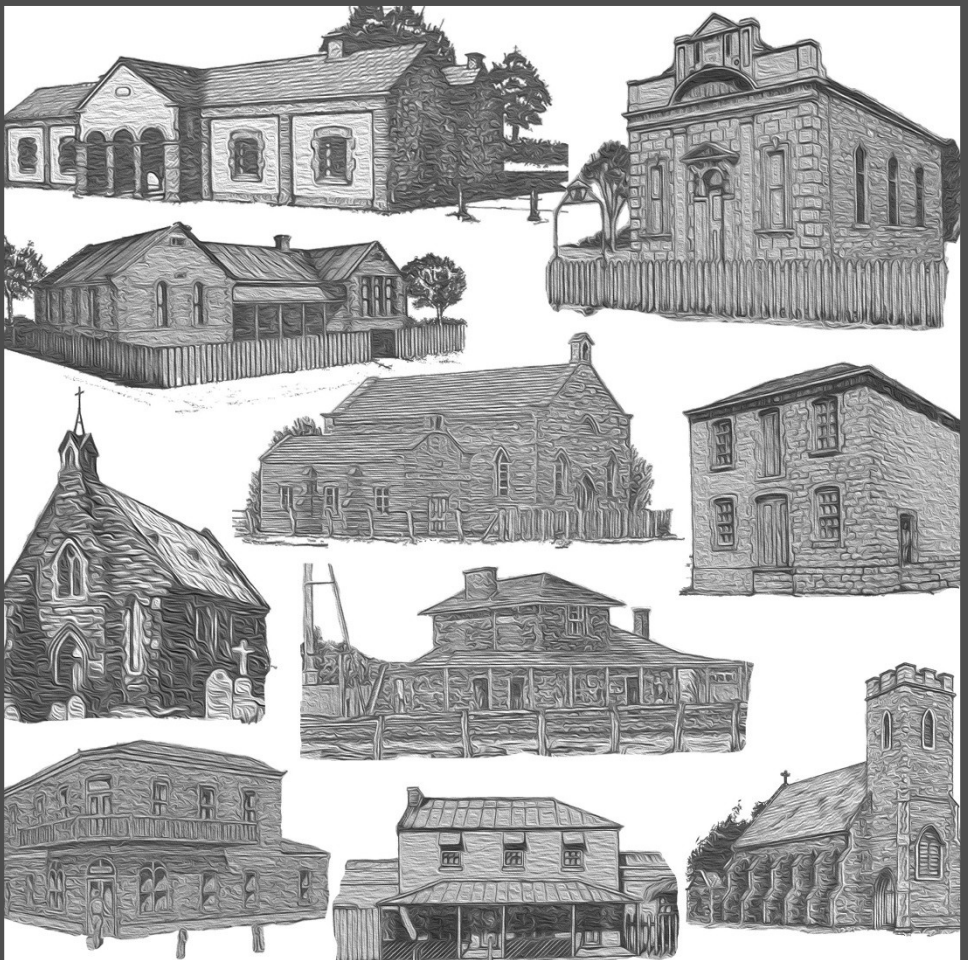


SALISBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER

Celebrating over 40 years of "keeping alive the history of Salisbury"



SEPTEMBER 2026



Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.
3 Ann St Salisbury

***We acknowledge the Kurna people, the Traditional Owners of the
land on which we live today .***

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 16th 7.00pm **St John's Church – Speaker Jacky Young**

OCTOBER

Wednesday 14th 7.00pm **A.G.M. and Show and Tell and Quiz**

DECEMBER

Sunday 6th Christmas Break-up 12.30 at Grand Central.

All meetings held at **3 Ann St Salisbury** unless otherwise advised, followed by afternoon tea or supper. More information about the **Salisbury and District Historical Society** can be found on the **Web Site** or **Face book** page. You are also very welcome to have a chat to the Society's president, **Terry Sloan**, by phoning him or texting on **0427 277 302** or by sending an email to '**salisburyhistory706@gmail.com**' .



Magor's poultry farm and almond orchard at Salisbury Downs.

President's Report for Sept. 2026

Hello All.

Since my last report in June we have enjoyed three activities for members.

