



HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

June 2020

History West Community Centre Planning Good News - Fundraising support for the Capital Campaign

The Society is pleased to announce a very generous pledge of \$500,000 from The Dutch East India Benevolent Fund, established by the late Michael Wright and now administered by his daughters, Leonie Baldock and Alexandra Burt, towards the forthcoming Capital Campaign. This support fulfils and recognises both of their parents' individual loves of history and security for the future. This follows a bequest to the Society from their late mother Jennifer Wright in 2017.

This significant pledge to the Society will provide confidence and encouragement to members for fundraising through a Members' Pledge Campaign planned to be launched post COVID-19. On your behalf they have been sincerely thanked for this level of contribution.

An earlier generation of members provided monetary support that guaranteed a home for the Society with the purchase of our present headquarters in 1964. We now need new premises to undertake all our operations and to care for and exhibit our significant collection. It is now up to us to raise the necessary funds to achieve the project.

We have been fortunate that even before the proposed launch we have received a number of donations and pledges from members. We are very appreciative of these commitments and donations to The Building Fund. These contributors will be acknowledged at the proposed Campaign Launch.

Please contact the office or myself if you wish further information on the Members' Pledge Campaign.

Sally Anne Hasluck, Chair HWCC Planning Committee

Email: hasluck@iinet.net.au

Ph: 0407 089 703

A headquarters fit for its time

The Society's current plans for a new History West Community History Centre is the next step on a path which began in 1926 when the Western Australian Historical Society was founded. Initially the new Society proposed that the government build a Centennial Hall in the grounds of the Public Library to mark the centenary of the colony's foundation and provide a headquarters for the new Society in order to assist its research on WA's history and foster adult education. This dream **was** never realised and the Society existed for nearly forty years with no home of its own.

Newly collected museum and archival items were stored at the homes of Council members and particularly valuable documentary items found temporary safe storage in the Supreme Court vault. Then in September 1931 the government made a room available rent-free in the Treasury building. In 1946, however, this arrangement came to an abrupt end and the Society was again homeless. Agreement was then reached that the documentary, book and photographic records would be stored at the new Archives Branch of the Public Library with the Society's collection kept distinct. The 'relics' collection was scattered, to the Public Library, old Perth Gaol, record-keeper Dircksey Cowan's home and subsequently to the Round House and Government Printing Works.

General meetings where research talks were presented were held at the Karrakatta Club for twenty years and the Society's first annual general meetings at the University of WA's Irwin St rooms. In the postwar period, with the growth of the CBD, pressure on meeting space increased and the Society's homelessness became an even more pressing problem. Fruitless proposals for headquarters gifted by the government came and went until finally on 29 May 1964 the Society purchased a home — 49 Broadway, Nedlands. On 5 June 1965 Stirling House was officially opened by the Patron, Governor Sir Douglas Kendrew.

The Society's collections, meetings and research work could physically come together for the first time and alterations to the former family home to make it fit for purpose began. In March 1978 major structural alterations extended the building's lifespan, and its re-opening by Sir Paul Hasluck, as sole living member from first committee of 1926, provided a satisfying connection of past to future. Now, however, is the time for a new building to realise new opportunities.

The Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.) | 49 Broadway | NEDLANDS Western Australia 6009
TELEPHONE: (08) 9386 3841 | FACSIMILE: (08) 9386 3309 | EMAIL: admin@histwest.org.au
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/histwest](https://www.facebook.com/histwest) | WEB: www.histwest.org.au | ABN: 43 607 110 473
LIBRARY EMAIL: library@histwest.org.au | MUSEUM EMAIL: museum@histwest.org.au

History West goes *Walkabout*

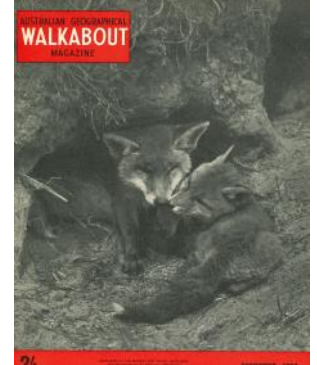
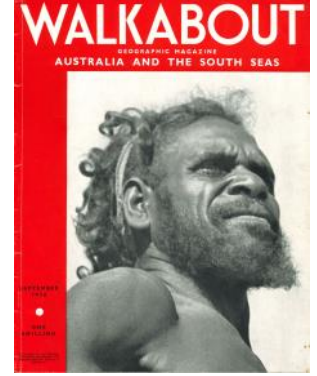
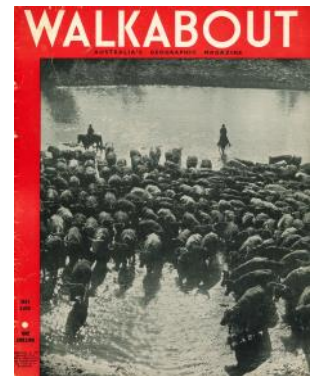
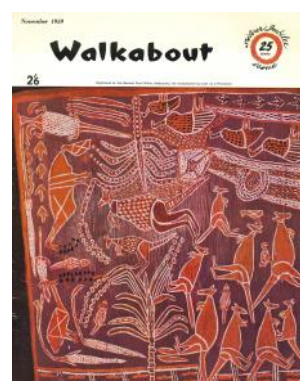
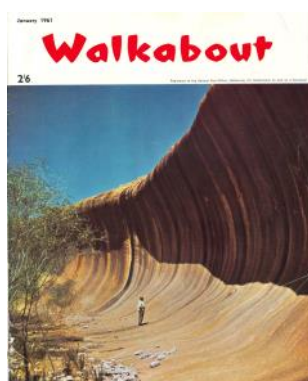
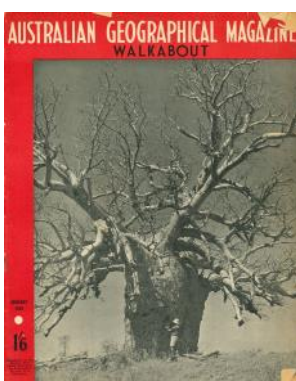
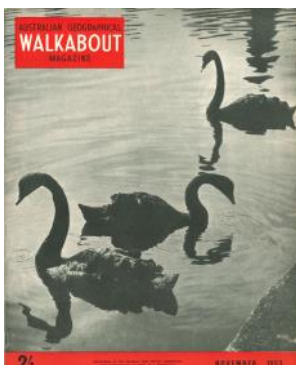
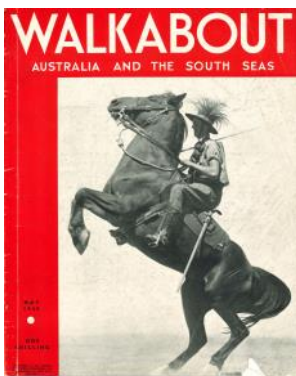
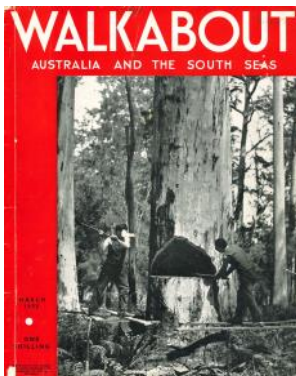
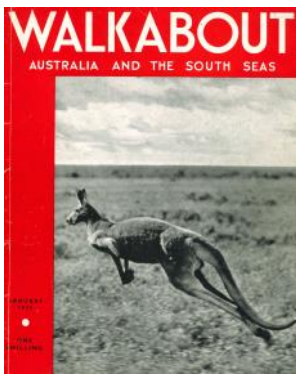
The Society sincerely thanks member Dr Patricia Kotai Ewers for her donation of a wonderful addition to the library collection - a set of the popular periodical *Walkabout*. Trisha is the daughter of the author J K Ewers and this was originally his collection.

