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150th Anniversary of the Linton Cricket Club



Photo: LDHS archives

Linton Cricket Team 1895

Standing L-R: A.J.Smith, S. Lewers, A.C. Cork, H.Adams, Dr. Donaldson, I. Craine, J. Hogan, K. Donovan, R. Hisshion, A. Nicol, J. Godden, J. Angus, J. Brown.

Second row L-R: Ed Nicholls, P.Roberts, D. Cornish, R. Cornish, J. Semmens, R. Hansen, J. Nicol,

Front row: L-R: R. Hisshion jnr., S. Ball, Ben Cornish, Ted Nicholls, Jas. Wearne.

See inside: Linton Cricket Club is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year; Jack Fletcher's memoirs; Bruce Adams and the early days of *The Grenville Standard*; more memories of the Anglican church.

Linton Cricket Club Celebrates its 150th Anniversary

One of Linton's oldest, continuous institutions, the Linton Cricket Club, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. The club's foundation story is that it was formed in 1863 by fifteen cricket enthusiasts who met at the Royal Standard Hotel in Sussex Street.

This pre-dates the formation of the Shire of Grenville in 1864, but coincides with the general establishment of the town. The Bank of NSW opened in 1860, and the Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches all were operating from the early 1860s. At this time in Linton's history many people were still living in tents at the diggings and struggling to make a living from gold mining. It is an indication of the popularity of cricket that they still found the time and energy to play the game.

The club has never been forced to amalgamate with another cricket club, although there was a low period in the 1953-54 season when it could not field a full team, so the remaining available players padded-up for Mannibadar. Subsequently, the Mannibadar club folded and its players joined Linton. During the First World War (1914 -18) and the Second World War (1939-45) there were breaks in the competition (Australia's interstate competition, the *Sheffield Shield*, was similarly disrupted during the World Wars).



The team circa 1900-04

Photo: LDHS archives

Standing: 2nd from left, Edgar Nicholls; 4th left, Perc Roberts; remainder not known.

Seated L-R: ? Roberts, George Preston, A. Cork (Manager Bank NSW 1895-1909), Alf Smith, unknown.

(Editor's note: Please contact us if you know the missing names.)

Colorful stories from the early days

There are some colorful stories from the early decades of the club. Such was the prowess of the club in the 1870s that it defeated a Ballarat team that had almost beaten the touring English side lead by the notable cricketer of the era, Dr. W.G. Grace. In a game in Melbourne, the same Linton team defeated the powerful Richmond team, during the time when Richmond had representatives in the Victorian inter-colonial team, and the first Australian eleven.

Linton's Centenary History, *Looking back Over 100 Years, 1839-1939*, reported that in its early years, Linton frequently played Ballarat, and on one occasion H. Roberts took five wickets off six balls. Jack Hogan, 'a fine batsman and bowler,' was reported as saying that during an outstanding phase, Linton was unbeaten for seven years. Once during this time, Linton dismissed Scarsdale for four runs! In that game Milton Barry took four wickets for one run, and Alf Mitchell took six wickets for two runs; there was one bye, thus making "Byes" equal top scorer for Scarsdale*.

A generous benefactor of the club and keen supporter of cricket in the district in the early era was W.T. Rowe of Naringhil, who donated ten guineas in three successive years for the purchase of equipment (a guinea was one pound and one shilling - \$2.10 in modern currency, but with far greater purchasing power than that in the early days).



Photo of the Premiership Cup: 1947-48

In the collection of LDHS

Family links

Many people associated with the club are from families with a long heritage in Linton. Graham Ching and Geoff Ching, who were made life members of the club, are part of the Ching family that operated a store in Sussex Street Linton for 99 years. Eight members of the Grigg family are listed in the batting statistics for the period 1969-2013, and during that time eight Verdoorns, six Doolans and six Kerr family members played for the club.

Aaron Kerr has played the most games for the club (over 240) and is descended from a long line of Linton cricketers. Legend has it that his great-great-great grandfather Richard Cornish played in the first side in 1863. Other ancestors associated with the club are Dan Cornish, who had the boot shop in the premises that became Murrell's newsagency next to the fire brigade in Sussex Street; grandfather Colin Kerr who played in two premierships; and father David Kerr who also played in two premierships. On his mother's side of the family, Selwyn Morgan played for approximately 30 years, and was the grandson of J. H Morgan who had the general store in Sussex St (where the café is now).

