

The Compass



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Front Cover Image:

Photograph by Robert Fraser, Parade down Rundle Street by Lord Kitchener on his visit to Adelaide in 1910.

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From the Editorial Desk

This issue of “The Compass” sees a new look and a new approach. Colin Withall decided that he needed time to complete his family history and regretfully did not offer his services as editor of “The Compass” at the AGM. We are sure all readers would agree that “The Compass” has been of very high quality, providing entertaining and informative articles.

With Colin as editor, “The Compass” was awarded the prestigious Nick Vine Hall award for the best publication by a Genealogy Group.

The ANDFHG committee recognised the time and effort required to produce a publication with the quality of content that The Compass provides. Consequently a decision was made to establish an editorial committee rather than place the responsibility with one person. This is the first edition for the new editorial committee.

We hope you will enjoy and be informed by this edition, which includes: -

The Honorary Vaiben Louis Solomon



Margot Bailey is a member of Beit Shalom Progressive Synagogue and currently President of Jewish Genealogy & History Society in South Australia. Margot's parents were Betty and Walter Bridgland. Betty's mother was the younger daughter of Solomon and Rachel Saunders. Her father was the only child of Hannah and Harry Bridgland. Harry was a Gentile, his step-father was Vaiben Louis Solomon a Jewish businessman in South Australia and the Northern Territory. He was the first, and to date, the only Jewish Premier of South Australia, a position he held for seven days in December 1899. Margot tells the Vaiben Louis Solomon story.

August Guest Speaker Night

The group guest speaker in August was Sandy Whitelaw. With the help of fellow members from Australian Costumers Guild danced to music of the period and modelled men's and women's clothing worn in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, 1820 to 1910.

Updating the Circle

Margaret Flaiban provides an interesting update on her partner's family in 19th Century Victoria, their travels to South Australia and their return to Victoria later in their lives.

Bob the Railway Dog

Before Red Dog, there was Bob the Railway Dog. Read about his adventures on the Australian Railways, how an ordinary mutt could be fondly remembered by many. A great yarn recounted by David Southon.

Robert Fraser Photographer

Robert Fraser an almost unknown photographer in Adelaide and South Australia. He lived in Semaphore owned a Draper Shop in Port Adelaide, his hobby was the new medium of photography. Michel Smith tells us a little about the man and gives us a taste of some of the four hundred surviving photographs Robert Fraser took at Port Adelaide, and around South Australia.

Computer Talk with Ivan Randall

Ivan talks about the importance of backing up computer files. He discussed the many means for backing up including using the relatively new free internet sites that provide web storage space. If you don't currently commit to regular backups of files we recommend you read this article and consider using one of the methods discussed.

The Hon. Vaiben Louis Solomon

South Australia's Only Jewish Premier

By Margot Bailey



Photo: SLSA: B3685 Vaiben Louis Solomon Ca.1885
South Australia's Only Jewish Premier

Who was Vaiben Louis Solomon?

Vaiben Louis Solomon was one of the most colourful figures in the early history of the Northern Territory and South Australia. He was the Northern Territory's first politician. He was both eloquent and enterprising. Today he would be called an entrepreneur. Sol, as he was known in Palmerston (now Darwin) was the earliest known Jew to settle in the Northern Territory. His brother Moss was running a store in Palmerston when Vaiben arrived there, but Moss did not settle there.

Vaiben was an early advocate of a railway from the south to the north of Australia. A quote from the Northern Territory News Special Feature, Tuesday December 2nd, 2003, written to commemorate the completion of the railway. "Vaiben Louis Solomon, the Northern Territory's first representative in the Commonwealth Parliament, took every opportunity to

promote Territory development. He saw the completion of the railway from south to north as being essential for the Northern Territory's welfare, and that of Australia as a whole." Without a south - north transcontinental railway Darwin was an island.

His attitude to racial issues was complex. "He was happy to see Chinese labourers help build the railway line to Pine Creek, but he was publicly opposed to their remaining here and gaining citizenship rights". He does not appear to have been anti-aboriginal. For a bet with a solicitor, Vaiben and a prominent businessman friend streaked naked down Palmerston's main street. The two streakers, posed as aboriginals, blackened their bodies and carried what were described as "corroboree trimmings" so that no one would recognise them. This was a time when naked aboriginals could be seen on the streets of Palmerston.

The Early History of the Northern Territory of Australia

From the mid 1820's the Northern Territory was part of the colony of New South Wales. In 1863 Letters Patent from the British Parliament made it part of the geographically nearer colony of South Australia. The main reason for the change in administration was that the colony of South Australia was looking for additional arable land. In 1869 the township of Palmerston was established adjacent to Port Darwin. In 1911 the administration of the Northern Territory was transferred from South Australia to the Commonwealth Government. At the same time the name of Palmerston was changed to Darwin. The Northern Territory is still not a State. However a Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee is in the process of being established.

In 1978 an Act of the Commonwealth Parliament granted self-government to the Northern Territory with strings attached. As the Northern Territory is not a State its self-government is limited. The Federal Government has kept control of several government departments including Aboriginal land, uranium mining and industrial relations. In regard to financial dealings between the States the Northern Territory is regarded as a State.

Family Background of Vaiben Louis Solomon

Two of Vaiben's uncles were convicts. To quote from "Luck's been a Lady", the autobiography of Vaiben's grandson Dr. Rex J. Lipman – "Vaiben and Emmanuel ... at 15 and 16 respectively had been transported to Van Diemen's Land for trivial misdemeanours. Later Emmanuel settled in Adelaide, built the city's first theatre in 1838 – the Queen's – and became a much-loved Member of Parliament and businessman. When he died, the funeral procession was said to have been nearly 3 miles long!"

