



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

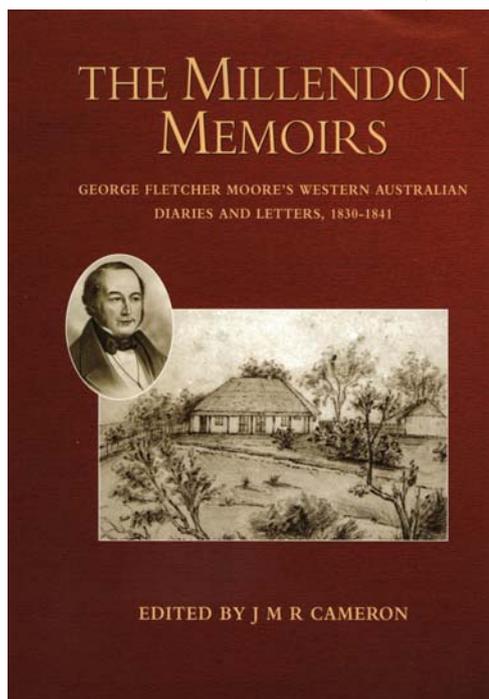
**Autumn Edition
2009**

Editors: Ron Davidson, Dianne Davidson, Anne Brake

GEORGE FLETCHER MOORE – A STAR IN FREMANTLE

Ron Davidson

Fremantle History Society's main contribution to Fremantle's Heritage Week will be a talk by committee member and past president Bob Woollett on George Fletcher Moore and Fremantle. Moore was a young Irish lawyer, poet, explorer and farmer who arrived at Garden Island and then Fremantle in October 1830, with his four servants. He was also a scholar, keen observer, skilled diarist and letter writer, and a general Irish charmer. His material was serialised by the



West Australian in 1881 and 1882 to mark Moore's 80th birthday, and this along with sundry letters became the classic *Diary of Ten Years of an Early Settler of Western Australia*. Moore lived until he was 88.

Despite this book Moore has not been readily accessible to local readers. The *West Australian* removed identifying material so that it was sometimes difficult to know whether he was writing about Fremantle, Perth or Millenden, Moore's 12000 acre farm in Upper Swan – or who he was writing about. With the recent publication of *The Millendon Memoirs*, a handsome volume by Hesperian Press, that is no longer a problem. The excised sections, new letters and a detailed index have all been reinstated or added. For instance look in the index under *Fremantle – descriptions*: you can find Moore on page 4 'sitting in a tent at Freemantle (sic) with my things bundled about me in sad confusion but I have not for a long time enjoyed better rest than last night with my mattress laid on the sand – hereabout it is mere bare sand but we must not judge of

this by similar looking places at home for all vegetables flourish on it and all cattle thrive on the scanty herbage. By page 112 he mentions how 'Fremantle (sic) has improved with comfortable stone houses rising in all directions. Water is found in great abundance and the sand is found to be possessing of surprising fertility. On page 188 he mentions there are 'crabs and prawns aplenty but no lobsters, western coasts, next to the open oceans are too rough for shell fish'.

Moore was fascinated by the indigenous population. There is described a meeting, full of foreboding and grace, between Moore, armed with a shotgun, and the resolute resistance .

fighter Yagan. Moore also published A Descriptive Vocabulary on the Language of the Aborigines.

To mark the talk the Fremantle History Society will be presenting a copy of *The Millendon Memoirs: George Fletcher Moore's West Australian Diaries and Letters 1830-1841* (Edited JMR Cameron) to the Fremantle Library's Local History Collection.

**Monday 1 June, Town Hall Atrium,
12 noon. Free – all welcome!**



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Dianne Davidson (President)	9430 6096
Anne Brake (Vice – President)	9335 5206
Pam Hartree (Treasurer)	9432 9739(W)
Ron Davidson (Minute Secretary)	9430 6096

Committee Members:

Bob Woollett	9335 7451
Fay Campbell	9341 4102
Jenny Patterson	9438 3711
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
David Hutchison	9335 1594
Rusty Christensen	9364 4491

Fremantle History Society's committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

If you have something you would like discussed at a meeting, please contact one of the members at the numbers shown above.