Tom Ganley, CEO of Parafield Airport gave us an insight into how Parafield has changed over the last few years. Two of our members, Martin Guerin and Roy Magor told us of their families early years in Salisbury. We also visited Central Districts Football Club for a guided tour and talk, followed by an enjoyable lunch together.

An important date to put in your diary is Sunday December 6th. at 12.30. The committee invites everyone to join us at Grand Central, (Central Districts Football Club) for Christmas Lunch.

Another important date is our Annual General Meeting on 14th. October at 7pm. Please think how you can help make our group grow, and become more attractive to others.

Our Guest Speaker on Wednesday evening 16th. September, is Jacky Young. Her Subject is St. John The Evangelist Anglican Church building Church Street. Salisbury. Although at present a teacher, Jacky has re-directed her interests to study Archaeology and Local History at university.

I have spoken at presentations to members regarding the committee proposals to make minor changes to the constitution. Full details will be circulated to all members before the Annual General Meeting.

Terry Sloan.

RONALD THOMAS WHITE

Ronald's Great Grandfather Thomas Henry White came out from Hoo in Kent England on 16 November 1838 on the ship Rajastjan. Thomas married Elizabeth Mugg on 16 November 1847. Thomas and Elizabeth settled at Little Para River/ Para Plains, the area now known as Burton/ Paralowie. Thomas and Elizabeth had 9 children with Thomas Henry White (Jnr) firstborn on 30 September 1848.

Thomas Henry White (Jnr) married Emily Judd on 13 April 1871; they had 8 children with Harold James White born on 18 August 1882 at Para Plains.

Harold James married Ethel Govan on 28 August 1918. Both families were deeply rooted in the Salisbury township with their family properties 'Skipton' and 'Wattlegrove' positioned right in the heart of the district.

Harold and Ethel had 3 sons, Alexander, Ronald (26 August 1920) and Douglas. Originally farming at Burton then moving to a farm at Penfield where Ron spent his childhood and youth. Ron attended Salisbury Primary School and the Thebarton Technical High School followed by some time at the School of Mines.

The Commonwealth Government compulsorily acquired the land at Penfield in 1940 to build a munitions factory. Ron's father then purchased 95 acres in an area along Salisbury Highway.



Ron who was then 20 started Lucerndale dairy and developed a milk round; his work integrated with his World War II military duties, serving locally in a part-time home defence unit. As dairy farming was classified a government-protected essential industry, vital primary producers were kept on home soil to ensure the domestic food infrastructure did not collapse.

After the death of his father in 1951 most of the land along the Highway was subdivided into housing blocks.

The family retained several blocks which they used for growing fruit trees, including plum, fig, pears, apples, apricots, peaches and almonds.

Ron purchased land in Salisbury North, to continue his dairy business. Most of this land was later developed into housing blocks.

In 1953 he built a group shops on Bagsters Road, Salisbury North, a Delicatessen, Hardware shop, which he ran and a Hairdressing Salon run by Betty Polkinghorne. In later years the salon became a Barber shop, run by Bob Smith. A menswear and various other shops followed.

The following year he entered the District Council, following in his fathers footsteps who had been a councillor for 19 years.

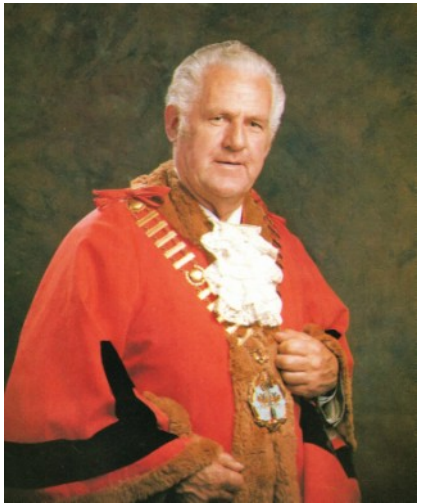
He became very interested in the workings of the council and was appointed chairman of several committees from 1956 to 1960. He had many initiatives, one of his first, in 1961, was to erect a shopping arcade in John Street.

In 1963 he purchased a property of 3,100 acres in the South East, calling it Harold Park, after his father. He began with 3,000 sheep and later ran cattle.

