



ALL PASA EVENTS CANCELLED UNTIL 31 JULY DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

See statement from President David Forsaith below

COVID-19 Implications for PASA

At the recent PASA Council meeting held on Thursday 12 March, Council discussed the implications of the COVID-19 virus for PASA's activities. It was the unanimous decision of the Councillors present to cancel all PASA events planned until the end of July.

We recognise that considerable work has already gone into the planning of many events and that there may be some disappointment. However, given the seriousness of the virus and its unknown future trajectory, we believe this is the prudent course of action.

PASA has an elderly membership which is the age profile most susceptible to COVID-19. We are the section of the community most at risk. There is no vaccine available for COVID-19 as yet, and none is expected any time soon.

Most of the available medical advice suggests that, to the extent possible, we should keep a safe social distance from other people to minimise the chance of person-to-person transmission of the virus. Most of our meetings have members and guests sitting close to one another, either in rows or at meal tables. Moreover, some members using public transport to come to our events may feel they face additional transmission risk.

The events cancelled are the:

- Pub Lunch (April 1)
- *Fairfield* Same Ships group meeting (April 8)
- Junior Pioneers Visit to the Adelaide Central Market (April 16);
- Pioneer Lunch Event at the Police Historical Museum (June 3);
- *Fairlie* Same Ships group meeting (June 10);
- PASA visit to Kangaroo Island (July 24-28); and
- PASA Annual Dinner 2020.

At this stage I do not know the future of our joint History Festival exhibition with the Royal SA Society of the Arts (RSASA) scheduled for 26 April – 17 May.

We have taken this course for the health and well-being of our members and volunteers. We hope that at least some of the cancelled events might be rescheduled to a later date. In the meantime, we will refund all monies paid by those of you who have paid to attend the Pub Lunch and Junior Pioneers events.

We will keep the PASA Office open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for as long as possible and will try to make alternative arrangements for members to keep in contact with PASA. We will continue to inform members of developments via the e-newsletter *Pioneer X-press*, our quarterly journal *The Pioneer*, our website www.pioneerssa.org.au and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/The-Pioneers-Association-of-South-Australia-Inc->

I hope that you and your families all remain in good health over the coming months and that PASA is able to resume normal business before too long. In the meantime, we will try to keep you informed as best we can.

David Forsaith,
PASA President

Editorial

We are living in unprecedented, uncertain and challenging times with the coronavirus permeating all aspects of our lives. The cancellation of all PASA events and activities until the end of July is but one of a multitude of changes and disruptions we are all facing. This newsletter provides you with information about how our Association plans to support and keep in touch with members during this time. Whilst we are likely to be in "recess" for some time, the work of PASA will continue in the background so that once "normal" life returns we can all resume our happy and rewarding involvement with our Association.

In the meantime, my best wishes to you all along with my hope that you and your family remain safe and healthy during this very difficult time.

Bob Stace, Editor

PASA OFFICE

The PASA Office will be open this week (Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 March) during normal opening hours. However, beyond this week there is no certainty, as opening will depend on the availability of volunteers and possible future decisions by the government and health authorities. Volunteers who normally attend the Office on Tuesdays or Thursdays should contact Judith Francis by phone or email to the Office this week to indicate their possible future availability.

COMMUNICATING WITHIN PASA

Emailing [pioneesa@chariot.net.au] will be the most reliable means of communication for the foreseeable future. If the Office is closed, designated volunteers will be able to access PASA emails from home on a regular basis and make replies.

Office Phone {82315055} The phone will be answered during Office hours this week. We are working on a plan to redirect phone calls once the Office is closed. Notification of this change will be advised ASAP.

PASA Website [www.pioneerssa.org.au] and **Facebook** [<https://www.facebook.com/The-Pioneers-Association-of-South-Australia-Inc->.] will both be updated regularly to include current news on matters pertaining to this uncertain situation.

Post: If the Office is closed then it is likely that incoming postal mail will only be checked on an occasional basis. Please do not use the "post" if you need a quick response.

This email newsletter the **Pioneer e-Xpress** will be used to keep members informed. However, it may not be published on a monthly basis but more on a needs basis.

We aim to publish the Winter edition of our Quarterly journal, **The Pioneer** and post it to members as usual in early June.

MARCH LUNCHEON

John Gifford, a Pastoral Pioneer

[Report supplied by Elizabeth Harris]



(L-R) Shirley Frost, Dawn and Don Goldney and Ray Jew enjoying lunch before the speaker commenced.

Some 50 members attended our March Luncheon held in the hall of the Walkerville Uniting Church. Our guest speaker, Enid Sutton, quoted from John Gifford's letters, archived in England, to tell the story of this unknown pastoral pioneer of SA. Having arrived aged 20 on the *John* in 1840, Gifford first worked on a dairy near Macclesfield before taking an Occupation Licence in 1844 on

90 square miles near Murray Bridge – later known as Gifford’s Hill.

