



NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2013

VISIT TO PENWORTHAM UK

In September 2012, Anne & Malcolm Weddle along with Jim & Janet Morran visited Penwortham in Lancashire, England, the birthplace of John Ainsworth Horrocks.

Our first stop was St. Mary's Church where John's grandfather is buried. We were greeted by Vicar Christopher Nelson and David (church warden). Also at the church were Peter Wilkinson & Elizabeth Basquill (Friends of Hurst Grange Park), Philip Walsh (host of Anne & Malcolm in Penwortham) and Heather Crook (editor of Penwortham Magazine).



The Weddles & Morrans at John Horrocks grave



Morrans & Weddles with Heather Crook & Philip Walsh at St Mary's Church



To conclude the day we were invited to the Council Office of Penwortham Town Council where we were welcomed by Harry Hancock who was mayor at the time of the Twinning, and Michael Cronin –Democratic Services Manager. Also present were local authors David Hunt and Alan Crosby who signed the books presented to MHHS by Council Members. (See Acquisitions) The formalities were followed by a buffet lunch and much chatting among those present.

After lunch a reporter from the Lancashire Evening Post took some photos, one of which can be viewed on their website.



Michael Cronin & visitors

Burke & Wills Remembered - The Mid-North Connection

As reported in our Winter Newsletter, MHHS took part in the re-enactment of the retrieval of the bodies of Burke & Wills after their ill-fated expedition in 1862.

150 years to the day riders gathered at Bungaree Station. The first to leave Bungaree were the camels who were going to travel directly to the Clare racecourse, with the horses taking a route keeping them off of the Main North Road. After a hearty breakfast the riders set off about 8.30am taking station tracks east of the station and then followed back roads to the Clare Racecourse arriving there about 10am.



With horses watered, it was time for the camels to set off, the horses keeping their distance and not wanting to get too close to the camels. Slowly travelling along Main North Road, all riders made their way into Clare and to Pioneer Park, where the original party had camped under a very old River Red Gum and where today there is a memorial plaque commemorating the 100th Anniversary in 1962. Two Union Jack flags were draped over the remains on the camels and the party travelled the final kilometre into the Main Street where they were greeted by onlookers at Ennis Park.

Gerald Lally from the Clare Regional History Group welcomed the riders and gave a brief background of the events that unfolded 150 years ago followed by Clare's Mayor, Allan Aughey who also spoke to the gathered crowd. From here the riders made their way to the Show Grounds for their lunch break. The horses slowly made their way to John Horrock's Cottage at Penwortham where MHHS provided a meal for the riders and visitors who were entertained with stories, songs, poetry and tales of yesteryear.



Sunday morning the riders set off, arriving at Rhynie at 12.20 where a good crowd had gathered to greet the cavalcade. Once the horses were watered and unsaddled and the camels settled down, everyone met up in the Beer Garden of the Rhynie Hotel. The riders were thanked for their commitment over the weekend and the crowd given a brief history of the event. Then followed the presentation of a cheque to the Royal Flying Doctors who were recipients of funds raised throughout the event

Photographs and text reproduced with kind permission of Stephen Langman

Committee member Malcolm Weddle has compiled a comprehensive report of the Burke & Wills Expedition, copies of which are available upon the request to the Secretary

Bible Taken Home to Scotland

It was reported in the Summer 2012 Newsletter that a bible salvaged from the wreck of the barque "Firth of Cromarty" was donated to the Society by Jan Norman of Clare. The ship foundered off the coast of Scotland near Stranraer in 1898 and as noted at the end of the article the bible was to be donated to the Stranraer Museum with Jan's kind permission.



During their recent visit to the UK, Jim & Janet Morran visited the Museum. The Curator was delighted to receive the bible to be placed alongside the whisky bottle also retrieved from the wreck.



Janet Morran hands over the bible to the Museum.

