



*PROCEEDINGS OF
THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE
AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2005-2006*



St John History

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Australia Historical Society*



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The St John Ambulance
Australia Historical Society



St John History

Proceedings of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society 2005-06

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INTRODUCTION

St John History: about the 5th edition

This is the fifth annual edition of *St John History*, subtitled the *Proceedings of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society*. This edition covers the year 2005–2006.

St John History is the Society's principal publication and is distributed to all financial members. It appears annually and aims to cover the Society's important developments and events. In addition it publishes papers delivered to the Society's annual history seminars, as well as other items of historical interest.

Apart from this Editorial, this edition of *St John History* begins with the papers delivered to the Society's 2005 history seminar in Melbourne. The next, second, section of the journal contains two occasional papers by members of the Society's management committee. The third section publishes the Society's fourth annual report, for 2004–05, the draft minutes of the 2005 annual general meeting and reports on the library, archival and museum collections of the eight Australian States/Territories, all of which have now established repositories for items of heritage value. The final section has information about the Society's publications and membership applications and renewals.

The Historical Society's management committee trusts that you the Society's members will find much of interest in this edition of your journal.

Papers of the society's 2005 Melbourne history seminar

The Society's annual history seminar in 2005 took place in Melbourne at the Crown Conference Centre on Southbank on Friday 24th June, coincidentally St John the Baptist's Day. The same high standard of content and delivery as in our previous seminars was maintained in 2005. Beth Dawson chaired the seminar, at which the following four speakers delivered these papers:

- Allan Mawdsley, "*Dr George Horne, First St John Ambulance Commissioner in Victoria*"
- Harry Oxer, "*100 Years of Volunteer First Aid Service in Western Australia*"
- Malcolm Little, "*The insignia of the five recognised St John Orders — the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Malta and the four Alliance Orders (i.e., the Most Venerable Order and the Dutch, German and Swedish Johanniter Orders)*"
- Ian Howie-Willis, "*Annie Brassey, St John Ambulance 'missionary', and her last voyage to Australia aboard The Sunbeam in 1887*".

These papers now follow, in the above order. (NB: All four presenters used the Microsoft 'PowerPoint' program to deliver the audio-visuals of their papers. Where in their papers the word 'Slide' is used, this refers to the 'PowerPoint' slide number illustrating the point being made.)

Lieutenant-Colonel George Horne: St John Ambulance first Commissioner of Victoria District, 1909-1921

by Allan Mawdsley

The author: Dr Allan Mawdsley has spent most of his life in St John Ambulance. He joined the Malvern Division in Melbourne as an 11-year-old Cadet in 1949. Since then he has held nearly every position available to a volunteer, including three years as Operations Branch Commissioner and most recently Deputy Chairman of the St John Council for Victoria. Away from St John, he has spent his professional career as a psychiatrist but has always been interested in history. He is prominent among the group who have developed the Victorian St John Museum at Williamstown. His paper on Dr George Horne was the keynote address for the 2005 history seminar.

Note: The illustrations for PowerPoint slides with which Dr Mawdsley illustrated his presentation have been placed at the end of his paper. Because of the constraints of space and file size, only ten of his 29 illustrations are included.

Slide 1

George Horne was born on August 16, 1860, in Brunswick near Melbourne.¹ He was therefore in his sixty-eighth year at the time of his death on November 13, 1927.



Dr George Horne MA MB ChB.

Slide 2

He was from a cultured family. His father, George Horne Snr, came from Southampton, England, and was the manager of the National Bank of Australasia at Launceston, Tasmania.² He is listed in the *Athenaeum Index*³ in 1857 as the Editor/Translator of a book, "Aphorisms and Opinions". George Horne Snr married Martha Kelly in 1856.⁴ The family moved to Melbourne and had six children: Mary in 1857⁵, George jnr in 1860¹, Charles in 1862 (who died at 16 years of age)⁶, Robert Alexander in 1865 (who became a doctor at Broken Hill)⁷, Herbert Roger in 1866 (who became a doctor in Gippsland)⁸, and their youngest daughter, Amy⁹, in 1868, who married Dr Arthur Syme of Lilydale, a son of David Syme, founder of the Melbourne "Age" newspaper.¹⁰

Slide 3

George was educated at Carlton College. This was a private school geared towards matriculating students for entry to Melbourne University before the systematic development of the State secondary school system.¹¹ At fourteen he gained the English, arithmetic and algebra prizes. In the following year he was *dux* in mathematics and again gained prizes in English and in French. In 1876 he won the first prize in mathematics. He then left the Carlton College and transferred to Hawthorn Grammar School.¹²

The Headmaster at Carlton College in 1877 was Alexander Sutherland. Sutherland's family had emigrated from Glasgow to Australia where, at the age of fourteen he became a pupil teacher with the Education Department in Sydney, moved to Melbourne in 1870, taught at Hawthorn Grammar and entered Melbourne University with the aid of scholarships whence he graduated with Honours in 1874. For two years he was mathematics master at Scotch College before moving to Carlton College as Headmaster at the age of 25 years in 1877. He later became a leader writer for the Melbourne "Argus" newspaper, now defunct, was Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of Victoria and Registrar of the University of Melbourne from 1901.¹³ It is interesting to speculate whether Sutherland was instrumental in his star pupil's move to Hawthorn Grammar where he, himself, had been a teacher six years earlier.

Hawthorn Grammar, too, was a private school geared towards University entry, but somewhat more prestigious, being actively in sports competition with the other major schools of the day – Scotch

College, Melbourne Grammar and Geelong College. It is unclear why Hawthorn Grammar went out of existence but research showed that it had some distinguished alumni including Sir Richard Stawell (Senior Physician at Royal Melbourne Hospital), Richard Griffiths (Senior Meteorologist at the National Observatory) and James MacDonald (Director of the National Gallery of Victoria), and that at the time George Horne was a student, the Headmaster was Martin Irving. Irving, at the age of 40 became Headmaster of Wesley College for five years from 1871 and in 1876 had bought Hawthorn Grammar where he remained until 1884, considerably increasing its enrolment and prominence.¹⁴ Whatever the reason for Horne's move to that school, it was certainly successful. In 1878 he was *dux* of his class at Hawthorn Grammar School. In the following year he was *dux* of the school.¹²

Slide 4

In 1880, at the age of nineteen, he entered the Medical School of the University of Melbourne. The Medical School had opened in 1862 and was the first in Australia. The picture shows the Medical School building of 1885, no longer used by that Faculty but remaining as a heritage building of the University.¹⁵

At the end of his first year he took second class honours in his preliminary subjects. In the next year he gained a scholarship in chemistry, mineralogy, botany, comparative anatomy and zoology and second class honours. He completed his arts course in 1883, obtaining three exhibitions and the scholarship in Natural Science. In February, 1884, he gained third class honours and in October he graduated in medicine and surgery with Master of Arts (MA), Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and Bachelor of Surgery (ChB) degrees. He was also a champion athlete in running.¹²

Slide 5

After graduation he entered into partnership with Dr C J Daniel of Clifton Hill. In 1886 he started a practice of his own at the same place.¹² That year he married Jessie Sarah Hewetson, daughter of the late James Hewetson and Elizabeth Hewetson (nee Gardner)¹⁶ of Upper Hawthorn. The marriage took place at Mount Prior homestead, Gooramadda, near Chiltern and Rutherglen in northern Victoria, the historic vineyard property of her mother and stepfather, Mr Alex Caughey.¹⁷ The house, which exists today, now caters for dinner parties and business meetings, with accommodation for up to five couples. It was built in 1884 and is described in the Rutherglen Historical Society "Page of History" as a magnificent double brick residence of about forty squares built on the highest point of the property, containing 19 rooms and a tower. The front of the house faces east, with a driveway lined by olive trees. In 1885 the vineyard covered 100 acres.¹⁸

Slide 6

Jessie died only two years later in her mother's home at Gooramadda on George Horne's 28th birthday. She was 31 years of age, and the cause of death was asphyxia due to 'phthisis', the old term for tuberculosis.¹⁹ She was brought back to Melbourne for burial at Boroondara Cemetery in Kew.

Slide 7

In the year of his wife's death Dr Horne was appointed a Captain in the reserve of officers, medical staff, 15th June 1888, presumably at Victoria Barracks when Victoria had its own army before Federation. This picture shows the main building of the barracks built in the 1860's.²⁰

Slide 8

He was transferred to the Volunteer Ambulance Corps on 3rd August 1888; and transferred to reserve on disbandment of Volunteer Ambulance Corps, 26th July, 1889. He was reappointed to the active list, medical staff, on 5th February, 1892; appointed to command Militia Ambulance Corps, 8th October, 1897; and promoted to the rank of major, 26th May, 1899.¹²

He had been a lecturer and examiner for St John and is mentioned in the Annual Reports of the Association from as early as 1892. For a number of years Reports mention that at the St John Ambulance Association "Annual Demonstration" George Horne was in charge of a detachment of militia that formed a guard of honour to receive the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor at the event. He joined St John Council from 1904.²⁸

Slide 9

In the meantime he continued his private medical practice. The Cyclopaedia of Victoria said that he was also honorary medical officer to the Little Sisters of the Poor, although the Little Sisters have no record of this.²¹ Dr Horne re-married in 1889. His second wife was Miss Helen Bowie, daughter of the late Dr Robert Bowie who had emigrated from England with his family in 1854 to be Superintendent at

Yarra Bend.² This hospital was on Yarra Bend road near where Fairlea Women's' Prison was subsequently located. It was closed after public enquiries into a number of incidents of mistreatment of patients.

Slide 10

By the time of their marriage Yarra Bend Hospital had been replaced by Willsmere Mental Hospital, on the opposite bank of the river in Kew, a grand French Empire building on the Heritage Register which has recently been sold off as boutique apartments.³²

Slide 11

The Medical Journal of Australia records: *"For several years Dr Horne worked as a general practitioner, gaining in knowledge and reputation and skill and acquiring expert knowledge, especially in obstetrics and gynaecology. He was an intense worker, never tiring in his search for knowledge and never content with the knowledge he had acquired. He was a great student of zoology. At Clifton Hill he built a celebrated aviary and in it he succeeded in keeping in captivity such wild Australian birds as the honey eater and the dainty blue wren."*¹²

Slide 12

In 1895 Dr Horne was appointed Honorary Physician to the Midwifery Department at the Women's Hospital and in the following year Outdoor Infirmary Surgeon. This was quite a prestigious position, second only to the Indoor Infirmary Surgeon. The terms 'Outdoor' and 'Indoor' were later replaced by the terms 'Outpatient' and 'Inpatient'. In those days these senior positions were all honorary but very highly valued and respected. Such positions placed the holders at the top ranks of their profession. The picture shows the main building of the Women's Hospital in 1887, previously called the Lying-In Hospital. It became the Infirmary when a new midwifery section was built about the time when Dr Horne was appointed.^{22, 23}

Slide 13

The picture shows the medical staff of the Infirmary in 1897. Dr Horne is in the centre of the back row. He held this position until 1912 when he was promoted to the post of Honorary Indoor Infirmary Surgeon.²³ In 1902 he obtained the higher degree of doctor of medicine.¹² Janet McCalman's book on the history of the Womens' Hospital refers to several monumental battles for power that took place during George Horne's tenure at the hospital, but he somehow seemed to remain out of the spotlight. One battle was between the doctors who insisted on providing treatment to anyone who was ill, and the society ladies of the Board of Management who wished to refuse admission to some of the disreputable female patients bringing infectious diseases into the hospital. Another battle was between two strongly opinionated surgeons about treatment methods. Inexorably the shift was away from the midwife-run lying-in hospital towards the modern centre of scientific medicine that it has become today.²²

Slide 14

The picture of the Infirmary Ward in 1912 was during the time when George Horne was in charge. In 1916 he was Chairman of the Honorary medical staff of the hospital.²³

Slide 15

The 'Great White Fleet' commanded by Rear Admiral Charles Sperry visited Melbourne from 29th August to 5th September 1908. The 16 battleships of the Atlantic Fleet were painted all white except for gilded scrollwork on the bows. They were accompanied by seven auxiliary ships and tenders. The fourteen month journey was a grand pageant of American sea power. This commemorative postcard highlights the public relations aspect of the journey.²⁴

Slide 16

The squadron was manned by 14,000 sailors. They covered some 43,000 miles and made twenty port calls on six continents. After moving from the Atlantic to the Pacific the fleet travelled west from San Francisco to Honolulu, Auckland, Sydney and Melbourne.

Slide 17

They had been invited to visit Australia, particularly Melbourne which was the seat of the National Parliament for the two decades before Canberra was built. The invitation was from the Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin, who was keen to develop good relationships with the USA, somewhat to the displeasure of Whitehall which wished to continue to be seen as the main protector of its former colony.

Slide 18

This was the biggest exercise ever undertaken to this time by the US Navy. President Theodore Roosevelt wanted to impress upon other countries, particularly Japan, that the US Navy could shift its operations from the Atlantic to the Pacific if necessary. He also said, in a speech before its departure, "I want all the failures, blunders and shortcomings to be made apparent in time of peace and not in time of war".²⁴ This photograph shows the contingent of sailors lined up on Station Pier at Port Melbourne prior to their six kilometre march to the city.

Slide 19

This was the first time that an American Fleet had visited Victoria and the public excitement was intense. Nearly half of the population of 600,000 people came to see the fleet and watch the 2500 sailors marching through the streets.

Slide 20

Surgeon-Major George Horne, in charge of the Militia Ambulance Corps, formed a Volunteer Ambulance Corps from St John certificate-holders and posted them in sixteen emergency ambulance stations at strategic locations throughout Melbourne streets.^{25, 26} He was awarded the Victoria Decoration for his outstanding service.



Slide 21

The experience of this event led to the formation of the First Aid Volunteer Association in 1908, with George Horne as its President. Its members were all St John medallion holders and, as they did not wear a uniform, they wore their medallions as proof of their qualification to render First Aid.²⁷ The FAVA was highly successful. It started with fifty members in 1908 and had 300 by 1915.²⁵

Members of the First Aid Volunteers' Association, of which Dr Horne was President.

The 1909 St John Council Annual Report says, "Ability to render 'First Aid' is an important branch of knowledge. This was strikingly illustrated on the day the members of the American Fleet marched through Melbourne. On that occasion a number of men and women trained by the Association volunteered their services as an Ambulance Corps. They were stationed in groups at the intersections of the streets, and rendered 'First Aid' and assistance to over 500 persons. This so plainly shows the desirability of having a trained body of workers at hand on all such occasions, or in the event of any large and serious accident, that the Council intends to take steps towards the formation of an Ambulance Brigade, similar to the Brigade at Home, in New South Wales, and New Zealand, and hopes that the women and men who did such splendid service at Fleet time will be the first recruits. In the meantime the 'First Aid' Volunteer Association, which any certified member of the Association can join, has been formed for the purpose of keeping the workers in Fleet Week together, and affording opportunities for practice."

Slide 22

George Horne was appointed as the Acting Assistant Commissioner. He was confirmed as Assistant Commissioner and continued in charge from 1909 to 1921. In the early years at least, he was the District's only headquarters officer.²⁵ In the early years Storie Dixon, the Commissioner in New South Wales, was Commissioner for Australia and George Horne's appointment was as Deputy. It is not clear at what point the designation changed to that of Commissioner.

For several years the First Aid Volunteers Association continued side by side with the Brigade but in 1915 the St John Ambulance Association withdrew its endorsement of FAVA. Although the FAVA 1915 Annual Report says that they have sought an explanation they had received only an acknowledgment of the letter.²⁹ George Horne remained as their nominal President but clearly was no longer involved in their activities. The FAVA faded away and disbanded at the end of WW I, whilst the

Brigade rapidly gained in strength.²⁵ The first registered Division in Victoria was at the Hawthorn Sub-centre of St John Ambulance Association, but it survived for only a year. The second registered Division, shown here, was the Melbourne Metropolitan Division which survived for many years.

Slide 23

Shortly before the first World War Dr Horne visited England and when war broke out he immediately joined the Australian Voluntary Hospital. He saw service with this unit in France and attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Colleagues included the great Alfred Hospital orthopaedic surgeon, Hamilton Russell. The hospital was first at Le Havre, then at St Nazaire on the Bay of Biscay.



*Lieutenant-Colonel George Horne KStJ VD AAMC,
in military uniform*

Slide 24

Later the hospital moved to Wimereux, near Boulogne. The first task at Wimereux was the handling of wounded brought from the first Battle of Ypres near the French-Belgian border.³⁰



The Wimereux Hospital, France, where Dr Horne worked for a time during World War I while serving as a lieutenant-colonel in the Australian army.

Slide 25

This map shows the dispositions of Army Hospitals near the Western Front. Le Havre is shown at the lower left whilst St Nazaire Hospital is below the area shown. Boulogne is just below Calais on the English Channel where the hospital complexes there and at Etaples are both shown as having more than 20,000 patients. In comparison to a major hospital like Royal Melbourne, with a little over 500 beds, the size of those military hospitals is just awesome.

A.G. Butler's Official Histories of WW I report some controversy about the importance of pathology laboratory testing and refer to a forum sponsored by the Australian Voluntary Hospital on the topic of treatment of wounds involving fracture of the femur. "Lieut.-Colonel G Horne, introducing the

discussion said, "This is all new ground, and new means must be employed. The experience of the Boer War does not entirely cover this; in particular we have a bacterial flora of greater virulence and variety. The drilled hole of a rifle bullet is seldom seen in this campaign; the commonest wound is the smash of shrapnel and shell fragments. The chief problems are those of suppuration and secondary haemorrhage, and of the indications for suturing."³¹ This was, of course, before the days of antibiotics when the subsequent effects of infections, gas gangrene, septicaemia and wound bleeding were as devastating as the initial injury.

Slide 26

Butler indicates that the discussion continued with contributions from surgeons of other units and a footnote recorded that Lieut.-Col. Horne was in civil life a highly esteemed and cultured gynaecological surgeon, of Melbourne. Horne worked at the hospital until the end of September, 1915, when at the age of 55 he was released and returned to Australia. An article by him in the Medical Journal of Australia described the activities of the Australian Voluntary Hospital.³⁰

Slide 27

On his return he retained his connexion with the Australian Military Forces and did a considerable amount of work in the examination of recruits for active service abroad.

Slide 28

Dr Horne had relinquished general practice before he left Australia. On his return he specialized exclusively in gynaecology. He was one of seven medical practitioners who banded together to build Lister House, one of the most famous specialist medical consulting centres in Collins Street. This photograph of him was reportedly taken on the rooftop of Lister House.²³

Slide 29

He was for a time lecturer and examiner in obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Melbourne. His textbook "Practical Gynaecology" went through two editions and was reportedly practically sold out on both occasions.³⁸ As a teacher he gained a high reputation.

He loved his work at the Womens' Hospital and in consequence up to the time of his retirement in 1921 at the age of sixty, his wards were eagerly sought by students and practitioners.¹² An obituary highlights his historical position: "With the passing of Dr George Horne there is a severing of one of the links between the early surgeons of the Women's Hospital and the staff today of that institution."¹²

Title page of Dr Horne's textbook, *Practical Gynaecology*.



Slide 30

"George Horne was not only an eminent gynaecologist and medical practitioner, he was an ethnologist of world-wide renown. He made a long study of the habits and customs of the Australian aborigines. In close connexion with this he collected a large variety of stone implements, including stone knives, surgical knives, axes, picks, hammers, grinding and throwing stones and throwing and message sticks."¹² He presented a paper at the Hobart meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1921, which was published as a monograph, the title page of which is shown here.³⁹

Slide 31

The next picture shows some of the implements illustrated in the paper. He kept these implements in a series of beautiful blackwood cabinets which he presented with their contents in 1926 to the Australian Museum of Natural History.¹² The collection is currently housed at the Institute of Anatomy in Canberra.⁴⁰

Slide 32

In collaboration with George Aiston, an officer of the South Australian Police who served as Protector of Aborigines, he wrote "Savage Life in Central Australia", a book of record of an expedition to Central Australia in 1922. The title page is shown here.⁴¹

Slide 33

The book contains the results of his studies of the Australian aborigines. This picture is one of the illustrations in this book.



Australia's Aboriginal people and their traditional way of life were among Dr Horne's abiding interests. (This photograph shows a group of Aborigines decorated with body painting for a ceremonial dance. Dr Horne wrote about such customs in his book on Aborigines, Savage Life, which he co-authored with George Aiston.)

Slide 34

In 1920 he represented Victoria in the meeting chaired by Storie Dixon aimed at seeking self-governing status for St John in Australia.²⁵ Later that year he was made an Esquire of the Order. After relinquishing his role as Commissioner in 1921, Dr Horne continued on St John Council until 1926.

Slide 35

In 1924 he was invested by Lord Stradbroke with the insignia of Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. Both of these parchments are on display at the St John Museum in Victoria.

Slide 36

He was a member of the Council of the Zoological Gardens and was a keen student of ornithology and lover of birds.⁴² The 1927 Annual Report of St John Ambulance Association says, "It is with the deepest regret that the Council has to record the death of Dr G Horne which took place on November 14th following a long illness. The late Dr Horne was a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John, and had been an active member of the Council for upwards of 25 years, and had lectured and examined for the Centre for over 36 years. In furthering the work of the Association, no request for assistance was ever refused. In addition to this work for the Centre, Dr Horne founded the St John Ambulance Brigade in

Victoria in 1910, and was for many years in charge of the Victoria District as Deputy Commissioner. The Officers and members of the Brigade fully recognize their indebtedness to the Doctor, and deeply appreciate his untiring services and join with the Council in recording their deep regret and sorrow at his loss."

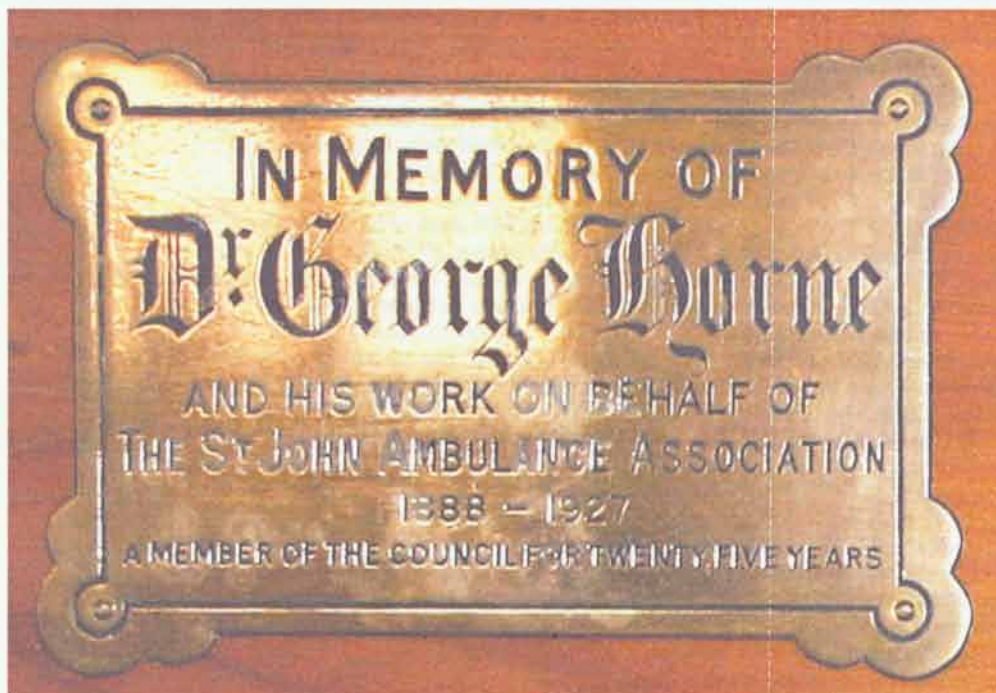
Slide 37

Helen, his second wife, was some 17 years older than George and survived him by only two years, born in 1843 and dying in 1929 at the age of 86 years.^{33,34} They had no children. Jessie, George and Helen are buried together at Boroondara. Also buried with them, but not recorded on the gravestone, is an infant nephew, George, who was born and died in 1907, son of Dr Herbert Horne who died at Traralgon in the following year.^{35,36,37,44}



Boroondara cemetery, Kew, Melbourne, where Dr Horne is buried with his first and second wives.

The final comment is from an obituary by Dr Hobill Cole which records : "Ornithology found in him a bird lover and in his well stocked aviaries at Clifton Hill the wildest of the inmates would soon come to perch on his head and shoulders and eat from his hand. In later years it was a pretty sight to see the doctor and his niece feeding the shy little wrens and other small birds in the public gardens. The life history of George Horne presents a fine record of public service."⁴³



Memorial plaque for Dr Horne originally placed in St John Ambulance headquarters in Melbourne.

The inscription reads: 'In Memory of Dr George Horne and his work on behalf the St John Ambulance Association 1888-1927. A member of the council for twenty-five years'.

Notes and Sources

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- (21) Personal communication ...Sister Bridget Anne, Little Sisters of the Poor.
- (22) McCalman, J. "Sex and Suffering – Women's Health and a Women's Hospital" The Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne 1856-1996 MUP 1998
- (23) Personal communication ...Ms Robyn Waymouth, Archivist, Royal Womens Hospital
- (24) "The Great White Fleet" Department of the Navy, Navy Historical Center, Washington DC, USA
- (25) Ian Howie-Willis "A Century for Australia – St John Ambulance in Australia 1883-1983" Priory of St John, 1983.
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- (27) Field, Amelia F. "The Order of St John in Australia – Our first hundred years". (2004)
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- (31) Butler, AG "Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services 1914-1918 Volume ii – The Western Front" p314
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- (33) Parish Register at Aldgate, London, England, christening of Helen Bowie, 26th April 1843
- (34) Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages 1929 Ref. No.10946 death of Helen Horne
- (35) Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages 1907 Ref. No.2100 birth of infant George
- (36) Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages 1907 Ref. No.912 death of infant George
- (37) Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages 1908 Ref. No.7890 death of Herbert at 41
- (38) Horne, G. "Practical Gynaecology" James Little, Melbourne, 2nd Edition 1917
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- (40) Personal communication ...Dr David Kaus, Curator, Museum of Natural Science
- (41) Horne, G. and Aiston, G. "Savage Life in Central Australia" Macmillan & Co, London 1924
- (42) Dr Allen Robertson, obituary in The Medical Journal Of Australia, Jan 14, 1928.
- (43) Dr F Hobill Cole, obituary in The Medical Journal Of Australia, Jan 14, 1928.
- (44) Personal communication ...Dr Catherine Shaw, Historian, Boroondara Cemetery Trust.

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 Dr Catherine Shaw, Boroondara Cemetery Trust
 Information Services Research Centre, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
 Ms Ann Brothers, Medical History Museum, Brownless Biomedical Library, University of Melbourne.

