

THE HENLEY AND GRANGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JOURNAL

NUMBER 1

APRIL 1980



THE HENLEY AND GRANGE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address: P.O. Box 80, Henley Beach, S.A., 5022.

COMMITTEE, 1980

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
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| Vice-President: | Mr. D.J. McCarthy |
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**Henley and Grange Historical Society
First Annual Journal**

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SETTING UP THE SOCIETY

The suggestion that a historical society be formed in Henley and Grange was made as early as four or five years ago, when the Mayor of that time, the late Bronte Edwards, said he thought it would be a good idea to have a Society which would gather the history of the area before it was lost. But nothing concrete was done until about August 1978, when Glen Ralph, at that time a student of Library Studies at the South Australian Institute of Technology, approached Alderman Iris Macdonald to sound out the possibility of forming a local group. Mr. Ralph, who, as part of his studies, was conducting research into historical societies, was also convinced that if a society was not soon formed much of the district's early history would be lost.

A handbill was prepared and distributed by shopkeepers and the Corporation office. It announced the intention to form a historical society, and invited interested persons to submit their names to the Henley Community Aid and Advisory Centre. In a circular letter, dated 13th October 1978, Alderman Macdonald announced that a meeting for all those people interested would be held in the Mayor's Parlour on Wednesday evening, 1st November.

At this well-attended meeting there was a sense of enthusiasm, and an obvious desire to get the proposed Society under way without further ado. But this was not possible. The meeting had not been convened according to the provisions of the Local Government Act, and a Constitution had first to be prepared for presentation to a meeting for acceptance so that a President and Committee could be elected. At the meeting, a Steering Committee was elected from the 34 people present.

Shortly before the meeting, Mayor Edwards had resigned because of ill health, and Peter Cates became the new Mayor at the election of December 9th. Fortunately, the new incumbent was no less enthusiastic about a historical society than his predecessor.

As Convenor of the Steering Committee, Glen Ralph drew up a proposed Constitution, and circulated it widely, both in the district and to interested persons and bodies outside it, inviting comment. There was

some delay, but eventually the Steering Committee (Glen Ralph, David McCarthy, Rosemary McCarthy, Helen Hanrahan and Becky Llewellyn) got together for several gruelling sessions and framed another Constitution which met the general consensus. When all the spade-work had been done, Mayor Cates called a public meeting by a suitable advertisement in the Westside issue of 12th September 1979.

Again the meeting was well patronised, and there was an obvious eagerness to get under way. The motion put to the meeting that the Henley and Grange Historical Society be formed was carried unanimously. Clauses of the proposed Constitution were then debated, after members of the Steering Committee had explained the intention behind them. One slight amendment was made, and the document (as amended) was accepted. Office bearers were then elected (see list elsewhere in this issue), but no one could be found to accept the Presidency. It was agreed that the Society should nevertheless proceed, in the hope that a suitable person would eventually be found to fill this important post.

The speaker for the evening, Mr. Ted Hasenohr, Principal of Henley High School, then took the floor and delivered the Society's inaugural address - an interesting account of the life of one of his ancestors, W. H. Gray (1808 - 1896), who had been a resident of the area.

Later, when approached, Mr. Hasenohr agreed to accept the Presidency of the Society.

With all offices filled, committee meetings, an exhibition, and the first general meeting have been held.

OBJECTS

Among the objects of the Society, as laid down in the Constitution, are :

