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20 FEBRUARY 2019

THIS REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY OF THE TEXT CONTENT OF THE "BOLT FROM DEVON" BOOK PUBLISHED IN 1994. IT IS A FIRST ATTEMPT TO MAKE THESE STORIES AVAILABLE ONLINE.

SOME STORIES ARE MISSING, AS THIS IS A RECOVERY OF FILES FROM AN ORIGINAL FLOPPY DISK FROM 1994.

THE FORMAT OF THE STORIES IS IN PLAIN TEXT AT THIS STAGE, AS IT WOULD BE AN ARDUOUS TASK TO UPDATE THE FORMATS MANUALLY.

I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE ALL BIRTHDATES OF DESCENDANT STILL LIVING TO PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY IN AN ERA WHERE BIRTHDATES ARE OFTEN USED AS SECURITY.

SHOULD THERE BE ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THAT OFFENDS OR REPRESENTS PERSONAL MATTERS THAT SHOULD NOT BE SHOWN, PLEASE CONTACT ME ON 08 8552 5600.

AS TIME PERMITS, MUCH MORE MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE!

GARRY BOLT

[[title
BOLT FROM DEVON.

c1760 - 1994.

The known history of the descendants of Richard and Grace Bolt.

Compiled by the Bolt Family Reunion Committee.

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Quote by Sir Isaac Newton in a letter to Robert Hooke on 5 February 1675.

[[CONTENTS
CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Foreword

Preface

Timeline

Conditions in England around 1800

English Origins

Brothers and sisters of Christopher Dart Bolt

Farewell to England

Beginnings in Australia

A Tribute to our Pioneer Women
Buildings
Charcoal Burning
Paddle Steamers of the River Murray
Biographies and Family Trees
Quote
Appendices
Glossary
Index

[[foreword
FOREWORD

The Bolt Family History Book evolved because of the burning desire of some dedicated family members to learn about their ancestors. That curiosity led to research which, although fascinating and of immense interest, was time consuming and, at times, frustrating.

In 1984, a Committee of five was formed and the first Bolt Family Reunion was held at Mannum in October, 1985. It was an emotional experience to see so many relatives meeting and greeting each other - many for the first time - others after many years. They came from various parts of Australia and one day was inadequate time in which to reminisce and exchange stories. During the intervening years, the Committee increased to nine members and another reunion was held in 1992.

The amount of information gleaned from painstaking research together with anecdotes and memorabilia which surfaced at the first reunion, sowed the seeds for this book, the pages of which are not indicative of the hours of research or the disappointment when that research led no-where! Sheer will-power and the determination to complete a task once started, (a trait indicative of the Bolt character) has culminated in this book.

The stories are not about the great or the famous - they tell of ordinary, humble, courageous pioneers who, like so many of our early settlers, had the tenacity to sever family ties and leave their homeland to settle in an unknown land. Their struggles against adversities are beyond our comprehension, they suffered the agony of bereavements, the harsh, unrelenting elements and the lack of conveniences in the daily lives.

With little opportunity for formal education, they learnt, at an early age, independence, resourcefulness and survival skills. They felled trees, hewed stone and used the available resources to build their humble dwellings. Our forefathers displayed an amazing degree of ingenuity, initiative and "down-to-earth" common-sense.

It is nigh impossible for us to envisage the hardships and privations endured by our ancestors; the heartaches and frustrations; the rigours of travelling along bush tracks into the unknown with young children and babies. They were undaunted by the remoteness and the challenges which confronted them. The women, especially, endured the isolation, loneliness and deprivations. They did what was necessary to eke out a living and, as our stories indicate, they paved the way for their sons and daughters and taught them the values and high work ethics which enabled them to persist in spite of trials and economic depression. They were proud people, often poverty stricken but always willing to help a friend or relative neither wanting nor expecting, reward. Through all of the pressures of their time, there was a "togetherness" - a caring for each other.

Each story in our book is special and we owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to everyone who gave their time to assist us and who allowed us to interview, chat, intrude upon their time and, in general, pester them! For precious photographs of our ancestors, we are especially grateful.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the stories are accurate. There may be variations in some dates and facts but memories are not as sharp as they were (though some are quite remarkable!). In some stories, information was sparse but we present what was known; in others, it was necessary to make assumptions

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since there was no means of verifying the sequence of events; however, research into records, and stories told, led to those conclusions.

It is with admiration and humility that we dedicate this book to the memory of :-

CHRISTOPHER DART BOLT and his wife NANCY (ANN)

Their five children :- ELIZABETH WEEKS BOLT BARRAUD; RICHARD; JOHN;
CHRISTOPHER AND ANN BOLT SAYER

AND ALL OF THEIR DESCENDANTS.

THE BOLT FAMILY REUNION COMMITTEE

[[preface

[[timeline

[[SOCIAL
SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE 1800's IN ENGLAND

The late 18th and early 19th century Game Laws became stricter and so there was less chance to get a bird or rabbit; the Act of 1816 meant even an un-armed poacher in possession of a net could be transported for seven years. Poaching was a capital offence if there was resistance to capture. The first shipment of convicts to Australia was in 1788, the last in 1868. Village stores sprang up to supply the essentials for which they now had to pay cash and when the arable crops failed, they had nothing left.

Enclosure grew more and more rapidly at the turn of the century with the General Enclosure Act and by 1820 open fields had been enclosed into hedged fields for the rotation of crops, and waste and old woodland enclosed for arable so there were now large farms employing landless labourers at the expense of petty ownership and cultivation. Also, the new roads, canals and machines were diverting the cottage and village industries to factories so ending the ways of peasant family eking their living and meagre budget with by-employments. Gleaning after the harvest of wheat (for bread flour) was crucial for the sinter's supply, for bread and flour took up to one half of the family budget.

While the Landlord's rent, the parson's tithe and the farmer's profit rose for those labourers deprived of their land rights there was no compensation in wages and they sank into dependence and pauperism. During the French Wars no import of corn from Europe was possible so every scrap of land was used to grow grain which sold at a good price. At the end of the wars, the landowners passed the Corn Laws in 1815 to keep up the price. This prohibited any import until the price of wheat was 80 shillings a qtr which was very high, and in 1816 the harvest failed and the price of bread rose owing to the Act. Unemployment was high and farms were burnt by discontented labourers. In 1817 the harvest was abundant and conditions improved, but in 1819, the depression returned and in 1821, a great farming depression hit Devon (and there was a mining slump in Cornwall). Many small farmers gave up their farms, and great distress was manifest among agricultural workers due to the over production of wheat following the Corn Law and the gluts of 1817 and 1820 and the ever decreasing prices paid for it, resulting in lower wages being paid. In 1838, the Anti-Corn Law League was established in Manchester, and, following the failure of the potato crop in Ireland in 1845 and the subsequent famine in 1846, the progressive repeal and abolition was started which was completed in 1849, but it was many years before cheap corn came from the USA and Canada by the new steamships. By 1830 the riots of farm workers had been crushed but with the new methods and machines there was no longer a living to be made on the land for these labourers; industry had become more important to the economy than farming and the rural exodus, began. This time was known as the "hungry forties". A budget recorded 1843, gave the husbands wages as 9 shillings, the wife 9d, and three sons of 12, 11 and 8 between them 4 shillings, making a total of 13/9.

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The husband's money was expended on bread alone, the remaining 4/9 on rent, potatoes, tea, sugar, soap, thread, blue, candles, salt, fuel and if any left, on butter and cheese; there was nothing for meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, milk, clothing, footwear etc.

[[ENGLAND

INTRODUCTION. From the information accumulated to date it would appear that our forbears were humble folk having their origins in rural Devon. The earliest records showing their occupations are the 1841 Census returns. We can only guess that our earlier generations were of the landless peasantry. Because the Bolt's, the Dart's and Tancock's appear to have had a similar background, let us attempt to recreate the world they knew. As this does not presume to be a social history much is left unsaid; and as the history of the farm labourer is unrecorded before the reports of the Board of Agriculture in 1794 much is assumption.

HOUSING.

During the Stuart period (1603-1714) two storey buildings appeared but in the richer districts only; cottages were one roomed with an external chimney appearing later together with an "outshot" (lean-to). In the 16th. and 17th. centuries most farm labourers "lived in", but some lived in rented cottages. These were small and of wattle, turf, or later cob walled, and none remain dated before the 1700's. They were thatched with heather, bracken, broom or Devon rye reed. If they had more than one room there would have been a wooden partition to divide it into two, and the rooms would have been open to the rafters. Later a few had a kind of loft where the floor was boarded; this was reached by a ladder and the children would sleep there, having to duck their heads beneath the rafters. Any holes left in the walls for windows were very small and the glass full of "knots" so often slates or rags were used to fill the holes. Better quality "window glass" was about 1s 6d a foot so a weekly wage of about 5s precluded the use of that. Bear in mind also that the window Tax of 1696 was not abolished until 1851. The floor was of earth; later of pebble, brick, or lime-ash. Crossed ropes sustained the mattress which was really a straw mat about half an inch thick and sacks were used for coverings. The two youngest usually slept with the parents. Sometimes there would be a mattress on the floor for up to six, - four side by side with two across the feet. In all probability the rain trickled through the thatch making the straw and sacks damp, so through living in these conditions and working in all weathers it is not surprising that most men and women were crippled with rheumatism by the time they were forty, and sometimes needed two sticks by their fifties. Even in the 19th. century farm workers' cottages often had only a single downstairs room, with an understairs kitchen or pantry, and one bedroom upstairs. The congestion must have been unbearable and there is on record a family of eleven - father, mother, male child of 22, females of 18, 15 & 11 and five other children all sleeping in one unventilated room in three touching beds with no blankets.

Cottages were leased by "lives". e.g. 3 lives (named) so that at the end of the grandson's life it reverted to the original owner, or the lease could be renewed on payment of a fine.

Early cottages still in existence with planche (boarded) or paved floors would have been those of husbandmen or small farmers for even in 1808 labourers' cottages were often three mud walls and a hedge bank. Up to about the 1830's a number of cottagers obtained the freehold by building their cottages between sunrise and sunset - known as squatting. They would secretly choose a piece of land, usually some roadside waste that was big enough for a one room cottage. If possible there would be room also for a pig's sty (or crow), and a furze and turf rick. Their friends would help them to collect clay for the cob, poles, straw for thatching, and a ready made door and window. These would be hidden until such time as the building could take place, when in a frenzy of activity the cottage would be built and a fire lit to indicate occupation. By this time cottages were generally two storeyed but the rooms were small & low; there was a kitchen with perhaps an iron grate and oven, sometimes a scullery downstairs and stairs up to the bedroom. Near the backdoor of the cottage was the "vaghouse" where fuel was stored - "ood-ricks" of faggots cut from the hedges in the lower parts; thatched "turf-ricks" of peats on the high moor, for before the 18th. century the fuel would have been only wood or peat. (Vag = surface turf;

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ood = wood.) The trees were coppiced every 15 years or so to provide a regular supply. Furze and gorse were also made into faggots; rushes used for thatch, and ferns as pig litter. In the 1850's there would still have been no privy of any kind.

On a small farm there would be a lincay, or linney, for the beef cattle - an open fronted building with the fodder kept on the floor above; cows were kept in a closed shippen. There were, of course, the Devon longhouses where the family and the animals shared the same building; a central passage way dividing the two parts.

WEATHER.

Those conditions present a pretty grim picture to us at this time. In 1814 when a severe frost lasted from 8th. January to 20th. March; all travel ceased, the shops remained shut, and the streets empty (with snow in the streets between 3 and 4 feet deep). In 1795 near Truro at the beginning of the year there was intense frost, potatoes were destroyed and there was almost a famine. On January 21st. at 9am the temperature was 17 degrees F, at noon 26 degrees F; on the 22nd. the corresponding times gave readings of 15 degrees F, and 24 degrees F. Another bitter winter in 1829/30 caused great distress in the countryside.

An intensely cold winter was 1740, when Dr. John Huxham, a Plymouth doctor, kept a weather record. Intense cold lasted for 8 weeks from 22nd. December 1739, and from 1st. January 1740 to 2nd. February the temperature did not rise to freezing point. He records "Even cattle in their stalls died of cold, trees were split asunder, not only beer but wine in cellars froze. Birds fell to the ground, frozen in their flight. One would and could hardly speak; one sat and thought, yet could not think. Days passed unheeded. No bread was eatable, for it was as cold and hard as a stone. People even shivered by the largest fire's side, nor could they keep themselves warm in their very beds; indeed so very greatly were we benumbed by the excessive cold that we scarcely seemed alive."

Bearing in mind that Dr. Huxham would have lived in a more comfortable house it is impossible to imagine the abject misery of those in very humble circumstances. In the primitive cottages with one hearth and faggots and peat as the staple fuels, these would have been unobtainable unless an indoor supply had been laid down.

HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

During the last part of the 1700's medicine was gradually moving from superstition to science and hospitals were being founded. The Devon and Exeter was one of the early ones dating from 1741.

Although there was virtually no increase in the birth rate at 3.7% there was an increase in the population as over a period of fifty years the death rate fell from 3.6 to 2.2%. This would have been partly due to a better diet giving more resistance to disease. The introduction of root crops meant there was fresh meat in the winter and scurvy became rare; potatoes and more vegetables were being eaten and wheat bread instead of rye or barley. Also more soap was available and together with cheaper cotton underwear this meant better hygiene.

Epidemics.

There are records of many epidemics of various diseases from the 1300's onward. The Black death (bubonic plague) was very severe in Devon c 1347 and in this first visitation there was a mortality rate of up to 49% which took the population down to the level of the 11th. century. The disease apparently arrived at Weymouth and quickly spread. The clergy were badly affected, nearly half the Devon clergy died; in the Deanery of Kenn 17 churches lost 86 clergymen. Later a Bishop of Exeter absented himself from the City during an outbreak of disease! In 1555 and 1556 rain ruined the harvests resulting in famine and lowered resistance to the plague of 1557-9. In 1563 it killed 20% of Londoners in seasonal deaths - high in summer, low in winter. There was an outbreak of plague in Lent 1586..

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In 1551 there was sweating sickness (virulent influenza); T B was common in 1630 and peaked in 1780-1820 together with whooping cough, and diphtheria was prominent in the 1750's. In 1741 there was spotted fever at Tiverton when 636 died, one in twelve of the population. There were many fever deaths in Devon in 1795 after the bad harvest of 1794.

Smallpox appeared in all communities, however small. There were many outbreaks between 1700 and 1750; again in 1780, 1837 and 1866-7 before being eradicated in 1900. It was followed by typhus. The Poor Law made vaccination against smallpox compulsory in 1856.

Epidemics of typhus are recorded in 1585-7 following a disastrous harvest; also in 1707-12, 1718-21, 1724-26, 1728-30, 1733, 1740-1, 1817-19 (together with typhoid and relapsing fever) and 1839-41. In Plymouth it started in the winter of 1739/40 (which was exceptionally cold); wounded servicemen were landed from the West Indies and as well as smallpox and tropical diseases there was typhus on board which spread rapidly to the rest of the county in the next two years. Typhus must not be confused with typhoid. Typhus is spread by lice, fleas, etc., whereas typhoid is a result of contaminated water.

In 1832-4 there was an outbreak of cholera in Exeter which was said to have been brought from Plymouth and London (there were two more in London in 1838 and 1854) and which claimed 400 lives. Further outbreaks were in 1848-9, 1853-6 and 1865-6. In Plymouth 2,000 were killed by cholera in 1849 immediately after the arrival of the railway.

Was this a coincidence?

Influenza was bad in 1834 and 1837 and measles in 1888-9. In 1854 scarlet fever was rife and thirteen in a thousand died together with deaths from whooping cough and measles.

In 1899 typhoid was traced to the water supply in Exeter when 85 died in two months; even the Prince of Wales (Edward VII) caught typhoid fever in 1871.

Most deaths were recorded as being caused by consumption, convulsions, dropsy, fevers (scarlet, malignant, spotted, purple), smallpox and teeth. In Devon and Cornwall in 1740-60 causes mentioned were ulcerous sore throat, malignant sore throat, putrid sore throat, anginous epidemics, influenza, Devonshire colic or lead colic, dysentery and typhus.

The life expectancy for a woman in 1850 was 42 years, and 35% of babies died under the age of one. By 1880 three of four died under the age of 40, one of two under 20 and one of four in the first year. By 1885 infant mortality in Exeter was 18.4%; in 1903 14.3%.

During the 17th. century in Exeter the unhealthy and overcrowded cemetery at the Cathedral was still being used. In 1636 according to Bishop Joseph Hall "the accumulation of corpses and mounds of earth threatened to bury indecorously the very Cathedral". By 1741-2 St. Bartholomew's Yard was in use.

Water supply.

Exeter (Devon) is an example of the state of water supply and sanitation in towns and cities in the past.

In the 1770's apart from wells and a few pumps there was a 1" pipe in South Street to supply the public with water. In 1811 pipes were tried for distribution but the wooden ones proved inadequate.

4 hogsheads (52 1/2 gallons) of water a week cost 30/- in 1824. Water was used for street cleaning, fires (the first fire engine in Exeter was in 1652), "wash and wring, bake and brew" - not much was drunk.

In 1830 only 400 out of 4000 houses in Exeter were connected to a water supply. By 1833 the Exeter Water Company had moved to larger works at Pynes and had a reservoir at Danes Castle. The water rates were 2/- for property with less than an annual rental of 6 pounds; 10/- for 6-10 pounds; 15/- for 11-15 pounds; 20/-

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for 16-20 pounds, etc.. The next year the pipe in South Street was replaced by conduits in Milk Street, and King Street.

Half of Exeter houses were piped for water by 1841 and it was supplied three times a week for three hours. However in 1850 in the St. Mary Major and St. Mary Steps parishes, 92 houses containing 506 inhabitants had no means of obtaining water, even after the cholera outbreak of 1832. Many relied on inefficient cisterns.

By 1868 two hours water were supplied a day; in 1870 four to five hours; and in 1873 four to six hours but none on Thursdays. The water was unfiltered, had fish in it and sewage from Tiverton. In 1877 the council bought out the water company and by the end of the century 30 gallons per head a day were available.

(Chagford was well advanced - in 1852 Hayter George Hames planned the water supply and drainage system.)

Sanitation.

1778 saw the invention of the water closet by Joseph Bramah and in 1780 one was mentioned in an advertisement for a new house in Exeter. By 1808 there was still only one in the city and that emptied into the street.

One house had 31 pigsties attached and a courtyard with the accumulated rubbish of thirteen years - this was a valuable property! During the 1832 epidemic of cholera there were open surface gutters (as can be seen in Stepcote Hill) for slops and sewage. Then a start was made on installing a sewerage system in the 1840's, some twenty years before London; this would replace the open drains and ditches that took the raw sewage direct into the river Exe. The Longbrook and Shitbrook were culverted about this time.

Exeter was described as a City of foul smells with good reason. By the 1870's the filth of the slums and effluvia prevailing, the stink of the river where the effluent from the St. Leonards' sewers discharged above the surface of the water, the open gutters of Tudor Street, the open drain under Iron Bridge and the offensive public urinals for want of a continuous supply of water were more than enough justification for the description.

In 1872 the sewage for 15-20,000 people was still carried in an open leat through the most densely populated districts and into the bend of the river where it was kept as though in a basin; the stench reached even down to Powderham and Starcross. With this inadequate sewerage and drainage the numerous wells still in use could be fatal.

A septic tank system was suggested but in 1886 the first treatment works were built which was considered a pioneering project. Modern sanitary systems were then evolved and c 1900 the drains were connected.

CLOTHING.

In poverty clothing could not be afforded to give protection from cold and wet. Often the poorer labourers had only one set of clothes so that when they were soaked they would dry by the fire, as best they could, and the wet and icy clothes be put on in the morning. Children were often underclothed and had no shoes. On Saturday nights they went to bed early, naked, while their mothers washed and dried their clothes. When clothing wore out it was a struggle to replace it and people at that time used to jokingly say, "I'll have to black my backside and go naked!"

The poorer classes usually had home-made and simple clothes; they could rarely afford fashion unless it was second-hand and out of date. The women wore shawls and practical, long aprons over a cotton gathered-skirted dress, and the bonnet with a stiffened peak and soft crown which was peculiar to the working classes.