Walkabout was established in 1934 by the Australian National Travel Association to promote travel within Australia, both actual and vicarious, and became the official journal of the Australian Geographical Society at its inception in 1946. It promised that 'month by month, through the medium of pen and picture, the journal will take you on a great "walkabout" throughout Australia and the islands of the South-west Pacific'.

Although an eastern states publication, *Walkabout* included many stories about Western Australia. From locations as vast as the eleven-hundred-mile rabbit-proof fence, through the Golden Mile of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, to international film-making based on road trains in Meekatharra, the magazine presented stories written by well-known and highly regarded local authors, including J K Ewers, Mary Durack, James Pollard, Henrietta Drake-Brockman, Coralie and Leslie Rees, Dr Joe Gentilli, Trevor Tuckfield and Vincent Serventy. And there were others, such as Ernestine Hill and W E (Bill) Harney, who also wrote on WA places they visited. The library plans to index these articles so they will be readily accessible.

Walkabout blended educational and entertaining articles to celebrate outback landscapes, plants, animals and industries as well as the Australians who lived there. It aimed to 'enable Australians and people of other lands to learn more of the romantic Australia that exists beyond the cities'. As well, there were articles about Aboriginal people that extended city readers' understandings of Aboriginal societies and cultures. From a 21st century viewpoint these stories are dated and unconvincing, but in their time they informed and fascinated. Australian photojournalists illustrated the articles and their rich imagery helped to recreate the places and people that the writers described.

Published monthly from 1934 to 1974-78 *Walkabout* influenced Australians to see ourselves and our country differently, to broaden our image of the nation and to make us feel more at home in this country. No longer was 'Home' on the other side of the world; home was here on the beaches and in the bush in a nation developing its natural resources, according to *Walkabout*. In this way the journal was influential in mid-20th century Australian culture.



Commemorating Perth Town Hall's 150th anniversary

The Perth Town Hall, begun by Governor Hampton in 1867, was built for the use of all colonists, not only for the City Council — for public meetings and official events, markets, concerts, balls, exhibitions, bazaars, and all manner of community gatherings. It has been an important part of Perth's social, political and cultural history for 150 years. Its fabric is now valued as a heritage building; let's also remember that it has been central to community life.



Town Hall display case, Western Land exhibition



Perth Town Hall on completion. P1999.1456FP

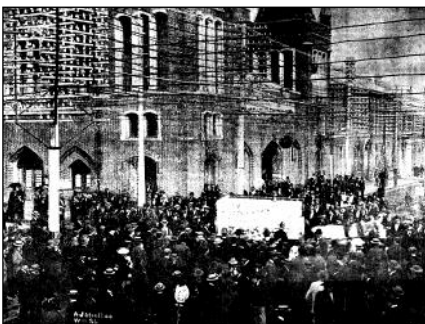
*In his Community Talk, which will be re-scheduled when public gatherings are again permitted, author and broadcaster **Richard Offen** will chart the history of Perth Town Hall and discuss what life was like in the city that, at the time of the building's opening, was not much more than a modest country town.*

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of Perth Town Hall by Governor Frederick Weld on 1 June 1870. Constructed as part of the programme of public works being undertaken by the convict workforce, the new building became an important part of life in Perth and, despite a number of plans to replace it, remains dear to the heart of Perth's citizens.

Based on the mediaeval town halls of Europe, the building was designed by the Superintendent of Public Works, Richard Roach Jewell. Construction was expected to take twelve months, but in the end it took three years. A local myth contends that the convicts amended the design by adding the arrow-shaped windows on the tower, a claim for which no evidence has been found.

A daily market was opened in 1872, but it did not last long as the undercroft was considered too gloomy for a market and so was put to other uses. For example, in 1875 explorer Ernest Giles arrived in Perth following his expedition from South Australia. His camels were stabled in the undercroft whilst the City hosted a welcoming party upstairs.

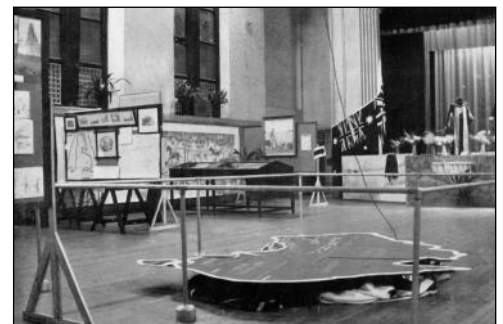
Richard Offen



Referendum Day crowd outside Town Hall, 1900. P1999.238



CWA's Handicrafts Exhibition at Town Hall, 1935. P1999.4430



Lord Forrest Centennial Exhibition at Town Hall, organised by WA Historical Society, 1947.

*Member **Sue Clarke**'s mother, Margaret Clements, was a foundation member of the Children's Book Council and also wrote talks for Catherine King's Women's Session on ABC Radio. In one of these talks she spoke about some of the many popular public events held at Perth Town Hall in 1947. Sue holds her mother's original script and shares it with us here.*

Around about this time every year the Town Hall assumes for children an entirely new character. The metamorphosis begins when its rather austere interior becomes a cross between a museum and a zoo — I mean, of course, the Wild Life Show. Here, hundreds of fascinated children gaze with wonder at the exhibits, alive and dead, which have been collected together to enable them to know something of Australian Wild Life which would otherwise be a closed book to many of them. This year, the Tree Climbing Fish stole the show and were obliging enough to demonstrate their prowess at all times of the day, seemingly heedless of their audience.

Following close on the heels of the Wild Life Show comes the Wildflower Show, and here the visitor to Town Hall finds it an absolute glory of colour, and feels a thrill of pride in a State which produces as easily and naturally such an amazing collection of flowers.

