



HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

August 2019

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 21 August at 6pm when Jan Turner will present a paper on 'Cross cultural histories—a desert perspective'. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.

The launch of *Early Days* 2018 will take place at 5.15pm.



Daisy Ward and Adrian Holmes. Courtesy: Jason Thomas

In any discussion of another culture, another's country, others' stories, there are many challenges both for those whose lives, culture and country are being discussed and for the presenter. This talk seeks to present a fresh perspective on the period of first contact between Indigenous people in the Gibson Desert and foreigners. Significantly, this Contact dates from the 1960s through to 1987 and was associated with the arrival of strangers descending from the air in helicopters, satellites and vapour trails appearing in the skies, with the lights and sounds of aeroplanes. Over many years the stories of first Contact have been told, often in fragmented form, on location, around the campfire and more recently have been recorded on film. Between 2009-2014 Jan and Daisy Ward began working with film makers on the Indigenous Community Stories project, operating through the Film and Television Institute and ScreenWest. More details were collected during native title research. These stories, as Indigenous oral historical research

materials, now have the potential to become accessible to a wider audience.

Jan Turner began working with desert people of Central Australia in 1987 when she was employed as an anthropologist with the Pitjantjatjara Council based in Alice Springs. Over the years she made lasting friendships whilst working for several employers on a diverse range of projects: mineral exploration, women's health, native title. These friendships have focussed particularly on Ngaanyatjarra and Mantjiltjarra families associated with the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and the Gibson Desert of WA. In Daisy Tjuparntari Ward, Jan found a friend, sister and colleague. Together they have developed cross-cultural methodologies for research using oral histories, Indigenous artforms and films to represent non-English speaking, orally transmitted desert cultures.



Jan Turner
Courtesy: Isabel Turner

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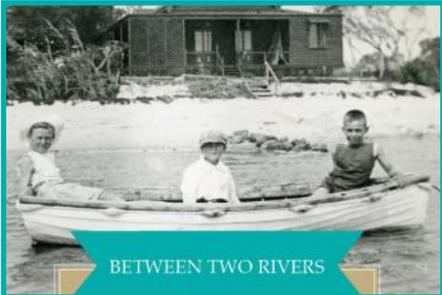
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Have you remembered to register?

For further details of the program and registration form, please see RWAHS website
histwest.org.au - or phone 9386 3841
or email admin@histwest.org.au




Our next **Second Hand Book Sale** will be held on 4-5 April 2020. Please bring any books you no longer want to Stirling House or call the Office on 9386 3841 to arrange a pick up. All books, except textbooks and encyclopedias, are wanted. Many thanks in anticipation.

Council News

At its meeting held on 11 July business included the following where Council

• welcomed new members - Professor Raman Anantanarayanan, James Cassidy, Michael Shepherd, Lesley Thiele

- progressed succession planning with an extended meeting prior to other Council business
- noted that approval has been received for the new Constitution in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015(WA)
- thanked Community Officer Lesley Burnett for her excellent work in widely promoting the Society's events with successful responses from the community
- welcomed the successes of the *History West Community Talks* - Shattered Ideals by Dr Criena Fitzgerald and Water to the Fields by Anne Brake
- thanked Councillor Dr Helen Henderson for her work on the Corporate Strategic Plan 2019-2022
- acknowledged Lotterywest's grant assistance with State History Conference travel from the regions
- endorsed Councillors Dr Pamela Statham Drew and Dr Steve Errington as the RWAHS delegates to this year's State History Conference of Affiliated Societies to be hosted by the City of South Perth Historical Society (Inc) in September
- welcomed plans for a New Members' Morning Tea to be held in October
- noted and approved costs for the ongoing maintenance of the building - Stirling House
- thanked all volunteers involved in the Bookshop's successful EOFY book sale which sold 193 books
- thanked Bookshop volunteer Nathan Hammer for his many contributions and wished him well in his new employment
- endorsed the report on the organisation of the Lilburne Australiana book and bird-print sale - 26-28 July
- congratulated the Museum Committee on a successful beginning to its primary schools outreach project with special thanks to volunteer Tony Bagshaw.

