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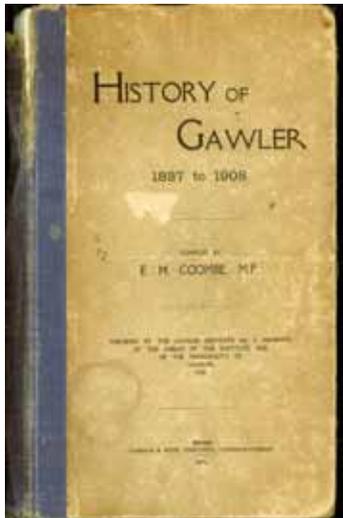
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HISTORY OF GAWLER

1837 to 1908.

COMPILED BY

E. H. COOMBE, M.P.

PUBLISHED BY THE GAWLER INSTITUTE AS A MEMENTO
OF THE JUBILEE OF THE INSTITUTE AND
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF
GAWLER.
1908.

Printed by

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1910.

PREFACE.

The compilation of this volume has been a task of rare pleasure—a labor of love. As a native of Gawler I am proud of its history, and am delighted to have been able to record in authentic and enduring fashion, for the benefit of the Athenians of the future, an approximately consecutive and accurate narrative of the development of this neighborhood from the days of the white pioneers up to the present. If in this work it may be considered I have performed a useful service, I present it gladly as a small recognition of the signal honor conferred upon me in many ways and at many times by Gawler people, and of the gratification I feel that my lot was cast in a community whose institutions and citizenship are so favorable to the development of a robust and intelligent manhood and womanhood.

In consequence of the generous support given to the effort its scope has extended beyond what was originally intended, and the production of the book has for this and other reasons been considerably delayed. Unless otherwise mentioned, the close of 1908 may be taken as the period up to which the record extends.

A feature of the volume is the reproduction of portraits of past and present residents, and short biographical sketches concerning them. The number would have been increased had it not been that an inflated modesty caused others to decline either general or special invitations to contribute to the interest of this department.

I acknowledge with gratitude the valuable assistance I have received from many quarters in the carrying out of my task. First must be mentioned my press associate and friend, Miss Triglar. She rendered special service in the collection and preparation of the matter for the "Chronological" chapter, and in many other ways. Mr. O. D. Jones kindly undertook the revision of proofs and made several useful suggestions. My Parliamentary colleague and the Town Clerk (Mr. S. B. Rudall); the Librarian of the Institute (Mr. James Beasley); the Town Inspector (Mr. P. Cheek); the Secretaries of various institutions and clubs have cheerfully contributed necessary information, and many old residents have increased the store of knowledge upon which I have drawn. I am also largely indebted to Dr. Nott's "Short Sketch of the Rise and Progress of Gawler" published in 1860; the files of "The Banyip" and Mr. Loyau's "Handbook of Gawler," issued in 1880. My closing acknowledgments are tendered to the printers (Yardon & Sons Limited), the photo-reproducer (Mr. S. R. Delmont), and the photographer (Mr. P. J. Marchant), from whom most of the portraits were obtained.

I commend the volume to present and future residents of Gawler with the hope that in its pages may be discovered some stimulus of inspiration to advance citizenship, and that the dream of its pioneers of a model town and a model people may, in the procession of the years, materialise into a glorious reality.

E. H. COOMBE.

Gawler, April 8, 1910.

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PART I.

Chapter I.

AFTER SEVENTY YEARS.