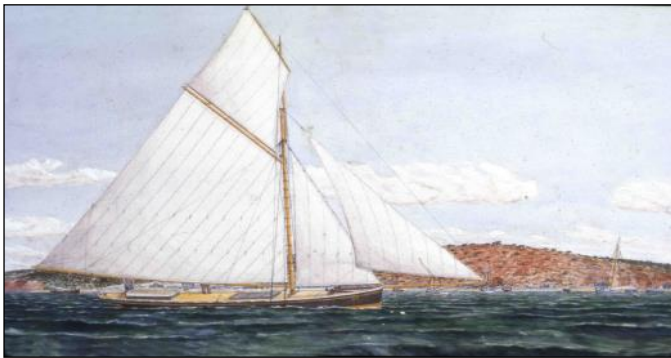
But when the flowers are gone, the Town Hall puts on yet another garb and that is what I am really here to talk about — I mean, of course, Children's Book Week which is the culmination of a year's work on the part of the Children's Book Council. Here indeed is a veritable treasure house...

Further Reading: Delys Phelps, 'Reflections on the Perth Town Hall', *Early Days*, 6 (8) 1969.

Museum News

Stories from the storerooms

Pearlers at Monkey Mia - the Durlachers



Monkey Mia, Shark's Bay, 1888,
watercolour, 143.0 x 57cm by I Barbour. A1991.123

This painting of a pearling lugger by I Barbour was donated to the Society by Miriam Dorothy (Doris) Durlacher (1870-1942), a nurse and midwife in Toodyay, and is possibly a boat with a Durlacher connection. It was one of the earliest items in the Society's collection, donated in the 1930s. Doris Durlacher's surveyor father Alfred Durlacher was Resident Magistrate in Toodyay from 1861 to 1865 before being transferred to Geraldton where he later suicided.

New land regulations promulgated in 1863 had allowed colonial settlements to commence in the north and men who originally took up land as pastoralists also became pearlers. By 1872, according to the Governor of the day, pearling was the chief enterprise of the colony. In 1873, eighty boats were working out of Cossack, Nichol Bay, Shark Bay and King Sound.

Doris' half-brother John, son of her father's first wife Christina Slade, had pearling interests in Denham, Shark Bay, from 1876 while her brother Lewis, also a pearler and son of his second wife Deborah Clarkson, died off Denham in 1899 while at sea on a pearling cutter when his gun accidentally discharged.



Original lonely grave of Lewis Clarkson Durlacher

'In loving memory of Lewis Clarkson Durlacher who accidentally shot himself at Shark Bay on the 13th February 1869 aged 23 years. This stone erected by friends in Shark Bay'. P1999.2728

Shark Bay pearls are from a different type of oyster to those at Broome with a smaller shell and a lustre inclined to a yellow tint. *Pinctada albina* spawned a rush. Sought after were the small straw-coloured 'seed' pearls that grew in shallow waters off the coast. There is a Durlacher pearl-set bracelet in the WA Museum (CH1995.1371). The industry declined once the *Pinctada maxima* was worked off Broome and ended when once-prolific banks were stripped bare and plastic buttons were introduced in the 1920s.

Competent amateur artist I Barbour painted the donated picture in 1888. We do not know exactly who he was but it is thought that he was the Barbour who was Chairman of the Midland Railway Syndicate in 1892, a New Zealander who went prospecting for gold in the Gascoyne area where Monkey Mia is situated. The railway syndicate was paid in the form of a land grant for every mile of completed railway. With continual problems, most of which related to lack of finance, construction took eight years, giving Barbour plenty of time to paint other pictures but he probably took more interest in prospecting and pearling rather than painting.



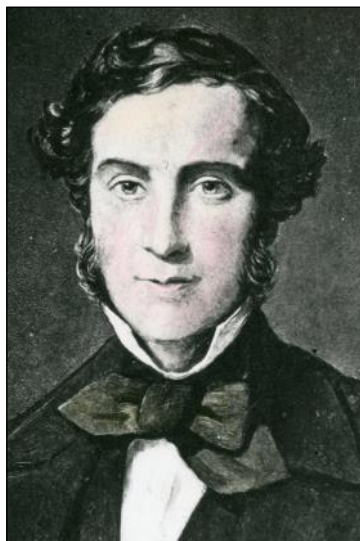
Dr Barbour 1882. Album 16. P1999.6544

In an album donated by Mrs C L Clifton held at the Society is a photograph of a Dr Barbour pictured with a dog and a fur or feather cape, dated 1882 and reproduced here, but whether this is the same man or another is not clear. Perhaps it is a puzzle a reader may be able to help us solve?

Dr Dorothy Erickson

Rethinking Aboriginal history

Explorer George Grey's observations of Nanda settlements



George Grey has been remembered mostly in Western Australia as an intrepid youthful explorer with liberal views about the treatment of Aboriginal people. Today some of his observations are worth re-examining, since they have recently been the subject of comments concerning Aboriginal land management practices by historian Bill Gammage, in his award-winning *The Biggest Estate on*

Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia. He has recognised that Grey's journals of his 1839 exploration expedition in the northwest provide evidence of the nature and extent of traditional land tenure involving the Nanda people, a Yamatji sub-group whose country is in and around Kalbarri.

Grey was returning to Perth when his whaleboats were wrecked in heavy surf near the mouth of the Murchison River. He and his men were forced to make the rest of the 600km journey to Perth on foot, through country for the most part not reported on previously by Europeans. Grey's 1841 *Journals* dealing with this part of his expedition suggest that the Nanda had built substantial, even permanent, settlements of some sophistication.

And as we wound along the native path, my wonder augmented, the path increased in breadth and in its beaten appearance, while alongside it we found frequent wells, some of which were ten and twelve feet [2.5-3m] deep, and were altogether executed in a superior manner ... For three and a half consecutive miles we traversed a fertile piece of land, literally perforated with holes the natives had made to dig this root [*warran*, a yam species (*Dioscorea hastifolia*)] ... this tract extended east and west as far as we could see.

It was now evident that we had entered the most thickly populated district of Australia that I had yet observed, and one moreover which must have been inhabited for a long series of years, for more had there been done to secure a provision from the ground by hard manual labour than I could have believed it in the power of uncivilised man to accomplish (Grey Vol. II 1841: 12).

Grey also noted two 'native villages' in which the huts were larger and more strongly built than others he had seen to the south in Western Australia. Like those in the Shark Bay area they were plastered with clay and were 'evidently for fixed places of residence' which, with the 'well marked roads, deeply sunk wells and extensive *warran* grounds, all spoke of a large and comparatively speaking, resident population' (Grey Vol. II 1841: 19-20).

