



#5 November 2006

## Welcome

At our last meeting we had Ken Barlow give a fascinating insight into life inside the Adelaide Gaol. Ken spent much of his working life at the Gaol.

He started his talk by giving us information about South Australia which was settled as a free colony. This meant that convicts were not allowed to be sent here so we did not need a prison. Of course convicts escaped from interstate and our own people committed offences during early settlement. These people had to be housed somewhere so initially our first prison was the HMAS BUFFALO which was anchored out in the Spencer Gulf. When the Buffalo had to sail, the prisoners were brought back to land and placed in a stone building possibly on the banks of the Torrens River.

The Adelaide Gaol was commissioned for a price of £17,000 (\$34,000). The grotesque faces on the towers cost £300 each at the time and some of them can still be seen today. Only 2 towers remain but originally there were meant to be four. The Gaol opened in 1841 primarily for debtors and other prisoners. Only half of the prison was built by 1841 and remained this way until 1850 when the half octagon was finished. There were many extensions to the Gaol during its working life time.

Many of the buildings surrounding the Gaol were used as housing quarters for the staff - the Gate for the Head Gaoler and his family, the towers for single males etc.

Yard 1 was for the female prisoners - one prisoner per cell. The second yard was for prisoners in need of protection such as ex-police officers, ex-prison officers and child molesters. Yards 3 & 4 were for the rest of the prison population and yard 6 was for remand prisoners who were waiting to be sentenced. Other than the female cells often 3 or 4 prisoners were in each cell at one time which were quite small and were only about 12 x 15 feet.

Ken told us about the bell which could be heard nearly a mile away in Adelaide. The officers of the day used to eat their lunch at the Newmarket Hotel on the corner of West & North Terraces. The bell was rung about 1.50pm to alert the officers to return to the Gaol by 2pm for work. The bell was also rung at certain times of the day to identify the routine of the gaol, such as meal times and head counts.

The original public hangings using portable gallows before the Gaol was built took place in the parklands (now the North Adelaide Golf Course) from a tree and also in the vicinity of where the Art Gallery now stands. The last public hanging was in front of the Gaol's gates where 2,000 people turned out for the occasion some bringing picnic lunches. From then on the portable gallows were placed between the walls of the gaol until one of the towers was converted to the hanging tower. This tower only hung 4 people. After 1879, when the new building was opened, this is where the rest of the hangings took place. Ken kindly donated copies of lists of people who were hung at the gaol.

Once a prisoner had unfortunately been hung, their body was left for about half an hour before being pronounced dead by a doctor and the Coroner. They were then placed in a coffin with quick lime and placed between the walls of the gaol before being buried. The body of a prisoner hung was never released to their family. Not all graves are marked, but the ones that are marked on the wall gives a number and their initials and date of execution.

The Gaol closed in 1988 with very little changes since it opened. The same loose bricks are still on top of the outer walls which were put there in 1841. There was still no "conveniences" inside the cells there were toilet blocks installed in the yards in later years which the prisoners took their buckets to be emptied in the morning.

Some people claim to have seen or heard ghosts in and around the prison. Ken has not seen or heard anything. Those claiming to have seen something usually saw them on bright sunny days rather than at night. One ghost is supposed to be the original Head Gaoler who died at the Gaol.

Ken showed us some books which can be purchased from the Gaol. There are guided and self guided tours available as well as Night Tours and

Ghost Tours. Please contact the Gaol for further information – telephone 8231 4062 during business hours.

Information on Prisoners can be obtained from the Department of Correctional Services 25 Franklin St, Adelaide PH 8226 9000.  
[www.corrections.sa.gov.au](http://www.corrections.sa.gov.au)

Tonight's meeting will be our end of year supper. This is just to get together with our members and guests and chat about family tree problems.

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

Cost is \$2 per person or we are offering a ½ year subscription for \$10.

Email: [andfhg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:andfhg@yahoo.com.au)

Postal: PO Box 32, Elizabeth SA 5112

## **SPECIAL EVENTS LOOKING FORWARD TO 2007**

We will be starting the New Year with a talk by David McGowen on the 18th of January 2007, the former overseer of Adelaide's West Terrace Cemetery who will discuss \*Stone the unedited history\*

We are preparing to have some Cemetery Walks in March 2007 in and around Salisbury, Playford and Gawler. More details will be given as they become available.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome all those who took up our offer of a ½ year subscription.

Ken Barlow  
Leslie Young  
Kristine Mead  
Mike Nicholson  
Paul Roberts  
Gilbert Stevens  
Marguerite Elton  
Susan Wilson

Pauline Young  
Trevor Mead  
Janice Everett  
Yvonne Clayton  
Allan Roberts  
Ivan Randall  
Margaret Pavljuk

### **SPECIAL ANDFHG DAYS**

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October our committee attended the unveiling of a plaque at the Dublin Cemetery. This plaque commemorated those who had been buried at the cemetery but actual location of the grave is unknown. There are grave markers on all the graves which have no headstones where burials are known.