Illustrations

Dr Mawdsley's original paper has 29 illustrations in its PowerPoint version. Of these, ten are included here.

The Volunteer First Aid Service in Western Australia: The first hundred years

by Harry Oxe ASM and Edith Khangure

***The authors:** Dr Harry Oxe is the second President of this Historical Society. Unanimously elected at the Society's annual general meeting in Melbourne in June 2005, he had previously been a foundation member of its management committee. He is a medical specialist with expertise in ambulance, pre-hospital care, anaesthesiology, aviation medicine, diving and hyperbaric medicine. He was born in Yorkshire, England, and after his medical education spent 16 years as a medical specialist in the Royal Air Force. Dr Oxe emigrated to Western Australia in 1975. He then joined the anaesthesia teaching staff at Fremantle Hospital. He also joined the Western Australian branch of St John Ambulance as Medical Director, serving in the position for the next 26 years. Since stepping down as Medical Director, he has worked part time as a medical consultant, in research and teaching, and as a volunteer in remote country areas. In retirement, Dr Oxe has retained his St John Ambulance links by serving as the Western Australian Commandery Librarian and Museum Curator as well as Deputy State Commissioner of the Volunteer First Aid Service, that is the St John Ambulance Operations Branch in Western Australia.*

Dr Edith Khangure is a professional librarian and archivist who came into the St John organisation as the librarian and archivist to St John Ambulance Australia (WA Inc.), which runs the State ambulance service in Western Australia. In addition, she is the conservator of Perth's St John Ambulance museum, the first of several such institutions that subsequently have been established elsewhere in Australia. Originally from Durham in the UK, Dr Khangure is a foundation member of the management committee of this Historical Society and before that was a member of the five-person team which produced its constitution during the years when the Society's forerunner, the Priory History Group, was active.



Slide 1

In 2004 the St John Ambulance Operations Branch, also called the Volunteer First Aid Service (VFAS), celebrated its centenary in Western Australia. In that year a Royal Doulton plate was commissioned by the Western Australian St John Museum to commemorate the VFAS Centennial. Hand painted by Judith Barker, SSSI.

Note: This paper consists of the slide notes that Dr Oxer used when making his PowerPoint presentation. Because of space and file size constraints, it has been possible to include here only 35 of his original 70 PowerPoint slides.

Slide 2

"In the beginning" a trial duty conducted in 1903 at the Agricultural Show was successful. A meeting of intending members was subsequently conducted on 23 December 1904, as a result of which a men's division of the St John Ambulance Brigade formed in Perth.

Slide 3

"Gestation": the Perth division met community needs and grew. A women's division formed in 1913. The first Cadet divisions formed in 1936. Today there are 31 divisions with 940 adult and Cadet members.

Slide 4

"Changes": the Brigade became the Operations Branch in 1987. This was not thought to be a good name for Western Australia and the Northern Territory, where St John also operates the State and Territory ambulance services. The uniform was changed from khaki to the conventional black and white of the eastern States. The hats became a problem when carrying out first aid, as were ties, which tended to fall into wounds. In 2000 we changed our name to the St John Volunteer First Aid Service (VFAS). We adopted a green uniform, the colour being the Western Australian corporate colour and the international medical colour. With the Training and Community Care branches, the St John Fellowship and the St John State Ambulance Service we were integrated within the one St John organisation.

Slide 5

"More changes": inspections, marching, parades and demonstrations waned in importance. More emphasis was placed on the care activity, that is first aid to the public. Extensive training, simulated exercises, often with other emergency services, were emphasised. Competitions were continued because they are still important in training. Public duties are the *raison d'être*.

The slides that now follow are a selection from our photographic record, in chronological order.



<left>Slide 9

Dr George Frederick McWilliams — our first 'Refugee from the east' — came from Victoria. He was our Assistant Commissioner, 1903–07. Born near Geelong. Medical Graduate from University of Melbourne. Man of many hats: pith helmet, army cap, slouch hat... no doubt in London he wore a bowler hat. We have no personal memorabilia, notes etc from Dr McWilliams, who died young, and assume all went to his family in Victoria.



Slide 10<right>

Setting the scene for decades to come. A formal, official photograph of our first division. DEFINITELY no smiles, all spic and span.

Slide 13

After Dr McWilliams' sudden death in 1907, the Brigade survived — barely — without a Commissioner. Then around 1911–12, two Districts emerged. Coastal, with Dr. William Trethowan as Assistant Commissioner, and the Goldfields, with Mr Charles Bolton in charge. Dr William Trethowan was Assistant Commissioner, Coastal District, 1912–1915. No information about him. Certainly a medical graduate of 'elsewhere'. Charles Albert Bolton, Assistant Commissioner Goldfields District, 1912–15 was from the UK. Non-medical. The Goldfields District only lasted four years. When Bolton joined the army in the First AIF in 1915, Goldfields merged with Coastal and there has been only one district ever since.

Slide 14

Dr Herbert George Tymms — Assistant Commissioner, 1915–28, Commissioner 1928–39. University of Melbourne Graduate. 25 years service — an Australian record. Served St John in many ways.

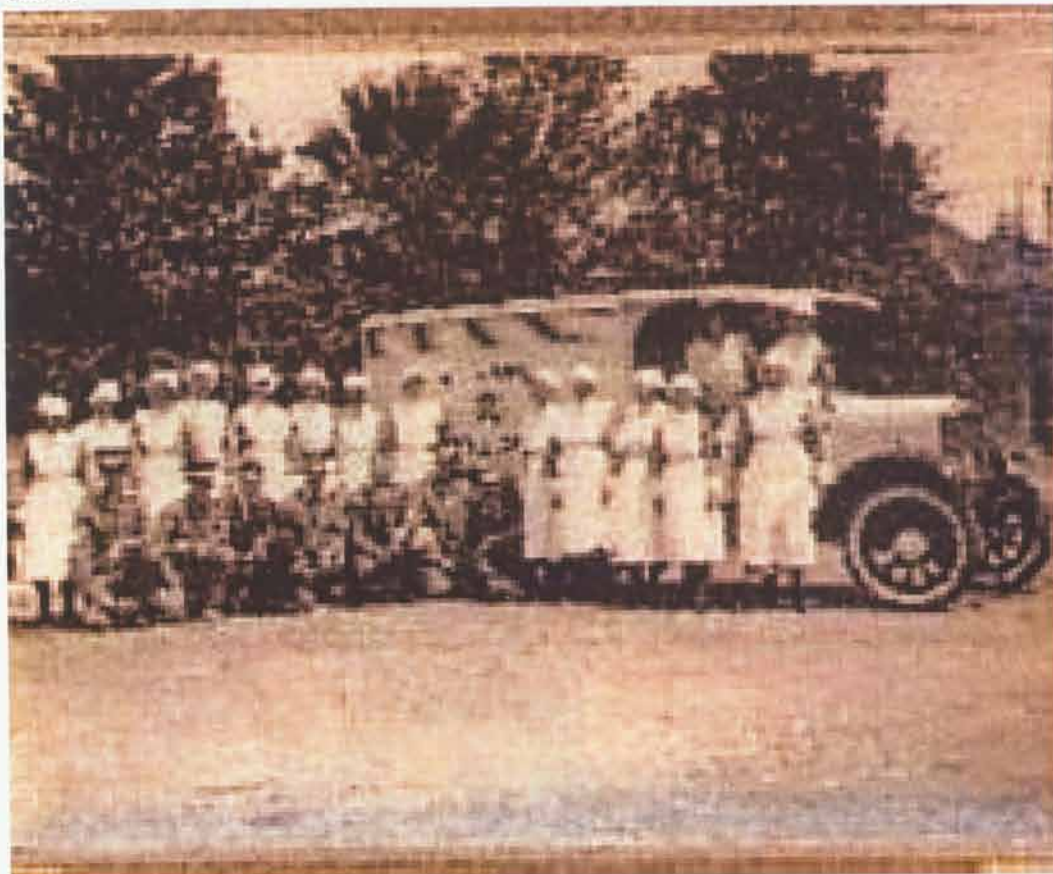


Slide 15



The Perth Women's Division enthusiastically supported the War effort, with VA's (Volunteer Aides) working at Fremantle Base Hospital. Three members served in France and England.

Slide 16



This is the first Photograph we have of St John male and female members together— with an ambulance. They are from the Fremantle men's and women's divisions.

Slide 17



Even though the Goldfields lost their District status in 1915, the local divisions were strong and active.

Slide 18
Collie is a small town in the south-west of the State. Coal mining, and a coal-fired power station, have provided work and recruits for St John. 1937 was their greatest year.



Slide 19



Another very special visitor, the Commissioner-in-Chief for the St John Ambulance Brigade 'Overseas', Colonel James Sleeman — a rather 'official' photograph!

Slide 20



Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) units were re-activated in the 1930's. St John had five in Western Australia.

Slide 21



Dr John Ralph Donaldson Commissioner, 1939–58. Born in Kew, Victoria. Came to Western Australia after World War I and a period of working in England. Never read a book of fiction in his entire adult life. No time to waste. Very dour. We have only one photo with a smile.

Slide 22



Dr John Joseph Holland — Acting Commissioner, 1941–43. Born in Windsor, New South Wales. Emigrated to Western Australia in 1907. Dr Holland will always be remembered as the doctor who, by telegraph, directed treatment of James Darcey by F.W. Tuckett. Later Holland travelled to Hall's Creek, firstly by ship, when he had to join the crew and the union as no passengers were allowed.

Slide 23



The first St John band was formed in Northam in 1939, after the town band disbanded. The Brigade used the band as a recruiting incentive — you had to join the local division to play! All tuition was on the job. The band lasted until 1949. Commissioner Cumpston revived the St John Brass Band in 1967. By 1971 it had reached 'A Grade' status, and played at many ceremonial occasions. Financial and time constraints saw it fold again in the mid-1970s.

Slide 25



Forty years on from the first official photograph of Perth No. 1 Men's Division: The Division at the end of World War II.

Slide 26



The public image of St John in the mid-twentieth century — Brigade members on duty.

Slide 28



Brigade Cadets' 'official' photograph, this one of Nursing Cadets in 1956. The first ambulance Cadet division was formed in 1936. Nursing Cadets started in 1944.

Slide 29



George Truman, a welder by trade, made our Commandery Sword from a Wilkinson sword blade, a bulldozer piston, buffalo horn, and mother-of-pearl he collected from northern Australia. St John insignia and silver for its decoration were donated by other St John members.

Slide 30



Dr Alec Letts Dawkins — Commissioner, 1959–66. Born at Hamley Bridge, South Australia. Distinguished orthopaedic surgeon. Brigade strength peaked during his years as Commissioner, in 1961 rising to 2400 members. Our retiring Society President, Brian Fotheringham, has previously talked about the Dawkins family and St John at one of our history seminars.

Slide 32

Brigade members were not averse to partying. Any excuse — special visitors, arrivals, departures, fund raisers, and birthdays! Mrs Robertson served for almost 40 years, retiring aged 70 in 1952. She became a Commander Sister in 1962.

Slide 33



More inspections! This one is the ANZAC Day parade in 1964.

Slide 34

Dr Lancelot Graham Bowser Cumpston — Commissioner, 1966–69. Western Australian born, University of Melbourne graduate. Very interested in brass bands including St John. Dr Cumpston was the first Museum Curator in St John Western Australia, appointed in 1979.



Slide 35



The strength in the Goldfields continued. Note Kevin Young, one of the Historical Society's committee members, in this official team photograph. Lake View and Star was a Gold mine.

Slide 36



More success for Western Australia with this Bunbury team. Mrs Helen Dyer, extreme right, is the only Western Australian woman to be awarded the Life-Saving Medal of St John.

Slide 39



Dr Alan Joseph King — Commissioner; 1969-72. Trained in Melbourne, Victoria. A noted chest physician, and sometime prisoner of war, he introduced tuberculosis control and mass miniature radiography into Australia. He turns 94 on 26th June, is amazingly fit and well. He published his autobiography two years ago.

Slide 41



Dr Noel Henry Maxwell Colyer — Commissioner, 1972-77. Born in Sydney. Emigrated to Western Australia in 1950. His greatest challenge was in late 1974 and early 1975, after Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin. The Brigade cared for 2500 evacuees at Guildford. He regarded his greatest honour as the visit of Princess Anne in 1975.

Slide 43

Another social event, another celebration. Mrs Norma Olsen, front extreme right, has been with St John Brigade for over 50 years. She was presented with a 50 year certificate at this year's investiture.

Slide 44



Dr Miles de Courcy Clarke — Commissioner, 1977–81. Born in Western Australia, studied medicine at University of Adelaide; his early work was in Kalgoorlie. During the visit of Queen Elizabeth in 1954, he was appointed her Medical Officer. As it was the time of the polio scare, no one was allowed within 2 metres, doctors included!

Slide 46



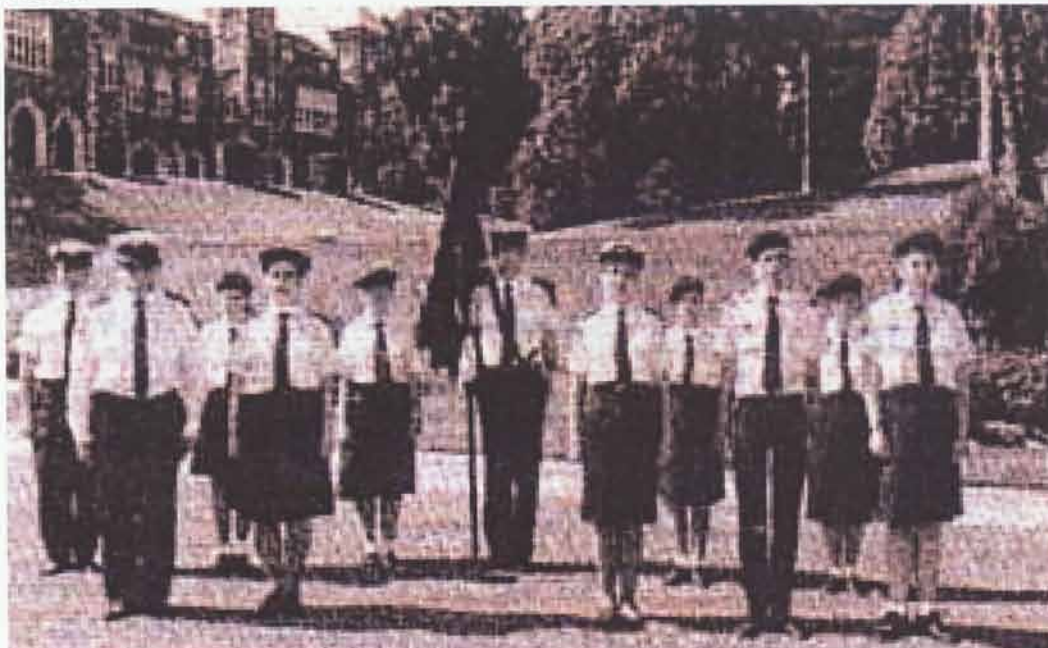
Dr Ellis Rhys Griffiths — Commissioner, 1981–84. Born in Wales. Emigrated in 1967. Orthopaedic surgeon with Sir George Bedbrook in the Spinal Unit. They were referred to sometimes as 'St George and the Dragon'. The Welsh 'dragon' was the pacifier.

Slide 47



Dr Robert Lyons Pearce — Commissioner, 1984–89; District Commissioner, 1989–90. Born in Stanhope, Queensland. Emigrated to Western Australia in 1975. Involved with army reserve. ANZAC Citizen of the Year in 1990. Steered Brigade through changes to Operations Branch. Less involved with St John after he became Hon. French Consul to Western Australia in 1990.

Slide 51



Still on parade, but this would change later in the 1990s. A quiet revolution, with the emphasis on what we do best — First Aid — gathered momentum. This photograph shows our Cadets on parade at their annual review at Government House, Perth, in 1991.

Slides 52



The present-day VFAS: well trained, well equipped, well dressed VFAS members on duty at a public event.



Slide 49

Mr Bevan Francis McInerney — District Commissioner, 1990–93. Non-medical. Born in York, Western Australia. Railways man in his work and St John life. Total restructure of District and Corporate Staff structure. Believed in good planning and good teamwork.

Slide 50



Arguably the last great Brigade march, during the Western Australian St John centenary in 1992.

Slide 54

Ceremony has not been totally abandoned. The Church Service and the Investiture remain as highlights of the VFAS calendar.

Slide 56

Mrs Hazel Eve Goldacre — District Commissioner, 1993–97. Born in UK, where she trained as a nurse. Travelled from there to many parts of Australia in late 1960s and early 70s. Emigrated 1979. Special nursing care of patients of all ages. Very interested in Cadets, and increasing the role of trained nurses in Operations Branch.



Slide 60



Dr Kenneth Ernest Collins — District Commissioner, 1997 to the present. Born in Adelaide. Served with RAAF and came to Western Australia in 1963 at Pearce Air Base. Stayed on from 1965. His International Rotary involvement and Medic Alert brought him to St John. He consolidated changes, and moved on to the green VFAS — "The Green Machine!"

Slide 61

The twenty-first century VFAS in Western Australia: VFAS members participating in a training exercise with paramedics and the State Emergency Service.



Slide 67



Full circle, and smiles all round: members of the VFAS Perth No. 1 Division in their centenary year, 2004.

The insignia of the recognised Orders of St John

by Malcolm Little, OAM

The author: Mr Malcolm Little was for many years a State Officer of the St John Ambulance Operations Branch in New South Wales. He is currently his State's chairman of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital Branch. For many years he has been a secondary teacher at the Marrickville Girls High School in Sydney, and before that he had a career with Qantas. He speaks Dutch fluently and has a special interest in the Most Venerable Order of St John's sister organisation, the Johanniter Order of the Netherlands. He is also a numismatist specialising in the medals of the various Orders of St John, which is the subject of the following paper.

Note: Mr Little's paper is available in PowerPoint format only. The following is an approximation of that format.

There are five recognised Orders of St John: four Protestant or ecumenical Orders known as the Alliance Orders plus one Roman Catholic Order. The four Alliance Orders are:

- *Die Balley Brandenburg des Ritterlichen Ordens Sankt Johannis vom Spital zu Jerusalem (Der Johanniterorden)* – German
- The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem – English
- *Johanniter Orde in Nederland* – Dutch
- *Johanniterorden i Sverige* – Swedish

The Roman Catholic Order is: The *Ordine Ospedaliero di San Giovanni di Gerusalemme detto di Rodi e di Malta* (The Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta), more commonly known as The Sovereign Military Order or The Order of Malta

Insignia of Der Johanniter Orden (German)

There are three grades or classes of membership, as follows, each having its own insignia:

<i>First Class</i>	<i>Commander</i>
<i>Second Class</i>	<i>Knight of Justice</i>
<i>Third Class</i>	<i>Knight of Honour</i>

Der Johanniter Orden —German (First Class):



Herrenmeister



Commander



Honorary Commander

—German (Second Class):



Knight of Justice

— German (Third Class):



Knight of Honour

Insignia of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem — originally English (now throughout the Commonwealth of Nations and elsewhere)

There are six grades or classes of membership, as follows, each having its own insignia:

<i>First Class Bailiff</i>	
<i>Second Class</i>	<i>Knight/Dame of Justice & Knight/Dame of Grace</i>
<i>Third Class</i>	<i>Commander Brother/Sister</i>
<i>Fourth Class</i>	<i>Officer Brother/Sister</i>
<i>Fifth Class</i>	<i>Serving Brother/Sister</i>
<i>Sixth Class</i>	<i>Esquire, Donat</i>

The Venerable Order — British & Commonwealth (etc):



*The Badge of the
Sovereign Head of the
Order*

*Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,
Sovereign Head of The Most
Venerable Order*



The Badge of the Grand Prior



The Badge of the Lord Prior



The Badge of the Prelate



(First Class): Bailiff Grand Cross

(Second Class):



Knight/Dame of Justice



Knight/Dame of Grace

(Third Class):



Commander Brother



Commander Sister

(Fourth Class):



Officer Brother



Officer Sister

(Fifth Class):



Serving Brother



Serving Sister

Insignia of the Johanniter Order — The Netherlands

There are two grades or classes of membership, as follows, each having its own insignia:

First Class Knight, Dame of Justice

Second Class Knight, Dame

Dutch (First Class):



Knight/Dame of Justice

Dutch (Second Class):



Knight/Dame

Insignia of the Johanniter Order — Sweden

There are two grades or classes of membership, as follows, each having its own insignia:

First Class Knight of Justice

Second Class Knight of Honour

Swedish (First Class)



Knight of Justice

Swedish (Second Class):



Knight of Honour

Annie Brassey's last voyage aboard The Sunbeam



Annie Brassey: a photograph reproduced in some editions of her book *The Last Voyage*.

Lady Brassey and the establishment of colonial branches of the St John Ambulance Association in Australia in 1887

by Ian Howie-Willis

The author: Dr Ian Howie-Willis is the Priory Librarian for the Order of St John in Australia, that is the official 'custodian' of the St John heritage in this country. A professional historian, he is the author or co-author of six books and various articles on St John history, including *The Zambuks*, the Operations Branch centenary history published in 2002. He is the secretary of this Historical Society and has presented research papers to all seven of the Society's history seminars. As well as delivering the following paper to the history seminar in Melbourne, in September 2005 he presented it to a meeting of St John Historical Society in the UK at St John's Gate, London.

1. Introduction

Anna [Annie] Brassey née Allnutt (1839–87) was the first wife of Thomas (later Lord) Brassey (1836–1918), a wealthy British parliamentarian, cabinet minister, publisher and colonial governor. Brassey owned a large steam yacht, the *Sunbeam*, in which the couple and their four children and servants periodically made long voyages. One of these they circumnavigated the globe: in 1876–77 they sailed the *Sunbeam* to the Atlantic Ocean islands, Brazil, Argentina, Tahiti, Hawaii, Japan, China, Singapore, Malaya, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) then back to London via Suez and the Mediterranean. This journey, said to have been the first circumnavigation of the world by a private yacht,¹ became famous at the time. Judging by the tens of thousands of references to it on Internet websites, far from having been forgotten in the intervening 130 years, it is now more famous than ever.



Annie Brassey: a photograph by Bassano, 1883, from *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Volume 7* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004), p. 386.



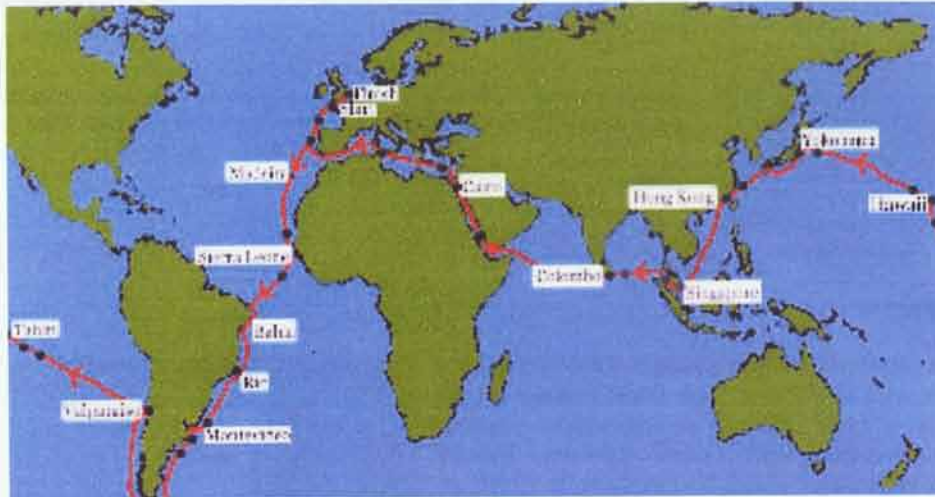
Lord Brassey: a photograph by London Stereoscopic, from *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Volume 7* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004), p. 389.

A decade later, in 1886–87, the *Sunbeam* circumnavigated Australia. It arrived after a journey via the Mediterranean, Suez, India, Ceylon, Burma (Myanmar), Singapore, Borneo (Kalimantan) and the Celebes (Sulawesi). After leaving the East Indies (now Indonesia), it travelled around Australia in an anti-clockwise direction, i.e. south to Cape Leeuwin and then Albany in south-western Western Australia, east across the Great Australian Bight to Adelaide, then on to Melbourne and north up the east coast, west through Torres Strait and on to Darwin, its last Australian landfall. It then returned home to Portsmouth across the Indian Ocean, calling in at Mauritius, Capetown, Sierra Leone and the Azores on the way.

Lord Brassey: a photograph by London Stereoscopic, from *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Volume 7* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004), p. 389.

¹ 'Sport.telegraph' internet website, 'Sports' homepage section, www.arts.telegraph.co.uk.

Annie Brassey described these voyages in two long, beautifully illustrated books that recounted to her home audience her adventures in distant places. The first, *Around the World in the Yacht 'Sunbeam'*,² appeared first in 1878 and became an instant best-seller. Almost overnight, Annie Brassey became a celebrity — a travel writer of world renown, read with enjoyment by a worldwide audience ranging from schoolgirls in England and Australia to Prince Otto von Bismarck, the founder and first chancellor of the German Empire. Eighteen further editions of the book were published under the title *A Voyage in the 'Sunbeam'* in subsequent years, eventually in 17 languages. (The copy used in researching this paper appeared in 1883.)



Route of the Sunbeam on its 1876-77 circumnavigation of the world (from the 'Sunbeam Homepage' section of Internet website www.littlebigtime.com).

The second of her books we are concerned with here, *The Last Voyage to India and Australia by the late Lady Brassey*,³ was published posthumously in 1889. Her husband completed her unfinished travel diaries, which she had maintained up to within 16 days of her death on 14 September 1887. He then engaged an editor, Lady M.A. Broome, who completed the manuscript for the book by March 1888.

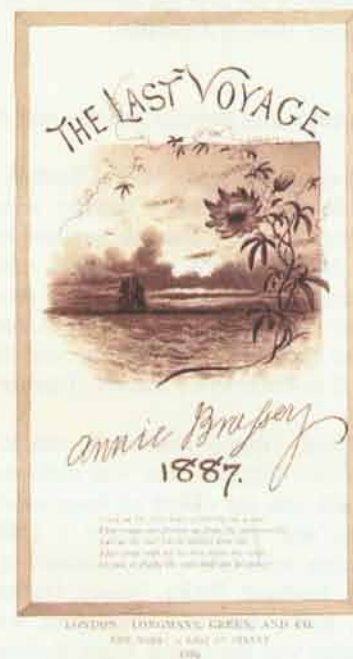


Route of the Sunbeam on its voyage to and from Australia in 1886-87, from the front end-paper fold-out map in *The Last Voyage*.

