



S.T. Gill..... Early Watercolour Master

Earlier in March this year the Mt Horrocks Historical Society celebrated the Bicentennial of the birth of John Ainsworth Horrocks, born 22nd March 1818. Also born in that same year was the famed watercolour artist Samuel Thomas Gill commonly known as S.T. Gill.

Gill was born in Perriton near Minehead, in Somerset, England on 21st May 1818. His father was a Baptist minister and an amateur artist. Gill received some instruction in drawing from him.

Gill was initially employed in London as a “Draughtsman and Watercolour artist” prior to immigrating to South Australia with his family in 1839.

He set about establishing a studio in Gawler Place, Adelaide and produced portraits of people, horses, dogs and houses.

In 1849 he accompanied Horrocks on an expedition North of the Spencer Gulf. Horrocks had a gun accident and died 3 weeks later. Dr Tim Flannery in his book “The Explorers” describes Gill nursing Horrocks. “Mr Gill stopped to nurse me, and his attention and kindness were not surpassed. Considering the distance we were away and the uncertainty of Kilroy’s reaching the depot, Mr Gill showed himself to be a brave and steady companion by remaining with me. He has undertaken several sketches of this country, which will show to those interested how very improbable it is that any stations can be made West of Lake Torrens.”



S.T. Gill....Invalid’s tent, salt lake 75 miles north-west of Mount Arden

Whilst based in Adelaide, Gill successfully depicted almost every aspect of colonial life as well as inland exploration. His art included copper mining, sport, portraiture, houses and aboriginal life. After the ill-fated Horrocks expedition, he moved onto the gold diggings and over the next 20 years produced drawings in Victoria and NSW.

He surely is the best-known early Australian colonial artist.

2018-2019 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the 2018-2019 financial year fell due on **July 1st 2018**.

They remain set at \$**20 Single and \$30 Family**.

Pay by: Cheque, Money Order made out to "Mt Horrocks Historical Society Inc."
: Bank Transfer/Direct Debit: BSB No.105-030 Account No.140232440.
(Please use your **name** as reference)

Please ignore this notice if you have already paid your subs.

"BOOTS" (Part 2)

by Geraldine Pearce



Someone gave Boots an army coat, but it had no buttons. Boots soon sorted that problem out; he tied some string around his waist and used nails as buttons. Soon the local bachelors were sporting nails for buttons, and some married men as well! One day Boots turned up at our cottage when Mum was trying to make some coat hangers out of sticks and string. Boots took the unsuccessful coat hangers away from Mum, telling her that he would make her some better ones. Around tea time Boots returned with six wire coat hangers that he had made. (I still have two of the hangers that he made.)

Over the years Boots made other useful wire items – cake stands and wire baskets to keep the eggs cool, fruit lifters for making jellies, wire grills for the men when they went camping, carpet beaters, toasting forks, even a yabby net or basket. My grandfather was heard to say, "If Boots has cut my fence to make these flim flams, I'll wring his neck". No one ever found their fences cut, or if they did they never said anything.

The last I saw of Boots was around 1958, by that time he was a very frail old man, he still had his boots hanging around his neck, they were still highly polished, his bike, although not the original, still did not have tyres. *"I'm retiring Missus, the government has offered me a place in a Returned Services Home, I've just come around to say goodbye"*.

Geraldine Pearce

Note: Geraldine also told us, in a phone call, that Boots would never accept any food unless all the children had already eaten.

Also, we have one of Boots' wire fruit lifters on display in Horrocks' Cottage, donated by Geraldine.

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## *The Riesling Railway*

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 1918, Clare welcomed His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Galway, who arrived on a special train to declare the railway from Riverton to Clare officially open. The town was in celebration mood, with flags flying and speeches about winning the war.

The Scouts formed a guard of honour for His Excellency and the children sang the National Anthem, then “The Song of Australia”.

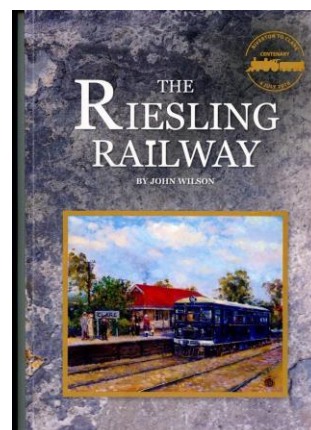
While the railway has long since gone, a small group of people were determined to mark the Centenary. A celebration was held on July 4<sup>th</sup> at the site of the old Clare Railway station. Railway historian John Wilson has written a comprehensive history of the Riverton to Spalding line entitled “The Riesling Railway”

The book was officially launched at The National Railway Museum at Port Adelaide on July 7<sup>th</sup> by author Monica McInerney. Monica originally came from Clare and now lives in Dublin, where she writes her books. Her father Steve was Clare's Stationmaster for 35 years, and there is a chapter about him in the book.

John makes several references in his book to Penwortham. He talks about two casualties during the construction of the railway. The railway alignment went right through glebe land that John Horrocks had granted for St Mark's Church and the cemetery. The parsonage built in 1850 was very close to the railway and suffered from vibrations caused by passing trains. Hope Farm Manor, the home of John Horrocks was demolished to make way for the railway. On arrival in Penwortham, John Horrocks lived in a tent attached to the hollowed-out trunk of a huge gum tree. This tree still remains and can be seen on the present Riesling Trail, a walking track established when the railway was demolished.

Local Penwortham resident and member of the Mt Horrocks Historical Society Leo Faulkner is featured in the book. Leo is depicted as a solitary walker and a ‘real user’ of the Riesling Trail.

The Society has purchased a copy of the book for its collection.



Dr John Wilson, Monica McInerney and Jamie Duggan.



Leo Faulkner walking the Riesling Trail at Penwortham.



## Donations and Acquisitions

3 DVDs "Preston and its Guild 1902-1992"  
3 copies of "A Tour to Preston Guild in 1802",  
6 copies of "Penwortham (UK) Heritage Trail -  
Trams & Trains Circular Walk" Donated by Peter  
Wilkinson  
"The Profelist" by Adrian Mitchell based on the  
life of S.T. Gill.  
"The Riesling Railway" By John Wilson

## CEO Visit

Dr Helen McDonald, CEO of Clare and Gilbert  
Valleys Council recently visited Horrocks  
Cottage at Penwortham  
She is pictured with President Wendy Spackman  
and Vice President Janet Morran



## Penwortham Day

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
Residents and friends are invited  
to lunch at Mocandunda Wines  
Penwortham commencing at  
12 Noon  
Meal and drinks at own cost  
RSVP 29-10-18 88434123

## MHHS Christmas Lunch

**12.30 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**  
Members and friends are invited to the  
annual Christmas 'get together' at  
Horrocks Cottage in Penwortham on the  
above date.  
(Plate of food to share and BYO drinks)



**Me: I Wish I had been born 1000 years ago.**  
**Friend: Why is that?**  
**Me: Just think of all the history that I wouldn't have to learn!**

### Committee Members

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Details of charges for research undertaken by the Society are available on request

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