



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Our February Meeting

Danielle Trewartha

Extinct suburbs of Marion

We had a very interesting talk from Danielle last month, all about those suburbs of Marion (often encountered by genealogists in their research) which have ceased to exist as separate suburbs, having been subsumed into the much larger suburban areas that we recognize now.

Some of these suburbs had names we still use, with West, Extension, Park or some other addition attached, but others are totally different to anything we know now – places like Bessington, Vermont, Forbes, Bexley, Dunrobin and Elmwood, to name a few – although we might recognize a few of them in the names of streets or schools which do still exist. There were also a few unofficial areas, for instance, Beer Town (no it did not have a brewery!) which the locals named after the Beer family.

Danielle began by explaining her own interest in the topic – in the course of researching, she often came across unfamiliar place names in old street directories, newspapers and suchlike. Danielle added that while her talk was just an overview of the topic, there is much more work to be done, and she invited anyone taking on such research to share it with the MHRC!

The Marion area sits in what was known as the “Hundred of Noarlunga” – an area of roughly one hundred square miles. These hundreds were then divided into numbered sections of about 80 acres and sold. The first settlers in South Australia purchased their land prior to arrival, a practice which enabled the South Australia Company to fund later emigrants.

Marion was surveyed in 1838, opening it up for sale. The village of Marion was a private township owned by Henry Nixon and Boyle Travers Finniss of “Light, Finniss and Co”. They divided the land into allotments and put them up for sale.

Some of the early extinct suburbs were Bexley, named for the beloved Doctor R. Burton’s home in what is now Mitchell Park; Elmwood, part of which was originally owned by Edward J. Eyre, the explorer, then later subdivided by John Howard and finally bought up by Emmanuel Solomon who

created Elmwood in 1856; and Dunrobin, named for David Sutherland’s original property (which, in turn, was named after his family’s castle in Scotland) and further subdivided in 1924 with the creation of Dunrobin Park.

Danielle found over fifty suburb names which are now extinct, which were shown in maps, newspapers and directories. She found that there were three main waves of subdivision in the Marion area: the 1880s, the period between WW1 and WW2, and after WW2. There is not room here to mention as many of them as Danielle did in her talk, but here are a few: Vermont was created in 1880 by William T. Waterhouse, a local merchant. This is now part of South Plympton. Bessington was formed by John J. Blythe in 1879 and is now part of Ascot Park. Blythville was created by the next owner of Bessington in 1882 and is now part of Clovelly Park. The 1922 creation of Mirreen, an indigenous word for “South” and the 1928 creation of Ackland Gardens, named for the Ackland family who had owned the land are some of the post WW1 suburbs. In all, Danielle counted 22 new suburbs created in the 1920s.

The vast number of suburbs in Adelaide was playing havoc with the postal system, with mail being sent to the wrong places. The chief offenders were those similar sounding suburbs, for instance: Glandore, Glandore West and Glandore Extension (extension was a very popular addition). Danielle showed a news article bemoaning the use of such additions, which showed by way of illustration that Prospect had all of 14 variations!

Sometimes called the great suburban jigsaw puzzle, the superfluity of suburb names had to go. In 1946 the “Director of Lands informed the Marion Council that the Nomenclature Committee had approved the elimination of the following subdivisions in the municipality to prevent confusion in the delivery of goods and simplifying postal, telegraph and telephone services.” What followed was a list of 62 subdivisions which were to be struck off, being subsumed into larger suburban areas. Edwardstown alone has seven extinct suburbs within its boundaries.

Although it’s a pity that some of these old names have disappeared, no doubt it has simplified life for

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all of us – especially for the posties and tradies! All the same, Danielle's research has brought those historical suburbs alive again, as well as explaining a few knotty problems for genealogists!

Henry Nixon's grave unveiling ceremony
Tuesday April 12th, 1:30 p.m.
West Terrace cemetery

Road 2, Path 26, Aspect E, Site Number 19

Henry Nixon co-founded the village of Marion with Boyle Travers Finniss in 1838. He died on the 12th of April 1843, aged 39, and was buried with military honours in the West Terrace cemetery, but his grave remained unmarked until now. The Marion Historical Society has commissioned the renovation of the grave and the addition of a plaque providing information about Nixon's life and his role in the founding of the village of Marion.

The City of Marion's Mayor Kris Hanna will unveil the grave in a short ceremony, after short speeches by Robert Pitt (the CEO of the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority) and Heather Latz of the Marion Historical Society. The date is the 179th anniversary of Nixon's death.

Members of the Marion Historical Society and volunteers at the Marion Village Museum and the Marion Heritage Research Centre are invited to attend the unveiling ceremony.

Enter the cemetery through the main gate on West Terrace. Veer left after the building inside the gates and park on the side of the road. Walk west along Road 2 and look for Path 26 on your left, about two-thirds of the way along the road. The grave's position is marked with a star in this map.



A map of the whole cemetery can be downloaded using this address:

https://aca.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/WestTerrace_MapDigital.pdf

News from the

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Marion Heritage Research Centre

Hello from the MHRC as we move into Autumn.

We are excitedly awaiting the completion of the scanning of the Marion Rate Books! Heather Latz has been the main driver and organiser of this. Thanks to her dedicated hours of effort, we will soon have online access to the rates records of Marion residents for the years 1854 to 1926, a wonderful addition to our research resources!

Watch out for our announcement for when they become available, and also maybe a story in an upcoming edition of City Limits!

To recognise ANZAC Day, we are hosting guest speaker Dr Janet Scarfe at 10.30 am on Wednesday 27th April presenting her talk

‘Remarkable service, in war and peace: Vieve Dwyer AANS’

about Mary Genevieve Dwyer who grew up on the Oaklands Estate, and went on to become a decorated WW1 Nursing Sister,

For more information and bookings please contact the MHRC on 7420 6455 or heritage@marion.sa.gov.au

Watch out for info about our events in the Marion Libraries’ ‘What’s On!’ booklet.

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Marion Historical Society
Next meeting:

April 20th
at 7.30pm at Club Marion
Hills View Room 2/West

Annual/Special General meetings followed by
Marion Historical Society’s history, people, events and achievements

All visitors are Welcome