



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 104 – March 2016

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### Our Feb 2016 meeting

#### Brian O'Halloran

#### Thomas O'Halloran's younger brother, William, and the family rumour

Our first meeting for 2016 had 25 enthusiastic attendees, including five from the Friends of Glenthorne, which was the property owned by Major Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran in the early years of the colony of South Australia.

Brian O'Halloran is the great-great-grandson of Captain William Littlejohn O'Halloran, who was a younger brother of Thomas. They were two of 15 children born to Joseph O'Halloran and Frances née Bayly in the 'East Indies' (they were based in West Bengal in India). They were a British army family. In 1835, Joseph was knighted by King William IV "for 53 years' service to the Crown and ensuring that all his 8 sons also enlisted and served the Crown".

About 35 years ago, Brian asked his father's cousin – the family historian – why the family tended to identify more with Thomas than William, who was their direct ancestor. He was told the family rumour, which involved financial troubles, banishment and a family rift.

Since that conversation, Brian has spent some years finding out more about William. This newsletter article will give a taste of the information conveyed by Brian without giving away so much that non-attendees won't enjoy any repeat of the talk by Brian.

William Littlejohn O'Halloran was born in

1806, nine years after Thomas. Both boys were educated in England before enlisting in the army. Both served in India and other places and both sold their commissions prior to migrating to South Australia – Thomas arriving in November 1838 and William in August 1840. Both were appointed Justices of the Peace within a year of their arrival. By the time William arrived, Thomas had been appointed as the colony's Police Commissioner and had established his farm, Lizard Lodge, in what is now O'Halloran Hill.

Brian's talk was supported by some fascinating documentation, including a land title annotated by William, indicating he had paid £160 to purchase 80-acre Section 7 District B from David McLaren three days after his arrival, and a copy of his bank records showing that he had deposited £300 on his arrival in Adelaide and withdrawn £160 for the land purchase three days later. A month later he and his wife, Eliza, and two surviving daughters (a son and a daughter had died in 1837 before they came to Australia) moved to a wooden hut on the property he had named Clanfergeal – a name that had been in the O'Halloran family since the early 1600s. Part of the property is now occupied by the Daw Park Repatriation Hospital.

William was appointed Private Secretary to Governor George Grey in 1843, was the Auditor General of SA from 1851 to 1868 and held several other positions of responsibility. He and Eliza had four more sons between 1842 and 1852. The son

born in 1846 was named George Grey O'Halloran, in honour of the Governor, but died in 1849 and was buried in the family vault at Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill.

William was a keen vigneron and winemaker, supported the founding of St Peters College and, with Dr Handasyde Duncan, raised money to build the Stringybark Church in 1841 on land donated by John Wickham Daw and called St-Mary's-on-the-Sturt. Five years later, work began on the new church in its present location, about 200 metres south of the first church. William had a lifelong association with St-Mary's-on-the-Sturt and tied up in the family rumour is the fact that, in 1869, he sold his share of the family vault at O'Halloran Hill to Thomas (Brian has a record of the transaction), removed the remains of his son and interred them at St-Mary's-on-the-Sturt. Thomas died the following year and was laid to rest in the O'Halloran vault at Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill. William died in July 1885 and was buried, in accordance with his will, in the simplest and least costly manner at St Mary's with his son, George Grey O'Halloran.

## **From The Newspapers 100 Years Ago**

**Quorn Mercury** - Thursday 16 March 1916

### ***NED'S DECISION.***

*I think I must enlist and add one to the list  
And do my bit to help to squash the  
German,  
As every British man should do the best he  
can  
To annihilate these slaughter-loving vermin.*

*I might get hurt or maimed—I'd chance it all  
the same,  
For a Briton never turns his back to  
powder;  
I'll pepper at the Huns like other British sons,  
And when they run I'll make the cheers one  
louder.*

*Of course we mean to win; then you'll hear  
an awful din*

*When back in South Australia we are  
stranded.*

*Then won't the ladies sing as they hear the  
welcome ring*

*Of the bells and crowds the day that we are  
landed*

*So enlist, you slackers all, be you five feet  
two or tall,*

*And come along with me to fight the  
German.*

*You might get hurt or maimed, but you must  
chance the game.*

*You'll rue it if you don't—so ends my  
sermon.*

*"Quornite."*

## **News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre**

The MHRC will be setting up displays in the Marion Council Building Foyer during the year with each one remaining for about three months.

The first one will be set up in mid-April with the theme "Marion Soldiers at Fromelles and Pozieres.

May is History Month and a "Marion Secrets" day will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> of May when lesser known facts on Marion will be revealed. Put it in your diary!!!

For more information please contact Danielle on 7420 6455 or email [heritage@marion.sa.gov.au](mailto:heritage@marion.sa.gov.au)

## **Marion Historical Society**

### **Next meeting**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**7:30 pm at Cooina**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Followed by Show and Tell**