The farm labourers working dress was usually a smock-frock of linen, in white, blue or brown and embroidered on the chest, shoulders and wrists, with a pair of "duck" trousers not quite reaching the ankles, low-quartered shoes with no socks or stockings, and a soft, wide-brimmed "bullycock" hat. Later there would have

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been a coarse shirt with a square cut body, a shoulder band and full sleeves and a neck scarf with either baggy cord trousers hitched up at the knee with "yarks" (cord), or cord or leather breeches with thick woollen stockings, gaiters and sturdy leather boots. The leather boots became so hard from exposure that lace hooks were required. In Summer hot earth and perspiration in the boots, and the fact that they could walk 20 to 30 miles a day in their work, led to raw and blistered feet. In winter they wound straw ropes around the legs from knee to boots like puttees.

FOOD.

The diet of our forbears would have been a very simple one. The poorest could afford no meat, perhaps a little homemade cheese, but mainly homemade bread, porridge, horse beans, turnips and swedes with luxuries such as potatoes, and weak tea. Some obtained used tea leaves from an inn and reused them. Some made their own "tea" from burnt bread over which boiling water was poured and allowed to soak. Most of the people were nearly always hungry, in spite of the food being so stodgy.

In the 1840-50's a typical menu could have been: Breakfast. Barley bread, treacle, water, with an occasional sip of milk. Midday. Broth, mashed potatoes, and dumplings. Evening. As breakfast with cheese or apple pie. There would be bacon perhaps 2 or 3 times a week.

"Kettle Broth" was a regular item on the menu; it was bread over which was poured boiling water and seasoning added.

The cooking was primitive as there was only an open fire or later an iron oven. An essential was the tinder and box. This consisted of a flint and steel which were scraped until a spark caught the dry rag. Before the advent of matches there were strips of brown paper soaked in salt petre and sticks dipped in brimstone.

Breakfast for the man could be porridge, or apples fried in bacon fat with a little bacon; the wife and children having only the apples, or toast with sugar. Another breakfast dish was cold dumplings with bread and sugar.

Dinner could be turnips and dumplings with bone-gravy, or onion soup and apple and suet pudding, or "hash" - cold soup (bones and vegetables) with breadcrumbs baked.

Other popular dishes c 1885 were: Boiled bread and butter pudding, Rice and raisin pudding, Gingerbread loaf, Pigs face brawn, Ox cheek boiled, Cow heel or pigs feet with split peas, Lentil soup, Salt fish boiled with parsnips, Squab pie, Vegetable pasties, Fruit and jam pasties, Potato cake (1 lb flour, 1/2 lb potatoes, 6 oz dripping, 1/2 lb currants).

It is of interest to see that the word recipes was written as receipts even up to this century.

It was the ambition of every family to keep a pig which would be fed on windfall apples, acorns, greens and roots. A proportion of it was often mortgaged to tradesmen, but when it was killed every part of it was used "except the squeak". The meat was salted, hung, and would provide the family with the only meat it would have for months. In 1880 the first frozen beef was imported from Australia, and two years later frozen mutton from New Zealand.

COINAGE.

The silver penny (denarius) was the d of pounds; s d and came into use in Anglo-Saxon times. Gold coins were introduced in 1344. The groat appeared in 1351 being equivalent to 4 silver pennies; a noble, angel or royal was equal to 80 silver pennies, and a pound or unite to 240 pennies. A shilling was brought into circulation in 1549 equal to 12 pennies; a gold sovereign in 1485 and in 1544 a half-sovereign. From 1717 a guinea was equal to 252 pennies (21/-).

By 1672 there were gold coins for 5, 2, 1 and 1/2 guinea, silver for a crown, half-crown, shilling, sixpence, fourpence, threepence, twopence and penny, and

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
base metal coins for 1/2 and 1/4 pence. There were also many local tokens used in place of small change.

The Bank of England was formed in 1694 and in 1696 introduced new milled coinage, the old hammered coins having been vulnerable to clipping. In 1797 the first copper pennies were minted and the first issue of pound notes made. In 1816/7 many smaller country banks collapsed causing great hardship.

In 1849 the government decided it was time for decimalisation and introduced the florin (2/-), a tenth of a pound. It took only another 122 years to complete the change!

The last imperial coinage consisted of:Gold 5 pounds, 2 pounds (at rare intervals), 1 pound (last minted in 1918).Silver 5/- (last minted in 1902), 2/6, 2/-, 2/-, 6d.Silver or brass 3dBronze 1d, 1/2 d, 1/4 d.

"Silver" coins varied in their silver content over the years; until 1920 they were 92.5% silver, from 1920 until 1946 50% and after 1946 they were of cupro-nickel.

As is the case today, there were great fluctuations in the value of money almost year by year but especially in times of depression. As a very rough guide 1 pound in 1990 was approximately 25 pounds in 1922. To take the value further back is difficult but an approximation would be as follows:

1 pounds in 1985 was approximately	82 p	in 1989	30.6 pounds	in 1900
25.4 pounds	in 1880	20.6 pounds	in 1840	
16.9 pounds	in 1800	33 pounds	in 1780	44.8 pounds
in 1750	40.9 pounds	in 1700	39.6 pounds	in 1650
66.1 pounds	in 1600	163.7 pounds	in 1550	251
pounds	in 1500	268.9 pounds	in 1450	

WAGES AND PRICES.

From the Land Assessments of 1524 those assessed on wages rather than land could be regarded as farm labourers or farm servants as well as some labourers in crafts and trades. In some parishes in Devon they numbered two thirds of the population, in some half, but one can safely assume that more than one third of the total population in Devon were farm labourers or farm servants. A Statute in 1563 required Justices in each county to fix maximum wages, so they can be reliably quoted from that date onward as it was a punishable offence to offer or take more than the official maximum wage.

In Devon the earliest surviving assessment is for 1594, but for 1564 in Exeter when the maximum wage for labourers in husbandry was 6d day in the winter and 8d day in the Summer. Harvest wages were greater due to the exceptionally long hours worked, and were 10d day for men and 4d day for women. Labourers "living in" received between 20s and 30s year according to age, and women servants between 16s and 20s year, again according to age.

In 1594 the rate was 7d or 8d day winter and Summer, the Harvest rate being 1s day and 6d for women. Farm servants received 30s to 40s year for men, women under 14 nothing other than their keep; between 14 and 18 - 12s year, and over 18 - 16s 8d. The 1594 rates remained unchanged until 1654 and then there was only a small increase despite a considerable rise in the cost of living; 10d day all the year, an increase of 25% in sixty years whereas foodstuffs had increased by 50%. The harvest rate for men was unchanged, women now received the same as previously for the hay harvest, but an extra 1d day for the corn harvest. (The wages of masons and carpenters were unchanged from 1594 rates.)

Up until 1732 the Winter rate was 11d day, and Summer 1s day. From 1733 to 1778 there was a fixed rate all the year of 1s day with the harvest rate 1s 4d day for men, and 6d day still for women. All these rates excluded the provision of any food or drink, the rates were considerably reduced for their provision; and the hours worked were 6am to 6pm in Summer and 7am to 5pm for the three winter months. So the standard of living of the farm labourer had been falling ever since Elizabethan times, and in the 200 years between 1594 and 1796 the rates had risen from 8d to 1s day, an increase of 50%, whereas the cost of living had increased 300% with a marked rise after 1766. In 1795 all the men in Clyst St.

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 George were agricultural labourers and all were receiving parish relief.

By 1808 the rate had risen to 1s 2d day, but no extra was paid at harvest, so up to the 1840's the wage was 7s week for the six days normally worked. In 1850 the rates varied - 7, 8, or even 9s week for a skilled labourer plus 3 pints of cider daily, and sometimes a bit of land on which to grow potatoes, or on which some kept a pig which was reckoned to be worth 6d week to the family. The hours worked were from 4 or 5am to 7pm. By 8am women and children were in the fields, the women were paid 6d or 8d day and the children from the age of 4 or 5 upwards 3d or 4d day.

In the 1851 census there were shown to be over one million agricultural labourers and another 360,000 indoor farm servants. At their rates of pay and with perhaps only a few having a tied cottage, the huge poor rates of the 1830's show the poverty that prevailed.

At this time the skilled artisan, who had served a long apprenticeship, would earn between 30s and 40s week. These would include such trades as cabinet makers, watchmakers, hatters and carpenters. They often needed to be able to read and write to understand plans and drawings. Other skilled workers such as tailors, shoemakers and engineers would earn between 20s and 30s week. The "middle class" was becoming larger with the lower end including such as a clerk who would earn 60 pounds a year to the upper end where the income would be perhaps 300 pounds a year. They were dependent on the income of the head of the household alone and about one eighth would be spent on rent e.g. a 6 roomed terraced house for a clerk, and up to a ten roomed house for households where servants lived in. One servant (for all work) would cost 9 pounds a year and could be afforded by a family with an income of 150 pounds a year.

Wages can only be judged in relation to their purchasing power and a few household budgets have survived. A Dorset family of six in 1795 had an income of 6s week with perhaps the wife and children contributing up to three shillings more, and their budget was as follows:

Bread and flour	6s	0d
Yeast and salt	2	
Bacon and other meat	8	Tea,
sugar, butter, cream	10	Cheese
	2	Soap, starch, blue
	2 1/2	Thread, etc.
and barley	2	Total
		8s 7 1/4 d

The Rector who compiled these figures tells us "clothes they get as they can, and the children go nearly naked." Even so, this family lived well if you notice their expenditure on meat, butter, tea, cream, and household luxuries such as starch and blue, and they paid no rent so it could not have been representative of the mass of poorer labouring families.

Another budget of a Berkshire labourer in 1795 show that for a family consisting of the man, his wife, and children of 14, 12, 7 and 5 the expenses for a year were:

36	8	0	2lb	cheese	a week @ 7d	3	0	8	1/2	peck	loaves	a week	
@ 9d			3	18	0	2lb	sugar	a week @ 9d			3	18	0
a week @ 3/-	1b		19	6		1/2	lb	oatmeal	a week @ 3d				6
6	11b	bacon	a week @ 1/3			3	5	0	2d	a week	in milk		
8	8	Total				52	4	4					

This meant that the wife and children must have contributed a great proportion of the income of the family unless the man had been particularly well paid.

Around the 1860's farm workers wages were only three quarters of the national penurious wage, perhaps 7/- a week with the wife as "slave labour" as a condition of employment. Rent could have been about 1/6 a week.

The calculation of household income is not as easy as it may seem for this was the age of no work, no pay. Even a fully employed farm worker may have been sent home without pay in bad weather and there was no pay in periods of illness, so when most was needed least was provided. Also in the period 1830 to 1850 unemployment was widespread with approximately 20% being paupers when over fifty, or earlier if their strength had gone. In addition the Adulteration of Food, Drink and Drugs Act was not brought in until 1873 so the budget could have been further strained by adulterated food. Alum, chalk or pipe clay were added

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 to flour and to whiten bread, sand was mixed with sugar, brick dust with cayenne pepper, tea leaves had dried and curled leaves from the hedgerow added (British tea), milk would be diluted with water, etc. These things were hard to detect but unscrupulous shopkeepers used various methods of obtaining extra profit.

If the family once started buying on credit then it was almost impossible for them to ever get out of debt. Credit giving shops were known as "badger" shops and did not usually want cash sales. Clothes were bought on credit and "tally men" called weekly for payments; or they were bought secondhand. In textile and mining areas there were "truck" or "tommy" shops owned by the employers where the employees had to buy some goods which were often overpriced. The Truck Act was passed in 1831 whereby workers were not to be paid in kind or by employers' shop tokens. The pawnbrokers were a menace, too, for those liable to get into debt.

A pair of shoes cost 4/- in 1837, and in 1854 a quarter loaf was 9d at the time when over one third of the population were earning less than 12/- a week.

A 1/2 peck loaf was approximately 8 pounds in weight (approximately 1/4 bushel). Mrs. Beeton in 1888 gave a recipe for a peck of bread consisting of 3lbs. potatoes, 6pts. water, 1/2 pt. brewer's yeast, 1 peck of flour and 2oz. salt - nearly 20lbs..

Some of the prices given by Mrs. Beeton were: Beef brisket 4 1/2 d, rump steak 1/-, sirloin 9d, Lamb leg 1/-, shoulder 10d, Mutton leg 9 1/2 d, shoulder 8 1/2 d, Pork leg 8 1/2 d, bacon 11d, Fish cod, haddock and mackerel 4d to 1/-, plaice 6d to 1/6, whiting 3d to 1/-, Chicken 2/- to 3/6 each, goose 6/- to 10/-, turkey 10/- to 1 pound, Cabbage 1 to 2d each, potatoes 1d/lb, Apples 3 to 6d/lb, pears 1 to 6d each, plums 2 to 6d lb, Butter 1/1, cheese 10d, eggs 1/6 doz, milk 4d pt. Flour 1/10 for 12lb, oatmeal 1/6 for 7lb, rice 2 1/2 d, Sugar 2 1/2 d, tea 2/4, Currants 4d, figs 1/1, prunes 4d, Candles 3/9 for 6lb

Relative prices of basic food give quite a shock: Beef 1850 - 3d, 1978 - 1.40 pounds, 1990 - 4.50 pounds, Bread 1850 - 4lb for 8 1/2 d (3 1/2 p), 1978 - 1 3/4lb for 30p, 1990 - 3/4lb for 50p

Precise information on conditions is provided in the reports of the Labour Commissioners for 1893/4. For example a Berkshire family with seven children had a weekly income of 15s., the father earning 10s. and one of the children 5s. Their budget was as follows:

	Bread and flour	6s 0d	Butter	
	1 0	Cheese	7	Bacon
1 3 1/2	Sugar	6	Tea	
5 1/2	Salt and pepper	1 1/2	Lard	
8	Firing and oil	1 6	Rent	1 6
Tobacco	3	Soap, soda, starch, blue	6	Total
	14s 4 1/2 d	It is noticeable in this budget that there is no meat other than bacon and only 7 1/2 d remains for the periodical essentials such as clothing and shoes. Obviously some of the other six children would have had to earn pennies to eke out the family budget.		

Children would work picking stones and taking them to the stonecracker at the roadside for 1d; aged 8 a farm servant would walk to work for a day of 14 or more hours for 1 1/2 d; and at the age of 12 they may have worked on a farm from 7am to 9pm for 2/- a week and no clothing.

The children were not given the easiest tasks but those which did not merit even the meagre wages paid to an adult. Their calendar could have been:

January - cutting sticks	February - stone picking and setting beans
March - bird scaring and setting potatoes	April and May - bird scaring and weeding corn
June - haymaking and thinning turnips	July - scaring birds from corn and cutting thistles
August - corn harvesting	September - watching sheep and pigs on stubble
October - potato harvesting	November - scaring birds from winter wheat and collecting acorns for pig food
December - stone picking, muck spreading, ditching, and topping and tailing turnips	

Some of the most exhausting tasks therefore fell to the children, such as stone picking, turnip-singling, and potato setting. So from the age of 4 or 5 upward

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the children contributed to the budget whereas to send them to school (if there was one) cost 1d or 2d per child per week. From the age of 7 or 8 boys were employed dragging trucks at the mines where they worked a 10 hour day for about 1s 6d week. Girls could be employed at home making gloves and lace, or spinning. These "domestic" or "cottage" industries were essential to supplement what was earned by a gardener or cowkeeper. Older boys and girls were sent into farm service to "save their meat." The bad conditions in agriculture as well as increasing unemployment made the labourers escape to the towns where the poverty and overcrowding brought misery of a different nature. A survey in 1901 showed 2 adults and 3 children needed 21s 8d a week as a minimum and this meant no rail or bus fares, newspapers, entertainment, no writing of letters, and no contributions to church or chapel. There was no saving or joining a sick club, no tobacco or beer, pretty clothes, or pocket money. They would have to be buried by the parish and the wage earner must never be absent from work for a single day. Farm workers earned about 20/- (with a life expectation of only 44 years) and the rent for a four roomed cottage was 4s 8d. Men's boots cost 5s 6d, shirts 2/-, trousers 7s 6d, bacon 6d. 1b, butter 1/- 1b, and tea 1s 5d 1b. In 1917 a farm worker earned 42/- for a 48 hour week, in 1921 28/- for 51 hours, and in 1936 32s 4d, but a building labourer earned 52s 6d. The top of the middle class were doctors, dentists, and solicitors ranging down through small shopkeepers to shop assistants and clerks.

SHOPS AND INNS.

Before the advent of shops itinerant tradesmen (pedlar, chapman, cheapjack, hawker, etc.) carried their goods around. There were also markets and fairs in Spring and Autumn. The first shops were recorded c 1600; by the end of the century some villages had one; these were mostly for luxury goods such as spices, silks, tea and coffee for the gentry. By 1792 there were many shops in Exeter mostly retailing foodstuffs - butchers, bakers, cheesemongers, also clothiers. There were no shop windows for display, the shop was a front room in the dwelling house; no shopfronts appeared in the poorer parts until well into the 19th. century. Goods were obtained at markets cheaply and in the smallest quantities by the shopkeeper and custom was confined to two or three streets in the immediate neighbourhood. The greatest increase was in shops selling general grocery and household stores; retailing grew rapidly as the range of goods increased.

In towns shops grew up to sell food, clothes and household goods, and in the Georgian period these had bow or barrel windows. Later the railways brought goods from where they were made more cheaply and the shops kept a larger selection than the cheapjack could carry on a cart. Shoemakers and coffee house keepers were a great source of news, local and national, and their shops were centres for gossip and discussion.

Retail shopworkers, if single, were provided with board and dormitories until 1914, and it was only the Shops Act of 1912 which granted them a halfday holiday.

Large numbers of inns were required because the slowness of travel meant there was a need of rooms and meals. They varied from the large and comfortable to cottages where the poorest people slept several to a room.

The reduction of duty on English made spirits in 1825 led to a rapid increase in drunkenness. The Beerhouse Act of October 1830 was intended to reduce drunkenness by making it easier to buy beer than spirits. It allowed any householder assessed for the poor rate to retail beer from his own house on payment of 2 guineas for an excise licence and on production of one surety of 20 pounds or two of 10 pounds each. These shops were known as "kiddleywinks" or "winks". In 1829 there were 50,660 shops licensed to sell beer, in 1830 51,482 but there were 24,342 beerhouses as well and in 1831 there were 30,978 beerhouses. Until 1872 beer could be sold at all hours of the day or night. This led to the Temperance (upper middle class) and Abstinence (lower middle class) movements.

RELIGION.

Many clergy were men of considerable education and many from noble and

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landowning families. Most country vicars were also farmers. Some served several parishes, receiving incomes from them all, so some parishes were neglected. Some vicars and their wives and daughters taught in village schools, but some lived the life of a country gentleman and left the curate to do the work.

The Five Mile Act of 1665 meant that non-conformists were compelled to make their religious houses in out of the way places. No clergyman ejected from his benefice under the Act of Uniformity could preach within five miles of where he had preached since 1660 unless he recanted. This situation was alleviated by the Act of Toleration in 1689.

Methodists were predominantly middle class, and most of the Liberals were non-conformists. The working man felt more at home with a local preacher and no liturgy and ritual, but as they prospered they tended to become Anglicans.

The Rev. John Wesley was an Anglican clergyman and founded Methodism in 1740. He spoke at St. Mary Major in Exeter on Sunday morning, 25 November 1739, but the vicar stopped him in the evening saying, "All you said is true, but it is not guarded. It may lead people into enthusiasm or despair." So a table was produced and John Wesley stood on that to address the evening rally. It is now in the entrance of the Mint Chapel. He spoke in the Castle yard at Exeter in 1743. His brother, Rev. Charles Wesley was first in Cornwall in July 1743 followed a few weeks later by John, who preached at Gwennap Pit 17 times between 1762 and 1789. At the age of eighty-two John Wesley was again in Exeter addressing the people in February 1785 in spite of a very cold frost. The Exeter Wesleyan Circuit was formed in 1792, one year after his death. In the 1780's the Wesleyans of Cornwall barred the use of sugar on the grounds it was grown by slave labour in the West Indies and carried by ships also engaged in the slave trade. The Blackdown people were also staunch dissenters.