General meetings of the Society are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Details of these meetings can be found in your newsletter and reminders are placed in the local press. Be sure to check details as meeting dates may differ from this.



COMING EVENTS

May meeting in June – our may meeting will be held as part of the Fremantle Heritage Festival on 1 June at the Town Hall Atrium at 12 noon. Titled **George Fletcher Moore – a Star in Fremantle**, see our lead story for more details.

Ports and Pilot Boats

Ever wondered how Fremantle operated before CY O'Connor created the harbour? At our June meeting sailing ship and boat enthusiast Nick Burningham will talk to us about early pilotage in Fremantle and the development of Fremantle Port prior to the opening of the harbour.

Nick was the nautical archaeologist for the Duyfken Replica Foundation, and is a specialist in the reconstruction of ancient and historic watercraft designs.

We will, as usual, provide some delicious refreshments – a gold coin donation for the wine would be appreciated!

Tuesday 23 June, 7pm, Old Royal George Hotel, cnr Duke and George Street, East Fremantle

Annual General Meeting

And it's that time of year again! This time our AGM will be held at the Fremantle Bowling Club (where we had a very successful Christmas function not so long ago). Committee member David Hutchison has been researching the history of adjacent Fremantle Park for possible heritage listing, and has uncovered all sorts of fascinating stories to do with the park's past. He will present his findings in his usual entertaining and informative way after the conclusion of the formal part of the evening.

Generous refreshments will be provided, and the wine bar of the Bowling Club will be open for moderately priced drinks.

**Tuesday 28 July, 7pm, Fremantle
Bowling Club, 6 Ellen Street, Fremantle**



MEETING REPORTS

Miller Bakehouse

You could almost smell fresh bread baking when Ted Miller took us on a memorable tour of the historic Palmyra bakehouse for our February meeting. He told us how the bread was made, how the oven was fired, and also how local Miller family kids were employed to cart bread through East Fremantle. And how the delivery system could go very wrong with so many kids involved. There was a particularly interesting sequence when a cart driven by one of the kids lost a wheel and much of East Fremantle had to sit around waiting for it to be repaired.

Ted also gave us an insight into the Miller family through the generations, with a series of interesting images, despite some hitches with the computer!

Our thanks to Ted Miller for donating his time, and the Melville History Society for making their bakehouse available.

Peel Town?

Recently described as one of the most important research projects being undertaken in Western Australia at the moment, Dr Shane Burke and a very enthusiastic group of volunteers are slowly and very carefully, uncovering evidence of life in the very early days of the Swan River Colony.

Members and friends met the ever enthusiastic Shane on a beautiful Sunday morning and were immediately caught in his infectious enthusiasm for this controversial place. Shane and his team have uncovered evidence of several dwellings and a

cemetery using a range of sources including physical evidence and archival records.



Archaeology often creates more questions than the answers it can provide. Dr Shane Burke describes the physical evidence that is uncovered at the Mount Brown site and gives an archaeological interpretation of what can be seen. (Photo A Brake)

While it can not be denied that people lived in this area in the very early years of our colony, the controversy has arisen around the nature of the settlement – was it Peel Town, originally believed to have been established at what we now know as Woodman Point, or Thomas Peel's enclave, with the various structures uncovered representing the houses and related buildings for his farm? The debate continues although further research into the archival record appears to be supporting the notion that this indeed was Peel Town.

Recent threats to the site from a proposal by the Fremantle Ports for a transport route through the southern portion of the archaeological area to service a new port for the State are being reviewed as the government considers a joint venture partnership for a private port.



