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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PORT ADELAIDE.¹

BY ANDREW G PEAKE

The *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* first appeared on Saturday 18 June 1836, even before the Province of South Australia was proclaimed; the second edition did not appear until 3 June 1837. It appeared as a joint publication, with the first section titled, 'The South Australian Gazette' and the latter part, 'The Colonial Register'. They separated in 1839 and the first portion became the *South Australian Government Gazette* and the second portion one of Adelaide's daily newspapers. The *Gazette*² is the official publication of the government and is the vehicle used to proclaim any action or decision made by the various levels of government, whether it is the Governor, Minister of the Crown or government official. As the *Gazette's* masthead proclaims, 'Published by Authority. All Public Acts appearing in this *Gazette* are to be considered Official and obeyed as such'. The *Gazette* has been published weekly, with the occasional Special Edition. As a matter of course, copies of the *Gazette* were sent to all government departments, agencies, police stations, post offices etc. Later specialised gazettes were published and I will discuss these in this paper, as they replaced the *Government Gazette* as the official publication. These are the *Police Gazette* and the *Education Gazette*. More recently a further publication has appeared the *Industrial Gazette*.

Copies of the *Government Gazette* can be found in the State Library of South Australia, the Parliamentary Library, the University of Adelaide Barr Smith Library and many other libraries. Government Departments assembled a bound set, and these have found their way into libraries and the open market. The good news is however, that consideration is being given to creating digital copies of nineteenth century *Gazettes* and reproducing them on a CD format, which will allow an indexing function. This will make these *Gazettes* easily searchable, at least for uncommon names.

Each annual volume (sometimes there had to be two volumes) is indexed, although not to the degree that is needed by the local or family historian. The *Gazette* contains details of such matters as:

- Appointments and promotions in the public (civil) service
- promotions in the militia (until Federation in 1901)
- proclamations
- lists of unclaimed letters at the Post Office
- notices of insolvencies
- probate
- local government announcements
- quarterly, half yearly and annual reports of government departments
- dissolution of partnerships
- naturalisations
- land grants and leases
- granting of licences involving a host of activities
- patents, trade marks and sheep and cattle brands issued
- election notices
- court lists
- tender notices
- and a host of other notices.

This essay will explore some of the material that is to be found in the *Government Gazette* and the associated *Education* and

Police Gazette, its value to the local and family history, with particular reference to the Port Adelaide area.

Local Government

The *Government Gazette* of 27 December 1855, Proclaimed the establishment of the Municipal Corporation of Port Adelaide and defined the boundaries. This event and subsequent matters involving the Corporation will be found under the index heading of 'Corporations', rather than Port Adelaide. On the 6 March 1856 the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors were appointed following a public meeting. It wasn't until the following year (8 Oct 1857) that the Port Adelaide Corporation published its first By-Laws. Interestingly, while only seven By-Laws were published, one of them involved, 'Restraint on the keeping of houses of ill fame in the Town of Port Adelaide'. The Corporation sought to 'restrain, and if possible suppress' such establishments and set a fine of ten pounds. For the record Edward French was the Mayor and William Boykett, Town Clerk. The Corporation also published (30 April 1857) details of Assessments and Expenditure, which indicated that a labourer was paid 2 pounds 8 shillings per week (\$4.80).

Thereafter Corporation notices appear in the indexes of the *Government Gazette* for every year.

Education

The area of education emphasises the inter-connected roles of the *Government Gazette*, *Parliamentary Papers* and later the *Education Gazette*.

In the early days of the Colony education was neither compulsory nor free. Parents had to pay a schoolteacher for the education of their children and could opt through poverty or inclination to not make provision for their children's education. However some support was provided from the Colonial Government to communities and teachers to provide an educational service. To ensure that the money was well spent, inspectors visited schools to assess the teaching abilities of the teachers. The *Gazette* of 17 Jan 1850 included a list of teachers who were to receive a grant under the 1847 Act for the Encouragement of Public Education.

From 1852 there was a quarterly listing of teachers, subdivided into Adelaide, suburban and country districts, which received a subsidy to provide an educational service. These listings gave details of the number of boys and girls taught, and the subjects taught. On 11 Nov 1852 Thomas Dallison was still at Port Adelaide teaching 39 boys and 13 girls (a sure sign that education for boys was seen as more important than for girls) and gave lessons in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography and History. In the following year (27 Oct 1853), Dallison had been joined by John Forbes Leith, who taught 38 boys and 14 girls (with the addition of Drawing for 6 students) and Elizabeth Diaper was at LeFevre's Peninsula with 32 boys and 31 girls (obviously she was able to attract more female students)

In 1854 (16 Nov 1855) the situation was little changed, except that Mary Leith (presumably the wife of John Forbes Leith) was receiving a subsidy to teach one boy and 42 girls. In 1855 (8 Nov 1855) the above teachers had been joined by Jane Toll who taught 17 boys and 39 girls and included in her curriculum Singing. In 1856 (28 Aug 1856) both Leith's had moved and John was recorded as now teaching at Coromandel Valley, and had been replaced by Thomas Caterer who had a large enrolment of 69 boys

This article is adapted from a paper presented at the Port Adelaide Library during History Week, 23, May 2004, and subsequently published in *The South Australian Genealogist*, August 2004. It is reproduced here with the author's permission.