² Mrs. [Anne] Brassey, *Around the World in the Yacht 'Sunbeam': Our home on the ocean for eleven months* (first edition 1878; edition used for research in this paper published in New York by Henry Holt and Company, 1883, 479 pages).

³ Annie [Lady] Brassey, *The Last Voyage, to India and Australia, in the 'Sunbeam' by the late Lady Brassey* (London & New York, Longman, Green & Company, 1889), 490 pages.

As well as these two books, Annie wrote various others. The earliest, *The Flight of the Meteor* (1866) and *A Cruise in Eothen* (1872), describing voyages in the Mediterranean and to North America, were published mainly for private circulation among her family and friends. Like *A Voyage in the 'Sunbeam'*, these books began first as letters home and later as travel diaries, instalments of which she sent back to her father in London. She went on to write two other best-selling travel books apart from *The Last Voyage*. These were *Sunshine and Storm in the East, or Cruises to Cyprus and Constantinople* (1880) and *In the Trades, the Tropics, & the Roaring Forties* (1885).⁴ She also produced at least one journal article, for the *Contemporary Review*, describing a voyage aboard the *Sunbeam* to Norway in September 1885 in the company of W.E. Gladstone, the former Liberal Prime Minister, who had recently lost office. While aboard Gladstone wrote his election manifesto for the coming election.⁵ Thomas Brassey also produced a book about his voyages on the *Sunbeam*: in the year of his death he published '*Sunbeam*' *R.Y.S. Voyages and Experiences in Many Waters: Naval Reserves and Other Matters* (1918).⁶ Nowadays the Brasseys' travel books are collectors' items fetching up to Aus\$500 (£200) a copy.



The title page of The Last Voyage (London and New York, Longman, Green & Company, 1889).

The book about the *Sunbeam*'s 1886–87 voyage to Australia is of particular interest to people concerned with St John Ambulance history, especially in Australia. There are two reasons for this. First, Annie Brassey did not survive the voyage: she died at sea eight days out of Darwin on the *Sunbeam*'s way home across the Indian Ocean. Second, after arriving at Albany in the south-west of Western Australia on 9 May 1887, the *Sunbeam* spent fully four months in Australian waters, visiting many towns and cities during its voyage around the coast until its departure from Darwin on 6 September. In most of the places the Brasseys visited in that time Annie tried to arouse interest in St John Ambulance first aid training. In two of the capital cities she visited she provided the impetus for establishing local St John Ambulance Association 'centres', that is committees for organising first aid teaching. In the two capital cities that already had such centres, she boosted their efforts either by calling a public meeting to promote their work or commending them to the leading citizenry. Her campaigning for first aid training was so effective that we historians of St John Ambulance in Australia regard her as an 'evangelist' for the Order in colonial Australia.

Three official Australian St John histories produced over the 15 years 1983–98 have covered aspects of Annie Brassey's campaigning for St John Ambulance in Australia.⁷ In the meantime, however, other

⁴ Brassey, Lady Annie, *Sunshine and Storm in the East, or Cruises to Cyprus and Constantinople* (London & New York, Longman, Green & Company, 1880) and *In the Trades, the Tropics, & the Roaring Forties* (London & New York, Longman, Green & Company, 1885).

⁵ Marshall, E.H. and Middleton, Dorothy, 'Brassey [née Allnutt], Anna [Annie], Lady Brassy' in Matthew, H.C.G. and Harrison, Brian (editors), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography in Association with the British Academy from the earliest times to the year 2000*, Volume 7 (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 385–6.

⁶ Brassey, Earl [Thomas], '*Sunbeam*' *R.Y.S. Voyages and Experiences in Many Waters: Naval Reserves and Other Matters* (1918).

⁷ Howie-Willis, Ian, *A Century for Australia: St John Ambulance in Australia 1883–1983* (Priory of the Order of St John in Australia, Canberra, 1983); Howie-Willis, Ian, *South Australians and St John Ambulance 1885–1985* (Adelaide, St John Council for South Australia, 1985); Wales, Murdoch and Pearn, John, *First in First Aid: The History of St John Ambulance in Queensland* (Brisbane,

information has come to light, more especially over the past five or six years as the Internet has become the indispensable aid to historical research. Reconsidering her contribution to the early development of the first aid movement in Australia is therefore timely. This paper accordingly revisits the Brasseys' time in Australia.

2. The Allnutt and Brassey families and their achievements

Annie Brassey was born Anna Allnutt in London on 7 October 1839 the daughter of John Allnutt of Berkley Square, London, a wealthy wine merchant and patron of the arts, and his wife Elizabeth Harriet (*née* Burnett). She was baptised in the Holy Trinity church, Clapham, Surrey, England, on 21 January 1840. Annie's mother died while she was still an infant. After that she lived with her grandfather in Clapham, which was then close to the countryside, where she learned to ride, but eventually moved in with her father in Berkley Square. She was educated at home by a governess, who taught her French, German, Italian and botany among other subjects. At age 21 she married Thomas Brassey II in St George's church, Hanover Square, Westminster, on 9 October 1860.

Her husband, Thomas Brassey II, was born on 11 February 1836 at Stafford, Staffordshire, England, and was christened there the same day in St Mary's church. He was the oldest of three surviving sons of Maria Farringdon (*née* Harrison) and Thomas Brassey I (1805–70), a surveyor turned railway construction contractor who amassed a huge fortune building railways in England, Scotland, Wales, France, Holland, Prussia, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, India, Australia, Argentina, Rumania and the Ukraine. His major undertaking was the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada. He lost heavily on this venture but was nevertheless able to leave £5 million to his family.



Thomas Brassey Senior a portrait, the original possibly in pencil, artist unknown, downloaded from an Internet website.

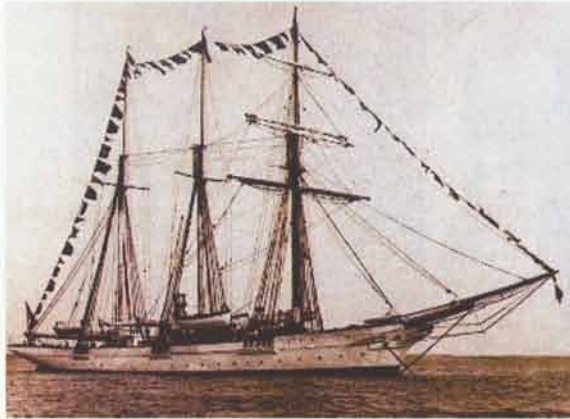
After schooling at Rugby, Thomas Brassey II went up to Oxford University, where he graduated in history before turning to the law. After graduating he worked as a parliamentary legal draftsman until called to the bar in 1864. Eventually he was awarded doctorates in law from both Oxford and Dublin. Over the next few years he made several unsuccessful attempts at entering parliament. In 1865 he was elected for Devonport in a by-election but the parliament was dissolved before he could take his seat. In 1868 he won the Hastings seat, which he held for the next 18 years. As a parliamentarian he toiled away on the subjects that interested him the most. These included wages, the condition of the working classes, employers' liability, dockyard administration, ship design and building, naval pay and the naval reserve forces. He participated in Royal Commissions inquiring into unseaworthy ships, the defence of coaling stations, the relief of the aged poor, canals and inland navigation and opium (which he chaired). Through such work he rose unspectacularly but steadily through Liberal Party ranks. After three years as Civil Lord (i.e. parliamentary secretary) of the Admiralty 1880–83, he joined W.E. Gladstone's government as Secretary to the Admiralty (i.e. minister for the navy), a position he held 1883–85. Although a diligent fact-finder for his own and colleagues' portfolios, as a minister he proved weak in parliamentary debate and following up on criticisms of his portfolio. Gladstone did not re-appoint him to the ministry in 1885. He lost his parliamentary seat at the general elections the next year but was raised to the peerage as Baron Brassey of Bulkeley later in 1886. He then joined the House of Lords, where he spoke most often on naval matters.⁸ Although pointing out his failures as a minister,

Department of Paediatrics and Child Health Publishing Unit of the University of Queensland [at the Royal Children's Hospital], 1998).

⁸ The details about Brassey's career are from his entry in *Who Was Who: A companion to Who's Who containing the biographies of those who died in the period 1916–1928 Volume II* (London, Adam & Charles Black, 4th edition, 1967); and Baddeley, V.W. and Matthew, H.C.G., 'Brassey, Thomas, first Earl Brassey (1836–1918)' in Matthew, H.C.G. and Harrison, Brian (editors), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography in Association with the British Academy from the earliest times to the year 2000*, Volume 7 (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004);

his British biographers credit him with having 'contributed greatly to the reforms in naval administration and maritime policy...as the old sailing navy and marine rapidly passed away'.⁹

Outside parliament Brassey had always been keen on things nautical. In 1872 while a parliamentarian, he gained his master mariner's certificate by passing the Board of Trade examinations in seamanship and navigation, becoming the first private yachtsman to gain it. In his voyages aboard the *Sunbeam* he was commander as well as proprietor. Through his voyages in the vessel he became a competent sea captain. Thus, in the 44 years he owned the *Sunbeam* it travelled some 741,000 kilometres under his command — the equivalent of 31 round trips between England and Australia via Suez. It was mostly travel for business because, as his British biographers note, 'although he was never happier than when afloat in his yacht, he never undertook a long voyage unless it was to fulfil some public purpose'.¹⁰



Photograph of the *Sunbeam* flying its signalling flags, from Internet website www.dngoodchild.com/0028.htm.



Lord Brassey at the wheel of the *Sunbeam*. This photograph is from the Hastings Museum internet website, www.hmag.org.uk.

Brassey was a member of many extra-parliamentary organisations. Among others he was a Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lieutenant of Sussex, Honorary Colonel in the 2nd Home Counties Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery's Territorial Force, Military Member of the Sussex Territorial Force Association, president of the Statistical Society 1879–80, president of the Institute of Naval Architects 1893–95 and in 1894 became Lord in Waiting to Queen Victoria. One of his abiding interests was the Royal Naval Reserve, in which he became Honorary Lieutenant in 1869. He was knighted (KCB) in 1881 for his work in organising this body. He accumulated an impressive tally of other honours and awards apart from his two doctorates in law, knighthood and barony. A fluent speaker of French, in 1884 he became a Commander of the Legion of Honour. He also received the Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown of Italy. In 1906 he was promoted within the Order of the Bath to Knight Grand Cross; in 1908 he was appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports; and at the coronation of George V in 1911 was created Earl Brassey and Viscount Hythe.¹¹

Like his wife, Thomas Brassey II became an accomplished author and later a publisher. His published work was far more extensive than hers, however. As well as articles in the leading journals of review and contributions to the letters pages of the *Times*, he produced various official reports on fiscal policy, conditions for seamen, trade unions and co-operatives, wages and employment and imperial federation. He wrote five books: *Work and Wages* (1872), *Foreign Work and English Wages* (1879), *The British Navy* (an encyclopaedia-like work in five volumes, 1881), *Sixty Years of Progress* (1904) and the travel book mentioned above, '*Sunbeam*' *R.Y.S. Voyages and Experiences in Many Waters* (1918). From 1886 he also published the *Naval Annual*, which still appears under the title *Brassey's Year Book*.

⁹ Baddeley, V.W. and Matthew, H.C.G., *op. cit.*, p. 388.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 389.

¹¹ *Who Was Who*, *loc. cit.*

Eight years after his voyage to Australia with Annie, Brassey returned to Australia again on the *Sunbeam*, this time as Governor of Victoria.

He served there almost 4½ years (October 1895 to March 1900) as the last of the colony's 10 governors before federation. (This period is discussed further below.)



The arrival of Lord and Lady Brassey at St Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria, to take up vice-regal office, October 1895 (from the State Library of Victoria collection, image number IAN01/11/95/2-4). A huge crowd gathered on the St Kilda foreshore to see him come ashore.

Early in World War I he made a characteristically patriotic gesture by loaning the *Sunbeam* to the Royal Indian Marine as a hospital ship. As such it saw service at Gallipoli. Much honoured, Brassey died in February 1918 a fortnight after his 82nd birthday. His title passed to his only son, Thomas Allnutt Brassey, who had no children and died less than two years later, in November 1919, after which the title became extinct. At his death his wealth was £134,805. Thomas Brassey II's career, his Australian biographers concluded, had been 'credible but undistinguished'.¹² As might be inferred from the foregoing, this was an overly harsh judgement on a worthy life of many accomplishment.

After their marriage in 1860, Annie and Thomas Brassey lived at Beauport Park, Hastings, Sussex. In 1870 they moved to Normanhurst Court, a mock French château near the village of Catsfield, south-west of Battle, Sussex, that Brassey Snr. had built for them.¹³



'Normanhurst Court' about 1880. This was the mansion at Catsfield, near Battle, Sussex, that Thomas Brassey I had built for Thomas Brassey II and his first wife, Annie. This copy of the picture of Normanhurst, a coloured chromolithograph, is from the Internet website www.oldprints.co.uk.

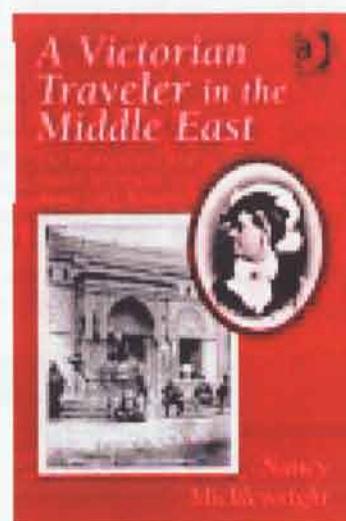
¹² Penny, B.R., 'Brassey, Thomas' in *Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 7 1891-1939* (Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1979).

¹³ Website of Hastings Museum, www.hmag.org.uk.

They also acquired a large town house at 24 Park Lane, London. Both the townhouse and Normanhurst were abundantly decorated with artworks, curios and other trophies they collected during their voyages abroad. Altogether they accumulated some 6000 items, including European, Middle Eastern and oriental art, archaeological souvenirs and indigenous artefacts as well as natural history and geological specimens.¹⁴ After Lord Brassey's death in 1918 the family donated many of the cultural items to the local museum at Hastings and the natural history and geological specimens to the museum at Bexhill, Sussex.¹⁵

Annie's vast photographic collection from her travels — no fewer than 70 volumes in all — was donated by her daughter Muriel (Lady De La Warr) to the Hastings Museum, which later disposed of them. They are now kept in the Huntingdon Library, San Marino, California, which acquired them. Her photographs have recently been the subject of a high-priced (£110; A\$270) academic book by the feminist art historian Nancy Micklewright.¹⁶

Cover of Nancy Micklewright's book on Annie Brassey's photographs and travel writing, *A Victorian Traveler in the Middle East*.



Three years after Annie's death Thomas Brassey married again. His second wife was Sybil de Vere Capell (1858–1936), the youngest daughter of Viscount Malden (Arthur de Vere Capell, heir to the sixth Earl of Essex) and his wife Emma Martha (*née* Meux).

The second Lady Brassey: Sybil de Vere Brassey (*née* Capell, 1858–1934, portrait dated 2 February 1895, later published by David Syme & Co., after the arrival in Melbourne of Lord and Lady Brassey (from State Library of Victoria collection, image number IAN01/02/95/20)

Sybil had been born at Watford, Hertfordshire, in November 1858. In 1895 she accompanied Brassey to Melbourne aboard the *Sunbeam* with their three-year-old daughter when he sailed there to take up his position as Governor of Victoria. She proved a highly popular Governor's wife. Until at least the 1960s, vice-regal couples occupied the peak position in Australian 'Society', and so in moving to Melbourne the second Lady Brassey had arrived in a place where she was the most prominent public figure after her husband. She played the role of Governor's wife to perfection. She actively supported a range of charities. Children's welfare was her favourite cause, and at her instigation the Victorian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to and Neglect of Children formed in 1896. Another of her favourites was the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. As her biographer observes, 'her businesslike manner and flair for organisation made her a highly successful fundraiser' for these and

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Micklewright, Nancy, *A Victorian Traveler in the Middle East: The Photography and Travel Writing of Annie Lady Brassey* (Aldershot [Hampshire], Ashgate Publishing, 2003).

other causes.¹⁷ She was, her biographer continues, 'widely admired for her philanthropic work and for the charm with which she carried out her numerous public engagements.'¹⁸ In addition, 'her looks as well as her manner were much admired. In her late thirties, she had a beautiful face with large eyes, a *retrousse* nose and a well-shaped mouth; her hair, prematurely grey, was worn high on her head in a simple coil.

Her clothes were elegant, and her tall, slender figure and queenly bearing showed them to advantage.¹⁹ All in all, 'she was an exemplary Governor's wife, a model of English womanhood'.²⁰ The Victorians also found her to be a refreshingly modern woman. Thus, she had learned to navigate using a sextant; she took up cycling, then becoming the fashion among stylish young women; and she spoke discreetly about the need for women's suffrage, a cause she took up enthusiastically on her return to Britain in 1900.²¹

Lord Brassey was less successful in the vice-regal role than his wife. As Sybil Brassey's biographer observes, 'all [her] goodness and charm could not make her husband a popular governor'.²² He ran into various difficulties in his official duties and quit the job before completing his five-year term. In 1899 he effectively delayed an election by refusing the request of the Premier, Sir George Turner, for parliament to be dissolved but accepted his resignation. He then called on Allan McLean to form a government; but McLean's government then fell and at the ensuing elections Turner was returned to government. Although he had acted correctly in accordance with precedent, the press observed that his involvement had simply delayed letting the electorate decide the matter. He befriended Alfred Deakin and became a fervent advocate of the Australian federation movement, so keen indeed there were rumours that he wished to become the inaugural Governor-General; and some thought him a little too eager to commit Victorian troops to the South African (Boer) War.²³



Government House, Melbourne, residence of Victoria's governors, about 1890, three years after the Brasseys had stayed there. The image, from a hand coloured glass lantern slide, is held by the State Library of Victoria.

¹⁷ Hancock, Marguerite, *Colonial Consorts: The Wives of Victoria's Governors, 1839–1900* (Melbourne, The Miegunyah Press [Melbourne University Press], 2001), p. 225.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 226.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 218.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 226.

²¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 226–8.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 229.

²³ Penny, B.R., *loc. cit.*

The main criticisms Victorians made of Lord Brassey, however, focussed on his personal style rather than his political involvements. Ironically for a society vaunting its sturdy egalitarianism, some people opined that, being recently ennobled, Brassey was not an aristocrat *born* as had been his predecessor, the Earl of Hopetoun (who returned to Australia in December 1900 as the first Governor-General). Similar criticism had been directed at him at home in class-conscious England, where various people from long established noble families thought he was 'not truly an aristocrat' because he had recently been raised to the peerage from the industrial middle classes.²⁴ In Melbourne there was grumbling about people of the lower classes being included on the invitation lists for the entertainments the Brasseys conducted. There was also carping about Lord Brassey's supposed parsimony: thus, he had fruit salad rather than strawberries served at his receptions. The press of the day proclaimed that more was expected of a Governor and his lady, perhaps forgetting that the £7000 the Brasseys spent on their first Cup Week Ball in Melbourne was as much as the Governor's salary.²⁵

Annie, the first Lady Brassey, seems to have been of very different personality from the second. Ironically, however, we know less about her than we do about Sybil Brassey. This is surprising, given her high profile as an author and her assertive, vigorous promotion of her charitable causes — and with them herself — wherever she went. The accounts of her life, perhaps coloured by her flair for self-promotion, present the view of her that she herself might have desired. It is as if those writing about her have been in awe of her manifest accomplishments. Thus, they customarily portray her as 'a notable Victorian woman', a female high achiever who, like Harriet Beecher Stowe, Louisa M. Alcott, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Florence Nightingale, built distinguished careers for themselves in a world in which men overwhelmingly dominated public life.²⁶ They do not, however, tell us much about the inner woman, her relationships with family and friends or what the wider world made of her. I have been unable to obtain a copy of Nancy Micklewright's recent book about Annie's photography and travel writing (no Australian library seems to hold it yet), so I know little of what she has to say about her; however, the other accounts I've seen present a generally superficial account of her life. The best of them is E.H. Marshall's and Dorothy Middleton's entry on her in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, but this is only a six-paragraph summary.²⁷ Unless Micklewright has written something more penetrating, I guess that Annie still awaits the biographer who can do for her what Marguerite Hancock has done for the second Lady Brassey.

In recent years some new insights into Annie's character have come to light with the publication in 2001 of material from the correspondence of Lady Elizabeth Loch, wife of Sir Henry Loch (later Baron Loch of Drylaw), Governor of Victoria 1884–89. The Brasseys stayed with the Lochs at Government House for the three weeks they spent in Melbourne, 7–29 June 1887. According to her biographer, Elizabeth Loch 'disliked [Annie] intensely'.²⁸ She wrote about Annie as follows:

"I never saw anyone give themselves such airs as L.^{dy} B. & they certainly will not be loved in Australia — & I think they stir up my bile (especially L.^{dy} B.) more than anyone I have ever met in my life — there are 12 of their party daily here & they ask so many reporters & all sorts of hangers on to the House that our ser^{vs} are really worked off their legs running after them."²⁹



Lady Elizabeth Loch (1841–1938), a portrait from 1888, the year after Lord and Lady Brassey had stayed with her at Government House, Melbourne. The portrait, a photograph by Johnstone, O'Shannessy & Co is held by the State Library of Victoria.

²⁴ Hancock, *op. cit.*, p. 222.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 230–1.

²⁶ See for instance the profile in Bolton, Sarah Knowles, *Lives of Girls Who Became Famous*, chapter 'Lady Brassey' (published by Page By Page Books on Internet website www.pagebypagebooks.com).

²⁷ Marshall, E.H. and Middleton, Dorothy, *op. cit.*

²⁸ Hancock, *op. cit.*, p. 171.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

After leaving Melbourne Annie wrote Lady Loch a 'gushing letter of thanks'. Lady Loch concluded that Annie 'must be mad' and 'a hypocrite as well'. 'Tho' I know she hated me she signs herself "my very aff^{ectionate} friend".³⁰ (Interestingly, the only other of her many house guests that Lady Loch disliked was the Duke of Manchester, who was none other than the Prior of the Order of St John for 25 years 1863–88. He made several long trips to Australia, and stayed with the Lochs for five weeks in November–December 1884. She not only found him tedious company, but he stayed so long she feared he might 'stay for ever'.³¹)

Lady Loch also found fault with one other aspect of Annie's personality. To her Annie had seemed 'publicity-mad'. Unlike others of her class, who 'had been brought up to believe...that it was a disgrace not an honour to see one's name in the newspaper,' Annie habitually chased after newspaper editors and reporters.³² Her books provide ample evidence for this. St John Ambulance people were probably glad that she did. To them it might not have been 'bad form' for Annie to court the press because that assured them of a steady flow of pupils into their first aid classes. Thus, in South Australia in the three years after her visit to Adelaide, enrolments in St John Ambulance classes increased to a level almost four times that of the year before her visit (from 56 to 240). In Victoria there was a 59% increase (from 762 enrolments to 1212) over the four years following her visit to Melbourne.³³

As mentioned above, Annie died at sea in the Indian Ocean on the eighth day out of Darwin. She died at 11.00 a.m. on 14 September 1887 and was buried at sea at sunset that day. The cause of death was malaria complicated by chronic bronchitis. She had suffered periodic bouts of bronchitis from childhood and after picking up malaria on a voyage through the Suez Canal in 1869 experienced recurring attacks of that as well. On top of these chronic illnesses, she was frequently sea-sick during her voyages. The voyage to Australia was meant to be for her health. She had found that sailing away from Britain into warmer climates eased the bronchitis, but on entering the tropics the malaria recurred. To ease the strain of the long voyage she and her daughters took a P&O mail steamer to Bombay (Mumbai), where they rendezvoused with the *Sunbeam*.



Annie Brassey was buried at sea at the place where the diagonals of this satellite photograph of the eastern Indian Ocean intersect, at latitude 15 degrees 50 minutes south and 110 degrees 35 minutes east. This point is roughly midway between Jogjakarta on the southern coast of Java and North West Cape, Western Australia. This view, from 35,785 kilometres above the earth's surface, is from the 'View Above Earth' website, www.fourmilab.ch, which instantly produces a map for any place on earth for any distance above the surface.

In his introduction to *The Last Voyage*, her husband said that she had suffered a bad attack of malaria in Borneo on the way to Australia. This eased as the *Sunbeam* approached southern Western Australia but returned as they travelled up the Queensland coast and back into the tropics. Meanwhile, she had caught a heavy cold and began suffering from bronchitis again in South Australia. She could not shake off the cold and bronchitis even when sailing into Queensland's warm climate. As usual, a physician travelled aboard with the Brasseys. On the voyage to Australia this was Dr William Hoffmeister (1843–1910), who despite his German surname was a very 'Establishment' Englishman.³⁴ Despite her ill-health and Hoffmeister's advice, Annie kept up a busy schedule of meetings, receptions, internal travel and sight-seeing within the four eastern colonies (South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland). This continued as far north as the Torres Strait Islands, where her daily journal entries ended on 29 August at Thursday Island. That day she had been carried around in a chair to see the town. After a couple more days there the *Sunbeam* reached Darwin. Hoffmeister's skills were unable to save her. She died eight days later.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 223.

³¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 171–2.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 223.

³³ The figures are from the annual reports of Adelaide Centre of the St John Ambulance Association, 1886–90; and of the Victoria Centre, 1886–91.

³⁴ *Who Was Who* Volume 1 (1897–1915), p. 344. Among other clientele, Hoffmeister was surgeon-apothecary to Queen Victoria at her Osborne House residence on the Isle of Wight and was also surgeon to the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes.

Most accounts of Annie's death and burial vaguely indicate that these events happened 'off Darwin' but they actually occurred far from there. The burial took place at latitude 15°50' south, longitude 110°35' east³⁵, a point some 2629 kilometres (1634 miles) west-south-west of Darwin. (This is as far from Darwin as Murmansk in Russia and Crete in Greece are from London. It is a similar distance as those between Hobart and Kambalda, Perth and Ballarat, and Sydney and Esperance.) The nearest place on the Australian mainland is Exmouth on North West Cape, Western Australia, 562 kilometres (350 miles) to the south-east.

Annie, like other women of her class, had a social conscience and did good works for various charities. As well as working among the poor in London's East End, she became interested in educating the working classes; and she lectured for the Workingmen's Club and Institute Union, of which her husband was president. (This was a peak organisation for the local workingmen's clubs that were analogous to Australia's mechanics' institutes.) She was also a dutiful 'political wife', working hard in all of her husband's electoral campaigns.

