



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 123 – March 2018

Contacts	Judy Morphett	8298 5585
	Ian Morphett	8298 5585
	Sheila Graham	0415 256 131
	Mandy Coote	0401 540 024

### Our February Meeting Wednesday 21st February 2018

#### David Buob

*“Myles Flynn – A Criminal Lunatic and Alcoholic who unknowingly changed S.A. for the better”.*

On January 23rd, 1902 two of the staff from B.H.P. Mr. John Greenway the Manager, and Mr. Joseph Winter the assistant Manager collected the smelters payroll from the Union Bank and headed back towards the Ocean Steamers Wharf at Port Adelaide around 2 p.m. with the staff's wages. They were riding in a trap with two ponies.

Two men approached them and began firing their revolvers. One of the ponies was killed instantly and both Greenway and Winter were tossed to the roadway. The two robbers escaped with the bag carrying the payroll amounting to 1,225 pounds (the same buying power as \$173,239.65 would have today, according to Reserve Bank figures).

The next morning two suspects for the crime Alfred Lawson and Myles Flynn were arrested. Myles Flynn aged 25 years had been convicted and imprisoned for numerous offences from 1895 to 1901. Lawson went to court on Friday the 31st January 1902 and witnesses identified him leaving the scene of the crime. Lawson was committed for trial. Witnesses for the defence of Flynn claimed they had seen him drunk and sleeping it off in the west of Adelaide on the day of the robbery. The Criminal Court trial held on Wednesday the 26th February 1902 found both Lawson and Flynn guilty. Lawson stated that the verdict was correct in his case, but that Flynn was innocent.

Lawson was sentenced to twenty years with hard labour in the Yatala Stockade. Flynn's sentence was deferred pending a ruling of legal questions.

Alfred Lawson aged 48 died suddenly at Yatala Station.

Flynn, about whose guilt there had been considerable doubt in the public's mind, had suffered from melancholia and because of his failing physical health was sent to the Criminal Ward at the Parkside Lunatic Asylum.

On the 27th November 1907 an address sent to the governor asking for an inquiry into the circumstances associated with the conviction of Myles Flynn on March 1902.

In September 1908 another attempt was made by Mr E. H. Coombe M.P. to obtain an inquiry.

On November 27th, 1908 Mr E.H. Coombe M.P. asked the Governor to set up a Royal Commission for an inquiry concerning the conviction of Myles Flynn. A Royal Commission was held on February 10th, 1909. Flynn was again found guilty. The Royal Commission had proved to be disappointing all round.

On the 11th February 1909 Myles Flynn was sent back to the Yatala Stockade to serve the remainder of his sentence.

Because of the circumstances of Flynn's legal representations the law was changed to allow felons to have the right of appeal.

#### From the Newspapers 100 Years Ago

Another interesting perspective of the era, this time from an Adelaide newspaper.

When using Trove it is interesting to note changes in the 100 years since the paper

**Now on Facebook** – Type in “[www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/)” and  
Please “Like us on Facebook”

was published.

In this example, changes in taxation, words and punctuation.

In 1918 States had their own income tax and “5 per cent.,” was written as two words with a full stop after “cent” as it was an abbreviation.

The average weekly wage?  
Probably less than £5.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929),  
Thursday 21 March 1918, page 6

### **HELP YOUR COUNTRY AND YOURSELF**

*A.B. was a farmer. He had about £50 in hand, and saw that within a few months about £450 more would be forthcoming from his farm and investments. He wished to put this money into a further investment, which should be profitable and perfectly safe. While he was thinking things out, the Commonwealth war bonds were brought before his notice, and he saw in them an opportunity to help himself and help his country, too, in her hour of direst need. He realized that by a simple arrangement with his bank he would at once be able to buy a war bond for £500, bearing interest at 4½ per cent., free of Commonwealth and State income tax; or at 5 per cent., subject to Commonwealth taxation, but free from State income tax. All he would have to do would be to pay £50 on application, £75 in May, 1918, and £125 in each of the three following months. After August he would be free of all liability, and would hold profitable investment, guaranteed by the credit of Australia. Now A. B. had a son and several nephews at the front. He was anxious to help these boys who were fighting to keep his farm from being seized by the Huns, and his family from the terrible atrocities inflicted upon the wives and daughters of Belgian farmers. He owed a good deal, not only to the Australian Army, but to Great Britain and the Empire, for he reflected that during the present season £100,000,000 would have been distributed*

*among the primary producers of Australia for proceeds of wool, wheat, butter, metals, and so on. That had been made possible only by the generosity of Great Britain, who had, for instance, purchased the 1916-17 wheat harvest for £26,500,000 before delivery. A. B. thought it was a fair thing to do something at once for Australia, Great Britain, and himself. He was a patriot, and no fool. He took his £50 to the bank and bought a war bond for £500. Every buyer of a war bond is a volunteer in the cause of freedom.*

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

#### *Discovering SA's Historic Land Titles*

Come along to an introductory session on using SA's land titles website. Learn how to find the land your ancestors owned in South Australia or who owned your land.

Notes and refreshments provided.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April  
2pm – 4pm at the Marion Heritage Centre.

No cost. Bookings essential

Also watch out for what's on during 'Get Into History' during the history month of May.

For bookings and more information on the Heritage Research Centre please call on 7420 6455 or [heritage@marion.sa.gov.au](mailto:heritage@marion.sa.gov.au)

### **Marion Historical Society**

**Our next meeting will take place on  
Wednesday 18th April 2018  
7.30pm at Coinda**

**Annual General Meeting  
(no speaker)  
followed by**

**Members show and tell.**

*Please bring item of interest along to  
share with other members*

**Now on Facebook** – Type in “[www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/)” and  
Please “**Like us on Facebook**”