In 1799 a "Collection of Hymns" by the Wesleys was produced. Charles Wesley wrote about 6,000 and John translated a lot of German ones. Until c 1820 it was illegal to sing hymns to replace the metrical psalms in Anglican churches, but in 1860 "Hymns Ancient and Modern" was published in Somerset.

There were many schisms and amalgamations of various non-conformist sects over the years and, indeed, these are still taking place. THE POOR LAWS. The phrase "the poor always ye have with you" (St. John 12:8) is as true now as when it was written and, as we shall see later, poverty affected both sides of our family. I have not attempted to discover the start of poor relief, or trace the details of its evolution for it is a vast subject, but I will put down that which I do know about it.

The Medieval, Tudor and early Elizabethan poor relied on voluntary donations, but the dissolution of the monasteries robbed them of these centres of relief and resulted in vagrants and beggars threatening law and order. An Elizabethan Poor Law Act of 1598, amended in 1601, appointed overseers to assess occupiers of property, and the vestry calculated its costs and set a rate to be collected to relieve those unable to support themselves. Compulsory Church Rates were not abolished until 1868. A number of vestry minutes and overseers accounts remained in "Parish Chests". The Act made the parish responsible for providing work for the able bodied, maintaining the sick, aged and infirm, and apprenticing the children. In pauper families at the age of 8 or 9 boys were apprenticed to "husbandry", and girls to "housewifery". (Until 1778 boys were bound until 24, later until 21, and girls until 21.)

In 1662 and 1697 the Laws of Settlement and Removal were passed so that it could be found to which parish the paupers belonged and, if required, return them there - an early version of "passing the buck"! The paupers could stay if they had been born in the parish, rented property at more than 10 pounds a year or had served a years apprenticeship there, or if their legal parish reimbursed their cost. Otherwise they would be removed by the Parish Constable and passed from one parish to the adjacent one until they reached their legal parish. Before 1744 unmarried mothers would be returned but their offspring could claim settlement. The Workhouse Act of 1723 made them go to the workhouse - the first workhouse had been built in Bristol by the Quakers in 1696. (Bristol was the next largest town to London in the 1700's.)

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With the spread of enclosures after 1760 and the rise in food prices during the French Wars the number of paupers increased, and the rates likewise. In 1775 the average cost of poor relief totalled less than 2 million pounds, in 1801 4 million pounds, and from 1813 to 1831 over 7 million pounds a year. Gilbert's Act in 1782 forbade the admission of able-bodied paupers but the guardians had to find work for them, or maintain them until work was found, taking the wage from them but providing maintenance. In 1795 all the men who were agricultural labourers in Clyst St. George were on parish relief. In the same year the Speenhamland system was introduced by the Justices of Berkshire when they met at the George and Pelican Inn whereby allowances were made to unemployed or insufficiently paid workers and their dependents, and in 1796 an Act authorised payment according to the price of bread and the number of dependents. The effect of this was that the farmers took advantage by paying low wages and these were subsidised out of poor rates, but the parochial relief in 1834 was 1s week - barely enough for one meal a day. As the population rose from eight and a quarter million in 1784 to twelve and three quarter million in 1824 the cost of relief rose from two to five and three quarter million pounds with a peak in 1817 of 8 million pounds. Between 1830 and 1850 20% of the people were paupers before they reached the age of fifty. In 1832 an Act on Begging classified the crime and punishment as follows: 1st. offence - Idle and disorderly - 14 days prison 2nd. offence - Rogue and vagabond - 1 month prison 3rd. offence - Incorrigible rogue - 3 months prison

So in 1832 a Royal Commission investigated poor relief and in 1834 the New Poor Law Amendment Act was passed where parishes were joined into Unions and required to establish Union workhouses; Devon had sixteen. Under this system relief was only given under new and stricter conditions. Out-door relief was abolished, and all recipients were made to enter the workhouse. Conditions in the workhouse were made more miserable than that of the poorest paid worker outside, and a rigorous test applied to deter all but the really desperate cases; this was a re-introduction of the Workhouse Test of 1722/3. Although the old Poor Law had been inefficient it had attempted to provide a system of social welfare by income supplements and unemployment assistance. This was now abolished and in times of unemployment, sickness, and old age the families were forced to the workhouses where they were split up. Men, women and children were in separate parts and forbidden to meet; one man was sent to gaol for comforting his own child when he heard it crying. All able-bodied men were set to work stone breaking, grinding corn or picking oakum. Until 1842 all meals were taken in silence, and the food was monotonous: mainly gruel and bread, with a little cheese and meat. A workhouse dress was worn and "industry, order, punctuality and cleanliness" were enforced. The Poor Law Commission made smallpox vaccination compulsory in 1853.

The admissions book showed nine classes: 1 - aged and infirm 2 - orphans 3 - illegitimate children under 16 without mothers 4 - insane 5 - illegitimate children under 16 with their mothers 6 - widows and deserted women with children under 16 7 - sick or injured as a result of accident 8 - unemployed 9 - vagrants.

In 1788 rising hours were 6am in Summer and 8am in winter, working hours were 7am to 7pm and 9am until too dark to see, and bedtimes were 9pm and 8pm. The diet was 12oz. of solid food a week which was less than that in prisons so vandalism resulting in a short prison sentence often took place.

A terrifying prospect indeed, and one where in some places those in charge were neither humane nor honest and the horrors were thus further magnified. The shadow of the workhouse falling on a family was enough to make them know real despair, and in 1837 the protests against the New Poor Law became manifest by their being absorbed into both the Chartist movement and Socialism. Later it proved impossible to completely implement the "harsh but salutary act" and some measure of out-door relief remained; and some of the workhouses were mixed, and catered for orphans to old age, able-bodied and sick. In 1847 the new Poor Law Board made a condition that workhouses must if requested provide separate bedrooms for the few "deserving" married couples over 60. However, in 1863 when the agricultural wage was 8s or even 7s week, meat hardly ever seen, crippled with rheumatism at 45 or 50, and feeble with underfeeding, the agricultural labourer almost inevitably ended up "on the rates".

EDUCATION.

In 1699 there were only about 50 schools in Devon, which had nearly 500 parishes. By 1800 there were about 180, and in 1820 there was a school in approximately half of the villages.

In 1811 the British and Foreign Schools Society was founded by non-conformists and the National Society by the Church of England with the aim of making education more available. This meant there were more Church schools in the country, and non-conformist ones in towns. In 1833 it became compulsory for children under twelve years old to have two years daily education, but there were neither the schools nor the efforts to make this a reality and children still went on working. The government granted 20,000 pounds towards it (but 50,000 pounds to improve the Royal stables!). In 1850 only four in ten could sign their name and in Leeds in 1861 still only 1 child in 41 was attending school. A few Factory schools were set up as a condition for the employment of juveniles. This did not really become effective until the Elementary Education Act of 1870. In villages in 1840 there were dame schools where it cost from 1d to 4d a week for each child or payment was sometimes made in kind. Some records show the cost as being as high as 6d a week.

I have not found any figures for Devon but in Cornwall in 1840 there were 27 day schools, and approximately 120 dame schools. Even so, less than half the children of the county received any instruction; the majority of pupils were under ten and attended for two or three years. In some cases the dame schools were little more than a baby minding service whilst the mothers worked. Schools for older children were run by teachers who had no qualifications, or in a Church school the wife and daughters of the vicar taught. Many schools taught reading but few taught writing or arithmetic, known as "casting accounts". This was mostly for two years after the age of 5 or 6. There were half time schools where 10 to 12 year olds were allowed to work half time; and Sunday schools for those who worked all week (where they were taught to read but no arithmetic or writing was allowed on Sundays). The object was to give them at least a little schooling, but as children aged 10 or so worked in agriculture from 6.30am to 8pm (even in 1867) this never functioned as it was intended. Finance also played a part, for not only was a child not earning whilst at school, but the payment for the schooling had to be found. In 1851 at Payhembury a labourer would pay 1s a quarter for each child, and a tradesman 1s 6d, and double if the child was to write in copy books. Between a quarter and a third of the labouring poor were totally illiterate and a further percentage had only a rudimentary literacy.

The poor had a method of reckoning of their own as follows: 0 = shilling,)
= sixpence, 1 = penny, and - = halfpenny so that 2s. and 7 1/2 d.
would be written as 0 0) 1 -. Ingenious wasn't it?

In Norfolk in 1845 children in workhouses spent three hours a day learning reading, writing, arithmetic and scripture so that they were ahead of the Education Act by twenty five years. These schools were named District schools. The aim of Forster's Act of 1870 was to provide places for all of school age in areas not covered by Church schools (voluntary) by the Local Authority building and managing rate supported schools (Board schools), but it was about five to ten years before this was achieved. One in four of children in Exeter were still receiving no education. The boards fixed fees or allowed free schooling where they thought fit; they could also make attendance compulsory by local by-laws. Teaching was non-denominational. The government gave grants by results - children were examined in the 3 R's and if they attended regularly the school received a grant. The Church schools were inspected too. In 1880 education for 5 to 10 year olds became compulsory but this was a fiction, particularly in rural areas until at least the 1900's. Attendance officers called perhaps once in five years when they took the names of absentees, and served their parents with warning notices. Any church or chapel function within miles and all kinds of trivial excuse or having no boots or decent clothes meant no attendance.

The pence the children could earn weighed against education. Until 1891 a man still had to pay to educate his children, but the New Aid Grant replaced school pence and a man could choose whether to pay fees. The Education Act of 1914 at last made schooling free and compulsory to the age of twelve. It also gave an idea of the vast amount of illness, malnutrition and poverty when children were

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seen gathered together. Some were hungry and in rags, or were stitched into their clothes for the winter. Prior to 1918 the leaving age was 12 if the child had passed the "standards" in reading, writing and arithmetic, but was then raised to fourteen, and to fifteen in 1947.

As industry became more complicated and better educated clerks were needed in business secondary education became a pressing concern. In 1889 counties could levy a penny rate for technical education but all higher education in day and evening schools was illegal until 1902 when an Act swept away the school and voluntary boards and gave control to local authorities which levelled up standards. Grammar schools, some endowed hundreds of years ago, were mostly small and suffered lack of funds, so County grammar schools were created but with only space for less than a quarter of the children.

On marriage or birth certificates or in marriage registers it is of interest to see whether there were signatures or marks as this gives an idea of how well educated the person was, how used to writing, and, therefore, their social status. However some women made a mark when they could write to show the husband's superiority, or out of politeness if he could not write; some could write their name though nothing else but perhaps could read. About four in ten were unable to sign their name in 1850.

POPULATION AND FRANCHISE.

Population was affected by harvests (starvation) and epidemics as well as by the mortality rate . Many children died in the first twelve months and only about two thirds reached the age of ten. They very often lost one or both parents before adulthood so second marriages were common. Before the 19th. century illegitimacy was low but bridal pregnancy common - no child, no bride! where there was good employment the marriage age was younger.

When the population was rising in the 17th. century migration and emigration started to take place. London was a great magnet but some weavers from Devon went to Norfolk to take part in the expanding worsted trade there. A factor in the need for migration other than the lack of work on farms was the method of passing property on from one generation to the next. Sometimes this was by primogeniture where all or most went to the eldest son, and sometimes by partible, or gavelkind, where it was divided between the sons. Either way some would lose out having no land or all having so little they could not make a living on it.

The 18th. century population was much increased but trade and industry declined so there was much unemployment and low wages encouraging migration. In 1931 the populations of Culmstock and Broadwoodkelly were approximately half that of 1831.

MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT.

It is a popular misconception that our ancestors rarely moved. True, they often did not move far for up to the early 19th. century movement was by their own legs or horse only. Many moved perhaps between ten and twenty miles, as far as could be walked in a day. This was usually "betterment" migration and generally in an area in the bounds of the local market town. Adolescent farm servants regularly changed jobs every year (at the Hiring Fairs); when they were married they settled for longer periods but most moved at least once. 40 to 70% of family names disappear from a parish register within 100 years; the average during the 17th. and 18th. centuries was nearly 60% of the farming or labouring class. They seldom went far, perhaps about ten miles each generation, but in the 19th. century, after the farming slump of the 1820's, it was further - maybe thirty miles.

Many left the county and Devon born policemen turned up in west Riding and London; after the slump in tin and copper mining many miners emigrated or went to mines elsewhere in the country. Most walked or went by carrier's cart to market town and so on. A 1787 map shows carriers routes over the whole of England.

The early tracks were on lower ridges and the sides of broader valleys, not the

highest, uneven land, steep sided valleys or the marshy bottoms of broader valleys. Even then the tracks were too muddy to use in winter. Packhorses needed firm ground but gradients mattered little except at the bottom of deep valleys when the load would weigh heavily on the withers. They sidled down in zigzag fashion with corkscrew turns on either side of the water at the foot of every valley - these still survive! Packhorses were bred from larger Dartmoor ponies, ñ 15 hands high, and were trained to walk with long strides when loaded, for greater ease and speed; they carried about 400 lbs. The quaint recesses over the piers of bridges were for pedestrians for if they met a train of packhorses they occupied the whole of the road and plodded nose to tail, sometimes one hundred in line. Packhorses were used until after 1800 and heavy items such as building stone, etc. was dragged on a "truckamuck", a sledge type cart with shafts behind dragging on the ground; often two young trees where the roots dragged and the tops were fastened to the horses. Oxen were used to pull loads up hills and farmers near bad hills kept a yoke of oxen for hire.

Devonshire roads were appalling; in 1698 the Exeter to Plymouth road was so narrow two horses could scarcely pass and even by 1760 there was "scarce a pair of wheels in the county". Even as late as 1831 wheeled vehicles were unknown on some farms. The first roads were made on the lines of the old packhorse routes. The main ones were: King Way (Tavistock to Okehampton), Chagford to Tavistock, Tavistock to Ashburton, Mariner's Way (Bideford to Dartmouth) and the North-South track.

In 1562 an Act was passed which made parishes responsible for the upkeep of roads inside their boundaries. Every parishioner gave six days each year of "statute labour" on the roads, or provided carts and horses for the work; this Act was repealed only in 1835. Soon after 1750 the Turnpike Trusts reached Devon; with the London to Exeter road being tackled in 1753. The roads now were cambered so that they were passable in wet weather, and the road was made up of small chipped stones. The process of rolling them was started by Macadam c 1810, but is not to be confused with the Tarmacadam process which belongs to the 1900's. These were the first hard roads made since the Roman ones! On the main roads after 1750 lumbering stage wagons were to be seen. These had four huge wide wheels, were covered with an arch of canvas, and were pulled by eight large horses wearing neckbells. The carrier either walked or rode alongside.

In 1785 the mail coach from London to Exeter took 24 hours, but these coaches brought Greenwich time to the whole country whereas previously the time could have varied by up to two hours in different places. As the roads improved the time for the journey decreased; in 1824 it took 22 hours, but by 1838 it was down to 16 1/2 hours - an average of 10 m.p.h..

The first stage coach between Torpoint and Truro was in 1796. It was pulled by four horses and carried six inside passengers, making the journey down one day and back the next. The expansion in coach travel continued and by the 1830's seventy passenger coaches left Exeter each day. By 1840 there were good turnpike roads (22,000 miles of them throughout the country, with 8,000 tollgates); the Tavistock to Moretonhampstead road via Two Bridges was completed c 1780 with two Toll gates at Merrivale and Postbridge, and the new valley road from Okehampton to Tavistock was turnpiked in 1825. In 1889 County Councils took over the main roads and the Turnpike Trusts were wound up.

Meanwhile the age of the railway had started with the Bristol and Exeter railway formed on 1st. May 1844; this was later amalgamated with the G.W.R. in 1876. Around 1847 there was a rapid growth of the railways being built, the peak being in 1846, and in 1848 the South Devon railway reached Laira, Plymouth, and was extended to Millbay, Plymouth, in 1849. This, too, was sold to the G.W.R. in 1876. 19th. July 1860 saw the completion of the Salisbury to Exeter section of the L.S.W.R.; the section to Yeovil had been opened in 1856 but nothing more done, so the Government told the L.S.W.R. to honour it's pledge and continue the line westward (the Government wanted better transport between Plymouth and the south of England). The L.S.W.R. became part of the S.R. in 1923.

LAND AND THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION.

The Saxons cleared forests and waste and introduced the open field system in the 600's. Later generations learned by experience that small separate fields

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surrounded by banks and hedges were better suited to the landscape and climate. Before c 1500 there was more arable land in Devon but the high ground in the mid and west of the county and on the borders of Dartmoor was cattle country (no ploughs).

Devon was one of the counties where the use of lime to produce larger cereal crops commenced between 1560 and 1600, and by 1750 burnt lime was used all over the county; sea sand and marl had been used since the 1300's. By 1300 to 1500 most of Devon was enclosed, the open arable fields divided into closes and allocated to freeholders according to their previous holdings in the fields; there was abundant "waste", land usually on the boundaries, to be used for common pasture. The subsequent enclosures in the 1700's applied mainly to uncultivated heath and woodland which was previously regarded as common, and on this enclosed waste new farms were established. At the end of the century "improvers" moved on to Dartmoor and there were newtakes on a massive scale until the tenants' rights to make them was abolished in the middle 1800's. Beat burning was employed whereby the rough pasture was reclaimed by beating and burning the old turf, a process called "denshiring" in other counties, then the "zull" or plough was used with sand, marl or lime. The grass seed was often Devon eaver.

However for the small farmer the situation was far from improving. In the 1700's large landowners started to buy out freeholders, and to get rid of small let farms (tenements) in order to make greater sized ones. This brought about the disappearance of the yeoman, who cultivated his own property, almost all having vanished by the 1750's. Then private Enclosure Acts proliferated between 1760 and 1797 so that areas in scattered strips of approximately one acre with a path around for grazing were replaced by compact blocks. This seems reasonable until one realises why the strip method grew up; it meant that all the farmers had a portion of the varying types of land so that no one farmer had all the good land and another the marshy or poor pastures.

Enclosures took place if the owners of three quarters of the land wanted it, not three quarters of the landowners. Commissioners drew a map and allowed for roads (and verges for hay or grazing, the rent of which kept the road in repair). They found out who owned the strips and what claims there were to common and grazing rights. Some customs such as tithes were written down, but others like cottagers rights on common land were not. By the Parliamentary Enclosure movements of the late 18th. and early 19th. centuries those who did not have a permanent title to the strips they rented need not be offered new holdings in the compacted fields; these were usually let to a better off tenant. Due to enclosures in three generations yeoman farmers were reduced to agricultural labourers. When commons were enclosed cottagers who rented cottages "with right to grazings" for horses, cows, pigs, donkeys and geese went uncompensated, and those who lived around the fringes of commons and had no title to their lands were evicted, and these usually had no share in the open fields. Some cottagers did not even have the right to the land on which their cottages stood. The farmer whose holdings were small did not usually last much longer as he had to face a bill for the cost of producing an enclosure award and one for fencing, and he also lost his access to the common, so he became a labourer and maybe had to move to find work. The population was increasing too, driving people into unhealthy and overcrowded towns, but this move also was difficult because of the laws of settlement, so there were many looking for work meaning only low wages were paid.

The ancient manorial customs which were established in the early Middle Ages for commons had provided a basis for the peasant to be self sufficient. These were: Estover - the right to collect wood
Firebote - the right to take tree loppings, gorse and heath for fuel
Heybote - the right to timber for fencing and gates
Housebote - the right to timber for house building
Pannage - the right to pasture swine, or payment for the same right, in woodland.
Piscary - the right to fish
Plowbote - the right to wood to repair ploughs and carts
Turbary - the right to dig peat for fuel

So now the little essentials for an independent subsistence had gone - the fuel cutting, raw materials for cottage and craftwork, the turf for smoking bacon, the ferns for pig-sty litter, the runs for chicken and geese, and the loss of the pasture rights so that they were unable to support horses and donkeys, which

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were very important, and other beasts, and so were deprived of their milk, meat, and muck as fertilizer. The late 18th. and early 19th. century Game Laws became stricter so there was less chance to get a bird or rabbit; the Act of 1816 meant even an unarmed poacher in possession of a net could be transported for seven years, and poaching was a capital offence if there was resistance to capture. The first shipment of convicts to Australia was in 1788, the last in 1868. Village stores sprang up to supply the essentials for which they now had to pay cash and when the arable crops failed they had nothing left.

