MAY (History Month)

SHIPPING GROUP MEETING: Wednesday 1 May
From 10.00am – 12 noon in the PASA Office.
Descendants of the Buckinghamshire (1839)

PIONEER GROUP LUNCHEON Wed 8 May from 12 noon – 2.00pm at Pilgrim Uniting Church Hall, 12 Flinders St, Adelaide. Speakers Brian Stace and Bill Othams: “The passengers on the Coromandel 1837”. BYO Lunch; tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Cost: $2 [see page 26 of History Festival programme]

MORE ON THE COROMANDEL: Wed 8 May from 7.30pm – 10.00pm at the Blackwood Uniting Church Hall. “Spotlight on the people of the ship Coromandel 1837”. Cost: $5 includes supper. [see page 39 of History Festival programme]

PASA SCANFEST: Sunday 19 May (1.00 – 4.00pm) and Monday 20 May (10.00am – 2.30pm) in the PASA Office. [see page 26 of History Festival programme]

EXHIBITION OF PIONEER POSTERS: Sunday 19 May (1.00pm – 4.00pm) and Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 May (10.00am – 2.30pm) in the basement of Stafford House, Leigh St, Adelaide. [pg26 Hist Fest programme]

GLENELG HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents ”The 1837 Coromandel: arrival of the working class” on Sunday 26 May from 4.00 – 5.30pm at the Jetty Hotel, Jetty Rd, Glenelg. Free event, no booking needed. [see page 39 of History Festival programme]

JUNE

PIONEER GROUP EVENT: Wednesday 5 June from 10.00am -1.00pm at Lochend House, Campbelltown.
Speaker: Paul Blackman, “Music in the Colonial Period.” Cost: $5, includes a tour of Lochend House and morning tea. (bookings to the PASA Office by 23 May with payment on the day)

Editorial

This year’s May

History Festival provides us with an abundance of opportunities to discover the different stories of our State’s past. The month-long programme, which was released on Saturday 6 April in a supplement to the Advertiser, features over 700 events throughout the State from the West Coast to the South East, from the Riverland to the Yorke Peninsula and right across the Metropolitan area. Once again PASA is organising a number of events (see Coming Events to the left) and we hope you can show your support by fitting some of them into your personal programme for the month.

If you live beyond our State’s borders, then you can still be involved and create your own focus on history during May by logging in to our website and reading some of the 118 PASA publications which have recently been added to the Members Resource Area. These resources are quite unique to PASA and provide special insights into aspects of South Australian history. We thank PASA volunteer Brett Williams for his dedication in completing this task over the past 6 months.

Bob Stace, Editor
VALE CHRIS DURRANT

The PASA community is saddened by the recent death of member Chris Durrant. Chris was a regular Tuesday Office volunteer where he was undertaking a systematic analysis and verification of PASA’s ancestor data base. Chris had a great intellect and was always rigorous in his research and analysis, yet at the same time he was a very humble person. His knowledge of early South Australian history was second to none; if there was a difficult historical or genealogical question to be answered, then we always turned to Chris. If Chris verified a fact or date, then it was true! We extend our sympathy to Chris’ wife Kerry and their family.

PIONEER GROUP LUNCHEON
Wednesday 8 May.

Our next major function is the Pioneer Group Luncheon on Wednesday 8 May from 12noon to 2.00pm. This is a History Festival event and will feature speakers Brian Stace and Bill Othams and their topic, The passengers on the Coromandel 1837. The luncheon will be held in the Hall of the Pilgrim Uniting Church, 12 Flinders St, Adelaide.

Brian and Bill, both members of PASA, have been researching the Coromandel and its passengers for several years in preparation for the publication of their book later this year. This presentation is part of a trilogy of talks on the Coromandel being presented during the History Festival. (details of the other two below)

This is a traditional PASA BYO lunch event with tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Cost of entry is $2, and bookings are not required. The speakers will commence at 12.30pm.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PEOPLE OF THE COROMANDEL

This evening function on Wednesday 8 May is the second in the Coromandel trilogy series during the History Festival and is being organised by the Coromandel Valley and Districts Branch of the National Trust and the Blackwood Action Group. It will be held at the Blackwood Uniting Church Hall, 266 Main Road, Blackwood from 7.30pm -10.00pm. Brian Stace and Bill Othams will present a Spotlight on the people of the ship Coromandel, 1837. The talk will focus on the stories of the young married labourers on board, the crew who deserted from the ship, and those passengers who became pioneers of the Adelaide Hills. Supper will be provided, cost $5 and no bookings required.

THE COROMANDEL AT GLENELG

The final talk in the Coromandel trilogy will be hosted by the Glenelg Historical Society at the Jetty Hotel, Jetty Road, Glenelg on Sunday 26 May from 4-5.30pm. Bill Othams will present The 1837 Coromandel: Arrival of the working Class, which will tell the story of the arrival at Holdfast Bay in January 1837 of the first large group of young married free-passage labourers who, in contrast to the earlier arrivals in 1836, were unfettered by contracts of employment and were free to choose their own employer or become one themselves.
This is a free event and no bookings are required. PASA members attending may wish to join Glenelg Historical Society members for dinner at the Hotel after the meeting concludes at 5.30pm.

CALLING ALL DESCENDANTS FROM THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

All PASA members whose ancestors arrived on the *Buckinghamshire* in March 1839 are invited to attend their Shipping Group meeting on Wednesday 1 May from 10am-12noon in the PASA Office. If you would like to connect with this group, then please contact our Shipping Group convenor Karina Hutchesson at: pasa.sameships@gmail.com

These meetings are providing a great opportunity to network with fellow members whose ancestors shared interconnected lives.