It illustrates the kind of information that may be found in *Government Gazettes* in any state at various periods during the 19th Century.

and 12 girls with an expanded curriculum. In 1865 Dallison was still teaching, with a school in Church Place and the other significant school in Port Adelaide was that run by Thomas J and Emma King, who together, ran a school for boys and girls in Quebec Place.⁵

Thereafter the quarterly listing of schools disappears from the *Government Gazette* and will be found in *Parliamentary Papers*. A centralised, almost free, state education system (at primary level) was established in 1876. From 1885 the Education Department published its own specialist monthly paper, the *Education Gazette*. This publication is much more comprehensive and provides the names of schoolteachers, their salary, grading and the numbers of pupils. From 1885 to 1891 the *Education Gazette* published lists of appointments and resignations. The first number of January and Marsh 1885 include the appointment of John McNerney and Ellen J Nicholls as assistant teachers at the Port Adelaide (primary) School. Katie Garnaut and Honora Moloney had their appointment as pupil teachers ratified from 1 August 1884 to the LeFevre Peninsula (primary) School. The *Education Gazette* from 1892 includes a consolidated register of the teachers at all schools. Port Adelaide Public School was a Class I school and the headmaster, Allen Martin was in receipt of a salary of £420 per annum.⁴ In the following year average daily attendance was also given (Port Adelaide 1059.6 students).⁵

The October 1898 edition notes the appointment of Charles Richard Morris JP, as chairman of the Port Adelaide Board of Advice, a board established in each district to provide a degree of community involvement in the affairs of local schools. The same edition also notes that Leah F Arnold, Hilda E Horton and Janet McKelvie were candidates for pupil teacherships. They had already passed a candidate's examination and been appointed as monitors, a form of teacher apprenticeship.

Unfortunately none of these publications provide any information regarding the pupils who attended these schools. Information regarding students is only available (if it has survived) after the establishment of a state education system in 1876 at State Records in the School Admission Registers.⁶

Incidental Information

The *Government Gazette* includes such gems as the names and addresses of colonists who sent a petition to the government, which was published on the 13 May 1841. This includes many with a Port Adelaide address. This was of course at a time when few written records have survived and it is often difficult to determine whether somebody was already in the colony and where they were living.

Geoffrey Blainey in his masterpiece, *Black Kettle and Full Moon: Daily Life in a Vanished Australia*⁷, comments on the importance of letters for the colonists, the expense in remitting the letter and consequent infrequency and the problems in finding the intended recipient. The General Post Office had to resort to advertising that they held mail and used the *Government Gazette* for this purpose. Early and mid nineteenth century *Gazettes* contain long lists of names of people for whom mail is waiting to be collected at the GPO. For example the *Gazette* of 6 April 1865 has a long list of unclaimed ship and returned letters as of 31 March 1865. Amongst the Port Adelaide addressees were W Edis of the *Verulam*, James Gray of the *Royal Bride*, W Taylor of *HMS Beatrice* and 'Willie' of *Alwynton*.

Insolvency

South Australia has had its economic ups and downs and there have always been individuals who have mismanaged their financial affairs, to the degree that they have had to declare themselves bankrupt. Legislation has been necessary in order that creditors can obtain as much as possible from the economic corpse. As a consequence details of this state of affairs have been published in the *Government Gazette*. A couple of examples illustrate the sort of information that can be found.

The *Gazette* of 6 May 1858 posted a notice inserted by Leonard W Thrupp, Official Assignee, announcing that, Thomas Sandwell and John Laphorn both of LeFevre's Peninsula, Port Adelaide, bakers and storekeepers, had declared that they were 'unable to meet [their] engagements with [their] creditors' and declared

themselves insolvent in the Supreme Court. The Official Assignee published further advertisements (20 May, 27 May 1858) with the date for the meeting of creditors where they could prove their debts and vote on a choice of assignee.

Insolvency reports in the *Gazette* from Port Augusta and Mount Gambier have been indexed for the period 1882 to 1927 and 1885 to 1929 respectively.

Further information can generally be found at State Records, which would provide detailed accounts of assets and liabilities for the insolvent. The *Government Gazette* however, can often provide the clue that more information is available.