Enclosure grew more rapidly at the turn of the century with the 1801 General Enclosure Act and by 1820 open fields had been enclosed into hedged fields for the rotation of crops, and waste and old woodland enclosed for arable, so there were now large farms employing landless labourers at the expense of petty ownership and cultivation. Also the new roads, canals, and machines were diverting the cottage and village industries to factories so ending the ways of a peasant family eking out their meagre budget with by-employments. Gleaning after the harvest of wheat (for bread flour) was crucial for the winter's supply, for bread and flour took up to one half of the family budget.

while the landlord's rent, the parson's tithe, and the farmer's profit rose, for those labourers deprived of their land rights there was no compensation in wages and they sank into dependence and pauperism. During the French wars no import of corn from Europe was possible so every scrap of land was used to grow grain which sold at a good price. At the end of the wars the landowners passed the Corn Laws in 1815 to keep up the price. This prohibited any import until the price of wheat was 80s a qtr., which was very high, and in 1816 the harvest failed and the price of bread rose owing to the Act. Unemployment was high and farms were burnt by discontented labourers. In 1817 the harvest was abundant and conditions improved, but in 1819 the depression returned and in 1821 a great farming depression hit Devon (and there was a mining slump in Cornwall). Many small farmers gave up their farms, and great distress was manifest amongst agricultural workers due to the over production of wheat following the Corn Law and the gluts of 1817 and 1820 and the ever decreasing prices paid for it, resulting in lower wages being paid. In 1838 the Anti-Corn Law League was established in Manchester, and following the failure of the potato crop in Ireland in 1845 and the subsequent famine in 1846, the progressive repeal and abolition was started which was completed in 1849, but it was many years before cheap corn came in from the United States and Canada by the new steamships. By 1830 the riots of farm workers had been crushed but with the new methods and machines there was no longer a living to be made on the land for these labourers; industry had become more important to the economy than farming and the rural exodus began. This time was known as the "hungry forties." A budget recorded for 1843 gave the husbands wages as 9s, the wife 9d, and three sons of 12, 11 and 8 between them 4s, making a total of 13s 9d. The husbands 9s was expended on bread alone, the remaining 4s 9d on rent, potatoes, tea, sugar, soap, thread, blue, candles, salt, fuel and if any left on butter and cheese; there was nothing for meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, milk, clothing, footwear, etc..

In 1760 Britain was a grain exporting country and it formed the most important item of food. Prior to the 1800's in the open field system there had been either a two or a three year rotation of crops - 2 year was wheat or barley then fallow; 3 year was wheat, barley then fallow. Sometimes it was wheat or rye for bread, (or barley for livestock), meadow (hay for cattle), and pasture (for stock in summer); pasture usage was in the fallow year or in the meadow after hay when the animals manured it. The early 1800's saw the start of ensilage and in 1793 the Board of Agriculture was set up to encourage new improved farming methods. Jethro Tull introduced the drill and horse hoe, and there were improved methods of draining, manuring, etc.. Viscount "Turnip" Townshend introduced root crops, and roots and clover cut out the fallow year; Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, introduced the growing of wheat, started the marling of light land, and improved the breeding of animals. More corn was then produced and more cattle and sheep could be supported; they had grass for pasture instead of stubble, and roots to feed both them and humans in winter; so for the first time there was no wholesale slaughter of cattle at Michaelmas as previously there was only enough hay to feed horses and a few beasts for breeding through the winter. Salt meat was now replaced by fresh, and scurvy and other skin diseases grew rare, and wholemeal bread was abandoned for refined wheat bread.

Woodash from the hearth was used in privies, or with manure as fertilizer; the first artificial manures (fertilizers) were imported in 1842. In the 1850's threshing was by steam driven machines which robbed men of winter employment in barns, as was reaping in the 1860's which left less for the gleaners. Between 1865 and 1867 rinderpest (cattle plague or foot and mouth) was prevalent and sheep and corn appeared in dairy districts. The small farmers faced ruin and there was compensation by the Government at 10 pounds a cow; loans were made and repayments were half yearly (cattle tax). The disease was stamped out in 1877 but the 1870's brought a farming depression following a series of bad harvests culminating in a disastrous one in 1879 when a wet summer and autumn ruined corn and caused disease in animals. By the 1890's farms were neglected and by the 1900's beef and dairy livestock became the mainstay with other crops such as potatoes and beet.

The agricultural worker had a variety of skills - hedging, mowing, leading plough horses, etc. When at work with the scythe he had a "dew string" tied under the left knee which eased the tension on the trousers avoiding undue wear and tear and also kept the bottom of the trouser dry in wet and muddy conditions. Scythes were used to mow grass, barley and oats and were still in use until into this century, especially where corn had been laid flat by bad weather.

Ploughing by our earliest ancestors was by stag's antlers and pieces of wood pulled by hand, later by oxen (neat or black cattle). Horses were used until the second world war. After ploughing the field was harrowed to produce a fine tilth before broadcasting or drilling seed. Stubborn clods were broken up with mattocks. After a field had lain fallow to rest it may have been ploughed up to three times with frequent harrowing, and deep-rooted weeds like thistles or docks removed by hand with a forked stick. Natural fertilisers were farmyard manure and marl; occasionally lime and soot, horn shavings, furriers clippings, etc.

For harvesting cereals sickles were used, then it was gathered up into sheaves, tied and leant in pairs. Six, eight or ten sheaves would make a stook (or shock), and when it was dry horses and waggons would take it home. For haymaking in June sickles or scythes were used, the cut hay was turned over with wooden hay rakes, then made into cocks. When it was dry it was loaded into waggons (or haywains) and made into a rick or stack. It was pitched up using pitchforks and built up layer by layer and the stack thatched. Hay had to be dry or it would go mouldy and was then useless for feeding to livestock in the winter. Corn also needed to be harvested quickly, perhaps using moonlit evenings in late September (hence harvest moon). When the harvest was safely gathered in there would be a harvest supper for the workers and the Harvest Thanksgiving at church.

Sheep of different breeds which were adapted to their environment were found in various parts of the country; long-wool in Devon and mountain breeds on the moors. By the mid 18th. century they needed to be prolific wool producers and good mutton yielders to be commercially viable. The traditional shepherd was the aristocrat of farm workers and wore a smock made of coarse linen; carters and some labourers also wore them, usually thigh length. Crooks varied in design from place to place; they were used to capture sheep by a hind leg. A skilled shearer could shear up to forty or fifty in a day by hand.

Cider was made on every farm, and helped to refresh the harvest workers. Small apples from trees grown in grass orchards were shaken; it did not matter if the fruit was bruised. The varieties were mixed and pressed and the juice collected. Sweet cider was mostly favoured - <4% alcohol whereas dry was 5-6%. A Devonshire apple orchard might produce ten to fifteen hogsheads of cider per acre.

Farmers who rented their land usually did so for three "lives". There was a large fine to obtain the initial lease then a small annual rent. New lives could be inserted as the old dropped out by payment of a fine but at the end of the 18th. century the fines became so much that often a tenant beggared himself and borrowed, and so had no working capital. Sometimes during the last life the land was racked (wasted or ruined) so landlords changed to leasing for a term of years and imposed covenants on how the tenants should farm. By the beginning of the 19th. century short term leases of 14 or 21 years were common at a rack rent

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(approximately full annual value of the land).

VILLAGE LIFE AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

The basic unit of society in early days was the family, and intermarriage between long-established families strengthened the community bonds. Until after the Hanoverian period it was rare for more than one married couple to live together in the same house. Older married people did not live with married children but often housed nearby. Marriage was delayed until they could afford to set up a home of their own (an average of 27 - 29 for men, 26 for women). At least one in six or even one in four never married. The most popular times were October/November (harvest gathered in and wages paid), May/June, end of service periods or just after the prohibited times of Advent and Lent.

Even in 1850 the village was a self-sufficient community e.g. in one with a population of 1,500 there could be 4 bakers, 3 blacksmiths, 3 butchers, 4 grocers, 2 shoemakers, 4 tailors, 2 wheelwrights, 2 saddlers, 2 plumbers, etc. plus, of course, the church, chapel, school, inn and fairs.

There were industries in villages such as mining, weaving, quarrying, lace-making, etc. and wives, children and even the farm workers themselves would spin or knit. The manufacture of cloth was the most important (Devon was a serge making area), and in 1760 was still by the domestic system. A merchant would "put out" yarn to a weaver and pay him for the work, or some weavers would buy yarn, then sell the cloth to buy more yarn. Children would wind bobbins, card raw wool, dye and brush; women would spin and men weave. Some merchants traded in goods made in England, and some traded all over the world. Some made fortunes and became bankers but it gave them no political power as that was only with the landowners.

An apprentice c 1800 lived with the family and hoped to marry the daughter of the craftsman so that he may succeed him, but the second half of the 19th. century saw the collapse of village and rural craft industries as they were too slow in the face of the mass products of factories. The inventions of Hargreave's Spinning Jenny (1764) and Crompton's Mule (1775) meant that spinning had been in factories since 1800, but hand loom weaving, the invention of Kay's Flying Shuttle in 1733 having speeded it up, was still a cottage industry until the coming of steam power when mills took over. Do you remember learning how the Luddites wrecked Cartwright's machines in 1812? They had served a seven year apprenticeship and now had no jobs. Any "union" whereby men swore an oath had been made illegal in 1799 and offenders were transported or hanged. Some of the Luddites were hanged and in 1834 the Tolpuddle martyrs were transported; but now lace makers, quilters, tailors, gloves, shoemakers, wheelwrights, joiners, maltsters, clock-makers, milling, carriage and waggon building, osier growing and basket making were all affected. In 1844 when the railway arrived in Exeter there were empty warehouses. The clothing industry once employed four fifths of the City's workers, now the population had increased by >10,000, partly unemployed village weavers. (In 1854 lodgings of breakfast and tea, with full board on Sunday cost between 15s and 21s a week.) By 1887 the lace makers of Beer had fallen from 400 to 65. In 1821 Plymouth's population was 21,000, by 1841 36,500. Devonport (made independent in 1837) was bigger and less squalid. In Cornwall in 1801 there were 75 mines employing 16,000; with the boom in the ores found by 1862 there were 340 employing 50,000 but by the 1870's a quarter of the miners had left as the ore ran out; there was a mining depression and emigration.

As villages stagnated and were almost entirely agricultural (as in the time of Domesday) "Parish Apprentices" (orphan children or children of the very poor) were sent to the mills of Lancashire and Yorkshire. From the age of 6 they worked standing up clearing waste from under the machinery (they were beaten if they sat on the floor) and walked about 20 miles in a day of 12 to 16 hours. They had to eat their bread while cleaning the machines as there were no meal breaks. An Act of 1802 made a maximum of 12 hours a day work between 6am and 9pm and the children were to be given lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic, and one hours religious instruction every Sunday. They were also to have a suit of clothes once a year. Unfortunately the Act was not enforced. The Factory Act of 1833 allowed no child under the age of 9 to work and those between 9 and 13 only 48 hours a week. After 1842 no women or girls were allowed to work in the

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mines and only boys over 10. The Act of 1850 allowed no women or children to be employed after 2pm on Saturdays, and this later spread to the men. In 1871 there was a Bank Holiday Act meaning no work on Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, the 1st. Monday in August, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Later still holidays without pay were introduced.

So, town and rural migrations took place, and largely because of the steam engine, by the middle of the 19th. century for the first time more people lived in towns than the countryside. As cars and tractors replaced horses smithies and saddlers' shops closed. 1851 showed the peak of agricultural labourers - there were 1,788,000 farm workers; in 1901 there were 1,399,000 but by 1965 only 220,000; but even in the 1930's cottages were cold, damp, dark, only a few had piped water and the sanitation was primitive.

Apart from the well known cause of emancipation a few words about the situation of women in the 19th. century is quite revealing. The life expectancy of a woman in 1850 was 42 years (and more than 35 per cent of babies died before reaching the age of one.) Even women working in agriculture wore long dresses with aprons, shawls and mob caps. The working class women were the worst paid section and still had to run a home. Unmarried middle class women had no job unless it was as a governess or running the home of a married relative. Boys were sent to be trained as lawyers, doctors, teachers etc. but girls had no training. By the end of the century women did have other jobs - in 1891 there were 53,000 nurses (in 1861 none) and 18,000 clerks (in 1861 none). In 1882 the Married Women's Property Act was passed but until then a woman had to surrender to her husband any goods, land and money she possessed and could not make a valid will as she legally possessed nothing. After 1883 she kept all she owned when she married and could make a valid will, but the Act was not retrospective to marriages before 1883. At last, in 1886, women were allowed maintenance in case of desertion.

Eric Gill wrote, "The men and women of the nineteenth century witnessed the destruction of a world, a material world as old as man himself. Up to the nineteenth century men had depended on their own exertions to win a living from the earth. This world, a world dependent upon human muscular power, the muscular power of draught animals, was a product of many thousands of years of development. It was not a primitive world, it was not an uncivilised world, above all it was not an uncultured world. All the primary needs of humanity, material and spiritual were met adequately. It was a hand-made world throughout, a slow world, a world without power, a world in which all things were made one by one".

What more can one say?

Having spent so long on the historical background let me now move on to the family ancestry both proved, and in assumed, from the researches made and the information provided by relatives. Without their invaluable help I may never have started this project but even if I had the result would have been a rather bare tree whereas with their memories and information I have been able to put some flesh on the bones and hopefully mould a more fully leaved family tree.

Before I start on our ancestors I will first note the sources from which I have obtained my information, and give a short history of the way in which I went about my detective work. This would doubtless bring forth cries of horror from the professional researchers but has given me countless hours of congenial occupation interspersed with periods of extreme frustration, the occasional stroke of luck, and the glow of satisfaction when a hunch played off or a time of tedious searching at last came up with the goods! The most tangible benefit has been to find a number of living relatives of whose existence I was unaware, to make contact with those who were only names to me previously, and to find how patiently and helpfully they have put up with my continual quest for more information.

Thank you one and all.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

CIVIL REGISTRATION.

Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths was commenced on 1st. July 1837 for England and Wales. These records are now housed in the General Register Office at St. Catherines House, Kingsway, London. A lot of births were not registered as it was up to the Registrar to ask, not the parent to volunteer the information. It became compulsory to register births in 1875 but a lot of people, in particular dissenters, still continued to avoid registration until 1940 when no registration meant no ration book! Marriage entries are also incomplete as some of the clergy failed to forward their registers, and the local registrars also omitted some pages of their entries. The entries unfortunately often only give the age as "of full age" but they do show if it is a second marriage.

It is an unenviable job to search for data at the GRO; the books are large, heavy and dirty and the search rooms overcrowded and overheated. Sometimes an entry is found under what seems to us today to be a very false spelling but it is as well to note that spelling did not settle until well after 1870. In addition as literacy was so limited the registrar would enter what it sounded like and the informant would be unable to check it. With some rich Devon accents the results can be rather frustrating! I have found Trathen as Fratton, Counter as Canter, and Hunkin as Hawkin.

CENSUS RETURNS.

The first census to record people by name was in 1841 but ages for adults were rounded down to the five below and it was only noted whether or not the person had been born in the county. Addresses were very vague, too. Some of the entries are false as in some districts the whole idea was looked upon with suspicion, possibly as the Government finding yet another basis for taxation! (Income tax was 2/- in a pound in 1799). Quite a lot of the enumerators guessed ages where the true ages were not known and some rounded them up instead of down. Some only entered the occupations of males, and many people said yes to being born in the county because they feared being sent back to their "home" as previously happened with paupers. Some enumerators used their own shorthand for occupations but omitted to add a key. Add to this the fact only pencil was used, and not sharpened as often as one would like, and you see the entries should be taken with a pinch of salt! In 1851 ink was used but by the look of some returns it was watered down by some parsimonious folk, however the true ages were recorded where known. Some were still wrong however, either deliberately or through lack of knowledge. The birthplaces were exact, but many did not know where they were born. Relationship to the head of the household was also noted but this can be confusing too .e.g. son-in-law is sometimes used for stepson, mother-in-law for stepmother, grandson for nephew, nephew for cousin etc..

The dates on which the census was taken were: 6th. June 1841, 30th. March 1851, 7th. April 1861, 2nd. April 1871, 3rd. April 1881 and 5th. April 1891.IGI.

The Mormons, or more correctly, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints have compiled an index, mostly of baptisms but also of some marriages, from parish registers. These have been collected worldwide but only where they have been allowed to film them by the relevant religious authorities. It is far from complete and there are many errors (?transcription) so should be used only as a guide.

PARISH RECORDS.

Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials were started on orders from Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Lord Privy Seal, in 1538. Entries were to be made each Sunday so there were some errors and omissions. Some of the early registers before c 1640 were in English and some in Latin. In 1597 it was laid down that parchment should be used as already some of the early paper registers had disintegrated. It was specified that the earlier entries should be copied, in particular from 1558, the accession of Elizabeth, and so many pre 1558 registers were ignored. In future a copy was to be sent to the diocesan authorities after Easter each year; these are the Bishops' Transcripts. This opened up the possibility of errors in transcription.

During the Commonwealth (1642-1660) many registers were ignored, but resumed on

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the restoration. An Act in 1653 resulted in parishes not keeping records and marriages taking place before a Justice instead of a priest. Before c 1530 marriages took place outside the church doors for all to see, but banns had been required since 1216. In 1678 the Burial in wool Act was made to support the English textile industry and some entries have an affidavit to confirm this had been done. It was abandoned, and eventually repealed in 1814. In 1694 there was a tax on marriages, baptisms and burials to raise war revenue, this was extended to bachelors and widowers over 25 without children in 1695 but was soon repealed.

Clandestine marriages were popular between about 1667 and 1777 and this was remedied by Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 when all persons except Jews and Quakers had to be married in the parish church following banns, or by licence, and the marriage recorded on standard forms with both bride and groom signing the register. From 1754 records of banns had also to be kept though few survive. In the 18th. century it was common for the bride to be pregnant.

In 1752 the calendar was changed. The Gregorian calendar had been adopted on the continent in 1582 (with the exception of Russia which changed in 1918) and in Scotland in 1600, and by 1751 the Julian calendar was 11 days out of step as the Julian calendar year commenced on 25th. March, Lady Day. Now Chesterfield's Act required the Gregorian calendar to be used starting the year on 1st. January; the year of 1751 was therefore three months short, and 1752 eleven days short (3rd. to 13th. September) to adjust it, and thereafter the years were from 1st. January to 31st. December e.g. a parish register entry for 3rd. February 1723 would be February in the historical year 1724 and now shown in records as 1723/4.

Taxation on all baptism, marriage and burial entries was again introduced in 1783 but was repealed in 1794.

Rose's Act of 1812 made the keeping of three separate registers compulsory and there were standard forms for baptisms and burials after 1st. January 1813. This sorted out the jumble of previous registers where all three types of entry were mixed up and it is sometimes difficult to see which event had been recorded. After the 1836 Reform of Marriages Act non-conformists could be married in chapels and their registers were sent to the Registrar General. These are known as non-parochial registers.

By 1853 churchyards were becoming overcrowded and so local authorities had to administer cemeteries.

Up to 1929 boys could marry at 14 and girls at 12, since then it has been 16 for both.

Other parish records include vestry meetings, churchwardens accounts, the rate books for poor relief and the overseers books.

Although completed Parish Registers are now required to be deposited in Record Offices in some small parishes those started in 1813 or 1837 are still in use, and so in the care of the incumbent from whom one has to make enquiry and who is entitled to a statutory fee for providing the information.

[[ORIGINS

Origins and family left behind.

From a limited source of information available, we are able to piece together the family origins in Devon.

Our forefather, Christopher Dart Bolt, the second son and sixth of Richard and Grace (nee Dart) Bolt's thirteen children, was baptised in the Parish church at Broadwoodkelly on 15 July, 1794.

Richard Bolt and Grace Dart were married on 13 June 1783 in the 15th Century built, All Hallows Church Broadwoodkelly, by the Rector Jofias Tucker. Their marriage was witnessed by Nicholas Gay and Robert Grater. As neither Richard nor Grace could write, both signed with a mark. Richard was then aged 33 while his wife Grace was just 17.

While little is known of Richard's parents, we know that Grace was the seventh child of Christopher and Phillippa Dart and was baptised on 27 September, 1766. Other children of Christopher and Phillippa were Richard, baptised 27 February 1753, Christopher, 16 August 1754, Elizabeth weeks 15 June, 1755, John in April 1759, Roger, baptised 17 February 1761 (this baby died and was buried on 28 March 1761). The next child, also named Roger was baptised on 31 July 1763.

