



HISTORY WEST™

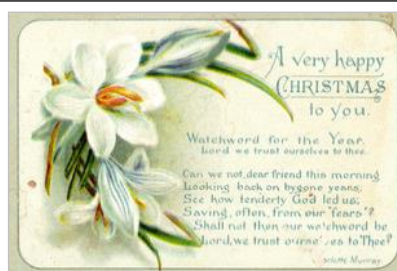
PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

December 2023



**Happy Christmas, Happy New Year
and Happy Holidays!**
**The Society wishes you season's greetings
and a joyful summertime!**

This year we feature colourful and evocative Christmas cards
from times past – all from the Society's collection



**Grateful thanks to all
History West contributors without whom
this year's regular issues would not have been possible.**

Thank you everyone — authors and book reviewers; photographers; library, museum, bookshop, and tours & events volunteers; Affiliate contributors; and the distribution team. *History West* could not exist without you all.
Your contributions are much appreciated and essential.

Thank you everyone.

Holiday Closure

From
Thurs 21 December 2023
at 4pm
to Mon 22 January 2024
at 10 am

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Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) — Report

Honour for Helen Henderson

At the AGM Helen was awarded a FAHS Fellowship in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community history and heritage movement nationally. Helen joined the RWAHS in 1993 and was elected to its Council in 1996, remaining a Councillor until her retirement this year. She held office as Vice-President and also chaired the Technology Committee. Additionally, she was involved in drafting strategic plans and in constitutional revision. Her work in Western Australia extended to the History Council, the Battye Library SLWA and the WA Museum. Helen made a national contribution as Western Australian delegate to FAHS and then Vice President and President of the Federation. With her husband Bill, Helen authored and published a book on the life of the 19th century botanical collector Augustus Oldfield. This was published and distributed across Australia and copies are held in many interstate libraries. In retirement as a delegate Helen agreed to act as secretary of the Federation. Congratulations Helen on a long career of support to FAHS and RWAHS.

Changes in federal delegates

When Lennie McCall retired as a delegate to FAHS she was succeeded by Bob Nicholson. He shared that role with Helen Henderson. Later, Nick Drew became Treasurer of the Federation. When Helen retired this year as a delegate Nick replaced her as a delegate. When he ceased this year to be a member of the Society's Council, Bob Nicholson reached the view that he should also retire as a delegate to FAHS. That took effect at the Federation's AGM on 16 October. The Society's Council has appointed Michael Nind to succeed him. So our Federal delegates are now Nick Drew and Michael Nind.

An appeal to members

History West requests feedback

We receive some feedback from members but would like more please.

What did you particularly enjoy in this year's *History West*?

What would you like to read more about?

How can we improve *History West*?

Looking forward to hearing from you —
admin@histwest.org.au

Writers' Group Update

RWAHS Writing Group meets once a month, generally on the second Monday, at the Society.

The first meeting for 2024 will be Monday 12 February. All members are welcome to join the group. Please let RWAHS know (on 9386 3841) if you are interested in coming along and we can send you more information.

Sessions run from 10.15 to 12.30, and the aims of the group are to:

- share and improve our own writing via feedback in a supportive and enjoyable setting;
- benefit from guest speakers on a particular aspect of writing; and
- support other members in the writing process.

Megan Ewing, Convenor

History in the City

Rachel Roe



Bill Cutler was certainly cognisant of all things pertaining to C Y O'Connor and the goldfields pipeline for our November talk. He was well qualified for the topic having been born on the pipeline – at

no. 7 pumping station – and spending his early life and schooling as a pipeline kid. His father worked on three of the O'Connor built steam-pumping stations. Bill's engaging talk spanned O'Connor's 1843 birth to his death in 1902, aged 59. O'Connor was an Irish engineer who immigrated to New Zealand, aged 21, and soon became the chief engineer in the South Island. In 1883 he was appointed Under Secretary of Public works in New Zealand and in 1890 Marine Engineer for the colony. In 1891 he resigned from his position to become Engineer in Chief of Western Australia. John Forrest was a lucky man to have acquired such an experienced engineering genius. WA benefitted enormously from his expertise. O'Connor was responsible for the construction of Fremantle Harbour, Goldfields Water Supply Scheme and WA Railways. Audience members, who consisted of many retired engineers, could have listened for hours to Bill's detailed talk with fabulous visuals.

Please join us for our talks on the first Wednesday of the month from March to December, Citiplace Community Centre at 2pm - \$10 entry includes delicious afternoon tea. No bookings required.

Whoops! Correction needed

There is an error in the November issue which we hasten to correct.

John Forrest's parents, William & Margaret Forrest, arrived in WA on the *Trusty* in 1842

as part of the Australind settlement.

Many thanks to member Malcolm Sears for his keen eye!

INVITATION

ALLY'S AT HOME

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLOTHING

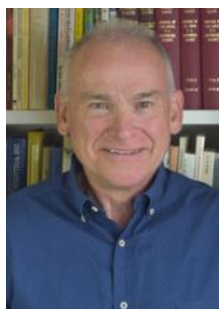
"BUBBLES - BUY - BARGAINS"

BY APPOINTMENT

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**MEMBERS YOUR FRIENDS
ARE WELCOME**

Our Councillors 2023-2024



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Sally Anne Hasluck
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Wendy Lugg
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Georgina
Wigley
Councillor



Keith Cundale
Affiliates Rep

President's Report 2022-2023 — key excerpts

Richard Offen, President and Chair of Council

Following two years of uncertainty and disruption due to the COVID pandemic we have resumed 'normal service' and every aspect of the Society's programme is running once more.

Despite a freak storm that soaked a large number of books and completely demolished one of the gazebo shelters, our 2023 second-hand book sale was a great success raising approximately \$19,000. Our thanks to the hardworking team, led by Pamela and Nick.