John explored surrounding areas and in 1846 moved his stock to settle along the Limestone Coast. Here he refused to press charges when some cattle were stolen and speared by local Aborigines. In contrast, when flour was stolen, a neighbour left poisoned flour and escaped arrest by riding post haste to Adelaide via the Coorong as Indigenous people died. From Mt. Benson, Gifford moved on to Blackford in the Avenue Range in 1854; one of his letters described his cottage and cedar furniture to his sister. As John moved, he established properties and prospered despite water-logged coastal land in winter and the bad fires of Black Tuesday.

He sold up, returned to England for about a year before returning and marrying in Adelaide where he bought a two-storey house adjacent to Brownhill Creek in what is now Hawthorn. His daughter was born here at “Shingle Hall”, later Abbottshall, in 1862 where the family lived comfortably. The Giffords journeyed to Somersetshire in 1863 during which time John took ill and died, aged 45; he was buried in the Blackford, UK, churchyard.

John Gifford’s pioneering life was unknown until Enid’s friend in England found his letters and suggested Enid and Alan trace his exploits in opening up pastoral land near the Murray and in the South-East. We thank Enid for telling us his story in an interesting style and sharing Gifford’s letters with us. The new motor-sport track at Taillem Bend now operates near Gifford’s Hill.



(L-R) Alan and Enid Sutton (guest speaker) with Elizabeth Harris

GUIDED CEMETERY WALK

Prior to the March Lunch, Jim Everett conducted a tour of the Wesleyan Cemetery at Walkerville. Jim highlighted that this historic cemetery is the resting place of 3785 people, many of them in family graves.



The cemetery tour group with the gravestone of pioneer colonists Joseph and Sarah Stace, ancestors of Bob Stace.

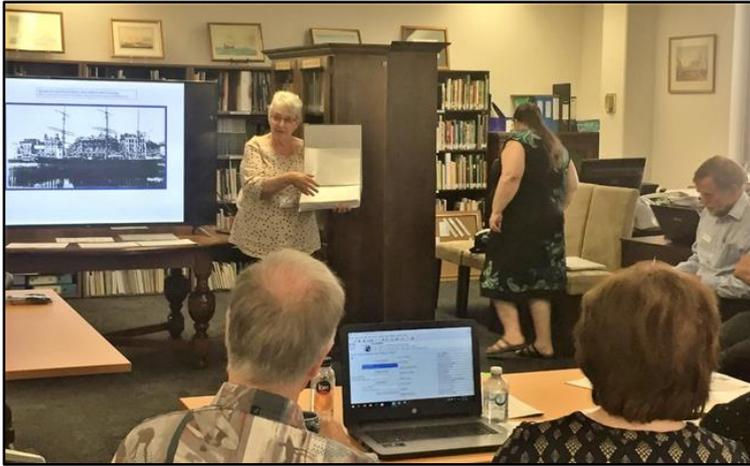
On this tour Jim covered a different group of pioneers than he had on previous occasions and cited examples of grave sites with links to current PASA members. He pointed out vandalised headstones and others which had been restored and strengthened by the Friends of the Cemetery, supported by the Town of Walkerville. Among notable graves were those of Charles and Clement Collison; their firm of Patent Attorneys began in the year that South Australia recognised and licenced Patent Attorneys, the first in the world to do so. Leaders such as Sir Samuel Davenport, Mary Lee, and Sir John Cleland are buried here along with the WW1 “Fighting Leanes” of Prospect. One of the Leane family being remembered was SA’s Police Commissioner, Brigadier Leane. Bob Stace told us of his ancestors Joseph and Sarah Stace and we recognised those of the Le Cornu and Wigg families, local Walkerville pioneers like Mr & Mrs Borne, the Sussex hotelier Nottage and John and Elizabeth Baxter Cox among many early Wesleyans. Members are grateful to Jim for his interest and willingness to show us this Local Heritage site.



SAME SHIPS

Report on the *Java* meeting by Sue Fox

Around 20 members and guests enjoyed sharing stories about their ancestors who came on the *Java* in 1840. They appreciated PASA's recent purchase of a large smart TV screen which showed the supporting images and data very clearly.



Librarian Julie Neale using the new digital screen to illustrate her presentation.

Peter Brinkworth shared William Richards' experience aboard the *Java*. It had been written as a diary during the journey and is now available online and at the State Library describing the experiences of passengers during the voyage to South Australia in 1840.

Ross Hawke's ancestors William and Susan Hawke came out with a young family of four children. One child died at sea as a result of the terrible conditions and within six months of arriving, the other children also died. Despite the tragic start in the new colony, the couple went on to have 6 more children. William bought up land and eventually built a house near Brownhill Creek which still stands today. Ross has recorded their story on a PASA Pioneer Poster.

Other stories shared included John Germein and his seafaring family. John lived and worked all his life as a Chandler in Port Adelaide. He was known

as a bit of an eccentric, having the habit of wearing three hats at the same time! John's son Benjamin had come out earlier with his 2 brothers. Ben was a seaman and lighthouse-keeper in South Australia and is remembered as being instrumental in rescuing three men from the wreck of the steamship *Admella* in 1859. He was awarded a medal for his heroic efforts.

Judith Francis shared the tale of John Jaffa, not a passenger but a *Java* crew member who stayed on in South Australia. He was not blessed with good fortune, having a sad life and a tragic ending. While working at Chowilla he had walked to Overland Corner (ironically for refreshments) only to die of heat exhaustion on his return. He is buried there in a lonely grave.