Various Competitions

Linton is currently playing in the Grenville Cricket Association, which has eight teams: Carngham, Smythesdale, Rokewood, Skipton Carranballac, Derrinallum, Lismore and Linton. In the late 1970s, Linton switched to the stronger Western Plains competition. Then in 1991-92 the club moved to the Ballarat Districts competition which was stronger again, and where they played in three grand finals to win two Premierships. After losing some players and finding they could not compete as effectively, in 1997-98 the club returned to the Grenville competition.

Outstanding performances in the modern era

Since 1894, a Linton Club team has won nineteen premierships in the various competitions they have been part of.

The club has published a *Statistics Book*, edited by Adam and Belinda Griffin, and with a foreword by Aaron Kerr, featuring statistics from the period 1969/70 to 2012/13. The book provides a wealth of detail on bowling performance, batting averages, centuries score, five-wicket bowling hauls etc. During that time, the most outstanding batsman was Billy May who scored nine centuries, 31 half centuries, and topped the batting averages with 40.31. Billy was an all-rounder and also took a total of 276 wickets. Hot on his heels is another all-rounder Adam Griffin, who is still playing and has scored seven centuries, the most half centuries (38) and has won nine of the last eleven best and fairest awards for the club. Other fine batsmen were S. Dummett (five centuries and an average of 32.86), and B. Cleary (four centuries and an average of 30.34).

Amongst the bowlers, Geoff Ching, who was very quick, was the standout of this recent era. He took five wicket hauls eighteen times, and a total of 228 wickets at an average of 13.3. Another outstanding bowler was G. Mathews who took the largest number of wickets for the club (282) including sixteen five wicket hauls (his total might soon be passed by Adam Griffin). Other impressive bowling averages were D. Whitney 11.28 (an all-rounder, he scored three centuries), D. Edwards 11.67 and J. Stuart 11.86.

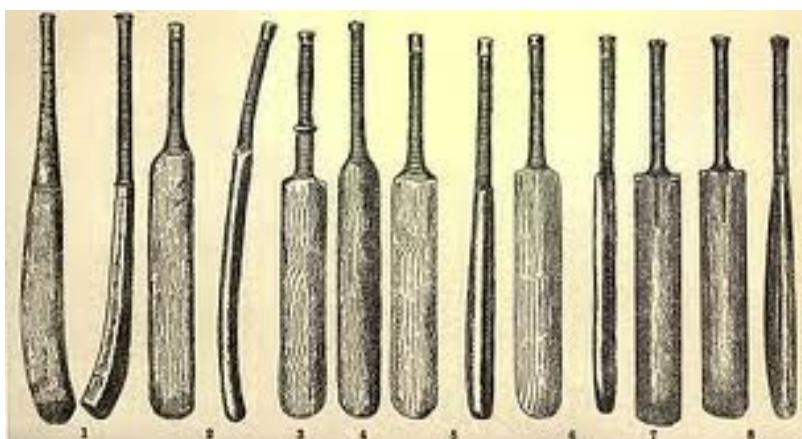
Who would be in the Linton All Stars Team?

Picking the greatest team of all time is always an intriguing but contentious activity. It is difficult to compare eras when playing conditions have varied so much. But for the 1969-2013 era, the anonymous selector in *Statistics Book* has chosen the following:

D. Hart (capt), Ad. Griffin (vice capt), S.Dummett, D. Williamson, D. Howard, B. Cleary, W. May, D. Whitney, D. Edwards, G. Mathews, Ge. Ching.

- Editor's Note: country cricket matches in the nineteenth century were often low-scoring in comparison to the matched played in the twentieth and twenty-first century. This was probably a consequence of the poorer quality of the wickets and the playing fields. Cricket pitches improved with the introduction of matting laid on concrete, then malthoid, and in the modern era, artificial turf.