While the three expeditions to the area of the brothers Augustus and Francis Gregory in 1846 and 1848 confirmed Grey's reports of good country and substantial Aboriginal populations, the Gregorys omitted any mention of settled villages, path networks or developed fields of *warran* yams – all of which in the late twentieth century would have been proof of native title as established by the High Court of Australia in the Mabo case. As it transpired, on 28 November 2018 at Kalbarri foreshore – near where Grey and his companions were wrecked – the Nanda people were formally recognised by the Federal Court as native titleholders, after a 24-year-long legal process.

Grey was a major contributor to this native title process through his journals. Here he was at his best, as again when governor of South Australia he sent his fellow explorer Edward John Eyre to Moorundie on the River Murray as Protector of Aborigines. They were in need of protection from many of the overlanders – Europeans bringing stock to Adelaide along the river from New South Wales. Grey also appointed police to accompany some of these overlanders, to prevent them firing indiscriminately at Aboriginal people along the way.

But to obtain the position of governor in South Australia, Grey had behaved in a most underhand manner towards his predecessor, Lieutenant Colonel George Gawler. Grey had been appointed resident magistrate at Albany after his exploration work, and there he began an ultimately unhappy marriage with Eliza Spencer. He was ordered to England in 1840 and went by way of Perth to Adelaide, where, in the words of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB),

...for three weeks he was entertained at Government House by...Gawler, who expounded his policies and proudly exhibited his public works and the flourishing condition of the colony. As one matron commented, "Grey met everyone and saw everything".

In October that year he was appointed governor of South Australia, having sent 'a cunning memorandum to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, condemning all he had learnt in Adelaide from Gawler but without mentioning his name, and promising to maintain the strictest economy'. He then quarrelled bitterly with Gawler on returning to South Australia. Grey also exceeded his authorised spending but his dispatches were a series of 'boastful half truths'.

In New Zealand as in South Australia, he 'ruled as an autocrat, and was largely responsible for deferring responsible government'. His ADB entry finally assesses him as a man whose 'abilities were great, but...he fell short of greatness for want of that power of self-control and detachment which might have enabled him to recognise and correct his own mistakes'.

A colonist and budding politician in New Zealand, Sir Frederick Aloysius Weld, described Sir George Grey, then New Zealand's governor, as 'the artful Dodger of governors'. This Dickensian reference seems to have contained a strand of truth about a complex man whose legacy is indeed mixed.

Dr Peter Gifford

We are indebted to Hesperian Press which published a facsimile edition of Grey's journals in 1983 - Expeditions in Western Australia 1837-1839 Vol.1 & Vol.2.

Family recall of coaching days

Member **Gillian Flecker** has sent *History West* this interesting account, most of it based on the recollections of her family, including grandmother **Matilda Rodda (née Pollard)** who was born in 1861 and grew up at Bannister House.

Today, as you drive down Albany Highway and pass by the Bannister Roadhouse, it is hard to imagine that this was once the site of a busy coaching inn, a police outpost and telegraph service. Bannister House was the first of six overnight coaching-inn stopovers for the trip between Perth and Albany. The other stopovers were at Williams, Arthur River, Kojonup, Gordon River and Mt Barker. This transport route was crucial to the colony's development because Albany was its most important port until the end of the 19th century.

Mail deliveries in the early colony, especially those from 'Home', were eagerly awaited but presented major challenges because the tiny colonial settlements were scattered, roads were just tracks and Albany port was a long distance from both Perth-Fremantle and the southwest settlements. Aboriginal runners frequently carried internal mail around the colony and contractors carried the overseas mail to and from Albany. Not until 1853, however, was a direct road built to link Albany and Perth. Constructed by convicts and colonial prisoners this road became the colony's major mail route and the beginning of our story.

Red and yellow coaches

Two brothers, Thomas and Richard Chipper, took over the Perth-Albany mail run in 1854 with a spring cart and two horses, and operated it for three decades. In 1879 the colonial government took charge of the mail run and two spanking red and yellow Cobb & Co. style coaches, drawn by four horses, were purchased and shipped from the eastern colonies. Police outposts en route were made responsible for care of the horses.



Police Constable Pollard. P2009.572

Thomas and Mary Pollard

In 1866 police officer Thomas Pollard was appointed to run the Bannister outpost. Thomas and his parents had arrived from Dublin County, Ireland, on board the *Ganges* in 1841. After a period of farming at Dandalup, Thomas joined the police force. Realising how traffic was growing on the highway, Thomas and his Irish wife Mary decided to build a staging house as an overnight stay for coach travellers.

Bannister House

Convicts built the large stone building with its twelve rooms. Sheoak shingles, cut in the sawpit nearby, covered the roof. Unfortunately the chimney often caught fire and then all hands were needed to climb on the roof with wet sacks to stop the wooden shingles burning. As expected, the inn was a success because the coach service maintained regular demand.

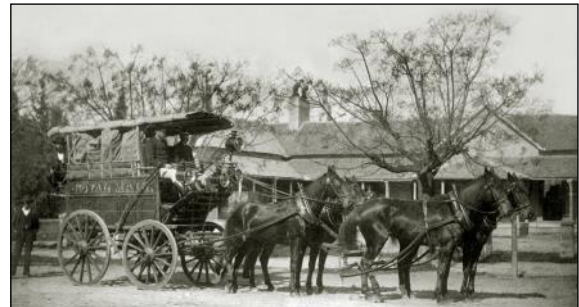
Uncomfortable travel

It must have been a rough and bumpy ride for travellers jostling tightly together with their baggage. As well as eight to ten passengers, the mail coach also carried vital supplies such as bags of flour, sugar and farming tools, and often the passengers had to put up with the presence of smelly possum skins and kangaroo tails – for soup.

Air conditioning consisted of squares of canvas flapping at the glassless windows, allowing flies, dust, rain and the sun's heat or cold winds. However after a hot meal, a night's rest and a change of horses the stalwart travellers were on their way again the next day.

A rude cockatoo

Despite the discomfort of coach travel, Bannister House register revealed some important guests, including governors. One was fascinated by the Pollard cockatoo which had picked up a number of rude expressions that he voiced at very inconvenient times. The cockatoo's specialty was to imitate the voice of the coachman and yell 'Start Over' in a loud voice and then make the sound of the whip. The obedient horses would immediately set off, leaving behind the furious coachman and bewildered passengers!



Albany Mail Coach outside the old Perth Post Office, St George's Terrace, 1888. P1999.1876

The end of coaching days

With the building of the Great Southern Railway coach travel began to dwindle and the Albany mail coach ended its days in 1888. Bannister House became the family home with its twelve bedrooms continuing to be used as the family had grown to eight children. The family turned to farming and breeding horses for the Indian Army. The old stables with their ten-foot high rails were quite a feature of the place.



Bannister House abandoned and fallen into ruin, 1967. Photographer: Trevor Tuckfield. P1999.2223

Then the old Bannister House began to crumble and the police outpost was burnt down when its shingle roof caught fire. Finally, when great-grandson Alec Pollard called in an architect to try to restore the building, the architect threw up his hands and declared - 'Impossible'. So a new Pollard house was built high on a hill across the road. It was the end of an era.