- To encourage the study of the history of the Municipality of Henley and Grange and near areas, South Australia and Australia.
- To promote the compilation of authentic records relating to the district.
- To acquire, by purchase, donation, exchange or otherwise, and to preserve for use by the society and its invitees, books, manuscripts, newspapers, records, coins, stamps, prints, pictures, lantern slides, costumes, relics and all such objects and materials as may be considered by the society to have relevance to the history of the district in particular and South Australia and Australia in general.
- To establish, furnish, maintain and operate a museum in which to display objects and materials acquired by the Society.
- To promote the interchange of information among members of the society and the public by holding lectures, seminars, meetings, readings, discussions, films, and exhibitions dealing with the history of the district in particular and South Australia and Australia in general.
- To publish and circulate such journals, periodicals, books, papers and articles as may be considered by the Society to further the objects of the society.
- To amalgamate, affiliate, co-operate with and enter into reciprocal arrangements with other societies with similar objects throughout Australia, the South Australian Government, the Australian Government, the Corporation of the City of Henley and Grange, with other Local Government authorities, with semi-government instrumentalities and with other organisations in any endeavour that may be considered by the Society to further the objects of the society.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. F.L. Angus | Mrs. E. Mahoney |
| Mr. P.C. Cates | Mrs. I. Macdonald |
| Mrs. P.M. Cates | Mrs. M. Mitchell |
| Mrs. A.S. Clarke | Mr. D.J. McCarthy |
| Mrs. D.F. Cluse | Mrs. L. McLelland |
| Mr. J. Durant | Mr. R.E. Nash |
| Mrs. B. Edwards | Mr. N. Newcombe |
| Mr. R.C. Farran | Mrs. E. Newcombe |
| Mrs. N. Fischer | Mrs. N.M. Penny |
| Mr. J.D. Fowles | Mrs. P. Phillips |
| Mrs. P.D. Fowles | Mr. G. Ralph |
| Mr. N.J. Fuller | Mrs. M. Sutherland |
| Miss H. Hanrahan | Mrs. D. Triggs |
| Mr. E. Hasenohr | Miss E. Tucker |
| Mrs. E.R. Hasenohr | Mrs. S.W. Twist |
| Ms. E. Hiskey | Mrs. M.B. White |
| Mrs. G. Irish | Mr. G. Willoughby |
| Miss M. Jacka | Mrs. A. Willoughby |
| Mrs. A. Kluck | |

DIARY

Friday, 26th September, 1980

General Meeting.

Guest Speaker : David McCarthy.

Friday, 14th November, 1980

Annual General Meeting.

Guest Speaker to be arranged.

During the winter, the President (on Long Service Leave) and Vice President (on a Research Scholarship) will be overseas.

The Librarian has begun the task of cataloguing the historical material already in the possession of the Society.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JOURNAL

Contributions, in the form of paragraphs or short articles, are invited, and may be left with any member of the Committee.

A SOCIETY LOGO

Members or readers with artistic skills are invited to submit designs for a simple logo (badge, distinguishing symbol) for the use of the Society.

COMPILING OUR HISTORY

It is hoped that studies can be made, by individuals, of many aspects of local history. Such projects known to be under way, or in the planning stage, at the present time are :

- The early history of the Henley and Grange Corporation - David McCarthy.
- A jubilee history of the Grange Hockey Club - George Willoughby.
- A history of the Grange Institute - Glen Ralph.
- A history of Henley High School, 1958 - 1980 - Ted Hasenohr.

There are plenty of other opportunities! The Society would like to hear of any similar projects.

And don't forget that written outlines (or tapes) of interviews with older residents of the district can provide invaluable historical material.

Members who are themselves 'older residents' should try their hand at writing reminiscences.

A very good thing about local history is that a great many people can be involved in its compilation - and projects can be large or small. Can you help?

THE ROTAFEST EXHIBITION
Sunday, 24th February, 1980

On this year's Rotafest Day, at the Henley and Grange Memorial Oval, the Society arranged its first exhibition of historical material.

The Rotary Club of Henley Beach generously waived any site rental. A display case, pieces of plate glass, and a fine series of aerial photographs were provided through the interest of the Henley and Grange Corporation. The High School lent a marquee and trestle tables. And Mr. Kevin Moroney kindly painted several signs.

The Committee had spent a busy and enjoyable evening sorting through material and deciding how selected items should be exhibited.

Among exhibits were a comprehensive series of old photographs of Grange, Henley Beach, West Beach and Fulham, copies of public notices (e.g. concerning the setting up of the Corporation in 1915), books about early settlers (Sturt, the Whites, Gray), objects such as the original medallion to the Mayor's chain (portraying the now demolished jetty pavilion), Parliamentary reports on Torrens floodwaters, and aerial photos showing recent development.