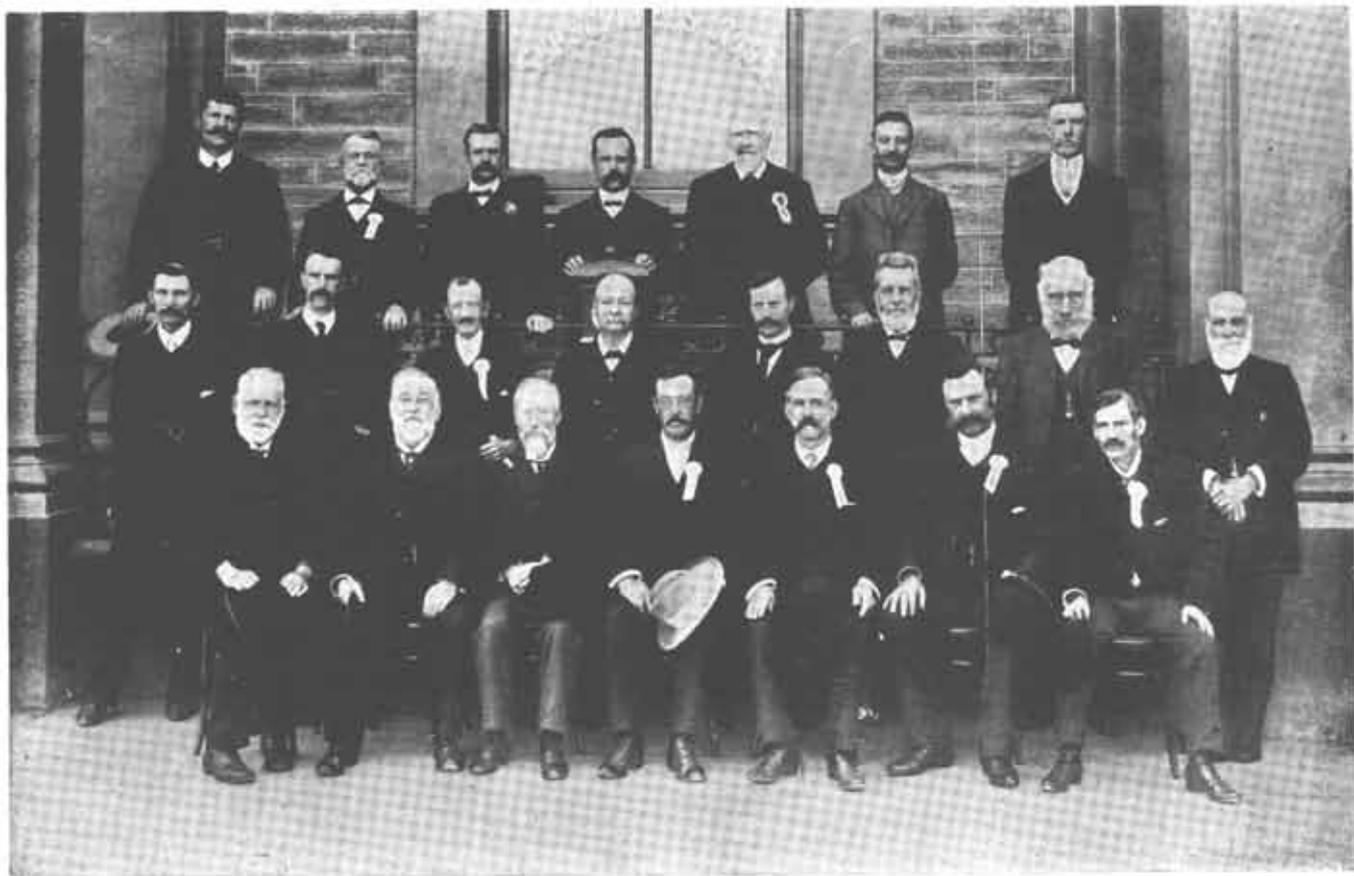


After having been for seventy years under the spell of the white man, Gawler stands to-day one of the most picturesque and progressive country centres in the Commonwealth. Succeeding chapters will give some particulars of the transformation which has taken place—the purpose of this one is to set upon the canvas, as it were, a picture of the neighborhood as it is. Such a reproduction should convey to those beyond the pale of personal knowledge of Gawler an impression, though imperfect, of its physical features and of its life. It should also afford the resident of the "Colonial Athens" 100 years, or, may be, 500 years hence, who wishes to engage in retrospective imaginings concerning his local habitation some fabric of fact upon which to build the creations of his fancy.

Gawler, as referred to in this book, comprises the towns of Gawler, Gawler East, Gulf View, Gawler South, Gawler West, Gawler North, Evanston, Bassett Town, Willaston, Bertha, and Waltham. It is situated 25 miles north of Adelaide, and is intersected by the boundaries of the counties of Adelaide, Gawler, and Light, and the Hundreds of Nuriootpa, Barossa, and Murno Para, and Mudla Wirra.

A range of high hills forms the eastern background of the town and extends for many miles north and south. Through two gorges, not more than a mile apart, the North Para River and the South Para respectively emerge from the hills and follow their western course towards the sea. About a mile lower down they junction and form the Gawler River. The area within this triangle of hill and stream is the municipality of Gawler. Much of the land within the triangle is low lying, but there is a spur of considerable breadth running westward from the hillside, for a third of a mile and forming what is known as Church Hill. To the south of the town the country westward of the ranges stretches away in one vast plain towards the city; to the west and north in gently undulating mallee land for many miles.