The Williams/Lee Steere Annual Prize for the best book published on WA history has become a major prize for Western Australian history writing, producing a large field of entries.

Communication with our members is a vital component of the Society's work and *History West*, our monthly newsletter, is no small undertaking. To those who contribute to this monthly digest, please keep the articles and news items coming; this makes the editor's job so much easier.

One of the jewels in the Society's crown is our annual journal, *Early Days*. This year's edition is a high-quality publication, both in terms of content and reproduction. High praise goes to its joint editors, Heather Campbell and Jennie Carter.

The Society's Council and Executive Committee have continued to meet in alternate months to manage our affairs. Foremost amongst these has been the Treasurer's continued work to streamline and update our accounting system, making it more efficient and compliant with modern accounting standards. Many thanks also to our skilled Secretary, Fiona Bush, who creates order from disorder to ensure Council and Executive are able to operate effectively.

Other Council and Executive work has included the revision of several of the Society's policies. We have started the process of reviewing our governance to ensure that the organisation is run as efficiently as possible and conforms to all of the requirements of our incorporated association status. This is particularly necessary as the employment of an executive officer is still beyond our financial means.

A major achievement during this year has been the launch of our new 'all singing, all dancing' website. This was made possible by a generous grant from Lotterywest, enabling us to develop a 'state of the art' website which now includes an online bookshop and many other new features. Our thanks to Klara Haselhurst, Sally Anne Hasluck and Helen Henderson for seeing this project through to completion.

The bulk of the work of the Society is carried by our nine committees and many enthusiastic volunteers. I am sure their work to ensure a lively and active Society is very much appreciated by our membership.

It never ceases to amaze me how much time our loyal and very hardworking group of volunteers gives to the Society. The recorded volunteer hours averages over 1,000 per month, but this is actually only the tip of the iceberg as many people also spend a good deal of time at home working on Society business, which is rarely recorded. What is also wonderful is that our volunteer force is one of the most cheery group of people I know, which make it a pleasure to be amongst them at Stirling House. A heartfelt 'thank you' to all: the Society would not survive without your loyalty and support.

I would also like to pay tribute to our Community Officer, Lesley Burnett. She is the public face of the Society, a role she carries out with great aplomb. More than that, Lesley frequently goes above and beyond the call of duty to make sure our daily affairs run as smoothly as possible.

Thank you to everyone who helps us achieve our mission of ensuring present and future generations have access to the history of Western Australia.

The Korean War: no longer forgotten

Unveiling the Korean War Memorial

Georgina Wigley

The unveiling of the Korean War Memorial in Kings Park on 27 July 2023 was an important event in Western Australia's history. Finally, exactly 70 years after the signing of the armistice ending the war, the remaining veterans, their families and community members have a designated place to reflect on the brutality of a war which claimed millions of lives and left a country divided at the 38th parallel.

Before the conclusion of World War II, with the defeat of Japan imminent, the key global powerbrokers began to discuss dividing the Korean Peninsula along the 38th parallel, with the Soviet Union overseeing the northern section and the USA the southern. Ostensibly the purpose of the division was to facilitate the end of decades of Japanese rule with a view to reunification in the future. However, within five years, mounting tensions along the peninsula escalated into warfare when the Soviet-backed North Korean army invaded the south on 25 June 1950. Within three days Seoul, capital of the Republic of Korea (ROK), commonly called South Korea, fell to the better-equipped and well-organised communist troops.

The UN Security Council was swift to condemn North Korea's action, labelling it a 'breach of the peace'. Without delay the USA committed troops to assist the fledgling southern zone with the UN calling for member countries to support the US-led counter offensive. Australia was one of the first countries to respond to the UN's 'call to arms'. During the war more than 17,000 Australian soldiers, sailors, aviators and nurses served under the UN's multinational coalition. According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, Australia's contingent included 1673 WA-born personnel, mostly volunteers. Although the Western Australians knew little about Korea and found the unrelenting fighting, freezing cold and rugged terrain unnerving, one veteran in a recent interview encapsulated the sentiment of his compatriots when he commented, 'we were there and had a job to do, to help out the South Koreans'. Sadly 34 WA personnel were killed and six are classified as missing in action.

All Western Australians who served during the Korean War are honoured as part of the memorial. The central feature of this beautifully designed space is a 10 tonne stone and plinth donated by the County of Gapyeong in South Korea where the Battle of Kapyong was fought from 22 to 24 April 1951. By this time Communist Chinese troops had entered the fray and coalition forces faced overwhelming odds. WA soldiers as part of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), bravely fought off repeated Chinese attacks, giving little ground. As a result, Seoul was saved from further attacks. In addition to recognising this battle, which military historians regard as Australia's most significant battle in Korea and for which 3RAR received the US Presidential Unit Citation, the memorial has a series of commemorative plaques. These plaques provide visitors with information about the varied actions undertaken by Australia's armed forces during the war.

For many decades the label 'the forgotten war' was all most people knew about the Korean War. Over time there has been a groundswell of interest amongst Australians wanting to learn more and to honour those who served. A small WA group was formed in 2018 to work towards creating a Korean War Memorial within Kings Park. From the outset this project received bipartisan support as well as support from ROK. By 2019 the Perth Korean Memorial Committee had been formally established with representatives drawn from Australia's veterans who had served in other conflicts, members of the Korean community and the Honorary Consul for ROK, Ms Fay Duda. This dedicated committee worked tirelessly to ensure the memorial was ready by the date the armistice was signed at Panmunjom, still one of the most heavily fortified and contentious places in the world.