The abiding interest of her life, however, was the St John Ambulance Association and its task of training the lay public in first aid. She had been one of the earliest pupils to receive first aid training when the Association began teaching in England; she received her first of many first aid certificates in 1877, and underwent regular re-examination. She also had her servants trained in first aid; she placed hampers of bandages, splints and lint in convenient and central locations around the Battle district in Sussex in case of accident; and she also taught first aid to the local working people. She raised money for St John Ambulance by throwing the *Sunbeam* open to visitors.

When abroad she promoted the St John Ambulance Association wherever she went. In many parts of the Empire that the *Sunbeam* entered she left an Association centre if none had existed and a revitalised centre if there had been one before. At home in Sussex she organised first aid classes in all the villages for miles around Normanhurst. When troops were sent to the Sudan to relieve Khartoum in 1885, she arranged for their training in first aid aboard ship on the voyage out. For her efforts in popularising the Association's first aid course she was admitted into membership of the Order of St John as a 'Dame Chevaliere' in 1881.³⁶

The Brasseys' four surviving children, Thomas III (1863–1919), Mabelle (1865–1927), Muriel (1872–1930) and Marie (1875–1960, known in the family as 'Baby'), were born into the English upper middle class that their parents had entered through a combination of family wealth, their own education, Thomas Brassey II's professional achievements and Annie's accomplishments as an author. Annie's and Thomas II's parents' wealth was 'new' money derived from commerce and industry rather than the 'old' kind generated by landed estates. Annie and Thomas II joined the titled nobility when he was created Baron Brassey in 1886. The older aristocracy recognised that they were an upwardly mobile family and there is evidence that they consequently regarded them as parvenus.

The aristocratic credentials of their children, however, were evidently accepted by others of the class. This could be seen in the marriages they contracted. Thomas III, known as 'Tab' because of his initials, married Lady Idina Nevill, a daughter of the Marquess of Abergavenny; Mabelle married the grandson of Earl Manvers and nephew of Baron Egerton; Muriel married Gilbert Sackville, the eighth Earl De La Warr; and Marie married the grandson of Viscount Hampden. Helen Brassey (1892–1934), Thomas Brassey II's daughter from his second marriage, married Lt.-Col. Sir John Murray KCVO, who was in turn the son of a knight (also KCVO). In the meantime, another branch of the Brassey family was also rising into the aristocracy. Henry Leonard Campbell Brassey (1870–1958), a parliamentarian and the son of Thomas Brassey II's younger brother, Henry Arthur Brassey (1840–91), was created Baron Brassey of Apethorpe in 1938; he married a daughter of the seventh Duke of Richmond. Unlike the noble titles conferred on Thomas Brassey II, the Brassey of Apethorpe title has survived.³⁷

³⁵ Lord Brassey's introduction ('Mémorial') to Brassey, Annie, *The Last Voyage*, p. xx.

³⁶ Bolton, *op. cit.*, p. 8; cf. Lord Brassey's introduction ('Mémorial') to Brassey, Annie [Lady], *The Last Voyage*. See also Howie-Willis, Ian, *A Century for Australia: St John Ambulance in Australia 1883–1983* (Canberra, Priory of the Order of St John in Australia, 1983), p. 137.

³⁷ The Brassey lineage is set out in various genealogical websites, e.g. www.thepeerage.com and <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com> and www.angeltowns.com/town/peerage/peers.

3. The Sunbeam



Photograph of The Sunbeam downloaded from website andrew-campbell.members.beeb.net.

Thomas Brassey II had the *Sunbeam* purpose built in 1874. The naval architect was St. Clair Byrne and the builder was Bowdler, Chaffer & Co. at Seacombe, near Birkenhead, Merseyside. It was a wooden-hulled (oak and teak) three-masted top-sail schooner. As a yacht it was a very large vessel indeed, intended for long-distance ocean cruising in luxurious style, but its dimensions are disputed.

One source gives its measurements as 190 feet long, 38 feet 4 inches wide and 25 feet wide (57.58 x 11.59 x 7.58 metres), another says they were 170 x 27.6 x 13.5 feet (51.8 x 8.4 x 4.1 metres) and a third says the length was 157 feet (47.58 metres).³⁸ An appendix to *The Last Voyage* gives them as 'length between perpendiculars, 137 feet; beam 27 feet 6 inches; depth of hold 13 feet 9 inches; displacement in tons, 576; sail area in square yards, 9200'.³⁹



Image of the *Sunbeam*: the *Sunbeam* en route from Aden to Bombay on its voyage to Australia, Christmas day 1886, from the frontispiece engraving for *The Last Voyage*'s by R.T. Pritchett.

The *Sunbeam* was also equipped with an auxiliary compound 2-cylinder coal-fired steam engine manufactured by Laird Brothers of Birkenhead. This powered a single screw (propeller). Top speed under steam over a measured nautical mile was 10.27 knots (19 kilometres per hour); however in Australian waters the average speed was between about 6.5 and 7 knots. At higher speeds coal consumption was appreciably higher: thus, at 7.5 knots consumption was 3 tons in 24 hours; at 8 knots it was 4 tons and at 9 knots it was 7 tons.) The yacht could carry 70 tons of coal, which would have allowed it to steam continuously for 23 days at 7.5 knots without refuelling. On the Australian voyage the *Sunbeam* travelled a total of 36,466 nautical miles (67,535 kilometres). Most of this, 70% (25,386

³⁸ See websites www.bruzeli.us.info/Nautica/Ships/Schooners/Sunbeam; www.littlebigtime.com/Specifications; and www.hmag.org.uk;

³⁹ *The Last Voyage*, *op. cit.*, p. 461.

nautical miles; 47,015 kilometres) was under sail. On this voyage the longest period travelled solely under steam was 635 nautical miles over seven days after leaving Colombo on the way to Rangoon. A total of 330 tons of coal was burnt over the entire voyage, which meant an average of 33.6 nautical miles per ton of coal consumed. Eventually on this trip the engine's steam pipes burnt out in the Azores after being repaired several times earlier, and so the last leg home, 9 days, had to be under sail.⁴⁰



This graph shows the relationship between the *Sunbeam's* speed (in knots) and its coal consumption.

Travelling under sail was clearly more efficient for the *Sunbeam* and cost less money. Under favourable conditions she could sail at 13 knots, compared with the top speed of just over 10 knots under steam. On the Australian voyage her runs under sail included 39 days over 200 knots, 15 days over 240, 7 days over 260 and 3 days over 270. The best day was 282 knots or 522 kilometres. By contrast her best day under steam alone was 235 knots, there were only six days in which she covered over 200 knots under steam, and the average daily run under steam was 115 knots.

The crew of the *Sunbeam* was large. On its circumnavigation of the globe in 1876–77 it carried 42 people. As well as the six Brasseys and four friends (two of whom were Royal Navy officers), there were a sailing master, a boatswain, a carpenter, a signalman-gunner, two first coxwains (for the gig and the cutter carried on-board), a second coxswain, nine able-bodied seamen, two cooks, a cook's mate, two engineers, two firemen, three stewards and a stewardess, a surgeon, a nurse and a lady's maid as well as a dog, a kitten and three birds. There was ample room aboard for all this company and more. (This became evident when the *Sunbeam* took on board the 15-man crew of the stricken *Whitby* coal-carrier *Monkshaven* after it had caught fire off Rio de la Plata, Uruguay, on 28 September 1876.)⁴¹ The company that made the Australian voyage was somewhat smaller — the six members of the Brassey family, their physician and a crew of 24, supplemented by three seamen taken on at Albany, Western Australia. (The latter three had been crew members of another yacht but had missed their boat through being imprisoned for petty offences. Brassey took them on at the request of the Government Resident at Albany.)⁴²

⁴⁰ The figures on distances covered under sail and steam and on coal consumption are from *The Last Voyage*, *op. cit.*, pp. 461–5.

⁴¹ From websites www.bruzelius.info/Nautica/Ships/Schooners/Sunbeam and www.littlebigtime.com/Specifications;

⁴² *The Last Voyage*, *op. cit.*, p. 465.

Those aboard the *Sunbeam* travelled in comfort. The surviving etchings and photographs indicate that her furnishings and fittings were little short of palatial. As one writer has observed, 'the opulence of this yacht was unsurpassed.'⁴³ One unknown guest who had travelled aboard with the Brasseys on a cruise to Scotland later wrote that:

the *Sunbeam* is quite a floating palace fitted up in the most luxurious manner. Her many saloons and sleeping cabins are marvels of elegance and comfort, while the taste of Lady Brassey is displayed in the numberless pictures and curios which adorn the walls and tables in the different apartments. The crew number twenty six and the yacht carries six boats.⁴⁴



How the Journal was written.

'How the Journal was written': illustration by Arthur Bingham from *Around the World in the Yacht Sunbeam: Our Home on the Ocean for Eleven Months* (1883 edition). The illustration, showing Annie Brassey writing up her travel journal, gives some idea of the sumptuous furnishings aboard the *Sunbeam*.

Apart from her long-distance voyages, the *Sunbeam* had various other adventures in the 44 years that Brassey owned her. In 1905 she took part in a trans-Atlantic race in which she took sixth place in a field of 11 yachts from Britain, the USA and Germany. As mentioned already, she saw service as a hospital ship World War I after Brassey had passed her over to the Admiralty for use by the Royal Indian Marine. The adventures continued after Brassey's death in February 1918. First, it was passed Brassey's nephew, Henry Leonard Brassey, the first Baron Brassey of Apethorpe, who in 1920 presented it to Devitt & Moore's Ocean Training Ships Ltd, which hoped to use it as a sailing training ship. It was never used for that purpose, however, but in 1922 was sold to the shipping magnate and parliamentarian Sir Walter Runciman (1870–1949; from 1937 1st Viscount Runciman), who used it as a private yacht. Finally, in 1930 it was sold to Thomas Ward Ltd. of Morecambe, Lancashire, to be broken up.⁴⁵ According to one account, the *Sunbeam* met her end more spectacularly than this. The 'Lost At Sea' website, www.lostatsea.ca, claims that after being sold and renamed the *Czarina* in 1916 she was eventually dismantled and sank during a storm off Newfoundland in 1923. This account, however, is probably completely wrong because it gets wrong nearly all the key details — year of manufacture, name of builders, dimensions and the year of passing from Brassey ownership.⁴⁶

Although the story of the *Sunbeam* ended 75 years ago, the Brasseys and their famous yacht are far from forgotten. Thus a 'Google' search of internet websites for references to 'Sunbeam' and 'Brassey' immediately yields at least 135,000 'hits'. Copies of Annie's books and prints of the *Sunbeam* are still on sale on the websites of hundreds of antiquarian dealers who market their wares on the Internet. Academics specialising in women's studies and the history of travel have 'discovered' the Brasseys and the *Sunbeam* over the past decade or so.⁴⁷ (Of course, St John Ambulance has never forgotten them: St John historians have been writing about them since histories of the modern Order of St John began appearing 80 years ago.) And if we can believe one Internet website, the 'Sunbeam Homepage', one day there might even be 'a major motion picture' on the Brasseys and their circumnavigation of the

⁴³ Website of the Houghton Mifflin Company College Division, section 'Ships of the world: An Historical Encyclopaedia', www.College.hmco.com.

⁴⁴ Quoted on website www.scotland.users.ftch.net:

⁴⁵ From websites www.bruzeli.us/info/Nautica/Ships/Schooners/Sunbeam and www.College.hmco.com (website of the Houghton Mifflin Company College Division, section 'Ships of the world: An Historical Encyclopaedia').

⁴⁶ See website www.lostatsea.ca, which cites as its source a report in the Newfoundland newspaper, *St John's Daily News* dated 31 December 1923.

⁴⁷ See for instance Micklewright, *op. cit.*, and Khan, Aisha, 'Portraits in the Mirror: nature, culture and women's travel writing in the Caribbean', in *Women's Writing*, Volume 10, Number 1, 2003.

world aboard the *Sunbeam* in 1876–77. This particular website announces a project to recreate on film ‘the world of a bygone age’ in which the Brasseys and their yacht will be the heroes.⁴⁸ Exactly what the author(s) might have in mind is as yet unclear, but perhaps we might eventually see Cate Blanchett or Nicole Kidman playing Annie and Russell Crowe or Geoffrey Rush playing her husband.

Even if there were no internet websites mentioning the Brasseys and the *Sunbeam*, there are certain tangible monuments to their memory. In Britain there are the museums at Hastings and Bexhill with their ‘Brasseyana’ and the Huntingdon Library in California with its volumes of Annie’s photographs. In Australia the memorials are in bricks and mortar, a hole in the ground and various medals traded by numismatists. Thus, there are at least two ‘Brassey Houses’ in Australia. Named after Thomas Brassey, the better known one was built in Canberra in 1927 as a hostel for the legions of Commonwealth public servants being transferred there from Melbourne following the opening of the interim parliament house.



Brassey House, Macquarie Street, Barton, Australian Capital Territory. Now renamed ‘The Brassey of Canberra’, it was built in 1927–28. The photograph, by K. Charlton, 1990s(?), is from National Library of Australia collection, bar code rt47504).

Now renamed ‘The Brassey of Canberra’, it operates as a hotel and conference centre. The lesser known one is a gracious Italianate building at 111 Chapman Street, North Melbourne, dating from the late nineteenth century. The hole in the ground is the Lord Brassey Mine, an abandoned nickel mine at Heazlewood in Tasmania’s north-west.⁴⁹

The medals are those surviving from the Brassey Field Firing and Marching Competition, which Lord Brassey instituted while Governor of Victoria. A strong supporter of the local militia forces, he began awarding the medals for inter-battalion contests in 1896. Each member of the winning battalion received a silver medal, which hung from a half red-brown, half white, vertically striped ribbon.

The competition seems to have run annually until 1901, by which time at least 334 medals had been awarded. Two versions of the medal were issued: an earlier type, in 1896 and 1897, was attached to an oblong suspender bar that hung from the end of the ribbon; a later type, awarded from 1898, had an

⁴⁸ See website www.littlebigtime.com/Sunbeam.

⁴⁹ Photograph by Philip Wright, 1994, in National Library of Australia collection, bar code rt34735 on website www.pictureaustralia.org; and websites www.brassey.net.au and www.mindat.org.

ornate, curved, swivelled suspender bar. Nowadays collectors can expect to pay A\$500 (£215) for a Brassey Medal of either type.⁵⁰



Obverse – Type 1



Obverse – Type 2



Common Reverse – both types

The Brassey Medal, awarded to each member of the winning battalion in the Brassey Field Firing and Marching Competition 1896–1901. The silver medal was hung from a half red-brown, half white, vertically striped ribbon. On its face it had a crown above an eight-pointed star with a wreath encircling the Latin motto *Pro Deo et Patria* ('For God and Country') around a cross. The reverse side had the words 'Brassey Field Firing and Marching Competition' and a small Maltese cross encircling a wreath inside which was space for the name of the winning battalion to be engraved. Two versions of the medal were issued: an earlier type, in 1896 and 1897, was attached to an oblong suspender bar that hung from the end of the ribbon; a later type, awarded from 1898, had an ornate, curved, swivelled suspender bar. Nowadays the medals fetch A\$500 (£215) on the numismatic market. (Information from Malcolm Little, Chairman, Ophthalmic Hospital Branch, St John Ambulance Australia (NSW).)

4. Annie Brassey's 'missionary' work in Australia



The *Sunbeam* reached Albany in south-western Western Australia on 9 May 1887 and departed Australian waters almost four months later, after leaving Darwin in the Northern Territory on 6 September. In that time Annie Brassey made a sustained effort to promote the St John Ambulance Association and its first aid training courses. She and her retinue were also tourists who sampled most of what Australia had to offer visitors from abroad. Annie in particular used the visit to acquire artefacts and curios to add to the large collections she had already built up in the Brassey homes in London and Sussex.

Annie Brassey's monogram, from her letterhead. A less elaborate form of the monogram (minus the coronet and the bar with the name) was embossed in gold on the front cover of *The Last Voyage*.

The year they were in Australia, 1887, happened to be the year of Queen Victoria's jubilee, and so there was a host of patriotic celebrations to attend in addition to the everyday sights-to-be-seen. They travelled by coach, buggy and train to visit forests, farms, vineyards. They saw over mines at Broken Hill, Ballarat, Newcastle and Mount Morgan. They rode out a kangaroo hunt near Albany; and on a shooting expedition near Cardwell. (The game to be shot included 'geese, duck, widgeon, teal, coot, plover, quail, swans, turkeys and bitterns, to say nothing of cockatoos, parrots, wallabies, kangaroos and alligators'⁵¹ — all protected species a century hence.) They watched demonstrations of boomerang throwing by Aborigines and visited Aboriginal camps to buy artefacts. They shopped, picked wildflowers, collected colourful parrot feathers, sea shells and samples of opal and coral, climbed hills and went bushwalking. They attended race meetings, concerts, receptions and balls; and they threw parties aboard the *Sunbeam*. They watched displays of shearing and baling wool in large shearing sheds. They reviewed contingents of local defence force members and saw schoolchildren participate in patriotic demonstrations. They strolled in recently established botanic gardens and

⁵⁰ Information from Malcolm Little, Chairman, Ophthalmic Hospital Branch, St John Ambulance Australia (NSW), July 2005, from the publication *Medals in Australia from 1858–1999*.

⁵¹ *The Last Voyage*, op. cit., p.379.

inspected a host of civic amenities built in gold boom towns — municipal halls, art galleries, public libraries, museums, hospitals, schools, churches, law courts. They met representatives of a wide cross-section of colonial society, from fringe-dwelling Aborigines and Chinese and 'Kanaka' labourers all the way up to the governors, premiers and other leaders of colonial society. And for Annie there was always the daily early morning task of sitting up in bed to write the previous day's entry in the travel journal that formed the basis of the next book.

The other task for Annie wherever she went was to stimulate interest in the St John Ambulance movement. The routine here was much the same wherever she went. In each capital city that the Brasseys visited they were vice-regal guests, and Annie customarily inveigled the Governor to throw open Government House for a public meeting. At these meetings she would speak on the reasons why a local St John Ambulance Association centre should be immediately established if none existed, or, if one had already formed, why the local population should support it more generously.

The way she approached the task can be seen in her activities in Adelaide, the first of the four Australian capital cities she visited on the *Sunbeam's* progress east and north. The Brasseys arrived there on 24 May 1887. She seemed greatly to enjoy taking the credit for actually founding the St John Ambulance centres herself, and in some later reports the public meeting she called in Adelaide for 6 June 1887 was wrongly billed as the Adelaide centre's 'inaugural' meeting, which in fact had taken place 2½ years previously. Annie's Adelaide meeting took place on a Monday afternoon at Government House.

The Governor, Sir William Robinson, was in the chair, and about 200 people, including most of the leading citizenry, were present to hear her talk about her first aid experiences and to watch her present certificates to the latest batch of graduates from the first aid classes. As was her wont, she had made sure that the local press sent along their best reporters, and that the meeting received generous coverage, including a verbatim transcription of her own speech. In his accustomed brevity, Robinson's speech amounted to only several dozen words, which nevertheless drew applause when he promised the audience 'a very interesting and earnest address from the guest of honour'. He drew further applause when, without saying that Annie rather than he had requested that she speak, he added that everyone 'appreciated her kindness in coming and consenting to distribute certificates'⁵².



Sir William Cleaver Robinson (1834-97), Governor of South Australia, who chaired Annie Brassey's meeting in Adelaide. (Photograph, 1887, from Mortlock Library, Adelaide, collection, image no. B 10253.)

Annie's speech, in contrast to the Governor's, was about 2500 words in length. Although she gave the same basic speech in each place she visited, its spontaneity seemed never to suffer from being so often repeated. Her 'standard' speech was little more than a collage of stories about the accidents and injuries she had personally witnessed. She recounted these with relish to demonstrate the efficacy of St John Ambulance first aid training and the value to the individual and wider society of first aid knowledge. To drive home her point she judiciously larded her narrative with anecdotes from her recent Australian adventures. Nowadays her speech makes her own record of cases treated read like the blend of a present-day casualty ward logbook in a major hospital and the script for a TV 'soapie' about ambulance officers. Her Adelaide audience loved it, however, and the *Adelaide Register* printed it all the next day. It was to become an oft-quoted soliloquy which was still inspiring Australian St John Ambulance members decades later. And as if all this had not been enough, she capped her performance by donating eleven large anatomical posters and a cheque for ten guineas to the Adelaide centre.

⁵² Howie-Willis, Ian, *South Australians and St John Ambulance 1885-1985* (Adelaide, St John Council for South Australia, 1985), p. 38.

Although the leading local medical practitioners usually attended Annie's meetings, her speeches targeted the lay people present, particularly the women. Thus, she usually remarked on 'how much good a poor weak woman can do to aid those abler and stronger than herself if only she knows the right way to set about it'. Still appealing to the women present, the speech ran on as follows:

One great advantage of the instruction [is that] it enables you to overcome ... the natural shrinking which is inherent in most of us ... to all pain and suffering, and the sight of blood gently oozing or swiftly spurting, and from nasty-looking wounds. Only the other day on the yacht one of our stewards burst a soda-water bottle in his hand, cutting all the five arteries and blowing off the top of one finger. Blood was starting out in all directions, and if someone had not been on hand to bind a handkerchief around his wrist, he would probably have bled to death, or have been terribly weakened by loss of blood. The picking out of the broken bits of glass, tying up the arteries, and stitching up the gaping wounds, though most skilfully performed by the doctor, was, as you may imagine, a terrible business, with the poor boy in frightful pain, groaning at intervals. Many of the men were obliged to go away, turned fearfully sick, and I am quite certain if I had not gone through some previous ambulance training I could not have held through the trying operation, though I must honestly own that I felt very ill after it, in spite of all the previous training.⁵³

Further graphic anecdotes followed, including the following, about:

the child, about five years old, of a lady living 42 miles from a town [who] had his thigh badly crushed by the fall of a heavy piece of furniture. Though it was late at night and very dark, her husband being away, she had to take the poor little boy in a buggy driven by a black boy over rough roads to the doctor, and she told me herself she would have given anything to have known how to bind the poor child's leg up in the best possible way to give him the greatest ease for his painful Journey. The limb was so completely smashed that it was described to me as feeling like a bag of crushed ice when lifted up. A man fell off one of the high timber-carts in a forest 20 miles from town while holding a sharp axe in his hand. In trying to save his face he put out his right hand, the result being that two fingers were nearly severed. Owing to the absence of prompt and useful aid, the doctor when he arrived, after considerable lapse of time, though he was taken with the least possible delay, much feared when I saw him that he might lose his hand, if not his arm. These two latter cases happened in one week in a neighbouring colony, and I think may well be adduced as proof of the advantages of the instruction of the St John Ambulance Association.⁵⁴

Some of Annie's best stories were of accidents to herself. She related one of these from her teenage years in telling her audience what to do if someone's clothing caught on fire:

The great thing is to throw the person down — which gains time, as the flame rises upwards and burns harmlessly in the air instead of burning the person — and seize the first thing you can and throw over him. I feel strongly on this subject because I have been so badly injured myself that for six months I was not able to feed myself, and for a year could not use my hands with any degree of comfort, and feel sure my life would not have been spared but that I threw myself on the ground with a rug over me, and a friend covered me with bedclothes, mattress and all, and stamped violently upon me.⁵⁵

⁵³ St John Ambulance Association (UK), Annual Report 1888; *The St John Ambulance Gazette* (Sydney) vol. 1, no. 3, 21 July 1902, pp. 17–20; Brassey, Lady [Anna], *The St John Ambulance Association* (pamphlet compiled in 1887, no listed date or place of publication, copied from a scrap-book of the Library of the Order of St John, St John's Gate, London; and a file of notes and news-clippings, 'Visit of Lord and Lady Brassey 1887', compiled by the late Beryl Fegan of Adelaide and including news-clippings from *The South Australian Register* for May–June 1887 and *The Sydney Morning Herald* for July 1887.

⁵⁴ Brassey, Lady [Anna], *loc. cit.*; *The St John Ambulance Gazette* (Sydney), *op. cit.*; Beryl Fegan file, 'Visit of Lord and Lady Brassey 1887', *op. cit.*; and St John Ambulance Association (UK), Annual Report 1888. These sources are the basis of the accounts of the Brassey's Australian tour set out in Howie-Willis, *op. cit.* (1983), pp. 137–40, 146–7, 158–9 and 163–4 and Howie-Willis, *op. cit.* (1985), pp. 38–41.

⁵⁵ Brassey, Lady, pamphlet, *loc. cit.*

If Annie was not herself accident-prone, she seemed to have an uncanny ability to be where mishaps occurred. In most instances, she argued, a knowledge of first aid was useful, even if the accident victim was an animal. This anecdote demonstrated the point:

Several times I have known of horses out hunting, through over-reaching or otherwise, severing one of their big arteries, and the prompt application of a tight bandage has produced the desired effect of stopping the bleeding. The last time this happened I was out driving, being an invalid myself at the time, at a meet of the hounds. I came across a poor horse standing in a pool of blood in the middle of the road in a large park, rapidly becoming very faint. His mistress and her groom were looking at him in despair, not knowing how to get him even half a mile to the nearest stable. It was the work of a moment to get out and tie a pocket handkerchief round his leg above the fetlock joint as tightly as possible, and then twist it still tighter with the aid of a short stick. The astonishment of the lady and her groom when they saw the bleeding almost immediately stop was quite a study. When the handkerchief was returned to me it was accompanied by a note from the owner of the horse thanking me for saving the life of a valuable animal.⁵⁶

Her speech done, Annie presented the first aid certificates. She commended the Adelaide centre for recently forming a 'practice class', which, she said, was 'a new feature in the work' she had seen nowhere else. Indeed, she thought so highly of it that she had its constitution printed in a pamphlet she later had published as a record of her tour. Further speeches followed, from Eric Van Senden, the centre secretary, and Dr Allan Campbell, the centre's co-founder, who thanked her for her gift of eleven large anatomical charts and cheque for ten guineas. In return the centre bestowed Life Memberships upon the Brasseys.⁵⁷

During their stay in South Australia Annie and her daughters made a four-day side trip to Silverton and Broken Hill to inspect these new mining towns. Annie impressed on the mine management the importance of first aid training in such a remote corner of the country, and no doubt told them they should establish a Broken Hill St John Ambulance centre, or at least a sub-centre of the Adelaide organisation. (These representations led to a member of the Adelaide centre, Arthur Carew Hunt, traveling up to Broken Hill several months later to help begin St John activities there.)⁵⁸

After Adelaide Annie moved on by train to Melbourne via Ballarat and Geelong while Lord Brassey sailed the *Sunbeam* to Hobson's Bay, Melbourne's seaport. In Melbourne she found a local St John Ambulance Association centre, Australia's first, strongly established. As in Adelaide, the Brasseys donated ten guineas to become life members of the Victorian centre. Melbourne at the time was busy celebrating Queen Victoria's jubilee, and so nearly every day their hosts, Lord and Lady Loch, had official engagements. Amidst the festivities there does not seem to have been time for Annie's usual public meeting and speech. Her special contribution to the local St John cause was the 'Lady Brassey Ambulance Corps' at Williamstown, the dockside suburb where the *Sunbeam* moored, on the opposite side of the Yarra mouth to Port Melbourne. Annie seems to have provided the funds for this venture, which recruited certificated pupils from the St John Ambulance classes. The ambulance corps does not appear to have survived long, although a year after the Brassey visit to Melbourne it was reported to be 'doing useful work at the seaport'.⁵⁹ While the Brasseys were in Melbourne, Lord Brassey, his son 'Tab' and daughter Mabelle made a five-day side trip by train to Mount Gambier, just across the border from Victoria in south-eastern South Australia. Within several months of this visit a Mount Gambier sub-centre of the Victorian St John Ambulance centre opened and over the next six months trained 29 men and 17 women in first aid;⁶⁰ and so possibly the three Brasseys had gone to Mount Gambier with instructions from Annie to promote the first aid cause there. Even though Annie might not have been able to do as much personally to promote the St John cause in Victoria as she did in South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland, the St John Ambulance council recorded in its annual report its appreciation of 'the great impetus [she had] given to the operations of the Victorian Centre'.⁶¹

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ Howie-Willis (1985), p. 40.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ St John Ambulance Association (Victoria), Annual Report 1888, p. 7.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 5

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 7

From Melbourne Annie travelled overland to Sydney by train while her husband sailed the *Sunbeam* there. Once in Sydney she almost single handedly established a New South Wales St John Ambulance Association centre. To her surprise, she found that in this colony various 'detached' classes ('one-off' classes not conducted by an established St John Ambulance centre) had been run in the preceding six years without a centre having been formed. She therefore set about organising one. She contacted Dr Samuel Knaggs, who had run the first courses in the early 1880s, and arranged for him and other interested parties to attend a preliminary meeting under the chairmanship of the Governor, Lord Carrington, in the drawing room of Government House on 13 July 1887.