The main street, named after one of the founders of Gawler, runs north and south at the foot of the hill and extends from the South Para to the North Para. In this thoroughfare are the principal business places, banks, hotels, the Post and Telegraph Office, the Town Hall, the Institute, the School of Mines and Industries, the Oddfellows Hall, the Bunyip Office, the Foresters' Hall, the Baptist Church, and the Gawler Implement Manufacturing Co., Limited, formerly the factory of James Martin & Co., Limited. Along the hillside are the Fire Station, the Masonic Hall, and numerous residences, many of them handsome and imposing and surrounded by well-kept gardens. East of Murray-street, too, are the Engineering Works of Jas. Martin & Co., formerly James Martin & Co., Limited. On Church



INSTITUTE COMMITTEE, 1907

Chapter VI.

TOWARD THE ZENITH.



And so in the year 1908 Gawler's Sun of Prosperity, having in the glimmering dawn presaged its coming, having ascended from the horizon of the unknown past, having emerged from behind clouds of adversity and uncertainty, wends its way, clear and promising, toward the zenith! When and what that zenith shall be no one knows!

With the engineering branch of the business of the late Jas. Martin and Co., Limited, in the hands of Mr. Henry Dutton; with the agricultural division conducted by the Gawler Implement Manufacturing Company, Limited; with May Bros. & Co., Limited, and other machinery firms extending their output; with the industries of flour milling, chaff cutting, fodder compression, brickmaking, lime burning, butter making, gas plant production, and others; with an agricultural district around us of assured fertility and great possibilities, the immediate material outlook is of a roseate hue.

The facilities for social development are favorable to the attainment of a high state of efficiency. Religious, political, educational, literary, recreational, and philanthropic institutions form an environment conducive to the growth of the best graces of citizenship. The advantages of climate, of soil, of scene, of position, of government, of tradition, and of social organization are endowments of high value to present and future residents.

But when and what the zenith of Gawler's success shall be depends most of all upon the human factor! Tenneyson has described Man as "the crown and roof of things." He is to some extent Master of his own Destiny. While Man is in a great measure the product of his environment he has the capacity to improve it. He is the greatest power-machine in the world. His achievements depend upon the volume and the quality of the power he develops!

If the typical Gawlerite of the future be a man of purpose; of grit; of physical vigor, intellectual power, and moral strength; if he be spurred by the success of his forefathers and inspired by the best ideals of individual and civic life; if he

See the best that glimmers through the worst,
 Feel the sun is hid but for a night,
 Spy the summer through the winter bud,
 Taste the fruit before the blossoms fall,
 Hear the lark within the songless egg,
 Find the fountain where they wailed "Mirage!"

if he realise the privileges and responsibilities of living under these glorious southern skies; if he be consumed by a passion to make Australia a model among nations; if he vision the part the Commonwealth may play in the emancipation of the race from ignorance and inefficiency; if he recognise that human development is an eternity "whose end no age can reach"; then for a hundred, aye, a thousand years, Gawler's Sun shall not cross the meridian and begin its descent towards the western horizon; but so long as the earth shall last the town's Orb of Prosperity shall continue to rise—toward the zenith!

as well as did members of the Ministry, and of both Houses of the Legislature, the Mayor of Adelaide, and many other prominent colonists. The streets of the town were decorated lavishly. There was a gay procession, three bands discoursed music, and there was merriment on every hand. The fair was a masterpiece of organization and enterprise, and the bazaar connected with it, managed by the ladies of the town, brought in a revenue of no less than £400. Other attractions were a bijou theatre, a dancing booth, a cave of mystery, a lottery, an auction, and other items of a varied character. The proceeds were put aside to form the nucleus of a building fund. The undertaking was a huge success, and was the high water mark of South Australian demonstrations up to that time. Said a visitor to the town on that occasion: "If ever there is a go-ahead little spot on the globe's surface, Gawler may lay claim to that distinction. I have witnessed several social gatherings and occasions of intellectual recreation in Gawler—most of them originated by the Institute Committee—which have thrown big brother Adelaide considerably into the shade."

The managers of the fair were excellent advertisers, and the posters announcing the demonstration were irresistible. The following is a fac simile, excepting that the display type is omitted:—

GAWLER INSTITUTE.

Eighth Anniversary.

MONSTER FAIR

On the Park Lands, Gawler.

THE WHOLE COLONY IS INVITED.

Under the Special Patronage of His Excellency

SIR DOMINICK DALY.

