



ST KILDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 178, April-May 2006

TO:

If undeliverable please return to: The Secretary, St Kilda Historical Society,
P.O. Box 177 Balaclava 3183

St Kilda History Quiz

Q5: Before being designated the 'Village of Fareham' circa 1841, what was the name used by the Kulin Regional Alliance to indicate or describe the St Kilda area?

Q6: The first Premier of Victoria (1856) who was (reputedly) apprehensive about an outbreak of "naked democracy" is buried in St Kilda Cemetery. What is his name?

Quiz Answers (N/L 177):

Q3: Village of Fareham

Q4: Cnr Esplanade & Acland St

Mystery Object in SKHS Archives



Object SKHS346, Leather Coin Purse, approx 5cm x 2cm.
Why would you want a purse that only holds 2 or 4 coins?
We assume it would fit sixpence & shilling coins.
Contact Mark 03 9531 1403 mark@bssound.com.au
For solution to object in previous N/L see page 04

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL: JULY 2005 – 30 JUNE 2006

Fill out and forward the form below to **The Secretary, P.O. Box 177 Balaclava 3183** or
bring to next meeting (2nd Sun ea month). Kindly disregard if you have recently renewed your membership.

\$18.00 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

\$300 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

DONATION

NAME (MR, MRS, MISS, MS).....

GROUP/ ASSOCIATION (IF APPL)

ADDRESS:

SUBURB/CITY:

P/CODE:

PHONE NUMBER/S:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

I would like to receive my newsletter by email: Yes / No

SPECIAL INTERESTS/SKILLS

Signed

St Kilda Historical Society

ABN: 25 188 646 275

Patron: Sir Zelman Cowen



Newsletter No. 178: April-May 2006

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk; Publications: www.skhs.org.au

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Exhibitions: C Stahls; Newsletter: F Bader & P Donald

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month we had the special privilege of hosting twenty intelligent 11-12 year-olds for two days in St Kilda Library. SKHS designed a local history study course which was supported by our members Pearl Donald and Carol Stahls and Kay Rowan, City of Port Phillip Local History Librarian.

The kids did a variety of exciting activities. They met with the Collection Team in the archives and each student completed a catalogue sheet on a chosen object with the support of Mark Barry, Fran Bader, John Kissane and Dorothy Lambert.

Afterwards they travelled down an open bluestone drain used for sly grog smuggling during the Second World War, even travelling under St Kilda Road! They surveyed the buildings in Carlisle street shopping centre using an 1884 survey map to determine which were heritage buildings.

With Kay Rowan's fantastic assistance they used over 10 different databases and eight library Internet PCs to answer many research riddles.

A highlight was afternoon tea with our fabulous Mayor, Janet Bolitho, who took them on a tour of the council chambers, her office and the great hall. Janet did not wilt under their ferocious questioning, *eg Would you regard your term as successful so far? Will you try for a second term as Mayor next year?*

We hope we proved to the kids that local history is never boring. They proved to us that kids today are anything but boring.

By the way, those who attended our last meeting were VERY privileged to hear *The Age* columnist, Alan Attwood passionately discuss his book on John King, survivor of the Bourke and Wills expedition (1860). Do NOT miss Kristen Otto talk next Sunday (09 April) about her book, *Yarra*. You will regret it if you do!

Meyer

Early Victorian Child-Life

— Rhymes & Games

Members and friends with (written) information on children's rhymes & rituals, rules and procedures for group games and play activities of the early Victorian Era (1837-onwards) are requested to contact *Fran* after SKHS public meetings (2nd Sun each month) or send to any of the addresses above.

The material is being sought for possible inclusion in *SeaKilda06* — the SKHS sea-themed, alfresco picnic — proposed for Sunday 10th December. In general, those connected with indigenous games; string games; hand-clapping; skipping; marbles; jacks (knucklebones); and others are being sought, as well as the various ways of deciding who is 'it', 'in', 'out', etc.

PS: Schoolyard & street rhymes, taunts, riddles and jokes are also invited, as are 'sermons' on the 'values of temperance' and the 'ethics of mixed bathing'.