The strong relationship between South Korea and WA cemented by the Korean War and continued by trade is subtly demonstrated in the memorial's design. For example the paving stones are set in the shape of the Rose of Sharon, South Korea's floral emblem. Another clever feature is the use of two shades in the paving to reflect the *taegeuk* symbol on South Korea's flag which denotes balance in the universe, often called *yin* and *yang*.

Over 500 people, including Korean War veterans and members of the Korean community, participated in a thought-provoking and respectful ceremony to commemorate the opening of the memorial. The day was initially overcast with a light drizzle but, as key dignitaries, such as Premier Hon Roger Cook and the Ambassador of ROK for Australia HE Kim Wan-joong, moved towards the allocated spot to 'cut the ribbon' shielding the Gapyeong Stone, the sky suddenly cleared and the sun shone. Concurrently, in a fitting Kings Park tribute, a flock of noisy cockatoos soared overhead gleefully welcoming the new memorial.

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Australian War Memorial, *Out in the Cold: Australia's involvement in the Korean War-Kapyong*, Australian Govt, 2020.

P Heeney, *Korean War veterans to be honoured with memorial in Perth*, DVA, Australian Govt, Aug 2022.

M Quckett, 'Forgotten no more at the front of the parade', *West Australian*, 22 Apr 2023, pp.38-39.



On Patrol. 3 RAR Korea 1951. AWM





A Spring Fundraiser at 'Orange Grove' Val Hutch

Our History West Community History Centre appeal benefitted from Denis and Lynette McLeod's generosity in opening their beautiful Mundaring property for a fundraising afternoon tea on 22 October. About 90 members and friends enjoyed the delightful occasion and we thank Denis and Lynette for their generosity and welcome.



A layout of the garden and list of the garden sculptures and artworks awaited us at the entry gate and guided us around the property. The roses were in full bloom and enthusiastic gardeners Gillian Lilleyman, Lizzie Bushell and our host Lynette were on hand to provide information on the roses, the flowering plants and trees as well as to point out the amazing sculptures scattered throughout the grounds. The view overlooking the valley and adjacent paddock where the cows came to greet us reminded us that we really had left the city behind.

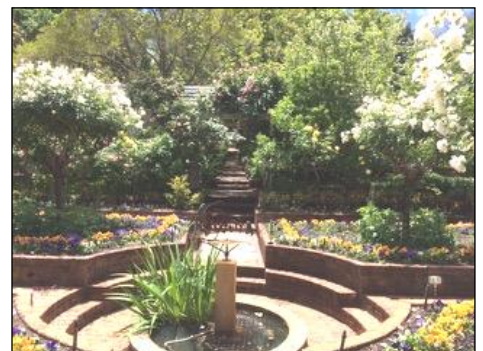
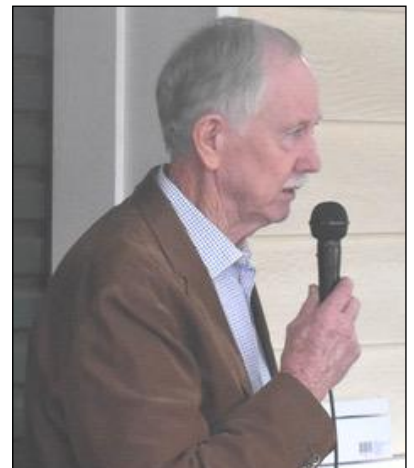


The undercover parking space at the back of the house had been transformed into a relaxing eating area with fresh flowers and tablecloths providing an elegant venue for us all to enjoy the generous afternoon tea. Our host, Denis, gave a brief history of the farm where in 1897 Andrew Janeczek established the orange grove and built the original house, comprising the four front rooms of the current house. The property changed hands several times, and the present owners established the garden in 1996. Denis says it is still a work in progress. Beautifully maintained, the result was a spring delight.



The raffle was well supported and two lucky winners, Warren Lilleyman and Kate McGurk, took home the prizes to add to their enjoyment of the day.

Grateful thanks go to all who organised and supported the afternoon. This was our last fundraiser for the year and brings us just that little bit closer to our goal of new premises which will meet our current needs better and enable us to flourish into the future.



Stories from the Storerooms

Richard Goldsmith Meares

Dorothy Erickson



Solomon Cook's Mill, York by Richard Goldsmith Meares c.1850. A1947.19 RWAHS

This little, 14 x 21.9cm, watercolour gem, c1850, by Irish-born Napoleonic War veteran Richard Goldsmith Meares gives us a depiction of the steam mill built by American Solomon Cook to grind wheat in York. It was one of the earliest steam mills in WA. In the 1920s the painting belonged to the Misses Burges of Tipperary, York, granddaughters of Samuel Burges and Vittoria Meares, daughter of the artist. Mrs R Haining donated it to the Society in 1947.



Richard & Ellen Meares

Irish-born Richard Goldsmith Meares (1780-1862), was a retired Captain in the 2nd Lifeguards and veteran of the Napoleonic and Peninsular Wars, having fought at Vitoria, Toulouse and Waterloo before sailing for Australia. He and his wife Ellen Seymour (1785-1854), four daughters, four sons and three servants arrived in 1829 on the *Gilmore* as part of Peel's abortive settlement. They had married in 1808 and the children who arrived with them were Eleanor Wilson Husse (1809-1857) who married Edward de Burgh; Georgina Susan (1811-1886); Vittoria Ellen Jane (1814-1891) who married Samuel Burges; Margaretta Hardy Seymour (1815-1875) who married William de Haups known as Hoops; Seymour Goldsmith John (1817-1892); Richard Gamble Boyce (1819-1867); George Munro (1822-1897); and William Richard Seymour (1824-1860).

Many of the Napoleonic war veterans were finding it hard to live comfortably on the peacetime half pay, making emigration to a new colony an attractive proposition and the attractions of the Swan River at the height of Swan River mania appeared many. According to the value of the goods and cash Meares brought, he was entitled to select 15,500 acres which must have appeared a good estate.