Lennie McCall Chairperson

History in the City

John Viska spoke at our July meeting on Historical Gardens of Perth's Western Suburbs, illustrating his talk with photographs from his collection. John specially mentioned the growing of food plants – bananas, vines on latticework, almond and pomegranate trees among others – as an important part of the early settlers' food supply. Not only did we see heritage places with their large and well-tended gardens but also photographs of interesting old implements. Many of the early colonists wanted to re-create the gardens they had left behind and gardens were often decorated with floating candles and fairy lights. We also learned about the University's Sunken Garden as well as the more recent Memorial Rose Garden in Nedlands.

History in the City is held on the first Wednesday of each month from March to December. Our next talk will be on Wednesday 4 September and given by Chris Carmody on Yesterday's Heroes: Fremantle's Footballers and Wharfies of the Golden Years.

Lorraine Tholet

Affiliates & other news

Albany Historical Society's winter newsletter contains several interesting articles on whaling - on George Cheyne and the whale oil obtained from the processing.

In recording our sadness at the death of **Albany Historical Society** member **Judith Swain** we wish to record our sincere thanks for the gift of all her non-Albany books to the 2019 RWAHS secondhand book sale. There were 60 boxes of books in all and they greatly enhanced our offerings on that really important fundraising day.

The *Little Bottler*, newsletter of the **Colonial Bottle & Collectors Club**, continues its regular reports on the aerated water companies which manufactured drinks around the colony from the late 19th to the mid 20th centuries. The latest issue features the Pioneer Aerated Water Company of Lennonville, north of Mt Magnet and now a de-gazetted town.

Members with an interest in wartime history and the impact of war on law, politics and society will want to note that **Melville History Society's** annual Murdoch Lecture is scheduled for 6.30pm on Monday 16 September at Melville's A H Bracks Library where Paul Taucher will speak on 'The Dilemmas of Responsibility: Command and Control on Ambon Island', concerning the postwar allocation of responsibility for the ill-treatment and deaths that occurred during World War II at the Tan Toey POW camp on the island.

This is one for your diary! **Mundaring & Hills Historical Society** is holding a temporary museum exhibition titled 'Bush Bounty' from 20 September. It explores how people have included native flora in their everyday lives — using plants for food and medicine, as decoration, as entertainment (wild-flower excursions, books, newspapers), and as subjects of intensive study (botanical drawing). It should be fascinating. As well, the newsletter reminds us of the old Primus stoves because there are a number in its collection. The stove is Swedish in origin and soon became popular with explorers. Roald Amundsen took one with him on his trip to the South Pole in 1911 and Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay used one on their ascent of Everest. For many people it became an essential daily cooking appliance and was of course used by countless campers! Remember them?

What would we all do without **Jennie & Bevan Carter**? Pillars of the Bassendean Historical Society, WA Genealogical Society, Friends of the Battye Library and Royal WA Historical Society, the couple was recently made Freepersons of the Town of Bassendean for their exceptional service to the community. Jennie was a Councillor 1987-1990 and 2011-2015 while Bevan was a Councillor 1991-2005 and Mayor 1997-2001. Their research, writing and editing skills are well known and they are always willing to help if they can with others' queries. Where do they find the time? We all continue to benefit from Jennie and Bevan's historical passions and skills — long may they continue!

We note with sadness the death of member and archeologist **Professor Sylvia Hallam** who made an important contribution to scholarship on Aboriginal history. Her major work *Fire and Hearth: A Study of Aboriginal Usage and European Usurpation in South-western Australia* was published in 1975 and re-published in 2014. It combined evidence from archaeological and historical sources to show how Aboriginal people used fire to transform their environment. Her research work also highlighted the role of Aboriginal women as food providers.

