The COVID-19 pandemic is proving to be one of the greatest challenges of our generation. We are facing a health emergency that poses a significant threat to our physical wellbeing and that of our families and our loved ones. The widespread ramifications of this emergency, and the steps that must be taken to combat it, mean that our way of life is changing. As a result, many people are also suffering socially and economically. In these unprecedented times, it is understandable that people are feeling anxious, distressed, and vulnerable. There is much uncertainty in the face of this crisis, but there are also things that are certain.

First, we are not alone. Every one of us is potentially affected by this pandemic - no one is exempt. At the same time, as we are physically distancing ourselves from one another, we need to remain connected in spirit. More than ever, it is important to extend kindness to one another, to look out and care for each other, and to ensure that our actions and words reflect the society that we are - a society that is harmonious, resilient, respectful, and decent; a society that believes in the common good.

Second, we all have a role to play. History judges a society not only on the outcome of a crisis; it will also look to how society grappled with that crisis. The actions of each of us will play a crucial
part of the collective effort to overcome this pandemic. It is imperative that we follow official directives and guidance to ensure a consistent and unified response. Acting in this way means that we are protecting each other, including the vulnerable members of our community.

Third, this crisis will pass. Our society has survived many crises: there is no reason why this one should be an exception. If we act in solidarity, we will lessen the damage. I would like to express my sincere condolences to those people who have lost loved ones as a result of this pandemic.

My thoughts are also with business owners and employees who have suffered great loss and are enduring hardship. Let’s all make sure we do what we can to support businesses that are doing it tough. I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone in our community who is either directly or indirectly working in response to this crisis: frontline health workers, aged care workers, law enforcement personnel, teachers, childcare workers, supermarket staff, government employees and volunteers. We are grateful for your service and the commitment that you display to our community.

It was only recently that our state suffered the devastating bushfires. My wife Lan and I were moved by the courage, resilience and compassion our community displayed during that time. Let us continue to uphold these values in the way we respond to the emergency we are facing now. Lan and I are thinking of the people of South Australia. We hope that everyone takes care of themselves and others. We will get through this together.

Friday 27 March 2020

COVID 19 and SOCIAL DISTANCING

Firstly, my apologies to those of you who had problems in receiving the April Extra edition of this newsletter in late April. We were using a new data base and emailing the newsletter from home via our internet provider’s website and a combination of unexpected errors resulted in some malfunctioning. Hopefully, we have sorted out some of the problems for this edition!

Thank you to the readers who responded to my invitation to provide articles for use in the newsletter while the Covid 19 situation prevents us from conducting events. I’ve had a good response as you can see from this 8-page edition. More articles are still welcome for future editions.

Best wishes to you all and keep safe and well.

Bob Stace,
Editor

Thanks to PASA’s Volunteers

National Volunteers Week is an opportunity for us to celebrate and thank the many volunteers who keep our Association functioning (even in these unusual times). Whether this voluntary support has been as members of the Council or various sub committees, volunteering in the Office or from home, managing PASA projects, producing the newsletter and Journal, managing our Website and Facebook or assisting with the running and organization of our regular activities and events …. it has all contributed to the ongoing well-being of our Association.
Call for new volunteers

At some stage we will be able to move from our current socially isolated situation to a new “norm” when we can reopen the Office and resume at least some of the activities that make membership so enjoyable. For this to happen we will need some new volunteers to help with a range of tasks which can be done in the Office or managed from home. If you are interested in helping please contact our Volunteers Coordinator Judith Francis via the PASA email or phone (see the contact details on page 8).

Volunteers for Council

It is also time for members to consider nominating for the 2020-21 PASA Council. There will be several vacancies on the new Council, and we need a diverse range of interests to give effective representation of our membership.

Council is responsible for the leadership and management of the Pioneers Association. If you have the interests of PASA at heart you can play an important role in guiding the future of the Association. Fresh blood can bring new and different perspectives vital to the ongoing health of our organisation.

Nominations for the 2020-21 Council must be received by 10 August 2020. We can assist you with the nomination process. Please contact President David Forsaith or any Council member via the PASA email or phone if you are interested in further information about the work of the Council or the nomination process.

SAME SHIPS PROJECT
[Article supplied by Sue Fox]

April’s Same Ships Meeting would have been the Fairfield. PASA’s records show that 20 passengers from the Fairfield have direct descendants who are current PASA members. Maybe there’s more?

Captain James Lee left London via Plymouth with 177 passengers aboard the Fairfield on 30 July 1840 and arrived in Port Adelaide on Monday 14 Dec 1840.

