Potter was Peter Potter's eldest son, who did come to SA in 1852 and settled in Mount Barker.

Exploring and writing family and local history seminar.



EVENT INFORMATION

When: 5 May 2017 9:00am - 6 May 2017 4:30pm

Where: The German Club, 223 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA

Cost: \$87 for both days, \$57 for one day

Contact: alan@unlockthepast.com.au 08 8263 2055

This two day Exploring and writing family and local history seminar is part of South Australia's History Festival 2017, a month-long program of over 600 events – tours, talks, walks, exhibitions, concerts – about all kinds of history.

5 top reasons to be there

1. LEARN - over two days to learn from some the foremost historians and genealogists
2. DNA - find out why the interest in this emerging technology, what it can do for you - and what it can't
3. PUBLISH - write and publish your story to ensure it endures. Here you will get encouragement to do so and advice on how to do it better
4. NETWORK - two days to interact with exhibitors and others with similar interests
5. SAVE - with seminar specials and hundreds of \$\$\$ worth of prizes

Presenters

Peter Donovan - professional historian and SA Historian of the Year 2015

Kerry Farmer (NSW) - professional genealogist, historian, author, speaker and online course director

Graham Jaunay - professional genealogist

Doreen Kosak - Genealogy SA Family History Writers Group

Richard Merry - Genealogy SA DNA project

Dr Sally Stephenson - oral historian

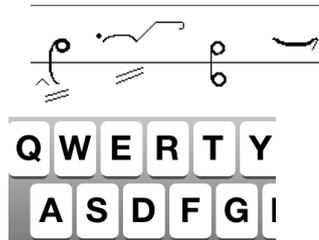
David Sweeney - Openbook Howden Print & Design

State Library of South Australia speaker

State Records of South Australia speaker

More Information and Booking Visit: <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/exploring-and-writing-family-and-local-history>

SYMBOLS



& KEYS

Anyone who has studied shorthand and typing will be familiar with the illustrations above and will know that the symbols are not just a series of squiggles but are characters used in Pitman Shorthand. Most people will also recognise the section of a QWERTY keyboard, which was devised for typewriters, but continues to be used today on electronic keyboards. So let's look at the history of Typewriters and also at the interesting 'local connection' with Pitman's shorthand.

Firstly – the Pitman connection. The inventor of 'phonography' [called 'shorthand' from 1841] – Sir Isaac Pitman - had an elder brother, Jacob, who was born in 1810. Jacob, with his wife Maria and their two infant children, arrived at Holdfast Bay aboard the 'Trusty' in May 1838. One hundred copies of Isaac's shorthand manual were amongst Jacob's luggage and it is reported that, during the journey, he was responsible for introducing this new 'stenographic shorthand' to a fellow immigrant - William Holden - who later became a journalist. Jacob distributed the manuals to the leaders of the colony and he also began teaching the system in Adelaide in 1846.

Jacob had trained as an architect and worked as a builder in England and soon after his arrival established a building business in Rundle Street East. In 1839 he also acquired an 80 acre land grant in the present district of Hope Valley. This was later sub-divided into allotments and one of the first purchasers was William Holden. At this time William was unable to gain employment as a newspaper reporter so he opened a store and butcher's shop on this site - which faces Grand Junction Road, close to the present day Valley Road.

There are several versions regarding the naming of Hope Valley but they all concern William's remarks after his shop burnt down in 1842. On viewing the ashes William is reported to have said "I could not somehow feel despondent. On the contrary, I felt inspired by hope" - and so the village became Hope Valley.

Thirty years after Jacob Pitman arrived in Australia a typewriter was patented in the U.S. by Christopher Sholes. An English patent for a 'writing machine' was issued in 1714 to Henry Mill and William Burt obtained a U.S. patent for his 'typographer machine' in 1829 - but the Sholes machine is considered to be the first practical typewriter. Sholes licensed his patent to the gun making firm Remington & Sons and they produced the first commercial typewriter – Remington Model 1 – in 1874. This model was called the 'Sholes & Glidden Type Writer' because Glidden had assisted Sholes in the design. Table top models and treadle types were manufactured - but less than 5,000 were sold.

The treadle model closely resembled the appearance of the treadle sewing machine and this may be attributed to the fact that the person who set up the Remington typewriter factory had previously worked at their sewing machine division. The foot pedal was used for the carriage return and the table top model had a handle at the side instead of the pedal.