She instructed the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* to send along 'a competent reporter', and made sure that he gave the meeting adequate preliminary publicity. She called her meeting at a most opportune time. Only the day before a Royal Commission had released its findings on a colliery disaster at Bulli south of Sydney four months previously. An underground explosion had killed six men and two boys, underlining the need for miners to have first aid skills. Then on the very morning of Lady Brassey's meeting, her publicity material shared space in the newspapers with the report of an inquest on a man killed when a train had crashed near Hornsby three weeks before. Sixteen people had been hospitalised as a result of this accident, six of them with fractures.⁶²



Lord Charles Robert Carrington (1843-1928), Governor of New South Wales 1885-90, who chaired Annie Brassey's Sydney meeting. (Photograph, circa 1880-90; from the Wollongong City Library, image no. P03\P03997.)

With fate thus intervening as her ally, Annie spoke to an audience that was both large and receptive. Many leading citizens attended, including the Premier (Sir Henry Parkes) and several cabinet ministers, the Mayor (Alderman A. J. Riley) and leading members of the medical fraternity. Lord Carrington started the proceedings by saying that once he had had to ride ten miles with his collar bone broken in five places because none of his comrades knew how to give him first aid. Lord Brassey addressed the meeting next, commending the first aid teaching Knaggs had done among the mining community at Newcastle. Parkes spoke briefly, saying 'it would be folly for him to add anything to what had been said' but that he and all present felt 'gratified' by the presence of the Brasseys. Annie then delivered the speech she had given five weeks earlier in Adelaide.

The meeting ended by calling on the Mayor and a small group of citizens including Knaggs to call a public meeting two days later, on Friday 15th July at 8.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, to 'promote the objects of the St John Ambulance Association'.⁶³

Sir Henry Parkes (1815-1896), five times premier of New South Wales between 1872 and 1891, and Premier at the time of the Brasseys' visit. Known as the 'Father of Federation', died five years before the Australian colonies federated. He is shown here at a meeting of colonial Premiers in Melbourne in 1890, moving the resolution to call together a Federal Convention in Sydney the next year. (An engraving by F.A. Sleep & G.R. Ashton, 1890, published by David Syme & Co. State Library of Victoria image no. IAN01/0390/1.)



⁶² St John Ambulance Archives (Sydney), records on the formation of the New South Wales centre of the St John Ambulance Association; Annie Brassey, letter to the editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 July 1887; and *Sydney Morning Herald* 13 July 1887, pp. 9, 13, and 14 July 1887, pp. 4, 8.

⁶³ *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 July 1887, p. 4; and St John Ambulance Association (New South Wales), Annual Report 1911, p. 17.



Dr Samuel T. Knaggs MD (1842-1921), the Irish-born and trained medical practitioner who taught Australia's first accredited St John Ambulance Association first aid class, at the Eveleigh railway workshops in Redfern, Sydney, in 1881. He attended Annie Brassey's Sydney meeting and was later one of the main co-founders of the New South Wales St John Ambulance centre. The picture, left, is from his obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald for 7 April 1921. It shows him wearing his uniform of Fleet Surgeon of the New South Wales Naval Volunteer Force. This is the only known photograph of Knaggs.

The public meeting on 15th July opened with the Mayor in the chair and a distinguished group on the stage with him. Among them were Knaggs, the Brasseys, Sir Frederick Darley (the Chief Justice) and Sir George Reid (who would later serve a five-year term as Premier of New South Wales and a one-year term as Australia's fourth Prime Minister). On Darley's motion, seconded by Reid, the meeting voted to establish a New South Wales St John Ambulance centre. A couple of days later Annie concluded her campaign in New South Wales by conducting a ceremony aboard the *Sunbeam* in which she presented certificates to sixteen women who had successfully completed first aid training classes in Double Bay and Woollahra.⁶⁴ She then left for Brisbane by train, certain she had left behind a strong new St John Ambulance centre; however, unfortunately and for various reasons that I have detailed elsewhere,⁶⁵ the centre did not materialise for another three years, during the second half of 1890,

The *Sunbeam* then sailed north for Brisbane, Rockhampton, the Torres Strait islands, Darwin and Annie's burial at sea 562 kilometres north-west of the present-day Western Australian town of Exmouth. From Sydney Annie had travelled to Brisbane by train. Once there, she called her customary meeting, on 27 July, which was as usual well publicised, well attended and well reported. Some 400 people gathered in the Town Hall with the Mayor, Mr J. Hipwood, in the chair.

The meeting was perhaps shorter than those the Brasseys had attended earlier in their voyage because Annie was suffering badly from her chronic bronchitis and could barely talk. Still, the speeches were stirring enough. The Anglican Bishop, William T.T. Webber, personally and feelingly vouchsafed the need for a St John Ambulance Association centre in the city:

I feel inclined to be a pupil of the ambulance classes, because I have again and again seen in this colony the necessity of knowledge of this kind. It was only the other day I was at a place 70 miles from a medical man when an accident happened. A man had his nose nearly severed from his face. Happily there was a lady present who had attended one of the classes of this Association and, when everybody had lost their heads, she set to work and the nose was in its proper place in a very short time. There was an instance of the extreme value of such an Association as this. (Applause.)⁶⁶



Alderman James Hipwood (1842-1926), Mayor of Brisbane, who chaired Annie Brassey's Brisbane meeting. (Photograph from Brisbane City Council Library, image no. BCC-B120-33435.)

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ See Howie-Willis, *op. cit.* (1983).

⁶⁶ *Brisbane Courier* 28 July 1887, clipping reprinted in Brassey, Lady, pamphlet, *op. cit.*, pp. 10-11.

Reverend Dr William Thomas Thornhill Webber (1837-1903), Bishop of Brisbane, who spoke eloquently about first aid training at Annie Brassey's Brisbane meeting. (A wood engraving from the *Australian Sketcher*, June 1885, State Library of Victoria, image no. A/S29/06/85/101.)



Annie then spoke. Despite her bronchitis, she recounted several more of the accidents that seemed to follow her and to demand a knowledge of first aid:

Accidents occur only too frequently. I can give some of my own experience within the last forty-eight hours. I had just got out of my carriage the other day before the horses rushed away with it and it was partly smashed. One of the horses was hurt, and knowing what was best for itself wanted to lie down, and it was with considerable difficulty that it could be got on its legs. The first idea of those who do not know how best to treat the case of an animal meeting with an accident whereby a limb is fractured is to put it on its legs, almost certainly with the result of turning what might be a simple fracture into a compound fracture. Only today we were in a carriage which came into collision with a dray, and there might have been an accident, and later in the day our carriage upset a woman and a child in a cart. They were fortunately not hurt, but greatly frightened and might have been seriously injured. I only give you these common instances to show how the advantage of first aid taught by the St. John Ambulance Association comes in. (Hear, hear).⁶⁷

The resolution, 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a centre of the St. John Ambulance Association be formed in Brisbane and that the Mayor be requested to form a committee for that purpose,' was then put to the meeting and carried 'by acclamation'.⁶⁸

The Brassey entourage moved on next to Rockhampton. From here Annie wrote a report on her Australian experiences to St John Ambulance headquarters at St John's Gate, London. 'In all parts of this great country I have visited,' she wrote, 'I have met with much encouragement from the leaders of public opinion, and valuable co-operation from the principal medical gentlemen, without whose cordial support the Association could not exist'.⁶⁹ When Lord Brassey eventually got back to London, where he joined the Central Executive Committee of the St John Ambulance Association, he sent out to Brisbane an Ashford litter, then the very latest thing in ambulance transport.

The recipient was Dr John Thomson, who became the pioneer of the St John Ambulance movement in Queensland and had attended Annie's Brisbane meeting. Inspired by Annie's enthusiasm for ambulance work, in 1889 Thomson began giving first aid and nursing lectures to members of the Military Ambulance Corps and to anyone else who was interested. From his efforts grew the Queensland St John Ambulance centre.⁷⁰

Apart from promoting the first aid cause among the Torres Strait Islands, Annie Brassey's St John Ambulance 'mission' to Australia was drawing to a close, and with it her life. Many epitaphs to Annie's life and achievements would appear in the months and years ahead. Perhaps the most moving was the one by her husband later published as a 12-page introduction to *The Last Voyage*.



End plate for *The Last Voyage* with the monogram of the ship's artist, R.T. Pritchett.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

⁷⁰ For an account of the development of St John Ambulance in Queensland see Wales, Murdoch and Pearn, John, *First in First Aid: The History of St John Ambulance in Queensland* (Brisbane, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health Publishing Unit of the University of Queensland [at the Royal Children's Hospital], 1998).

He wrote it for their children aboard the *Sunbeam* in the days following her death. It concludes with these sentences:

We have seen how your mother used her opportunities to make the world a little better than she found it. We may each do the same service in our own sphere, and so may best be followers of her good example. In tenderest love may we ever cherish and bless and revere her memory. My dear children, I might write more. I could never tell you what your mother was to me.⁷¹

5. Conclusion

Annie Brassey is important in Australian history as well as in St John Ambulance history. The portrait of Australia that she painted in *The Last Voyage* shows a society in transition — a group of remote colonies of Empire making their way towards independent nationhood. She was not the first or last influential travel writer to tour the Australian colonies during the nineteenth century. Anthony Trollope (1815–82) had arrived from the UK 15 years earlier and ‘Mark Twain’ (Samuel Clemens, 1835–1910) came from the USA eight years later. Each wrote important books about their Australian travels. Annie’s book might have lacked their intellectualism and their incisive criticisms of Australian society during the late colonial period; however, the portrait she painted of Australia was one that Australians would have liked. She described a vigorous, enterprising, self-confident, youthful nation making great ‘Progress’ in bringing ‘Civilisation’ to a whole continent. She had come to the Australian colonies at an important time in their evolution towards nationhood. They were moving towards the federation that eventually came 15 years later. She made it her business to meet ‘Fathers of Federation’ such as Alfred Deakin and Henry Parkes. Having met them, she adopted their cause. *The Last Voyage* became another voice preaching federation. Although Annie did not survive to see her last book published, much less federation, hers would have been an influential voice in the federation debate.

The Last Voyage also describes an Australia not yet irrevocably changed by ‘Progress’ and ‘Civilisation’. Like William Dampier (1615–1752) two centuries earlier, she thought that the Western Australia’s Aborigines she encountered were the ‘most miserable people in the world’ — even worse off in their fringe camps near Albany than the Tierra del Fuegians had been among their south Atlantic blizzards.

An Aboriginal man in front of his wurlie-wurlie, near Albany, Western Australia. (An illustration by R.T. Pritchett in Annie Brassey, *The Last Voyage of the ‘Sunbeam’*.)



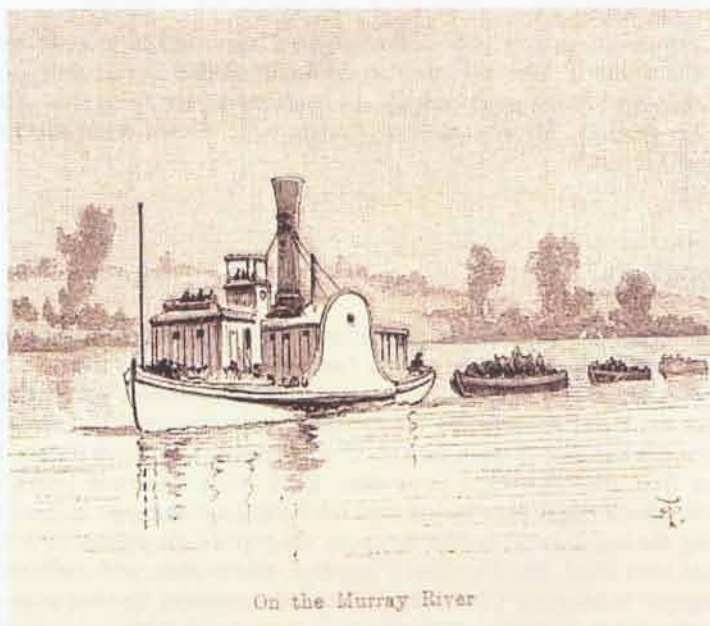
Her train travels took her across vast plains and hills from which the topsoil had not yet blown or washed away.

The ‘Proclamation Tree’ at Glenelg, South Australia. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in *The Last Voyage of the ‘Sunbeam’*.)

⁷¹ *The Last Voyage*, op. cit., p. xxiv.

At Murray Bridge in South Australia she sailed on one of the paddle steamers plying the still undammed Murray River.

Paddle steamer towing barges, lower Murray River, South Australia. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'.)



She found tranquillity in fern gullies as yet unchoked by blackberries, lantana, bridal creeper and other plagues of introduced weeds. She visited the camps of timber-splitters and wondered about the impact on the land of removing the forests they were felling. She saw the Victorian goldfields when Ballarat was still 'The Golden City'. In each of the four eastern colonies she visited she rode on Cobb & Co stage coaches; she also travelled long distances by the trains that were steadily replacing them. She went sailing on a Sydney harbour that still had no bridge; and she admired the harbour's many picturesque coves where the suburban sprawl had not yet obliterated the native bushland as ever bigger houses crowded one above the other for a better harbour view.

The ships of Victoria's naval defence force steam down Port Phillip Bay. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'.)



The Exhibition Building, Melbourne, where on 23 June 1887 the Brasseys attended a 'State Concert' in honour of Queen Victoria's jubilee with their hosts, the Governor, Lord Loch, and Lady Loch. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'.)

She pondered the oddly juxtaposed collieries and pastoral vistas of the Hunter Valley behind Newcastle. The forested tableland between Tamworth and Tenterfield in northern New South Wales reminded her of the New Forest across the Solent from Portsmouth, the *Sunbeam's* home port. Just over the Queensland border she saw 600 Chinese tin miners working at Stanthorpe, then a mining rather than a fruit-growing town. Further north, she rode on the first passenger train from Rockhampton

to Springsure, where only 16 years earlier the Cullinlaringo massacre had occurred and where she collected samples of the opals then being mined there. Around Ingham north of Townsville she saw canefields being worked by 'Kanakas' (Melanesian labourers), most of whom would be sent packing back to their home islands 14 years later. And finally, among the Torres Strait Islands, where her journal ends, she visited Darnley (Erub) Island, among the remotest outposts of Empire, which had been the scene 16 years earlier of the event the Islanders now celebrate as the 'Coming of the Light' — the arrival of the first London Missionary Society teachers. She also visited nearby Murray (Mer) Island, where the LMS was building a teachers' college to train Torres Strait Islanders for mission work in New Guinea.

The Last Voyage is also an important historical resource because of the 226 exquisite engravings it contains. Of these 72 illustrate the ten Australian chapters of the book (which contains 21 chapters plus an appendix by Lord Brassey to complete Annie's narrative). These were produced by the ship's artist, R.T. Pritchett (1828–1907),⁷² who illustrated some of Annie's other books. The reason why the Australian section of the book comprises almost half the chapters but has fewer than a third of the illustrations possibly reflects the fact that Pritchett left the *Sunbeam* at Macassar in the East Indies and was not therefore aboard for the subsequent voyage around Australia. He produced his Australian engravings later, from photographs taken during the Australian leg of the voyage; however, even though he did not see first hand the Australian scenes he depicted he succeeded in taking a 'snapshot' of life in Australia as it was in 1887.

His 72 Australian engravings depict a vanished Australia of boomerang-throwing Aborigines, hastily erected miners' camps, selectors battling to create farms from forests, paddle steamers hauling barges, stage coaches losing their way at night, the steamships of the Victorian Navy patrolling Port Phillip Bay and German settlers in Queensland trekking overland in a covered wagon to take up their selections. A selection of Pritchett's Australian engravings, each signed with his distinctive monogram, appears in the illustrations section at the end of this paper.



Miners' camp, Victoria. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'.)



Selectors splitting timber slabs in northern Victoria. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'.)

⁷² Robert Taylor Pritchett was a gunsmith turned landscape artist. The son of the head of the firm that supplied Enfield rifles to the East India Company, he worked for the firm until it stopped supplying arms to the EIC when the latter was dissolved in 1857. By then he had earned the nickname 'Father of the Enfield rifle' for having invented the bullet that made the Enfield a more accurate, reliable weapon. After he turned to landscape painting, Queen Victoria became his chief patron. As well as illustrating Annie Brassey's later books, his commissions included illustrations for the 1890 edition of Charles Darwin's *Voyage of the 'Beagle'*. See Millar, Delia, 'Pritchett, Robert Taylor' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, *op. cit.* (Volume 45), pp. 438–9.

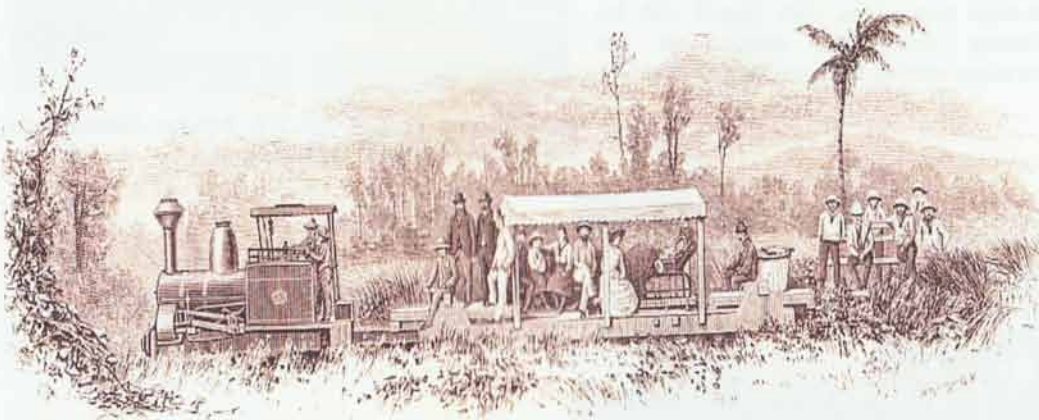
As in her more famous book, *Around the World in the 'Sunbeam'*, eleven years earlier, Annie's chatty style in *The Last Voyage* 'struck exactly the right note...about [her] adventure, using the entries in her journal to describe rambles ashore and daily life afloat'.⁷³ Dipping into *The Last Voyage* is still a pleasure for anyone who can lay hands on a copy. Those reading it 118 years later will, like me, come away amazed at what Annie continued accomplishing even when dying, for she kept on touring, promoting first aid training and writing up her journal almost to the end. She made her last journal entry at Thursday Island on 29 August 1887 after returning from Darnley and Murray Islands. Her last paragraph was about the arrangements she intended making for Dr Salter, the local medical practitioner, to teach a first aid class on Thursday Island.



Sheep fording a river in New South Wales. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in *The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'*.)



Stage coach lost at night, Queensland. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in *The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'*.)



Narrow-gauge steam train for hauling sugar cane, north Queensland. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in *The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'*.)

The punishing routine that Annie Brassey kept up during her four months in Australia probably helped kill her. We know, and perhaps she did too, that she would not survive her 'Last Voyage'. That knowledge gives *The Last Voyage* piquancy. Aware that she was sailing to her death, we can admire the more her accomplishments during her four months' touring the mainland Australian colonies. Perhaps realising that she would never return home to Sussex was what drove her so relentlessly to plan and organise her final expedition abroad, contact the various colonial officials whose help would make possible her many excursions and meetings in Australia, pursue editors and journalists to secure publicity for her cause, keep up with her busy schedule of correspondence, social engagements and public meetings, receive guests, deliver her speeches, and apply herself to her daily task of journal-writing.

⁷³ Marshall, E.H. and Middleton, Dorothy, *op. cit.*, p. 385.

On top of these she had to see all the sights and live all the experiences that a vast country like Australia could offer a world traveller like herself.

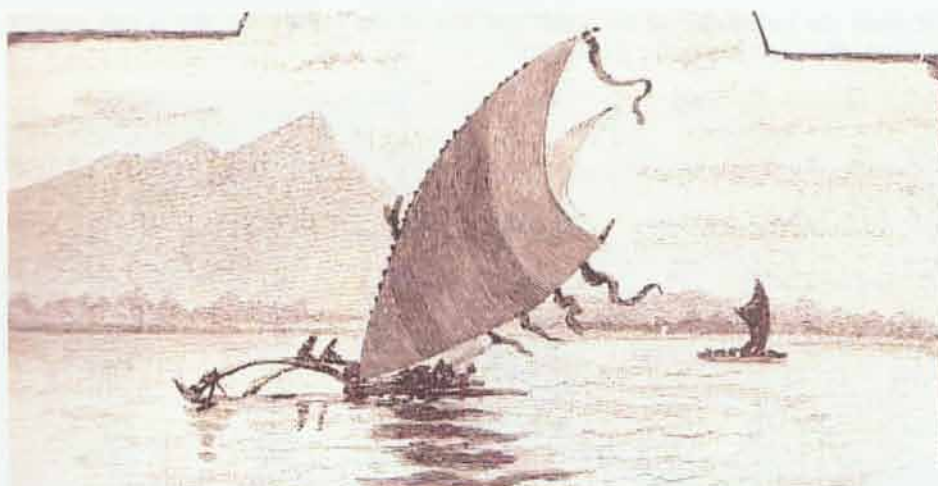


*German settler's wagon trekking overland, Queensland. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in *The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'*.)*



*The Darnley Island church, Torres Strait Islands, Queensland. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in *The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'*.)*

Finally, there was the first aid gospel to preach. Unabashed self-promoter, publicity seeker and social climber she might have been, but she never ceased urging the public to train in first aid. We in St John Ambulance Australia can be grateful that she never let up on that.



*Out-rigger canoes with 'lobster-claw' sails, Torres Strait Islands. (An R.T. Pritchett illustration in *The Last Voyage of the 'Sunbeam'*.)*

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Occasional Papers

This section of the journal publishes two papers written by members of the Historical Society's management committee. The first, by Richard Caesar-Thwaytes, the Deputy Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Operations Branch in the Australian Capital Territory, is a report on a visit to the UK in 2004, during which the author attended, among other events, the celebrations for the 500th anniversary of St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, and went on public duty with the St John Ambulance uniformed volunteers. The second, by Douglas Sturkey, the Director of Ceremonies for the Australian Priory of the Order of St John, was an address by the author to the Priory Chapter meeting in Melbourne on 25 June 2005. The editor thanks Mr Caesar-Thwaytes and Dr Sturkey for permission to publish their papers here.

Report on a visit to the Order of St John in London in 2004

by J. Richard Caesar-Thwaytes

The author: Richard Caesar-Thwaytes was a career army officer in the UK before emigrating to Australia to take up an administrative position in the Department of Defence, where he continued working until his retirement. For many years he has been a senior officer of the St John Ambulance Operations Branch in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), in which he is currently the Deputy Commissioner and was previously Territory Superintendent. A keen student of military history and the history of the Orders of St John, in 2005 he was commissioned to produce a history of the St John Ambulance Operations Branch in the ACT. As well as being a foundation committee member of this Historical Society, he is an Officer Brother in our Order of St John and a Knight of Magistral Grace in the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St John of Malta.

Invitation to attend a book launch on 20th May 2004 at St John's Gate

An invitation was kindly extended by the UK committee member of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society, Mr Terry Walton, for any Australian member in London on 20 May 2004 to attend the book launch at St John's Gate of a new book on the archaeology of the St John Priory at Clerkenwell, which celebrates the construction 500 years ago of the existing Gatehouse, which was built in 1504.

References from the Australian Priory Librarian

Dr Ian Howie-Willis very kindly wrote several official references on my behalf: to Ms Pamela Willis, the Curator of the Museum at the Gate, to Mr Terry Walton, and to the Secretary of the English St John Ambulance.

Arrangements with Mr Terry Walton to Attend St John Events

I corresponded with Terry Walton by air mail and email before leaving Australia, and he very kindly suggested my attendance at the St John Ambulance functions which are described below. He invited me to have dinner with him and his wife Joan on Tuesday, 6 April 2004, the day after my arrival in London by Emirates Airlines.

All the arranged meetings took place as we had planned, and I am immensely grateful to Terry for his thoughtful hospitality, and for the trouble he took in providing me with such good opportunities to gain an insight into St John Ambulance in England, and particularly the London (Prince of Wales's) District.

Mr Terry Walton OSTJ MSc is the President of 426 Highbury Division, as well as being the Banner bearer of the Commandery of Western Australia in London. He has visited Perth, WA on a number of

occasions and performed public duties with them. After service at a senior level with the Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary, for which he has the Service Medal, he has gained the Service Medal of the Order for over 30 years of St John Ambulance service, mainly in the Operations Branch. Terry is fully qualified in all levels of first aid as well as being qualified as a Major Incident Officer. He is a retired secondary school teacher whose subject is physics, and performs up to a thousand hours of public duty with St John Ambulance each year, as well as his considerable work on historical matters at the Gate. He has a comprehensive knowledge of the St John organisation in all its Branches and an acquaintance with many members in England, to the highest levels.