Gillian Flecker

Useful online resources are continually expanding and one of them is Harvey History Online (formerly Harvey Districts Oral History Group). For a carefully researched history of Early Mail Services in the South-West of WA (1829-1901) see <https://www.harveyhistoryonline.com/?p=3661>

Spotlight on Members' Research

Charles Edgar Stoneman Snr — businessman and real estate developer

Our thanks to Mr Trevor Stoneman, grandson of Charles Edgar Stoneman Snr, for sharing his family history research with us. Trevor says that his history was written for the family and might hold limited interest for others. When you read C E Stoneman Snr's story, however, you will see some major historical themes played out in one man's life — a migrant settler who arrived as a young man with very little except a determination to succeed, and he did so as a businessman in prosperous times, taking advantage of the gold boom and then Perth's real estate boom. But times grew hard in the 1920s and he was left with nothing by the time of the 1930s depression. A lasting legacy is the large family of Western Australians he established with his two wives.

Beginnings

Charles Edgar was born in Devon, England, in 1863 to Emma Stoneman, aged 23, with no listed name for his father. Emma worked as a domestic servant. Charles grew up in England and probably travelled to Western Australia via Sri Lanka in 1885, as reported by his eldest daughter, Effie, some years before her death. However I have been unable to find his name on any shipping list that I have searched to date. On arrival in Perth he started business as a produce merchant, importing tea and spices from Sri Lanka.



Charles Edgar Stoneman, c1887 (aged 24)

Business prospers

Perhaps he was attracted to Western Australia by news of the colony's first gold rushes. It certainly proved a good time to set up business in Perth. In 1889 the *West Australian* newspaper included an advertisement for Lowe's Patent Steam Washing Machine with C E Stoneman as the local agent. He applied for a licence to manufacture soap using a steam process at a site in Roe Street in 1892 and between 1894 and 1897 he and Edward John Inkpen, trading as C E Stoneman and Co., applied for various trademarks covering soaps, sauces, tinned coffee, tinned peas, oatmeal in bags, packets or tins, and tinned baking powder. The trade names were 'Magical' for soaps, 'Home Rule' for sauces, and 'Ship' for the others. The emphasis on tinned produce indicates that the business supplied the rapidly growing goldfields' demand for all forms of tinned produce to feed thousands of hungry diggers scattered through the bush and in the new towns.

By 1900 Charles' business had shifted to focus on commercial and estate agencies. Business prospered

and in 1906 he began investing in real estate, purchasing large tracts of land in the Scarborough district from the Manning family. Between 1906 and 1916 he was responsible for subdividing 935 acres (389ha) and in 1914 provided financial help to the Perth Road Board to fund the extension of Scarborough Beach Road from Innaloo to the coast, presumably to promote suburban land sales in the area. His main activity for the remainder of his business career was as a real estate agent and land developer.

Apart from his city business, Charles had pastoral, agricultural and mining interests at various times. In the early 1900s, C E Stoneman is recorded as holding a pastoral lease, Wilgoyne Lease 973/94, an area of 50,000 acres (20,800ha) located on the east side of the rabbit-proof fence about 25km north of Great Eastern Highway. Presumably he employed a shepherd to run sheep in the bush. It is also possible that he was involved in some way in the sandalwood trade.

Subsequently, in 1912, some 5000 acres (2080ha) was subdivided from the pastoral lease as Yilgarn Location 3, as a conditional purchase block for agriculture in the names of Charles Edgar Stoneman Snr, Charles Edgar Stoneman Jnr and Alexander Stoneman. It is likely that he employed a manager or contractors to develop the property. A record exists of a successful wheat crop being grown for hay on the block by a manager in 1912. At some time after the end of World War I my father began farming this block.

Charles Snr also had interests in mining. It is probable that, in partnership with a James Findlay, he had an interest in a mine (presumably a gold mine) at Sandstone in the 1920s.

Family life

Charles married twice, first to Minnie Caroline Farmer on 20 October 1888 and then to Catherine Jane Smyth on 24 August 1897. He provided different information about his father on each of his marriage certificates. For his 1888 marriage he stated that his father was Charles Turner Stoneman, a surgeon, and for his 1897 marriage he said that his father was Charles Ethelbert Stoneman and his mother's name Elizabeth Turner. It is tempting to speculate about these statements, which conflict with each other and with his birth certificate. Clearly this was a sensitive matter for Charles, not surprising given the prevailing negative attitudes to children born outside of marriage.

His last years

Charles Snr died in December 1936. It is likely that he had fallen on hard times in the depression years. Libby Newton remembers her mother, Lillian, saying that, as a young woman, she had the job of visiting her siblings to gather money to pass to their father. Charles had left a will leaving everything to his daughter, Dorothy, who, I think, looked after him in his last years. However by the time probate was finally declared some fifteen years later, no tax was payable because his liabilities exceeded his assets.

Charles' descendants

From his two marriages, Charles had eight children, five girls and three boys. Six children went on to marry and five of them to have children, resulting in seven grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren and, to date, thirty-one great-great-grandchildren.

Trevor's more detailed account of C E Stoneman's life is available in the library.

Trevor Stoneman

Edith Dircksey Cowan



Edith Cowan wearing her OBE insignia, awarded in 1920.
P1999.1157

Edith Cowan was a trailblazer. Winning the Legislative Assembly electorate of West Perth in 1921 she became the first woman member of an Australian Parliament, serving one term (1921-1924). She was a leader among women working to advance opportunities for women in public life, a social reformer and crusader in the interests of women and children. At the RWAHS we also know her as one of the founders of the Society. Edith Cowan died in 1932; her life is remembered with gratitude. Below are extracts from her speeches, all taken from the Hansard Archives on the Parliament of Western Australia website by researcher Heather Campbell. They provide fascinating glimpses into her beliefs and crusades.

Inaugural Speech, 28 July 1921

I stand here to-day in the unique position of being the first woman in an Australian Parliament. I know many people think perhaps that it was not the wisest thing to do to send a woman into Parliament.... It is a great responsibility to be the only woman here, and I want to emphasise the necessity which exists for other women being here....

it does seem to be an anomaly that we should be able to spend £1,400 on a gymnasium in the city while some of our teachers outback are living in canvas bedrooms containing at one end the season's supply of bonedust...

I hope that when the Government again bring in the Architects Bill they will make it easy for women to become architects. We shall never have satisfactory homes and Government buildings until women have a voice in planning them...

The views of both sides are more than ever needed in Parliament to-day. If men and women can work for the State side by side and represent all the different sections of the community, and if the male members of the House would be satisfied to allow women to help them and would accept their suggestions when they are offered, I cannot doubt that we should do very much better work in the community than was ever done before.