History West Community Talks

Delivering water to the goldfields

It was a pleasure to collaborate with the National Trust WA on the morning of Friday 12 July to present stories and images from the Golden Pipeline to a capacity audience. Anne Brake, Senior Manager Community Services at the Trust, provided a fascinating overview of the scheme from its inception to today.

We followed the path of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme 560 kilometres from Mundaring Weir through eight pumping stations to Mount Charlotte Reservoir at Kalgoorlie and learnt more about Chief Engineer, C Y O'Connor's design. Many in the audience had a technical bent and included a number of retired engineers. Questions came thick and fast. Knowledgeable and experienced, Anne explained issues further, particularly interesting heritage matters that continue today. She says that the pipeline draws a fascinated crowd and many questions whenever it is featured. It certainly did so on this enjoyable morning.



Val Hutch & Heather Mernick



Meeting room audience



Morning tea crowd

Shattered Ideals and Fractured Identities: WA to Yugoslavia and back 1948-1955

Dr Criena Fitzgerald's large audience spent a happy Friday morning on 21 June immersed in the story of the many Slav-Australians who decided to return to the new Yugoslavia to join in building a new nation, led by Marshal Tito. They mostly travelled on two ships — SS *Partizanka* and SS *Radnik* — full of hope and plans for a new beginning in their place of origin. They had left Croatia, Serbia, Dalmatia, Montenegro, Slovenia and other parts of the Balkan Peninsula to find work in Australia and worked hard to build successful lives for their families in an often hostile land. Then the lure of home called with the promise of a proud, independent and prosperous new nation — Yugoslavia. Nearly a thousand people answered the call but almost as soon as they set off they faced disillusionment. They had been changed by their time in Australia and found the economic and social conditions and political controls in a war-torn country impossible to tolerate. Approximately 95% of these passionate people returned to resume their lives in Australia, frequently facing considerable difficulties all over again.

It is a fascinating story and Criena's many photographs of people brought the story to life. The meeting room contained many whose families had been personally involved in the exodus and return, so audience participation was high! Many lingered to talk over morning tea after formal proceedings wound up and the book of this history sold very well.

If you want to know more about it all, Criena's book is available for purchase from the Bookshop — Criena Fitzgerald, *Shattered Ideals and Fractured Identities: WA to Yugoslavia and back 1948-1955* (2018) \$55.



Reminiscing

Library News

Brothers in law, brothers at war - Part 1

Australia joined World War I at its outbreak as part of the British Empire and many Australians responded to the call to arms. Two sons of Robert Cecil and Rose Louisa Clifton and two sons of the Orchard Family enlisted to 'do their bit'. We can share their experiences as soldiers, in war and on leave, and follow their families' responses to their experiences and fates through the correspondence and diaries in the private papers of Edmund Clifton and his family housed in the Society's collection. In this month's issue we learn about the Clifton sons and in next month's issue the Orchard sons.

Robert Cecil Clifton, Under Secretary for Lands, and his wife Rose Louisa (née Leake) had eleven children; the Revd James and Annie Orchard had five. The connection between the two families was made when Edmund, the eldest Clifton son, married Trixie Orchard in October 1916. By the end of World War I, one Clifton son had been killed, another was badly wounded, and two of the Orchard sons were dead. The war took a terrible toll on these two families as on so many others.

Alvared Roe Cecil Clifton



Alvared Clifton

Alvared (known as Alvie) was the fourth Clifton child and second son. He enlisted in August 1914 and headed to Blackboy Hill for training. As a member of the 11th Infantry Battalion, he embarked on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 2 November bound for Egypt.

Alvie's letters from the training camp and from Egypt are cheerful while later ones coming from Gallipoli, written hastily in pencil, show the reality of the front line. He gives a graphic account of HMS *Triumph* being torpedoed: 'She was out of sight exactly 30 minutes after she was hit – it's a sight that one can never forget.'