Karina Hutchesson displaying the "Free Emigration" poster for the *Java*



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

February Answer

The historic building which featured at the heart of the February test is **Bishop's Court**, which is located in Palmer Place, North Adelaide. It has received publicity lately because it is being sold by the Anglican Church. Bishop's Court has been the home of the Anglican Bishops and Archbishops of Adelaide since it was built in the early 1850s. Its first occupant in 1856 was **Bishop Augustus Short**.

March Question

The *Fairfield* was scheduled to be the centre of attention at the Same Ships meeting in April.

This person (pictured below) along with his wife, emigrated with free passage as a carpenter by trade on the *Fairfield* and became one of South Australia's most prominent citizens.



March Question:

Who was this free passage emigrant?

CONGRATULATIONS A New Publication

Congratulations to PASA member Christine Shears who recently published her book '**They didn't give up.**' Her book commemorates her ancestors Ludwig George DREYER and Louise FOLLE. As Christine states in her dedication, "This book tells tales of one resilient couple.....They and their children left unimaginable legacies in Australia."

As family historians we know that the decision to emigrate must have been a difficult one to make. But once made it would have been frustrating and difficult to organise for this new life; selling up, packing a few belongings, saying goodbyes, and waiting to secure a passage. This was no different for Ludwig and Louise.

Ludwig arrived in Adelaide with his son Johann in September 1845. His wife Louise followed in 1847 with the rest of the family. Christine outlines their journey from Bremen to Adelaide with sensitivity and empathy.

On arrival in South Australia Christine describes Ludwig's experiences in Burra Burra and then

after a series of misadventures, how he and his family established themselves in Adelaide where Ludwig reinvented himself as a barber and hairdresser.

Christine gives us an insight into the social conditions of the mid 1800's through her careful, detailed research, and competent storytelling.

We are grateful that Christine has donated a copy of her book to the Pioneers' Library. It will soon be processed ready for borrowing.

[Book review supplied by Judith Francis]



THE PASA LIBRARY AND TINYCAT

If you haven't searched our TinyCat catalogue via our website recently, I urge you to go online and check out the many wonderful pioneer family stories we have in our collection. We also have many books about events, places, and regional settlement. Increasingly we have catalogued other media resources such as our poster collection, reference material and shipping.

If you or a family member has produced a family history book please check that we have a copy in our library, either as hard copy or digital.

We are always excited to receive relevant material pertaining to the early years of SA settlement. We pride ourselves on being the only repository collecting information related to this important time in our state's history. Sharing history is the pathway to preserving it for the generations to come.

[Judith Francis on behalf of the PASA Library]

PROTECTING THE “FALLEN”

March is Women’s History Month and the following story illustrates the significant role played by our pioneer women in the early history of our State.

We have all heard the story of William Ashton, the first governor of the Adelaide Gaol which became known as Ashton's Hotel. But what is his wife Charlotte's story?

Charlotte MILLS (1804 - 1894) married William Baker ASHTON (1800 - 1854) on 28 April, 1829 in London, England. They departed 26 July, 1838 from London, England and arrived 16 November, 1838 in Adelaide, aboard the *Rajasthan*.

Charlotte was twenty-four when she married William Ashton, who was a police officer. When the family embarked to sail to South Australia, she was the mother of three young boys and heavily pregnant, giving birth to a daughter a few days into the voyage. Caring for a new baby and her three young sons on a long voyage would have been difficult especially as, along with many others, she was often seasick.

On arriving at the new colony, Charlotte made a home in in a small cottage in the parklands where soon another son was born. When William was appointed the first Governor of the new gaol in 1841, the family moved into an apartment in the new gaol. Two more children arrived in 1843 and 1845. Charlotte was now the mother of seven children.



While William concerned himself with the business of the gaol Charlotte looked after the family. But most importantly she cared for the female prisoners. There was no female warder to oversee their wellbeing for the first nine years of the prison's existence.

Charlotte was officially appointed Matron of the Adelaide Gaol in 1850 and continued in this role until William died in 1854. She served these women well for over 13 years.

The family was now without a main income and homeless. A public appeal was launched and enough money was raised for Charlotte to purchase land at Leasingham, in the Clare Valley. Here the family established their farm, ‘Ashgrove’, near Auburn, which was owned by the family for many years. Interestingly in 1869, for a short time, Charlotte was listed as the owner of the Leasingham Hotel. She was obviously a woman who worked hard for her family and took some risks to make a successful life for them all.

Charlotte died of ‘senile decay’ at the age of 89 and is buried at Auburn Cemetery.

From information provided by Janet & Trevor Ashton, 3rd great grandson of Charlotte. PASA Poster 2019.

Judith Francis 2020

The Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc
Level 1, Harmer House, 5 Leigh St, Adelaide, 5000
Phone: (08) 82315055
Email: pioneersa@chariot.net.au
Website: www.pioneerssa.org.au
Pioneer e-Xpress Editor: Bob Stace
Photos: Sue Fox and Bob Stace