28 September 1921

It seems to me that is hardly what was intended, nor is it quite a fair thing to women that we should not be able to [have] the privilege of sitting in the Speaker's gallery on occasions.... It is the mere fact that women are not admitted that makes them wish to have that stigma removed.... To-day in discussing the position with a gentleman, it was explained to me that the Almighty never intended women to be put in the position that I was in to-day. I was obliged to remind him that not only did the Bible tell us that it was not a good thing for man to be alone, but that "male and female created He them and gave them dominion over all things". I do not think He intended that special privileges should be granted to one section of the community which could not reasonably be granted to the other.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT SECOND READING (legalising lotteries for charitable purposes)

We ought not to get down to such a low level that we can take care of our poor and our sick and our wounded soldiers and our children who need air only by offering a *quid pro quo* in the shape of gambling. I cannot believe that our spirit of humanity has fallen so low. Surely taxation is the right method of providing money for these objects.

13 October 1921 – NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL – Second Reading

Women who take up nursing and who do such splendid self-sacrificing work are the best people to know what is required for their profession.... They are asking for registration.... There is a great difference between trained nurses and nurses who are not trained when it comes to a question of illness.... Numbers of women have died through lack of attention and numbers of men and children have also died in the backblocks for want of the care of experienced women.

25 October 1921 – WORKERS' HOMES

Not long ago investigations showed that there were four-roomed houses in which 25 people were living. It is time we returned to the old system of establishing workers' homes so that people can get homes.

26 October 1921 – ANNUAL ESTIMATES, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TRAINING/ DOMESTIC SCIENCE

It seems to me that the ideal set up by that Hon member is that the mother should be not only wife, but cleaner and cook and washerwoman, and that, in addition, she should educate the family in various important matters, matters in which she herself has never had the advantage of being trained.... I think I would have just about as much right to instruct the members of this House about the correct way of

running an office or a mine or a factory, as they have to suggest what kind of training it is necessary to give a woman for the life she is to lead.

15 November 1921 – LOCAL COURTS AMENDMENT ACT

I am sorry to see no provision on the Estimates for the Children's Court. I do not know whether the Minister has ever been there on a hot day or on a wet day. The last time we had a wet day there it was necessary to wear galoshes if one wished to walk in comfort about the floor. The top window, which provides the only ventilation in the room, is in the roof and happened to be open when the storm broke, and in consequence the rain came in all over the place. Very few hon. members have ever troubled to visit the building.

16 November 1921 – INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT, SECOND READING

Why should not married women have a union?.... I do not think members of the Opposition would wish that their wives should be cut off from the same standing and privileges as a domestic worker.... No man, when he marries a woman, asks her to be anything else but his wife and the mother of his children. He does not ask her to be the cook, the housekeeper, the cleaner, the scrubber and the washerwoman. Therefore, if we are to bring any section of household workers under the Act, I maintain that logically, and in justice to the married women, they have a right also to be brought under the Act and have their hours, etc., dictated by the judge, before whom they will have an opportunity to state their case.

13 December 1921 – LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Many publicans do not drink at all because they realise the evils arising from liquor.... If we can afford to spend enormous amounts yearly in drink, and only a moderate amount on education, there is something wrong with our point of view....

I.... regret that nothing has been embodied in the Bill to abolish barmaids.... It is not a suitable employment for women. By making the bar attractive by the employment of barmaids our sons are the more likely to be tempted and led astray.

22 December 1921 – PROPOSED ANNULMENT OF STATUTE NO. 19 OF UWA ACT 1911

Just before the member for Pilbara.... rose to speak, so strongly on the subject of education, I told him I believed in having education for everybody, whereupon he remarked that I had not had a university education.... I said, "No, more is the pity". I think perhaps we all feel it is a pity we were not able to attend a university that had it been free in our day it would have made a great difference to our culture generally and perhaps to the whole community.... I do not think we have given the system of free education a fair trial, because we have not provided the money necessary to its proper development.

9 August 1922 – RE OMISSIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

The place known as the Old Women's Home [in Fremantle] is very far from satisfactory.... Conditions have not been improved for the poor old souls there recently, owing to the fact that women are being sent there from the lunatic asylum.... It seems to me a most pathetic thing that the nice old women who are not troubled mentally should be obliged to live alongside others who are insane.... We should not continue the

present practice, which disturbs the old age of these poor, worthy souls who.... should be enjoying the few possible remaining restful years of their existence.

WOMEN ON THE LAND

What inducements are offered a woman to remain on the land until the man has made all his money?.... A woman who by a windlass is drawing household water from a well all day would greatly appreciate the provision of a pump and a few pipes leading to the kitchen and wash tubs.... Is it to be wondered at that the wife is bad-tempered and fails to greet her husband with a sweet smile and warm slippers when he comes home for the evening?

9 January 1923 – FORMATION OF A WOMEN'S PARTY

There are many of us who do not wish to bring that about, but it may ultimately be necessary to have such a party to look after the interests of women.... Women wish to work with men and not against them, and we therefore desire that the men should work with us and not against us when it comes to a question of employment of women in positions in which they can obtain a satisfactory livelihood.

9 August 1923 – BABY HEALTH CENTRES

I thank the Premier on behalf of the women of the community, and the men, too, for that matter – the subject is just as important for the men as it is for the women – for having granted to us the small sum of £200 with which to start baby health centres. No more important work than that can be undertaken in a community.

5 September 1923 – WOMEN'S LEGAL STATUS BILL – SECOND READING

The Bill amends the law in respect of women's disqualifications.... If the Bill before us is passed, we shall not have to be continually coming to Parliament in order that women may be admitted to various functions and offices from which they are now debarred.... to enable women to sit in this Parliament you had to amend the Act, making it clear that the word "person" included female as well as male. For instance, we feel it is desirable that women should be admitted as barristers. There is nothing in the Barristers' Act to prevent it, but when application was made to admit a woman the judges held that the Act did not originally intend that women should be admitted.... I fail to see any anomaly in permitting women to hold these positions, or even in making them Ministers of the Crown. It is not long since we had the curious and amusing anomaly, in New South Wales, I think, of a man being appointed Minister for Motherhood. I do not know what he could possibly know about motherhood, or what sort of a judge on those questions he was expected to be.

7 November 1923

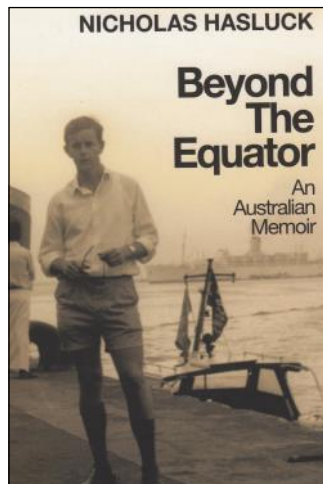
Women are allowed to work at various vocations. For instance, nursing, teaching, housekeeping, acting, and gardening are vocations, and we would not think of debarring women from participating in them, whether they be married or single. If a woman is able, and it is necessary to augment the family income, she should be permitted to do so. I have not heard anyone suggest the necessity for a law to prohibit women, when the necessity arises, from going out charring or washing or doing any other unpleasant work.