Vaiben Louis Solomon was born on 13th May, 1853, in Weymouth Street, Adelaide, South Australia. He was the third son of Judah Moss and Rachel Solomon. Judah Moss Solomon was Mayor of Adelaide from 1869 -1871.

Judah Moss Solomon (1818 to 1880), Vaiben's father, was 15 years old when his family migrated to Sydney. Judah's father, Samuel Moss Solomon, was said to be the inventor of the 'lead' pencil and was known as "Shlomo the Pencil Maker". It is probable that he was merely a pencil maker and not the inventor of the lead pencil.

Schooling

The young Vaiben was first educated at one of the several private schools that then existed in Adelaide: J.L. Young's Adelaide Educational Institution. Later he was sent to Scotch College, Melbourne.

Early working life

After leaving Scotch College he returned to Adelaide and commenced working for the firm of Donalson, Andrews and Sharland. He was sent to Kapunda, north of Adelaide, to represent the firm there. At Kapunda he took part in amateur theatricals. After a short time he returned to Adelaide and worked at the Stock Exchange. In 1873, at the age of 20, Vaiben's father sent him to the Northern Territory to work.



Photo: SLSA: B3776 Vaiben Louis Solomon Ca.1870
This group portrait of six men includes a youthful Vaiben Louis Solomon, seated, on the left.

Why was Vaiben sent to the Northern Territory by his father?

Vaiben, as a member of a well respected and well-to-do family, would have had many career opportunities in Adelaide. The Northern Territory was an isolated area, without the career opportunities of Adelaide. Then why was Vaiben sent there? Vaiben was sent to the Northern Territory by his father because Judah Moss, as one of the leaders of the

Jewish community considered that Vaiben had formed a most unsuitable romantic attachment. In 1873, at the age of 20 years, he had become engaged to a beautiful young Adelaide girl, Mary Ann Wigzell. But Mary was not Jewish and as such was considered to be an unsuitable bride for a son of Judah Moss Solomon.

As both Mary and Vaiben were under 21 years of age they were unable to marry without parental consent. Vaiben's father, Judah Moss Solomon, placed a notice in an Adelaide newspaper stating that Vaiben was under age and did not have his father's permission to marry. To put as much distance as possible between Mary and Vaiben, Judah Moss sent Vaiben to the Northern Territory. There he joined the Jewish financed Adelaide Prospecting Venture, a gold exploration company. After a short time he returned to Adelaide, but his father did not allow him to remain here for very long because the attractive Mary was still available.

Vaiben in the Northern Territory

Vaiben's brother Moss had a general store at Palmerston at Port Darwin and Vaiben was sent there to manage the store. Vaiben was not content to merely manage a store. By 1877 he had his own store, Solomon's Emporium, while his brother's firm of M.J. Solomon and Co. soon closed down. Solomon's Emporium was damaged in the 1897 Cyclone and also in Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Each time it has been rebuilt and is now called Brown's Mart.

Between 1874 and 1880 Vaiben, still in his early twenties, soon established himself as a leading businessman in Palmerston. Solomon's Emporium sold building supplies, hardware, clothing, food and liquor. Vaiben was an agent for Lloyd's of London, Vice-Consul for the Netherlands, an importer, auctioneer, valuer and land agent. He was also involved in the Pearling Industry.

In 1874, at only 21 years of age, he helped found the District Council of Palmerston. He later became the Council's Chairman.

He became one of Palmerston's foremost builders and by 1880 his own residence on the Esplanade was reputed to be the most substantial in Palmerston. Also he was the owner and editor of "The Northern Territory Gazette". For 17 years, between 1873 and 1890, Vaiben lived and flourished in Palmerston.

First Marriage

While Vaiben was establishing himself in Palmerston his former fiancée Mary Wigzell had, on 28th March, 1878, married Walter James Bridgland at Montacute in the Adelaide Hills. Tragically Walter died on 20th September, 1878. On 31st May, 1879, at Kent Town, South Australia, Mary gave birth to a son, Harry (later known as Harrie) Walter Bridgland. As his father died before he was born, Harrie never knew him.

In 1880 Vaiben's father Judah died. Vaiben did not waste any time. On 6th December 1880 Mary Bridgland and her infant son arrived at Port Darwin on the mail steamer "Atjeh", via Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and ports further north. The ship's agent was V.L. Solomon. The next day, the 7th December, Mary and Vaiben were married at the Esplanade, Palmerston. Vaiben was now 27 years old.

As well as his business interests and being active in local government, Vaiben was a keen sportsman. Also he and Mary soon became prominent figures in the social life of Palmerston.

On 17th September, 1881, Mary gave birth to a daughter, Mary Danks Solomon, at the Esplanade, Palmerston. Mary and Vaiben's life together was tragically short. On 7th January, 1885 Mary died. She had acute bacterial pneumonia and liver failure. Her two small children, 5 year old Harrie and 3 year old Mary, were taken to Adelaide where they were brought up by the Solomon family.

Vaiben lived in Palmerston for another 5 years immersing himself in the many aspects of his business, political and sporting activities. Some of his business enterprises were successful and he made great gains. but sometimes he lost heavily. Violent storms in the north eastern pearling grounds destroyed his lugger. He owned tin leases in a mine in the Northern Territory, also a copper mine at Daly River, NT. Very early in the 20th century he also had business interests in Coolgardie, Western Australia. Like many other Jews he went to the Goldfields not to search for gold, but to set up in business.