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October we had a visit from the Whyalla Family History Group to the Playford Local and Family History Library for the day where everyone had a lovely lunch and a tour round the library. All the volunteers were busy on the computers and microfiche and most of the visitors went home with something new. A big thank you to all our volunteers at Playford and ANDFHG for helping make the day a success.

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November we put a supper on for the Salisbury Historical Society at the Willaston Cemetery, as our Vice President Bev Burke took the Society members on a walking tour of the cemetery. A very informative and fun evening was had by all.

You may not be aware, but ANDFHG has been offered, two places on the Organizing Committee of the 2012 AFFHO Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry to be held in Adelaide. SAGHS, won the right to hold the event in 2012, at this years event in Darwin. Fleurieu Peninsula FHG has also taken up the same offer, our representatives on the committee are Peter Applebee and Jacqui Dennis. A couple of meetings have already taken place at SAGHS Head Quarters at Unley. There is a competition in place to find the best logo design for this congress, the prize being \$200. Once the logo has been chosen, this will become the property of the Congress and will appear on all stationery, publications and any other items which promote the 13<sup>th</sup> Australasian Congress. The winner of the competition will be announced on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. If you are interested in submitting a suitable logo, please contact any of the Committee Members for more information.

## *A SECRET CHRISTMAS CAKE "RECEEP"*

*By Margaret Flaiban (nee Burn)*

My 3 x great grandfather Adam Thompson BURN had many sisters and brothers, who in turn married and produced children. A niece of my Adam BURN was Elizabeth Burn born circa 1860 to Thomas BURN and Deborah DAVISON. She married Thomas THOMPSON (date unknown) and produced 10 children. I have not been able to establish if there is a family connection between Thomas THOMPSON and my 3 x great grandfather.

This cake "receep" has been handed down through the BURN generations and only came into my hands in 2001 by way of a distant cousin who found me on the Northumberland-Gen website (which is another story!). Here is the "receep" (Scottish word for recipe) which has been made many times without fail (yet!) : It has even been made as a wedding cake in the BURN families through the ages.

1 lb currants  
1 lb raisins  
1 lb white sugar  
¼ cup chopped almonds (one packet from the supermarket is enough)  
250 grams butter (no substitute)  
1 packet glace cherries  
10 eggs (yes 10!)  
1 teaspoon mixed spice  
14 ozs plain flour  
handful of dried apricots chopped small (optional).

Method: Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and mix. Add fruit, stir, and then add dry ingredients. At this stage the "receep" says to mix with clean hands and put into a greased and lined tin. Bake in a very slow oven for 1 hour then turn up the heat for another 4 hours. (I bake it at 100 degrees for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour then 200 for 4 hours). As ovens are slightly different, it is a case of trial and error for the first few bakings. It really does taste beautiful.

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Elizabeth used to make the cake in November to let it season before Christmas. George (eldest) and Willie (2 of her sons) slept in the kitchen in a bed known as “the death bed”. It was built in the bottom half of a piece of furniture called a press. The top part of the press was used for crockery and dry goods and the bed slid out from the bottom section then was pushed back into place after the boys were in it. These two rascals found a way to remove part of the shelf above them and get at the cake. With the aid of a penknife they picked away at it night after night, cutting it in circles until only a shell was left. When the cake was finally removed to apply some decoration to the top, she found the cake was hollow, so she “laid into” the lads with the “poss stick” which was her implement for keeping order in the household. (A poss stick was half a broom handle used to pick clothes out of the boiling water into the copper on wash days).

I can only assume that after this little incident, the “death bed” was not used

## HELP PAGE

**Q:** Where do I find UK census information

**A:** A lot of censuses are available on line some are free. You get an index to check out first then can access the original transcripts in most cases.  
Check out these websites :

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

[www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

[freecen.rootsweb.com](http://freecen.rootsweb.com)

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/census/>

The LDS have transcribed the 1881 census and it is available on line or for purchase from your local LDS church.

[www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Some members of ANDFHG also have copies of census ask around as they may have the year and area where you require.