A Brief History of cricket



The first recorded reference to cricket being played as an adult sport was in 1611, when two men in Sussex, England, were prosecuted for playing cricket on a Sunday instead of going to church! (There are earlier references to cricket as a child's game). In 1744, the Laws of Cricket were codified for the first time.

Cricket arrived in Australia with the earliest settlers, and the first recorded cricket match took place in Sydney in 1803. The Melbourne Cricket Club was founded in 1838 (three years after the first settlement in Melbourne) and the first inter-colonial match was held in 1851 when a Victorian team visited Tasmania.

History Night Monday 17 June:

'Stories from the Elders' Series

Our next History Night for the year will be held on Monday 17 June, 2013 at the [Shire Offices](#), Sussex St, Linton, 7.30 pm.

Our speaker will be Linton resident **Mr Aaron Kerr** (one of our younger 'elders') who is a repository of many of the memories his family has handed down over the 150 years they have been living in Linton. Aaron's ancestors include the Cornish, Preston and Morgan families, as well as, of course, the Kerrs.

Aaron's family feature in our story on the Linton Cricket Club, where the legend is recounted that his ancestor Richard Cornish played in the first Linton cricket team in 1863.

Come and hear this collection of tales from the Kerr family, and add your stories, to help build a fuller picture of Linton's past.

Visitors are most welcome. Supper will be served at the end of the evening. Please bring a plate. (The [Shire Offices](#) heat nicely to a cosy, comfortable temperature on these winter nights).

ANZAC Day: Historical Society Wreath



Photo: Deirdre Nicol

Bill Armstrong laying the Historical Society's wreath at the Linton School's 2013 ANZAC Day service.

February History Night: Bruce Adams' tales of *The Grenville Standard* proprietor, Hubert Albert Adams

The Society's first History Night for the year on Monday 18 February was another in our series *Stories from the Elders*. Our guest speaker was Mr Bruce Adams, whose grandfather Mr Hubert Albert Adams was the proprietor of Linton's newspaper, *The Grenville Standard*, from 1897-1915. The audience was intrigued and entertained by Bruce's recount of the many stories written in a journal his grandfather had kept from the time of the birth of his son (Bruce Adams' father) in 1907.



Photo: Joan Giles

Mr Bruce Adams, grandson of H. A. Adams, proprietor of *The Grenville Standard* 1897-1915

H. A. Adams had begun his working life in the mines as a mining engineer and then on several farming properties before embarking on a career in printing. He began with newspapers in Ballan and Bacchus Marsh and then with the firm, Berry Anderson in Ballarat, as a compositor. The mining industry was booming at this time so Hubert Adams regarded a move to purchase the existing *Grenville Standard* to be a sound investment as there was a lot of interest in Linton and the surrounding settlements, so plenty of noteworthy news to report. He employed two or three printers whilst he himself would travel to outlying towns to gather articles for the paper. On a penny-farthing bicycle he would cycle quite long distances and many a time he would encounter some difficulty of one kind or another and find himself resorting to pushing his mode of transport, often in very inclement weather. However he was quite resourceful and had other bicycles strategically placed so if one of them was not able to be ridden another was not too distant.

Mr Adams was proud of the fact that he was a self-educated man who loved to write and debate. He was also fond of outdoor pursuits, particularly bicycle riding and expeditionary walking excursions. He was very much involved in the community life of Linton joining many of the organizations that existed in the town at the time when he was editor of the paper. For example, he was the President of the Australian Natives Society (A.N.A.), a Friendly Society that safeguarded the interests of the members at a time when there was very little government assistance for the needy (A.N.A. still exists under the name *Australian Unity*).

In those days, Linton was a hive of activity, and a rich source of articles for *The Grenville Standard*. There was news from the mines in the area, and articles about buggy accidents, and the many and varied misdemeanours that came to the attention of the local policeman, Constable Brand, such as drunk and disorderly conduct, larceny, even attempted rape allegations. At one time a dangerous lunatic found his way to Linton from Ararat and was a source of apprehension about town. It was even reported that the manager of the Bank of N.S.W. was arrested for the embezzlement of £1,500 pounds, plus the usual disturbances and arguments that got attention from time to time.