Parliamentary Life

Vaiben Louis Solomon was one of the Northern Territory's first two representatives in the South Australian House of Assembly. In 1890 he and the Hon. J. Langdon Parsons were elected to represent the Northern Territory in the House of Assembly in the South Australian Parliament. He was Government Whip in the second Playford Government (1890-1892) and the second Downer administration (1892-1893). This Premier, Sir John Downer, was the grandfather of the former Foreign Minister, the Hon Alexander Downer.

Vaiben became Leader of the Opposition and, in 1899 led the Opposition attack which overthrew the Kingston Government. One of his nicknames was "Sudden Solomon". This was because he was only Premier and Treasurer for 7 days – from 1st to 7th December, 1899. On his first parliamentary day as Premier and Treasurer his ministry was defeated.

He was a delegate to the Constitutional Conventions of 1887 and 1898. He was one of 50 men elected to the 1898 Convention which drew up the Federal Constitution. He was also a member of the Convention's Finance Committee. On Federation in 1901 he became a member of the first Federal Parliament. In 1905, after having lost his seat in the Federal Parliament after only one term, he was again elected to represent the Northern

Territory in the South Australian House of Assembly. He was holding this seat at the time of his death in 1908.

Second Marriage

After his first wife Mary's death in 1885 Vaiben remained a widower for 11 years. Then, in a Victorian newspaper, he saw a photo of that year's "Miss Victoria". To quote his grandson Dr. Rex J. Lipman – "The story goes that V. L. Solomon saw the picture and announced that he was going to Melbourne to marry the girl concerned." And that is what he did. On 1st July, 1896, Vaiben married Alice Cohen in the Bourke Street Synagogue in Melbourne. Three children were born of the marriage – Vaiben, then Esther (Lipman, then Cook, then Lady Jacobs). Ester, like her father, had remarkable ability and energy and survived all three of her husbands. She was the first woman member of the Adelaide City Council. Betty (Fewster) was the last child born of that marriage.

Vaiben the Jew

He is the only Jewish Premier we have had to date in South Australia even though he held office very briefly. Although he did not occupy any committee position in the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, he was a respected member and is mentioned several times in their records. The first reference, in 1897, is to the conversion of his daughter Mary to Judaism.

Also in 1897 he was honoured as Chatan Bereshit for the festival of Simchat Torah, when the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah is completed and then recommenced.

In 1900 Vaiben was consulted regarding the possibility of one hundred Jewish families emigrating from Romania to Adelaide. He was not in favour of this suggestion because there was an oversupply of labour in the colony at that time.

The Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation held on 17th September, 1908, contain an interesting item: "Cruelty to Animals Bill: President (of the AHC) reported that the Hon. V. L. Solomon and Sir John Downer had interested themselves in the securing of our people (the Jewish people of Adelaide) against any trouble in respect of "Kosher" killing under this bill. Resolved that these gentlemen should be written letters of thanks."

Death

Vaiben died on 20th October, 1908, in Adelaide, of cancer. He was only fifty-five years of age. His grave is in the Jewish section of the West Terrace Cemetery,

Adelaide. By the time of his death Alice had returned to her family in Melbourne with their three children. It is said that Vaiben had made and lost several fortunes, but he died a poor man.

The Federal Electorate of Solomon in the Northern Territory is named in his honour.

Margot Bailey (nee Bridgland) AUA.
Daughter of Walter & Elizabeth
Bridgland.

Granddaughter of Harrie & Hannah
Bridgland.

Family Reunion, BENIER/BENNIER/BANNEAR

Sunday 16 October 2-7 pm. The Walkerville Bowls Club on the corner of Smith and Church Street Walkerville.

John BENIER/BENNIER/BANNEAR was born 1809 in Germany, died 1881 in South Australia. He married Anna Maria Dorothea SPECHT, b.1816 in Germany? d 1895 in South Australia.

They left Kritzow in Mecklenburg - Schwerin near Wismar, Germany, sailed from Hamburg in April 1844 to Nelson,

New Zealand, with a group of German emigrants who planned to settle there but the New Zealand Company's plans fell into disarray and the group left New Zealand in November 1844 arriving at Hobart, Tasmania in December 1844. They left there and arrived at Port Adelaide in January 1845 settling on land a few miles south of Adelaide. They left Germany with five young children.

For further details please contact Marc Bennier on 0411826865 or marc.bennier@yahoo.com.au



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Victoriana Clothing with Dancing Quadrilles

By Terrilisa Southon



Our guest speaker for Thursday 18th August 2011 was Sandy Whitelaw from the Australian Costumers Guild who gave a very informative and well demonstrated talk on Victorian era clothing, with emphasis on the gentleman's wardrobe.

Fashion was regulated by the roles of social etiquette, and Sandy gave us quite a few examples of what was worn and when, such as the inappropriateness of white gloves and fans at the theatre (it may distract the audience from the stage production).

“neglect of her appearance’ was frowned upon in genteel Victorian society; an infringement of social etiquette which every woman needed to adhere to. There was a strong Parisian influence in style for women’s clothing, but the male of the species had more relaxed approach due to the very English tailoring.

A catwalk of models displayed the costumes, with design secrets revealed such as the hidden pleats and folds of the frock coat, and how the Military jackets emphasised the broad shoulders and narrow waist of a gentleman.



From the early Victorian era through to Edwardian First World War, we were witness to the changing styles of some clothing (more ankles now on show) to the design of the Military Mess jacket which, in over 100 years, has only had slight modifications.



Sandy peppered the oration with some very interesting anecdotal stories such as the vanity of older gentlemen who preferred the tailored cut away coat as it took the eye away from their growing ‘middle-aged spread’. The growing suffragette movement borrowed from the male attire to create a new wardrobe for themselves, with just a sprinkle of feminine touches using the straw boater as a basis for their headwear.