SCANFEST: A COLLECTION OF PIONEER FACES

PASA’s Scanfest during the History Festival is a very simple way for members (and friends) to support our aim of “preserving records, portraits, and historical materials associated with pioneer settlement” Just gather up any images you have of pioneer settlers and their families and bring them into the Office during the opening hours of the Scanfest and have them scanned by our volunteers. All scanned images will be added to our growing collection. If you would like a digital copy to retain for yourself then please bring a USB stick with you. The Scanfest will be conducted in the PASA Office in the basement of Stafford House in Leigh Street on Sunday 19 May from 1.00-4.00pm and on Monday 20 May from 10.00am – 2.30pm. After you have visited the Scanfest you can then conveniently move on to our Pioneer Poster Exhibition just down the corridor in the Mothers Union Meeting Room.

POSTER EXHIBITION 2019

We are now finishing off the layout of the 26 new posters we have for this year’s Exhibition which will be held in the basement of Stafford House from Sunday 19 May to Tuesday 21 May. This year’s Exhibition will feature a wide range of pioneer stories each giving a snapshot of the diversity of our ancestors’ experiences in establishing their new lives. On reading these stories we find success, hardship, adventure, sadness, loss and always tenacity and grit.

Could we have done it? Our ancestors travelled thousands of miles in a rickety boat for a destination unknown. Would you travel to the moon or take a space flight to some distant planet? After all, these are our equivalent frontiers in the 21st Century. It’s an interesting question to ponder.

Helpers Needed with the Exhibition

If you can help with the set-up of the Exhibition on Tuesday 14 May from 10.00am to 1.00pm or with the supervision/hosting roster during the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of the Poster Exhibition, please contact the Office and leave details of your availability.
COMING IN JUNE

PASA VISIT TO LOCHEND HOUSE

On Wednesday 5 June PASA is joining the Campbelltown Historical Society on a visit to Lochend House at Campbelltown. Lochend was built in 1842 by Charles Campbell as his town house and was faithfully restored about 20 years ago. The visit will commence at 10.00am with morning tea and then a tour of the house.

This will be followed by an illustrated talk by Paul Blackman on *Orchestral music in the Colonial Period*. Paul who is a former member of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, will trace the development of orchestral activity in SA from the earliest ensembles up to the 1880s.

The visit will conclude by 1.00pm The cost for this event is $5 which is payable on the day. **Bookings are necessary** and should be made to the PASA Office by Thursday 23 May.

Position Vacant – We NEED you.

We are very keen to check all our current members’ contact details. We need to look at original applications and match these with current details of email addresses and telephone numbers. If information is still missing, then we need to contact members either by email or by phone.

This job will be well supported by other volunteers.

**Skills needed:**

- Organisation skills
- Ability to send emails and/or make telephone calls
- Willingness to volunteer on either Tuesday or Thursday. Some aspects of this task may be worked on at home. The amount of time needed is negotiable from 2-4 hours weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

**Salary** – personal satisfaction for time well spent

*If you would like to join in, have fun, learn more about our organisation and contribute to our priorities then contact Judith Francis on 8231 5055 or email pioneers@chariot.net.au*

PASA VISIT TO THE FLEURIEU PENINSULA

Planning is well underway for another historical visit to regional South Australia. This year’s visit will be to the Fleurieu Peninsula and will be held mid-week on Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October. The visit will be centred around historic sites in the area including Rapid Bay, Normanville, Yankalilla, and Myponga. An information sheet is attached to this newsletter which gives preliminary information for this two-day event. Please contact David Forsaith as soon as possible if you are interested in joining this visit (contact details on the information sheet). Our past 3
visits to Clare, the Copper Triangle and Burra have been most enjoyable and informative experiences.

Test Your Knowledge

March Answer:
Did you recognise the two coats of Arms which feature prominently in Adelaide’s streetscape?

The first coat of arms which featured an emu on the left and a kangaroo on the right is located beneath the dome of the Adelaide Arcade facing Rundle Mall. The Arcade was built in 1885, 16 years before Federation and 24 years before the current Commonwealth of Australia Coat of Arms was officially proclaimed in 1908. Whilst there are some similarities between the two, the Australian Coat of Arms features the emu on the right and the kangaroo on the left on either side of a shield representing the symbols of the 6 Australian States.

The second coat of arms featured in the March Quiz (below) was that of the City of Adelaide. It can be found just below the clock on the Albert Tower of the Adelaide Town Hall facing King William Street.

April Quiz Question:
What was the name of the prominent Adelaide building in the photo below?

A report of the recent Junior Pioneer “Roam in the Rundle Mall” will appear in the May newsletter.
70 members and guests filled the Victoria Room of the Edinburgh Hotel for the recent Pub Lunch. Our guest speaker Rhondda Harris presented us with an absorbing story of the “underbelly” of crime and debt in Adelaide during the early years of the Colony as seen through the eyes of the Adelaide Gaol’s first Governor, William Ashton. Rhondda described how she came upon Ashton’s diary quite by chance; it had been incorrectly filed in the State Archives in the period 1939-45 rather than in 1839-45!

William Ashton was appointed to the position of Governor of the Adelaide Gaol in 1839 when it was no more than an unsecure stockade where escapes were quite common. He became governor of the new gaol once it was partially built in 1841 and remained there until his death in 1854. His meticulously kept diaries provide a record of life in and outside the gaol and of murderers, bushrangers, thieves, debtors, the insane and deserted wives.

Ashton was a compassionate man and did his best by the inmates with the provision of medical assistance when needed. His journal, and Rhondda’s presentation, gave an intriguing insight into the very times shared by our ancestors.