Sporting events featured very prominently in the paper and the results of the sporting teams were covered in great detail. Much excitement was created when news got out of sizable nuggets being found up on Cherry Tree Hill and down near the Linton railway line, which resulted in an increase in gold fossicking around the area. It was reported in 1907 that Linton had bought a fire engine in Ballarat at a cost of £100. And there was a debate at that time as to whether capital punishment should be abolished. This, however as we know, did not come about in Victoria until much later in the 1970s after the hanging of Ronald Ryan at Pentridge Gaol in Melbourne in 1967.



Photo: Joan Giles

Mr Bruce Adams (centre), his daughter Sue Collins (right) and some of the attentive audience at our February History Night in the Shire Offices.

It is interesting to note that Hubert Adams built a home in Linton for £250, which later became the home of successive Shire engineers in Linton (now a private residence on the Linton-Piggoreet Road). When the mining fortunes in Linton began to wane, Mr Adams moved his family to Lismore in western Victoria and bought the *Lismore Advertiser*, eventually going to Geelong to set up a number of printing firms, namely Adams Printers where his son and grandson Bruce continued in the family printing business.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Sue Collins of 'Mt. Bute,' Linton, and great grand-daughter of Hubert Adams, presented Jill Wheeler, President of the Linton and District Historical Society, with a framed specimen of the original printers' type from *The Grenville Standard* that spells out the newspaper's title and the dates of its publication. This will be hung proudly as part of the Historical Society's collection in the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre, in Sussex St. Jill then extended a vote of thanks on behalf of all present to Mr Bruce Adams and family and friends who had made the trip up to Linton from Geelong to be the guests of the evening. A CD and a DVD were made of the talk and will be added to our archives.
Report by Deirdre Nicol.

DVDs of History Night talks are available for purchase from the Society for \$10 each – talks by Jim Stapleton, Rod and Joan O'Beirne (2012) and Bruce Adams (2013).

Former Linton resident, Jack Fletcher, now aged 88, has written to us with these recollections of people and places in Linton when he was an eleven year-old boy.

This was Linton in 1936 when I was at school

I was an 11 year old when I commenced school in grade eight at Linton early in 1936. I had attended Mannibadar School until that year, having commenced there at four years old in June 1929, when the school began operating.

I lived that 1936 year with my aunt, Miss Elizabeth Fletcher, - Auntie Lil, at "Tarara", about a kilometre and half from the township, and off the Glenelg Highway, towards Skipton. I walked across paddocks to meet with Hughie McDonald, and then along the roadside to school. Hughie lived with his grandmother beside the highway, closer to Linton.



Grades 5-8 at Linton School 880 in 1936

Photo: courtesy Jack Fletcher

Back row: Jack Fanning, Jack Fletcher, Stan Nicol, Cibb Francis, Ivan Grigg, Hughie McDonald

Centre row: Viola Shepherd, Berta Cluff, Ida Nelson, Brenda Megee, Esther Cluff, Sheila Culliver, Nella Fittridge, Alma Moodie, June Bromwich, Mildred (Biddy) Shepherd, Eileen (Eily) Barr

Front row: Alwyn Roberts, Norman Cornish, Alan McDonald, Stan Bromwich, John Ryan, Lionel Francis, Ron Stratton, Geoff Megee, Gilbert Shields, Ken Allan.

Opposite the McDonald home, and back from the roadside about 250 metres, a gold mine was sporadically operating. It was deep lead mining, and if the crusher was working, we were fully aware of it. We did not go near it. Further towards Linton, and on the same side of the road, Mr Bill Beatty made his family

living, selling eggs from a poultry farm. Then a gravel road on the left that led us to the township closer to the school, became our track. Near where it left the highway to walk towards the Edinburgh Dam, were two homes lived in by Jackson families. Further along were houses on the right close to the road, and then, on a hillside on the left, the home and paddock of the Roberts Family.

Soon we came to another road; the first street of the township on the left, and into Cumberland Street that led past the Catholic Church and Presbytery, which was on the way to Adair Street, and the school. There were other houses on that first street.