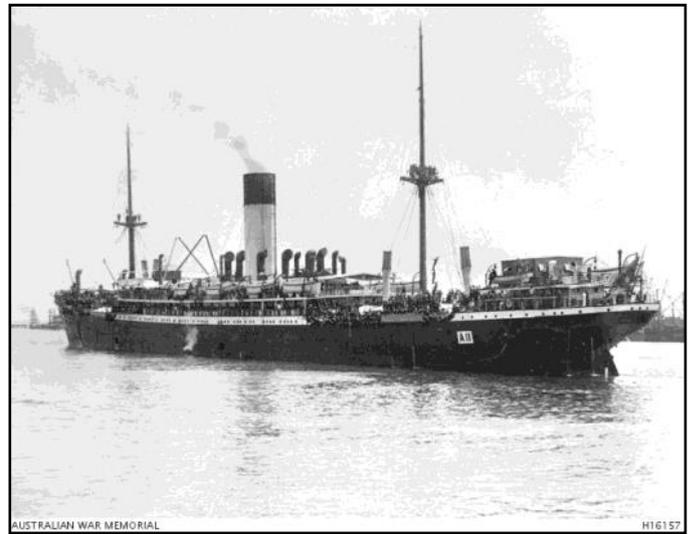
Wounded in action at Gallipoli he arrived home ten months after leaving, badly

wounded and with the loss of an eye. On a happier note, Alvie received a telegram in Albany Hospital after his return which read: 'Will you have me for a sister-in-law because I am going to be. Trixie.'

George Leake Cecil Clifton

George, the sixth child and third son, enlisted in April 1915, having received his father's written permission to do so. He trained at Blackboy Hill and also embarked at Fremantle on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11), leaving in June as a member of the 28th Infantry Battalion.

The same troop ship – HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) – carried Alvared Clifton, Gilbert Orchard and George Clifton to the Middle East. It was a steam passenger ship requisitioned as a troop transport.



HMAT (A11) *Ascanius*

George served in Egypt and Gallipoli as an NCO. Most of his letters from the front were censored with no indication of location. He managed to beat the censor on one occasion by sending letters home with a friend, Mrs Wilson, who was returning to WA from Egypt. In this letter, dated 31 August 1915, he is able to say what is really happening, the companies which have gone to the front already, and speculate about when his company would leave. He had transferred to the 2nd Division Signal Co. in August 1915 thinking it would leave first. However, this plan did not work, as he comments that his company would now leave last. 'We'll be a good last too as our equipment hasn't all come to hand yet.' As light relief we hear about his week working as cook.

A later letter written in pencil and headed 'in our dugout' showed that he had arrived at Gallipoli and read: 'I got the Norman Lindsay book day before yesterday – There are some lovely things in it – Especially the animal studies. The expression on that cat when he saw he was losing the rat was too lovely for words.'

George was then sent to France and served there until November 1916, when he was selected for training in England for the Royal Flying Corps. He received his wings and ferried aircraft into France. Injured when his plane crashed, he died of wounds in a French military hospital only five months after his 21st birthday.

Apart from two letters sent during the period of his flying training in England, we do not hear much more of his story until, finally, his family received a terse cable bearing the news that 'George seriously hurt 22 July died of wounds same day.'

Minnie, the youngest in the family, wrote to her brother Edmund from Donnybrook in August 1917:

It will be four weeks tomorrow since our dear George was taken and I just cant bear to think we are never to meet him again and that we are not to have that happy life together which we had longed for.

Edmund, the eldest of the Clifton Family, was the third son to try to enlist, but failed the medical examination.

The story of the Orchard Family was also tragic for, by the end of the war, Trixie had lost two brothers. The stories of the Orchard boys will follow in next month's issue

Spotlight on Members' Research

Allan Cunningham in King George Sound

Member Gwen Chessell resides in England and visits frequently. Gwen has published biographies of Richard Spencer, Alexander Collie, and Sir George and Lady Eliza Grey. Her research on aspects of Albany's history throws up some interesting stories and History West is delighted to share this one with you.