Although membership was not greatly boosted, a good deal of interest was displayed by members of the general public, and the project was considered worthwhile.

THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 18th March, 1980

The duly constituted society held its first general meeting in the main staff room of the Henley High School.

Material arranged by the society, and by the guest speaker, was on display on a number of tables ranged round the room.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Doug Hamilton, Town Clerk of the City of Woodville and Secretary of the Historical Society of Woodville. To an appreciative audience of about 30 people, he gave a most interesting talk, ranging from comments on the researching and writing of local history, to an anecdotal survey of some aspects of the history of Woodville, Semaphore, Grange (including Sturt's house and Estcourt House), and Henley Beach. Those present won't easily forget the story of Mrs. McCarthy (related to our Vice President?) and her vigorous dealing with a would-be highway robber.

'SUNDAY MAIL' COVERAGE

Henley and Grange history featured in the second of what is designed to be a regular series of Sunday Mail articles on local areas in South Australia. The two-page spread in the issue of 30th March, 1980, contained pictures of the Marines, Sturt's house, the Ramsgate Hotel, and the Del Monte Private Hotel, with a text giving snippets of early history, and current impressions.

An interested reader of the article was Mr. John V. Harvey, whose family has figured prominently in our history, and who has offered to the Society articles of historical interest.

THROUGH THE YEARS

The following random extracts are from printed material concerned with various aspects of the history of our district. We hope that readers find the extracts interesting, while remembering that it is one of the Society's objects to supplement such material in every way possible.

STURT DEFIES THE FLOODWATERS

A footnote in the first biography of Captain Sturt, by Mrs. M.G. Sturt, 1899, pp 298, 299.

The floods, which almost every year surrounded the house, more than once swept away the bridges of Adelaide. During one inundation, Sturt on leaving his office found the water over the handrail of Hindmarsh Bridge, and a man there stationed to warn off passengers. Sturt, however, put his horse at the flooded bridge, and safely crossed it amid cheers from the beholders. That evening much alarm was felt for the inmates of Grange, and the Governor (Sir Henry Fox Young) came with friends in a whale boat from the Port to their rescue. But they stayed on their island, and the floods soon subsided.

DAVIS' ORCHARD AND VINEYARD

Very early in the history of the colony, A.H. Davis planted a large area with fruit trees and vines, on Moore Farm, near the intersection of Tapleys Hill and Henley Beach Roads. The following description is taken from Ebenezer Ward's 'Vineyards and Orchards of South Australia', originally published in 1862. Second edition, 1979, pp 8, 9.

Commencing our stroll by the banks of the river the first object which arrested our attention was a magnificent elder-tree. Beyond this avenues of Bigareau, Black-heart and White-heart cherries densely hung

with fruit, speak volumes for the richness of the soil. Adjacent to them are a number of fig-trees, including the Turkey fig, as well as the common species. Other fruit trees, such as the peach, apricot, plums of various kinds, damson and green-gage, are here in large numbers, all in perfect health and presenting indications of prolific yields. . . . There are two extensive plantations of pear, apple, and quince-trees, and soft-shell almonds. There are also some splendid mulberry trees, which came into full bearing at the unusually early age of six years. . . .

The whole extent of the vineyard and orchard is about 25 acres. Of this extent five acres were planted in 1839 and 1840. . . . In the older portion of the vineyard there are a large number of table vines. Most of these are trellised on wooden frames nearly eight feet high. They consist principally of Muscat of Alexandria and the Chrystal. . . . Of the wine grapes there are Shiraz, Verdelho, Frontignac and Gouais. Mr. Davis confines his manufacture of wine chiefly to two sorts - Moore Farm Red from Shiraz alone, and the Moore Farm White, from the Verdelho unmixed. Samples of his Shiraz vintages 1858, '59, '60, and of the Verdelho vintage of 1858, were selected by the Wine Committee for transmission to the Exhibition of all Nations.