Heather Campbell, researcher & collator

Book Reviews

Nicholas Hasluck, *Beyond the Equator: An Australian Memoir*, Australian Scholarly Publishing/ Arcadia, 2019. In Bookshop \$34.95.

Reviewer: Robert (Bob) Nicholson



A number of law graduates in Western Australia have gone on to Oxford to study for the Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL). That is what Nicholas Hasluck did and his experiences form the foundation of his memoir. Nicholas, however, had some distinctive supports.

Throughout his life he has held the ambition to be a writer. Yet, as the author describes it, he 'worked in all corners of the legal

profession, from a clerk's recycled desk to the Judge's polished bench'. The closing chapter, titled 'A Writer's Way', examines the dilemma between career and ambition, and suggests that in his literary career he 'sought to make use of literary experience in trying to say something useful about gaps in the legal system and the search for truth in its various forms'. After concluding, accurately, that he has managed 'to stay the distances as a writer' he later (surprisingly for this reviewer) expresses the view that he received a less-than-warm reception of his work as a writer by the Australian literary world. His literary achievements in novels, short stories, essays and memoirs, and in poetry are listed in the frontispiece to the book.

Nicholas grew up in a family of writers. As he states: 'I was brought up in a household where writing a book or an article, putting ideas or personal experiences on paper, was seen as an important pursuit, irrespective of whether there was any money in it'. However, he sees those factors as the 'superficial answer' to the question why he was so determined to become an author.

As is well known, the author's father was a federal politician, government Minister and ultimately Governor-General of Australia. Both his parents 'had family links to England, and had been to London on a number of occasions'. The importance of this to the book is that Nicholas had a rarely paralleled opportunity to meet and visit friends of his parents to whom he was given introductions or whom he had met during his younger life in Canberra. This greatly enriched his travel experience over the equator.

Perhaps most importantly of all, the memoir received acknowledged support by the author from his lifetime habit of keeping a diary. At times the diary from those halcyon days at Oxford and during summer travels on the continent recreates the atmosphere of discovery and intellectual adventure opening up to the author in his younger days.

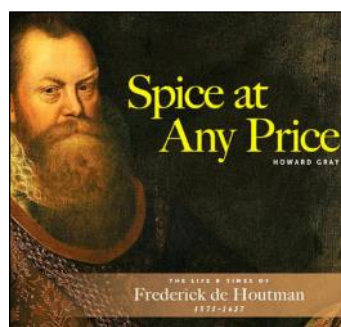
Early in his memoir, Nicholas says of his father that 'being a former diplomat, he was accustomed to keeping his own counsel'. Yet later Nicholas himself speaks openly of the relationships between his parents at certain stages. He also quite frankly tells of his first kisses with his 'Pommy heart' and quietly explores the development of his romance and his resulting marriage.

He speaks of his attitude to the lands beyond the equator as initially 'a surge of youthful independence'. Yet, after he learned more of his antecedents on both sides, he began 'to see things in a different light'. Whatever that process was, it becomes evident from the memoir that his legal training at the UWA Law School and in practice had equipped him with knowledge underpinning his interest in English history, such as aspects of Tudor history, and stimulated his capacity to take an interest in major public events in England, such as the Profumo affair.

Throughout the memoir Nicholas approaches his recollection in a patient, calm and reflective manner, adding present reflection to past recollection. It is a memoir which makes apparent what is involved in undertaking a BCL degree at Oxford, falling in love, travelling to the Continent and maintaining a lively intellectual interest in the world around. Whether one reads the book because of interest in the Hasluck family or references made to contemporaries who shared time overseas with Nicholas or because it exposes an Australian mind opened to the possibilities beyond the equator or for any other reason, it is very well assembled and written, and is one talented person's account of all that exposure brought.

Howard Gray, *Spice at Any Price. The life and times of Frederick de Houtman 1571-1627*, Westralian Books, Geraldton, 2019. In Library.

Reviewer: Graeme Henderson



This book is about the pursuit of profits in the spice trade between the Netherlands and the East Indies, and the role in that trade of Dutch explorer, navigator and colonial governor, Fredrick de Houtman. Howard Gray has integrated Houtman into

an account of the times and places in which he lived, and they were interesting, turbulent times and places.

Frederick, the son of a brewer, was born in the South Holland town of Gouda in 1571. The Catholic kings of Spain had taken strong measures against Protestantism, and the subsequent Dutch revolt split the Netherlands into a Catholic 'Spanish Netherlands' and a northern, predominantly Protestant 'United Provinces', which became the modern Netherlands. During his teen years Frederick went to live in the town of Alkmaar, a centre of trade, and was apprenticed to a timber merchant.

At that time the Dutch were keen to break into the burgeoning European trade in pepper, cloves, mace and nutmeg from the East Indies. Gray gives an account of the trade as it developed, from the Romans through to the Portuguese and Spanish involvement. The Dutch had undoubted ability as navigators; however for them to enter this lucrative trade by the sea route they needed charts. The Portuguese kept their charts secret, but in 1592 cartographer Petrus Plancius obtained some from a Portuguese shipping master. Plancius translated, redrew and published them, revealing for the Dutch the location of the source of cloves in the Moluccas.

Frederick and his brother Cornelis were related to Reynier Pauw, one of nine Amsterdam merchants who financed the Company van Verre set up to break Portugal's monopoly of the pepper trade. The brothers posed as merchants in Lisbon to obtain more information about the trade but they were apprehended and imprisoned for two years for stealing charts.

On release from prison the brothers joined in a venture with the Company van Verre. Cornelis, aged thirty, was fleet commander, and Frederick was an assistant to the chief navigator for the fleet of four ships that left for the East Indies in April 1595. The quantity of spices obtained during this voyage was disappointingly small, and only 82 of the 248 original crewmen survived. Nevertheless other Dutch fleets were quickly assembled and the Dutch spice trade quickly assumed enormous significance.

Life was cheap for these adventurers. The processes employed to establish and maintain trading supremacy in the spice islands of the East Indies involved much conflict and extreme brutality toward the indigenous population, the Portuguese, the Spanish and the English. During the second Dutch spice fleet voyage, in September 1599, Cornelis de Houtman was killed along with many of his crew during an attack by the Acehnese. Frederick outlived most of his compatriots. Imprisoned on Aceh during a later voyage, he survived various threats to his life and was released in August 1601, on payment of gifts to the Sultan. Between 1605 and 1611 he was the Dutch governor of Amboina. He returned to the Netherlands and died at Alkmaar, aged 57.

