



Spring Newsletter 2022

The Mystery of Mrs. Bell's last resting place

Viktoria and Fraser Cormack recently moved to Watervale from Alice Springs and have moved into the old Methodist Manse.

Viktoria noted on the Watervale Historic Sites Circuit outside the store it lists "Methodist Manse c1869. In the backyard is the lone grave of Mrs George Bell."

Being keen history buffs, they contacted the Society wanting to know exactly where her grave was located.

Local Leasingham resident Colleen Grace, who has resided in the area all her life could remember when her Uncle and Aunt owned the Manse. She remembers Uncle Ron saying to her "Don't go over there, that is where Mrs Bell is". Colleen's cousin Robyn Francis thought the grave was near the boundary fence between the Manse and the Church. Another resident who has lived in the district all her life thinks it was behind the long drop toilet in the back yard of the Manse.

In an old copy of "Watervale Historic Walk" site 13 Methodist Manse states "In the back yard, is a lone unmarked grave, the last resting place of Mrs George Bell.

In the booklet 'Watervale The Village amongst the Vines' in the chapter 'Churches of Watervale' it states that 'A cemetery was also planned to be sited, but only one interment was carried out in 1856, a Mrs Bell. The church built in 1855 was at this time the smaller building next to the larger structure which is currently in use today.

This Church was officially opened in 1867, being 'The Bible Christian Church.

A George Bell is listed in the burial records of St Marks in Penwortham as having died on 21st November 1854, 40yrs of Kadlunga.



Colleen Grace, behind the Manse, indicates to Viktoria and Fraser where she was told the grave was.

In the South Australian Deaths Index of Registrations 1842-1915 there are two entries of particular note

- **BELL George** (M) 40y of (not recorded) d 20 Nov 1854 at (not recorded) *rel* (not recorded) dist TMu (The Murray/Burra)
- **BELL Mary Anne** (F) 52y of Watervale d 10 Nov 1858 at Watervale *rel* Benjamin Bell (H)

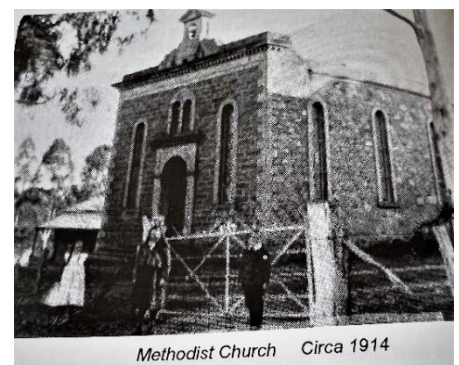
Just who was Mrs Bell, with no first name?

Surely she was buried behind the first church built and not behind the Manse.

Why was she not buried next to her husband at Penwortham?

Was Mary Anne Bell the Mrs Bell buried somewhere within the Church grounds ?

We will probably never know.



Clare Regional History Group AGM

The Clare Regional History group held its AGM on the 4th of August at Ragu & Co, a local restaurant.

The meeting was well attended and while everyone enjoyed delicious Italian food, President Helen Perry read her report and financial statements were presented. Penny Pratt, Member for Frome presided as returning officer and the new committee was elected.

The guest speaker for the evening was Trudi Hart, the music teacher at Clare High School.

As a young child Trudi lived with her parents Pat and Don Dawson at Penwortham. The house where they lived was in Siepelt Lane near the old flour mill. She recalls Siepelt Lane being named after her grandmother.

She was educated at St Joseph's School in Clare and from there went on to become a music teacher. She taught at various schools in the state including the prestigious Marryatville High School.

She spoke of her love of Clare Town Hall and how important it is for the future of the young people of the district to be able to have a venue in which to display their talent.

The Clare Town Hall presently requires many repairs, the main one being that the stage is unable to be used due to safety concerns.

A local Clare Town Hall committee is raising funds for these repairs to be conducted.



Clare Regional History Group Committee

Back L-R Josie Hudson, David Forsythe Gerald Lally

Front Wendy Spackman, David Spackman, Helen Perry



David Spackman speaking with the Guest Speaker Trudi Hart

Clare and Gilbert Valley Council visits



Judy Giles (at the back) *Community Development Officer* with Wenona Pledge and Sebastian Zawarus discussing digitizing of the MHHS collection



Cecilia Wang *Cultural Tourism Coordinator* with Wendy and David Spackman warming themselves by the fire in the Horrocks Cottage

From Horse Stables to Fine Dining

John Horrocks built his horse stables in c1840 on the site which is now 7812 Horrocks Highway.