When they first arrived at Peel's settlement the family lived in a large marquee on the beach with fine carpets spread on the sand. However, because of the problems with Peel's scheme the family soon left and farmed at first at *The Bower*, Guildford where Meares had a large house and fine garden, before selecting Avon locations 5, 6, and 7 at York on the north side of Mt Bakewell,

which they named *Auburn*. Meares was made a Justice of the Peace in 1837 and the family took up residence in York in 1842 when he was appointed Resident Magistrate. He became chairman of the Road Trust and Secretary of the York Agricultural Society. Three of the girls married into other Irish families in York.

Meares was apparently a picturesque figure, a testy gentleman who quarrelled at times with other settlers. He was artistic and painted a mural of the Battle of Waterloo on a wall of their house in Guildford and his painting of the York mill that he apparently owned is illustrated above.

Richard Goldsmith Meares and his wife Ellen are buried in the old St John's graveyard in York. Their remains are in an ornamented above-ground brick casket surrounded by railing. Drawings were made by Jim Richardson who annotated that Ellen's casket may have a Griffon image, possibly for her Welsh birthplace. Alternatively it could be a swan indicating her place of demise.



Jim Richardson's drawings of the Meares monument and a photograph of Ellen's detail.

Solomon Cook who built the first York steam flourmill was an American who arrived in Albany on the whaler *Dismount* and deserted ship in 1837. He worked at first in Albany, marrying Elizabeth West in 1848 and moving to York in 1849. According to Hasluck and Bray, there were no steam mills in WA in 1838; some may have been built in the following ten years. However in 1849 Cook asked Meares for permission to quarry stone from government land to build a flourmill. Meares endorsed the request writing; 'there is no one thing more required in the district'. Another mill was built for the Burges on *Tipperary* and there were soon several others. Cook also made the first stripper 'harvester' for the Burges in York. By 1859 Cook was in Perth working as a wheelwright, coachbuilder and foundryman with a business located in Murray Street between what is now Forrest Place and Barrack Street with works on the Toodyay Road at Swan Bridge. Entrepreneurial Cook had a large staff, at various times totalling 112 ticket-of-leave men and five apprentices. He was the first to use a steam hammer in WA, building the steamship *Pioneer* in 1859.

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- York Cemeteries*, Conservation Plan, Kelly Aris Architect with Dorothy Erickson historian, 2014.

What's in a Photograph?

The Yanchep Inn

Julie Taylor



P1999.4995

This undated photograph from the collection depicts the Yanchep Inn, situated in what is now Yanchep National Park. The construction of the inn in 1936 was part of a large development project that ultimately turned the park's area into a popular tourist destination, its natural attractions and proximity to Perth making it an enticing destination for holidays and day excursions.

Explorers discovered the caves at Yanchep in the late 1830s, but they were virtually forgotten until 1901 when Henry White became the first permanent resident in Yanchep. He and others began exploring the caves and the more adventurous made trips to Yanchep for camping, fishing and hunting. By 1903 this public interest led to a government investigation into the scientific and tourism potential of the caves. Very

soon there were discussions about making the caves more accessible to visitors, including the far-sighted suggestions that a light railway be built and the caves be protected from souvenir hunters.

A Reserve was gazetted in 1905 for the protection of the caves and flora and for a health and pleasure resort. It was placed under the control of the Caves Board, which managed the caves in WA's southwest. The Caves Board undertook some early development at Yanchep but the camping and bathing facilities later fell into disrepair after the park was closed in 1916. However, people continued to visit and the caretaker conducted tours of the caves.

Although public interest in the caves remained, access to the Reserve was difficult – it was 32 miles from Perth and eight miles of the road was sandy track. Various attempts were made to have the road improved, including lobbying by the RAC in the early 1920s. The road was finally paved in 1931.

The State Gardens Board took over control of Yanchep Reserve in 1931, providing the momentum to exploit its natural attractions and create a tourist resort. The lake was dredged for boating and swimming; an Olympic-sized swimming pool, hostel and lodge were built; the caves were lit; and gardens laid out.

All this work was carried out during the 1930s and much of the funding came from the philanthropist Sir Charles McNeill, after whom Loch McNeill was named. Part of this money was used to employ and pay a sustenance wage to workers struggling during the Great Depression. Extensive use was made of salvaged timber and local limestone for construction works.

A major undertaking was the construction of the inn. It was designed in a mock Tudor style by local architect W G Bennett and built by W C Arnott. The estimated cost of the inn was £10,000 for construction and a further £2,000 for furnishings and plant. The ground floor of the inn is built of stone, the upper floor of timber with a tiled roof. Advertised features of the accommodation included electric light, and hot and cold running water in each room.

The inn was ready to receive its first guests on 21 December 1936. The dining room was open to the public on Christmas Day that year for a special six-course dinner at 7 shillings 6 pence per person.

The inn opened with much fanfare and publicity, and was immediately successful.

In mid-March 1937 it was reported that all the accommodation at Yanchep (inn, lodge, hostel and also some converted trams) was booked out for Easter.

In 1937 organisations as varied as Aherns Ltd, the Swan Districts Football Club and the Master Bakers Association hired buses to take their staff and members to Yanchep for outings that included sports by the lake and meals at the inn.

It was reported that 'dozens of car-loads from the city' made the journey for a special dinner dance held in celebration of the coronation of King George VI in May 1937. The columnist in the *Daily News* noted that the 'comparative isolation of the place' added to the enjoyment of the evening, as did the opening out of the folding doors between foyer, dining room and drawing room to provide a wide expanse for dancing. 'The whole evening reminded one of the sort of thing seen so often in films but seldom experienced in real life.'