Pupils at the school I soon got to know, lived close to the school. They included Ivan and Eugene Grigg and Stan Nicol, all about my age, and in either grades 6, 7 or 8; the latter being my grade. Others in grade 8 included, Sheila Culliver, Esther Cluff, Nella Fitridge, Stan Nicol and (I think) Cibo Francis and Alma Moodie. The head teacher was Mr Mason, and he was in charge in that room of grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.



The old Linton Primary School as it was when Jack attended

Photo: LDHS archives

My memory of the businesses and occupancy of the township at that time is sharp. I knew little of the names of streets, except Sussex Street. I use some of the present known names where necessary, and write as we, the Fletcher family, arrive in Linton from Mannibadar:

Before we come to the Glenelg Highway, I remember that, the now Waverley Street, began on the left and continued west, and back to the Skipton Road. Between that corner and the junction to the Linton to Skipton Road, on the left, was a Chinese garden, and on the right, well back from the road, the Presbyterian Church and Sunday school. That was where the boys in our family were christened.

We then entered what is now the Glenelg Highway; then known as the Ballarat-Hamilton Road, or Linton-Skipton Road. I was aware that to the left were the business buildings and houses of the O'Beirne family, where wool and skins were bought and sold. We sold our sheep, rabbit and hare skins there. Turning to the right, and driving (or walking or cycling as I often did in the later 1930s), the first business I approached past the Geelong Road (now the Naringhal Road) turnoff, was the blacksmith shop of the Wishart family, with Alan Wishart the blacksmith, wheelwright and farrier, for the township and district. Close by and opposite were Wishart family houses. Then came the cross road, on the left the Edinburgh Dam Road, listed now as Gillespie, and then Jackson Street.

Proceeding up the hill, on the left, after the old New South Wales bank building occupied by the Misses Lewers, was Mrs Sandow's confectionery, pies, cakes, etc., and daughter, Kitty. Then Ching's grocery store (and residence), with Linton's Football team's full back, Alan Ching, prominent behind the counter. A little further lived Alma Moodie and her mother, and then the larger grocery, ironmongery and general store of Harold Morgan. Mr. Bill Jennings was Harold Morgan's right hand man. Just a little further north, were two old two storey commercial buildings; the first of which was George Bennett jnr's butchery. I can still recall his unique talking style to his customers, and any passing resident.

On the right hand side, returning to the previous cross road, near the corner was the business owned by Mr and Mrs George Preston. Although not known as a general store, they sold almost everything needed for everyday living, including cigarettes, tobacco, canned and fresh fruit, vegetables, chocolates, ice cream, lollies, cakes and pastries, and odds and ends. Then there were the Nicol brothers, Arch and Dave's Bakery, where Joycie Rowe, who later married Mick Chung, presided. Then the modern home of the Bennett family. Harold Bennett, son of George Bennett senior, who was well known as a business entrepreneur, managed the family garage business with hire car and fuel bowzers. Next was the Arthur Shepherd family home and shop, then the Linton Fire Brigade building, before arriving at Murrell's newsagency, where Carrie Murrell was the fascinating counter hand. The Railway Hotel, the only licensed premises remaining in Linton, was situated on that side of the street, as it is today, 2012. Everyone, (I recall) when I was a growing lad, knew Jim and Maggie Moynehan, and the vivacious Kathy Cunningham, maid of all work.

We were then over the rise in Sussex Street. On the left were the Grenville Shire Council chambers - later to be exchanged for the 'modern' building of today. There was then a former shop and living quarters occupied as a private household. Further on, and on the corner was a substantial house/shop building in which James Barr and family lived. I remember James Barr operated a drapery store, and had a private hire car, that my uncle, Keith Fletcher, often

drove for him, taking locals to district dances. I also remember the names of two of the Barr children, Eileen, and Betty who left school the year before.

Returning to the right hand side, after passing the Railway Hotel, the next building of prominence was Nelson Brothers Undertakers. One of the girl pupils in our Linton School photograph was Ida Nelson. The next building was the Mechanics Institute, which at that time was also a home for the librarian, Mrs Howard and family. Jim Ryan's clothing, general household, personal goods, barber's shop and billiards room was on the corner of Clyde Street. My father, Leigh Fletcher, who often took me there for haircuts, was mailman for a few years in the 1930's for Mannibadar and Willowvale, played billiards on some occasions.