Of course no fashion show would be complete without men in uniform – red jackets as a morale booster (you could not see the blood), white uniform top when stationed in the East during the Raj and the Hussar’s uniform with brocade and buttons, all with tailored trousers.

Although we did not have an opportunity to glimpse the male bathing costume, most of us had a good idea about what may have been revealed when the clothing became wet (19th century 'budgie smugglers')



Even the clergy was included in the costume parade.



To complete the evening several dances were presented. We commenced the set with an 1820 Royal Scottish Quadrille, continuing with the Alberts Quadrille of the 1890's and concluding with le militaire – the military 2-step.

An enjoyable evening was had by all attendees.

If you would like to further investigate clothing and etiquette of the Victorian and Edwardian era – have a look at these internet sites

- <http://logicmgmt.com/1876/etiquette/etiquette.htm>
- <http://www.victoriana.com/directory/gentlemen.htm>
- <http://home.kendra.com/victorianrituals/Victor/ritualsII.htm>

Demonstrations and information about the quadrilles and waltzes can be found at these internet sites.

- <http://blank.org/susan/rsq.html>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Oo0YLzh-DU>



Updating “The Circle”

By Margaret Flaiban

In 2009, I wrote an article titled “A Full Circle” about my partner Jon’s family. Time has marched on and I have been able to piece a little more information together. Jon’s great grandfather Alexander Bothwell (1841-1900) arrived in Melbourne between 1860 and 1870 as a Mariner, working his passage from Aberdeen Scotland, leaving behind his father Alexander Bothwell, his mother Janet Gibb, three brothers and a sister in poor circumstances. The 1841 and 1851 Scottish Census’ shows the family living with six other families in Clubbers Yard, St Nicholas in Bourtie, Aberdeen, Scotland.

He meets Hannah KNIGHT and marries her at the Fitzroy Registry Office Melbourne on the 6th December 1871. The marriage certificate states Alex is a Mariner from Bourtie Aberdeen aged 27 (conveniently forgetting the extra 3 years!). Hannah is 21 from London, a domestic servant working and living in Alma Road St Kilda. Her father is Thomas Knight, a Quarryman. This is the address on the marriage certificate. Alma Road St Kilda is to be significant later in both their lives.

Whilst searching through “*The Argus*” newspaper I found an Alex Bothwell “embezzling cargo to the value of 5 shillings from the British ship “Shannon”. The Officer of the Watch Joseph Collier was not happy with the slow unloading of cargo and approaches Alex. Collier finds a case of brandy had been broken open, two bottles were missing. Alex admits having drunk a quantity of brandy but said he did not break open the case. Alex is brought up before the Sandridge Court (Port Melbourne) and is given 6 weeks imprisonment with hard labour for the brandy and 6 weeks hard labour for the assault on Collier, which is alleged to

have been “unprovoked”. I am only assuming it is ‘my’ Alex Bothwell until I can get further proof.

In 1873 their first son George Alexander is born at Brunswick. Later in 1875 William Thomas (Jon’s great grandfather) is born in Yan Yean just outside of Melbourne. The family move to Portland Victoria, presumably working on the docks and in 1877 another son David is born. I approached the History House at Portland but they could find no record of the family being in the area. I can only assume Alex is still working as a Mariner and finds work on the River Murray, as in 1879 yet another son Alfred Murray is born at Morgan South Australia. The town of Morgan is still being established with the introduction of the railways working in conjunction with the river boats but I could find no record of the family being there either. I searched for some kind of school records and employment records without success. The family move further towards Adelaide living in Aldgate around 1883 where yet another son John Michael is born at Mount Lofty. The boys attend the Stirling school but only stay for 2 terms before transferring to Kapunda School in late 1883.

The family move to Maxwell Street Kapunda where Alex finds work as a Quarryman and they put roots down in the community for six years, the longest time in one place. The boys attend the local school until 1889. During their six year stay in Kapunda, Alex and Hannah lose their youngest son John Michael to measles and bronchitis in the height of a heat wave in February 1884, aged 11 months old. One can only imagine a grieving Hannah and a distraught Alex and their sons by the small grave in Kapunda Cemetery where their

youngest son lies in an unmarked grave.

In April 1885 another son Charles Henry Thomas is born and they rent a larger house in Mine Street at the other side of the town. So, by this time Hannah has a houseful of males to cook and wash for and most probably endless mending of clothes. How she must have longed for female company. Her wishes come true in 1889 when finally a daughter, Jessie May is born but they quickly move back to Melbourne, renting a house off Alma Road St Kilda, where they began their married life.

We may never know the reason why the family move back to Melbourne so quickly but I did find a Thomas Knight dying around 1888 in the area and is buried in the St Kilda Cemetery. I have no knowledge of Hannah's parents emigrating but it is one possibility that this was the reason the family moved back to Victoria. Hannah may just have been homesick for Melbourne or even sick of travelling and wanted a better life for her children.

The family rented a long white weatherboard cottage at 27 Prentice Street, off Inkerman Street St Kilda where Hannah has another daughter Helen, in 1892. Helen, (known later as Nellie), is only eight when Alex dies in 1900. The Electoral Roll show Hannah, a widow and the eldest boys living at this address and actually possessing a telephone.

Whilst in Melbourne 2010 Jon and I decided to see if we could find anything on the Bothwell's final resting place in St Kilda. We were quite excited to drive along Alma Road which runs along the back of the St Kilda cemetery. I quietly thought of Hannah working as a young woman in Alma Road, marrying Alex and moving from the busy suburbs of Melbourne, travelling to the seaport of Portland, on to the pioneer township of Morgan, up to the Adelaide Hills and

then on to the mining community of Kapunda, with the family finally coming back to the place where they started. I often wonder if Hannah thought she had gone full circle too!