A Shed for John Horrocks Cottage

The Society is happy to report that plans are well underway for the erection of a storage shed at the rear of the Interpretive Centre at Penwortham. The foundation slab was laid late November and it is hoped erection of the shed will commence soon



Thanks go to Committee member Alan Williams for submitting plans to Council and organising materials and manpower

Save Lennox Bridge

Although not happening in South Australia the following dispute will be of concern to all lovers of history:

The heritage fighters of Parramatta NSW are challenging the validity of a Heritage Council of NSW decision to allow portals to be drilled into historic Lennox Bridge to create a riverside cycle way and walkway



Lennox Bridge is a stone arch bridge in Parramatta, Sydney. It was designed by David Lennox and constructed by 300-400 convicts over the period 1836-39 making it one of the oldest bridges in Australia and is on the Heritage List.

Parramatta Advisor 9th January 2013:

Anger over Parramatta Council's Lennox Bridge plan as lobbyists appeal to Premier Barry O'Farrell

"Opponents of Parramatta Council plans to drill portals into historic Lennox Bridge for a walkway/bike-way have asked Premier Barry O'Farrell to intervene.

Last month, councilors voted 8-5 for the controversial plan, despite a vocal opposition, headed by Greater Western Sydney Heritage Action Group.

The group has gathered more than 500 signatures on a petition and the council received 200 submissions against and only 10 in favour of two portals either side of the 1836-built bridge's arch.

The heritage group has the support of Royal Australian Historical Society president Anne-Marie Whitaker and other heritage fighters outside the group, including community stalwart Elizabeth Boesel, who has written a letter to the council's chief executive Robert Lang."

For the latest update on this dispute check the Parramatta Advisor or www.rahs.com.au

Acquisitions & Donations

Books presented to MHHS on 5 September 2012 at Penwortham UK:

- 'Preston – Centuries of Change' by David Hunt
- 'A History of Preston' by David Hunt
- 'Preston – An 'A' to 'Z' of Local History' by David Hunt
- 'The History of the Preston Guild' by Alan Crosby
- 'A History of Hurst Grange Park' by Elizabeth Basquill



All books were signed by the authors and here we see Alan Crosby signing his book "*History of the Preston Guild*"

CD – Photographs of visit to Penwortham UK compiled by Peter Wilkinson

DVD: 'A Moment in Time' – *a snapshot of what was found under the floor of St Mary's Church, Penwortham UK when the church was being repaired after the floor was found to be sinking.*

H² Happenings - Jan. 2013 – Newsletter relating to the Hunter family Donated by Ian Henderson

It was agreed at a recent Committee meeting that members will be given the choice of receiving their Newsletters via email or post. Please email the editor morranj@bigpond.com if you wish to choose the email option.

Committee Members

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|--------------------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| President | Wendy Spackman | Catering Officer | Malcolm Weddle |
| Vice-President | Janet Morran | Grants Officer | Helen Karger |
| Secretary | Anne Weddle | Minute Secretary | Jim Morran |
| Treasurer | David Spackman | Public Officer | David Spackman |
| Publicity/Newsletter Committee | Jim Morran | | |
| | Joey Duncan, Gypsey Sandow, Alan Williams, Malcolm Weddle, Doreen Hill, Malcolm Hill | | |

Contacts

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Research Officer: Janet Morran - Phone: 8849 2410

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

Website: www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety



"INVITATION"

You are invited to an afternoon tea to celebrate

MHHS 30th Birthday

at

John Horrocks Cottage

Sunday 7th April : 2pm – 4pm

Upcoming events at John Horrocks Cottage

Sunday 5th May: 10am – 4pm SA History Month

Sunday 26th May: 2pm AGM with Guest Speaker and complimentary afternoon tea.

"HOORAY FOR HORROCKSES"!

Established in 1781 as a cotton producer, Horrockses is perhaps best known for its ready-to-wear clothing range, which launched in 1946 and became the height of fashion during the 1950's. Now, the brand has moved into home wares with the launch of its bed linen collection in 2011, showing prints taken from favourite dress patterns from their archives.

www.horrocksesfashions.co.uk

In the summer of 2012 it was joined by a range of pretty silk cushions, featuring original advertising imagery from their 1950's heyday.