In 1977 Councillor White was elected Deputy Mayor and in 1978 he became Mayor following the retirement of Mr Harry Bowey. He brought a lot of experience to the office having served on the executive boards of many clubs and institutions including Chairman of the Lyell McEwin Hospital.

He was President of the Central District Football Association from its inception in 1961 and made a Life member. He was also involved with Salisbury North Football and Soccer clubs, Ron even leveled the ground with his tractor for the foundation of the oval.

He was always interested in people motivating them to work together and develop their potential.



He also initiated the formation of the Salisbury and District Historical Society in April 1981 and the St Kilda Playground in 1982.

Ron was Mayor from 1978 to 1983 and served on the council for 28 years.

Ron and his friend Betty travelled all around Australia before venturing overseas numerous times.

On a trip to the UK in 1981 Ron presented the Mayor of Salisbury, UK, with the book, Salisbury South Australia. A History of Town and District.

Ron received the Order of Australia AM by the Governor on September 26th 1984 for 'Service to Local Government and to the Community'.

Unfortunately he had a bad accident on his South East property and never fully recovered from it.

He passed away on November 29th 1988, 68 years old.

As a Bicentennial joint project it was proposed by the Salisbury Council and Salisbury Lions club to erect a 9 metre clock tower, designed by Rohent Dixon Associates in memory of Ron White. The cost was met by a Bicentennial Government grant and the Council, plus various clubs and local businesses donated to the fund. One fund raiser was to offer the residents to purchase a brick at a cost of \$2. It was officially unveiled by the then Mayor Pat St Clair Dixon in December 1988.

submitted by Jennifer Paine from the book, Salisbury South Australia. A History of Town and District. Various internet sites, and recollections from Betty Polkinhorne.



Salisbury Blacksmiths

Prior to the railway coming to Salisbury, Commercial Road between Park Terrace and John Street was the major commercial street of the town.

Blacksmiths were one of the key industries required by the community. The Smith was the busiest tradesman in the district during the days of the horse-drawn vehicles. He shod horses and made fancy ironwork for shops and houses and could make and repair tools, hooks, chains, door fittings and cart wheels. It became the centre of communication where local gossip was exchanged.

According to the records of the original sale of land, subdivided by John Harvey, a number of purchases were from people with a blacksmith trade.

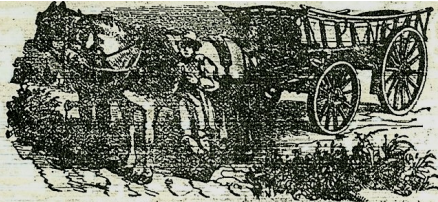
Old newspaper records indicate there were several people who were trading as blacksmiths. Names included N. Goodman 1848, C. Charlton 1860's, G. Burnett 1869, F. Dunn 1874, J&J Jnr. O'Riley 1880, W. Sexton 1891, T. James 1905, F. Gurney 1910 and C. Rice 1926.

One of the first blacksmiths to set up in Salisbury was Nicholas Goodwin who in 1848 purchased a lot on Commercial Road from John Harvey. As part of his business was a Wheelwright shop. Goodman came from Cornwall and was a member of the Wesleyan Church. He made his workshop available for the Primitive Methodist Sunday service. These gatherings were probably the first Christian services in the town. In 1853 Goodman sold off his business land and went to the gold fields in Victoria. He later obtained land on the outskirts of Salisbury to become a farmer.

Another blacksmith occupied the corner allotment of Wiltshire St. and Commercial Rd. (now part of the Salisbury Hotel). It was known to be in operation by 1873 but probably dates from the 1850's. This could be the business that J. Harvey was advertising for lease in 1892 & 1898.

In 1869 another blacksmith, wheelwright business was owned by George Burnett. This was located on the corner of Gawler St. and James St. G. Burnett advertised his business for sale or let 1871.

Mr. Gurney's father was a blacksmith on the corner of Gawler street. Wagons used to pull into the yard to have horses shod. There were three forges and a wheelwrights shop five workers including Lloyd Gurney. Old Mr. Gurney sold out in 1923 after which the smithy was run by only two men. Later it was bought by Cyril Rice.