City of Voices; Community of Port Phillip —Makebelieve & Mime, Song & Dance

Come and join the *City of Voices* (CoV) Community Performance Group. Sing, dance and mime your way to Europe with stop-offs in Hawaii, China, Brazil, New York, Rome, Greece, Romany camp, Austrian Alps, Paris, London, culminating in a concert (South Melbourne) 14.06.2006.

CoV welcomes performers, mimers, air-musicians and backstage helpers of any ability, gender, age — for two hours each Wednesday night during school terms; 7.00-9.00pm at Sth Melbourne Community centre, Cnr Ferrars & Park Sts, Sth Melb. Contact *Ute*, Learn-4-Yourself, Monday-Wednesday on 9682 5390 during b/hrs.

Acknowledgment

SKHS thanks the office of the Hon. Micheal Danby, Fitzroy St, St Kilda for photocopying our bi-monthly newsletter.

William Siddeley — St Kilda Connections

Roslyn M Elliot nee Siddeley

William Siddeley was born in Knutsford, Cheshire, England in 1827. He arrived in Melbourne in September 1852 on the SS 'Australian', the first steam ship of the Australian Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company to carry passengers from England to Australia. From the passenger list printed in 'The South Australian Register' it appears there were engineering and mining staff of the Australian Auriferous Ore Reduction Gold Mining Company also on board. It is not stated whether William was travelling as a part of that group or not.

William certainly went to the goldfields and according to family legend contracted a fever while there. This was most likely typhoid which was common on the diggings. He returned to Melbourne to live in a camp for new arrivals at Emerald Hill.

Mrs. Forwood, a widowed lady who had recently arrived in Melbourne and was living in a small house in Burke Street with her daughter and two sons, took him in and cared for him. William married the daughter, Emma Catherine Forwood, in March 1854 at St James Cathedral Church, Melbourne. That church has since been moved from its original site.

Shipping Business

William started a business as a shipping agent representing several famous shipping lines, among them Money, Wigram and Green. He also took up the agency of the Australian Steam Navigation Co. when it started. There is reason to think that the Forwood family had strong connections to the Green family who were involved in shipping from Liverpool in England and their Blackwall Line from London.

William and Catherine Siddeley had 12 children, of whom 3 died young. My grandfather, Ernest Joshua was the youngest of their children, born in 1872.

Shortly after my grandfather's birth, William suffered a severe financial setback. His business partner absconded with funds from their business. In 1874 William sent his wife Catherine and their 8 youngest children back to England to live with

relatives while he stayed on in Melbourne, with his eldest daughter Kitty, to make good his losses.

The family all returned from England to Melbourne in Nov 1876. My grandfather was just 4 years old at the time. Catherine, William's wife, died in 1888. William died in 1905. They are both buried in the St Kilda Cemetery.



William Siddeley

St Kilda

William's life in Melbourne revolved around shipping and commerce. He also appears to have spent a very large part of his life living in St Kilda, an area that seems to have been popular with the emerging middle class merchants and their families. He probably would have been known to most of them. The population of Melbourne and of St Kilda was not great in the late 1800's.

When William and Catherine were first married in 1854 they lived in Little Bourke Street in the old building later to be occupied as Registry offices, opposite Dalgety's building. By the time their second daughter was born in 1856 they were living in 'Alfa House', High Street, St Kilda. In 1858 when their son John was born they gave Inkerman Street, St Kilda, as their address.

According to research done by Peter Johnson of the St Kilda Historical Society, the 1857 Sands McDougall entry for Inkerman Street, North side is: High St:- Charles Forwood, Wm Siddeley, G.Allen, etc. Charles Rossiter Forwood was Catherine Siddeley's brother and they were obviously all living at the same address. Peter Johnson says that this corner has been occupied by a hotel since at least 1871, so perhaps 'Alfa House' was a private hotel or a boarding house? When their fourth child was born, the Siddeleys were living at Grey Street, St Kilda. (SMD

entry for 1860-1864 shows William at 90 Grey Street.)

Kew

I think that William was renting each of these properties because in February 1864 Thomas Mitchell conveyed allotments 30 and 31 in Kew to William Siddeley. He subsequently purchased other adjacent allotments comprising all the land that Mitchell owned along Cotham Road and a block facing Gellibrand Street, Kew. This property, along with the house he built called 'Elm Lodge', was sold after the business loss to repay the creditors.