Employment

Many occupational groups have required registration to pursue their occupation.

Medical practitioners had to be registered by the Medical Board of South Australia who had to be satisfied that their qualifications were satisfactory. Their registration was published in the *Government Gazette*. For example on 2 Feb 1865 Port Adelaide had two qualified medical practitioners, Frederick Forward and Robert Gething. In addition vaccination against small pox was compulsory and Doctors R T Wylde of the District of Yatala and H Duncan for Port Adelaide were the Town and District Vaccinators under Act No. 16 of 1853 – An Act to extend and make compulsory the practice of vaccination. Even now a full list of qualified medical practitioners, together with their address, qualifications and specialisations are published in the *Government Gazette*. The same applies to chemists and dentists and a number of other professions.⁸

Ministers of religion, while they could preach without authority, if they wanted to perform marriage ceremonies, they had to have a licence to do so. Publicans had to be licensed as did shopkeepers who wanted to sell wine and spirits. (However, for publicans there are now easier ways to check which hotel they were the licensee. This is JL (Bob) Hoad's book, *Hotels and Publicans of South Australia 1836-1984*.) Details of all these appointments and licences are to be found in the *Government Gazette*, the only problem is that you have to find them. For example in the *Gazette* of 6 April 1865 Corbin Lamb and William Blackler held Storekeeper's Licences and George Scarfe of the North Parade, Port Adelaide held a Wine Licence.

Auctioneers and their assistants had to purchase a licence to operate. Hawkers were required to be licensed under Act No 3 of 1863, An Act to regulate the Licensing of Hawkers. On 6 April 1865 John Hawkes of the Portland Estate, and William and J J Campbell of Port Adelaide were licensed as cart hawkers. There were no 'pack hawkers' operating in the Port Adelaide area. The same *Gazette* records that Arthur Joseph Edmunds was the only barrister, attorney, or solicitor authorised to practice in 1865, living at Port Adelaide.

All of these individuals' names appear in the *Government Gazette*. Often the entry includes additional information, such as address, qualifications etc. The only problem is that they don't appear in the indexes under their name, but under more general headings of Appointments, Licences, Magistrates etc. Registration was instituted in order that the government could regulate standards and it also provided revenue for the government, as registration attracted a fee. Often the registration agency would publish in the *Gazette* an annual list of all those registered to practice. This is still the case for many registrable occupations, eg. health arena, auctioneers.

Public Service

Details of all people appointed to positions in the Public (previously known as Civil) Service were published in the *Government Gazette*. Whenever a promotion occurred this was also published and this sometimes included whom they replaced, eg. vice Smith. The notice would include the title of the position, at times the grade within the Public Service, eg. 3C (3rd Division Clerical) and occasionally the salary or salary scale. Unfortunately the date the individual vacates the position is not published but this can often be inferred by finding the appointment of the person who is appointed to the position, as it

would be vice Smith. These names generally appear in the index, rather than under a descriptive title.⁹

Other appointments such as Justices of the Peace, Magistrates etc are also to be found in the *Government Gazette*.

Police and Crime

The *Gazette* of 16 March 1865 includes a table of the 'Distribution of Police Force' as of 31 Dec 1864. This indicated that the Port and Water Police had a staff of 1 sergeant, 12 constables and 1 female searcher, but no horses. These tables were provided regularly until that role was taken over by the *Police Gazette*. The same *Gazette* also provided a 'Return of Felony Cases' for the quarter ended 31 Dec 1864. The murder of Charles Maxwell on 19 Oct 1854 was reported. He was of Port Adelaide and had been killed in a fight on board ship. James Ablett had been apprehended by LC Jones, but was subsequently discharged. Also reported was the poisoning of 30 pigs, the property of H Ranford, but nobody had been charged. Ranford had a further 17 pigs poisoned on the 3 Jan 1865, and again no indication that anybody had been apprehended (*Gazette* of 8 June 1865).

The *Gazette* also provides details of appointments and promotions in the Police Force, until the *Police Gazette* took over this role.¹⁰

Defence

In the early days of the Colony, the British Government deployed a detachment of soldiers to South Australia, to keep the peace and 'protect' the colony. Regularly however, soldiers deserted and their desertion was advertised in the *Government Gazette*. The SAGHS has an index of desertions from Her Majesty's Regiment in Adelaide, for the period 1842-48. By 1865, this detachment of soldiers had been withdrawn and the Colony was expected to defend itself. Consequently volunteer rifle and artillery companies were formed (as well as a Colonial Navy to man such ships as HMCS Protector). A six-monthly 'Return of the Number of Volunteers', was published in the *Gazette*. On 30 March 1865, Port Adelaide's commitment was:

Artillery – 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals & 24 bombardiers.
Total 29

Rifles – 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Company Sergeant Major, 1 Corporal 9 Privates.
Total 13.