Seventeen months later, Grace's father, Christopher, died and was buried on 12 February 1768 at Broadwoodkelly leaving Grace's mother, Phillippa, to rear a very young family. On the 15 April 1771 Phillippa who was described as a widow, bore another daughter whom she named, Mary Haywood Dart, baptised at All Hallows Church, Broadwoodkelly.

Grace's elder sister, Elizabeth weeks Dart, married on 6 September 1786, to John Vicary at the All Hallows Church. No further information is available on the members of that family. Possibly after the two elder girls married, the family moved to another area.

Richard Bolt who was described as a husbandman at the time of his marriage in 1783, may have been provided with a home near Broadwoodkelly, by his employer.

Their first child whom they named Phillippa after Grace's mother, Phillippa Dart, was baptised on 8 November 1783. Almost two years later their first son John was baptised on 30 October 1785. While it is not known for certain who Richard's father was, it appeared to be a tradition that the eldest son was named after his paternal grandfather.

These two children were followed by three girls: Elizabeth baptised 24 February 1788; Mary, 17 January 1790 and Grace on 20 August 1792 - Grace, no doubt, being named after her mother.

According to Land Tax Assessment records, in 1791 Richard Bolt was occupier of Town Living with orchard and meadow plus part of Kelly Downs for which he paid two pounds and eighteen shillings in taxes.

Their land was most likely part of a large estate owned by a wealthy landholder who lived somewhere in the area.

The sixth child born to Richard and Grace, was the emigrant Christopher Dart Bolt, forefather of all the Australian descendants, and who was baptised on 15 July 1794 in All Hallows Church, his Christian names being after his maternal grandfather Christopher Dart.

Two more sons followed: William baptised on 16 November 1796 and Richard who was named after his father and baptised 21 July 1799. As farm labourers received only a very small income, it would be hard to imagine how Richard and Grace were able to cope with their growing family - the assistance of the elder children as they became old enough to work, would have helped greatly. The older girls would have sought work probably as 'live-in' domestic servants. The eldest son, John, as was the custom, would have helped his father in the garden and fields.

The ninth, tenth and eleventh children were daughters, Sarah baptised 7 December 1801; Temperance on 20 November 1803 and Lovedy on 22 December 1805.

Their fifth son and twelfth child Emanuel was baptised on 8 July 1808. This was to be an eventful year for the Bolt family for their second daughter Elizabeth aged 20 years married 23 year old John Tancock at Broadwoodkelly on 9 October, 1808.

John was able to sign his name while Elizabeth made her mark. Elizabeth's eldest brother, John, was a witness to the marriage. John Tancock was baptised at Spreyton on 3 April 1785. He was the eldest son of James and Anne (nee Reeves) Tancock who at the time lived at Spreyton which is a village about 10 miles South East of Broadwoodkelly.

On 28 October, 1810 at All Hallows Church, Phillippa, the eldest daughter of

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Richard and Grace Bolt, married Gils Chamings of Black Torrington which is approximately ten miles west of Broadwoodkelly, Devon. We assume that Gils and Phillippa moved to Black Torrington after their marriage but no more information is available about them.

On 29 September 1811, the thirteenth and youngest child of Richard and Grace was baptised. The record of his baptism states that his name was Pitter Bolt; however the certificate of burial shows that his name was Peter and that he was buried on 26 April 1842.

The next member of the family to marry, was Mary Bolt who was Richard and Grace's fourth child. Mary's marriage to John Lane of Winkleigh was performed in All Hallows Church on 19 April 1812. Since both John aged 27 years and Mary aged 22, signed their names in the marriage register, they must have received some education.

The records of Land Tax Assessments for 1812, list Richard Bolt as occupier of Redhays for which he paid an annual tax of twelve shillings and ten pence and also Barton Moor costing eighteen shillings and two and a half pence. The area is a little to the south of Broadwoodkelly. It is recorded that they lived there until 1825.

Tragedy struck on 1 December 1815 for their third son William, then 19 years of age, died and was buried in the Broadwoodkelly cemetery.

Grace Bolt, the fifth child of the family was next to marry on 6 August 1820. Twenty eight year old Grace married George Lane of Monkokehamton. There is a possibility that George Lane and Mary's husband, John Lane were brothers - George working as a farm labourer at Monkokehamton. The two witnesses to this marriage, were Samuel Vanstone and Richard Weeks - who possibly were first cousins to Grace - their mothers were Elizabeth (Bolt) Weeks and Mary (Bolt) Vanstone.

The next prominent occasion in the family was the marriage of second son Christopher Dart Bolt to Nancy Tancock. Both were resident in the Parish of Broadwoodkelly. The 35 year old Christopher Dart, a bachelor and 32 year old Nancy, a spinster, were married on 3 February 1829 by the Curate of the Parish, Francis Bafsett. Christopher signed his name while Nancy made her mark. Christopher's brother in law, John Lane, was a witness to the marriage.

Nancy Tancock was a daughter of James and Anne (nee Reeves) Tancock and was baptised at Broadwoodkelly on 19 April 1797. Nancy's eldest brother, John, married Christopher's elder sister Elizabeth almost twenty years earlier. It appears Nancy's parents James and Ann came, originally, from Spreyton where they were married on the 17 August 1784 and settled at Broadwoodkelly some time prior to 1794. Apart from eldest son John who was baptised at Spreyton in 1785 the other known children were baptised at Broadwoodkelly. Samuel in 1794; Nancy 1797; Mary 1799; James 1802 and Lovedy 1804.

From records available, it seems that Richard Bolt left his employment at Redhays in 1825 and appears to have moved back to Kelly Downs. Now aged 75 years, he probably assisted his sons in their employment.

Richard died and was buried in the cemetery at Broadwoodkelly on 13 February 1833 at the great age, for that period of time, of 83 years.

Richard's death occurred just a few weeks before the birth of his little grandson (also named Richard Bolt) the eldest son of Christopher and Nancy.

The 1832 Land Tax Assessment records show Christopher Bolt as occupier of the Meadow for which he paid four shillings in taxes. The Tithe Apportionments for 1839 list Grace Bolt as occupier of Downs; the area containing 37 poles (a pole = five and a half yards).

The 1841 Census records that Christopher Bolt, aged 40, an agricultural labourer, and his wife Ann (40), lived at Broadwoodkelly, Devon with their children Elizabeth (10), Richard (8), John (6), Christopher (4) and Ann (2).

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Also living at the village, was Grace Bolt, (aged 75) of Independent means and Emanuel Bolt (aged 30) an agricultural labourer.

John Bolt (aged 50), a Publican, Mary, his wife (50) and Lovedy Bolt (14) also lived at the village. While little is known about John, the eldest son, it appears that he married Mary circa 1817 and possibly raised three children - John C 1819, Lovedy C 1826 and William C 1828. While the 1841 listed John (sen) as a Publican, 1851 census records him and his son, John as being Inn keepers. Mary died on 27 November 1857, aged 68 years.

Daughter, Elizabeth and her husband, John Tancock, reared a family of seven children all of whom were baptised at Broadwoodkelly - James 29 October, 1815, Grace 11 December, 1810, Ann 11 December, 1811, John 12 February, 1816, Grace, 11 December, 1811, William 6 September, 1819 and Richard 5 January, 1823.

In the 1841 census, John Tancock, aged 50, his wife Elizabeth (50) and sons John (20), William (20), James (30), his wife Ann (nee Cornell), their youngest child, Elizabeth (8) and John's mother, Anne (70) were all residing at the village.

Note: In the census, ages were usually taken to the nearest 10 (i.e. 23 = 20; 36 = 40 etc)

When John Tancock died on 6 June 1844, he was described as a Yeoman. His last will and testament states "unto my dear wife Elizabeth Tancock. After paying and discharging all my funeral expenses, I leave all my household goods, furniture, stock in trade monies debts owe and owing me and all my goods chattles and effects I may be possessed of at the time of my descease to and for her own proper use benefit and disposal. I give also my wife and two sons John and William share and share alike all my trees growing in my nursery and plantations. Also 8 messuag Land Tenements in Taunton, Somerset to my three sons and any cash to my daughters."

One of the witnesses to the will was John's brother in law Emanuel Bolt.

John Tancock was buried at Broadwoodkelly on 9 June 1844, aged 59. His wife Elizabeth (nee Bolt) died ten years later and was buried in the same cemetery on 22 July 1854, aged 66. Unfortunately, at this stage, we do not have any information on the younger members of the Bolt family - Richard born 1799, Sarah born 1801, Temperance born 1803 and Lovedy born 1805. Peter Bolt, the youngest child, was buried on 26 April 1842, the day his nephew Peter, son of Christopher and Nancy Bolt was baptised.

We know that Emanuel Bolt was still a bachelor in 1851 and that he lived with his mother for the latter part of her life.

Christopher Dart Bolt's mother Grace, who had reared 13 children in what must have been extremely difficult circumstances, died and was buried on 16 March 1849 in the same cemetery as her husband Richard. Grace also reached the great age of 84 years.

Christopher Dart and Nancy who had been in South Australia for almost two years would have received the sad news of his mother's death some six weeks or more later when he received a letter on the first incoming ship.

[[1fam
BROTHERS & SISTERS OF CHRISTOPHER DART BOLT

NOTE: Dates are Baptism registers from Broadwoodkelly

Phillippa	daughter of Richard & Grace Bolt	8 Nov 1783
John	son of Richard & Grace Bolt	30 Oct 1785

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Elizabeth	daughter of Richard & Grace Bolt	24 Feb 1788
Mary	daughter of Richard & Grace Bolt	17 Jan 1790
Grace	daughter of Richard & Grace Bolt	20 Aug 1792
Christopher Dart	son of Richard & Grace Bolt	15 Jul 1794
William	son of Richard & Grace Bolt	16 Nov 1796
Richard	son of Richard & Grace Bolt	21 Jul 1799
Sarah	daughter of Richard & Grace Bolt	7 Dec 1801
Temperance	daughter of Richard & Grace Bolt	20 Nov 1803
Lovedy	daughter of Richard & Grace Bolt	22 Dec 1805
Emanuel	son of Richard & Grace Bolt	8 Jul 1808 (privately
baptised & received into the church 8 Feb 1809		
Pitter	son of Richard & Grace Bolt	29 Sep 1811

[[FAREWELL
FAREWELL

When 53 year old Christopher Dart Bolt his 50 year old wife Nancy and their five surviving children Elizabeth, Richard, John, Christopher and Ann, made the decision to leave their home in Broadwoodkelly for a new life in a strange land, they would have been leaving behind a loving, caring, family, close friends and many fond memories.

With family members who lived in Broadwoodkelly and those who had moved to other districts in Devon, there would no doubt, have been a large gathering to bid farewell to the emigrating family. It would have been an emotional time, especially for Christopher's widowed mother Grace, then in her eighties, knowing that it would be the last time that they would see each other. While realising what the farewell meant, she would have been hopeful that their expectations and dreams of a better life in a new land, would be fulfilled. Those who could write, would have promised to correspond and keep the family informed of happenings in Broadwoodkelly and would have waited anxiously for news of the family and of their progress in their chosen land.

[[BEGINNINGS
BEGINNINGS

Family records do not reveal why Christopher Dart Bolt and his wife Nancy Ann decided to leave their home in Devon and migrate to South Australia. Consequently, many questions arise:- were they spurred on by the possibility of a better life in a new country? Did they have some first hand knowledge of the conditions and opportunities which existed in the land - perhaps from friends or neighbours who had migrated previously or was it a determined effort to improve the quality of life and living conditions? Surely the economic situation in England at that time (as recorded elsewhere) would have left them frustrated and dejected with no hope in the future of owning their own land.

The opportunity to avail themselves of an assisted passage would, no doubt, have been an incentive and, perhaps, hastened the decision which would not have been made lightly since they were leaving behind family and friends whom they were unlikely to see again.

Conditions aboard ships sailing from England to Australia during that era, especially for "assisted" passengers would have been primitive and regimented. The ship "Therese" on which our ancestors travelled, was a barge of 495 tons built in Calcutta (of teak) in 1834. Her master was Thomas Bacon and those on speculation about their destination, even the most resolute must, surely, have

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been concerned about what lay ahead - the unknown.

The state of South Australia, proclaimed on 28 December 1836, had celebrated its tenth birthday when Christopher and Ann and their children arrived. We assume that they had been given information by the Shipping Company concerning the differences they would encounter - especially climate, seasons and food, the customs, language and living conditions, the differences in the landscape, vegetation, flora and fauna.

Records indicate that the family lived in Adelaide at first making a living from a boarding house. However, being trained in farming in rural Devon, they would have been anxious to find permanent residence in an area similar to their homeland and where they could keep sheep and grow crops. It is interesting that their choice was the Mount Torrens area which, perhaps reminded them of Devon with its meandering creek and gentle undulations. One assumes that their first dwelling was a humble wattle and daub or maybe a bag hut while a more solid house was built from the stone in abundance there. The ruins which remain indicate that they had learned some building skills - it is likely that the 14 year old Richard had been apprenticed to a builder in Devon since he later erected other buildings in the Mount Torrens area where some of his skills are evident today.

Clearing the Land

Clearing the land of vegetation before cultivation could take place, would have meant long hours of slow and tedious toil felling trees with no such convenience as chain saws - simply a cross-cut saw, axes, their strength and determination. In those days, innovation was born of necessity and so they found ways to make their toil easier and hoped for some assistance from the elements! By today's standards, clearing the land by those methods, seems almost impossible but clear it, they did. If the timber were suitable after being cut, it was used for used for building dwellings for the family. Post and timber fences were erected to keep stock from straying. Timber framed sheds with straw or thatched roofs, were erected for shelter.

To prepare the ground for seeding, the cleared land was ploughed, possibly with a single furrow plough drawn by a bullock. The seed was sown by a method known as broadcasting whereby the farmer scattered the seed over the ploughed earth from an oval shaped dish fitted against his waist and secured by straps over his shoulders. After sowing, the seed was buried by dragging a very primitive harrows over the sown area or, if he owned sheep, the farmer drove them into the field to trample the seed into the soil.

When the crops were ready for harvesting, the straw was cut with a sickle and tied into small bundles. Next, the grain was threshed from the straw using a hand threshing implement known as a flail - a task left to the women and children. Large heaps of threshed grain were left in the field until a windy day when the farmer using a large fork threw it into the air; the lighter chaff blew away and the clean, heavier grain fell into a heap and was later bagged or put into a container. Some was retained for the next season's seed - the remainder was kept for feed or taken to a mill where it was ground into flour. The whole season's effort was long, tedious work. The desire to improve their efficiency and working conditions, led to many improvements in farming.

Improvements.

The scrub roller - a roller made from a large red gum which rotated when pulled by horses was attached to a triangular frame which allowed the horses to walk on the rolled scrub - was introduced. This procedure was known as Mullenising (so named after an Irish settler named Mullens who lived near Adelaide). When dray, the timber was burnt. Any unburnt timbers or sticks were hand picked, placed into small heaps and burnt.

Although the visible part of the trees were burnt, many of the butts or "stumps" remained making ploughing a very difficult task. It was not long however, before Robert Bowyer Smith invented the first stump-jump plough which allowed each time to jump over any tight stump without effecting the others or the whole machine. It was regarded as one of the most important inventions to that time.

Any stumps brought to the surface were picked, stacked and sold for extra income.

A mechanical seed-sower, pulled by two horses was invented. This enabled ten acres per hour to be sown.

In a short time, the land became "cropped out", yields were drastically reduced and it became apparent that the soil lacked phosphorus - a problem overcome by the introduction of superphosphate. It was found that higher yields were possible if the superphosphate and the seed were sown together and so a seed and fertiliser drill was invented for that purpose. The mechanical device measured the required amounts of super and seed which then dropped down a tube, into a tine and passed under the ground.

Another great invention which farmers welcomed, was the reaping machine, or stripper as it was commonly known. Invented by John Ridley of Adelaide, it was approximately four or five feet wide with mechanically driven beaters in the combed front to thresh the grain from the heads and deposit it in the box at the rear of the machine. The original machines were propelled from the rear by a number of horses - later machines were drawn from the front and to one side to allow the horses to walk on the reaped crop. When the box was full, the stripper was driven to the unloading site (on firm ground) where the contents of the box were emptied into a heap with a ten-pronged fork.

After the reaping was completed, a hand operated winnower was used to clean the cocky-chaff from the grain. A screen (or sieve) helped to remove any unwanted matter. Finally, the grain dropped into a hopper and from there travelled up an elevator (in cups) and dropped into bags. With the invention of the engine, it was not long before power-driven winnowers came to the fore. Many farmers who owned power winnowers were contracted by other farmers to do the work. Reaping and cleaning the grain required many hours of hard, dusty work. However, the invention of the harvester which could do all of the processes from reaping to cleaning the grain in one operation meant that the farmer could work many more acres in a day.

Horses

In the early days, bullocks were used to pull or propel the farm implements. In later years, they were replaced by the heavily built draught horses. Good horses were always in demand at sales and many farmers who owned a well-loved stallion, earned extra income by travelling it to farms to service breeding mares. As the implements became bigger, more horses were needed in each team. Problems sometimes arose if a horse trampled on rabbit burrows causing it to fall or become entangled in the swings and chains - the task of disengaging a very agitated horse from "the swings" was extremely dangerous, many farmers were seriously injured. Farmers were faced with a major problem when horses were severely chafed by collars and chains. Very often in drought years when feed was low to the ground horses suffered from eating sand. Most farmers became very attached to their horses, gave them names and treated them well. Even though the mechanical age was welcomed and allowed more freedom, there was a certain sadness at the passing of the horses that had served them so faithfully and so well.

Conclusion

In whatever history books we browse, we find that some singleness of purpose surfacing in the pioneer settlers; the desire to own their land (probably beyond their reach in their homeland) and become self sufficient, was almost an obsession.

Perhaps, because of their humble and poverty-stricken background, they were inspired to reach their goal and prove that they could rise above their past - was not that the reason for coming to a strange country?

[[WOMEN
A TRIBUTE TO OUR PIONEER WOMEN

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As we reflect on the past, and read the stories of our ancestors, we are struck by the fortitude of the pioneer women and the role they played in the early settlement of this state. Many of them were young brides who accompanied their husbands into remote areas and who accepted what by today's standards were appalling living conditions - often little more than bag "humpies" - some were more fortunate, theirs were pug and pine dwellings - but what of conveniences? Perhaps a cellar! It was a rough life - dirt floors, outdoor cooking and washing facilities (usually a tub and a scrubbing board) - in all kinds of weather; perhaps a tree casting meagre shade in summer. They possessed a force of character born of necessity and a discipline beyond their years.

One of our ancestors, a young woman of twenty, already with three young children (one a baby) travelled during the heat of January by wagon to an isolated and desolate destination. She endured loneliness, the relentlessness of the elements, and the never-ending routine of daily chores - often alone with only her children for companionship.

They were home-makers, child rearers, seamstresses, poultry raisers and usually milked cows and fed pigs as well as making their own bread, jams, cakes and pickles. They were resourceful and diligent - and possessed sound "common sense". As well as their domestic duties, the women (and children) were often required as "extra hands" to assist on the property. As well, they made and sold butter, packed eggs for sale, sold cream "to pay for the groceries" and travelled to the paddle steamer or rail-heads on horseback by sulky or wagon. That outing was, probably, their only contact with other women, a precious time to "gossip" and perchance, to relax a while.

When they gave birth, it was with the assistance of a mid-wife (summoned by the husband or perhaps an older child) who arrived on horseback or by sulky leaving, no doubt, a family to be cared for by a neighbour or older family member. That community spirit was paramount in rural communities - accepted and acknowledged without fanfare, without reward - simply friendship.

Together with their husbands, family and neighbours, the women battled life-threatening epidemics, droughts, floods, flies, mosquitoes, snakes, the fear of bushfires and sheer exhaustion. They accepted their role, the work-load and the harshness of the elements because that was the way of life in those times and they reared their sons and daughters with the same values which they had learned.

It is our obligation to keep alive the memory of our pioneer women and children who, at any early age, were required to milk cows, feed poultry, gather eggs and complete a multitude of chores often before and after school to which to which they probably walked three or four miles.