Requirement for me to Perform Certain Representative Tasks

I kept Dr Ian Howie-Willis informed of the general nature of my anticipated St John activities, and he asked me to deliver a fraternal letter (which he had prepared in his capacity as Priory Librarian and Secretary to the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society) to the English St John Historical Society meeting on 18 May 2004. This was done.

He also asked me to purchase on repayment two of the new books on archaeology at the Book Launch on 20 May 2004. I have the two books, costing £25 each (and a third one for myself, which I have commenced reading). The books are heavy in weight and content, but a good read for those with the interest. Ian's book was packed in my larger suitcase, while the Priory copy has been sent by surface post. I carried my own copy onto the aircraft to avoid the overweight, which caused me problems on 4 April (although QANTAS and Emirates Airlines were very helpful).

Peter Bennett, the Territory Training Officer, asked me to purchase on repayment a St John wall plaque. I procured one at the Gate for £32, which was packed in the large suitcase.

Attendance at St John First Aid Duties

I performed first aid public duty at the Arsenal Stadium for the soccer on 6 April (to half time only – 3:20 hours), on 16 April (5:00 hours), and on 1 May 2004 (5:25 hours), and at the London Marathon on 18 April 2004 (7:55 hours) when I was stationed on the Mall, below the Duke of York steps at the Bronze Teapot vehicle. Ms Esmee Salkeld, the Assistant Secretary-General of Fellowship Branch, was in charge of the Catering Unit and later kindly gave me a number of photographs which had been taken at the event. Terry Walton met me and guided me during all these duties, lending me an English St John Ambulance high visibility green and yellow waterproof jacket. On his advice I wore the Australian Ops Branch Akubra hat in uniform only for the Flora London Marathon and the Vehicle Dedication Ceremony, since it would possibly be stolen by the sometimes rough football crowd (at which I wore the peaked cap, but like other members removed headdress during the soccer duties). For the same reason identity cards were normally carried but not worn.

I was directed to wear ID for the Flora London Marathon 2004, along with another special pass, which was very much required for the strict security. It is notable that at this major event, St John Ambulance deployed 1,400 volunteers, 56 front line ambulances, 43 mobile treatment centres and 20 other vehicles, some from Counties across England.

General Impressions of the English St John Ambulance

My general impression of the English St John Ambulance is that they are very well-organised, efficient, and highly trained. There is a very good, mutually-respected and cooperative relationship between St John Ambulance London District, the London Ambulance Service, and the Metropolitan Police, where St John Ambulance are respected as equals in their own professional field. St John crew and operate many ambulances themselves, whose members must meet the same standards of training as the London Ambulance Service. It is quite common for St John members to be officials in both organisations. I have copies of three of the detailed St John London District Operation Orders to show the ACT Territory Operations Officer and others who might be interested.

The English St John Ambulance organisation enjoys a very high reputation in the civil community, and it frequently happens that distinguished retired people, including from the Armed Forces, give their services at a senior level.

When I was at the Arsenal Stadium, I was shown round the main Control Room by a St John Corporal, by an Inspector of the Metropolitan Police in charge, and by the Arsenal Club Liaison Officer. All were most friendly, which applied also to other persons met. Some days there were few casualties, at others there were urgent calls for a response team from one of the two First Aid Posts.

Terry Walton introduced me to a large number of English members, including Admiral Lord Boyce, President of London District, Professor Mellows, the Deputy Lord Prior on the Grand Council, Mr Paul Petrovitch, the Commander London District, Mr Seamus Kelly, the Commissioner London District, Mr Derek Rudge, the Chief Commissioner Operations at National Headquarters, and Mr Patrick O' Donnell, the Chairman of London District.

It is also notable that in the English organisation of St John Ambulance, the uniformed District Commander has two principal subordinates, the uniformed Commissioner (who is in charge of the equivalent to our Operations Branch) and the plain clothes District Director (who is in charge of the equivalent to our Training Branch).

The English Priory is reviewing the rank and appointment structure, which aims to change a number of the names of appointments and insignia, the idea being to only award rank when really necessary to control members, and to make the insignia more intelligible to other ambulance services, with whom they have to relate frequently. I have a copy of the Draft Recommendation for the Commissioner. The English Priory has consulted widely at all levels, and members were invited to comment on the proposal by the end of May 2004.

It is proposed that Divisional Superintendents have only two stars on their insignia. I noted that all the Operations at the Arsenal were controlled by Mr Mark Squirrel, who for eight years (although a young man) has been in charge of this duty, but soon to be re-assigned to the senior Operational staff appointment of Public Duties Officer NE London, one of the four main regions of London District. I noted that he conducted the briefing and took charge of this large and complex duty in a most efficient and creditable manner. Mark was, at the time District Staff Officer grade 3 LINKS [All university Divisions in London]. I was advised that it is traditional that all LINKS officers do not wear rank markings.

Anzac Day Attendance

In the cold pre-dawn darkness I was standing outside the Goodenough Club, Mecklenburg Square (where I stayed in London) and waited for my ordered taxi under the street lamps, wearing dark blue blazer, our Most Venerable Order's Service Medal and insignia, and my father's medals on the right breast. An Australian young lady rushed up to me, and asked me if I was going to the Dawn Service at the new Australian War Memorial at Hyde Park Corner. She then said she was due to play the trumpet, her taxi was missing, and asked me if she could share my taxi, which then arrived. I promptly agreed, and we and her husband departed for Hyde Park Corner. She was Ms Melanie McLoughlin, who had trained in the School of Music in Canberra and now worked in London as a musician. She said that Australia House would pay for the taxi, and later she introduced me to the right officials after the service, who gave me tickets for the Cenotaph Service in Whitehall, and the later Service of Commemoration in Westminster Abbey. Melanie played magnificently at the Dawn Service and in Westminster Abbey. At the Cenotaph, where I marched with the contingent of service and ex-service personnel, they had the band of the Irish Guards.

The saga did not end there, because just after the Dawn Service, I was accosted by Major Gregory Cranswick of the British Army, Royal Corps of Signals, now SO2 Performance and Reporting of the Household Cavalry, and his wife Bronya, who works for the Foreign Office and had been a Peace Monitor in the Solomons. Greg gave me his card and wrote his address in St James's Square on the back. Some weeks later I contacted Greg who invited me to a very pleasant dinner at his home, overlooking Pall Mall. He then invited me to visit his office two days later in the Horse Guards, which overlooks the square where the Household Cavalry parade for changing the mounted guard, and post two mounted troopers in Whitehall. He showed me the Duke of Wellington's office, desk and Conference Room in the same building, which are still in use, and later took me and two others to lunch in the officers' mess off Chancery Lane of the Inns of Court Regiment and City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders). Greg does a lot of riding of a Blues and Royals Horse called 'Warrior',

and is improving his sabre with fencing practice, but is interested in possibly joining St John Ambulance London District. He hopes to do the staff course at Shrivenham. Greg is well known to St John members in the ACT, and I have recommended him to Terry Walton.

Visits to the British Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (BASMOM)

On 26 April 2004, I visited the BASMOM Conventual Church on the ground floor of the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth at St John's Wood, opposite the eponymous tube station. The church was magnificent in marble, pillars, capitals, gold leaf, insignia, inscriptions and Household Cavalry standards. Originally built elsewhere in 1860, it had been moved in the twentieth century. I then visited the Secretary, Ms Caroline de la Force, in the nearby Brampton House, who showed me around the impressive Chancellery on the first floor. I returned to the Church with chapel habit and insignia on the Thursday, 29 April, and took part in the procession and sung Latin mass, which was most impressive. There were about a dozen Knights, Dames and Chaplains, most in habits. Some Knights were professed or had taken vows of Obedience.

After the mass we went to share a bottle of red wine in the Chancellery with them, including the Irish Association Knight Confrere Adrian Fitzgerald. In conversation I gained some understanding of the British Association. I later had dinner in a local French restaurant with three Knights (Fra Freddie Crighton-Stewart, and Confreres Richard Caffins and Russell Cavanagh-Mainwaring) and Postulant Paul Sutherland. I enjoyed meeting them. They were about to depart for the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes the next day, where they were to act as *brancardiers*, for which purpose they had borrowed black overalls from the Most Venerable Order's Stores Department.

Social Function at the Hospitallers Club, 14 May 2004

Terry and Joan Walton kindly invited me to a social function at the Hospitallers Club at the York Street Headquarters of London District, which is for the officers and former officers. There was an excellent buffet dinner preceded by a very skilful conjuring show. Amongst others, I met Derek R. Fenton, a retired former Commander, with sixty years of St John service, who had recently introduced some St John practices to St Petersburg and Rumania and is still a very active member of the Fellowship Branch. I also met David Bouchard, Superintendent of 342 Hackney Division and his wife Doris. I was again impressed by the close links between the Ambulance and Fellowship Branches. In fact all members of any branch of St John Ambulance in the UK are automatically members of the Fellowship Branch.

Vehicle Dedication Ceremony at the Guildhall 15 May 2004

I was very fortunate in having the opportunity to attend this impressive ceremony on a Saturday at 1100 hours at the Guildhall. The weather in the open square was so warm and sunny that I felt hot in my black St John general duties uniform. The ceremony is only held about every two or three years, and involves a parade of the Colour Party, music played by the Kent St John Ambulance Band, a handover speech of the new vehicles by the Commander London District, and acceptance expressed by the Commissioner and Director. These and the Chaplain then bless each vehicle, of which there were scores, as listed on the program which I have kept. Afterwards a buffet lunch was served in a mediaeval crypt part of the Guildhall. I met, amongst others, Mr Alex McBride, Staff Officer Central (Operations) who had commanded the parade. Before leaving I was able to inspect, at an even more subterranean level, the ruins of the Roman Amphitheatre discovered fairly recently.

In London District there are 3,000 volunteer members, supported by 70 full-time staff, 81 ambulances and high dependency units, five special care baby units, 38 mobile treatment centres, six rapid response vehicles, 11 minibuses and four specially built and equipped pedal cycles for the Cycle Response Unit. There is also the purpose-built catering vehicle, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Cooks (the same vehicle which was at the London Marathon at Duke of York Steps on the Mall). The London District fleet will comprise 206 vehicles by July 2004.

Conducted Tour of the Gate 18 May 2004

As advised by Terry Walton, I first attended at the Gate at 1300 hours to listen to an interesting lecture by Mr Gordon Malcolm on the latest archaeological findings about the Clerkenwell mediaeval Priory. I then joined a group and was given a thorough conducted tour of the Gate and St John Church, including the Crypt. One of the men advised me to have a drink in the Jerusalem Tavern in Britton Lane nearby. I met him there and one of the other men on the Gate tour, and I had two interesting conversations, while sampling some rather unusual beers. This quaint but actually modern Tavern has no historical connection with the Gate, other than its obvious inspiration by a Tavern which used to operate there in the eighteenth century. Anyway, it was a welcome manifestation of history in material and indeed liquid form.

Meeting of St John Historical Society at the Gate 18 May 2004

I attended in plain clothes (blazer and St John tie) the Meeting of the Historical Society at 1900 hours, chaired by Mrs Pat Parker, who kindly publicly welcomed me, included an excellent talk by the historian Professor Judith Herrin on the sack of Constantinople by the Fourth Crusade in 1204. She delivered the subject with great clarity, but without simplifying the issues. Afterwards Pat Parker invited me to read out the Fraternal Letter from the Australian Society, whereupon I stood up, faced them, and read out the letter slowly and clearly. She said that the letter would be kept on the Archives.

Book Launch at the Gate 20 May 2004

In a dark suit, I attended the Book Launch at 1800 hours in the top assembly room at the Gate, drank wine, ate snacks, and bought three copies of the book and had them signed by both authors. Professor Jonathan Riley-Smith, the notable St John historian and Librarian of the Grand Council, who like myself is a member of both the Most Venerable Order and the SMOM, made a speech. I had just met him on arrival, when he told me an amusing story. The much mentioned book is by Barney Sloane and Gordon Malcolm and titled *Excavations at the Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell, London*, published by the Museum of London Archaeological Service, Museum of London 2004.

Many thanks to Terry and Joan Walton, and to Ian Howie Willis and Brigadier Peter Evans

For me, it has been a most interesting and worthwhile visit to England, especially in its St John dimensions. I thank very much Dr Ian Howie-Willis and Brigadier Peter Evans, who recommended me to the Most Venerable Order and BASMOM in England respectively. I am eternally grateful for the continued help, advice, planning, guidance and facilitating undertaken by Terry Walton, and his and Joan's friendship and hospitality. I hope some insights which I have gained during my visit to London may prove of value in Australia.

For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity

by Douglas Sturkey CVO AM

The author: Dr Douglas Sturkey has been Director of Ceremonies for St John Ambulance Australia (the Australian Priory of the Order of St John) since 1999. A senior Commonwealth public servant, his last position before his retirement was Secretary to the Governor-General, through which position he was admitted into membership of the Order as a Commander Brother. After his retirement he entered a second career as an academic, completing a PhD degree at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies of the Australian National University, where he now teaches. He has been a committee member of this Historical Society since 2003. In 2004 he was commissioned by the Chancellor of the Priory to be a member of a three-man team charged with co-ordinating the input from St John Ambulance Australia into the efforts of a working party of the Order's International Grand Council, which was broadly investigating the appropriate balance between the Order's religious and community service functions. Dr Sturkey reported on this task to Priory Chapter meeting in Melbourne on 25 June 2005. The following are the notes for his speech.

When Queen Victoria instituted our Order by Royal Charter in 1888, she approved Statutes that consciously recalled the tradition of Christian service that was the very foundation of the notion of chivalry. Appointments to many Royal Orders of Chivalry state the importance of service. We have all read Honours lists in which individuals' contributions are prefaced with the phrase "For service to ...", but that attribution has undergone substantial change of meaning over the centuries: nowadays "service", in relation to a number of recipients, recognises achievement and/or pre-eminence. No other British Order has so self-consciously gone back to its original inspiration as has the Order of St John, whose purpose recalls the selfless assistance that was rendered by past generations to those in need, and establishes that as the benchmark for contemporary membership.

The notion of chivalry probably arose out of a custom called the Truce of God whereby the clergy in the tenth and eleventh centuries, in an attempt to limit private warfare between feudal lords, extracted a religious vow from belligerents to exempt women, children, peasants and the church from attack. This initiative to secure the public peace was roughly coincident with the first crusade. The religious vow undertaken by a crusader, and the elaborate ceremony within which it was expressed, formalised the principle of service in the cause of the Christian faith. That principle was broadened when monks established a hospital in Jerusalem, attached to a small church dedicated to St John, to care for sick pilgrims.

The founders of our Order in the nineteenth century incorporated the concepts of faith and service to humanity in its twin mottoes – *Pro Fide* and *Pro Utilitate Hominum*. In common with other British Orders of Chivalry, provision was made in its governing structure for the appointment of a Prelate from within Britain's Established Church. The past century has, however, seen a remarkable change in the demography of Christianity's European heartland. What were once wholly Christian societies are now becoming increasingly multi-cultural, encompassing persons of other faiths, or in a post-Christian era, persons of no professed faith. And Christians can claim no monopoly over the provision of care and assistance to those in need. This was acknowledged by the Order's Grand Council when, in 1999, it agreed that "profession of the Christian Faith should not be a condition of membership of the Order". The Prelate was asked how to give effect to the admission of non-Christians to the Order without detriment to its proclaimed Christian character.

A Working Party was established, which drew upon the contributions of senior clergy and others in nine of the countries in which the Order has establishments. Their Interim Report was circulated in 2004. Its consideration of the meaning of the Order's commitment to *Pro Fide* in the context of its work for and with people in areas that are multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi-faith is clearly of significance to us in Australia. Members of this Chapter will recall having been invited to comment on the Interim Report. The Chancellor asked me to join with Bishop Ken Short, a Chaplain of this Priory, and the Reverend Dr Douglas Parker in preparing a response to the Secretary General of the Order on the basis of your comments. This was done in October 2004. Other Pories also commented on the Interim Report and, in November, the Working Party finalised its *Pro Fide* Report to the Grand Council. The Final Report clearly benefited from the comments of Pories and Associations. It was adopted two months ago, at the Grand Council's meeting in Canada.

Twenty-six members of this Chapter responded to the Interim Report. So wide-ranging were their views that my colleagues and I do not believe that any significant matter was overlooked. The response that we collated for the Chancellor was forwarded to the Secretary General and we were gratified subsequently to note that many of the matters raised by the Australian Priory were reflected in the final revision of the Final Report. The Working Party is to be commended for having produced a lucid document that advances a sound philosophic and administrative basis for the inclusion of such non-Christians, or persons of no faith, as may in good conscience declare their preparedness to be faithful to the stated aims and purposes of this Christian lay order of charity. I might note, parenthetically, that the aims and purposes of the Order are not spelled out in the Final Report as they are clearly stated elsewhere in Order formularies and they may be clarified by the Order at any time.

A major concern expressed by members of this Chapter was how to realise an inclusive Order, open to all who may wish to serve (sought by many respondents), while assuring its Christian ethos (valued by many respondents). A number seemed to want both. There was consistency between the Australian response and the Final Report on this matter. Although profession of the Christian faith is not an essential condition of membership of the Order, it was recognised that postulants - in their preparation for induction into the Order - should be provided with a clear understanding of the *tradition* of the Christian faith and values that inform the character of this lay order of charity. The emphasis is on education, not on Christian evangelism. The onus is on the man or woman who is invited to the privilege of membership to decide whether he or she can with a good conscience promise to be faithful to the stated aims and purposes of the Order. We noted that three things flowed from this: that prospective postulants should be advised in advance that they would be considered for admission if, after induction, they felt able to subscribe to the Order's Declaration; that there ought to be an agreed 'module' that is used for induction by Priors on an Order-wide basis; and that Christian chaplains might be expected to play a part in the preparation of postulants for induction. The Grand Council has agreed that prior to admission, all new members of the Order should follow an induction programme; and it has invited a Steering Committee to formulate detailed proposals on *all* aspects of a possible induction programme, not only those related to faith.

In recognition of the prospect of a broadening of the membership of St John Ambulance to meet the changing needs of the Australian community, we said that we could envisage a situation in which non-Anglican and non-Christian chaplains could be appointed who could perform useful pastoral duties among the general membership of St John Ambulance. The Final Report met this point, entertaining the prospect of the appointment of chaplains "(who may or may not be Order members), with pastoral responsibilities...as appropriate to the needs of the Order and its personnel in each situation". The Grand Council endorsed the continuing practice of appointing chaplains. Dr Parker will discuss the implications of this in a few minutes.

In adopting the Final Report, and addressing the question of the preparation of postulants, the Grand Council has clarified important questions relating to the inspiration, purposes, and membership of the Order of St John. It has responded to contemporary requirements without diminishing the ethos of the organisation and the sense of continuity that links our modern-era Order to the motivation and service that informed the origin of its predecessor in the eleventh century. It is now up to us to give effect to these modifications as we pursue the aims and purposes of the Order in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic environment. An expression of that change will be evident at tomorrow's Service of Rededication, which will provide all of us within the St John community with an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the purposes of the Order. The Service will retain its Christian character: the Christian symbols of the Order will be processed and received in accordance with the Order's traditions. The Service will, however, reflect the society within which we live and work as members of St John Ambulance Australia; and it will embrace persons of other faiths whose service within St John Ambulance is greatly valued by us all. As the Final Report has noted:

Contemporary inter-faith dialogue is discovering common ethical values in the diverse religious traditions of our world, acknowledgement of which will enable the human community to live more fruitfully together. The Order has a significant contribution in this connection for our vocation of service plainly and often dramatically exhibits this ethic of care. This 'Golden Rule', not conditioned by context or culture, is expressed in Jesus' teaching "in everything do unto others as you would have them do to you, for this is the law and the prophets".

Reports

This section of the journal contains the annual reports presented at the Historical Society's 2005 annual general meeting in Melbourne on 24th June. The Society President's report is first; and this is then followed by State and Territory reports.

President's report for 2005 (Annual Report of the Historical Society, including the Treasurer's audited statement of income & expenditure)

To begin with, I again apologise for my absence from the third Annual General Meeting of the Society held in Alice Springs last year. I understand from all reports that it was a great success, as was the associated Historical Seminar. I was greatly surprised a few days after the meeting to receive in the post a Certificate of Life Membership, and I sincerely thank you all for that, and the support you continue to give to the Society.

Isn't it apt that today, the 24th June, is remembered throughout the Christian world and throughout the world-wide St John Ambulance organisation, as St John's Day. It is the day we celebrate the birth of St John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of our Order.

Today also marks precisely 4 years and 3 days since our Historical Society officially came into being. To recap briefly, the Priory Library Committee, with its limited membership, had functioned for 58 years, i.e., since the foundation of the Australian Commandery of the Order. It was disbanded as recommended by the Priory Structure Review Committee, and the last Priory Library Committee meeting was held in this city in 1998. Persons interested in the history of our organisation continued to meet unofficially in conjunction with Priory, and from these meetings our Historical Society emerged to be officially recognised by the National Council of St John Ambulance Australia in June 2001. I like to think that the present Society is far more dynamic and effective than the past Committee.

As a Society we set ourselves a number of goals. These are set out as the "Purposes and Objects of the Society" in our Constitution. There are eleven of them and I will not recite them to you now, but suffice to say that I believe we have made headway in every one of them.

This would not happen without the active support of you, our members, and the particularly hard work of many individuals. I specifically thank the Chancellor, Prof. Villis Marshall for his support as Patron of our Society. I also thank the Priory Secretary Len Fiori and his staff in Canberra, Cheryl Langdon-Orr for her great work as our Publications Officer and James Byrne as our Treasurer. Last but certainly not least, I sincerely thank the Priory Librarian, and our Society's Secretary, Dr. Ian Howie-Willis. Ian, the success of this Society is in large part due to your seemingly untiring efforts.

I have decided not to re-nominate for the position of President, as I think it is best that one person does not hold that position for too long. It therefore simply remains for me to thank you all again for your support and to wish you and the Society every success in the future.

Brian Fotheringham
Retiring President

Treasurer's Report: Statement of income & expenditure for period 27 May 2004 to 8 June 2005

*Credit balance in Bendigo Bank account brought forward from
26 May 2004*

\$3,654.62

INCOME

Membership subscriptions (including multi-year payments) to 31/5/05	\$2,339.87
Membership subscriptions (including multi-year payments) after 31/5/05	\$60.00
Donations	\$825.00
Undeposited funds ⁽¹⁾	\$154.00
Total income	<u>\$7,033.49</u>

EXPENDITURE⁽²⁾

Expenses claim (at cost) for production & distribution of newsletter & journal	\$1,608.35
Total expenditure	<u>\$1,608.35</u>

CLOSING BALANCE

\$5,425.14

⁽¹⁾ Note: Undeposited funds consist of: (a) one \$10 membership subscription from Australia & (b) 6 x A\$24 = \$144 in UK subscriptions

⁽²⁾ Note: Production and distribution of the Society's committee circular and production of the newsletter are at no charge. Expenditure on these items has been in the form of uncosted gifts-in-kind by the Membership Secretary-Publications Officer and the Secretary as part of their *pro bono* activities. Postage costs for the newsletter and production and distribution costs for the journal are covered in this expenses claim.

I have examined the accounts of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society and confirm that this Statement of Income and Expenditure is a true and accurate summary of the Society's financial affairs for the period 27 May 2004 to 8 June 2005.

*Kareen Brandt (signed)
Finance Manager, Australian Office
St John Ambulance Australia
14 June 2004*

James Byrne
Treasurer
16 June 2005

Australian Capital Territory & the Australian Office

My report covers both the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia and the local Australian Capital Territory (ACT) branch. The reason for this is that the ACT branch is prepared to entrust to the Priory Secretary and Priory Librarian the task of heritage management in its circumscribed bailiwick. After all, we're all Canberrans (plus a few Queanbeyanites) and this arrangement works well for all of us. Thanks to Len Fiori & Chris Ward for agreeing to this!

Since my last report, which was presented to you when I'd only been Priory Librarian for six months, I've slipped fairly easily into the role. I'd previously served a useful apprenticeship in my 20 years as Assistant Priory Librarian; and so I came to the task with some idea of what was expected of me.

My main duties in the past year have boiled down to the following:

- maintaining the separate Library, Pictorial and Memorabilia databases I established last year
- providing advice to the Priory Secretary on matters relating to the Order's history and heritage, including the preparation for him of correspondence on these matters and liaison with individuals who contact him about such issues
- making judicious purchases of items for the Priory Library, most notably new books on the history of the Order and St John Ambulance
- receiving materials donated to the Priory's Library, Memorabilia and Pictorial collections
- being enterprising ('pro-active' is the current jargon term) in pursuing opportunities for building up the collections
- and continuing in my role as Historical Society Secretary, which meshes closely with the Priory Librarian's duties, especially the task of promoting interest in the Order's heritage.

During the rest of this report I'll comment on some of the practical things I've done in fulfilling these duties.

Advice to the Priory Secretary

Perhaps typical of the kind of advice a Priory Librarian is called on to provide is that involving the portrait of Rev. Gordon Powell. Rev. Powell, born in Warrnambool, Victoria, in 1911, was a prominent minister of the Presbyterian and the Congregational Churches in Australia between the 1930s and 1970s and was also a well known commentator on public affairs. Among the churches at which he was Minister were the Port Adelaide Presbyterian Church, the Independent (Congregational) and the Scots Presbyterian Churches in Collins Street, Melbourne, St Stephens Presbyterian Church in Macquarie Street, Sydney, and Christ Church on Quaker Hill, New York, from which he retired in 1981.

During early 2004 a son-in-law of Rev. Powell contacted the Priory Secretary to see if the Priory would like to have the portrait of Rev. Powell wearing his 'Knight Hospitaller's' regalia painted in oils some years ago by the artist Donald Cameron. The family had already offered the painting to the National Portrait Gallery (in Old Parliament House), which didn't wish to accept it. After the Priory Secretary had asked me to investigate, the son-in-law sent me a photograph of the portrait, which shows Rev. Powell wearing robes that are plainly not those of either our Order or any other recognised one..

Further inquiries established that Rev. Powell was a member of the "Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem — Knights Hospitaller", an organisation he had joined in 1983 after his retirement to Australia following his period in New York. He had been persuaded to join by a former Victorian politician who claimed to be its Prior. Some checking on the Internet revealed that the "Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem — Knights Hospitaller" is one of the group of orders which, having Russian and Serbian Orthodox connections, has been associated with particular members of the Romanov and Karageorgevitch dynasties of Russia and the former Yugoslavia. As such, it is not an order recognised by St John Ambulance Australia.