### WEB SITE NAME CHANGE

The website [www.11837online.com](http://www.11837online.com) has changed its name, it is now [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com). It remains a paid site

**Across**

- 1 ... Company Trading enterprise founded in 1600 (4,5)
- 5 Son or daughter (5)
- 7 A body of men enrolled for emergency military service (7)
- 9 Eastern part of a church (7)
- 11 Any rented property, later applied to shared urban housing (8)
- 12 A crown dependency in the Irish Sea (3)
- 13 Chapel of ... situated for the convenience of parishioners (iving a long distance from the parish church) (4)
- 15 London centre for clandestine marriages (3)
- 16 Fictional figure sometimes referred to in court cases (4,3)
- 19 Baptize (8)
- 21 Author of classic work *The Parish Chest* (4)
- 24 Originally a type of land tenure dependent upon custom and the lord's will (8)
- 26 Record office covering Greater London (initials) (3)
- 27 Gold or yellow heraldic colour (2)
- 28 Male sibling (7)
- 29 The bird most commonly chosen to provide feathers for quill pens (6)
- 30 Latin for 'thus', copied exactly as the original reads (3)
- 31 Property or money left to someone in a will (6)

**Down**

- 1 A heraldic fur (6)
- 2 18 ... the year that baptisms and burials were first recorded on printed forms (8)
- 3 CD-Rom compiled by the Federation of Family History Societies from parish registers (initials) (3)
- 4 Court of ... the provincial court of appeal of the Archbishop of Canterbury (6)
- 5 Moveable personal property, not real estate (7)
- 6 Holder of an office, eg a rector or vicar (9)
- 8 To levy a money penalty for an offence at a manorial court (6)
- 10 A tax imposed on this from 1692 (4)
- 14 To legally take another's child and bring it up as one's own (5)
- 16 Until 1832, the minimum annual value of freehold (in shillings) that qualified the owner to vote (5)
- 17 A deed by one person, used for example to change a surname (4,4)
- 18 Common written abbreviation for 'John' (3)
- 19 Water-borne disease that struck Britain 1831-2 and 1848 (7)
- 20 A godparent or bondsman (7)
- 22 Type of numerals that superseded Roman (6)
- 23 Commentary on a text, added in the margin or between lines (5)
- 28 The back of a document (5)

**Answers to Issue 41: Across 1 Churchyard, 5 Hide, 7 Gemini, 8 Probate, 10 Ainsty, 11 Mr, 14 Removal, 17 Gazette, 21 Uxor, 22 Wain, 23 Sister, 25 Eleven, 26 Tax, 27 Kew, 31 Lychgate, 32 Norwood, 33 Woking Down 1 Chapter, 2 Union, 3 Coram, 4 Domesday, 5 Henry, 6 Endorsa, 9 Earl, 12 Potato, 13 ST, 15 Ermine, 16 Azure, 18 Eyam, 19 Tyndale, 20 Moiety, 24 Nephew, 27 Kyme, 28 Ward, 29 PRO, 30 Mark, 31 LOS**

## ALEXANDER NEWLAND LEE

*Submitted by Tamara Martin*

Alexander was the sixth of 12 children born to Joseph Lee and Ellen Charles on 30th December 1888 at Marrabel, South Australia.

He married Muriel Estella Glen on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1911 and they had 6 children. After the children were born they settled in Rhynie, near Auburn. Alex unfortunately had a shearing accident and his hand was disabled and needed hospital attention for some weeks at the Willows Hospital near Nuriootpa.

There is some speculation as to who the father is, of the last two children (twins) to be born. Their father may have been Alex or his brother Len, who had been living with them for some time. From the statements given to the court at Alex's trial, Len said that he had told Muriel that he was 'not responsible for her condition'.

Around the middle of March 1920 Alex began driving in the North of the State and returned home unexpectedly on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 1920. Whilst away Alec had made enquiries into where he could purchase strychnine to poison rabbits.

That night there had been a jug of milk in the pantry, and everyone except Amelia (the eldest) had some of the milk to drink. In the early hours of the following morning Muriel and 3 of the children were found dead. An inquest followed which identified the cause of death to be strychnine poisoning.

According to Alex, on Muriel's death bed she said she had poisoned everyone. Another scenario is that they were accidentally poisoned with the stew if some poisoned barley had fallen into it.

Muriel and the children were buried in the Riverton Cemetery on Good Friday and the headstone does not show her married name.

Alec was arrested and charged with murder on Easter Sunday.

The eldest child Amelia was put on the stand and gave an account of what took place that evening. She said she saw her father take a little brown bottle from his pocket and put a few drops into her brother's mouth.

A statement Alex made to an officer escorting him to Adelaide on the train "I think that I should have been the person to identify the bodies of my wife and children at the inquest, if they had called me to identify them I would have made a sworn statement over my wife's corpse. I knew that my wife had poison in the house for 10 or 12 months past, she said to me on the night that she died ' Darling, I hadn't enough stuff to do them all, I have only left you little Alice, as I could not face the twins coming home again. I can't afford to keep any help, and they nearly killed me before; don't let it leave your lips dear, while my mother lives". Alex asked "Where did you get the stuff?" Muriel replied "I got it from Mr Nelson's house one day while you and he were at Langhorne Creek. I tipped some strychnine out of a bottle into an envelope. Darling forgive my sins."