All appointments of those to officer rank to the Colonial Volunteers were published in the *Government Gazette*, the names of non-commissioned officers and other ranks may be available at State Records.

Naturalisations

Non-British settlers have from the earliest days of the colony sought to become British subjects. This was partly because they needed to become British if they wanted to purchase land. The *Government Gazette* of 15 August 1872 contains an alphabetical list of aliens naturalised up to mid-1872.

Deaths

Due to the isolation of many rural areas in South Australia in which a significant number of itinerant individuals lived, and the reality that many people had no known family, it was necessary to publish details of the death of individuals. The Police regularly published Mortuary Returns in the *Government Gazette*. There was also a six-monthly report of 'Deaths in Public Places'.¹¹ Government agencies also published lists of those who died in their institution, for example the Adelaide and Parkside Asylums and the Destitute Asylums.¹² On many occasions the name of the deceased is unknown and all that can be provided is a vague description. Perhaps one of these lost souls is your ancestor who died a lonely death on an isolated track in the bush. The *Government Gazette* of 20 April 1865 under the index heading 'Returns – Mortuary Returns' has a list of all those 'found dead in any public place' in the period 1 Jan 1850 to 31 Dec 1864. Port Adelaide examples include:

- Samuel Piper, found dead 22 Nov 1852, shoemaker, near Port Adelaide. Inquest – Verdict died by a visitation of God.
- Unknown infant found dead 14 Feb 1859 at Port Adelaide. Found in a box by John Taylor.
- William Fisher found dead 30 Nov 1864, seaman, downed at Port Adelaide. Had shipped in the Lady Nelson, but not joined her, supposed to have left a wife and 2 children in Plymouth, England.

As would be expected at Port Adelaide, many of the deaths relate to seaman, drownings and accidents on the wharves.

Probate

Death often led to a will or letters of administration being necessary, to wind up the affairs of the deceased. The executor was responsible to pay all the debts of the deceased and used the *Government Gazette* as the way to seek the creditors of the deceased. This notice fulfilled the same function as the 'Public Notices' that appear in the daily newspaper today. There is an index of deceased estate notices from trustee companies and solicitors for the period 1873 to 2000. For those who died without a will, the Curator of Intestate Estates (later the Public Trustee) was often appointed to realise their estate and pay any debts and determine who should receive the balance. Lists of intestate estates were regularly published in the *Government Gazette*. For example:

23 Feb 1865		
Samuel Ellis of Port Adelaide		£8-5-0
3 Aug 1865		
W M F Chatterley of LeFevre's Peninsula, formerly London		£1-1-0
William Fisher ¹³ of Port Adelaide, formerly Plymouth		£nil
George McDonald of Port Adelaide, formerly Mauritius		£1-6-6

The *Gazette* of 30 Jun 1889 includes an extensive 'Return of balances in estates under charge of Public Trustee on 30 June 1889'.

Conclusion

The *South Australian Government Gazette* can be a valuable source for family and local history. Often it can be used as a clue to further information available at State Records. The only problem is that it is often like looking for the proverbial 'needle in a haystack'. The published indexes to the *Gazette* are inadequate and include only a fraction of the names that appear on its pages. For some particular subjects indexes have been created, such as those for Mortuary Returns and the *Police Gazette* by the SAGHS and the Police Historical Society.

Endnotes

1. Adapted from a paper presented at the Port Adelaide Library during History Week, 23 May 2004.
2. Probably named after the *London Gazette*, the official publication of the British Government.
3. *South Australian Government Gazette* (SAGG), 8 June 1865.
4. *Education Gazette*, Feb 1892, p.26.
5. An enormous number when you consider that LeFevre School was close by at Birkenhead.
6. Both the Pt Adelaide and LeFevre Peninsula schools admission registers are extant from 1878 in either or both the SAGHS Library and State Records.
7. Viking Books, Camberwell, Victoria, 2003, pp. 85-8, 100-4.
8. See *A listing of doctors, chemists and dentists who were in practice in 1916, also surveyors*, by Frank Hall, 2002 (copy in SAGHS Library).
9. Later, the Parliament published an annual Parliamentary Paper titled, *The Public Service List*, which is a list with index to all public servants, together with their date of birth and appointment, department, position and salary.
10. The SAGHS and SA Police Historical Society holds an extensive index to the *Police Gazette*.
11. There is a card index of these 'Deaths in Public Places' at the SAGHS Library for the period 1873 to 1939.
12. There are indexes from the SAGG of people who died in the Adelaide and Parkside Asylums, the Destitute Asylum and the (Royal) Adelaide Hospital without known relatives for the period 1873-1946 in the SAGHS.
13. He of course was murdered as mentioned above.