A man of 'moral worth' – this was how the botanist Allan Cunningham was described in his obituary. I first came across his name when researching Alexander Collie and thought that he might be an appropriate subject for a biography, especially as he had visited and collected in King George Sound on two occasions. Further research, however, indicated that Cunningham had been 'done' already, and that his principal interests resided on the other side of Australia. Thus his connection with WA may sometimes be overlooked.

Cunningham was born in 1791 in Wimbledon, Surrey. After working, not very enjoyably, in a lawyer's office in Lincoln's Inn, he and his younger brother, Richard, were given the opportunity of working with botanist, James Bowie, at the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew. Here both Cunninghams came into the orbit of Sir Joseph Banks and Dr Robert Brown, and Allan Cunningham was invited by Bowie to accompany him on an exploratory collecting trip to South America. This signalled the start of Cunningham's seminal influence on botany and exploration.

The trip with Bowie lasted two years, from 1814-16, before Banks sent Bowie to the Cape of Good Hope and Cunningham, securing his passage on a convict ship, was directed to Sydney where he arrived in December 1816. Here, at the behest of Governor Macquarie, he joined John Oxley, Surveyor General of NSW, in 1817, tracing the courses of the Lachlan and Macquarie rivers. Cunningham collected about 450 plant specimens during this first Australian venture. Further explorations and ensuing publications were extensive and valuable to the world of Australian exploration as well as to botanical and geological science. His great love was botanising.

Returning to Parramatta where he had bought a cottage, Cunningham prepared his collections to send to Kew. He then joined Phillip Parker King on his voyage to the north and northwest coasts in HBM *Mermaid*. Also on board was John Septimus Roe, at that time a Master's Mate. They left Sydney in December 1817, following a course which took them around the coast of Australia.

On the afternoon of 20 January 1818 the cutter entered King George Sound and anchored under Seal Island. Cunningham went ashore with King and others. Cunningham described Seal Island as a 'naked granite rock' but nevertheless managed to find a number of plant specimens. The next ten days were spent thoroughly exploring the area. They visited sites on the mainland already described by earlier visitors, including the place on the track along the Flinders Peninsula towards Bald Head where Vancouver thought he had found coral formations, later also to be noticed by Darwin. These, still to be seen, do indeed look like coral. King dismissed them as 'calcareous matter'; Cunningham described them as 'petrified branches of trees'.

Cunningham was captivated by the profusion of unknown plants and enthused King with the area's botany and geology. On 1 February, King moved the *Mermaid* to a convenient anchorage in Oyster Harbour



King George's Sound

to carry out necessary refits. Every location around King George Sound was visited and Cunningham itemised and described every plant he noticed, naming it by its Latin binomial designation and making many new discoveries. He sometimes found plants which he compared with similar genera he found on the east coast of Australia. Some specimens he considered analogous with American genera.

This first visit lasted eleven days and, during that time, Cunningham planted fruit and vegetable seeds in the hope that they would benefit others who made landfall there. On 1 February the cutter slipped out to sea. For Cunningham, and indeed for John Septimus Roe, it had been a worthwhile interlude. Roe impressed King with his surveying skills and was designated Assistant Surveyor. As for Cunningham, he had roamed far and wide in the area and 'found it a botanist's paradise'.

Cunningham's second visit to King George Sound was in HMS *Bathurst*, again commanded by King. On the afternoon of 23 December 1821, the brig anchored in the Sound and the next day Cunningham went ashore with King. Friendly members of the Mineng tribe met them and, on this 14-day visit, Cunningham was concerned as much with learning about their lives as collecting botanical specimens. He found, perhaps not entirely to his surprise, that his vegetable garden had not survived. But he did discover a plant which he called '*atriplex Halimus*' [sic]. He picked the young shoots thinking that they might be useful as a vegetable supplement to the crew's diet. And it was. Now classified as *Atriplex nummularia*, this is *Old man saltbush*, called by the Indigenous people *Pining* and still fairly common today in southwest Australia. The *Bathurst* left King George Sound on 6 January 1822 to continue her voyage up the coast of Western Australia.