There was no real evidence that Alex did commit this crime - he was convicted on circumstantial evidence. He claimed he was innocent right to the end.

On the day prior to his hanging he was visited by his parents and other members of his family at the Adelaide Gaol. He was hung on the morning of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 1920 and is buried just outside the New Building in which he was hung. He was the first man to be convicted under the new Poisons Act.

*(The above information is taken from the May Sessions 1920 Court Records, Supreme Court Library - Adelaide).*



*This is our last Newsletter for 2006. We would like to thank all our members for their support and enthusiasm since the inception of the Group. We hope to see you all at our 2007 meetings and walks.*

*A Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group.*

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Surname	Place	State/County	Country	Period	Member No
ADKINS	Grafton Regis	BKM	Wales	Pre 1800	010
AGAR	Leicestershire		ENG		017

ANDREWS			Scotland		025
BAKER	Fulham	MDX	ENG	Pre 1850	010
BELLAMY			ENG	1790	025
BONTEKOE	Waddinxveen	Zuid Holland	NL	Pre 1889	003
BOOTH	Collaton	Dev	ENG	Pre 1850	003
BORGERS	Arendonk		BEL	Pre 1863	003
BORGERS			U.S.A.	1930+	003
BRAENDLER	Fuerstenau		PRU	Pre 1857	003
BRAENDLER	Adelaide	S.A.	AU	Post 1857	003
BROWN	East Yorkshire		ENG	1790+	002
BURN	Northumberland		ENG	1790+	002
CALDERWOOD	Killydonnelly	Rasharkin	Ireland		026
CANTRELL	Cardiff	Slam	Wales	Pre 1909	010
CHAMBERLAIN	Fulham	MDX	ENG	Pre 1850	010
CHELLEW			World		005
CHENEY		Huntingdon	ENG	Pre 1855	025
CLARKE	Warwickshire		ENG		017
CLAYTON		Derbyshire	ENG		019
COLLINS	St Austell	Corn	ENG		005
DEALTRY		Cambridge	ENG	Pre 1856	003
DEALTRY	Adelaide	S.A.	AU	Post 1865	003
DENNIS	Britwell	OXF	ENG	Pre 1850	010
FAWCETT	West Riding	YKS/SA	ENG/AU		005
FORTESCUE		Devon	ENG		024
FOSBROOK(E) FORSBROOK(E)			World		005
FOX	Exeter	Dev	ENG	1600's	003
FREER	Swindon/Blaby	Wiltshire	ENG	Pre 1855	025
HALSE		Dev	ENG		005
HAMILTON	Renfrew + East Yorkshire		ENG	1790+	002
IRELAND	East Yorkshire		ENG	1790+	002
JACKSON	Sheffield	York	ENG	circa 1865	018
JAMES	Exeter	Dev	ENG	1800's	003
JELLEY	Ouston	NTH	ENG	Pre 1680	010
JONES	Forden	Powys	Wales		019
KEITH	Glengormley	Rasharkin	Ireland		026
KIRCHIN	Leicestershire		ENG		017
LEE		Hereford	ENG		005
MacLAGAN/McLAGAN			SCOT		005
MEAL(E)Y			Italy/AU		005
POETT			World		024
PRATT	Warwickshire		ENG		017
RENDER	East Yorkshire		ENG	1790+	002
SANDO		S.A.	AU	1847+	003
SANDO/SANDOE	Redruth	Cornwall	ENG	Pre 1847	003
SINGLETON			ENG	1790	025
SMITH	Dublin		Ireland	Pre 1855	025
SOLLOWAY	Grafton Regis	BKM	Wales	Pre 1750	010
STAFFORD	Ermouth	Dev	ENG	All	003
STANDEN		Kent	ENG		019
STEELE	Shankill	Rasharkin	Ireland		026
STEEN	Oldesloe	Schl/Holstein	PRU	Pre 1849	003
STEIN		S.A.	AU	1849+	003
STEVENS	Piddletrethide	Dorset	ENG	Pre 1930	022

TIPLADY	East Yorkshire		ENG	1790+	002
VOUSDEN	East Peckham	Kent	ENG		019
WALKER	Winslow	BKM	ENG	Pre 1850	010
WATTS		Essex/London	ENG		024
WILLIAMSON	Pytchely	Northampton	ENG	1850	025
WILSHIRE		Essex/London	ENG		024
WITHALL		Dev	ENG	All	003
WOODALL	Stockport		ENG		019
WOOLFORD		Wiltshire	ENG	Pre 1855	025
WYLIE			Scotland	1800	025
YARD	Taunton	Somerset	ENG	Pre 1855	025