We eventually located the Bothwell plot where six family members are buried in one grave in the Presbyterian Section of the cemetery. Alex (d. 1900), Charles H (d. 1905 aged 20), Jessie May (d. 1912 aged 23), Hannah (d. 1921) with two other Bothwell people, (baby d. unknown) and a Lilian Bothwell who, I think is a daughter of David and his wife Annie Stynes). It must have been quite hard for Helen (Nellie) losing most of her family by the time she is a young woman. But what happened to her? She proved a little difficult to track down with a few wrong leads, but I finally found her on the electoral roll under the name of Nellie Bothwell, still living in the St Kilda area as a Dressmaker and never marrying.

I was surprised to find that Alex's father Alexander Bothwell (Senior), a widower living on his own in Aberdeen on the 1901 Scottish Census outliving his son, finally passing away in 1908 aged 83. His occupation – a Violin Maker!

Sources:

Ancestry.co.uk
Scottish Census
Family Search .org - IGI
Victorian & SA Pioneer indexes
"The Argus" newspaper
Information from family members

Dog stories – Bob the Railway Dog

By David Southon



Photo:
SLSA:B50634 Bob the
Railway Dog, ca.1892

Many dogs have man as their best friend but during the late 1800's "Bob the Railway Dog" made the railways his best friend.

Bob lived from 1882 – 1895 and was found at Terowie in a cattle truck by guard

William Ferry among fifty other strays from Adelaide consigned to a rabbiter from Carrieton. The rabbiter would not sell the German Collie but agreed for a swap with another dog which William quickly found; the stray was named Bob.

Bob became a railway dog travelling with his new owner, later becoming a free spirit. He was renowned for jumping on and off trains as he wished and going as far as Melbourne, Sydney and even trying out the trams in Adelaide, and taking a few trips on Murray River steamers.

At the end of each trip wherever he ended up, the enginemen would take him home as an important visitor. When he stayed in Adelaide, his favourite hotel was the Eagle Hotel where the staff invariably gave him the best. If a grumpy driver put him off, Bob remembered him and never went back on his engine again.

Bob's fame even spread overseas, when a correspondent to the UK paper the Spectator stated that Bob was the best known dog in Australia, travelling thousands of miles in his favourite seat, the coal box. He never had a master but

every engine driver was his friend. The correspondent wrote, "At night he follows home his engineman of the day, never leaving him or letting him out of his sight until they are back at the railway station in the morning, when he starts off on another of his ceaseless journeys."

Bob one day was stolen by a sheep farmer, and unfortunately for the farmer, he had Bob herding sheep near the railway line, when Bob heard the train whistle he ran to the engine where the crew recognised and reclaimed him.

A collar was made up after the incident by one of his friends, a commercial traveller, with the inscription "*Stop me not but let me jog for I am Bob the Drivers Dog*".