The inhabitants of Gawler and the public generally, are invited to join in a procession, to escort His Excellency from the railway station through Gawler to the Park Lands on the arrival of a special train at 10 a.m.

The Procession

will be marshalled under the able superintendence of Mr. Clement. A guard of honor, selected from the two Gawler Companies, will form upon the platform, and three brass bands—the Gawler, Kapunda, and Schrader's—will play alternately on the march.

The town of Gawler will be decorated with

Triumphal Arches

erected at suitable spots, and the public are also invited to decorate their premises.

On the arrival of His Excellency on the Park Lands the fair will be declared open, and the fun will begin.

The ladies of Gawler have kindly consented to preside over the

Fancy Bazaar,

which will be held in the large building belonging to the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, which has been greatly enlarged for this

Important Occasion.

An unequalled and most splendid assortment of every kind of

Fancy Work

has been liberally and kindly contributed by ladies from all parts of the colony, and its display in the large building will form one of the

Most Brilliant and Pleasing Sight ever Exhibited in the Colony.

Chapter X.

RELIGIOUS.



CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

On January 14, 1845, a meeting was held in Gawler of "Members and friends of the Church of England." The Rev. James Farrell was in the chair. At this meeting £100 was raised towards the building of a Church of England in Gawler Town. In 1846 the S.P.G. in London sent out the Rev. W. H. Coombs to be the minister of the district of Gawler. Mr. Coombs arrived in the colony on November 14, and proceeded to Gawler, and held his first service on Sunday, November 29 in the basement storey of the Victoria Mill, which was then in course of construction.

On March 4, 1847, the foundation-stone of the church, to be called St. George's, was laid by His Excellency Governor Robe, in the presence of a large number of people, including Mr. G. S. Kingston, the architect. On March 21, 1848, the church was consecrated by Bishop Short, who had arrived from England three months previously. The cost of this church was just over £800, including £100 for interior fittings. Half of this sum was raised by private subscriptions; about £150 was received from various religious societies; the Government grant amounted to £150, and a sum of £111 remained due to the Treasurer (Mr. Wm. Younghusband). Colonel and Mrs. Gawler made several gifts to the church at this time, including a massive silver communion service of the pattern usual at that period. Among the subscribers to this first church may be found the names of Bishop Short (£30), Governors Grey and Robe, Archdeacon Hale, the Gawler Oddfellows' Lodge (£2 1/2), and James Martin. The collection at the service of consecration was over £40.

The Gawler parsonage was built shortly afterwards, costing £674, including £200 for "fencing globe and various expenses." Another Government grant of £150 was made towards the cost of the parsonage.

The first vestry meeting was held on Easter Tuesday, April 24, 1848. Mr. H. Calton was elected people's warden. At the vestry meeting in the following year a vote of thanks was passed to Archdeacon Hale "for his kindness in lending the seraphine for the use of the Church." In 1850 Mr. Thomas Beadnall was elected one of the churchwardens. On Christmas Eve, 1851, about 5 o'clock, "a tremendous storm of hail visited the town, and completely shattered the east window of the church and all three on the north side, doing other serious damage as well to the windows of the schoolroom, windows of the parsonage, and part of the roof being destroyed by the violence of the storm." In 1853 an organ, costing £120, was obtained from England, Mr. Younghusband generously paying half the cost of the instrument. It is perhaps worth mentioning that the carriage of this organ from Adelaide to Gawler cost no less than £6. In the same year, at Easter, the churchwardens (of whom Dr. W. H. Lewis was one) were obliged to employ a surveyor to examine St. George's Church and to give an opinion (1) As to the stability, and (2) as to the repairs requisite. At a vestry meeting held in November of this year it was resolved—"That

PART III.

Chapter I.

CITIZENS WHO DID.



John Allen, born in Cornwall, England, in 1823. He learned the trade of blacksmith. Came to S.A. in 1848 and established himself in business as a machinist in Gawler in 1852. He had a large connection for many years, and was successful. He retired in the eighties, and died on November 5, 1894. Mr. Allen was connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and was a Councillor for a time.

* * * * *

John Annells, born in England in 1826, came to South Australia in 1848, and to Gawler in 1856. He entered the service of Messrs. Padman and Co., timber merchants, &c., and was foreman for their successors, Messrs. Pearce, Winey, & Co. Prior to his death on October 15, 1894, he was an invalid for fifteen or sixteen years. Was a prominent official of the Tod-street Methodist Church and Superintendent of the Sunday-school for upwards of twenty years. One of the oldest members and a Trustee of the Loyal Gawler Lodge of Oddfellows M.U.; a director Permanent Building and Investment Society; Vice-President of the Gawler Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and a Trustee of the Tod-street Methodist Church.