A LOCALLY BUILT SCHOONER

Although the Fulham pioneer, John White, regarded bird-watching as a waste of good working time, both his son, Samuel, and his grandson became noted ornithologists. The following extract is from 'The life of Samuel White', by Captain S.A. White, pp 31, 35.

We are now approaching the last few months of my father's life, months full of activity and ornithological work. He returned from Cape York and New Guinea in the early part of 1879, and, on making a trial of his new steam yacht, 'The Eclipse' (the machinery for which he had imported from England), he found that the steamship drew too much water for

successful navigation in the shallow seas to the east of Australia. She was disposed of, and Samuel White set about the building of a new craft, and this time it was built of red gum, to resist the coral reefs. Most of the timber was sawn from trees on his estate at the Reedbeds, and he was very particular, examining every plank before it was used.

(The vessel was) a fore and aft schooner of about 80 tons; shipwright's measurements - length over all, 65 feet; breadth, 16 feet; with 9 feet 6 inches depth of hold; the keel is of jarrah in one piece; the planking inside and out is of red gum.

THE FIRST REGATTA (1904)

(As recalled in the Register, 26/1/29 - News item pasted in Mayor Barrey's scrap-book.)

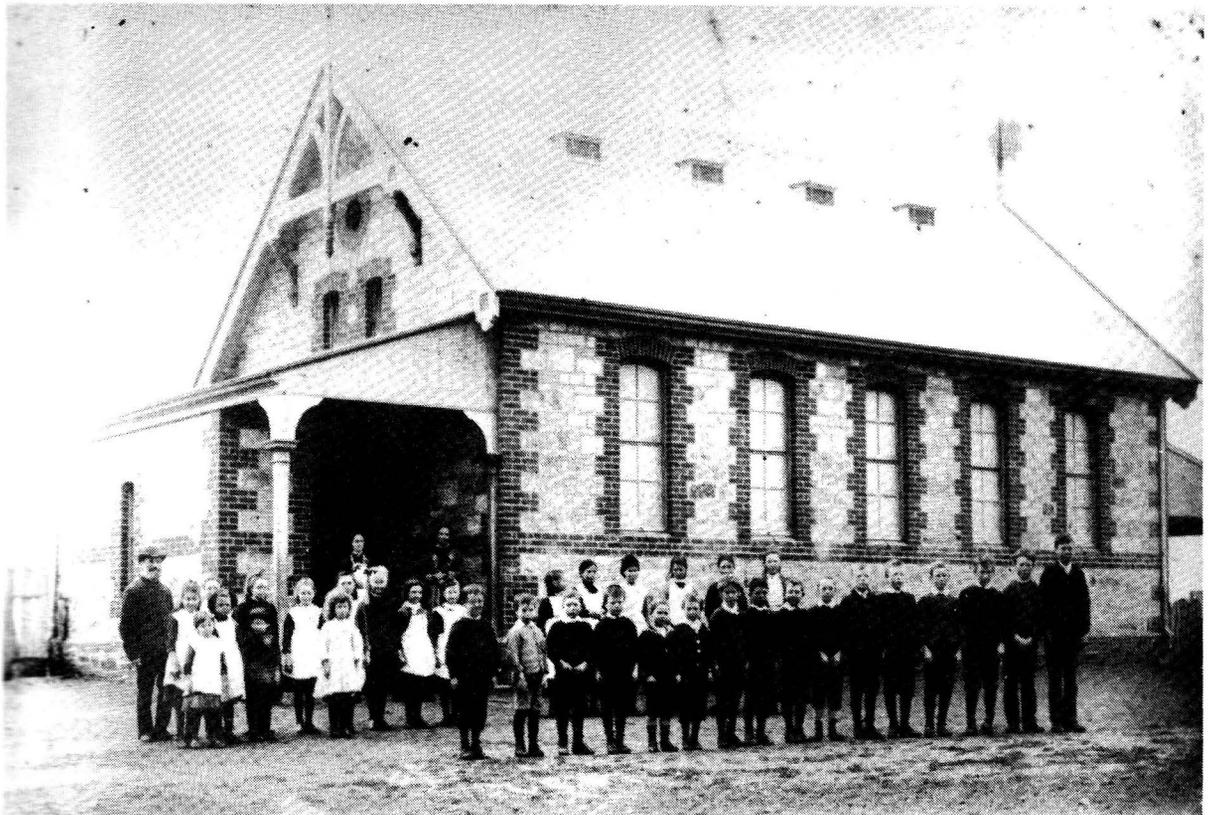
The object of the first regatta was not to raise money, but to popularize Henley Beach. . . . The regatta was a great success, and many thousands visited Henley by train and horse car.