This first machine used the QWERTY keyboard - which is said to have been designed to avoid the most used keys causing levers to jam - but



it typed in capitals only. A decade later the Remington 2 was produced and this model used a shift key to produce both upper and lower case letters. The fancy decorated panels which adorned the first model had been removed in favour of an open black frame. The typewriting industry was born and led to Thomas Edison building the first electric model in 1872 – although these machines did not become widely used until the 1950's.

Today most typewriters would be considered museum pieces – although the late Max Fatchen still used his old Imperial to type his wonderful newspaper columns up until his death in 2012. Another author – Mark Twain - was the first to submit a novel to a publisher in this form [although not typed by him]. Although electronic keys are not likely to 'jam', the QWERTY keyboard remains and the younger generation have devised a whole new set of texting 'shorthand'. Perhaps things haven't changed that much since the 1800's!

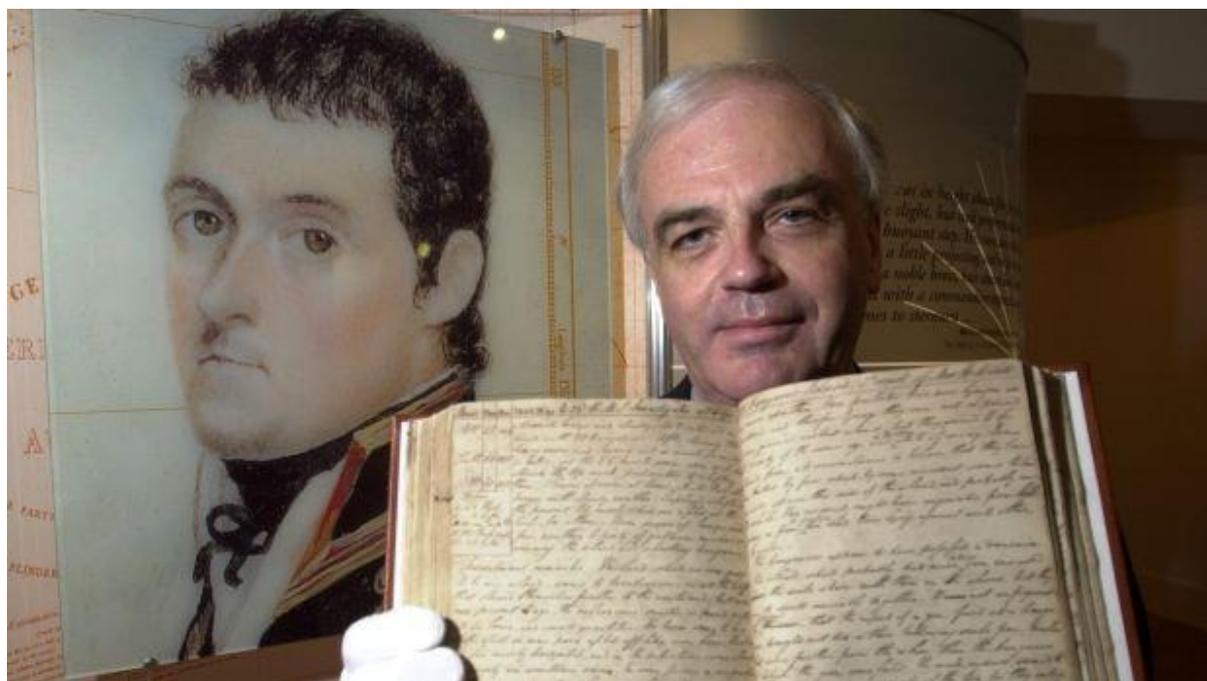
*Sources: Aust Dictionary of Biography plus Settlement to City [Ian Auhl]
<http://www.ideafinder.com/history/inventions/typrwriter.htm>
http://www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/168.html*

H.Milhench © July 2013

Dig under way for Matthew Flinders in old London cemetery.

Nick Miller
Published: March 20, 2017 – The AGE

London: London has a long history of digging up burial grounds to lay rail lines.



Sometimes it has done so with respect, but other times it has left behind – in the gruesome words of famous English author Thomas Hardy - "human jam".

One body that may be disturbed in the name of progress is recognisable to every Australian – explorer Matthew Flinders, the first person to circumnavigate our continent.

Flinders, who was born in Lincolnshire, died in London age 40 from an undiagnosed kidney infection contracted in the tropics and was buried in a churchyard in inner-north London, next door to where Euston station now stands.

But that churchyard is to be dug up as part of the construction of Britain's 'High Speed 2' rail link from Euston to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds.

The Sunday Times reported that the biggest exhumation in British history, of more than 60,000 bodies, will begin this year.