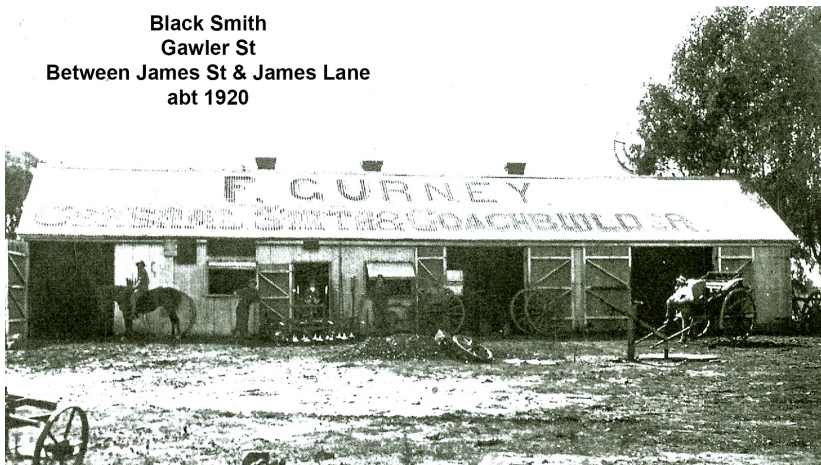
**GEORGE BURNETT,
BLACKSMITH, WHEELWRIGHT
AND MACHINIST,**
(FORMERLY OF ENFIELD.)

WOULD respectfully inform the inhabitants of SALISBURY and its vicinity that he has COMMENCED BUSINESS as a
SMITH, WHEELWRIGHT, AND MACHINIST,
And Bids to Solicit a share of Public Patronage. Any Orders entrusted to his care will be executed with Neatness and Dispatch, at the **LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE.**

**Double and Single Ploughs, Harrows, Wagons, Drays, Carts,
Newport Pagnells, Reaping and Winnowing Machines
on the Latest Improvements,
MADE TO ORDER ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.**
N.B.—All sorts of Machinery Repaired or Altered as instructed.

Opposite the Railway Station, Salisbury.
March 27th, 1869.

**Black Smith
Gawler St
Between James St & James Lane
abt 1920**



Mr. C. Rice purchased the goodwill of James's Blacksmith together with all tools and machinery for the sum of £122. Cyril Rice closed his business on Commercial road and took over the Gawler street business, from where he retired to his small farm on Fendon Road.

The old building of Cyril Rice on Commercial Road was later refurbished and served as a meeting place for the Buffalo Lodge. The Salisbury Hotel extensions took it over in 1988.

After a short time during the war, he was required to work as a blacksmith at Islington. He became the only blacksmith in Salisbury to shoe the many horses that brought the hay into town and carried goods to the farms.

He shod the horses that were used by the local gentry to get about including the O'Leary family who insisted on using a trap and pony well into the 1950's. He was very good at making shoes to fit the many different horses hooves and could make them very quickly. He not only shod horses but could do anything that people asked for. Unfortunately with the coming of the motor car and the call for housing in the area the needs of the blacksmith diminished. When the firm of Enfield Furnisher decided to buy the site and establish a store in the late 1940's the blacksmith became a thing of history.



The Blacksmith furnace, bellows and tools from Cyril Rice's business are now on display in the old stable building at the rear of the Folk Museum.



Salisbury & District Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 838, Salisbury, SA, 5108

The Salisbury & District Historical Society was established in 1981. The Society was formed to promote the discussion and study of South Australian and Australian history, particularly within The District of Salisbury.

Other tasks include the collection, recording and classification of works, source material of all kinds relating to the history of the District of Salisbury and to facilitate access to the collection by the community.

SDHS Committee 2025

President :	Terry Sloan
Minutes Secretary:	Brenda Wright
Secretary:	Dennis Wright
Treasurer:	Chris Ferrell
Salisbury Council Rep:	Shiralee Reardon
Committee Members:	Jennifer Paine, Alice Foster and Alan Polkinghorne
Auditor:	Jeff Rittberger
Newsletter:	Jennifer Paine and Lynette Potter
Website Manager:	David Murren

Disclaimer:

Views and opinions expressed in the Salisbury Historical Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Salisbury and District Historical Society Inc.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the articles printed, responsibility is not accepted for any errors they may contain that are out of our control.

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Photo Gallery: - www.flickr.com/photos/sdhsphotos/

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