In the process of uncovering the various structures an amazing array of 'material culture' was also uncovered. Ranging from children's toys and sewing implements to plates, cutlery and even bones from the food that was eaten, these artefacts give an insight into day to day life. (Photo A Brake)

And there was some interest in Shane Burke's dig from afar – we received this email in the week before Shane's tour:

Sorry being in Canberra I can't attend again around where I grew up as a young lad in the mid 1940s as there used to be a wonderful treasure trove for us Freo lads in open seaward ground on the corner of Rockingham and Cockburn Roads right opposite an old veranded hotel whose name escapes me where the US Navy dumped all its rubbish especially when they started pulling out closing down around Fremantle 1944/5. That's where we all got kitted out with gob hats, belts, Pea jackets and a huge range of other wonderful boys stuff. I often have wondered whether a dig was even undertaken of that but look forward to hearing about Sundays Dig what you find and perhaps a foto!??

G Warren-Smith

A Centenary of Submarines

In his presentation to our April meeting, Peter Horoban, Vice President of the Submarine Institute, exhibited the qualities necessary for anyone who chooses a life working in a small and confined space, full of other people and often many metres

below the surface of the sea – patience and calm.

Peter's quiet passion for his theme made this extraordinary life seem an eminently sensible career to choose! But the stories of bravery and stamina that he outlined, particularly in the story of Max Shean, painted a picture of men who had a special tolerance for this unusual life.

As part of his presentation, Peter ran a fascinating DVD *Above and Below: The Extraordinary life of Max Shean*. The presentation drew heavily on a detailed oral history with Max which was filmed. It interlaced this with still and moving footage of life in the mini subs and some of the missions they went on.

This is the first of a number of similar oral histories and other projects associated with the celebration of a century of submarines in Australia in 2014.

HELP WANTED!

Jenny Patterson

During these past years the committee members have prepared and donated the platters of food for our suppers, and the raffle prizes at our monthly meetings. The raffles help finance the society's miscellaneous expenses and the wine for our evenings.

Now that the Yuletide festivities and the Easter celebrations are over, you might find yourself with a present or two, or perhaps a box of chocolates that weren't quite to your taste but would be greatly appreciated for our raffle: sweets, tins of biscuits, toiletries, preserves, stationery or the odd bottle of wine would make more exciting prizes for all to win. Even an occasional platter of finger food to enrich our suppers would be most welcome! Contact Jenny on 9438 3711.

Looking forward to linking up with you all at our next meeting!



GOODBYE TO SOME VALUED MEMBERS

If you ever wanted help with a history project concerning Fremantle - or anywhere else - then **Chris Jeffery** was often a good person to start with. Chris, with Phyl Garrick, wrote *Fremantle Hospital: A social history to 1987*. It is an outstanding record of how a varied collection of buildings erected for various purposes around The Knowle, Colonel Henderson's elegant Georgian villa, developed as a hospital. But the book, which was published in 1987, also provided an unrivalled backdrop of Fremantle history.

Chris also became a great promoter of the work of A Izzy Orloff, a Russian Jew who travelled with his camera recording events and people in the port city between 1917 and 1935. Izzy became known as the Fremantle Photographer. From thousands of negatives Chris and co-author Louise Hoffman prepared *Izzy Orloff Photographer* which introduced Izzy's work to new generations. Chris also worked as an oral history officer at Battye Library and was a member of the Fremantle History Society for much of its existence. When I last spoke with her she was about to start a new project for Hesperian Press on one of the colourful mining companies. Many members lost a friend when she died in September last year.

We also heard recently that **Shirley Lippiatt** had died late last year. Shirley was well known to FHS Newsletter readers for her interesting letters, particularly those concerning her uncle, Donald Cameron, who was Minister for Aircraft Production in the Curtin Government in WW2. He also played a major role in getting Curtin selected as editor of the WA *Westralian Worker* in 1917. Both John Curtin and Don Cameron were leading campaigners against Conscription in that same year. One of Shirley's letters told how Don Cameron had other close links around Fremantle. He

worked on the roof of the Fremantle Railway Station and in 1910 found him on the roofs of the distinctive terrace houses still in King Street, East Fremantle – Kyneton, Hepburn, Glenlyon and Dayleford (all Victorian mining towns.).