A senior member of our family, recalling the work load of his mother who had raised a large family, shook his head and reflected quietly, "I don't know how she did it." And as we dwell in our air-conditioned comfort surrounded by our modern conveniences, we can only echo his thoughts. The pioneer women have earned our utmost respect and admiration.

We honour them and pay tribute to them for their courage and strength of character.

[[BUILDINGS BUILDINGS

For economic reasons, many early settlers in remote areas, chose to build their own dwellings with whatever materials were available - pug and pine, (or wattle and daub) hessian (white washed to render it weather-proof) galvanized iron etc. Some of them may have gleaned some knowledge of building from observing builders at work while others may have been apprentices in that trade before migrating or had been taught rudimentary building skills by their parents. Whatever their training (or lack of it), they build houses and out-buildings which stood the test of time. Generally, in the Mallee and River areas where our ancestors settled, the material used for more solid constructions, was

limestone.

The stone used for building, was found, usually on the property or nearby, and the lime required for mortar, burnt in an improvised kiln.

A pit (which served as a kiln) was dug and a layer of stumps and tinder, (dry leaves and sticks) placed on the bottom. The pit was filled with alternate layers of cracked stone (approximately "fist" size) and stumps. A hollow log pushed down the side of the pit, served as a flue down which to drop "live" coals to start the fire - it also created the draught necessary to keep the fire burning. The stone became red hot from the heat and expelled the gases leaving behind "quick lime" which, when cool enough was shovelled into bags. When it was turned out on to the ground, water was poured over it and the "stones" (or quicklime) covered with bags. The action of the water on the quicklime set up intense heat reducing it to powder known as "slaked" lime. For use as mortar, the slaked lime was mixed with washed sand. Houses, troughs, tanks stand to this day as testimony to its durability.

[[CHARCOAL CHARCOAL BURNING

During the 1939-45 war years, petrol was in very short supply for civilian use. Consequently, it was rationed to ensure that what was available, was distributed fairly. Coupons were issued against engine numbers of cars, trucks or stationary engines and entitled the bearer to a given amount of fuel. The amount allocated, especially to country people was, in most cases insufficient for their needs.

Many land-holders in the Murray Mallee area produced charcoal to supplement their own fuel supply and to provide a source of energy to factories. Charcoal was produced in Australia (as well as other countries) by a variety of methods; however the "pit" method described below was most commonly used by farmers in the Murray Mallee Area.

First, a pit measuring approximately 12-14 feet (3.6m - 4.26m) long; 7 feet (2.13m) wide and 3-3 1/2 feet (0.914m) deep, depending on the depth of the soil to the clay layer, was dug. Sufficient mallee stumps (approximately 10 tons) were carted from nearby paddocks and unloaded around the perimeter of the pit. From experience and "trial and error", it had been estimated that 10 tons of stumps in a pit of the above dimensions, would yield one hundred bags of charcoal.

Fires which were lit in the bottom of the pit to commence the charcoal burning process, were "fed" first with the largest stumps (experience having taught that they took longer to char) followed by the medium size and finally, the smallest - wind direction was also a factor needing consideration when "feeding" the fire.

A full pit of fire of that size radiated intense heat making it difficult (and uncomfortable) to approach (after the flames had died down) in order to position sheets of black, flat iron to cover the burning mass. The iron was covered with sand as quickly as possible to prevent it from burning or becoming "red hot" and so rendering it useless. (It was necessary for everything to last as long as possible in those days). An opening left at ground level to allow for escaping gas, was covered when the noise subsided.

The pit was then left for a week to cool down completely (uncovering pits in less time had proven unsuccessful - they began to burn again when exposed to the air).

Finally, the charcoal was shovelled from the pit on to a sloping sieve (usually made from an old bed with a wire spring mattress) to screen the fine pieces of charcoal, sand and ash. The sieve, held by two legs attached to the rear top was positioned at the edge of the pit and adjusted to give enough slope for the charcoal to tumble through a shute (usually made of tin or boards) and so into a jute wheat bag attached to the bottom of the sieve by short spikes.

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Because there was little space for the bags to hang freely from the sieve, filling the first of the bags was difficult. However, when the firm surface of the bottom of the pit was reached, shovelling and filling the bags, became easier.

The very fine black dust associated with charcoal burning, became embedded in the pores of the skin and the grime was difficult to remove - no matter how much scrubbing ensued - children arrived at school quite grimy having helped "take out a pit" the previous night!

Most of the farmers had entered into contracts with various factory owners and prices ranging from eleven pence (10 cents) to five shillings (50c) per bag had been agreed upon. The bagged charcoal was carted either by road transport (carrying astonishingly high loads), or by rail to its destination. It is recorded that in 1943, no crops were sown in many parts of the mallee. Little rain had fallen and so the farmers concentrated on charcoal burning that year. However, cropping and charcoal burning was combined until charcoal was no longer required as a fuel.

[[STEAMERS

Early European settlers who sailed the River Murray

In 1840 Captain John Hart and WJS Pullen Col William Lights' second in command on his voyage from England re-awakened interest in the possibility of navigating the Murray and soon had Governor Gawler on their side. In April of that year, Pullen proved the navigability of the Murray Mouth by entering it in the government sloop "Waterwitch" which sailed across Lake Alexandrina and up the Murray to EJ Eyre's aboriginal station Moorundie seven miles below where Blanchetown was later established.

When Pullen buoyed the channel through the Mouth and surveyed a deep water port down river from Goolwa it seemed that the navigation of the river would soon begin. However, when Governor Grey arrived, and set about curbing Gawler's alleged extravagances, all talk of navigating the Murray was dropped.

In 1850 a number of men, including Charles Sturt, explorer John McKinlay and a new Lieutenant Governor, Henry Fox Young again pushed for a Murray River trade. As a result, the government offered a bonus of 2,000 pounds for each of the first two steamers of over 40 horse power and with a draught of less than 2 feet to travel up the river from Goolwa to the Darling Junction. Soon afterwards, Young travelled 510 miles from Goolwa to the Darling Junction by whaleboat, calling at stations - fewer than a dozen that had been established along the river between Wellington and the Darling. The settlers, he was pleased to find, were looking forward to supporting any steamers that were placed on the river

Early Riverboat Captains - (Source: River Boats by Ian Mudie)

William Richard Randell

William Richard Randell was born at Sidbury in Devonshire England on 2 May 1824. He arrived in SA with his parents and younger brothers and sisters in October 1837 when the province of South Australia had been established only 22 months. His father William Beavis Randell was an officer of the South Australia Company - Superintending Land Selection, Stock Management and Milling Affairs on the Company's behalf.

In 1844 the older Randell resigned his position to take up land at Gumeracha twenty three miles from Adelaide on the upper Torrens River. It was at Gumeracha that Randell established a flour mill and later took up the lease of a station along the river where Mannum now stands.

One evening, while he was sitting on the cliff top minding cattle along the river and watching the sun go down, the young William Richard Randell was seized with the desire to be the first man to put a steam boat on the River Murray.

In 1852 William Richard and one of his brothers, John Beavis Randell, were renting their father's flour mill at Gumeracha. Hearing of the gold diggings at

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the Goulburn William thought it was time to start a steam boat on the river, a trading steamer. His father was strongly opposed to the project and always told him that he should stick to the work he understood as he had never seen a steamboat - it certainly was a venturesome project on his part.

Without thought of any bonus, William with other brothers Thomas George and Elliot Charles Randell began building a steamer in which they intended to carry stores to the settlers and to the gold diggings. They began work in July 1852 with timber cut at Kenton Valley near Gumeracha and carted by wagon the thirty miles across the ranges to the river. There at Noa No, a landing a few miles upstream from where the town of Mannum now stands, they constructed the hull, installed the boiler and the engine and added the deckhouses.

William and Tom named their semi open boat the "Mary Ann" after their mother. It was fifty five feet long with a nine feet beam and was of 20 tons displacement with eight horse power. The boiler which now stands near the river bank at Mannum was the most remarkable feature of the odd craft. Made by a blacksmith, apparently to Randell's specifications it was nearly seven feet long, resembled a rectangular water tank and was made of quarter-inch iron with the furnace through the middle.

The Randells made a trial trip on 19 February 1853 with William as Captain, Thomas as the mate and Elliot as the engineer.

Their first trip was to Goolwa on 4 March that year - the first steamer on the River Murray - and then up river to Penns Reach just above Morgan where a sand bar across the river forced them to turn back.

Settlement along the River Murray

Richard and Christopher Bolt and their brother, John, sons of Christopher Dart Bolt came to the Mannum area in the mid nineteenth century, first as drovers and shepherds and later as station managers and land-holders. John died in 1877 at the age of forty two years. However, with the exception of ten years when he was at Garra, Christopher continued his association with the river until his death at the age of almost ninety two years. Richard remained in the river area until his death and so, the river was the "life-line" for our ancestors and many of their descendants - often their sole link with civilisation. Settlers further inland found it necessary, in times of drought, to cart water from the river - it was their source of supplies - their means of transport. The success or failure of their efforts was governed by the elements or the "fickleness" of the river. They were at its mercy during floods when it unleashed its fury and encroached upon their swamplands - drowning their pastures. In drought years, they watched it dwindle and the sea invade - making the water "brackish" and unpalatable to stock. It was a welcome servant - a relentless master.

River Boats:

The success of many pioneer farmers and their families who settled in the River Murray area was largely due to the river boats. The boat trade began in 1853 when William Randell sailed his home-made paddle steamer "Mary Ann" along the Murray. River boats, a welcome sight to the workers on the lonely stations which were scattered along the river, brought their supplies and took their bales of wool to a more convenient site where it was transported to Adelaide for shipping overseas. As more land became available to settlers and they sowed grain crops, the need arose for more riverboats for, besides being used to transport wool, the paddle steamers carried tons of bagged wheat to the flour mills. The larger paddle wheelers also towed barges enabling them to carry many tons each trip. With the boats being driven by steam, the demand for fuel became paramount. Woodcutters along the river found employment and farmers added to their meagre income by cutting and selling wood to the paddle steamer masters.

Members of the Bolt families relied on the river boats for their existence. The paddle boat "Pyap" which was owned by Eudunda Farmers Cooperative Society traded for many years along the river, stopping at Purnong Landing, Bolt's Landing, Scrubby Flat, Walkers Flat and Dicksons Landing (at Pompoota) all of which were used extensively by Richard and Christopher Bolt and their families.

Early Paddle Steamers - PS "Pyap":

The PS "Pyap" was built at Mannum, SA in 1896 - originally as a barge. Soon afterwards, it was converted to a steamer 94 feet long, 16 feet 8 inches wide and 4 feet deep. She was built for Captain Charles Oliver who operated her as a trading steamer together with the PS "Queen". Both steamers were immaculately presented and painted while under his ownership and became a familiar and welcome sight along the Lower Murray. There was accommodation for a few passengers - an interesting trip if you were not in a hurry!

In 1908, the PS "Pyap" was bought by Eudunda Farmers Co-operative Society for seven hundred and fifty pounds and used by them as a floating store and "hawking" steamer which plied the river weekly selling everything from needles to bags of flour - and buying and selling produce. Farm machinery (strippers, ploughs etc) were transported from Shearers at Mannum to the Landing nearest their destination via the riverboats. The arrival of the "Pyap" created a social atmosphere for the settlers - a time to meet and gossip, a time to exchange news. It was probably the only contact with the "outside world" for many people. Women traded their farm produce, carefully packed (eggs in cocky chaff) and transported either on horse-back or in a sulky. Stacks of wood were a common sight at the various Landings along the river - as were stacks of bagged grain awaiting delivery to the flour mills.

The "Pyap" departed Murray Bridge each Monday for Morgan and called in at as many as sixty Landings en route - Captain Will Sladden was her Captain for twenty three years. It is recorded that the "Pyap" Store employed a shop manager, a girl assistant, a male assistant and an office girl. It is also documented that she sank twice - losing all of her goods.

PS "GEM"

The PS "Gem" was built in 1876 being 133 feet 6 inches long and 20 feet 7 inches wide and 6 feet 6 inches deep. It was built at Moama NSW originally as a barge, but after one season was converted to a passenger/cargo steamer.

Before the Adelaide-Melbourne rail link in 1887, Melbourne bound passengers made a train trip from Adelaide to Morgan, boarded one of the large steamers (one of which was the "Gem") for the trip to Wentworth and travelled by a smaller steamer to Echuca where they boarded the train to Melbourne!

The "Gem" was, at one time, the largest passenger boat on the river. In later years she was a familiar sight during her weekly seven hundred mile round trip from Murray Bridge to Mildura. On 6 November 1948, the "Gem" struck a snag shortly after pulling out from Scotties Wood Pile near the ruins of the old Lal Lal Police Station, just over the South Australian border and sank in about 5 metres of water. One gentleman died from shock but the remaining passengers were brought safely to shore. A hole about 50cm by 20cm on the port side was repaired and the "Gem" was refloated on the 20 November and towed to Mildura.

It was owned and run by the Gem Navigation Company which later became The Murray Shipping Limited. Her final trip under tow from the "Oscar W", skippered by Captain Paddy Hogg was to Swan Hill where she now stands at the entrance to the Pioneer Settlement - a silent sentinel of the memories of an era long gone.

PS "ETONA"

The "Etona" was built at Milang SA in 1898 as a missionary church steamer for the Church of England. She was the second vessel bearing this name the first being a launch used by the Church of England on similar duties. The second "Etona" was complete with chapel. The "Etona's" run was from Mannum, where she was based, upstream to Renmark. Records show that a number of Bolt children were baptised on the "Etona". As churches were built in the river towns, she was no longer required and about 1912 was sold to Capt Arch Conner who used her as a fishing steamer at Boundary Bend for many years. She was brought out of retirement during the 1956 floods to do trips up the Murrumbidgee River. Eventually she was bought by interests in Echuca who commenced her restoration in 1962.

The "Etona" now fully restored and in working condition with her original steam engine can be seen moored alongside the historic wharf at Echuca.

[[1

CHRISTOPHER DART BOLT 1791 - 6 JUNE 1877

Christopher Dart Bolt was born in Devon, England in 1791 and baptised at All Hallows Church, Broadwoodkelly on 15 July, 1794. He was the son of Richard and Grace Bolt (nee Dart) and the sixth of their thirteen children.

In 1815, he was in the army (either the artillery or the infantry). It is known that he fought at the Battle of Waterloo in France under the Duke of Wellington who defeated Napoleon.

Records show that Christopher married Nancy Tancock, aged thirty two years, in the village of Broadwoodkelly on the 3 February, 1829 - both Nancy and Christopher resided in that Parish which is in the district of Okehampton, near Tawnton and Winkleigh in the county of Devon... Neither Nancy nor Christopher had been married previously.

The 1841 Census (the first of recent times), shows that Christopher and Nancy (Ann, as she became known) and their five children (Elizabeth Weeks; Richard; John; Christopher & Ann) continued to live in Broadwoodkelly and that Christopher's occupation was Agricultural labourer.

Their sixth child, Peter, who was born in 1842 and baptised on 25 April, 1842 died on 26 June 1842 and was buried at Broadwoodkelly. Because of social conditions in England in the nineteenth century, many people were emigrating to Australia and elsewhere... Research into Colonial Land Emigration Policies for FREE PASSAGE, show that in 1841 the Colonial Government paid a bounty of fifteen pounds to English and Irish Agents for every adult whom they could land in Sydney or Melbourne, alive.

Further research in Parliamentary Papers despatched from Downing Street by Prime Minister Gladstone to Governor Robe in South Australia in 1846, revealed that on the "Canton" about two hundred emigrants were despatched - the rate per adult being only ten pounds nine shillings - discounted from the previous contract price of twelve pounds six shillings and threepence - half of that amount was payable in London fourteen days after departure and the remainder in the Colony.

In order to receive the Government bonus, it was essential for an emigrant party to consist of at least six adults. Christopher Bolt's party included his wife, Nancy (Ann) and their five children; Misses Susan and Martha Lane (possibly Christopher's nieces) and two ladies by the name of Partridge. Two ladies by the name of Partridge accompanied them together with Misses Susan and Martha Lane whom, it is believed, were possibly Christopher's nieces since his sisters Mary and Grace married John and George Lane respectively.

They left Plymouth Sound for London on the barque "Theresa" and from there commenced the arduous six-month journey to Port Adelaide where they arrived on 3 May 1847.

Christopher's first job in Adelaide was grubbing trees in the Parklands. Next, he rigged out a large boarding house for bullock-team drivers at the back of the Devon Arms Hotel in Carrington Street. There, he built a large yard for the bullock teams. In 1850/51, it is recorded that Christopher was a lodging house-keeper.

The lodging house in Carrington St., Adelaide would have provided the opportunity for Christopher Bolt and his three sons to have discussions with stockmen, drovers and bullock drivers, concerning opportunities and various types of employment in the rapidly expanding districts in the country. Being from a farming back-ground, the urge to own or farm land would have been strong. Presumably, Christopher learned that land was available at Mount Torrens since records show that in 1851, he moved, with his family to a place half a mile from the centre of Mount Torrens - most likely to farm property owned by one of the prominent land-holders in that district.

Soon afterwards, Christopher's sons found employment as stockmen on stations further east in the river districts and beyond. His eldest son, Richard, who presumably, had been working as a stockman for George Dunn, married his daughter, Mary Ann in 1855.

His desire to own land and son Richard and his wife, Mary Ann, starting their family were probably the reasons why Christopher purchased property on 21 September 1857. The two sections, no 3855 and no 3856 containing 224 acres were situated along the Bloomingdale Road between Mount Torrens and Harrogate in the Hundred of Kanmantoo. The 361 pounds paid for the property would have been a large amount in those times - probably money saved, plus the proceeds from the sale of the lodging house in Adelaide gave them enough money to purchase their property.

(leave necessary space for map of the area)

Before deciding to build their house, no doubt Christopher and his family would have walked over the entire area in search of a suitable site. They selected a picturesque position on the side of a rise surrounded by red gums and over-looking the Bremer River which meandered through the centre of each of the two sections.

(photo space)

Not far from the site which they chose, was a rocky ford which would have served two purposes - one being a good position to cross in times of flooding, and the other a natural dam which would have assured them of an abundant supply of water during periods of dry weather.

Unfortunately, we cannot describe the type of house for Christopher and Ann since all that remains is a stone chimney. Presumably, the entire building was constructed of a slate type stone which was on the property in abundance.

Approximately one hundred and fifty metres away, on the opposite bank of the river, stand the ruins of another building.

There, Richard and Mary Ann made their home - at first of two rooms with an additional two rooms as their family increased. A small arable 20 acre section would have been cleared and sown to crops, but the remainder containing large outcrops of rocks and being unsuitable for ploughing, was used for grazing their horses and cattle.

Many long and tedious hours would have been spent in clearing the land of logs and fallen branches from the huge gums that grew in abundance in that district. The red gum timber would have provided the fuel for the large open fire for cooking and for heating during the cold winter months.

Christopher and Richard worked together on the farm for eight years until 1865 when Richard, no doubt, seeking extra income, worked as a builder in Mount Torrens - he later moved to a farm of his own. Although in advanced years, Christopher would have continued to farm his land with his usual zest and determination. He and Ann would have longed for visits from their adventurous sons with stories of their exploits.

Christopher (Sen.) died of "old age" on 6 June, 1877 and was buried at Mount Torrens. He was survived by his wife and family. After Christopher's death, Nancy (Ann), known as "Granny Bolt" worked as a mid-wife in the North Adelaide district. She lived at Stanley Street North Adelaide where she died on 19 November, 1883 and was buried with her husband and son, John, at Mount Torrens.

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Elizabeth Weeks BOLT, the eldest child of Nancy Ann (nee Tancock) and Christopher Dart Bolt was born on 14 June, 1831, and was baptised at All Hallows Church, Broadwoodkelly, Devon on 26 June, 1831.

She travelled to South Australia on the barque "Theresa" with her family in 1847, prior to her sixteenth birthday. Since the family established a boarding house when they first arrived, we must assume that Elizabeth assisted her mother in that venture. Beyond that, nothing has been recorded until later in her life.

It is understood that Elizabeth married Alfred Barlow Barraud, an itinerant tutor/teacher whose life-style was, apparently, quite "colourful".