After explaining to the son-in-law and his wife that our Order does not recognise the organisation that Rev. Powell had joined, I offered to accept the portrait on behalf of the Historical Society. The conditions of acceptance would be that: (a) we would take the portrait on long-term loan because of its historical interest; (b) subject to the Priory Secretary's approval we would display it somewhere in the Priory headquarters building; and (c) we would place beside it a note explaining that Rev. Powell was

not a member of our Order but of an organisation we did not recognise. The family readily accepted these conditions.

The portrait was then duly accessioned in the database of the Priory pictorial collection. It now hangs in a discrete position in the Elsa Albert Hall in the Priory headquarters building, together with an accompanying note explaining what it is and how it comes to be part of the Priory's pictorial collection. A copy of the portrait appears opposite.



*Portrait of Rev. Powell
by Donald Cameron on loan
to the Historical Society*

Purchase of books for the library

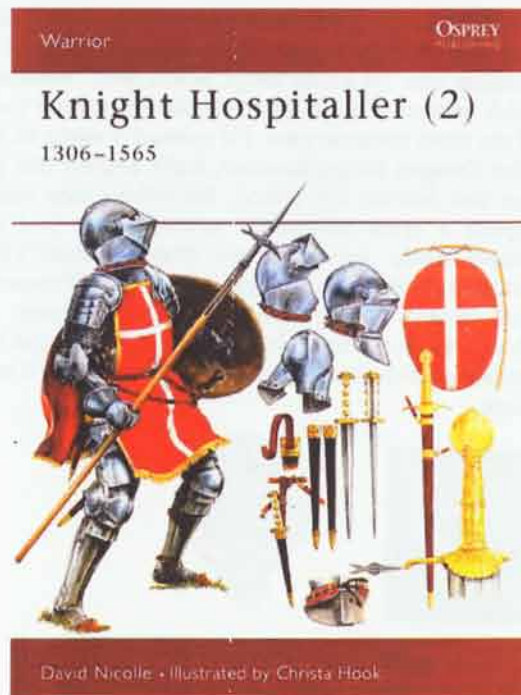
As part of my historian's function on behalf of the Priory I periodically scan Internet book sales websites such as "Amazon.com" to see what has been published and is on sale that reflects on the history of the Order and of St John Ambulance.

These areas are not static, and new books are continually being released. Five official St John histories launched last year — Pat McQuillen's and Bill Wilson's books on the Northern Territory branch, Millie Field's book on the Victorian branch, my own short history for Cadets and the archaeological monograph commemorating the 500th anniversary of St John's Gate — are only four of the more recent titles in a large field of historical literature. (Copies of all four of these books have been obtained, accessioned and placed in the Priory's collection.)

As the purchase of such works entails some expense, the Priory Secretary (Len Fiori) has agreed to make available to the Priory Librarian a small discretionary sum for purchasing new books and related items reflecting on the Order's history. I record here my appreciation of his decision in this matter. The first two titles added to the Library collection since then have been two books on the ancient Knights Hospitaller.

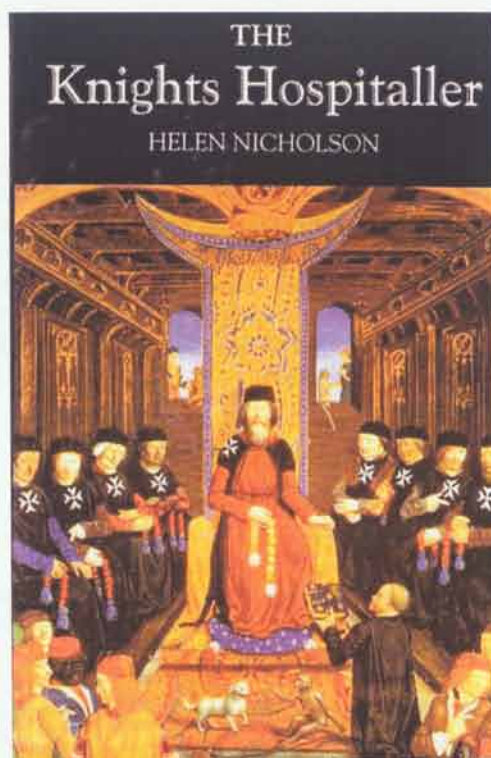
The first was David Nicolle's *Knights Hospitaller (2) 1306–1565* published by Osprey Publishing in Oxford in 2001. This is a textbook that seems to be aimed at Cadets and junior secondary students. It's only 64 pages long but is very well illustrated with very many pictures by an artist, Christa Hook. It appears to be the middle one of a series of three such publications, neither Parts 1 or 3 of which yet seem to have been released. The series is highly commended to Cadet leaders in particular.

The front cover of David Nicolle, Knights Hospitaller (2): 1306–1565



The second book purchased was *The Knights Hospitaller*, by Helen Nicholson, an historian at Cardiff University in Wales. (You might have seen her in action recently, commenting on the Knights Templar in the ABC television documentary on the so-called “da Vinci code” on 29th May.) Nicholson’s is a tightly written, academic yet very readable text of 180 pages. Nicholson doesn’t tell us much that we don’t already know about the main events in Hospitaller history, but she says it very well and succinctly. Her book is essentially a social and political history of the ancient Order and contains a series of illustrations I’d not previously seen. It’s one of the best books about the Order I’ve ever read and I’ve learned a great deal from it. Highly commended to everyone interested in the Order’s history.

Right: the front cover of Helen Nicholson, The Knights Hospitaller



Receiving donated materials

The Library recently acquired a badge that had once belonged to the late Marion Douglas OAM CSJ (1924–84), a former president of the ACT St John Ambulance Auxiliary and chair of Community Care Branch in the ACT. Her sister, who had found it among her effects, had sent it to the Priory Secretary, thinking it might be an item of significance to the Order.

Marion’s badge clearly wasn’t an artefact of the Order, and seemed to be a Scottish or Irish clan badge. The problem was, “If a clan badge, which one?” because a quick perusal of available charts showed it wasn’t one of the more common ones. I’d guessed it might be the Clan Douglas badge; however, that’s nothing like the one that Marion left behind: the official clan badge depicts a green salamander amidst flames and the French motto *Jamais arriere* (“never behind”). The badge in question has a single-word motto, “Forward”, and depicts a heart with wings and a crown. Its photograph is on the left below; the one on the right is a stylised version that I found on the Internet, as I’ll now relate.



The badge and astylised emblem of the Clan Douglas Society of Northern America: the belted “Heart of Bruce”, crowned and winged, with the motto “Forward”



Dorothy Marion Douglas (née Eddison, 1924–2004)

On a hunch, I did a 'Google' search on the Internet, keying in "Douglas + Forward". Within a few moments the search had taken me to a website informing me that the emblem of the Clan Douglas Society of Northern America based in Nova Scotia in Canada is a badge depicting the belted "Heart of Bruce", crowned and winged, with the motto "Forward", which is a play on the French words of the of the more usual Douglas motto.

Several minutes' further research soon revealed that the badge has the "Heart of Bruce" device because the dying King Robert I of Scotland, better known as Robert the Bruce, entrusted to "Good Sir James Douglas", a leading member of Clan Douglas, one of his closest advisers and friends, the task of taking his heart to be buried in the Holy Land. Sir James kept the heart in a silver casket that he wore around his neck. He never reached the Holy Land to complete his mission, however, because on the way there he called in at Spain, where he helped in the crusade against the Moors there.

He died in battle, after which Bruce's heart was returned to Scotland, where it was buried somewhere in Melrose Abbey. (It was only rediscovered there about eight years ago.) Ever since this episode Clan Douglas has prided itself on Sir James's attempt to fulfil the Bruce's dying wish; and so the clan's coat of arms (unlike its badge) depicts a shield showing the royal "Heart of Bruce" surmounted by a crown.



Burial marker near the burial site of the heart of King Robert the Bruce, Melrose Abbey, Scotland

The end result of this episode is that Marion's badge now forms part of the Priory's memorabilia collection, together with her framed photograph, a copy of her obituary in *The Canberra Times* and a card saying that they have been presented by her family on long-term loan as a memento acknowledging her many years of service to the St John Ambulance Auxiliary and Community Care Branch in the ACT.

Library annexe and Librarian's work station

The Priory's Library collection is housed mainly in the glass-fronted cabinets in the foyer of the Priory headquarters building in Canberra. In recent years it has outgrown this accommodation and finding new space for it has become more urgent. And since we now have a Canberra-based Priory Librarian the question of where he might work when doing "real" small-"I" librarian's duty has arisen.



The annexe to the Priory Library with Librarian's work station



With the assistance of our ever-obliging Priory Secretary, both problems were solved earlier this year when Len Fiori made available one of the larger offices in the Priory annexe building. A pair of commodious bookshelves were purchased, spare office furniture was made available and the overflow of books, pictures and memorabilia from other parts of the Priory headquarters buildings was moved in. The Librarian now has ample shelf space for new books and memorabilia items, as well as a place to work; and, as the above photographs demonstrate, the Priory now has the makings for a museum all of its own. For this "win-win-win" outcome I thank Mr Fiori.

The arrangements just described are not permanent and perhaps other arrangements will have to be made later, once the future of the Priory headquarters complex has been decided. In the meantime, however, the present arrangements represent a big step forward for the Priory Secretary's "portfolio".

Ian Howie-Willis
Priory Librarian

St John anniversaries and their celebration in New South Wales

A centenary is recognized as an occasion for commemorating both historical and important events. As part of *One St John*, on 2 September 2005 the Training Branch and First Aid Services in the Wollongong Region of St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) will celebrate the continuous volunteer work of teaching and rendering of First Aid in the area.

Wollongong (an aboriginal word meaning high ground, near water) is situated on the south coast some 82.k's from Sydney and one of the largest cities in New South Wales. Its prosperity is based on local coal deposits and holidaymakers. It was principally a mining town, when, in 1893 the late Dr John Kerr began his medical practice and recognized the need for First Aid. Known as The St John Ambulance Association first aid was to be taught to miners and members of the community. Community members attending the 1902 first aid class conducted by Dr Kerr ultimately became members of The St John Ambulance Brigade, when the Wollongong Ambulance Division was registered on 2 September 1905.

It wasn't until 1980 that the members of the Ambulance Division saw the wisdom of recruiting female members to join their Division.

As was the practice in those early years, casualties were transported to the Doctor or to their homes on a wheeled litter. As few roads were sealed it was a relief when, in 1909, members of the public raised sufficient funds to purchase a horse drawn litter that gave the casualties a more comfortable ride.

In the last 4 years the members have contributed more than 10,000 hours of voluntary service and treated more than 600 casualties.

History was created when the St John Ambulance Association built an Ambulance Station in Wollongong. It was built of brick and situated in Church Street. It was officially opened on Saturday 16 March 1912 by the wife of the Premier of New South Wales, Mrs. J McGowen. When opened, it was free of debt and with further donations given by the community, the cost of furnishings was obtained.

In 1981 a Branch Office of the St John Ambulance Association was opened in Wollongong. It is worthy to note that this office was in the rear of the local Red Cross House. The St John Centre is now situated in the central business district of Wollongong and the Training, First Aid Services and Community Care Branches are all able to share the building.

Dr John Kerr and his original volunteers would be proud of the 100 years of continuous First Aid classes and Services.

Another anniversary as part of *One St John* in the Wollongong area, is the Community Care Branch celebrating their first 10 years.

The **Community Care Branch** in New South Wales conducts the Program to Aid Literacy and LinkAGE courses. Since 1995 St John Ambulance has been training volunteers, at the St John Centre Wollongong, to assist children improve their literacy and writing skills. The volunteers are called PALs™ and visit Primary Schools in the Wollongong area.

The success of the PALs™ program lies in the thorough volunteer training, the individual attention for each child and the enthusiasm of the volunteers. The volunteers are paired with a child with literacy difficulties for a period of 1 year and spend 1 hour per week working with the child.

The training program teaches volunteers to use creativity to make the lessons fun and informative. Regular volunteer support meetings give volunteers the opportunity to exchange ideas and new approaches.

Many PALs™ are retired people who want to give something back to the community as well as parents who want to help their own children. Volunteers are all ages and from many different backgrounds.

At present there are 97 PALs™ volunteering their time in 33 schools in the Wollongong area.

Glebe Cadet Division 80th anniversary celebrations

The next significant celebration will be 80 years for Glebe Cadet Division. As Glebe Ambulance Division was the first adult division registered in Australia in March 1903, it is significant that the Cadet Division would be registered as the first in Australia.

Darlinghurst Ambulance Cadet Division applied for registration in October 1925. However, this division was no more than a division on paper and was not registered. The Glebe Ambulance Cadet Division was registered on December 9, 1925.

The value of cultivating support and involvement of children and adolescents in St John is evident from the documents that date back to the early days of the Brigade in New South Wales. St John Junior First Aid Certificates were obtained in NSW from 1905 onwards.

The adult ambulance and nursing members of the Glebe Divisions maintained a genuine interest in the cadet division and always assisted by providing examiners and adjudicators at divisional competitions. Cadets have always gained much practical first aid experience by attending duties with the adult division. The cadets during the past 4 years have treated 688 casualties and given 14,682 hours of voluntary duty.

A Parents and Friends Committee was formed and this Committee later became the Glebe Auxiliary assisting in the raising of funds for the purchase of the St John premises at Camperdown. This is where Glebe First Aid Services and training still meet today.

The Glebe Nursing Cadet Division was registered in 1931 and closed in 1960. In 1981 the Ambulance Cadets admitted Nursing Cadets into the Division.

A dinner will be held to celebrate the 80 years of continuous work for St John later in the year.

It is now the task of St John NSW Archives to provide the Wollongong and Glebe areas with their written histories and photographs.

For this reason we emphasize the importance of collecting, cataloguing, and preserving accurate information to document activities of One St John.

Loredana Criniti
Archivist
St John Ambulance Australia (New South Wales)

St John Ambulance Australia (Queensland) History & Heritage Committee

The past year has had its challenges as well as its rewards.

Donations

Early this year Mrs. Gillian Elliott and Dr. Murray Elliott (former Commissioner, Chairman State Council and Priory Librarian) opened their garden (pictured) for the *Open Garden Scheme*, the proceeds of \$730.00 they kindly donated to further the work of the History and Heritage Committee.



Garden of the Elliott home, Clayfield, Brisbane

The opportunities to display items of the collection have been limited due to insufficient display cabinets. Shortly this will be overcome when the donation by Dr. Geoffrey Gray (former Commissioner) of a free standing illuminated display cabinet is received. Generous donations, such as these, are much appreciated and encouraging.

Inheritance

Brisbane Heritage Expo 2005 - The first Heritage Expo was held to celebrate seventy-five years since the Brisbane City Hall was opened. Sunday 8th May was the committee's debut into the public arena with a display *St John First Aid, Then and Now*. Committee members attended the display, a free hourly raffle of the book *First in First Aid* attracted interest with between 200 and 300 people viewing the display.

This occasion enabled committee members the benefits of networking with other similar voluntary and corporate organisations.



Chairman of State Council, Dr Vlas Efsthatis and Mr Vince Little at the St John First Aid Then and Now display at the Inheritance-Brisbane Heritage Expo on 8 May 2005

St John State Council Meeting Reports

Reports which outline activities, acquisitions and significant developments relating to St John history continue to be presented at the quarterly Council meetings.

St John Ambulance Australia (Queensland) Rules

Recent changes to these Rules have been significant for the History and Heritage Committee, which is now a Standing Committee of the Council, effective from April 2005.

Newsletter

The newsletter "*One St John*" publishes a regular article prepared by members of the committee; some articles include photographs of items of the collection with supporting information. The next issue of "*One St John*" will include an article about a Palestinian man who worked as a stone mason during the building of the St John Eye Hospital, Jerusalem, during the late 1950's. A copy of the article is included with this printed report. Most of you will be wondering 'how have you heard of this man'? Ann and Norman Demaine (committee members) are Said Faraj's eldest son's in-laws, they are present this afternoon.

2005 Objectives

Recently a collection of over twenty archive boxes were found amongst external storage of St John material. What a challenge but what a find! Amongst the boxes the committee has sorted, to date, are the original records of the St John First Aid courses conducted from 1889 to 1915, the collection of photographs recording the presentation of the District Colour on the 4th May 1974 as well as many other interesting documents. Accessioning this collection is a huge task and to enable this to be achieved the committee is seeking suitable external grants.



First Aid Course Registers – 1889 to 1915 Queensland Centre

St John (Queensland) building survey



Valuable historical information was obtained from this survey which assists present day members (employed and voluntary) to appreciate the history of such valuable assets.

Building Survey: Bundaberg Centre – additional building, Mulgrave Street (formerly a beach hut at Bargara, Bundaberg)

Presentations

Regular presentations have been given at Operations Branch State Superintendent's quarterly meetings. The March 2005 presentation used items from the collection of the late Mrs. Vera Kiss OSTJ a foundation member of the Nundah Nursing Division; these items highlighted so many changes to the Branch since the 1950's.

Acquisitions and information

Significant donations continue to be received from the collections of former members, the public and organisations associated with St John, namely Queensland Rail. The St John Individual Cup presented by the Queensland Centre of St John Ambulance Association since 1924 continues to this day at the Queensland Rail Championships. A request for information about the service of former members continues to be sought by family and some Divisions.

History and Heritage Committee (2004-2005)

Mr. Brian Dunstan OSTJ. joined the committee this year. Each member contributes individual interest and skill to the committee's work of sorting, preservation and archiving which is appreciated.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Victoria on the opening of this Museum; to the other States and Territories Queensland encourages your activities. Thank you to the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary and the Victorian members for ensuring St John Day 2005 has been significant in the history of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society.

History & Heritage Committee terms of reference

- Development of archives and formal historical recording of St John Ambulance (Qld),
- Promotion of interest in the history and heritage of the Order in Queensland,
- Protection and preservation of items of the library and archival collection of St John Ambulance (Qld),
- Maintenance and preparation of historical displays, and
- Recommendation to State Council, St John Ambulance (Qld), through the CEO, on matters relating to these objects.

History & Heritage Committee members

- Miss Beth Dawson (Chairman/Historian/Archivist)
- Mrs Averil Chadwick (Corresponding member, North Queensland)
- Mrs Vera Crook
- Mrs Ann Demaine
- Mr Norman Demaine
- Dr Murray Elliott
- Brigadier Trevor Gibson
- Dr Geoffrey Gray
- Mr Brian Dunstan
- Ms Sandra Bout
- Mr Tony Harrison
- Mrs Margaret Hunt (Corresponding member, Rockhampton)
- Mr Vince Little
- Professor John Pearn (Consultant to Committee)
- Brigadier John Springhall (Corresponding member)
- Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson (Corresponding member, Bundaberg)
- Mr Laurie Steinhardt (Corresponding member, Ipswich).

The St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem – Reflections of a Stone Mason

This is a translation of interview with Said (pronounced:- Sigheed) Faraj talking about his contribution in building the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. Said Faraj starts by saying that in 1948 and after the Palestinian Al Nakba (catastrophe) when Palestinians were evicted from their homeland and Israel was established on their homeland, they left their village in Jerusalem district called Rafat and headed for Bethlehem, where it was safer since the Jews did not invade that part. A state of panic occurred in the Palestinian population, especially after a massacre of civilians in the village of Der Yassin. In the panic that followed, men, women, children, the elderly all fled to find safer places where they knew Jews did not exist. This was mainly villages in the West Bank, which was controlled by the Jordanian army at the time. They lived in a refugee camp administered by the UNRWA in the outskirts of Bethlehem called Al-deheisha. Said Faraj started working as a milkman in Bethlehem. However, in 1955 he started learning the craft of stone masonry from his father-in-law (Said was married to Nimeh Odeh in 1954) and a Maltese contingency that were brought by the British High Commission to build their headquarters in Jerusalem. So he started work as a stone mason on buildings in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Among those buildings was the Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. Work on that hospital started in 1958. The hospital location was near a hotel named Centre Hotel. The company that was contracted to build the hospital is a famous company well known in the area called Shaheen. That company is based in Amman, capital of the Hashimite kingdom of Jordan. His job was to prepare the stone and dig the rock of various types and prepare them depending on which area of the building they were to be used. He worked helping to build the hospital for one and a half years. The main financier for the hospital was a British Society named Ijohannai (Arabic word for Saint John, we think). The supervisors and engineers were also British. The head of the engineers was known by the name of Simpson. Said also helped to carve the British crown and flag from stone and they were placed at a prominent position at the entrance of the building. He would make 70 piastres a day (less than 1 Jordanian Dollar) for his stone masonry work. After the external part of the building and structure was finished, and before interior work began, he finished his work with the hospital and went on work on the YWCA building, also in Jerusalem for a period of two weeks. He left his job in the YWCA and went to Amman Jordan in 1960 due to the high demand for stone masons and also the higher remuneration available to stone masons there. One of the very first buildings he worked on was a hotel called the Philadelphia Hotel in downtown Amman (still in existence today.) Said left to Amman with his wife Nimeh, his two sons Basim and Nabeel and his newborn daughter. In 1970 and just before the civil war broke out in Jordan between the Jordanian army and the PLO forces, he bought land 30 kilometres north of Amman in nearby Zarqa city, where they built their home.

He continued working in stone masonry until 1986 when the formation of cataracts in his right eye caused him to stop working. Working in the sun and the dust for all those years contributed greatly to him developing cataracts. In 1986, he had an operation to remove the cataracts in his right eye and then had another operation in the left eye in 1993. In between each operation he was working in a supervisory role for stone buildings and as an estimator. After the second operation the doctors asked him to stop working in the stone masonry environment because of the dust and exposure to the sun. He has not worked from 1993 until now. Because he was a free lance stone mason he has no pension from the government or his employers. They rely on their male children for financial support, especially the eldest. In 2004 we were honoured to visit the ophthalmic hospital in Jerusalem.

Beth Dawson
Chairman/Historian/Archivist
History & Heritage Committee of Queensland

The St John Historical Society of South Australia

It happened on the 26 October 2004. On the evening of that day the Patron of our National Historical Society, Professor Willis Marshall, kindly (and memorably) opened the St John Ambulance Museum in South Australia. His address to the assembled gathering was pertinent and given without notes. Another speaker who ably assisted at the opening was your Priory Librarian, Dr. Ian Howie-Willis. You have heard me speak of the museum previously in this forum, but that was always in the hope it would eventuate. Now it has. It exists, is alive and well, and has received favourable comment. Any of you who are unfortunate enough not to live in South Australia, but who may visit Adelaide, are encouraged also to visit our museum. Simply contact the receptionist at St John HQ in Adelaide, request a time that suits you, and we will do our best to provide a guide at that time for your personal tour of the museum.

The advent of the museum would not have occurred without the support of members of the St John Historical Society of South Australia. Since our last Annual General Meeting Keith Dansie has been the Deputy Chairman, Lyn Dansie has taken over as Secretary following the excellent work done previously by Ray Schilling, and Arnold Lockyer has continued his good work as Treasurer. The Society continues to meet monthly with very good attendance. We have aligned ourselves with the South Australian Medical Heritage Society, and have had members of that group visit our display.

Amongst our recent acquisitions is a framed portrait of Sir Edward Hayward by the renowned artist Ivor Hele. Sir Edward played a prominent part in developing St John Ambulance in South Australia. He was Chairman of the St John Council in SA from 1950 to 1976 and its President from 1976 to 1983.

The St John Historical Society of South Australia again gratefully acknowledges the support received from the present St John Council and Mr. Peter Gill, the Chief Executive Officer.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman.

Tasmanian Report

In my previous report our plans for collating and recording records and items of significance in relation to the history of St John in Tasmania were outlined. Despite approaches to all currently existing units virtually no response has been forthcoming. The reluctance of Divisional Superintendents to respond to requests for access to their records appears to stem from either apathy or more frequently from the non-existence of those records. The location of minute books and annual reports at divisional level is widely unknown and their very existence in many cases appears unlikely. Similarly the names of competition winners and even membership lists have not been maintained in most divisions.

Fortunately the files in Headquarters cover most divisional inspections and membership from about 1965. Prior to that date information is confined to a few items of correspondence, some photographs, and various pieces of personal equipment. Against this restrictive background little progress in compiling lists of memorabilia for eventual display has been possible. However after sorting material in Headquarters more appropriate storage for many items has been achieved. Cataloguing this material has not yet been carried out.

Although the response from those in charge of existing units has been most disappointing, three retired members of long past service have presented personal collections and records. From the first of these an interesting insight into the standing of St John in the years of the Second World War and immediately thereafter has emerged. The third collection came to hand last week and it awaits inspection.

Among the material relating to the war years and immediately thereafter was some informative data relating to the extent and work of the five nursing divisions then operating in Hobart. The contribution of one member, Miss M. Zantuck, was the most outstanding. As well as being employed as a full time demonstration teacher for the training of teachers at Campbell Street Practising School, this remarkable lady was Superintendent of the Cadet Nursing Division, a member of the nursing competition team, an instructor for the Association (Training Branch), an active instructor member of the Air Raid Precautions specialising in first aid for casualties arising from poisonous gas attacks, a leading worker for welfare and regularly standing duty as a nursing member. Her association with St John extended over three decades. The award of Serving Sister seems scant recognition for her contribution.

The discovery of a press report of 25 November 1905 in which reference was made to the award of a St John gold medal to Nurse Koerbin leaves much to be explained. The very existence of such an award was not previously known among the current membership. Perhaps some better informed members may have the details of this, apparently prestigious award. Who can oblige?

Several perpetual trophies awarded for success in competition work are in existence. Many of these have not been well cared for by the various winners. Some have even failed to return them for subsequent competitions and frequently updating winner's names has been overlooked. When this matter was brought to our notice we recognised the need to have necessary restoration and suitable display or storage undertaken. An approach to the State committee will be made concerning this matter.

In my previous report, reference was made to the evidence of ongoing decline in membership. As work has proceeded, the extent of decline has become more and more apparent. Inescapably any historical research must relate to the state of the organisation, its membership, geographical distribution and work performed. When such a study reveals, in stark reality, the extent of decline and its ongoing nature the future of the organisation must become a cause for concern. Hopefully history may reveal the cause for decline, prompt an awareness of the problem and inspire planning designed to reverse the trend.

Notwithstanding the limited progress to date and the disinterest of most current members, valued help and encouragement has been received. At the local level the support received from Mrs Kath Burns and Mr John Porter must be acknowledged. Mrs Leonie Webster has willingly supported our endeavours and provided typing back up whenever required. Our national secretary continues to provide contact with the Historical Society across the nation and Beth Dawson from Queensland has advised us of the availability of surplus stock within her state. To these people our grateful appreciation is due.