Don Cameron left Fremantle in 1919, was elected a senator in Victoria and was a minister in the Curtin and Chifley labor governments.

Shirley was what she used to call 'a real Fremantle girl'. She went to school at Princess May, worked for the State Shipping Service and married prominent Fremantle unionist Don Lippiatt at St John's. Don was favourite to be endorsed as the ALP MLA for Fremantle when he died suddenly in 1976.

AND TO A LOCAL PERSONALITY!

Fremantle lost another link with its history when **Milton Baxter** died last month in Hamilton Hill. When the Fremantle History Society held its memorable wake for the National Hotel, at the Fremantle Club in 2007, it was Milton who was the star of the show. Milton told how he became the top Fremantle paper boy in the late thirties and forties. He gradually worked his way up the ranks until he sold the *Daily News* from the National corner. It didn't come any better than that.



MEMORIES OF THE ROYAL GEORGE AND OTHER PUBS 2

Rusty Christensen

My earliest impressions of the George were formed as a five-year-old in the mid thirties when attending the Catholic primary school in King Street; we walked up the hill going to school and down the hill on the way home. The structure of the pub has not changed, only the patrons. During the war and into the late 1940s, as with other pubs with six o'clock closing and beer in short supply, the George had the ubiquitous six o'clock 'swill'

as it was called. By the time I was old enough to go in legally to enjoy the bonhomie of the place, things were back to what could be called normal.

I don't think I could be classed as a regular, more a casual drinker at the old watering hole. Occasionally I would go in for a drink with my father; sometimes on a Friday or Saturday night with some mates. The front bar of the George was Bruce Flindell's office; he was a top bloke but a bugger to keep on the job. When he got behind with one of his truck jobs he would work through the night to have it on the road by next morning. Apart from being a good bloke, his rates were very reasonable. In fact too much so; he did a few jobs for me and only charged me for parts. He was an enigma. I enjoyed his company, which of course took me into his office where I observed some of the regular drinkers and characters.

There were three pubs in the vicinity. There was the Bridge which, as the name implies, was situated on the Fremantle side of the traffic bridge. The two publicans at the Bridge in my time were Howie Boyes and Ted Hoare, father of a well-known state cricketer and East Fremantle footballer, Des. It has long gone to make way for road and harbour extensions. Across the bridge in North Fremantle were the Swan and the Railway, and further up Stirling Highway (in early days the Perth Road) was the Rose. All three are still licensed but in different forms. They were all popular local hostelrys with their own regular patrons and distinctive characteristics, but mainly they were worker hotels.

Even though I had the odd drink in them all and a few more in the Plympton, it was the Royal George where I spent most time. Not that I was a big patron, but it was closer to home than any of the others and in those days one didn't range very far from home base. The George has had a few publicans from its original owners, the Mulcahys. In my earliest association the licensee was Vic Daly, a florid faced little bloke who could

have benefited from a personality implant, though he must have been a good boss as he kept the same bar staff for years, the most durable of them being Tim O'Connor who was an Irish icon of the pub. Obviously an Irish immigrant at some time, Tim had kept his Irish brogue. He lived in the first house around the corner in Silas Street with his twin sons Tom and Maurice and his daughter Margaret. He was a widower. I don't remember his wife, but I do recall him taking up the collection at Sunday Mass in my first primary school cum church in King Street.

Other beer pullers to come to mind are Bill Oddy, a cheery chap who later took over the license of the comparatively new Willagee on the corner of Stock Road and Leach Highway, a bloke called Jack Mulcahy, a relative of the original owners, and the Miller sisters, South Fremantle relatives of the Miller family of racing fame. Of course there were others, but time has dimmed their faces and names.