My grandfather, Ernest was born in the house in November, 1872 and 'Elm Lodge' was sold in 1874 to Arthur Septimus King, a grandson of Governor Phillip Gidley King of NSW. The Kings renamed the house 'Madford'.

Alma Grammar

After the sale of the Kew property it appears that William and his family returned to St Kilda. He lived for a few years at 'Marlton', now part of St Michael's Grammar School. He then moved to Charnwood Road, St Kilda. William's sister, Eliza Siddeley, died there in 1900. William must have moved some time after that date as he was living at 'Shelford' in Alma Road at the time of his death in 1905.

Another connection with St Kilda was the fact that my grandfather and his elder brother, Harry, were both students at Alma Road Grammar School in the 1880's. I have in my possession three class prizes awarded to them from that school.



St Kilda Grammar renamed Alma Grammar & Priory Ladies' College (Odessa & Alma)

Ed's Note: *William Siddeley was president of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce; Commissioner, later chairman of the Harbour Trust, and he supported the Sailors' Home.*



St Kilda Historical Society

Free Public Events 2005 & 2006

Members' General Meetings at 2.30 pm; Public Speakers start at 3.00 pm approx.

Unless otherwise stated, talks are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. 3pm in the St Kilda Library community room, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, 3183. Public welcome. Admittance free. RSVP not necessary. Publications for sale. Afternoon tea provided.

9 APRIL 2006

Members @ 2.30 pm
Speaker 3.00 pm
Library community room

YARRA; THE UPSIDE DOWN RIVER

Local author Kristin Otto talks about her landmark book, *Yarra; the upside down river*. From the earliest known native inhabitants to the European settlers and their explorations, and the development of the city of Melbourne, 'Yarra' covers it all.

14 MAY 2006

Members @ 2.30 pm
Speaker 3.00 pm
Library community room

LIVING IN INTERESTING TIMES

Local author Sophie Maj talks about her recent autobiography *Living in Interesting Times* which details her eventful life as survivor, immigrant, St Kilda resident and successful career woman.

18 JUNE 2006

Members @ 2.30 pm
Speaker 3.00 pm
Library community room

Speaker to be announced/next Newsletter

NB: change of date to Sunday 18th June.

There will be no meeting on 11th June, 2nd Sunday of month — Queen's Birthday Weekend (Her Majesty turns 80 this year).

9 JULY 2006

Members @ 2.30 pm
Speaker 3.00 pm
Library community room

NO SHOPS IN ACLAND STREET

The recently released book *No Shops in Acland Street* honours the amazing life and memories of Helen Jacoby, whose extraordinary ninety five years span almost a century of changes in St Kilda. (Helen's father was Mayor of St Kilda three times.)

Walking St Kilda

Walks are free, courtesy of City of Port Phillip.
Bookings essential. Phone **Krys Galas** 9209 6229
Details of meeting place will be provided when Booking.

Great Novels of St Kilda

3 pm Saturday 29 April 2006

Discover the St Kilda settings of great novels and screenplays during the St Kilda Writers' Festival

On the Route of Rickety Kate

3 pm, Sunday 30 April 2006.

Back-up walk the following Saturday at 3 pm

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Elwood's electric trams.

Also calling all members who remember the trams. Please turn up and share your memories.

(NB. Ignore recorded message. Walk leaves from Elwood NOT St Kilda Station.)

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

Bookings not required. Non-members: \$10.

Enquiries: 9531 6832/9527 2387 or www.foskc.org
Tours conducted by *Friends of St Kilda Cemetery*.
Meet inside main entrance gates, Dandenong Rd St Kilda East. Melways 58-G8.

Barristers, Bobbies & Beaks

Sunday 21 May, 2.00pm.

The tour will feature Attorneys-General; Supreme & County Court judges as well as various lawyers and police associated with famous and infamous Victorian trials (includes Eureka & Kelly Trials).

Monuments and Masons

Sunday 04 Jun, 2.00pm.

Examine the works, materials and symbols of a number of well-known sculptors and monumental masons such as Gilbert & Stanford.

Mystery-Object

The mystery object in the SKHS 3-D Collection, (illustrated N/L 177, Feb-Mar 06) is a pre WW11, ultra-violet apparatus (predecessor of diathermy) — delivered low level heating to injured muscle tissue. (View in color on www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk)