

## NUNAWADING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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### American National Monuments

Mrs. Field, at the August meeting, described some of the American historical monuments she had seen. Williamsburg, capital of Virginia at the time of the Revolution, has been preserved in its condition at that time. No motor traffic is permitted in the city, the roads are of sand, which is very suitable for horse traffic, all buildings are exactly as they were at the time, with trades and shops operating in their original manner. It was a very well designed city, with excellent buildings, particularly the Governor's palace. It is not usually realised that the American states, at the time of the Revolution, had the highest per capita income in the world, and were in a position to design and build to the best possible standards, and in excellent taste. The central part of Pittsburgh has also been preserved in its original form, and is still lit by gas-light, so that it remains an example of American cities of last century. By contrast, a small town on the Santa Fe trail, also preserved in its original form, shows how country towns in the West looked when gold-miners and settlers were flocking to California.

### Tartans

Mrs. Elaine Foote, at the September meeting, showed us dozens of patterns of Scottish tartans, and many books describing the organisation of clans, relationships of their various branches, the rights of persons of different names to be regarded as members and areas in which various clans resided. She described how tartans evolved and the confusion of colours and patterns which 300 or 400 years ago became simplified into standard patterns, some of which were worn only by particular clans, and others by residents of districts. With samples of her own work she showed how much intricate work was involved in making kilts, to match stripes and squares accurately and make a permanent gathering at the

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waist which would not be affected by washing the garment.

October Meeting - October 13 at the Coffee Shop, Civic Centre. This will be the annual meeting and election of officers.

November Meeting - November 10, also at the Coffee Shop. The speaker is still uncertain, but may be announced at the previous meeting.

December Meeting - December 8, also at the Coffee Shop. Mrs. S. Jones will speak on "Cards". Mrs. Jones has a very large collection of cards of all kinds dating back to early this century, many of styles and designs that are both unusual and interesting.

Social Gathering - A new feature of our programme was a social evening and dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Field early in September. It was a Saturday night function, on the basis of bringing casseroles and similar dishes, to enjoy a meal and gathering at leisure. About 24 were present and we have to thank Mr. and Mrs. Field for inviting us to visit them. Similar functions will probably be included in future programmes.

Election of Office-Bearers.

Nomination forms for office-bearers are enclosed with this Newsletter. All too often it is left to the out-going committee to arrange their successors, but this should be the responsibility of all members, so please think of who you would like in office and put in nominations. It has been our policy that executive officers should not hold office more than three years in succession. Nominations to these offices therefore will be very welcome, even to those holding them at present. It is desirable that all nominations should be in hand before the meeting begins, to avoid painful pauses while we try to persuade someone to accept some vacant position.

Photographs.

For several months we have been urging members to take any opportunity to photograph scenes in their own neighbourhood. If you have any photographs, please bring them to the annual meeting, so that we can see them and add them to our collection. They may not be exciting at present, but within a few years, as the district changes, may become of first-class importance.

Visit to Parliament House.

Mr. George Cox, M.L.A. has been unable to arrange a tour of Parliament House this year, owing to a particularly busy time, but he will be able to arrange it during the Autumn session next year. Further information



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will be passed on as soon as we know something definite.

#### Visit to Churchill Island.

We hope to have details of arrangements for a visit to Churchill Island available for the October meeting. This island, visited in 1803, was the site of the first farming in Victoria, and has been bought by the State Government. The Royal Historical Society is organising the visit and having trouble with transport, because the bridge from Phillip Island is not fit for more than light traffic. It may be necessary to walk across, but the tour will include interesting areas of Tooradin, Grantville, Bass River and Phillip Island. The probable date is the first week in November and it will probably be on a Saturday.

#### Museum.

A reminder to look out for items suitable for display in our museum. We are going to need a great quantity to fill the building, and we particularly want exhibits connected with our own district. We already have plenty of farm and orchard implements and a horse trough of the type which used to be plentiful along main roads. Recently we also obtained a letter pillar box which used to stand outside the G.P.O. in Melbourne. It is much bigger than we had expected, being of heavy iron, which was sunk some feet into the ground. The type and style is now completely discontinued. When the museum opens we expect that we will have to call on members to man it at week-ends on a roster basis, and it is possible that we will have some articles of a souvenir type on sale.

#### Tracing Family History.

Do you ever have to answer a grand-child's question, "Where did my people come from, and who were they?" It is often not easy, unless you have good family records. Nearly every year we have someone speaking about tracing family history, so we should have a fair knowledge of what information is available, and where to go for it. We would suggest that members who have not done so should prepare a family tree, beginning with what they know of their parents and grandparents. There will be gaps in their knowledge, and they can discuss with officers of the society where to go to fill them. Perhaps the family will not be very interested at present, but each should be given a copy to put away and consult when they find it necessary. Then in future years there will be no cause to lament, "Aunt Agatha knew all about that and I wish I had asked her before she died". Knowledge which may be wanted in later years must not be allowed to die for lack of recording.

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Concluding Blackburn Lake History.

Extracts from Minutes of Adult Deaf Society of Victoria, continued from last Newsletter.

23 June 1923 - Resolved that Mr. Peacock interview the President of the Shire of Nunawading and that subsequently a letter be sent in asking for a remission of the rates.

18 August 1924 - A reply had been received stating that the Council had agreed to make a grant of £20. Resolved that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Shire Council.

(A copy of the letter attached to the Minute Book said that the Council would assess the farm on two assessments. 1. That used exclusively for charity. 2. That portion used for trading.)

22 June 1925 - Attached to the minutes was a comparison of flower sales from 1920 to 1925. The highest monthly total was £129/4/7 in August 1921 and the lowest £30/11/6 February 1923. The highest year was 1921-2 £979/4/7 and the lowest 1922-3 £800/6/11.

19 April 1926 - Resolved that application be made to the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham Council to place the Society on their charities list, pointing out that the Nunawading Shire Council showed us some consideration in the matter.

26 December 1926 - Picnics on the Blackburn Home - Recommended that the practice of allowing picnics at the home be discontinued - Approved.

21 February 1927 - Sheds to be built by the Swimming Club at its own expense. (Apparently the Swimming Club did not take this up).

20 May 1929 - Report - An abundance of bloom but owing to trade depression and glut of bloom generally, very little demand for it.

Minutes of the Farm Committee

June 1931 - Discussions on whether it was still worth growing flowers.

12 June 1932 - 4000 strawberry plants purchased.

10 July 1933 - Mr. Butterfield kept on at £2/10/ a week, provided income from flowers is at least £6 a week. If under £6, after allowing McLellan's wages, the amount short to be deducted from Butterfield's wages.

From that time onwards growing of flowers consistently declined, but vegetables were grown and poultry kept, mostly to supply the Home.

K. A. PATTERSON  
Editor.