Proceeding over Clyde Street, the Linton Post Office was on the right hand corner. It also housed the telephone exchange. Next door was the Bank of New South Wales, a place I never visited. Proceeding north were a number of private homes and vacant land until reaching Brooke Street.

Returning to Clyde Street and on my left, were a number of private homes until reaching Archie Tonkin's Garage. I knew that building well, as my father did most of his mechanical and motor fuel business there. Besides, he was agent for Healing bicycles, and at the end of the year 1936, when I had obtained my Merit certificate, I sold a small steer and with assistance from my parents, bought a Healing bike.

I was also very aware of the other bakery business in the vicinity of Grey Street, some distance from Sussex Street. It was owned and operated by Jimmy Nicol, who was at loggerheads with the Nicol Sussex Street business. If I was there with my father, I would be regaled with their misdeeds, and always came away with fresh hot crusts. That concludes my memory of the business section of Linton.

During those dark years of the 1930s., I was also familiar with many other places in Linton. My father sold grain and chaff to Harold Morgan, and chaff to

The Society's Mid-Winter Break – July and August

Readers will recall that the *Linton and District Historical Society* takes a **mid-winter break in July and August** – the months when people do not feel like going out at night to a History Night meeting.

After our June History Night on 17 June, the next meeting of the Society will be the **Annual General Meeting** to be held in the Shire Offices, Sussex Street Linton, on **Monday 16 September**, at 7:30 pm.

The next edition of *Society Notes* will be published in August.

The next **Sunday Open Days** will be on **May 12** and **June 9**. There will be no Open Days in July

and August. They will resume on Sunday 8 September.



Mr Cornish, Mr Roberts, Jimmy Nicol, and Mr Grigg, all of whom had horses to feed. I also knew the Megee family quite well, as Mr Jack Magee was the horse doctor for the district. Brenda and Geoff, the youngest members of the family, were at Linton School that year.

Also at the school were all three of Bill Grigg's Jnr's sons, Ivan, Eugene and Lyle, and Mildred and Viola Shepherd, Jack Ryan, Sheila Culliver, Nella Fitridge, Hughie and Alan McDonald, Ron Stratton and his younger twin brothers, Cibbald and Lionel Francis, Esther and Berta Cluff, Alma Moodie, Ken Allen, Stan Nicol and Jack Fanning.

These are my recollections of Linton when at Linton School Number 880 in 1936.

History Night Explored the Theme of Family Remembrances about the War Years

Deirdre Nicol reports: The History Night on Monday 15 April was one of the Historical Society's 'Secret Life of Things' evenings, where we ask members to bring along old objects, artefacts, documents, keepsakes or photos, and tell us the stories behind them. With Anzac Day approaching, our theme was wartime memorabilia, which gave the opportunity for those in attendance to relate their own personal stories of family members who experienced those times of uncertainty and hardship that are the legacy of war.



Photo Jill Wheeler

Roy Nicol with his lamps with wartime connections, including a lamp (on the right) stamped with the insignia of the German Third Reich.

Some interesting items were brought along – photographs, books, souvenirs from the front, even an army uniform - and some fascinating stories emerged, shedding light on the very different experiences of each individual family.

It was such a good night of discussion. We heard of families touched by death during the war, the disruption to family life, mothers left at home raising children, women taking men's roles in the workforce, and of families having to cope after the war with the emotional impact the war had wrought on those involved in the fighting.

A Word from the President

We began the New Year with two History Nights (reported elsewhere in this edition) and a February working bee, all of which were very successful. Our main preoccupation, however, has been the consideration and investigation of a number of grants that have been on offer over March and April.

Grant applications for building repairs

As members will be aware, the Society has been concerned for some time that the two heritage buildings that it cares for – the 1874 Library & the old Undertakers' building - are both in need of serious repair. The Shire owns both of these buildings, the Society acting as the Committee of Management in both cases, but there is no regular allocation of Shire funds for their maintenance. So our only option is in applying for grants that might assist in repairing and/or restoring them. As those who have applied for grants will well know, that is not exactly straightforward, since most grants require the applying agency to match the amount of money requested in either cash or in-kind contributions.