In 2023 the Yanchep Inn is a going concern. Its outward appearance has changed little over the years. However, none of the trees in the photo seems to have survived. The four-tiered 'rustic fountain' in the middle of the photo was completed in June 1937 and described in *The West Australian* as having stones in each corner that resembled grotesque monsters. The fountain still runs. By July 1937, all the 'native scrub' had been removed from the front of the inn except for the best specimens of grass trees and zamia palms. The area was then re-planted with lawns and shrubs.

The park became a national park in 1969.

Eliezer Lazar Margolin DSO, 16th Battalion 1st AIF & 39th Battalion Royal Fusiliers

Dr Peter Gifford



The appointment of Major General (Sir) John Monash to head the Australian forces in France and Belgium during the Great War can be seen as conclusive proof, if any were needed, that the First Australian Imperial Force was basically ecumenical. Strictly speaking, the word ecumenical here refers to the various Christian faiths within the Australian forces, and Monash was a Jew, so perhaps another expression – tolerant – might also be applied. Monash was tolerated, even venerated, by most of the 1st AIF because he was a good, conscientious and able soldier who – unlike some of his British counterparts – was sparing where possible of the lives of his men.

Even so, he was, to use his own word, subjected to a pogrom while taking command of the Australian corps in 1917. (Pogrom is a Russian word for an anti-Jewish mob attack.) The journalist (Sir) Keith Murdoch and the correspondent and later official historian Charles Bean tried to have him replaced as corps commander by Major General Cyril Brudenell White. If there was an element of anti-semitism about this, it was not shared by White himself or the AIF in general, and Monash was able to continue with the task of leading Australian troops to final victory on the Western

Front in 1918. Monash incidentally, as brigadier, led the 16th Battalion of Western and South Australians in the Fourth Brigade at Gallipoli and in France until promoted in 1916.

As anyone who has seen the Jewish War Memorial in Kings Park is aware, Monash was not the only Jewish soldier in the 1st AIF – just the best known. In WA terms, that particular honour probably goes to Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Eliezer Lazar Margolin DSO, who served with the 16th Battalion from the outbreak of war to the battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Like Monash, Margolin had been a citizen soldier before the war. But, while Monash was Australian-born to Prussian Jewish parents, Margolin had been born in the old Jewish Pale of Tsarist Russia, and came to Western Australia via Palestine – then part of the Turkish empire. He was naturalised in 1907.

The 16th Battalion's official historian, Captain Cyril Longmore, recorded him thus:

E.L. Margolin, better known as Margie, was a manufacturer at Collie and a lieutenant in the Citizen Forces when he was appointed to the 16th... He was born in central Russia in 1875, and when 17 years old left with his parents for Palestine, where he engaged in vineyard and orchard work. On the death of his parents he came to Australia in 1901, arriving without a knowledge of the English language. As a navvy and a teamster he sampled hard work, but drifted into business. With the 16th "Margie" served right through Gallipoli and commanded the battalion at the Evacuation.

His Gallipoli service also won him the Distinguished Service Order (DSO); promoted major, he was second in command to Lieut Col E A Drake-Brockman on the voyage to France and took part in the unit's engagements on the Somme, including Pozieres and Mouquet Farm, then on to Bullecourt and Passchendaele in 1917, where he was injured and invalided to hospital in England.

He was classed unfit for further active service, but protested vigorously and by way of compensation was offered the command of one of three all-Jewish battalions being formed to fight with British and Australian forces against the Turks in Palestine. Having learnt Hebrew from his youth, and Arabic in Palestine, along with the essentials of Zionism, he was well suited to the task, whose aim he saw partly 'to participate in the fighting on the front of Eretz Israel and the liberation of our homeland'. As it happened his command – the 39th Battalion Royal Fusiliers – was made up largely of Canadian and American Jews; they did their basic training at Windsor, Ontario, and then performed creditably in fighting the Turks at a Jordan River crossing at the outset of the battle of Megiddo, which effectively ended the war in the Middle East.

In December 1919 after amalgamation of the Jewish battalions into a 'Jewish Legion', he was assigned to command it. Margolin energetically but unsuccessfully resisted the intention of British mandate authorities to disband the Legion, seeing in it the core of a future regular Jewish army. Having become commander of a unit of mixed Arab-Jewish police detachments formed instead of the Legion, he allowed Jewish self-defence groups to use weapons from British military stores during anti-Jewish riots in Jaffa and Jerusalem in the spring of 1921 and, on his own initiative, entered Jaffa with a group of soldiers in order to prevent a pogrom. Threatened with court martial as a result, he had to retire and return to Australia where he again became a businessman and vice-president both of Western Australia's Zionist Association and the WA branch of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (now known as the Returned and Services League). He died in 1944 in Perth, and was cremated after a non-denominational service at Karrakatta cemetery. In 1949, soon after the creation of the State of Israel, his ashes were moved there and buried in the city of Rehovot, where a memorial to him now stands. Those present at his memorial service in Rehovot included Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, who had served as a corporal in the 39th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

A glimpse of doctoral research in history at the University of WA

We are grateful to Professor Jane Lydon, Wesfarmers Chair in Australian History, and the students named below for providing us with examples of postgraduate research topics in WA history among PhD students. Members will be interested to read about the topics that are currently engaging postgraduate research. We look forward to seeing them all completed and added to the existing body of knowledge of WA's past.