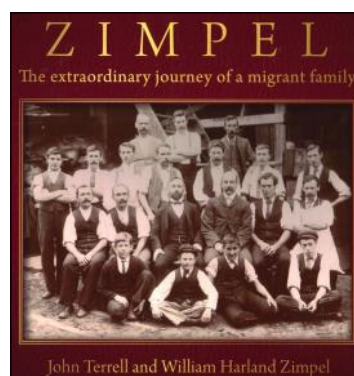
Gray offers glimpses into the lives of many of the significant European actors of the period including Jan Peterszoon Coen, Jan Huygen van Linschoten, Hendrik Brouwer, Dirk Hartog, Ferdinand Magellan, Hugo Grotius and Antonio Pigafetta. He also points to Frederick's relevance to Australia. In 1605, as governor of Amboyna from 1605-11, Houtman gave Willem Janszoon of the *Duyfken* orders to explore lands east of the known spice islands, orders which led to the first European examination of a part of the Australian continent. In 1619 as commander of a fleet he anchored near Safety Bay, a little south of Fremantle, and continued northward along the coast past Dirk Hartog Island, plotting over 500 kilometres of previously uncharted coast.

This is a lucid account—a well-constructed overall picture—of the early Dutch involvement in the East Indies. Gray's rich selection of beautifully produced

and reproduced maps, paintings, diagrams and scenic photographs are an essential companion to the text, giving meaning to otherwise confusing place names. It left me yearning to visit some of the islands to reflect in-situ upon the themes he has explored.

John Terrell and William Harland Zimpel, *Zimpel. The extraordinary journey of a migrant family*, self published, 2019. In Library & Bookshop \$50.

Reviewer: Ed Jaggard



On 18 June 1884 William Zimpel, cabinet maker, disembarked from the *SS Bonnington* at Fremantle having travelled from London via the Suez Canal. Wasting no time Zimpel quickly journeyed to Perth where he met his friend and fellow

cabinet maker Carl Schwarz, who had arrived in the colony one year earlier and encouraged Zimpel to join him. Three days after the latter's arrival he and Schwarz published an advertisement notifying the people of Perth that Schwarz, Zimpel and Co. had been launched, 'to execute cabinet work, shop fitting, house decorating, upholstery and joinery'. Their first premises were in St George's Terrace, but within two years the partnership ended and by June 1888 W Zimpel, furniture manufacturer, was located in Hay Street where the remarkably successful business continued to have its headquarters until its sale in 1981.

In this lavishly produced family memoir William H (Bill) Zimpel and former goldfields journalist John Terrell, explain why 1884 was a turning point in William Zimpel's life. Beforehand he was a member of a Hungarian Lutheran family splintered by a father determined to give his three children Clara, William and Adolf, greater opportunities in life. William, who began his apprenticeship in Constantinople, completed it in London where it seemed the remainder of his life as a skilled tradesman was about to unfold. Then, suspecting greater opportunities in Western Australia, Schwarz encouraged him to emigrate. After 1884 skill, hard work and entrepreneurial flair resulted in him laying the foundations of a furniture manufacturing and retailing business. By the time William died in 1923 he was a wealthy property owner in Cottesloe, living comfortably in a 'seaside mansion' with his wife Nellie and eight children, including his eldest son Cecil, Bill Zimpel's father.

However *Zimpel* is more than William's life story and that of his family. Local Cottesloe controversies sprang up about his contribution to the suburb's growth, not least his visionary planting of the towering Norfolk Island pines that have become a coastal landmark. On this and other topics Bill Zimpel vigorously defends his

grandfather's reputation. Furthermore the co-authors sketch the ways in which the family became identified with Cottesloe – William's service to the Roads Board, Cec's membership of Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club and to WA surf lifesaving in general, plus Bill and his cousin Don Morrison's success with the same club, especially the latter.

In much less detail, the lives of Adolf and Clara are also sketched. Like their brother they enjoyed productive and successful careers in the antipodes, one as a doctor, the other as a nurse. The memoir ranges far and wide, each step on the family's journey accompanied by a superb collection of colour and black-and-white photos. The result is an eye-catching coffee-table addition to Western Australia's social history.

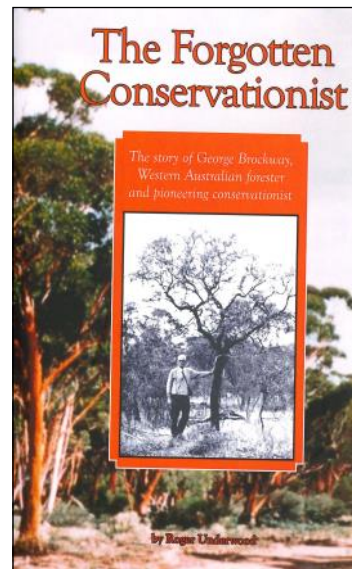
Roger Underwood, *The Forgotten Conservationist. The Story of George Brockway, Western Australian Forester and Pioneering Conservationist*, York Gum Publishing, 2019. In Library.

Reviewer: Ian Abbott

The title of this booklet (40 pp.) is apt. Brockway is indeed forgotten and this is undeserved because of his many significant contributions to forest management and nature conservation.

Born in 1901 in Claremont and trained in forestry at the University of Adelaide, Brockway returned to Western Australia to manage the forests around Mundaring Weir. He co-authored the State's first forest management plan. However, Brockway disliked working for the government although spent much of his life doing so.

In 1929 he argued against clearing forests for farms because forests provided fuel, timber, shade, shelter for stock, and habitat for birds, as well as aesthetic benefits. His advice was ignored.



In the 1930s he was transferred to the eastern goldfields – the first professionally trained forester appointed to manage the surrounding woodlands. The gold mines relied on firewood sourced from these woodlands. Brockway studied their silviculture and regeneration. His bequest to WA is the renowned 'Great Western Woodlands'.

Brockway was later responsible for recommending the

creation of hundreds of reserves from vacant crown lands, ensuring that many of the best stands of forest and woodland in the expanding wheatbelt were withheld from farming.

He was knowledgeable about the plant species of the wheatbelt and goldfields, and promoted the planting of eucalypt species on farms. He also advised the Rottne Island Authority on planting windbreaks on the island.

Brockway lived an unusual life, travelling for long periods in the bush. It is therefore unsurprising that his wife (an accomplished artist) often accompanied him on fieldwork. In the 1950s, he advised authorities in Pakistan and Africa on the establishment of tree nurseries and firewood plantations.

Today he is memorialised by *Eucalyptus brockwayi* (Dundas Mahogany), recognising that he had collected the first specimens in 1940.

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| Community Officer: | Lesley Burnett |
| Editor <i>History West</i>: | Dr Lenore Layman |
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