Many of the passengers came out as assisted emigrants and were housed in the steerage below deck. During the voyage there were 5 births and sadly 35 deaths recorded.

Among the passengers were Henry Ayers & his new wife Anne (nee Potts) [this was the subject of a recent Test Your Knowledge question in the March Newsletter] Initially working as a law clerk, Henry eventually entered parliament, serving for an unbroken term of 37 years. He was SA’s 8th Premier and served as Premier for 5 short periods between 1863-1872. Ayers lived in Ayers House from 1855 until 1897 and built it from a 9-room house into a grand mansion in the 1860s.

Anne’s father Lawrence was also aboard the Fairfield with his stepmother, his second wife Elizabeth who tragically was one of the deaths on the voyage. Anne’s brother Frank Potts (who established Bleasdale Winery in 1850) was already in the colony, having arrived on the Buffalo with Gov Hindmarsh in 1836. The headstone for their father Lawrence was relocated to Bleasdale Winery in 1975 and a memorial marker placed on the gravesite in West Terrace Cemetery.

John Hillam and his wife Nancy from Bradford, West Yorkshire, were older than the stated age, but it is assumed they were allowed on board in order to meet the quota of emigrants required. Four of their 7 children aged 14-20 years sailed with them. Although listing his occupation as soldier and trade as a comber, John settled into farming in the Adelaide Hills.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you for the article on Henry Jackson Moseley, a well-known pioneer of Glenelg.

I had the privilege of working in Moseley Street for 20 years before I retired. I was employed as a medical receptionist for a group of 5 GPs. The street still has a number of historical, well preserved family homes and being so close to the Esplanade, lunch time in the summer was enjoyed with many a stroll along the sea front.

Margaret Speer
The family lived in Littlehampton, then Hahndorf where Nancy died aged 69 years in 1854. She is buried at St James Church, Littlehampton. John Hillam went to live with his son Priestley in Mt Pleasant. Priestley was one of the founders of the Mount Barker Agricultural Society.

Daughter Catherine, who had married John Pearson, died in 1856, aged only 35 years, leaving 5 children. She is also buried in Littlehampton. Some family members later moved to the northern districts taking up farming.

The Old Colonist Photos of Townsend Duryea include portraits of 13 of the Fairfield passengers. Some of these were children at the time of the voyage including Charles Thorpe (pictured below) who was 8 when he arrived with his parents and siblings. Thorpe took up farming at Tumby Bay, then became Postmaster in Port Lincoln.

If you have ancestors connected to the Fairfield, and would like to tell their story, please contact us at: pasa.sameships@gmail.com

Under “normal” circumstances this newsletter would be reporting on the annual celebration of Colonial William Light’s Birthday. Light was born in Kuala Kedah, Malaya on 27 April 1786 and his birthday has been celebrated by the Adelaide City Council for over 150 years as a mark of his legacy and contribution to the founding of Adelaide. There was no public event this year, so it has been good timing to receive an article from PASA member Heather Latz which outlines Light’s involvement in the planning of the village of Marion.

LIGHT SQUARE, MARION
[An article provided by Heather Latz, Secretary of the Marion Historical Society]

William Light, the Surveyor-General of South Australia, is buried in Light Square in the city of Adelaide. But did you know that there is also a Light Square in Marion?

When Light resigned from his official role in July 1838 many of his staff resigned with him and four of them – Boyle Travers Finniss, Henry Nixon, William Jacob and Robert George Thomas – became partners with Light in a company called Light, Finniss & Co. One of their first projects was to plan the village of Marion on country section 117, which had been purchased in July 1838 by Finniss and Nixon. A village was laid out with streets named after each of the partners and Light Square at its heart. Marion’s Light Square is a diamond shape at the intersection of Nixon Street and Market Street, which suggests that the planners envisaged it as a market square like those in many small English villages.
Blocks in the ‘Village of Marion, on the Sturt’ were advertised for sale by Light, Finniss & Co. in November 1838. Although many blocks were quickly snapped up, few of the initial buyers moved to the village – probably many were land speculators. By 1862 there was a hotel, general store, two churches, brickworks and a few dozen houses, but almost all of these had been built close to the Sturt River and routes to and from Adelaide (Finniss Street and what became Marion Road). Instead of becoming a market square, for most of its first 130 years Light Square was surrounded by paddocks, market gardens, almond orchards, and a handful of cottages. Then, in just a few years in the 1960s, all of the land was filled with housing, and it was just an unusual intersection.

