



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our May Meeting

Graham Jaunay, Colonel Light's Plan for a Great Southern City 1836 - 7

We had an excellent talk from Graham Jaunay at our May meeting. Graham has been involved in so much and has so much experience that Judy was almost out of breath by the end of her introduction!

Graham told us about the SA Colonisation Act which declared the land to be vacant (!), that the colony would have to be self-sufficient, and that a 20,000-pound surety would be required before proceeding. By 1835 35,000 pounds' worth of land had been sold, each land order giving the buyer one town acre and 80 country acres. There were 437 preliminary land orders, but after a while interest slackened, and G. F. Angas offered to buy the rest at a discount price of 12 pounds per order. To make this fair to the other buyers, their country land was increased to 134 acres per order.

Colonel Light was first considered for the role as Governor of South Australia but this was instead given to Hindmarsh. Light became the first surveyor General of South Australia, and his task was enormous and full of frustrations. Two of these were opposition from the governor over the location of the town, and the insistence of speed over accuracy in the survey by the colonisation commissioners. Light gave way to neither of these.

His choice of location was to do with the river and the rainfall, so that there was a supply of fresh water and well-watered soil for growing food. His choice of the trigonometrical method of survey was for its accuracy. The running method favoured by the commissioners was fast but nowhere near as accurate. Adelaide was the first town

in the world to be surveyed by this method.

Light also favoured the grid pattern for town planning, but baulked by the river, he simply cut up his plan and arranged his grids around the river on a new map. Although some were a little displaced, he retained the city squares and the location of Government House near the river, and he surrounded the town with parklands to ensure fresh air.

Light completed the survey of the town on 15 May 1837. At a land order holder's meeting the town acres were chosen according to ballot. Absentees got what was left over, and surplus town acres were put up for auction or sale. The country allotments were also set out on a grid, and now areas from the Port to Marino had been surveyed. Some special surveys were also done for those willing to pay.

The colonisation commissioners were still on Light's back about speeding up the process by using the running method of survey. Light refused, and in June 1838 he resigned. MHS members know all too well what he did next!

Light died from tuberculosis on 5 Oct 1839, aged 55, and was buried at Light Square.

This is, of course, an expedited version – Graham gave a great deal more detail in his wonderful presentation. Just as a final note, Graham was delighted with the book he was given as a thank-you gift. He said:

"Thank you for the kind gift - Tomorrow is yesterday. The Millers were close neighbours of my Uncle Frank as can be seen from the mud map on p35. My maternal grandfather, Edgar JOHNSON owned the almond/poultry farm on the corner of what is now Seacombe Rd and Miller St..... as a boy in the 1940s this place was a great attraction for me and I will value this little gift. - Graham."

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From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

During War World 1 the Government bought the Bedford Park homestead and surrounding land and in 1917 opened the Bedford Park Sanatorium to treat returned soldiers suffering from lung complaints. It provided a healthy lifestyle of working the 400 acre farm including 10 acres of orchard and market garden, 150 pigs and 2,000 poultry. Crops were also grown and there was work in leather, pottery, weaving, wood and metal classes. Added to their secluded life were open-air picture shows as well as visiting entertainers complemented by a radio station 5BS going to air in 1924. The sanatorium continued operations until the 1960s when the Flinders University plans were evolved and later on the site Flinders Medical Centre was built.

The workshops later evolved into the Bedford Industries of today

.Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 21 June 1917, page 4

BEDFORD PARK SANATORIUM.

The military consumptives' sanatorium, which has been erected by the Government on the Bedford Park estate, South road, will be opened to-day at 3 p.m. The ceremony will be conducted by Mrs. A. W. Styles, wife of the Chief Secretary, who will formally unlock the front door of the administrative block. Addresses will be delivered by the Chief Secretary, the Acting Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. R. P. Blundell), and the Superintendent of Public Buildings (Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth). The public are invited to be present, and anything in the way of gifts of books to the library will be very much appreciated. Already there are about 40 military patients in the new institution.

When you hear of war casualties they normally occur on the front line, on a ship at sea, while travelling to the war zone or while training. Occasionally a calamity occurs in an unexpected location.

Journal (Adelaide, SA: 1912 - 1923), Thursday 21 June 1917, page 2

A FATAL WAR TROPHY.

MELBOURNE, June 20.

Shocking injuries were sustained by Leonard Edwards, a resident of Golden Square, Bendigo, to-day through the explosion of a German bomb. The bomb was, with other trophies, brought to Australia by Pte. W. White, a brother-in-law of Edwards, who picked it up while fighting in the trenches in France. Edwards was examining the bomb, when he pressed a knob at one end, and an explosion followed. His right hand was completely blown off, and deep wounds were also inflicted in his chest by the iron fragments. His right eye and nose were injured, and several punctures were made in his left arm. In addition, he suffered severely from shock. Edwards was taken to the Bendigo Hospital, where his right arm was amputated just below the elbow. He died late to-night. Edwards was 28 years of age, and was a married man with one child.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

Please note that if you are researching at the Centre you can always ask for one-on-one help. Call to make a time, or just walk in!

Once again a reminder to look in the local newspaper and the "What's On!" booklet for info about our events each month.

Bookings for events are usually required. Please call us on 7420 6445 or email heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Marion Historical Society

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th July 2017 at Parliament House, North Terrace.

Meet at Parliament House at 1.45 for a 2.00pm start

Kris Hanna

Guided Tour of Parliament House