Vic Daly was a local icon but even icons have a use by date. He was there one day and the next time I went in he was gone. I never found out where he and his wife went and retired to. The next time I called in the pub was being run by a rather rotund balding fellow, Frank Bryant, complete with family who lived upstairs in the little used bedrooms. Frank was a former top class state cricketer and then a state cricket selector. He mixed more with the locals on the other side of the bar, whereas Daly seldom ventured out from his side of 'the jump'. Maybe he needed to keep an eye on the till.

When the original East Fremantle Oval was redeveloped and East Fremantle moved back there from Fremantle in 1953 on home game days the old pub came to life. Supporters would have a few before the game, and after, walking up the hill at half time, downing a few, and if the game wasn't up to standard or if the local side was getting a hammering (which didn't happen

much in those days) they stayed on until after the game and beyond. There was always a crowd on football days, but after the football club secured a liquor licence the pub went back to its normal Saturday activity of booze and betting.

(to be concluded)



**Fremantle Library:
Local History Collection
Pam Hartree**

We have been busy preparing for the Heritage Festival which commences on the 29 May. The Local History Collection is conducting five events which includes a photographic display illustrating the "Bloody Sunday" incident which occurred on 4 May 1919. The display is also supported by a talk about the event by historian David Hutchison which will be held on Thursday 4 June at 2pm. The Local History Collection is also hosting a talk, in conjunction with the Fremantle History Society, by Wendy Lugg who is artist in residence at the Royal Historical Society. It will be held on Friday 5 June at 10am Please call the collection on 9432 9739 to book a place.

Please check out the Festival program for other events, it is available online at <http://www.fremantlefestivals.com/main/resource/HeritageFestival%20Program%202009.pdf>, or pop into the collection and pick up a copy. The Local History Awards were well supported this year with a variety of entries in all sections. The winners will be announced on the 4th June.

Recent additions to the collection are listed below:

Dovenby, former 17 Allen St: Conservation plan. Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd. with Robin Chinnery, July 2001.
LH 728.3 CON

Fremantle Port Inner Harbour and Channel, reclamation at Rous Head and offshore

placement of dredged material: Public environmental review, Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd 2009.

LH 387.1 SIN

HMAS Sydney II commemorative ecumenical service for those lost in HMAS Sydney II 19 November 1941 : on the anniversary of its final departure from Fremantle on 11 November 1941, 2008.

LH 940.5459 HMA

Maritime Union Talking Work programme, Bloody Sunday 1919 and the death of lumper Tom Edwards [sound recording] : Radio Fremantle 107.9 FM interview with David Hutchison, Hutchison, David Eric, 1927, 2007

LH 331.892 HUT

Master plan East Fremantle Oval precinct : final report, CCS Strategic Management, 2008.

LH 712.5 CCS

Plan for the future of the district : 2006/2007 - 2015/16, Town of East Fremantle, 2006.

LH 352 TOW

Robb's Jetty Abattoir, Primosi, Alexander, 2009.

LH 994.11 PRI

Can you help?



Do you know this woman?

We are still trying to identify several photographs from the Brent Sumner Collection, and we would appreciate it if you could cast any light on the identity of the lady with the baby or

the location of the house (over).



Please call Pam, Kristi or Lorraine on 9432 9739 if you can help.



Gleanings from the *Herald* 11 David Hutchison

It is clear from the editorial of 12 March 1870 that the colonists were feeling let down by the Home Government following the cessation of convict transportation:

The colony has special claims to the benefit of an exception in its favour. In the hour of England's difficulty we undertook what will for ages be our injury to us, the reception of her rejected convicts, and upon conditions, which have been strictly adhered to by us as one of the contracting parties, but abruptly terminated, and its unfulfilled covenants repudiated, under influence of a threat by the other party to the contract.

The question is raised, ought we silently to admit, by an ex post facto adoption of a new policy, - 'that for the future every colony must provide for its own expenditure', the right of the Imperial Government to do so.

The same issue advertised a public meeting for the 31 January:

For the purpose of urging on His Excellency the necessity of at once introducing Representative Government – promises to be one of the most unanimous ever held in the town. The resolutions prepared to be submitted to the meeting meet a general approval, and will convince His Excellency that the settlers know perfectly well what they are

about in asking for Representative Government.