From Slavery to a Swan River Settlement: Three family histories in the Indian Ocean, 1770–1850

Aoife Nugent

This thesis investigates family histories of imperial opportunity sought in Swan River Colony through the dual lenses of British slavery and an Indian Ocean world. Through the collective biographies of three British families, each having connections to the East India Company (EIC) and histories of investment in slavery systems – the Prinsep, Mangles and Stirling families – this thesis reconsiders their contributions to the development of WA's trade, commerce, and labour forms between 1829 and 1850. James Stirling was supported by the Mangles family in his efforts to promote the Swan River from 1827 and, as wealthy merchants of the Indian Ocean, James Mangles and three of his sons, Charles Edward, Ross Donnelly and Frederick, sought to profit from its colonisation. EIC merchant, John Prinsep, also perceived WA's commercial potential in 1828, and influenced his sons, notably Charles Robert, in their endeavours to connect the colony to their regional networks from 1838, oftentimes in conjunction with the Mangles and Stirling families. This thesis argues that these intersecting collectives were part of a greater shift in empire during the first half of the 1800s, in which focus moved from plantation economies of the Caribbean to settler colonies of the Indian Ocean.

Heritage Interpretations of the Western Australian Legacies of British Slavery

Naomi Preston



Naomi at Perth Labour History Seminar

This thesis examines the profound influence of British slavery legacies on WA and the ways in which these influences have been represented in public heritage interpretation and memorialisation. By focusing on the transplantation of labour and punitive systems developed within British Slavery, and their subsequent transformation in the Western Australian context, this thesis critically examines the representation of these legacies within the domains of heritage, museum interpretation and commemoration. This includes an interrogation of effective interpretation, along with an investigation of the barriers and limitations encountered by the case study sites – Rottnest Island/Wadjemup and Fremantle Prison - in embodying this form of interpretation of difficult histories. Through mapping the history of interpretation and memorialisation at the case study sites, as well as surveying the broader landscape of heritage across WA, this project seeks to understand the ways in which WA's national stories, identity, and colonial roots have influenced heritage interpretation.

Women in the Court: An Examination of Women's Trials heard in the Court of Quarter Sessions and the Supreme Court of WA, 1830–1890

Caroline Ingram

This thesis explores the court cases of female defendants in the Court of Quarter Sessions and the Supreme Court of WA, between 1830 and 1890, to determine how legal rules and institutions affected the outcomes of women's trials and to examine the experiences of female defendants. In particular it looks at the use of defence counsel, multi-defendant trials, Aboriginal women as defendants and the use of mercy riders. Nineteenth-century WA presents a particular set of conditions for examining criminal trials: its low population meant that there was a corresponding lack of legal practitioners, and few judges were appointed; the low ratio of women to men meant that women committing crime could become well known identities within their neighbourhood; and Aboriginal people were subject to specific laws which did not apply to colonial settlers. The research shows how, and why, some women received more lenient treatment than others. Although legal rules and institutions determined many aspects of the outcome of women's trials, the cultural constructs of race and gender often determined which women received advantages from these rules. Examination of the criminal records also sheds light on the everyday lives of working-class women.

Not Just an Image: understanding WA photograph collection documentation through interoperability with CIDOC CRM

Rebecca Repper



Becc at work

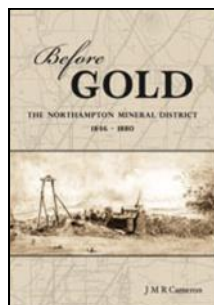
This thesis is an applied analysis of the documentation of six collections: the WA Museum's Dwyer and Mackay Collection, WAMFoto archive and Mammalogy (Mammals) Collection, State Library of WA Pictorial Collection, Royal WA Historical Society Photograph Collection, and WA photographs from the National Gallery of Victoria. Through the process of metadata mapping using the International Standard CIDOC CRM — the International Council of Museum International Committee for Documentation's Conceptual Reference Model which acts as a translation key for comparing different documentation, the research compares the way in which different types of institutions and disciplines record photographs. This applied analysis critiques the existing representation of photographs in the context of both the history of institutional practice and current discourse on photograph collections. While institutions document the photograph as different things, which hinders our ability to understand the photograph as a multi-faceted resource as well as access and use of collections, the case studies collectively demonstrate useful and applicable documentation practices that can modify or enhance existing components of documentation practices. The result of this analysis is an improved understanding of the role of collection documentation in the representation of and access to photograph collections that will be of use to researchers, collecting institutions and database developers.

Book Reviews

Winner of Williams/Lee Steere book prize 2023

J M R Cameron, *Before Gold. The Northampton Mineral District 1846-1880*, Hesperian Press, Perth, 2023. In Library & Bookshop.

Reviewer: Ed Jaggard



As a young boy growing up in Northampton Jim Cameron was conscious that the landscape reflected the district's mining past. Not surprisingly he was unaware of its significance until later in life when he realised that there was a story to be told of Northampton's copper and lead mining years. The outcome is a prize-winning history explaining why these minerals should take their place with the

gold, nickel and iron ore booms. A smaller, often overlooked mining district, as Western Australia's first it deserves its place in the State's mining history.

The narrative begins in the 1840s with the urgent need to boost WA's flagging economy, and concludes with the 1879 opening of the Geraldton to Northampton railway. Cameron makes use of his own excellent maps to illustrate many important relationships discussed in the text and includes meticulous footnotes as a guide to his wide-ranging sources, emphasising the quality of his research.

In 1846 when members of the colony's settler-elite were concerned at the state of the economy, several expeditions explored the land from the Victoria Plains north to the Murchison River and beyond, searching for signs of minerals and assessing pastoral prospects. As a result of one expedition reporting traces of lead, local investors opened the Geraldine mine in 1849. Discoveries of copper elsewhere in the region south of the Murchison and east of Port Gregory soon followed.