Nevertheless, we have applied for a Golden Plains Shire Community grant to go towards the **replacement of the roof at the old Undertakers' building** which is our headquarters and the Resource Centre for the community on matters of Linton's history. This is probably the most urgent problem we have identified. The building has had spouting hanging off the roof for two years and suffers from damp issues that potentially affect the archival collection we keep there. We have proposed a Society cash contribution to that project of \$3,140, which is quite a lot of money for us, but there is a limit to the in-kind support we can offer for a roof replacement! There are other issues there, for example, rotting window frames and weatherboards, which also add to the damp problems; the front verandah which needs repair to make entry and exit safer; and there is a need for a ramp for disabled access.



Photo: Jill Wheeler

Damage to the Undertaker's building including hanging spouting

The Library

Built in 1874, this building was recommended for nomination for the Victorian Heritage Register and indeed, the Shire did nominate it in 2009, although an assessment by the relevant Government Department was unfortunately deferred at that time. It was described in the Shire Heritage Study as of 'historical, cultural, social and architectural significance to the township of Linton and the State of Victoria. The Heritage Citation Report states that it is:

- of **historical significance** as a reflection of the town's status and aspirations in the 19th and early 20th centuries as well as the cooperation of civic leaders.
- of **cultural significance** not only for its association with the self-improvement of its citizens through reading, lectures and concerts but also for the shared values it represents which is the basis for a sense of community.

Its collection of books, photographs and memorabilia is very rare and probably the best surviving of a small library in Victoria.

- of **social significance** because it still provides a focus for traditional community activities.
- of **architectural significance** as one of the most humble examples of a mechanics institute and free library.

At the moment it is rarely used by the community due to lack of basic facilities such as running water and a toilet, disrepair (particularly at the rear), and lack of disability access.

The Historical Society has plans for how it could be a real community asset and a tourist attraction for Golden Plains Shire. Before we can do anything with or to the Library we need a professional Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which costs approximately \$10,000. To this end, we applied to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal as part of their 'Small Grants for Small Rural Communities' programme for \$5,000 towards the cost of a CMP.

We feel that the maintenance and restoration of these two historic buildings is important for the town and that the community will benefit, not just in having a sense of pride in the preservation of the town's heritage, but in the fact that this will contribute to making Linton a destination that people will want to travel to and stay in. History can be, after all, a cultural asset and a tourist attraction!

Help from Imerys Minerals

Following our plaintive account of this in last month's Linton News, we have had an offer of assistance from Imerys Minerals, who operate the Kaolin mine in Linton. They have inspected our Resource Centre and have undertaken to organise repair of the badly rotten window there that is letting in the weather. A big thank you to Brad Haywood from Imerys for initiating this work.

Jill Wheeler

Recent Research Requests

Since February this year, we have had the following research requests:

MURRELL family – Dane Smith, recently moved to Linton, requested information on the Murrell family (who ran the Victoria Hotel & other Linton businesses) to whom he had just realised he was related. Dane visited the Resource Centre and looked at files and photographs.

LINTON CRICKET CLUB – Aaron Kerr requested historical information on the Club, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in March 2013. The Society lent photographs and objects to the Club for display on the night of the celebration dinner. The Club gave the Society several copies of their commemorative Statistics Book 1969/70-2012/13 for the archive.

WEBB, John Henry- Charles Webb from Queensland requested information on John Henry Webb, once President of Grenville Shire, who was based more in Smythesdale. We referred this to Joan Hunt, local historian for that area.

THEODORE, John- Laura Theodore requested information on ancestor **John Theodore** (b.1855). Not much in Theodore file, so we referred her to Public Record Office Victoria for more information.

HEHIR or O'HEHIR, Thomas Patrick - Kerry Taylor requested any information on this relative who was evidently a Linton publican. We had no records on him.

AH LYEE family – descendant Anne Butler sought any information about Chinese-born William Henry Ah Lyee and his Australian wife, Florence, who died in 1899 & 1900 leaving seven young children. We have a lot of information on this family and put Anne in touch with another descendant of the Ah Lyees living in Yea.