Probably the most popular item in the day's events was the 'horse swimming race', in which the contestants mounted their horses at the jetty, waded into the sea, and raced thence to a buoy moored off the beach opposite the Henley Hotel. Loud were the cheers which greeted the winning panting horse and rider as they emerged from the water. . . . Another popular and interesting item was the 'duck hunt.' Swimming races and a greasy pole also provided much amusement; while on the shore there were athletics sports and competitions, and the ladies assisted with stalls.

The Glenelg and Port Adelaide Sailing Clubs sent along boats to Henley to provide further interest in the way of sailing races; for at that time the present Henley Sailing Club was not in existence.

Henley Beach Road, early 1900's, a short distance west of the Tapleys Hill Road intersection. Traces of the former course of the Torrens can still be seen at this point.

Grange School, in the late 1880's.



TORRENS FLOODWATERS

1. From Parliamentary Committee report No. 35, 1925, pp iv, v.

The tramways viaduct on the Henley Beach Road, about half a mile from the town, has caused considerable silting. The piles from the viaduct have impeded the flow of the floodwaters and the silt has settled to such an extent that the surface of the land has been raised several feet. The accumulation of silt at the lower end of the river naturally restricts the escape of the floodwaters and correspondingly increases the liability of the river to overflow its banks further up stream. The liability to flooding is thus coming easterly and at the same time residential settlement in the western suburbs is proceeding westerly, so that each succeeding flood of equal magnitude is likely to cause greater damage and inconvenience than its predecessor. The damage from floods is confined principally to residences, gardens, nurseries, and roads and footpaths. The inundation of open paddocks, owing to the deposit of silt, probably does more good to the land than harm.

2. Also from the 1925 report, p 28.
Councillor - later Mayor - Barrey is giving evidence.

Last year two floods came down, one in June and one in September. We usually get fair warning of the floods coming, either from the people in the hills or the police. On the morning of the flood of June we heard that the water was coming down. We organized a gang of men who thought their homes would be flooded, and with the aid of drays and about 20 men made a bank about 4 ft. high along the railway line. We worked on the bank all day long, but towards evening the water rose and beat us. It got into the Grange ward and flooded out three houses. . . .

HENLEY IN DEPRESSION DAYS

This copy of a circular letter is from Mayor Barrey's
scrap book.

Mayoress' (Henley and Grange) Local Unemployed Relief Fund.

Christmas Cheer Appeal

To the Residents of Henley and Grange

The Committee of the above Fund are making a House to House
appeal for donations in cash or parcels of groceries with a view of
rendering assistance to local distressed families at Christmas time.

In common with other localities many residents of Henley and
Grange are suffering on account of the present industrial depression with
little or no hope of relief in the near future, consequently the outlook
for the coming festive season is by no means cheerful, and it is with a
sincere desire to render a little temporary relief in such cases that
the committee are earnestly soliciting from the more favourably circumstanced
residents support for this worthy appeal.

. has kindly undertaken to canvass
your Section of the District and will be pleased on behalf of the
Committee to receive your donation.

Thanking you in anticipation,

E. G. Barrey, Mayoress.

J. A. R. Eyre, Hon. Sec.

20 -

Town Hall,
Henley Beach.

13/11/29

PRESERVATION OF STURT'S HOUSE AT GRANGE

The Advertiser, 28/1/1930 - news item from scrap-book.