John Roach later bought the site at the time that he bought the Horrocks flour mill across the main road. The stables were not only used for horses but also the bullocks that turned the grinding stones in the Mill.

When the Mill burnt down in 1870, the stables were then used to store hay and farm implements until Jack Thomas leased the property and used it as a depot for his carrying business. This business was the Thomas Coach Depot for the passenger and mail run from Kapunda to Clare. The Spalding to Riverton railway line was opened in 1918. Jack Thomas retired, and the stables once again were only used for storage.

Sallay Mahomet was born in Coolgardie WA in 1911. His father, Gool Mahomet from Afghanistan was one of the early cameleers carting goods on his 60 or more camels throughout WA, SA, and NSW. In 1947 Sallay married Iris Foley and they moved to Penwortham where they bought the old mill house "Elmwood". Across the road from Elmwood were the ruins of the old stables of the Thomas Coach Depot. Sallay bought the property in 1955 and had a roadhouse built. Hector Dry, a stone mason was employed to build the front wall of the roadhouse using stones from the old stables. Then onto the back of this was built an iron-girded shed. The Penwortham Roadhouse opened and provided a warm welcome to weary travelers. When Sallay left to manage a station, he employed a manager. However, the concern did not thrive without his hospitality and was sold. It then became a private residence until 1991 when it was opened for a cottage industry.

In 2014 it was sold again, and a partnership of two locals Roger Ackland and Mick Faulkner completed extensive renovations and converted the property into a cellar door and restaurant named Mocandunda.

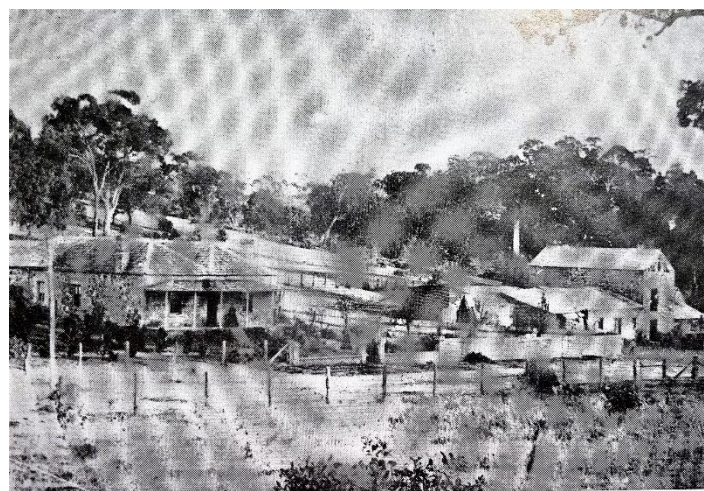
In 2021 a young entrepreneurial couple Christian and Caitlin Uphill bought the property and now run a successful restaurant called the Upside. They are slowly recreating the garden with produce that can be used in the restaurant which compliments their passion for paddock to plate philosophy.



The Upside Restaurant and Wine Bar 7812 Horrocks Highway Penwortham



Caity and Christian Uphill owners of Upside



Penwortham flour mill and the mill house, Elmwood, 1865.

Christmas Lunch

MHHS Christmas Lunch

Sunday December 4th 12pm

The Upside
7812 Horrocks Highway
Penwortham

All Welcome

RSVP 1-12-22



New Patron

Katherine Murray, the patron of the Mt Horrocks Historical Society has had to unfortunately step down from the role. The Society wishes to sincerely thank Katherine for her service over the years. Katherine is a descendant of Arthur Horrocks.

Adrienne (Ady) Pearse, also a descendant of Arthur Horrocks has agreed to be the new Patron of the Mt Horrocks Historical Society. We extend a warm welcome and thank you to Ady for taking on the role.

Ady Pearse
with Pam
McTaggart



Katherine cutting the
cake at the
Bicentennial
Celebrations in 2018



Acquisitions and Donations

The Riesling Trail - An Iconic Clare Valley Attraction

2022-2023 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the 2022-2023 financial year fell due on **July 1st 2022**.

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.

**Thank you to those who have
made generous donations to
MHHS**

Committee Members

President	Wendy Spackman
Newsletter	Jim Morran & Meredith McInnis
Vice-President	Janet Morran
Minute Secretary	Jim Morran
Secretary	Malcolm Paterson
Publicity	Meredith McInnis
Treasurer	David Spackman
Public Officer	David Spackman
Patron	Adrienne Pearse

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



Website: <https://www.mthorrocks.org>

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