The eldest of Mary Ann (nee Barlow) and John Barraud's seven children, Alfred was born in 1818 and migrated to Australia before 1856. It seems reasonable to assume that the couple met at Mount Torrens where Elizabeth's family lived at that time and where Alfred was employed as a teacher during 1855/56. For some unknown reason, the school's enrolment decreased alarmingly during his tenure and we find him at Cudlee Creek in 1857.

Albert, Elizabeth's and Alfred's son was born in 1870 when Elizabeth was thirty nine and Alfred fifty two.

Alfred led a nomadic life and was the despair of his long-suffering family who patiently paid his debts and supported him whenever he was in need (which, seemingly, was often!) And received nothing in return from their ungrateful brother who went merrily on his irresponsible way squandering his (or their) money.

It seems that his dubious way of life did not affect his stamina since, at the age of seventy five, he walked nineteen miles, ran in a race, won it and "promptly set off on a two hundred mile trek into the bush!"

Obviously, he had little concern for Elizabeth or his son and preferred the life of a "loner". His death certificate states that he died on 20 August, 1896 at Elliston of "internal injuries" received through a fall from a coach and is interred there.

Of Elizabeth, we know little more. She lived, in later years at the residence of H.C.E. Muecke, "The Myrtles", Hawkers Road, Medindie (perhaps as a house-keeper?) and died at Miss Hand's Private Hospital, Angas Street, Adelaide on 5 September, 1905 aged seventy four years and was interred in the West Terrace cemetery.

[[111

Albert Edward BARRAUD (or Barrand) the only child of Elizabeth Weeks Bolt and Alfred Barlow Barraud was born in 1870, probably at Mount Torrens where his maternal grandparents resided. Unfortunately, research has revealed very little information about Albert. His mother's last will and Testament written in 1901 refers to him as a butcher who was at that time residing at Arltunga.

It would seem that Albert, like many others, was lured to the isolated and desolate Arltunga goldfields in the hope of finding an elusive fortune. Arltunga, situated in the Eastern Macdonnell Ranges, more than 1600km from Adelaide became known when alluvial gold was discovered there in 1887. The government battery operated there between 1897 and 1916 although some hopeful prospectors lingered on until 1980. Cyanide works were established outside the town. Skilfully worked stonework, crumbling chimneys and machinery remain as a stark reminder of the magnetism of gold in a desert landscape. The Arltunga Historic Reserve has been set aside to preserve memories of the gold-mining era - the ruins of the cyanide works and the police barracks remain.

Albert Edward Barraud died at Arltunga on 7 February, 1912 aged forty two years and was, at that time, a miner. He was interred in one of the Arltunga grave yards which record the toll of isolation.

[[12
RICHARD BOLT

Richard Bolt was born in the small rural village of Broadwoodkelly in Devon, on the 21 March 1833. The eldest son of Nancy (nee Tancock) and Christopher Dart Bolt, he was named after his paternal grandfather Richard Bolt who had died five weeks earlier on the 13 February 1833.

Richard was baptised in All Hallows, the village church at Broadwoodkelly on the 18 April, 1833. Christopher Dart Bolt, his father, was recorded as being a farm labourer at that time.

Documents written and signed by Richard, indicate that he received some formal education in Devon.

The 1830's were difficult times for farm workers. It is recorded that during those years, sons, while quite young, were required to work to supplement the family's meagre income. It is therefore possible that Richard left school at an early age to seek work - probably assisting his father as a farm labourer.

The family's arrival in South Australia on the 3 May 1847, would have presented an enormous challenge to fourteen year old Richard. He would have been required to work with his father clearing trees in the Adelaide Parklands and assisting at the family's boarding house in Carrington Street, which catered for the many bullock drivers.

The stories told by the bullock drivers must have made a lasting impression on the young Richard for it was that type of work which he sought during his adult life.

Richard's parents sold their boarding house in Adelaide and moved to the Mt. Torrens area in 1851. That move would have suited the adventurous 18 year old Richard. The experience he gained by handling horses at the boarding house would have helped him to find work as a stockman with the many wealthy land-holders in the outlying districts. Two of those landholders who no doubt employed Richard, were George Dunn and John Baker. He would have spent many months at a time on their stations.

When areas of land became available, they were often acquired by pastoralists who resided in Adelaide. That created problems with straying stock. Those problems for the newly formed District Councils, were overcome by erecting Public Pounds.

The landholders and inhabitants of Tungkillo presented a petition to His Excellency Sir Henry Edward Fox Young, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, on the 29 August 1854, requesting that there be a Public Pound in the Reedy Creek Special Survey and that "Richard Bolt of Reedy Creek who is a person of good character and suitable to hold the appointment of Pound-keeper be appointed".

A letter as set out below accompanied the petition

(leave space for the actual document).

Sir,

Enclosed I have the honour to hand you a memorial from the inhabitants of Tungkillo recommending my appointment as Pound-keeper at this place. which memorial I most respectfully request you lay before His Excellency.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Richard Bolt.

Early records of The District Council of Tungkillo show that Richard was employed as a Ranger from 1857 to 1859 - probably the position of Ranger was in addition to that of Pound-keeper.

Richard's expertise with horse and stock whip would have enabled him to handle any difficult and at times, dangerous situation - certainly a wild, stray bull could be a danger to the public and a stockman.

Richard's ability with a stock whip was to become a legend. A story handed down through the years appeared in an Adelaide newspaper following a competition conducted in 1932 for the best real life story of South Australia. A Mr. B.T. Bartholemmew of Mt. Torrens was awarded first prize for this story:

The date of events described was the 1850's "A fight with stock whip occurred at Mt. Torrens in the fifties between a visiting whip King named Anderson and a local stockman, Dick Bolt. The incident is probably unique in the history of the State, and perhaps Australia. The fight took place on horseback. It started by the appearance of a stranger at the hotel on a Saturday afternoon. His arrival was announced by a series of pistol-like reports outside the pub. They brought the crowd tumbling out to see what was on. They found a man astride a horse and coiling up a whip. The rider announced that he was Anderson, the stock whip King, who could uncork bottles, lift hats, and perform sundry other wonders with the lash. For a time silence reigned. Then from a bearded stockman standing by a verandah post, "Um, stranger there are lots can do those things, and some of 'em are here. I wouldn't talk too loud".

"Loud son?" cried Anderson, "If there weren't so many of your pals here, I'd lift your hat".

"It might be done stranger", retorted Bolt.

"Just reckon there's no-one else here and do it".

Anderson did not do it. Instead he left for Adelaide.

Bolt who resided within a quarter of a mile of the pub hurried home, got his hack and taking his stock whip, cut across country to the Adelaide Road where he awaited Anderson. Bolt would not let two friends accompany him, but told them they could watch from a hill. When Anderson appeared, Bolt rode into the road, and asked him if he was still prepared to lift his hat. Anderson's whip uncoiled with a whistle, but a touch of spur sent Bolt's hack across the road, and Anderson missed badly. The next quarter of an hour must have been an education to Anderson in the use of a stock whip. Bolt brought him back to his farm a sorry spectacle. His clothes were almost stripped from him and hanging in shreds. Bolt did not escape punishment, but was in much better shape than Anderson who acknowledged having met a conqueror!"

Richard's marriage to Mary Dunn on 24 April 1855 in the Congregational Chapel at Kensington, joined together two pioneer families who came to South Australia from Devon. Mary was the daughter of Mary (nee Turner) and George Dunn of Mt. Torrens. George Dunn who was the Licensee of the Mt. Torrens Inn, and also a large land-holder throughout the State, came from a large family who lived at Bondleigh in Devon. George and his family emigrated to South Australia in 1839 on the "D'Auvergne". As Bondleigh is situated a few miles to the east of Broadwood Kelly it is likely that the Dunn family and the Bolt family had known each other prior to coming to South Australia. There is also the possibility that George Dunn's success in the new country was one of the reasons that the Bolt family emigrated.

Mary Dunn who was born on the 10 May 1837 was only 2 years of age when her parents made their decision to emigrate.

The exact location of Richard's and Mary's first home is not known. However, it seems reasonable to assume that they settled at Reedy Creek a few miles south of the present township of Palmer. Since it was where Richard was employed as the local Ranger and Pound-keeper.

Their first child Mary Ann Barraud Bolt was born on the 9 October 1855. That child appears to have died at an early age although no official record of death has been found.

Two more children were born while Richard was employed by the District Council of Tungkillo. They were Henry George born on 22 January 1857 and Christopher who was born on the 10 September 1858. Sadly for Richard and Mary, Christopher died four weeks later on the 8 October.

The loss of two of their three infant children, may have been a reason for Richard to resign from his position as Ranger and return to help his father, Christopher, who had purchased two sections of land between Mt. Torrens and Harrogate. With both of Richard's brothers, Christopher and John away from home managing outback stations, Christopher (Senior) may have sought the help of his eldest son to clear areas of the new property. Their fourth (and possibly their fifth, and sixth children) were born at Harrogate, Elizabeth Jane on 12 September 1859, John on the 7 October 1861 and Mary Ann on the 25 October 1863.

While most of Richard's life was associated with stock or farming, records show that, in the mid-1860's he was a builder. In 1865 Richard built The Cobblers shop in the Main Street of Mt. Torrens. That building which still stands today is a testimony to his ability. Later, in 1868, also in Mt. Torrens, he built a carpenter's shop.

On 24 December, 1865, another daughter, Martha was born. The family's movements during the next ten years are unclear. Richard and Mary are recorded as having owned land near Blumburg (Birdwood) being Section 6331, 6339, 6384, 6342 in the Hundred of Talunga most likely during the early 1870's. the family was also known to have lived for a time close to the now main road between Palmer and Tungkillo near Harrison Creek bridge.

By the mid 1870's Richard and Mary and their older children, now nearing adulthood, would have felt that greater opportunities existed for them in the newly surveyed Hundreds east of the River Murray between Mannum and Murray Bridge. Richard most likely travelled extensively over that area when it was Pastoral Station leased by John Baker. Both of Richard's brothers, Christopher and John, were at one time managers of the station.

When his father, Christopher, and brother John died in 1877, Richard was recorded as living near Mannum. The 1880 S.A. Directories record Richard as living at Thurloo near Mannum. That was a River Murray Landing close to the boundaries of the Hundreds of Young Husband and Burdett - now between the dairy farming areas of Ponde and Pompoota. The earliest Mannum District Council Assessment records that Richard Bolt owned Section 13 of 346 acres and Section 9 of 51 acres in the Hundred of Young Husband. The same records also show that Richard owned land directly across the River at Wall - those Sections being 266,267 and 268 containing 105 acres on the Hundred of Finnis.

By 1884, Richard's eldest sons Henry George and John had taken up adjoining land in the Hundred of Burdett - Henry George on Section 193 and John on Section 188.

Even with the eldest sons leaving home to be on their own properties, Richard and Mary still had a large family to raise and care for following the births of Albert Richard on the 14 November 1867 Alfred Thomas on the 18 April 1870, Allen Christopher 28 May 1872 and Edith Annie on the 22 September 1875. Three years later, their youngest child Richard Arthur was born on the 5 September, 1878.

When the younger sons became older and keen to own and establish farm land for themselves, they decided to settle further along river in the Hundred of Ridley near the mouth of the River Rhine (Marne) - no doubt being influenced by their eldest brother Henry George who by then, had married and had started a family of his own and by their Uncle Christopher Bolt who had acquired land on the

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opposite side of the River in the Hundred of Forster.

Henry George had taken up Section 58 and 59; Albert Richard Section 63; Alfred Thomas and Allan Christopher took up Section 56 all in the Hundred of Ridley. Richard, having established his sons on properties of their own, went on to become a prominent land-holder in the Burdett area and at one time owned Section 177, 185, 178, 187, 193 29NE and 32SE. His wife Mary owned Section 182 and 179 with a total area of 1812 acres.

Richard's death occurred at Mannum on the 6 April 1918 at the age of 85 years. His wife Mary, to whom he had been married for almost 63 years and the mother of their 12 children died 14 months later on the 7 July 1919.

An obituary of Mary in one of the leading newspapers of the day stated that Mary was one of the oldest colonists in the State having arrived with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs George Dunn of Mt. Torrens in 1839. Her husband Richard died in the previous year at the age of 85. Richard by his energetic, industrious life amassed valuable property on the River Murray - some of which was purchased for Soldier Settlements.

The Pompoota Soldiers Home was, formerly, the home of Mr and Mrs Bolt and where they spent most of their married life. When they left Pompoota, they purchased a house in Victoria Street, Mannum from George Baseby.

Richard and Mary are buried in adjoining graves in the Mannum Cemetery.

[[121

MARY ANN BARRAUD BOLT

Mary Ann Barraud Bolt was the eldest child of Richard and Mary Ann Bolt. She was born on 9 October, 1855 at Harrogate and died in infancy. The cause of her death is unknown.

[[122

HENRY GEORGE BOLT

Henry George Bolt, the second child of Richard and Mary Ann (nee Dunn) Bolt was born on 22 January, 1857. Being the eldest son of Richard's large family he would have learnt farming practices at an early age and would have been well equipped to manage his own property when his parents moved to the Pompoota area in the late 1880's, Henry George acquired the property (Section 193) adjoining that of his father. By the mid 1880's, he had moved to the Hundred of Ridley where he farmed Sections 58 and 59 which were near the mouth of the River Rhine (Marne).

Notes from the District Council of Caurnamont, record that on 16 July, 1894, Henry George requested "that steps be taken to make owners kill rabbits on Section 57 Hundred of Ridley". On 11 March, 1895 under "Tenders": Contract No. 43 - it was proposed by Mr. Putland, seconded by Mr. Bolt (Kit) "that H.G. Bolt's tender be accepted at 65/- (65 shillings) per chain. (It is assumed that the tender referred to road-making).

He was married on 17 June, 1885 to Elizabeth Ann Martulich, six years his junior. Tragedy struck in 1904 when their daughter, Elizabeth Mary, aged seventeen years and four months, died after suffering peritonitis. In January 1907, Gordon Oscar, aged twelve years, died of snake bite.

Later in 1907, George and Elizabeth with their eight children, travelled by ship to Western Australia taking farm equipment and horses with them - their destination was Woodanilling.

George and his family farmed successfully in the area for many years. When Elizabeth died in 1919 at Katanning, George continued working his property with his daughter, Florence Annie House-keeping for her father and her brothers.

Henry George died on 12 June 1934 and was interred in the Katanning cemetery.

[[1221

ELIZABETH MARY BOLT

Elizabeth Mary Bolt, the eldest child of Henry George and Elizabeth Ann Bolt was born on 12 April, 1887 at Mannum. Tragically, she died of Peritonitis on 20 August, 1904, aged 7 years and 4 months. She was interred in the Mannum cemetery.

[[1222

Laura BOLT, the second child of Henry George and Elizabeth Ann Bolt was born on 9 July 1889, at Devon Downs. Because of the death of her elder sister, Elizabeth Mary, Laura's workload at home (helping with the household chores and tending her younger siblings) would have increased.

At the age of 18 years when the family moved to Woodanilling, western Australia, Laura accompanied them.

She married Francis Joseph Weir at Katanning, western Australia and their only child, Kathleen Phyllis, was born 2 April, 1911. Laura lived to the great age of 91 years and died on 23 November, 1980. She was buried in Perth.

[[1223

EDITH BESSIE BOLT, born in South Australia on 28 June 1891 was the third child of Henry George and Elizabeth Bolt. She left South Australia when her family moved from "Devon Downs" to Katanning, western Australia. No doubt she would have been trained in domestic duties by her mother and either worked at home or elsewhere before her marriage to William Bertie Smith at Katanning on 12 September 1921. William was born on 23 February 1887. He worked as a shearer and also as a ganger for the Railways before enlisting in the army during the 1914-1918 war when he served in France.

After his discharge from the army, William returned to contract shearing and working for other farmers, clearing their property in order to establish his own farm. Edith died on 8 March, 1931 at the age of thirty nine years and is buried in the Katanning cemetery with her parents. William reared his three young boys (Barry, Alan and Aubrey) alone. He died on 26 February 1967 and was interred at Albany, W.A.. Barry continues to live on the family property.

[[1224

HILLARY GEORGE BOLT, 4th child of Henry George Bolt (2nd child of Richard & Mary Ann).

Unfortunately, research into the life of Hillary George Bolt has revealed little. The fourth child of Henry George and Elizabeth Ann (nee Matulich) Bolt, he was born on 6 May, 1893 in South Australia and like his father, he became a farmer.

Hillary married Varina James who was born at Apollo Bay, Victoria and after a time sold the South Australian property and purchased a farm "Wishbone", East of Dumbleyung, Western Australia. It could be assumed that his father who had moved there several years previously, encouraged Hillary to follow him.

Due to the dry summers, the property was sold and the family purchased "Raedene", Bullock Hills, in 1939 and, it is assumed, remained on that property. There were two sons of the marriage.

Hillary George died on 30 October, 1974 in western Australia at the age of eighty one years.

[[12241

GEORGE LYLE BOLT was the elder of Varina (nee James) and Hillary George Bolt's two sons. Little is known of his early life but it is assumed that he worked with his father on the farm at "Double View", Bullock Hills, Western Australia

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until he enlisted in the R.A.A.F. on 31 March 1942.

In 1944, George married Myrtle Grace Tucker in Queens Methodist Church. Their honeymoon was spent on the farm "Raedene" near Dumbleyung, Bullock Hills. Myrtle, born in South Australia in 1923, lived at Berri where her parents worked on a fruit block until 1930 when they left and travelled by car to Boulder City, Western Australia. There, her father found work in the gold mines. Myrtle left school at fourteen and worked in Tippet's Cake Shop.

Following his discharge from the R.A.A.F. on 10 October, 1945, George worked with his father on the farm until he and Myrtle bought their own property "Belmont", near Katanning. They sold that farm and moved to Mount Barker, Carbarup where they lived for five years. In 1961, George and Myrtle returned to "Doubleview" to work his father's (Hillary George) farm. Both of their sons, George and Kevin loved farming. The boys married sisters, Denise and Cheryl in Katanning. Myrtle's and George's daughter, Edna married a farmer from Badgebup while Shirley's husband was from Gnowangerup. Both Kevin and George have left farming and have chosen different careers. George is car sales consultant while Kevin is the head gardener for the Katanning Shire.

Myrtle and George retired in 1980 and their farm was sold. George died on 10 March, 1989.

[[1225

GORDON OSCAR BOLT, was the fifth child of Henry George and Elizabeth Ann Bolt. He was born on 22 November, 1895 at Mannum. Sadly, Gordon died of snake bite on 17 January, 1907, aged 11 years and 2 months.

[[1226

HERBERT BUXTON BOLT

The sixth child (and 3rd son) of Henry George and Elizabeth Ann Bolt was Herbert Buxton who was born at Renmark, South Australia on 9 August, 1897. He was ten years of age when the family moved from their home at Devon Downs to Woodanilling, Western Australia.

He moved to a farm of his own at Dumbleyung when he was twenty one years old and on 1 November, 1922, married Mary Alford (nee Nelson). Their four children, Yvonne, Elva, Neil and Victor Murray were born at Dumbleyung. Because he suffered heart problems and stomach ulcers, Herbert was advised by his doctor to leave the farm and rest completely. Consequently, the family moved to Katanning for six months after which Herbert and the family made another move - this time to a citrus orchard at Stoneville (approximately twenty miles from Perth), where they stayed until Herbert became very ill necessitating a move to a suburb of Perth where they remained for six months.

In 1939, they moved to a farm at York. However, after two years, Herbert realised that it was too big for him to manage and so he bought a smaller property at Pusseville in 1943. When his son, Neil was old enough to help him with the farm work, Herbert purchased a larger property at Wagin and stayed there until 1956. One of his greatest loves was horses (inherited, no doubt from his father and both grandfathers all of whom were well-known for their horsemanship) - neighbours brought their horses to him for "breaking in".

When Neil married the former Yvonne Peach, he managed the Pusseville property, Herbert and Mary retired in Wagin where they lived until they met their death, tragically, in a car accident on 10 April 1975 - Herbert was seventy seven years of age. Both Herbert and Mary are interred in the Wagin cemetery.