Cunningham's greatest exploratory exploits were yet to come; Darling Downs and Cunningham's Gap are forever connected to him, as are numerous plant species that honour his name. Cunningham returned to England in 1831; but Australia called him back and he died in Sydney on 27 June 1839. Despite the lapse of 200 years and the inevitable changes consequent on modern life, it would be good to think that he would still find King George Sound 'a botanist's paradise'.

References

- Transactions of the Linnean Society*, 1, 1840.
- Journal of Botany*, IV, 29, 1839.
- T M Perry, Allan Cunningham (1791-1839), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.
- Marsden Hordern, *King of the Australian Coast*, 2002.

Gwen Chessell

Museum News

Stories from the Storerooms

The Society's museum has a wonderful collection of artefacts that are tucked away safely in the storerooms. Many have fascinating back-stories, so we begin a series of articles to give them an airing. We hope to highlight one object each month and Dr Dorothy Erickson, who is currently auditing the ceramics collection, begins with artefacts from that part of the collection.

Lady Eliza Grey's dinner service



MA 1963.81 a-g

This china is part of a dinner service — two plates, one cup and saucer, one serving dish with a lid, and one small lid, possibly for a sugar basin. The cream-coloured china is decorated with a moulded design of flowers and leaves, and the serving dish features nymphs and the head of a goat. The two lids have for handles upstanding flowers in the centre.

It is of particular interest because it is believed to have been part of Elizabeth Lucy Grey's dinner service used at the 'Old Farm', Albany, in 1839-40. It was probably sold when she and her husband left the colony and was later given to Barbara Strickland on her marriage to Henry E Manning in 1878. The Society is grateful to Major Ian Bessell-Browne for this donation which came to him from his mother's family. He was the son of Brigadier Alfred Bessell-Browne and Muriel Maud Manning, Barbara Strickland's daughter.

Poor bubbly, vivacious sixteen-year-old Eliza Spencer (1823-1898), daughter of Albany Resident Magistrate Sir Richard Spencer and wife Ann, knew not what cards life would deal her when in 1839 she was swept off her feet by twenty-seven year old explorer and Travelling Magistrate George Grey. They married a few months later and began married life in Albany where Grey had just succeeded her father as Resident Magistrate.

By 1841 they had left the colony to become the Governor and his Lady in South Australia and then from 1845-53 the same in New Zealand. In 1848 he was knighted and she became Lady Grey. However tragedy had already struck. She knew he had a fiery temper and a jealous streak. They were ill suited and the marriage was unhappy. He blamed her for the death at five months of their only child, a son named George, in 1841 saying she neglected him. He had probably assumed that his pretty, young bride would transform into a demure, sensible mother who would take an intelligent interest in his intellectual pursuits and was unprepared for the reality that his wife's personality and youth would not match his expectations. Divorce was not a possibility and, trapped in a loveless, childless marriage, relations only deteriorated.



Lady Eliza Grey, 1854 P2013.94

Many of their possessions were lost in a fire in Government House in Auckland and George Grey spent most of his time away replacing his collections, leaving his young wife as the most important female in Auckland society enjoying his absence. Worse was to come. In 1860 in Rio de Janeiro, on the way back from England to the Cape Colony where he had been Governor since 1854, he accused her of flirting with the Captain of their vessel and had her put ashore, leading to an estrangement of thirty-six years. She returned to England and he is reputed never to have mentioned her name again until he retired to England in 1894 and became a Privy Councillor; they reconciled in 1896 apparently through the intervention of Queen Victoria. Both died two years later. Separated in death as in life, Eliza was buried at Bournemouth. He received a state funeral and was interred in St Paul's Cathedral.

The china was used by the couple in what we hope were happy times in early marriage.