Photo: SLSA:PRG 280/1/5/301
Bob the Railway Dog, ca. 1885

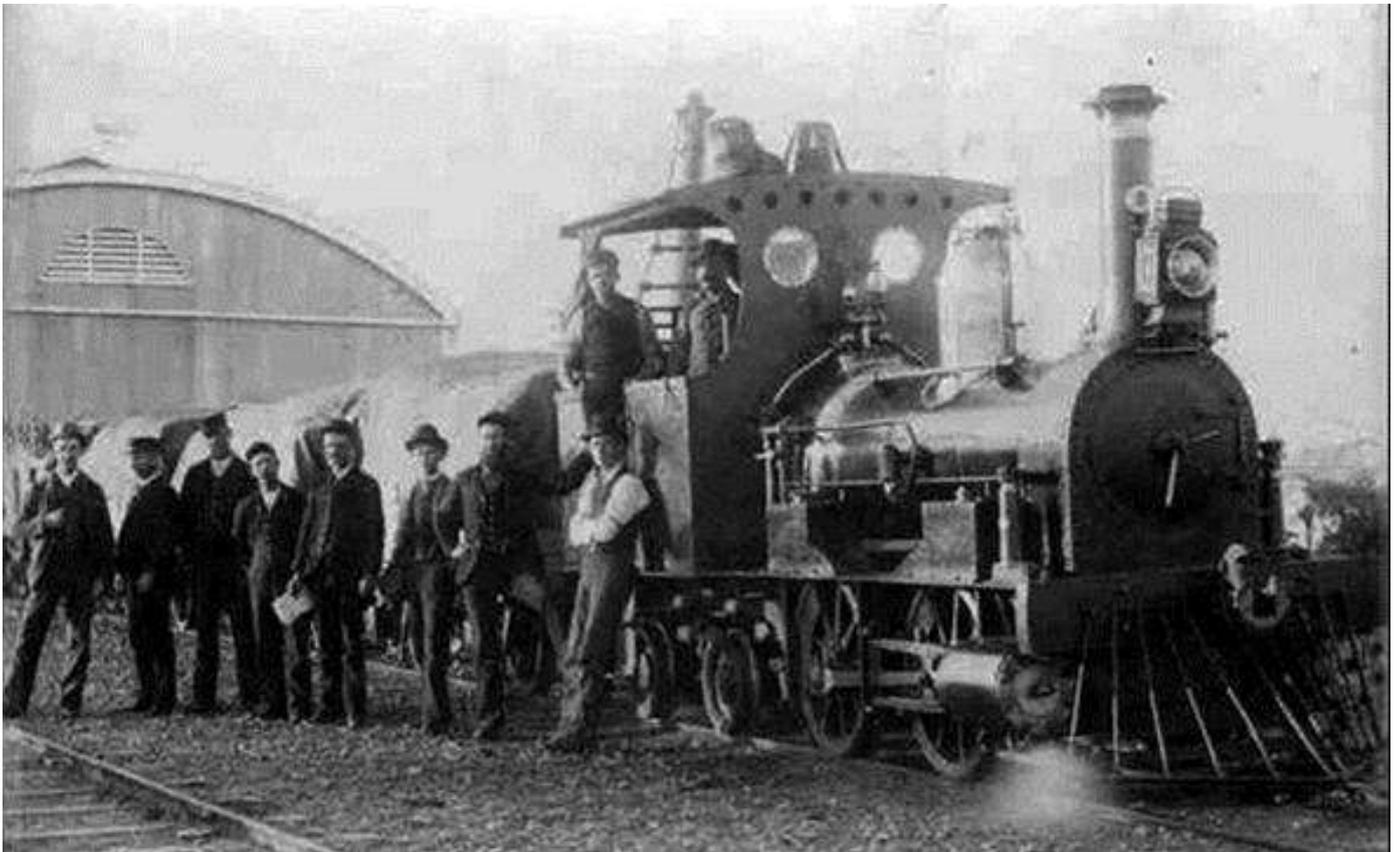


Photo: SLISA: B6422 Bob the Railway Dog in Port Augusta, ca. 1887
Port Augusta railway staff pose for a photo by a V Class Loco. Sitting on the roof of the loco is Bob.



In the main street of Peterborough Bob is immortalised in bronze and is a tourist attraction which could eventually rival tributes to other famous dogs of the world. There is a brick dedicated to Bob on the Railwaymen's walk of fame in Peterborough.

More information can be found at the Tourist Information Centre in Peterborough and at Port Dock Railway Museum in Port Adelaide.

Photo: Jan Jacobsen
Bob is now remembered in Peterborough with a memorial statue unveiled on November 20th 2009 by Mayor Ruth Whittle OAM. April 6th 2010.

Source: The Seniors Newspaper
February 2010 Page 6

Robert Fraser

Photographer of Adelaide and South Australia

By Michael Smith



Robert Fraser Ca. 1930

In 1982 when my Grandfather died it was left to the family to get everything in order, this included the disposing of accumulated rubbish from within the house and stored in various sheds on the property.

At the time I was working shift work and weekends so when it came to cleanup day I arrived early in the afternoon to help. My first job was to complete loading the remains of what was the chook shed on a trailer and take it to the dump. When I was loading, a wooden chest all covered in chook droppings caught my eye. When I enquired what was in it the response was “who cares it’s all covered in chook droppings (or

words to that effect) and its going to the dump”. I decided that I would like to know its contents. It was so heavy it could have been gold coins or jewels. I cleaned off the droppings with a spade and opened with some difficulty what was quite a well made chest. To my surprise it was filled with boxes of what looked like little black glass rectangles of various sizes. One of the boxes was labelled “Ilford Chromatic Plates”, it was then I realised they were photographic negatives. When I held the one in my hand up to the light I could see it was a photo of an old sailing ship. At that point my father informed me the photos were taken by his Grandfather, Robert Fraser and if I wanted them to get them off the trailer and get on with the clean up.

I put them in the boot of my car and took them home. When I decanted them from the chest I found there were around four hundred plates. I stored them in an environment that was more conducive with their preservation. I could do very little with them as I knew little about the photographic printing process and they stayed pretty much untouched for sixteen years.

In 2009 I purchased a large format transparency scanner and have scanned all the photographs. Once I had scanned them it was a lot easier to see the content of the photographs. There are a number of photographs that are easily identified but many that I have no idea of what or where they are. I have no real idea about the date span over which the photos were taken, only that I was told that Robert was taking photographs between 1890 and 1930.

I have recently retired and during my retirement, plan to identify and date the photographs.

Robert Fraser was born in 1858 in Port Adelaide, South Australia and died in 1934 in Semaphore, South Australia.

I have included a transcript below from an article about Robert Fraser that was given to me by a relative researching the Fraser family. It was sent to me as a photocopy and is from a magazine or newspaper. Unfortunately it was provided without any reference to its source, consequently I am unable to acknowledge it. I would love to get hold of the original as it has photos of Robert Fraser's Drapery store in Port Adelaide.

“Robert Fraser eldest son of the late Mr. George Fraser (once well known shipmaster here, and for a long time in the lighthouse service) was born on January 10, 1858 in Port Adelaide. He received his education at the well known pioneer of schools of the late Mr. T. J. King, at Port Adelaide, and the late Mr. John Millard of LeFevre's Peninsula.

At 16 he was engaged to Mr. A. Hunwick, of Port Adelaide to learn the drapery business. During the eleven years that he remained in this employment by steady work he rose from the position of shop boy to that of the highest of trust and responsibility in the establishment.

When the carrying trade between Great Britten(sic), Europe and South Australia was improved by the introduction of fast cargo carrying steamers the mode of trading in the colony was revolutionized. The business men of the old school could not easily adapt themselves to the new conditions, so that many of them lost considerable of their trade, and among this lot was Mr. Fraser's employer. Retrenchment was necessary, and as Mr. Fraser was the highest paid employee, he had to go. This seemed to Mr Fraser at the time a calamity, as many business firms were at the time feeling the stress

of the change from old to modern methods. But Mr. Fraser considered the time ripe for business on his own account, and on June 1, 1885 he opened his establishment in St. Vincent Street.