The South Australian Sesquicentenary in 1986 raised interest in the state’s colonial history. In the City of Marion, the Council worked with the newly formed Marion Historical Society on ways of celebrating the history of the city as a whole and Light Square in particular. Brick plinths were erected in each of the four corners (representing the importance of the brickmaking industry to the village) and on each plinth was a plaque – one about the pre-European history, one about the 1838 survey and sale of village lots, one about street names and the other about the mystery of the village name. The plinths were unveiled by Mayor Kevin Hodgson on the 27th of November 1988.

In the last 12 years public awareness of the ‘village’ has been enhanced by artworks, streetscaping, footpath signs at 24 historic sites, a heritage walk (available on the City of Marion web site), street signs explaining the street names and the establishment of the Marion Historic Village Museum [https://communitywebs.org/marionmuseum/]. Volunteers from there and the Marion Historical Society worked with the Council on enhancements to Light Square which were completed on 24 April 2020, including four large signs providing information about the history of the area. (see photo of new signs below)

ANZAC MEMORIES AND CONNECTIONS

Because of Covid 19 restrictions many of us observed Anzac Day in a very different way this year. Some “lit up the dawn” with candles on their footpath at sunrise while others joined locally organised street events. This year’s celebrations, whilst lacking the usual massed dawn services and parades, seemed just as meaningful and dignified. Some PASA members rediscovered family stories and connections with Anzac Day and have shared them with us.

A LETTER FROM THE FRONT.

Susan Benham Page has provided the story of a soldier’s life in France through the eyes of a distant cousin, Private Frederick Jeffery whose letter to his mother was printed in the *Adelaide Advertiser* 18 September 1916. Private Jeffrey was killed in action at Poziers on 23 July, a month after he wrote the following letter which was dated 26 June.
"We have been now for several weeks in the trenches, and so far, I have been successful in 'dodging the souvenirs' from our friends over the way. Apart from the rain, which is pretty constant in this part of the world, the firing line is not a bad place, considering. I am writing this from within a dugout, which I share with another chap, one of the Mitchells, from Pirie. It is 4 ft. 'by 6 ft. and 3 ft. high, so you can understand that there's not a superabundance of space. We have a horde of rats and mice billeted upon us. The dugouts often have nameplates over their doors, the names varying with the humor of the occupants. Some go in for flash designations, such as 'Vice Regal Lodge' and "Marble Hall.' Others are ironical - 'Dreamland,' "The Abode of Peace,' 'Home for the Weary' and 'Benevolent Home for Wails and Strays.' And there are dozens such as 'Sacco' Homans Retreat,' 'Do-Drop Inn,' 'Our Wurlie,' etc. Before I came here I had a small dugout of my own, which I carefully cleaned up, carpeted with sandbags, and furnished with odd rails and shelves, and, finally named 'The Hermitage.' The same afternoon there was a bombardment, and when I returned to my abode, lo! It was not, for a shell took it. According to the custom, I put up a 'To Let' notice and em-shied (Arabic, as commonly used by our fellows, for 'Nicked off').

"Our fare in the trenches is not too bad, but you sometimes see a humorous notice like this on the parapet-'Soldiers are kindly requested not to eat the sandbags.' There's not much that happens from which the fellows don't extract some humor. For instance, a chap may be enlarging on his plans for spending his furlough in England when it comes. One of his pals near him will generally act the 'cheer up' and remind him that he'll probably be busy 'pushing up daisies' long before then. By-the-way, real daisies are growing right up to within a few yards of the firing line and in 'No Man's Land.' It's surprising how soon Nature hides the destruction caused by the war. Most of the churches I've seen since coming to France (we've been here nearly three months, most of the time in the district formerly held by the Germans when they made their great offensive in 1914) have been wholly or partly destroyed by the enemy. You can understand how the French must hate their enemies for this as much as anything because their churches are invariably splendid buildings, often hundreds of years old, beautifully kept and ornamented within, and they really form in many ways the central point of the people's lives. I've been putting in at French. It's surprising how soon one is able to make oneself understood. The folk are always willing to help us in our efforts to learn the language."

**A LETTER FROM HECTOR**

Brian O'Halloran contributed a photocopy (extract below) of an original letter written by his Great Uncle Hector O'Halloran from "Somewhere in France" in 1916. The letter was addressed to Miss Alice O'Halloran who was a foundation member of PASA and Hector was her older brother. The letter asks Alice to carry out a sad task

**Dear Alice,**

Have received all your letters from time to time and very regularly, thanks for writing to me so regularly. I only wish I had the time I would write to you more often. Well Alice I'm afraid I haven't much in the way of news to tell you.