The centenary celebrations of Captain Sturt's trip down the Murray were referred to by the Mayor of Henley and Grange (Mr. E.W. Mitton), in welcoming his Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) at the Henley and Grange Carnival on Monday. Although the municipality was one of the youngest in the State, he said, the erection of Captain Sturt's old home at Grange gave it an historic significance. Mementos to his journey had been erected at various points along the Murray, but no attempt had been made to preserve his old home. It would be a disgrace to the State were it allowed to go into ruin or be disposed of. It was at present in a state of fairly good preservation, and he understood that it could be purchased, with about seven and a quarter acres of land, for under 2000 pounds. The council had approached the Government several times, and had also solicited the assistance of the Royal Geographical Society on the matter. The home of Colonel Light had been lost, and he pleaded that a similar neglect should not be perpetrated with Captain Sturt's residence. His Excellency expressed approval of the views of the Mayor, and said that he hoped that the matter would be taken up.

ADELAIDE HAS SEEN MANY CHANGES AT THE REEDBEDS

From an article by Marjorie Casson, in the Chronicle,
August 21, 1958.

There is a ruthlessness about the march of progress. Those who loved the Adelaide of yesterday will spare a sigh for its one-time green environs. Today they disappear so fast under the bricks and mortar of the rapid growth of suburbs

But nowhere is the change more marked than at Reedbeds - the lush green paddocks round Fulham, where the horses used to graze. . . .

Wittunga^{*}, place of reeds, and what reeds they are! They are still fighting for existence, contending with usurping gardeners to the last. Right into Henley Beach itself they raise their flags wherever an allotment is still vacant. At Fulham, the centre of their kingdom, they still grow strong and tall - tall enough to hide a boy on horseback, should any such ghost come back to haunt an old-time playground.

(Hide-and-seek on horseback was an early pastime at the Reedbeds.)

But the lawns and bright suburban gardens, the Shopping Centre and Petrol Stations gain on them every day.

* Usually spelt Weetunga. (Ed.)

THE GRANGE HOCKEY CLUB

From a foreword by A.M. McRae, President of the South Australian Hockey Association, in the first issue of 'Up Grange!', June, 1947.

Grange wins again!

This is such a familiar headline in the Press that many hockey players have become just a 'wee bit' jealous, and have even wondered if Grange Club owned the Press as well as the Knight Cup! Now I am informed that Grange Hockey Club is, in fact, going to have its own 'Press' - a forward move on which I would compliment your club officials, whose initiative and sound views on good club management are further evidence of that enthusiasm which has brought your club to the forefront of Hockey in South Australia and, indeed, in Australia, and I am sure will keep it there.

The retention of Premierships year after year is a great accomplishment, but to my mind, though it is probably a natural sequence, such predominance is not so important as the building of a true friendly and co-operative club spirit and the comradeship it inspires. Grange Club already has that spirit in large measure, and I feel certain that your new publication will foster and develop the excellent reputation you hold, not only in the South Australian Hockey Association, but in amateur sport generally.

STORM DAMAGE

From the Advertiser, Tuesday, May 19th, 1953.

70 M.P.H. GALE BATTERS S.A. COASTAL DISTRICTS

WALLS, ROADS WRECKED

GIANT WAVES SMASH JETTIES

At Henley Beach sections of the sea wall hundreds of feet long, together with steel and concrete electric light poles were reduced to a twisted mass.

A large section of the concrete amusement platform fronting Main Street square collapsed, carrying with it the St. John Ambulance casualty room.

A foreshore merry-go-round at Henley worth several thousand pounds collapsed into the sea when water undermined its foundations.

Henley Lifesaving Club lost equipment valued at between 400 pounds and 500 pounds when seas washed through the building on beach level.

Although an inspection was impossible last night, it is believed that ten 14 foot sailing boats, valued at 200 pounds each, were smashed by heavy seas which destroyed the western wall of Henley Sailing Club's premises.

Two kiosks at the entrance to the jetty partially collapsed and the Henley South section of the Marine drive was undermined and believed to be severely damaged.

The swimming pool is reported to be badly damaged and much of the superstructure swept away.

Many bathing boxes at Henley South have been washed away and beach shelters and playgrounds have been destroyed.

Several hundred deck chairs and tents stored in a shed on the beach were swept out to sea.