While with Mr. Hunwick he secured an excellent reputation in the Port and was highly respected, and despite the sayings of contemporary tradesmen that as two shrewd business men had not succeeded in the same store before, he would not, Mr. Fraser has proved to the Port people during the past seventeen years that success can always be attained when a man is careful, attentive, and diligent, and is quick to adopt ideas and new goods beneficial to his customers. Mr. Fraser has applied novel ideas to his business, and his methods of advertising are decidedly unique. He was the first draper of any importance in the Port to issue Co-operative Coupons as a discount, and to encourage cash trading, Now all the others have adopted the coupon system.

Mr. Fraser's store is stocked with the freshest and best goods on the market. A large and competent staff of assistants give every attention and civility, so that it is a pleasure to trade there. His stock includes all kind of plain household drapery; dress goods of all the newest fabrics and styles; gloves, French kid, and fabric in all the fashion shades; hosiery for ladies, gentlemen, and children's wear and the very best values to be had; silks and trimmings; laces and lace goods; stylish millinery, being copies of expensive imported models at very moderate prices; umbrellas, sunshades, corsets, underclothing, ladies jackets, capes and mantles; and gentlemen's hosiery, mercery, tailoring, and outfitting. One department includes a large stock of fancy goods suitable for wedding, birthday, and Christmas presents. A staff of dressmakers, all competent hands are kept on the premises.

In the store all goods are marked in plain figures at the lowest cash prices (coupons given equal to 5 per cent. discount). Many of his customers on leaving the state have continued to send Mr. Fraser their orders by post, and this is his proof of their regard for Mr. Fraser's way of dealing.

Realizing that a customer is well served when satisfied, Mr Fraser makes it his object to supply only sound and reliable medium and better class of goods at the lowest of prices, leaving the lower class of trade for others to cater for.

The soundness of this policy is proved because old customers stay and introduce new friends. Mr Fraser was married in 1883 to the eldest daughter of Mr. J. J. Earle at that time a prosperous baker and confectioner of the Port, and now has seven children."

Of the four hundred photographs taken by Robert Fraser, there are a good deal that were taken in and around Port Adelaide, but as you will see others were taken in the centre of the City of Adelaide and in various rural areas.

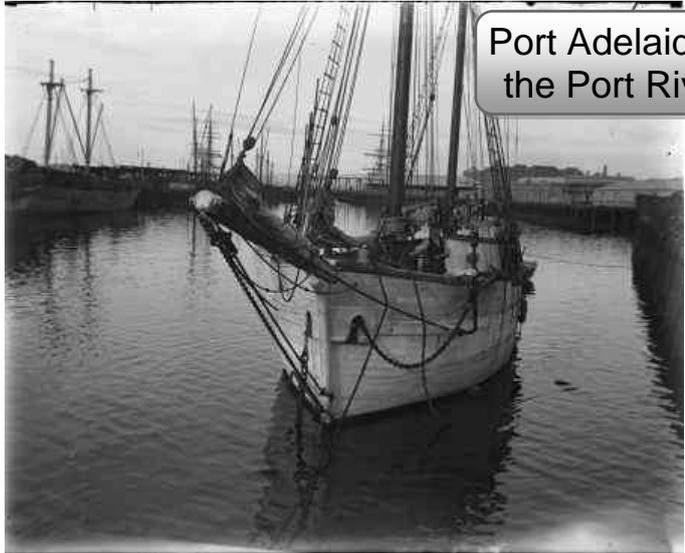
The photographs are, as scanned, some have some minor corrections made to them.

I have been deliberately brief when describing the subject and locations in the photographs as I am unsure myself.

Not to put too fine a point on it, Robert Fraser was not a brilliant photographer. Many of his photographs while interesting from a historical perspective lack artistic merit. I have included a small sample of Robert Fraser's photographs in this article including a couple that are artistically very good.



Looking South along Commercial Road Port Adelaide with the Customs House in the foreground. Robert Fraser's Drapers shop can be seen centre left on the South East corner of Commercial Road and St. Vincent St.



Port Adelaide & the Port River



HMSC Protector



Trading Ships



The Port Regatta



Larges Bay Jetty



Semaphore Jetty

Lord Kitchener in Adelaide 1910



Duke and Duchess of York's visit in 1901



H.M.S. Ophir



Parliament House



King William Street from Victoria



H.M.S. Ophir Departing Port

North Terrace



Adelaide Oval



Elder Park



Country Scenes



The Bridgwater Mill



Useful Websites

www.oldbaileyonline.org

If you had alleged felons in your family living around London or Middlesex in the 17th and 18th Centuries, then try a search on this site.

www.familysearch.org

The genealogical “bible” [IGI] is still one of the best sites that most family historians search first in their quest to find their family members. You need to scroll down to the bottom of the page to access the old records search.

www.blacksheepancestors.com/uk

Tracing late Victorian Criminal Ancestors with court and prison records for inmates and criminals in North America and parts of the UK.

<http://www.ozgenonline.com/>

OZ Gen Online has been developed to assist Australian Researchers in their own research into their Local and Family or Genealogical History. It includes search engines, surname links, leading genealogy sites, Australian and world links.

Computer Talk

By Ivan Randall



Computers these days are very reliable and consequently data loss is not common but when it occurs it can be devastating. It is not just equipment failure that can result in data loss, human error is also a big contributor.

Backing up is not a thing people normally think of until they need to recover lost files. If you value your data, and I don't know anyone who doesn't, then regularly back them up.

I am often asked *"How often should I back up the files on my computer"*, my response is always *"How much data are you prepared to lose and have to re-enter"*.

I have been reminded on a number of occasions since the last issue of The Compass of the value of backing up files on a computer.

