

Mrs Ida Buckley

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1934 Mrs Ida Buckley wrote to the Mayor of Ballarat:-

"Dear Sir. The plaque (Doulton stoneware tablet) to the memory of Adam Lindsay Gordon which I cabled you about and accepted to be erected on Craig's hotel is leaving on the Commonwealth and Dominion liner "Port Chalmers" next Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Agent general for Victoria, Mr Richard Lipton, has very kindly arranged for it to be sent out, care of the Captain and addressed to you. I am writing by this post to Mr Angus Greenfield, to make arrangements to have it sent to Ballarat on its arrival. .... I am sending Mr Greenfield instructions how to put the tablet on and I am willing to pay.. I trust you will like the plaque, similar ones are on many of the houses all over London where famous people have lived at one time or another."

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 1934 she again wrote to Mr Darling: - "Many thanks for your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. I am so glad to hear ...the Citizens of Ballarat like the tablet ..... he intends to ...the position chosen at Craig's."

However, she was not so happy when she wrote on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1934: -"I have heard it is suggested that the tablet to the memory of Adam Lindsay Gordon should be put in a cottage he lived in. When I offered it was for Craig's where he conducted the livery stables. I feel you will see it best there but I thought it better to write to you saying my wish. Inside the entrance or outside the front door as they are often done here that way."

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1934 she wrote: - "As I was present at Westminster Abbey yesterday I thought I would like to send you the enclosed papers to put amongst your records of Ballarat as the town is mentioned in them. The Ceremony was very impressive and the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke very well. I am also sending you under separate cover the copies of the "Daily Telegraph" containing references to the ceremony before and after. I shall be interested to know exactly where at the Craig's Hotel the tablet is to be put, as it should certainly be in some part of the building, either in the hall, the dining room or on the outside front since the inscription on the tablet says that the poet was connected to the livery stables here. I should be very much obliged if you could kindly have sent to me 3 copies of the "Courier" containing an account of the unveiling of the tablet as I shall be very interested to read all about it."

*A pencilled note beneath the letter by Col Morton states "Mrs Ida Buckley, a daughter of James Fennings. Married a son of Chas. Buckley. Buckley and (?) ~~Nimmo~~ and Sons."*

\*\*\* Things to do – check on whereabouts of the plaque. Newspaper reports.