Dr Dorothy Erickson

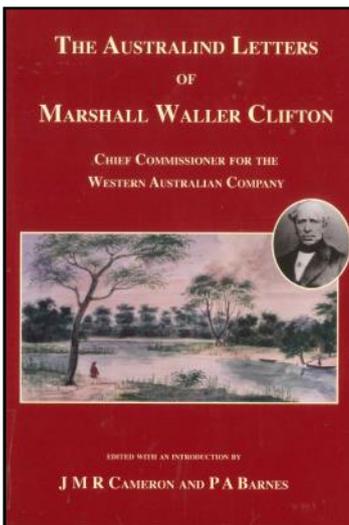
*If this story has whetted your appetite to know more about Eliza's life, then you should read Gwen Chessell's book *Separate Lives; the story of Sir George and Lady Grey* (Hopping Mouse Press, 2014). You will find a copy in the library.*

Book Commentary

Reflections on Marshall Waller Clifton's Australind letters

History West is delighted that the co-editors of this book, member Jim Cameron and Phyllis Barnes, have shared their thoughts on the context and historical significance of the short-lived 1840s Australind settlement and Marshall Waller Clifton's role as its leader.

J M R Cameron and P A Barnes (eds), *The Australind Letters of Marshall Waller Clifton, Chief Commissioner for the Western Australian Company*, Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, 2017. In Library & Bookshop \$95.



The rise and fall of the Australind settlement is one of the great, untold stories of Western Australia's colonial past. We know quite a lot about its first, and only, commissioner, Marshall Waller Clifton and his descendants as well as other prominent Australind citizens like the Forrest family, but how and why Australind came into being and why it raced to oblivion is much less well-known. This lack

of knowledge diminishes our understanding of this period in Western Australia's history.

Australind survives today as a suburban outpost for the rapidly growing City of Bunbury. But that is not what its founders intended. Australind, the city, was to become the new capital for the colony of Western Australia while Australind, the colony, was to become the model for how the British should have colonised Western Australia and how it would colonise it in the future. Along the way, as the key person on the spot, Clifton would be transformed into the governor of a much-revitalised colony.

Why this never happened has never been examined rigorously, even though Australind paradoxically is better documented than most of the Wakefieldian-inspired settlements established in Australia and New Zealand in the 1830s and 1840s. Three sets of records are relevant: the transactions of the Western Australian Company operating from its London office, Clifton's daybook or journal recording his transactions as Commissioner, and his letter books which recorded his official correspondence.

The complete Company records are now preserved in the J S Battye Library section of the State Library of WA. Clifton's daybook, also a complete record, was published by Hesperian Press in 2010 as *The Australind Journals of Marshall Waller Clifton*. His official correspondence, the subject of this note, was published

in 2017 as *The Australind Letters of Marshall Waller Clifton*. These letters reproduce the content of the original letter books which the Clifton family has preserved at Upton House, Australind, the family home, and which cover the period from Clifton's appointment on 12 May 1840 through to 10 October 1859 when he was still attempting to clarify Governor Stirling's land dealings in relation to Australind.

The *Letters* throw into stark relief Clifton's profound belief in himself and his absolute disdain for underlings who did not share his vision or exhibit sufficient application to their tasks as colonisers and administrators. But they also highlight, often in graphic detail, the problems he faced as a manager of a large colonial enterprise governed by a body with no local knowledge but which held a set of unrealistic expectations that cut across his desperate attempts to keep the Western Australian Company alive. Clifton's management experience, acquired as a senior manager within the Royal Navy's Victualling Board, is evident. No aspect of life in Australind, however trivial, escaped Clifton's attention, revealing his considerable managerial skills.

Clifton was more than just an administrator, of course, for he had a lively interest in all that surrounded him. As a foundation member of the Royal Geographical Society, he was well equipped to describe the topography, soils, and vegetation of his new settlement and make an assessment of their productive capacity. His regular quarterly reports recorded in great detail the agricultural and horticultural activities of the Australind settlers, their health and general behaviour, and their interaction with local Aboriginal groups. In addition to statistics on agricultural production and stock numbers, Clifton lists the names of immigrants, employers, and visitors to the settlement; surely an unrivalled account of the establishment of a new settlement.