K.J. Milbourne
State Historian

St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria) Library & Museum Committee

Two important events took place during the last twelve months:

Official Launch of Millie Field's book

First, the book *The Order of St John in Victoria - Our first hundred years* by Millie Field was officially launched by the Priory Librarian, Dr Ian Howie-Willis, on Friday 26 November 2004 at ANZAC House in Collins Street.

Official Opening of the Museum

Second, the Museum was officially opened by the Premier, the Hon. Steve Bracks, on Friday 30 July 2004. The original sign for the Hall official opening has been restored and a plaque for the Museum official opening has been placed in the entry lobby together with a photograph of the Chairman of St John Council (Mr Robin Syme) and the Premier

Museum improvements

New text posters have been prepared to explain the 'Robes of the Order', 'The beginnings of the ambulance service in Melbourne' and 'The history of St John volunteer first aid services'.

New exhibits

- St John Ambulance Brass Band. This comprises two photographs of the Band as a group and marching through the gates of Government House, some explanatory text, a bugle and the Bandmaster's wand. Some old recordings are available for a future development of the exhibit.
- 1st Motorcycle Patrol of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Victoria, founded in 1931. It comprises five photographs of the Division at various stages of its evolution and some explanatory text that makes connections with the copy of its Registration form, other photographs on the wall and the adjacent life-sized model of a member in original uniform.
- The first Grand Prior's Badge issued in Victoria, to Bob Brown of Sandringham Division, comprising the badge, explanatory text, an early First Aid Certificate, Code of Chivalry and Proficiency Badge Certificate of the 1950 period.
- A new life-sized manikin is used to show the robes of the Order.
- Gary Edwards has donated a new medal mounting display for the Douglas Donald collection. These have been re-ribboned because the old ribbons perished.
- George Jackson has donated a copy of the 1878 Peter Shepherd edition of the St John First Aid textbook, which is now proudly displayed on a red velvet cushion in a new glass case at the Museum.

Photographs

The photograph albums are now all on one shelf and the alphabetical index has been upgraded. We now have well over 4000 photos in our collection. Donations continue, with recent additions including Sandringham Cadets of the 1950s. We are grateful to New South Wales St John Ambulance Archives for donations of photos of the Glebe Divisions to illustrate our exhibit on the beginnings of the volunteer First Aid Services.

Archives

Extensive further cataloguing of archival documents has been undertaken. The indexing system has been revised to allow specific reserved space for Minutes and Reports of all Branches for all years from the 1970's onwards. The index highlights that we have many big gaps in our collection to date.

Cataloguing of books and documents had revealed that no bound volumes of *White Cross* or Annual Reports had been done since the mid-1980s. Two complete sets of later issues were collated and 21 bound volumes have been received back from the bookbinders preserving everything up to the year 2000.

Emergency Services Museum

The Fire Museum staff have commenced negotiations for the formation of a combined Emergency Services Museum on North Wharf, including St John. They have an extensive collection of vehicles under restoration at their workshop in the Newport Railway yards which would be worthy of display, but they are keen to make it of much wider interest.

Jack Blackstock
Chairman
Library/Museum Committee

Editor's note: The following report, by Peter Burke, a committee member of the Historical Society, was not one presented to the Society's 2005 annual general meeting but was a report to the Victorian St John Council in Mr Burke's capacity as the 'Order Affairs' representative on the council. Because only some State/Territory St John Councils have such a position, we reproduce Mr Burke's report here as an item of general and historical interest.

St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria), Order Affairs Report, 2004

It is my pleasure to present the report, for Order Affairs for the year ended December 2004. Unfortunately, this report was not printed in the Victorian Annual Report so I would like to present the details under each specific heading.

The Investiture

The Governor, Mr John Landy, our Deputy Prior, conducted an Investiture at Government House on April 24. It was pleasing to see that seven members who had been Admitted or Promoted in the Order in previous years but had been unable to attend an earlier Investiture were able to attend on this occasion. Two of our members received their insignia as Commanders, two as Officers and seven as Serving Brothers or Serving Sisters. The Governor also presented Priory Votes of Thanks to eight individuals and organizations at the Parade held for the Operations Branch at Government House during November.

The Order Dinner

Our tenth successive Order dinner was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in October. Many of those present expressed their enthusiastic support for this 'first time' venue and we have made a booking for the 2005 Dinner at the same location. The after dinner speaker at the Dinner was the CEO of St John, Mr Ian Clark who presented a most interesting illustrated presentation of his time involved with the Melbourne Ambulance Service Air Wing. During the evening a presentation on behalf of State Council was made to Roy Green to acknowledge his very valuable service of more than sixty years to St John.

New Representative Members

The Prior accepted the recommendation of State Council and appointed Mr Gary Harris and Mr Stuart Webb as two additional Representative Members for Victoria.

An Order information session

Mr Stuart Webb conducted an information session beginning with a brief history of The Order of St John and moving through to the set-up of the current day establishment of the Order. This session was held at the St John Museum in Williamston which proved to be an ideal location for the small group of people who attended the afternoon.

Order membership update

With the co-operation and support of Elaine Foundis the membership record of Order Members was brought as up-to-date as possible. This has reduced the number of letters being returned as 'left address' etc. It is important for members to be kept informed of St John activities and we would be very grateful if St John could be included in the group of people advised of any changes to your address.

An Order Church Service

Unfortunately, once again I have to report that we did not manage to hold an ORDER CHURCH SERVICE.

Deaths of members

A number of members have passed away during 2004. Their names are listed in the Annual Report and we have had a time of silence tonight to remember them. I thank the family members and friends who advised us of the death of a member and allowed us to publish a death notice in the Sun Herald in a timely manner.

Looking forward to 2005

One truly pleasing aspect of Order Affairs as we move forward was the significant increase in the number of nominations received in 2005 by the State Investigation Committee for recognition by the Order. Thirty-three nominations were approved for forwarding to the National Investigation Committee. Please keep the availability of recognition by the Order high in your mind and take the time to submit nomination forms for those you think are worthy of the honor. We have investigated the opportunity to attend a service at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 24th June, St John the Baptist day. Unfortunately, the Cathedral service time on that day is 12.15 I think that Order Affairs is presently in a very healthy state and I hope that you will give my successor encouragement to continue this work on behalf of Order members and St John.

Finally...

As my term as the Order Affairs Representative and the Deputy Director of Ceremonies comes to an end, I would like to encourage members of the Order to jealously guard the traditions and ceremonies of the Order of St John and to ensure that changes are recommended for the good of the Order and not just for the sake of change. I would like to thank everyone who has given me their support throughout the time I have held the appointments. I am sincerely grateful for your friendship and for your help. During a period of forty-nine years of membership of St John I have enjoyed a hobby that has given me more satisfaction and pleasure than I am able to express in words to you.

Peter J Burke
Order Affairs Representative
St John State Council for Victoria.

Resource Centre of the Commandery of St John in Western Australia

General Status

The collection continues in storage in Kewdale with a small number of items housed at Belmont and the Osborne Park Sub Centre. Cataloguing and reference work continues at our temporary home in the Information Resource Centre at Belmont. Individual aspects of our work are described below and summarise the reports provided during the year for the W.A. State Executive quarterly meetings.

Acquisitions

The museum has purchased a number of photographs showing Volunteer First Aid Service members at work. A commemorative plate was also commissioned for the VFAS centenary.

In addition, a number of books have been added to our reference collection including :

- *Australian Museums*, by D.F. McMichael
- *Unlocking Museums*, by Museums Australia
- *Museum Methods*, by Museums Australia

Donations

We have been most fortunate in receiving a number of books, newsletters and other artefacts this year as well as cash donations. Whilst most donations came from within WA, some were from the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Donations received include :-

- A 1910 edition of the NSW Government Railways Ambulance Handbook.
- Excavations at the Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.
- 1910 edition of First Aid to the Injured / Cantlie.
- History of Air Ambulance Records.
- Regalia and uniform items.
- St John's day U.K. Church programs.
- Uniform badges.
- St John Air Attendants Course of Instruction.
- Cadet Certificates
- Photographs
- P.N.G. Investiture Program
- Commandery of Ards Directory 2004 – 2005.
- Newspaper cuttings.
- St John, New Zealand publications.
- 2005 St John Cadet Camp publications.
- St John magazines and newsletters from the U.K.
- St John Historical Society Publications.
- Special presentation shields.
- First Aid equipment.
- VFAS Centenary Commemorative badge.
- The Knights of St John in the British Empire / E.J. King
- The Knights of St John in England / E.J. King.
- A guide to assessing the significance of cultural objects and collections / Heritage Collections Council.
- Sub Centre records.

The museum has donated a copy of Ruth Donaldson's book to the Western Australian Parliamentary Library, which is developing a local history collection.

Loans

Photographs and books were loaned to the Marketing Department for the Annual Report. We have offered a number of photographs for the *Historical Encyclopaedia of Western Australia*.

Reference Work

We continue to assist members of St John and the general public with their St John information needs. We have provided information on St John personalities, sub centres, buildings, St John music,

Knowledge of the Order, Cadet history, medals and medallions, information for an obituary in *The Sunday Times*, and WA local history. We respond to these requests by mail, email, fax or telephone.

Cataloguing

Cataloguing the collection on the computer is ongoing. Although the museum is closed limited cataloguing has continued at Belmont since July 2003.

Museum Displays

The Sub Centre Conference in August 2004 featured the Order of St John, honours and awards. The Belmont display features material commemorating the centennial of the Volunteer First aid Service in WA. Display material was provided for the annual Eye Hospital Quiz Night.

Museum Volunteers

Our volunteers are being kept up to date with the redevelopment plans. Some volunteers continue to check the Commandery Database entries.

Museum Planning

Our best estimate of completion of the new administration building is November 2005. The refurbishment of the training building including the resource centre and museum will follow from January 2006. The Museum is part of Phase One and we have already provided infrastructure details and lighting needs.

Restoration

There have been no restoration projects this year.

St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society

The society will again meet during Priory in June 2005. The Proceedings of its last meeting in 2004 have been circulated. Dr. Oxer will give a paper on the history of VFAS, 1904 – 2004. The CD will be available afterwards for any VFAS need.

Projects 2004 – 2005

- Cataloguing of newly donated archival library and museum items at Belmont.
- Reviewing and updating the policy and guidelines of the Archival Resource Centre.
- Supporting the SJAA Historical Society – The annual Sub Centre Conference featured the Order of St John and Historical Society details / membership forms were available.
- Meeting any reference request received.
- Displays as resourced permitted.

Projects 2005 –06

- A display for the annual Sub Centre conference, Ausut 2005.
- Planning for the new Archival Resource Centre and museum.
- Relocating the collections when the areas are ready.
- Establishing displays and providing educational material.
- Ongoing cataloguing and reference work.
- Supporting the SJAA Historical Society.
- Planning for the St John Ambulance National Conference, 2006.

Financial Report

Our financial situation is sound. Special thanks are due to Kevin J. Young and the Ladies Auxiliary for their ongoing support to the museum and the SJAA WA Ambulance Service.

Summary

Another busy year for reference / research work and with some progress in planning for the new museum being made.

Harry F. Oxer
Commandery Librarian & Museum Curator

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

The following are the draft minutes of the Historical Society's fourth Annual General Meeting, held at the beachfront restaurant opposite the St John Ambulance Museum, The Esplanade, Williamstown, 24 June 2004

1. **Opening:** the President, Dr Brian Fotheringham, declared the meeting open at 1.50 p.m.
2. **Welcome:** The President welcomed those present, reminding them that the date was an auspicious one, being 24th June, the festival day of the Order's patron saint, John the Baptist.
3. **Attendance:** The President thanked the meeting for a strong turnout. 44 people attended the Annual General Meeting. (Earlier in the day up to 66 people had been present at various sessions of the History Seminar held at the Crown Promenade Hotel, Southbank, South Melbourne; and 55 people signed the seminar attendance register.) He said it was gratifying to note how strongly the Historical Society had grown in its four years of formal existence.
4. **Apologies** were received from 30 people, as follows: Dawn Bat, Margaret Boulter, Sandra Bout, Alison Brigg, Lennis Burke, Geraldine, Goldie & Jim Byrne, Richard, Caesar-Thwaytes, Averil Chadwick, Mark Compton, John Davis, Trevor Gibson, Reg Graham, Anthony Harrison, Alan Hills, Jim & Doreen Humphrey, Margaret Kentler, Rhonda Lang, Fred & Margaret Leditschke, Dorei Levy, Ken Milbourne, Graham Orr, Richard Shaw, John Springhall, Laurie Steinhardt, Gail Vann, Terry Walton and Kevin Young. The apologies were noted. Letters from Reg Graham, Alan Hills, Terry Walton and Kevin Young expressing their regrets at being unable to attend and conveying their best wishes for a successful meeting were also noted.
5. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The President called on the Secretary to introduce the Minutes of the last annual general meeting, held in the conference centre of Lasseter's Hotel, Alice Springs, on 16 June 2004. The Secretary advised that printed copies of the Minutes had been distributed shortly before the meeting had begun, and further copies were available at the front of the room. The Chairman then called for a motion that the Minutes be received. Moved Mr George Jackson, seconded by Mrs Glad Blackstock, that the Minutes be approved. Agreed unanimously.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** The President asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes. The Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to the item on elections for the management committee. He advised that as the current office holders and management committee had now been in office for three years, elections for their positions would be held later in the meeting.
7. **Annual Report:** The President advised that his annual report had been printed and distributed before the meeting together with the agenda and the last meeting's minutes. He then formally tabled the fourth annual report of the Historical Society then drew attention to its highlights. He advised the meeting that he would not be standing for re-election then thanked the membership generally and the management committee in particular for the support they had given him as he and the committee members had worked to establish the Society firmly over the previous five years. He observed that the Society had achieved more in those years than the former Priory Library Committee (which as Priory Librarian he had previously chaired) had managed to in the 52 years it was extant 1946-98.

Dr Fotheringham then drew attention to excellent work done by the Membership Secretary & Publications Officer, Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr, in developing a more efficient membership database and membership subscription system linked to the distribution of the Society's two publications, *St John History* (journal) and *Pro Utilitate* (newsletter). He thanked her for her efforts here and complimented her on the high professional standard of the record keeping system and the publications. He then called for a motion to record the meeting's appreciation of Ms Langdon-Orr's contributions to the Society as Membership Secretary & Publications Officer. So moved by Dr Harry Oxer, seconded Mr Jack Blackstock. Agreed unanimously. The meeting then showed its appreciation of Ms Langdon-Orr's efforts with applause.

In ending his report, Dr Fotheringham referred the meeting to the next item on the agenda, the Treasurer's Report, which he said he would present in Mr Byrne's absence. He then concluded his report by wishing the Society well under the leadership of its next president and management committee.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Moving on to the Treasurer's report, the President tabled the report by the Treasurer, Mr James Byrne, copies of which had been distributed with the other agenda papers before the meeting. Dr Fotheringham said Mr Byrne's report indicated that total income for the period from 27 May 2004 to 8 June 2005 had been \$7,033.49; total expenditure had been \$1,608.35; and the balance of income over expenditure had been \$5,425.14. He advised the meeting that the Society's financial records had been voluntarily audited by Ms Kareen Brandt, Finance Manager of the Australian office of St John Ambulance Australia, who had certified his statement of income and expenditure as correct. On behalf of Mr Byrne, Dr Fotheringham expressed the gratitude of the Society for her assistance. He also thanked Mr Byrne for his concise report.
9. **Discussion of President's & Treasurer's Reports:** Dr Fotheringham then called for comments, questions and discussion of both the annual report and the Treasurer's report. In opening the discussion of the reports, the Secretary drew the meeting's attention to the large scale of the donations-in-kind to the Society by the Publications Officer, Ms Langdon-Orr. On behalf of those present, he thanked Ms Langdon-Orr for her time and expertise in doing the layout, design, printing, enveloping and mailing out of both the journal and newsletter. The meeting then expressed with applause its appreciation of the generosity of Ms Langdon-Orr's gifts-in-kind, which had enabled the Society to project a very professional image to its members and prospective members within the broader St John community.

The Secretary also advised the meeting that two substantial donations of money had been received earlier that day, one of \$1000 and one of \$500, the latter specifically for the award of prizes to Cadets undertaking the "Knowledge of the Order" proficiency badge. (In this connection the Secretary reminded the meeting of the input that members of the Society had had into the redevelopment of the "Knowledge of the Order" syllabus.) The meeting showed its appreciation of these gifts with applause.

The President informed the meeting that the South Australian St John Ambulance Historical Society had also made a contribution-in-kind by producing a DVD containing two audiovisuals, "A brief background to St John Ambulance Australia" and "A short illustrated history of the Order of St John". He then presented the Secretary with a copy of the DVD for the Priory Library. In accepting the DVD, the Secretary referred to two other gifts presented to the Priory Library earlier in the day: (1) the small WA commemorative badge produced by St John Ambulance Australia (WA Inc.) to mark the centenary 1904-2004 of the Volunteer First Aid Service in Western Australia, donated by Dr Edith Khangure, Librarian & Archivist to St John in WA; and (2) the silver Maltese Cross with St John Ambulance Brigade roundel mounted on a polished wooden block, donated by David Heard, of Murray Bridge, Regional Superintendent of the St John First Aid Service in SA. The meeting indicated its appreciation of these gifts with applause.

The President then called for a motion to adopt both the President's and Treasurer's reports. Moved Mrs Betty Stirton, seconded Miss Beth Dawson: (1) that the President's and Treasurer's reports be adopted; (2) that the meeting record its appreciation of Dr Fotheringham's and Mr Byrne's efforts in preparing informative, succinct reports; (3) and that the meeting record its gratitude to Dr Fotheringham for his seven years of outstanding work in, first, establishing the Historical Society to fill the void left by the former Priory Library Committee and, second, leading the Society during its inaugural six years. Motion approved unanimously.

10. **Membership Secretary & Publicity Officer's Report:** Ms Langdon-Orr reported briefly on membership renewals and new memberships. Including the subscriptions received earlier in the day, the Society now has 175 financial members. She then reported on her past year's work in producing the Society's journal (*St John History*) and newsletter (*Pro Utilitate*). In concluding her report she made a special appeal for photographic material — the "fodder" on which the

newsletter depends. The president thanked Ms Langdon-Orr for her report and urged members to respond to her appeal for photographic materials.

11. **Election of Office Bearers:** The President asked the Secretary to read out the list of nominations received for the vacant positions. The Secretary advised the meeting that one duly signed and counter-signed nomination had been received for each of the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer, those nominated respectively being Dr Harry Oxer, Dr Ian Howie-Willis and Mr James Byrne. As no other nominations had been received for these three positions, Dr Fotheringham declared Drs Oxer and Howie-Willis and Mr Byrne duly elected.

The Secretary then advised the meeting that six duly signed and counter-signed nominations had been received for the five vacant elective committee member positions — Mr John Blackstock, Miss Beth Dawson, Dr Brian Fotheringham, Dr Edith Khangure, Dr Allan Mawdsley and Mrs Betty Stirton. He said that as there had been six nominations for five positions a ballot would be necessary.

At this point Mr Ray Schilling pointed out that that a ballot could be avoided if the meeting agreed to create the new committee position of Immediate Past President and appoint Dr Fotheringham to it; that would then allow the other five nominees for elective committee positions to be declared elected. The Secretary agreed that such an agreement would obviate the need for a ballot. He suggested that Mr Schilling move an appropriate motion, and further suggested that the motion should include a recommendation that all other currently co-opted and elected committee members be endorsed as co-opted members. Mr Schilling, seconded by Mr Blackstock, then moved as follows: "that Dr Fotheringham be appointed to the Society's management committee as Immediate Past President in recognition of his pioneering effort in establishing the Society; that the other five nominees for elective management committee positions be declared elected; and that the remaining present committee members be co-opted as members of the management committee for the next three years. The meeting then approved the motion unanimously and expressed its pleasure at the outcome with hearty applause.

With the concurrence of the new President, Dr Oxer, Dr Fotheringham carried on conducting the meeting in his new capacity as Immediate Past President.

12. **Reports from States & Territories:** Dr Fotheringham called on representatives of the various States & Territories to provide the meeting with written and/or oral reports on the work being done on St John heritage matters in their respective jurisdictions. The following members then spoke on behalf of their States and Territories:
- Australian Capital Territory & the Priory's Australian Office — Dr Ian Howie-Willis
 - New South Wales — Mrs Loredna Criniti
 - Northern Territory — Mr Alan Bromwich
 - Queensland — Ms Beth Dawson
 - South Australia — Dr Brian Fotheringham
 - Tasmania — Mrs Fay Reeve on behalf of Mr Ken Milbourne
 - Victoria — Mr John Blackstock
 - Western Australia — Dr Edith Khangure

At the conclusion of the reports Dr Fotheringham thanked the presenters and repeated his earlier comment about the Historical Society having engaged the interest and effort of a much wider circle of St John people than had the former Priory Library Committee. He advised the meeting that each report would be published in the next edition of *St John History*, the Society's *Proceedings*.

13. **Other business:**

13.1 **Management Committee meeting**

Dr Fotheringham suggested that as those present were keen to visit the nearby Victorian St John Ambulance Museum, the management committee members might wish to forego the planned committee meeting. He pointed out that the key issue for the committee meeting, planning the topics for next year's History Seminar in Perth, had been satisfactorily dealt

with earlier in the day. Any other issues could be dealt with via the Secretary's regular management committee circulars. The committee members present indicated their warm approval of this suggestion.

13.2 Expression of appreciation of Dr Fotheringham's period as President

As incoming President, Dr Oxe formally thanked Dr Fotheringham for his efforts to establish the Society over the past seven years. He said that the Society's members were grateful that when the former Priory Library Committee was abolished in 1998, Dr Fotheringham had taken it upon himself as Priory Librarian to convene the informal Priory History Group, which had soon evolved into the formally constituted Historical Society. The meeting indicated its approbation of Dr Oxe's comments with applause.

14. Closure: There being no other business, Dr Fotheringham thanked all those in attendance for their presence and thanked all those who had participated by presenting reports and/or contributing to discussion. He declared the annual general meeting closed at 3.55 p.m. Those present then moved across The Esplanade to the St John Ambulance Museum to inspect the exhibits on display there.

Ian Howie-Willis
Secretary
12 July 2005

Society objectives, publications, membership

The Historical Society's 'purposes and objects'

The Historical Society's "Purposes and Objects", are spelt out in its constitution. There are 11 of these. They require the Society to:

- 1) *promote and encourage the discussion, study, research and writing of the history of St John Ambulance Australia and the Order of St John;*
- 2) *perform an educational function by enhancing and disseminating knowledge of St John history among people affiliated with St John Ambulance Australia and the wider general public;*
- 3) *complement and support the work of the parallel State/Territory St John Ambulance history and heritage societies and encourage their formation;*
- 4) *encourage and assist people undertaking research into aspects of St John history;*
- 5) *support the activities of St John Ambulance Australia with the provision of appropriate historical materials, information and advice when appropriate;*
- 6) *seek the support of St John management at national, State/Territory, regional and local levels to place high value on heritage matters, particularly in relation to library, archives and museum repositories; and, by so doing, promote interest in and knowledge of St John*
- 7) *encourage the development of a systematic approach to the preservation, cataloguing and display of items of St John heritage value;*
- 8) *work effectively to conserve the historical record as it relates to St John in appropriate archival and museological 'keeping places';*
- 9) *provide a national forum for the reporting and discussion of research into St John history, such forum taking various appropriate forms such as the regular meetings during Priory conferences, other meetings, seminars and symposia, and newsletters and/or journals;*
- 10) *raise awareness of St John history by fostering an enhanced appreciation of the St John heritage among members of the various branches of St John Ambulance Australia and the Order and the general public;*
- 11) *liaise productively with other St John Ambulance and Order of St John history groups beyond Australia, for example the St John Historical Society in the United Kingdom, and with overseas St John historians.*

Newsletter, Pro Utilitate

Pro Utilitate, the newsletter of the Historical Society, has appeared periodically since 2003. Distributed to all the society's financial members, it takes its name from the second of the ancient Latin mottoes of the Order of St John — *Pro utilitate hominum* ("for the service of mankind").

We thank our Publications Officer, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, for the newsletter. Its publication is made possible through her personal generosity in making available the necessary resources for its production and distribution through her company, Hovtek Pty Ltd. It also relies on her skills in graphic design and desktop publishing. The Society thanks Ms Langdon-Orr for making a reality of the newsletter, which, but for her, would remain in the realm of good ideas.

St John Heritage (formerly the "Committee Circular")

St John Heritage is the third of the Historical Society's publications. It has restricted circulation, being distributed to members of the Society's management committee rather than to the general membership. The reason for this is that the committee is a large one, with 30 members drawn from all Australian States/Territories plus the UK. Because of Australia's fabled 'tyranny of distance', the committee can meet only once a year, in conjunction with the Society's annual general meeting, which is always held in association with the annual national conference (i.e. Priory Conference) of St John Ambulance Australia. To help committee members keep up to date with new developments on the St John history & heritage front, the committee executive began distributing a regular circular to them in July 2001.

The first of the circulars was produced as soon as the Society came into formal existence, when the Board of Directors of St John Ambulance Australia approved the Society's constitution. Since then the circulars have been published and distributed once a quarter. During 2005 the circulars went 'up-market', with a new format using the Microsoft 'Publisher' program. At that time it was decided to 'rebrand' the circulars; hence the new name *St John Heritage*.

Although *St John Heritage* is distributed to committee members only, the file of back numbers is always available to the Society's ordinary members at the annual general meetings. In addition, if ordinary members wish to be sent particular editions, this can be arranged with the editor, Ian Howie-Willis (whose contact details appear above on the title page of this edition of *St John History*). Because the print run is limited, members wanting copies should ideally have computer access so as to receive them electronically. In addition they should have the capacity to receive pictorial material via Email; i.e., they need to be able to receive large files, preferably via broadband.

Membership renewals, new memberships and subscriptions

Apart from donations, the Historical Society depends entirely upon membership subscriptions for its funds.

Renewals of membership and new memberships therefore enable the Society to survive from one year to another. The Society's management committee accordingly urges all current members to renew their membership for the next financial year and, if possible, to sign up one new member each.

Application forms both for membership renewal and for new members are included at the end of this edition of *St John History*. In addition, updated versions of both types of application form will soon be available electronically at the Society's website, www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org.

The subscription is \$10 for members in Australia and £10 for members in the UK. Subscriptions will remain at the 2006 level during 2006-07.



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Visit our Web Site at www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org

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Correspondence, including material for publication, should be sent to the Society's Publications Officer,

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