In the issue of 19 March 1870, the editorial sounded more optimistic:

We woke from a pleasant dream on Wednesday morning, and found a joyful realization of it, in the announcement that His Excellency had received a reply to a confidential communication addressed to him by the Earl Granville, in which the Colonial Secretary of State informs him, 'that he sees no reason, why the form of government provided for by the Act 13 and 14 Vic, should not be adopted, if the Colonists desire.

His Excellency's despatch was evidently written soon after his arrival in the Colony.

We have always felt, that as long as His Excellency acted upon his own judgement, he was in favor of a change in the form of our Government, and that his appointment, or presumed subsequent waverings were owing to the influence of unpopular surrounding.

In the issue of 2 April 1870, there was a long editorial about a public meeting on 31 March 1870. It shows the liberal attitude of the newspaper, which appears to have been reflected in the public meeting.

It was understood that there would be no opposition to the resolutions; indeed, it was generally believed that there would be no Meeting: added to this was the overpowering heat of the weather, the early hour of the meeting, and the absence of the rougher class can be easily accounted for; the Messrs Franciscos, and D.H. Scott were absent from unavoidable causes... The statement put forward by the Perth Journals, that it would be impossible to find twelve gentlemen, equal to the duties of Representatives was denounced as an infamous slander on the colony, and Mr L. Samson went so far as to express an opinion that good practical men could be found in the ranks of the middle classes.

It was with unfeigned pleasure that we witnessed the absence of all jealous feelings, either in or between classes, or individuals towards each other.

For ourselves we are well content to have been the humble instruments in convincing the settlers of the necessity for Representative Government – not that we covet either for ourselves, or others similarly circumstanced any higher social position than that we occupy as members of the general community...

Four resolutions were carried unanimously at the meeting: the first of which shows the tone of the meeting:

That this meeting is of the opinion that the system of personal government existing in this colony is one which does not possess the confidence of its inhabitants; that it precludes the colonists from having a fair share in the management of their own affairs; and that its maladministration is calculated to retard the progress of the colony.



FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 1 June – *George Fletcher Moore – a Star in Fremantle* presented by Bob Woollett **12 noon, the Atrium, Fremantle Town Hall, St John’s Square, Fremantle.**

Tuesday 23 June – *Ports and Pilot Boats* with Nick Burningham, author of *Messing about in Earnest*. **7 pm, Old Royal George Hotel, cnr Duke and George Sts, East Fremantle.**

Tuesday 28 July – David Hutchison reveals the history of Fremantle Park following the AGM. **7 pm, Fremantle Bowls Club, 6 Ellen St, Fremantle.**

Fremantle Heritage Festival 29 May – 5 June 2009

Check the City of Fremantle website for details of pick up a program at the Local History Collection.

Highlights include

Wednesday 3 June, Kris Bizzaca will run a workshop on researching the history of your house. 12 – 1.30 pm, LHC.

Thursday 4 June, David Hutchison will give a presentation to accompany the photographic exhibition at the Local History Collection on “Bloody Sunday”, 2 pm LHC.

Friday 5 June, Wendy Lugg, artist in residence at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, explores her connections to Fremantle (supported by the Fremantle History Society), 10 am LHC.

For bookings and more details ring 9432 9739



Be a part of the team

It’s annual general meeting time again, which means fees are due and a call for nominations to our committee is made.

The committee work together to ensure the Fremantle History Society members have a dynamic program of events and that tangible contributions are made to the community.

Committee members work on the schedule and organisation of meetings for the year, preparing the quarterly newsletter, organising the Fremantle Studies Day, lobbying both state and local government regarding Fremantle history and heritage issues, edit and publish the biennial *Fremantle Studies Journal* and other tasks as they come to hand. If you would like to join the team complete the attached nomination form and return to the Secretary by 30 June.

Of course you don’t have to be a member of the committee to lend a hand. If you would like more information call any of the current committee members – details page 2.