Besides the Geraldine Cameron's story focusses on several larger mines and their progress: Wanerenooka, Gwalla and Wheal Fortune, all predominantly copper. There was no boom, no stampede to open each, and all commenced without certainty about the extent of their lodes. They began as small operations; for example, Geraldine was initially financed by three investors who together owned 50% while twelve colonists purchased the remainder. Five Fremantle businessmen owned Wheal Fortune, the project beginning with working capital of £1500. Ultimately the intention was to float it in London as a public company. These and other mines, productive in the 1850s, seemed to have bright futures, but access to capital was a problem

The operation of mines both above and below ground is discussed in detail, together with several of the prominent personnel. The impact of the presence of convicts at the Port Gregory depot is considered too as is the involvement of pastoralists. Cameron is never reluctant to introduce such interconnections; however he spends more time discussing the factors that hindered the miners.

From the time of the Geraldine's commencement capital was needed to fund development. Assay results from parcels of ore were the lure to attract local investors or those in England. In many instances the quality of the ore did not meet expectations, dampening investor interest. Gold discoveries in

eastern Australia were a more attractive investment.

Being located in a comparatively isolated part of the colony the mines also struggled to attract labour. Local men mostly lacked experience, so this had to be overcome by 'importing' miners, usually hard rock men from Cornwall, 'Cousin Jacks'. Cornish mine captains (managers) were also sought, but often the attractions of gold mining in the eastern colonies or in South Australia's copper mines lured them away.

A major expense for the mines was transport of ore from mine site to selling point, in this case markets in London and Swansea. First stage in the journey was to the coast along rough tracks, ending at either Port Gregory or Champion Bay. As the author demonstrates with some relish, the former was closer but dangerous and suitable only for small tonnage vessels whereas Champion Bay (Geraldton) was safer but further from the mining district. Shipments proceeded to Fremantle, then on to the UK, sometimes being reloaded on the voyage. When the ore finally arrived, months could elapse before it was sold and the proceeds returned to the mine owners.

Complicating the high cost of transport were the fluctuations in the London and Swansea lead and copper markets. Northampton's miners had little choice but to sell there; however they were subject to the vagaries of the market dictated by the largest producers (Chile, Cuba, Cornwall). From 1870 onwards the prices paid for both minerals were falling, reducing the viability of the mines.

A striking feature of Cameron's zeal to understand the forces shaping progress is his examination of government decision-making. Making use of the papers of successive Colonial Secretaries, he reveals the day-to-day relationship with Governors and Legislative Councils. Expenditure was carefully scrutinised at Whitehall, often to the frustration of officials in Perth. This is a case study in colonial administration, prudence being the theme.

Sporadic but often devastating, bushfires and flooding periodically slowed production. On occasions the latter not only damaged surface equipment but flooded underground workings, sometimes necessitating weeks of pumping and therefore loss of production. These mini disasters are described in detail, as are their maritime equivalents at Port Gregory and elsewhere.

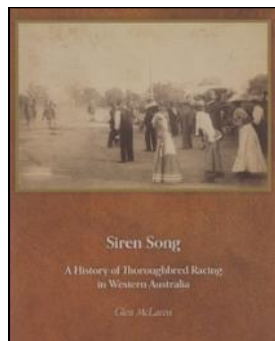
The title of the concluding chapter, 'The Coming of Rail,' is ironic for it arrived as mining was departing. A project of several Governors including Weld, the line between Geraldton and Northampton mines was begun in 1874 amid a burst of optimism based on the assertion that fifteen lead and copper mines were being worked in the district. At the same time the lead price at Swansea was steadily falling, as was that of copper. Five years later when the line was completed at almost double the original cost, the number of working mines had dwindled to a handful and there had been no recovery in lead's market price.

Before Gold leaves no doubt that the story of the rise and fall of Northampton's mines deserves a more prominent place in WA's mining history. It is the product of exemplary scholarship, demonstrating Cameron's forensic research skills. He casts his evidentiary net wide in successful pursuit of the rich detail that enlivens his story. Clear prose plus beautifully drawn maps, together with tables, graphs and indices provide a publishing model for historians. While the Northampton mining district may have been a failure, *Before Gold* is a resounding success deserving the accolades it has received.

Runner-up for Williams/Lee Steere book prize 2023

Glen McLaren, *Siren Song: A History of Thoroughbred Racing in Western Australia, Racing and Wagering WA, 2022. In Library*

Reviewer: Michael Nind



Over three decades ago Jenny Tomlinson, author of *Born Winners, Born Losers*, had to cull hundreds of pages from her original manuscript of the history of thoroughbred racing in WA. The result was highly focused on the industry with few outside intrusions. With 'over 30 years of practical experience in the racing industry as an amateur jockey,

horsebreaker, breeder and owner' Glen McLaren has set out to write a social history from 'the perspective of those actually physically involved in the industry'. This new history is a well-written and researched work that significantly augments and complements Tomlinson's book. Importantly, it expands its scope. Certainly the WA Turf Club lacks a good social and organisational history of its own.

McLaren's book takes us from the days of Swan River colonisation to the early 21st century. It goes along at a fair pace, enough to realise some topics have pulled up and new starters are on the course. An important component is the coverage of competing private racing clubs, especially their fate. It has good details of the life of the biggest participant, Albert Cockram, and the links to Melbourne identity John Wren. The book describes the changing official and social attitudes to gambling, the competition between the tote, on-course bookmakers and SP bookies. Indeed during World War II Prime Minister John Curtin found himself unable to get a phone line east on a race day as the bookies and touts were at work.

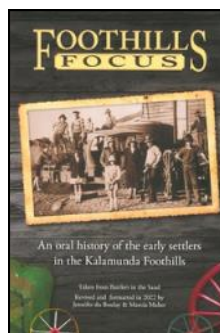
Racing's relationship with transport is widely covered, as a means of moving horses and people. This includes the beginnings of horse floats, the challenging use of aircraft and the impact of motor vehicles. The linking of railways to the Perth courses is well covered, including two excellent photographs of people and horses being unloaded. There is an interesting image of Laurie Connell posing in front of a WAGR X Class locomotive with a troop of performers. Connell's significant involvement with breeding, racing and fixing results gets a run. Animal welfare is inadequately touched on, covering only the time before the Great War. There is some coverage of working conditions in the industry.