I would like you when you have the time to go to see Mrs. Helen Elliott 187
Archer Street Nth, Adelaide. You might tell her I asked you to call and see her. Her son Roy has just been killed. He and I worked together ever since leaving Australia. He was a fine chap and a great friend of mine and a man whom any Mother might well feel proud. Poor old chap the shock of his going has been an awful blow to me. He was a friend of Mort’s. I have written Mrs. Elliott myself so no doubt she would have received my letter ere you call on her.

Your loving brother Hector O’Halloran

THE POTTERS OF YONGALA

Robyn Jenkin tells her poignant family story of four brothers at War.

In 1915, four brothers from the small town of Yongala in the mid-north of South Australia, signed up to join the Australian Infantry Force that was currently fighting in the Great War in Europe. They were Thomas James Albert Potter, Edward Wilfred Potter, Ralph Victor Potter and Hurtle Francis Constable Potter. Thomas, whose nickname was Bis, was 30 years old, Edward, known as Wilf was 24, Ralph was 23, and Hurtle was only 21. Hurtle had a twin sister, Alma, and there were two other brothers and one other sister in the family, the children of Benjamin and Eliza Potter.

What is remarkable about the story of this family is that three of the four brothers who enlisted in 1915 were killed at Mouquet Farm, near the village of Pozieres in France, all within a 24-hour period between 3rd and 4th September 1916. Their story, generally unknown by the wider population, is a story that poignantly mirrors the reality of the effect of the Great War on Australian society at the time.

The only surviving brother, Ralph, returned home in 1917, invalided out of the Army because of serious leg wounds. But the Australia that he returned to was very different, with over 60,000 killed out of a total population of just under 5 million people. Another 150,000 returned home with such devastating physical and psychological injuries that they were no longer able to function as productive members of society.

As a result of the loss of so many young men, Australian society changed forever. Many of those who served did not produce children themselves, and many young women were left widowed or were not able to marry. Productivity fell as there were too few men capable of productive labour. As a result of the costs of the war, Australia now had a huge debt to repay, and the country’s economy was in crisis. The massive costs of welfare and health care of veterans added to the problem and by 1932, unemployment in country had reached 29%.

And as for the Potter family, half of their sons were dead, none of them leaving children of their own. Hurtle’s remains lie in a grave in the Courcelette British Cemetery, but no remains were ever found of Bis and Wilf. Their names are recorded on the Villers-Bretonneux Wall. Eliza, the boys’ mother was dead within a month of her surviving son’s return home. The two sons who had stayed at home continued as local builders, working...
with their father. One of these sons, Herbert, was the writer’s grandfather. Ralph married and produced two children. Benjamin struggled in vain to find out the fate of his sons and wrote many letters to the authorities in the Army. His two daughters eventually married and had children of their own.

On 6th October 2019, the Australian War Memorial honoured the Potter brothers at an emotional Last Post Ceremony in Canberra. Many family members were able to attend.

Robyn Jenkin

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

April Extra Answers

Were you able to navigate your way through the PASA website to find the answer in the May 1970 issue of the PASA Newsletter? The question required you to discover the year of South Australia’s first Art Exhibition and the name of the featured artist. Page 3 of the 1970 May edition highlights the following advertisement in the Adelaide Observer of 14 June 1845

The Exhibition of Water Colour Drawings, by Mr George French Angas objects of interest in New Zealand and South Australia will take place on Wednesday and Friday next, the 18th, 19th and 20th June at the Legislative Council Chamber

Admission from 10 till 4 o’clock each day by tickets at 1/- each, to be procured at either Mr Platt’s shops or the Observer Office.

The exhibition attracted widespread attention and the press of the day did ample justice to the occasion. The Observer noting that “The subjects are so varied, so delightfully and truthfully delineated, and so chastely executed, that we earnestly advise all lovers of modern art in the Colony, who can afford it, to subscribe for these works.”

A second question in the April Extra newsletter asked you to name the first war memorial avenue to be established in Australia during WW1. It was in the small beach side town of Normanville here in South Australia on 13 May 1915.

May Test

Horse racing has been one of the few sports to survive (albeit spectator free) here in Adelaide during the Covid 19 isolation period. It is a reminder that horse racing in Adelaide has been part of the sporting and social fabric of the State since the early days of the Colony. The ST Gill painting “Race meeting at Adelaide” (below) shows how well the early race meetings were patronised.

Questions:

1. When was the first race meeting held in Adelaide?

2. What was the location of the event?

[NB the ST Gill painting does not depict the first race meeting nor its location]