Clifton was years ahead of his time in his opposition to capital punishment, his promotion of the rights of ordinary citizens and his demands for recognition of the difficulties encountered by the scattered settlers. As a member of the Legislative Council, he argued that holdings were too large, too much land was in private hands and that the price of £1 and acre was too high for small settlers. He had the temerity to espouse a land tax which no doubt earned him the enmity of the large landholders who lost no opportunity to belittle him privately and publicly.

Clifton resigned his seat in the Legislative Council in 1858 and spent his last years in his beloved garden on the edge of the estuary in front of Upton House, and among the fruit trees and vines that had come from South Africa in the earliest years at Australind; all were swept away when floods devastated the area soon after his death on 10 April 1861.

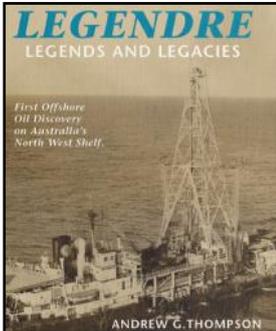
Together with the Journals and Company records, the Letters provide a compelling portrait of managing a small remote settlement in an extreme climate of uncertainty and of the man who wrote them.

J M R Cameron & P A Barnes

Book Review

Andrew G. Thompson, *Legendre: Legends and Legacies: First Offshore Oil Discovery on Australia's North West Shelf*. Andeliza Pty Ltd, Cottesloe, 2018. In Library & Bookshop \$90.

Reviewer: Peter Ellery



The discovery and development of the North West Shelf natural gas resources offshore from the Pilbara between 1964 and 1989 have been well recorded in corporate and academic publications, in histories of Australia's petroleum industry, and in award-winning documentaries. In *Legendre, Legends and Legacies – First Offshore Oil*

Discovery on Australia's North West Shelf, Andrew Thompson, a UWA law graduate and a practitioner in petroleum law since 1971, has now given us a fresh, detailed and sometimes humorous look at this great Australian saga.

The saga began in 1964 when cash-strapped junior oil explorer Woodside (Lakes Entrance) Oil NL was granted licences to explore for oil over 370,000 square kilometres of the North West Continental Shelf and put together a joint venture with Britain's Burmah Oil as project operator and petroleum giants Shell, BP and Chevron to do the job.

The book was written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Legendre oil discovery (first hydrocarbons) but it also gives important insights into the early establishment of the North West Shelf Joint Venture and the vital role that ill-fated Burmah Oil was

able to play in the first decade of exploration.

It also contains the personal recollections of some of the hundreds of people who worked in the field over the vast exploration permits in what must have been the wildest wildcat oil exploration program ever mounted.

The Burmah operations team took three years to convert the blank maps of the permit areas into complex geophysical and geological maps on which they were able to locate possible oil traps.

The first well drilled, Ashmore Reef, 850 kilometres west of Darwin, was the most isolated and probably the most expensive wildcat well ever drilled, anywhere in the world, but it was dry. Legendre was the second target to be drilled. It proved to be a small oil field, not worth producing at the time, but good enough to convince all participating companies that it was worth continuing the exploration program.

After three years, the Legendre promise and eight dry holes, the giant North Rankin gas field was discovered, leading to the establishment of the \$7 billion North West Shelf Project which has been supplying pipeline gas to Western Australian domestic and industrial users since 1984 and liquefied natural gas to Japan and others since 1989.

In a remarkable effort Andrew Thompson has produced a handsome, well-illustrated book which drills down to capture the remoteness of the North West Shelf, its unknown geology, Woodside's financial challenges, legal uncertainties and political obstacles, and, above all, the technical challenges of operating at the very edge of oilfield exploration practice at the time.

To weave this together with the personal and sometimes humorous recollections of some of the people who actually made these things happen makes very interesting reading indeed.

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