MOREY, James Henry – Jim Walker from Point Lonsdale inquired if we had any information on this relative, son of Edward Morey, local mining manager, landholder and MP in the late 1800s. We did not have any information on James, although we had some on Edward. We put Jim in touch with another descendant mentioned in Morey file.

BROWNE, Montgomery – grandson Clive Browne was looking for the birth date of his grandfather, a grandson of the original Linton family. We had no record of his birth but referred him to Linton descendant and member, David Fraser, for possible information.

KERR, May Isabel – granddaughter Nerise Proctor from Melbourne, requested any information on this member of the Kerr family. The Kerr family file does not have any reference to May Isabel. We suggested she could look at the file if she wished at the Resource Centre, and perhaps contact Kerr family members in Linton, but should first access birth and death certificates for more information.

DARK/WISHART families – relative Jill Weeks requested any information on the Dark family who had a garage in Sussex St and a member who married Allen Robert Wishart (blacksmith). We had little information on file, but put Jill in touch with our member Leon Dark, who is a descendant.

If any readers think they might have further information on any of these families or topics, please let us know. The Society charges a \$20 fee for detailed research, plus small fees for copies of photographs and other documents.

Follow-up to the article on the Anglican Church's 150th Anniversary

We were recently contacted by Joan Janka (nee Gray) who is the daughter of the late Rev Gray, who was Vicar of St Paul's Church of England from 1949 until 1953. Joan had been given a copy of the November 2012 edition of *Society Notes* by a friend, in which we featured a history of St Paul's marking its 150th anniversary. Joan was so delighted to read it that she decided phone to add some of her own memories to our archives.



Photo LDHS Archives

Photo (date unknown) of the interior of St. Paul's. The organ is on the right.

Joan was the eldest of four children of Rev Gray and his wife Cecille. They all lived in the large rambling Linton vicarage, which she remembered with affection, although in winter it was 'roasting' in the front where the fire was, and freezing at the back. From the age of 12 years, she played the organ in Church on Sundays and taught Sunday School on Saturdays. During the week she was a boarder at Queens' College in Ballarat, so she only really had free time in Linton in the school holidays.

She remembered Linton as very quiet in those days. She was friendly with Pam Nicol who lived with her aunt 'Miss Nicol' and also went to Queens' College. She remembers Miss Lewers who lived in the old Bank of New South Wales and Mrs Wishart, whom she said her mother 'looked after.' Probably the most exciting thing she remembers doing in Linton was going to see a film in the Parish Hall at age 14 with her father – it was a comedy called 'Margie.'

Joan's younger brother, John, attended Ballarat Grammar and her two younger sisters, Cora and Marion, went to Linton primary School. Rev Gray was subsequently posted to Mortlake parish and Joan then went to Terang High School. She ultimately moved to Melbourne, became a kindergarten teacher, married a Hungarian man and had three sons, but her enduring love has been music. She plays and teaches piano and singing and still plays the organ in her local church.

A few months ago she came to Linton and went up to St Paul's to see if she could see the organ once again. Unfortunately the church was locked and the Vicar was elsewhere and unable to help. This old photo we have of the interior of St Paul's shows an organ at the front right hand side. Perhaps this is the organ Joan Gray played every Sunday from 12 to 16 years of age?

the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – Sundays 12 May and 9 June. Then the first Open Day after the Mid-Winter Break will be on Sunday 8 September. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**.

Monday 17 June is our next History Night – Our speaker will be Linton resident **Mr Aaron Kerr**, a descendant of the Kerr, Cornish, Preston and Morgan families of Linton who can recount many of the memories his family has handed down over the 150 years they have been living in Linton.

- Please note the meeting will be held in **The Shire Offices, Sussex Street**, Linton (opposite the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre) at 7:30. Join in the discussion and supper (please bring a plate).
- Advance Notice: The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Monday 16 September, 2013**
 - Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. Please contact the treasurer for details.
 - Lots of information is on our website www.lintonhistory.org.au
 - **DVDs of History Night talks are available (Jim Stapleton, the O'Beirne family, Bruce Adams) \$10 each.**
 - **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be August 2013.**

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