Just a few weeks ago I turned on one of my computers only to receive a message that a valid boot device could not be found. On further investigation I found that the hard drive had failed. On another occasion when I was hurrying to complete a task on the computer, I was presented with a message box and in my haste I clicked on OK and to my horror it started to delete a folder full of my precious files. The lesson here is to read carefully what a message says, as I clicked on the wrong thing and then didn't read the message that said *"are you sure you want to permanently delete."* A fellow committee member conveyed to me that an ANDFHG member deleted their family tree database when performing a file clean up on their computer, so be careful.

The good news about the sad stories above is that the files were backed up and were able to be restored. While this was the case some data was lost as the backups were made some days before with the result that some data had to be re-entered.

Anyone using a computer for recording their family history or any other purpose for that matter need to seriously consider regularly backing up their files otherwise they may be faced with a considerable amount of time and effort to manually re-enter their hard work.

Thought should be given as to where to put backup files. If you backup to your local hard drive and it fails, as described earlier, you will have lost all your files, original and backup. Backing up to stand alone media such as a portable hard drive (HDD), USB stick, DVD/CD etc. is always a good idea as the data/files are independent of your computer.

You should also consider that there is a risk if both the original (on your computer) and the backup (on your chosen media) are stored at the same location that they both will be lost through theft, fire etc. I recommend that you keep a copy of the backup in a different location to the original, e.g. at a relative/friends house, at work, in your handbag etc. Avoid storing both the original and backup in the same location to prevent the lot being lost.

If you use one of the above you need to decide how you are going to backup, as there are a number of options:

- i. Manually transfer the files to the media. You have to remember to do this and Murphy's Law dictates that the one time you forget to backup is the time you will need it.
- ii. Automated (scheduled) backup using the Microsoft (or MAC) based backup utility or a third party backup utility. Some that available are:
 - Nova BACKUP
 - Genie Backup Manager
 - Acronis True Image
 - Norton Ghost
 - Power Backup

I find that the Microsoft Backup and Restore Centre supplied with Windows Vista and 7 work well with little or no need to change the default settings. It is a cheaper option than buying a backup and restore utility.

- iii. A combination of both.

I recommend a combination of both, use a utility to automatically make regular backups of all the files on your computer. Manually backup files that you work on between auto backups where you don't want to re-enter data that is not included on the auto backup, i.e. If you auto backup Mondays and you put a lot of data into to your family tree Wednesday, manually backup as the auto backup will not contain the new data until the next Monday.

My computer is on 24/7 so I do an auto backup at 2 am every Monday. If you don't wish to leave your computer on all the time consider leaving it on overnight one night a week and schedule the backup, virus scan, windows updates at spaced intervals the same night. Each will provide you with a message to confirm whether they happen or not, something to wake up to in the morning! If you don't like this option

then schedule the backup (and the other maintenance actions) during the day when your computer is on. Keep in mind they may slow you down if you want to work at the same time.

Some of the third party software e.g. *Acronis True Image* will synchronise files. Synchronising is a function that will update a file on the backup each time you save the original. You will need to backup to a USB stick or portable HDD and have it connected to the computer as you work. When you have saved and closed the file you remove the USB stick or HDD and store it in a safe place.

There are now Web options for backing up files like, "Dropbox" www.dropbox.com and "**Mozy**" <http://mozy.com/home/free> just to mention two. Sites like these will usually allow the user 2Gb of free storage space, not a lot but enough to backup a family tree file.

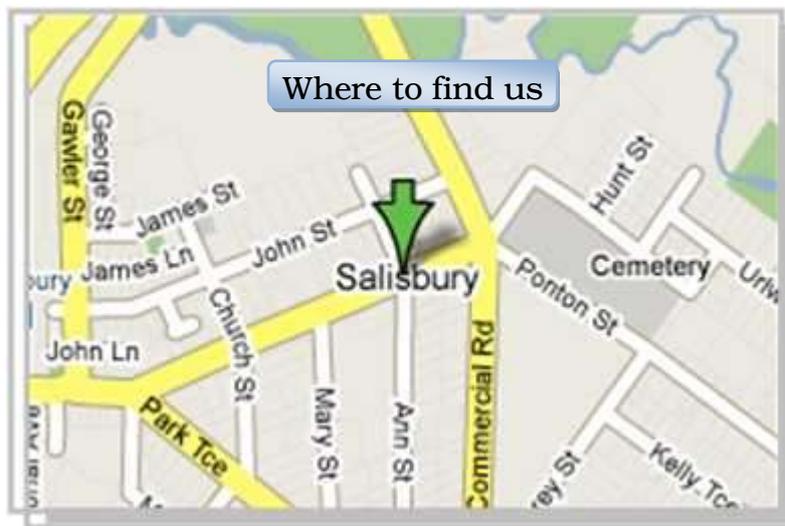
Using Web backup effectively stores your backup in a different location to the original and even if the computer is destroyed you can still recover your valuable files.

Most Web backup options also allow synchronisation between the file on your computer and the one stored on the Web. I have noticed that Dropbox synchronises the file on every save, while this ensures that the computer file always matches the Web file, if the file is large and continuously uploaded, it will eat into your data allowance. This will impact on people with a limited download allowance. To overcome this, the synchronisation function can be turned off and turned back on to update after the last save.

If the demand is there, the group would consider running some sessions on file backup, please let us know if it is something that would interest you. ☺



Research Rooms of the Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group
“The Old Police Station” The “Old Police Station” Ann St., Salisbury, South Australia



The ANDFHG meeting rooms are open every Thursday from 10am to 4pm for Family Research, members, and visitors are welcome.

Open days are held on Saturdays twice Monthly between 1pm and 4pm.

Volunteer Genealogist Researchers are available to assist and guide in all Family History matters. Resource Services are available.



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We are an active member of The Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc. and support their Ideals.



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