Helen Glass, lead HS2 archaeologist, told the *Times* that discovering Flinders's remains will not be easy given the huge number of bodies. Her team's best chance was if they could discover an intact coffin with a metal name plate or some kind of identifiable decoration.

However the story is not as simple as the *Times* would have it – Flinders' current resting place is a matter of debate.

The burial ground of the parish of St James' Piccadilly was used from 1790 to 1853, and historians estimate tens of thousands of bodies lie there, though only a few dozen headstones remain.

In August 1887 it reopened as St James' Gardens, which it has remained ever since.

According to experts from the Matthew Flinders Memorial Committee, a group of Australians and Brits who campaigned successfully for a statue of Flinders (and his cat Trim) at Euston, Flinders was indeed interred at the St James' Burial Ground.

However his sister-in-law, Isabella Tyler, visited in 1852 and reported his grave had gone.

Mrs Tyler found "quantities of tombstones and graves with their contents had been carted away as rubbish, among them that of my unfortunate father, thus pursued by disaster after death as in life," Flinders' daughter wrote in a letter.

Research has shown it is almost certain the remains were moved to an unmarked grave, or just dumped a short distance to the east and he now lies either under Euston Station (platforms 12-15) or still under St James' Garden.

In an information paper released last year and updated in February, HS2 promised to treat human remains "with all due dignity, respect and care".

According to the official HS2 website the Church of England is being consulted on plans for reburial.

The Church intervened in order to "ensure respectful treatment" – ensuring remains would be removed by hand digging rather than a mechanical excavator.

Flinders, whose name is synonymous with multiple places in Australia, from Flinders Station in Melbourne, to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia and the town of Flinders in Victoria, is not the only famous historical figure in HS2's path.

In 2015 it was reported that Isambard Kingdom Brunel – history's greatest engineer and the architect of Britain's railway system - could be dug up.

His grave lies in Kensal Green Cemetery, which HS2 has acknowledged lies partly within land it intends to use.

Other famous graves there include Harold Pinter and Freddie Mercury.

However at the time HS2 said they were doing "ground investigation" to check if the site they had chosen was free of burials.

A mass grave from the plague years was discovered in the path of the underground Crossrail – aka the Elizabeth Line, due to open this year.

And back in the 1860s St Pancras Station, Euston's close neighbour, was built over a part of St Pancras churchyard, once the primary burial ground for all north London.

Author and poet Thomas Hardy, then a pupil architect, was delegated to ensure the exhumations were carried out with respect.

He later wrote a poem on the topic, *The Levelled Churchyard*, implying he was not impressed with the result.

"O Passenger, pray list and catch
Our sighs and piteous groans
Half stifled in this jumbled patch
Of wrenched memorial stones!
We late-lamented, resting here,
Are mixed to human jam,
And each to each exclaims in fear:
'I know not which I am!'"

HS2 is also surveying the bat population in the park, in case they also need rehousing.

Archaeologists working at a former burial ground in London hope to find the remains of Matthew Flinders, who led the first circumnavigation of Australia and proved it was a continent.

In what is believed to be the largest ever exhumation in Britain, around 61,000 bodies will be dug up from the site next to Euston Station, with the body of the Royal Navy captain believed to be among them, *The Sunday Times* newspaper reports.

The dig is being undertaken as part of London's HS2 rail project in which St James' Gardens, a former cemetery, will be destroyed.

Flinders circled mainland Australia as commander of HMS Investigator between 1801 and 1803, charting the coast in detail to make the first full map of Australia.

The navigator and cartographer also came up with the name of "Australia" for the continent.

Lead HS2 archaeologist Helen Glass told *The Times* that discovering Flinders' remains would not be easy given the large number of bodies.

She said her team's best chance would be if an intact coffin with a metal name plate or other identifiable decoration was found.

Heading back to England in 1803, while England and France were at war, Flinders called at French-controlled Mauritius as his vessel needed urgent repairs.

He thought the scientific nature of his work would ensure safe passage but a suspicious French governor kept him under arrest for more than six years.

Flinders finally reached home in 1810 after a nine-year absence from his wife but he died in 1814 a day after the publication to great acclaim of his work, *A Voyage to Terra Australis*.

A statue of Flinders is at Euston Station and another is outside the State Library of NSW in Sydney along with his cat Trim who accompanied him on his Australian explorations.

AAP

This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/world/dig-under-way-for-matthew-flinders-in-old-london-cemetery-20170320-gv1noh.html>



Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc.

Committed in Promoting Family History Research