The author has an excellent command of the subject and there is much here for non-racing enthusiasts. There are some good quality illustrations and a three-part index. Yet, although the book is published by Racing and Wagering WA, it remains invisible on their webpage.

Highly recommended for Williams/Lee Steere book prize 2023

Jennifer du Boulay and Marcia Maher, *Foothills Focus: an oral history of the early settlers in the Kalamunda Foothills, Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society, 2022. In Library*

Reviewer: Patrick Cornish



'It was my job to milk the goats in the morning', young Henry Berle explained when asked about his early days. 'Once or twice', he added, 'the goat kicked the billy out of my hand. They just picked their foot up to chase a fly away or something. I lost all the milk and got into a row over it'. Kalamunda and the nearby slopes, lumped together as the Perth Hills, are known for much more than tears over spilt milk.

Those slopes, for example, made motorcar and motorcycle racing 'excitingly dangerous', we learn from this collection of oral interviews. The segment titled 'Having Fun' touches on community outings, shared picnic, beach visits, swimming in the waterholes of creeks

Under the headline 'Hard times' comes a glimpse of the Depression. Mary 'Betty' Downs (née Simpson) recalls seeing 'a lot of men tramping to Midland to catch a train out into the country to look for work. When we went to school in the morning we'd see where someone had had a little fire and spent the night in the school shed'.

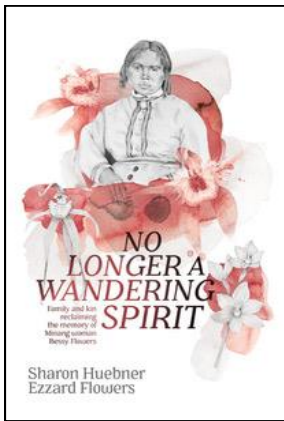
A whiff of celebrity? That too. 'Our next door neighbour was Basil Stowe', says Kathleen Dawson (née Wood). 'He's an uncle of Randolph Stowe, the writer, and Randolph was a boarder at Guildford and used to come and stay with Basil'. (Reviewer's note: We must forgive the transcriber for adding an 'e' to Stow.)

This collection has been compiled with care and an eye for aesthetics, both visual and verbal. History? Significant, worth keeping? Certainly. We do need to remember wars and international conferences, but there is a place in our hearts and heads for less shattering human activities. This series of domestic tableaux has a resonance well beyond Kalamunda.

Sharon Haebner & Ezzard Flowers, *No Longer a Wandering Spirit: Family and kin reclaiming the memory of Minang woman Bessy Flowers, UWAP, Crawley, 2023. In Library.*

Reviewer: Bevan Carter

Anne and Henry Camfield established 'Annesfield' in Albany in the 1850s to educate Minang children in the truths of Christianity. The children were also taught to read and write, and some learnt keyboard skills. In June 1867 five Nyungar girls, including Bessy Flowers and Nora White, sailed from Albany to Ramahyuck, a Lutheran mission in Victoria, to be married to young men raised in the mission. It would appear that Anne



Camfield could not bear to see her young ladies continue their lives within their own godless community from which she had rescued them. In Victoria their failure to continue down the path she had prepared for them would not be a visible sign of her failure. But Bessy Flowers was a serial letter writer and her lifelong struggles in Victoria continued to confront Anne.

A century later the requirements of the current Native Title Act caused the Thorpe family in Victoria to seek to discover the connection to country of their forebear Nora White who left Albany with Bessy Flowers. Author Sharon Huebner was working at the Koorie Family History Service when this unusual request was received and she was given the job of discovering Nora White's forebears and her connection to country in Albany. It proved a fruitless search.

Huebner then shifted her research to Bessy Flowers, but again she found no paperwork on her origins. Unfortunately she did not search for 'Annesfield' files at Western Australia's Aboriginal family history programme (located at the State Library WA) which specialises in Aboriginal genealogies. She did find a few photographs of Bessy with Anne Camfield and set out to restore Bessie's memory among contemporary Nyungar people by examining family photographs. She explains that these 'facilitated family knowledge exchange and memory-making processes that channelled present-day beliefs, values and emotions into an ancestor's past'. In an interesting Foreword Kim Scott supports the endeavour and expresses his admiration for Bessy ('a hero of mine') — 'Politically astute, emotionally

intelligent, talented, *enchanting*'. Bessy's life story is well told in chapter 1 with extensive use of her own words. It is regrettable that the publisher decided to feature these words (and those of other speakers) in red, making them more difficult to read.

Bessy had been married to Donald Cameron at the Ramahyuck mission and Huebner gathered photographs from Victorian descendants (chiefly the Bryant family) as well as from Aboriginal people in WA with the surname Flowers. None had any memories of a forebear Bessy, and the WA ones had no idea how they were related. Assuming the two families were somehow connected, the author tells the story of the families organising and meeting each other and being introduced to Bessy via her photographs. These family stories occupy the remainder of the book (chapters 2-8). These chapters are long and reflect extensively on family members' feelings about Bessie, family, country and inter-connectedness.

Several useful appendices conclude the book, particularly Appendix C of all Bessy's known letters (1867-1894) and Appendix B – Anne Camfield's 1868 report on the Annesfield Native Institution published in Parliamentary Papers 1871.

ADVERTISEMENT

Happy Festivities!
Wishing you all a safe Christmas
and festive season.
Here's to good health, fun with family and
loved ones, and quality time spent in nature.
Cheers,
Daniel

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