* * * * *

The Rev. James Ashton, born at Bedford, North Devon, and became a minister of the Bible Christian Church in 1841. Arrived in South Australia in 1858. He was transferred to Gawler River in 1871. He died in December, 1874, at Angle Vale, and his remains are interred in the graveyard attached to that church. His last sermon was preached in the Gawler West Church on December 6, 1874. Mrs. Ashton still survives. She was born in 1827 at St. Mary's, Scilly Isles, and is the oldest daughter of the late Captain Gibson. She was married in 1848, and came to this State with her husband and family in 1858. Mrs. Ashton was present at the jubilee of the Angle Vale Church in 1904. She has resided at Goodwood for the last 30 years.

* * * * *

Wm. Ayling, born in 1834, came to S.A. with his parents four years later, and spent his boyhood at Walkerville. Arrived in Gawler in 1856, and carried on building operations for many years, his home being at Willaston. He removed to Henley Beach in 1895 and died there on August 7, 1902. He was a Councillor of Mudla Wirra South, N.G. of the G.U. Oddfellows, Warden of St. George's Church, and Director of the Building Society.

* * * * *

William Barnett, born at Kinross, Kinrossshire, Scotland, in 1834, and was in his 61st year when he died suddenly after having attended the



Mr. A. H. HARRIS.



Mr. F. D. HARRIS, LL.B., J.P.

PART III.

Chapter II.

CITIZENS WHO ARE DOING.



John Alexander, born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in 1832. On completing his education he entered the soft goods business. Landed in Melbourne in 1854. Shortly after came to Adelaide, and was variously employed. Subsequently he was appointed Clerk of the Munno Para East District Council, a position he held for 16 years. He began farming on the Gawler hills during that period, and was afterwards established at Gawler Park, on the Smithfield-road. He was then in partnership with the late Mr. James Dawson. In the nineties he purchased a large farm near Wasleys, and subsequently acquired other properties, which are now worked by his sons. In 1905 he retired, and has since lived in Gawler. He was an active member of the Smithfield Farmers' Club in the eighties, and has had a long connection with the Gawler Agricultural Society. Was a member of the Mineralogical Class which developed into the Gawler School of Mines, of the Council of which he is a member. Has been a Committeeman of the Gawler Institute.

* * * * *

Chas. Henry Annells, second son of Mr. John Annells, born at North Adelaide November 7, 1852. Came to Gawler in 1857. Attended Mr. L. S. Burton's school. Accountant for Pearce, Wincey, & Co. and Wm. Dawkins & Co. for between 30 and 40 years. Excellent penman. Engrossed address presented to Sir Jas. Fergusson when he laid the foundation-stone of the Institute. Has been Chairman of Executive of Literary Societies' Union since its establishment in 1898. Was President of Union in 1902-3. Has been President of Methodist Literary Society for the last 16 years and Treasurer of Bible Society for the last 20 years. Has been Auditor for Gawler Corporation, District Councils, Building Society, School of Mines, and M.U. Oddfellows. Was Director of Building Society. Has held several positions in connection with Methodist Church, including Superintendent of Sunday-school, Circuit Steward, Trustee, and local preacher. Was President of Gawler Y.M.C.A.

* * * * *

William Antwis, born at Yatta Creek, near Williamstown, December 24, 1869, and is a son of Mr. Wm. Antwis, sen. Educated at Williamstown. Apprenticed to Mr. J. C. Collins, saddler, Williamstown. Started business for himself in Gawler on July 16, 1894. Was the first saddler employed on the Broken Hill mines, 1890-91. Is Secretary and Treasurer of the Williamstown Lodge of Foresters and Trustee and P.C.R. of Court Bushman's Pride, Gawler. Represented East Ward in the Gawler Corporation

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- use Adobe Reader 6 to do some trial searches to try to identify the characters that may be misread. These can show up in the extra text in the search results list (Adobe 6 only). A few minutes trial will help you to avoid using characters that are more prone to being misread, e.g. try entering "rederi" if you want "Frederick", but find that the letters "F" "c" and "k" are sometimes misread.
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- use the "Match case" option when you want to eliminate all the occupations "smith" if you only want the name "Smith"
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 - look for others of the same name
 - look for others who lived in the same place or street
 - who was the postmaster or police officer in the town?
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 - what churches were there and what time were services held?
 - what other activities were there in the community?
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