[[1227

ALLAN CHARLES BOLT, the seventh of George Henry and Elizabeth Ann (nee Matulich) Bolt's ten children was born on 30 September, 1899 at Mannum, South Australia. During 1907, his parents moved with their family of eight children, to western Australia where his parents settled at Woodanilling.

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In his early twenties, Allan acquired virgin land twelve miles from Dumbleyung, Western Australia and faced the formidable task of clearing the land. The Great Depression of the early 1930's was a gruelling and frustrating era for everyone especially for Allan whose interests lay not in farming but in motor mechanics.

He married Louisa (Lulu) Dare in November, 1923 and there were five children of the marriage - Audrey, Gordon, Thelma and twins Joan and Joyce. There were no school buses at that time and so the older children received lessons by correspondence. When the twins were born, Louisa could not cope with the workload of caring for her family, house-keeping and supervising correspondence lessons and so Allan let the farm and moved into Katanning, so that the children could attend school. He found casual work in the town until he was offered a School Bus run which he bought - that work continued for fourteen years after which Allan retired at the age of sixty five.

In 1983, with their health failing, he and Louisa moved to Albany where most of their family lived. Allan died on 22 April, 1987 aged almost eighty eight years.

[[1228

FLORENCE ANNIE BOLT was born at "Devon Downs", near Mannum, South Australia on 2 September 1901, the eighth child and youngest daughter of Henry George and Elizabeth Bolt. When quite young, she moved with her family to Western Australia where her father began farming in the woodanilling district. She would have attended the woodanilling school travelling there either by horse-back or walking.

When her schooling had ended, Florence would have been engaged in domestic duties at home and, perhaps, some of the lighter farm tasks - she was an excellent house-keeper. In 1919, her mother died and Florence, being the youngest daughter, would have become house-keeper for her father and brothers.

On 9 November, 1922, a week after her brother Herbert's marriage to Catherine Mary Alford, Florence married Harry Douglas Dawson in the Methodist church at Wagin. Harry was born on 24 June 1893 at Balaklava, South Australia. At the time of his marriage to Florence, he was farming the original Dawson farm. He had served in the 1914-18 war and had "tried his hand" at various jobs including clearing the land. They lived in the stone house (in the Dumbleyung, shire) built by Harry's father, Arthur Dawson. (Arthur Dawson had settled in the district at approximately the same time as the Bolt family). The old house still stands but is in a bad sate of disrepair.

Their first child, a son, Sydney Douglas was born on 19 January 1925 and their second son Mervyn Harry in 1938. Florrie was a very shy person and found it very difficult to make friends easily. When young, she was a very poor traveller and a trip to Katanning for supplies was quite an ordeal. Her husband, Harry, was one of the first farmers in the Dumbleyung district to sell his draught horses and buy a tractor. He was also one of the first to install a 32 volt lighting plant.

Florrie and Harry retired from the farm in 1951 and moved to Bunbury, on the coast where they lived near Harry's brother, Allan, and his wife. Fishing in the rivers and the estuary was a passion they both shared. Florrie's other hobbies were few - a little embroidery, some crocheting and knitting. She was happiest when knitting socks for which there was a great demand from family member.

In 1962, Florrie and Harry with his sister Madge and her husband, Cliff travelled to America - Harry having won some money in a lottery. Strangely, as she grew older, Florrie became a better traveller and enjoyed her American adventure. However, she always preferred her home.

Following Harry's death in 1969, her son, Sydney found her a small flat in Katanning and in 1971 he was able to settle Florrie into the newly built "Wagin Cottage Homes" for the elderly. There, she was close to her family and relatives, enjoyed the company of her new neighbours and soon became a welcome member of their card sessions - playing cards was a favourite pastime for

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Florrie. Syd and his wife Barbara were able to visit her frequently and care for her during her sicknesses. She often visited the farm enjoying the company of her grandchildren. She referred to those years as "ten very, very, happy years".

Florrie died on 1 December, 1981. She and Harry were buried in the Katanning cemetery.

[[122A1

ELIZABETH ETHEL (BETTY) BOLT the eldest child of George Sydney and Ruby Edna May Bolt (nee Roberts) was born on XXXXXX. On 5 March 1955, she married Leslie (Les) Ditchburn who was born on XXXXXX.

During 1952, Les had begun share cropping with George at "Rockview", Western Australia and continued following his marriage, until 1967. With foresight, Les and Betty had purchased a virgin bush block of 500 acres (202.4H) at Albany, Western Australia, in 1957. Between seeding and harvest on the "Rockview" property, they cleared and "cleaned up" their block and established the "Glendale Poll Hereford Stud" in 1965 - Bull sales are held annually.

In 1984, Les and Betty travelled to the Sydney Royal Show where they purchased the Supreme Champion bull for which they paid \$22,000 - stock has been sold to buyers in South Australia Victoria and New Zealand.

Betty and Les' daughter Deby, started the "Glendale Poll Dorset Stud" to work in conjunction with the cattle. Deby and her husband Graeme Pyle travelled to the Melbourne Royal show in 1992 and purchased the Reserve Champion Poll Dorset ram for \$5,000.00. The December 1992 Bull Sale results averaged \$2,245 for fourteen bulls with the top price being \$4,300 - the highest in the state of Western Australia.

[[123

CHRISTOPHER BOLT was the third child of Richard and Mary Ann Bolt. He was born on

[[check birth date with fam.dbf

10 September, 1858 and died on 8 October, 1858 aged one month. The cause of death is unknown.

[[124

ELIZABETH JANE BOLT

Richard and Mary Ann's fourth child, Elizabeth Jane was born on 12 September 1859 at Harrogate, South Australia. She would have been taught many domestic skills at an early age since there were eight more children born to Mary Ann by the time Elizabeth reached 19 years of age. Undoubtedly, she would have borne the responsibilities of house-keeping and tending children as well as milking cows and assisting with other farm chores.

On 15 February 1886, Elizabeth married Charles Fobes Bax at Mount Pleasant, South Australia. Charles, born on 27 May 1860 at Wall, South Australia, grew up on Wall and Terlinga Stations where his parents worked for John Baker whose son, Allan became a close friend of Charles. Both boys became brilliant horsemen and were renowned widely for their horsemanship (and daring!) especially in the show-ring - their performances were without peer. Charles later became an overseer for Allan Baker at his stations where Charles' and Elizabeth's children learnt the riding skills for which their father was famous.

Charles and Elizabeth and their family of lively children, moved to Mount Pleasant where they lived in a two-storey building, formerly a bank and ran cows. Elizabeth made cheese and the family pedalled both cheese and milk around the town.

In December 1901, Charles Forbes Bax purchased a stock agency which later merged

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with Bagot, Shakes and Lewis at Mount Pleasant. His prowess as an auctioneer was unsurpassed in the area while his expert knowledge of livestock was recognised and valued by the wealthy landholders in the area - he possessed a flair for banter and patter which was found appealing.

In 1924, Charles retired and enjoyed a quieter lifestyle. He and Elizabeth raised seven children, a girl and six boys, three of whom enlisted in the army during the 1914-18 war. Two of their sons were killed in action and the third son, although he returned from the war, was killed in an accident in western Australia.

Charles died on 8 November, 1938 at Mount Pleasant aged seventy eight years. Elizabeth died in Adelaide on 7 March, 1947 aged eighty eight.

[[1241

MURRAY CHARLES BAX eldest son of Elizabeth Jane (nee Bolt) and Charles Forbes Bolt

Born on 24 March 1887, at wall where his father was a station overseer, Murray Charles Bax was the eldest of Edith Annie (nee Bolt) and Charles Forbes Bax. He was the great grandson of Mr. George Dunn the founder of Mount Torrens. He moved with his family to Mount Pleasant where he attended the public school after which he completed his education at St. Peters College.

An excellent horseman, Murray was employed by Sidney Kidman on a Queensland property. On his return to Mount Pleasant, in 1905, he joined his father in the service of Bagot, Shakes and Lewis stock agents where he proved to be an excellent auctioneer and was well known for his cheerful disposition as well as his horsemanship.

He enlisted in the army in 1914 and was a member of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade and was in action at Gallipoli where he saw his younger brother Alex killed in action. Murray was wounded and invalided to England. On his return to Egypt, he was promoted to Lance-Corporal and was engaged in operations on the Sinai Peninsula where he met his death.

[[1242

Albert James (Bert) BAX, the second child of Elizabeth Jane (nee Bolt) and Charles Forbes Bax, was born on 23 July, 1888. Unfortunately, research has revealed very little about Albert but it is known that by 1905, he and his brother, Murray, had joined their father in Bagot, Shakes and Lewis' Stock Agency, Mount Pleasant, Albert becoming a very proficient auctioneer and an expert horseman.

His first wife, Mary, bore three children, Thomas, Jack and Carlita. After her death, the children were cared for by their grandmother (Elizabeth) and at times by their great aunt Edit Lahne. Thomas became a trainer for runner, Malcolm Dunn and travelled to England with him. While there, he joined the R.A.F. during World War II and rose to the rank of Squadron Leader. After being "shot down" over Germany, he was a P.O.W. in a German castle. After the war, he returned to Mannum and later, married a nurse in Sydney. His sister, Carlita, married Lance Woodgate.

Albert's second wife was Kitty Howard. They raised three children Robert, Adele and Colin Murray.

[[1243

BENJAMIN ROBERT BAX, born on 13 February, 1890, was the third child of Charles and Elizabeth Bax (nee Bolt). He enlisted in the 3rd Light Horse Brigade during World War I and returned home safely. However, according to legend, he fell from the balcony of a Kalgoorlie hotel soon after his return from the war and died of injuries. It is understood that his remains were returned to South Australia and interred in St. John's cemetery, Mount Pleasant.

[[1244

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GEORGE ALFRED BAX, the fourth child of Charles and Elizabeth Bax was born on 4 May 1891. A horseman of renown, George became a jockey. He rode in races in South Australia and Queensland where he met his death on his birthday - 4 May, 1943.

[[1245

MALCOLM OLIVER BAX, the fifth child of Charles and Elizabeth Bax, was born on 7 July 1893. Unfortunately, Malcolm died on 30 November, 1893 at the age of 4 months. The cause of death is unknown.

[[1246

ALEC HARTLEY BAX

Alec Hartley Bax, the sixth son of Elizabeth Jane (nee Bolt) and Charles Forbes Bax was born at Wall and educated at Mount Pleasant where his father, a well-known and highly respected auctioneer was employed by Bagot, Lewis and Shakes, stock agents.

His family was well-known as brilliant horseman - his brother, George having been a leading South Australian jockey. Also, himself rode at several race courses and was known widely throughout South Australia for his prowess in the show-ring.

In 1914, he volunteered for service in the 3rd Light Horse Brigade and because of his horsemanship, was readily accepted.

After some time in Egypt, Alec volunteered with his brother Murray, for service in the Dardenelles. It was there that Alec was wounded in action and died as a result of his wounds.

[[1247

Arthur John (Jack) BAX, the seventh son of Elizabeth Jane and Charles Forbes Bax was born on 25 August, 1896. Information concerning Arthur is minimal. It is known that he married Ethel Ether in Queensland but there are no further details of his life, available.

[[1248i

Mabel Olive (Jess) BAX, the eighth child and only daughter of Elizabeth Jane and Charles Forbes Bax, was born on 10 October 1898, presumably at Mount Pleasant. She married Ernest H.W. Littou. Jess died on 13 June, 1947 and Ernest, one week later.

[[125

JOHN (JACK) BOLT, the fifth child of Mary Ann (nee Dunn) and Richard Bolt was born at Harrogate on

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7 October 1861. Richard was a superb horseman and well informed about cattle and so the young Jack would have developed at an early age, those skills which held him in good stead during adulthood.

While young, Jack was burnt badly resulting in scars which disfigured him. Consequently, Jack became withdrawn and preferred working alone. He owned a property at Murtho and also at Alice Springs. At both stations, he ran cattle and became well known and sought after as a horse and cattle dealer. It is understood that his knowledge of cattle and horses, led to an association with Sir Sidney Kidman on his stations in the Far North.

Jack lived modestly and amassed a fortune. He lived alone visiting his mother and family in the Mannum area from time to time. In his advanced years, he became more and more a recluse. Death came quite suddenly to Jack. Neighbours who had not seen him for a few days, summoned police when Jack's dogs would not allow them near the house. Police were forced to destroy the dogs in order to enter the house here they found Jack dead. He was found to have died of a heart

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attack. He was very attached to his family and their children as was shown in his last will and testament.

[[126

MARY ANN BOLT, Richard's and Mary Ann's sixth child, was born at Harrogate on

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25 October, 1863. Like her sisters and most girls of that era, she would have worked at home on completion of her education, she was highly skilled in domestic duties and the usual farm tasks allotted to the girls of the family.

She married Johann Gottlieb Preiss (born 15 August, 1849 at Lobethal, South Australia) on 14 August 1889 at the residence of Mr. Bockelberg, Chapel St., Norwood. Johann's ambition was to become a lawyer and so he found employment in a leading lawyer's office where he remained for several years. However, the land beckoned and in 1872 he began farming in Mannum where his involvement in Community affairs was widespread.

He served The District Council as Chairman for a term of eight years and for a further period represented Younghusband Ward as a councillor. His other interests included the Agricultural Society of which he became a Life Member and the School Board of Advice; he was also a Justice of the Peace. Johann died on 16 June, 1926 and was interred in the Mannum cemetery.

After her husband's death, Mary Ann continued to live on the farm with her daughter, Nora. The farmland was rented to tenants who carted the hay for her.

She rose daily at 4.00a.m. to milk cows and "separate" the cream which was collected weekly. As well, she tended a large fruit garden and made jams and pickles. Her cousin, Ivy was employed during the week to assist with the chores.

Mary Ann's outings were limited to weekly visits to Mannum - crossing the river on the punt - to attend to her shopping and business affairs. Her evenings were spent quietly, knitting or reading the "Chronicle". Mary Ann died on 6 May, 1950 aged eighty seven years and was interred in the Mannum cemetery.

[[1261

OTTO HERBERT PREISS, the eldest of Mary Ann and Johann Gottlieb Preiss' four children was born at East Mannum on

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23 June, 1891.

Although the events of his early life have not been recorded, it is known that Otto married Winnifred Edith Standley in the Mannum Methodist Church on 20 June, 1912. There were eight children of the marriage.

Their eldest child, John Edward attended Cross Roads, Mannum and Pinery Schools after which he worked on a dairy and at Granite Rocks quarry. Later, he went 'up river' to Renmark where he worked on Reid's river boats. In 1935, he left Renmark and cycled to Queensland finding work along the way. John worked in the timber industry until 1941 when he returned to Mannum. He enlisted in the army in February, 1941 and was a member of the 2nd/10th Australian Infantry Battalion. Private J.E. Preiss (SX11514) served in the Middle East, Palestine and Papua. Allied troops occupied Milne Bay, Papua. The Japanese forces were finally destroyed in September, 1942. Sadly, John was wounded on 28 August, 1942 at Milne Bay and died on 4 September that year. He was interred in the war Cemetery at Port Moresby.

Rock used in the construction of locks along the River Murray was quarried at Granite Rocks quarry and transported by river barge. Otto worked on the project and rose to Engineer-in-chief. It was laborious work and Otto's daughter, Doris recalled that the soles on the men's boots wore so quickly that they soled them

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with rubber from tyres. "And it worked", she added.

When he finished at "The Rocks" in 1935, Otto was transferred to Goolwa where work on the barrages had commenced. The timber house in which he lived was transported by barge to its new destination.

Many men were conscripted to work at munitions factories during the 1939-1945 war years and so Otto worked in the galvanizing shop at Shearers and in Adelaide - alternating two weeks at a time. He worked at Shearers until his retirement at the age of seventy years.

Otto died on 29 December 1981 aged ninety years and is interred in the Mannum cemetery.

[[1263

HOWARD AUGUST PREISS

Howard August Preiss, the third child of Johann and Mary Ann Preiss (nee Bolt) was born on 16 August 1894 at Mannum. His death was due to a tragic accident when, at the age of three years and one month, he fell into a fire and was badly burnt. He died on 29 September, 1897. Howard was interred in the Mannum cemetery.

[[1264

Bessie Nora Preiss, the 4th child of Johann and Mary Preiss (nee Bolt) was born on 14 November, 1898 at Mannum.

Nora who was physically handicapped, walked with a limp. It is known that she received some education as she sent numerous post- cards to friends and relatives during her life-time and received them in return.

Her mother, Mary died on 6 May 1950 when Nora was 53 years of age. the farmhouse had been pre-sold on condition that Nora continue to live there. However, the day after her mother's death, Nora went to live with Sydney and Roma Peters, her cousins - (Syd's mother, Martha and Nora's mother, Mary were sisters).

Nora was very child-like but lively and talkative. She was very good with syd's and Roma's children, Barbara, Beverley and Ruth but was unable to help in the house. She loved to go shopping with Roma and was always ready and waiting at the door on shopping days.

Syd and Roma cared for Nora for twenty years but as she grew older, she became more difficult to handle and it was necessary for her to be cared for at a Nursing Home where she died on 6 April 1879. She was cremated at Centennial Park Cemetery.

[[127

MARTHA PETERS (NEE BOLT)

Martha Peters (nee Bolt), the seventh child of Mary Ann (nee Dunn) and Richard Bolt was Martha who was born on 24 December 1865, at Harrogate, South Australia. The family moved to Pompoota, near Mannum and Martha would have been of great assistance to her mother, at that time. She would have been trained in domestic skills, and tasks such as milking cows, tending poultry and general farmyard duties.

On 9 July 1890, Martha married Frederick Herman Peters after which they lived at Haywoods Hill, their house being in the picturesque Rhine Valley., near Black Hill. Frederick Peters with his brother Ernst had travelled from their parents' Freeling property en route to Nildottie seeking farming land. On reaching Haywood's Hill, the men decided to stay there overnight since their horses were weary from the journey. The men were so impressed with the area that they acquired property and farmed there successfully for many years.

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Some years after Frederick's death on 15 May 1919 at the age of fifty four years, Martha sold the property and bought a mixed farm on the Purnong Road approximately one and a half miles from Mannum. For fifteen years, Martha, with her family conducted a milk round in the Mannum area delivering milk twice daily. As well, they tended a large garden, cut hay and carted it for the stock.

Martha affectionately known as "Gran", and also as Auntie Mat by her many nieces and nephews, remained in the Mannum area until 1950. When she moved to Adelaide and lived at 22 Thames St., Clarence Park. Following a short illness after a fall, Martha died on 10 August, 1961 at the grand age of ninety six years. Both Martha and Fred were buried in the Mannum cemetery. They were survived by their children Sydney and Florence (Harrison).

[[1271

SYDNEY ALAN PETERS

Sydney Alan Peters (Syd.) who was born on 21 June, 1901 was the elder of Martha (nee Bolt) and Frederick Herman Peter's two children. It is assumed that Sydney worked on his parents' property at Haywoods Hill, his father having died when Sydney was almost eighteen years of age.

Doris Marshall, a school teacher who taught at country schools (including Punthari, Sheoak Log and Haywoods Hill), boarded with Martha Peters and it was there that she met Sydney Peters whom she later married.

When the Haywoods Hill property was sold, Sydney and Doris moved with his mother to a mixed farm near Mannum. They conducted a milk round delivering milk twice daily in the Mannum area, for approximately fifteen years.

Unfortunately, Doris became ill with tuberculosis (T.B.) - a highly contagious disease rampant during those years - and was hospitalized for some time, spent her final years with her mother at Naracoorte where she died and was buried.

Syd and his second wife, Roma Minnie White were married at Maughan Church, Adelaide on 3 April, 1937. For two and a half years after their marriage, Syd and Roma lived in Mannum where they had a milk run. In 1940, they moved to St. Peters where Syd found work as a "brickies" labourer. They moved to Clarence Park in 1958. There were three children of the marriage - Barbara, Beverley and Ruth. Syd and Roma also cared for Syd's physically handicapped cousin, Nora Preiss.

Sadly, Syd fell victim to Alzheimer's Disease and died in a Nursing Home on 3 April 1989 - the 52nd anniversary of his marriage to Roma. He was buried at Centennial Park Cemetery.

[[128

ALBERT RICHARD BOLT

Richard's and Mary Ann's eighth child, Albert Richard, was born on 14 November 1867. Albert followed in the footsteps of his older brothers who became farmers and horsemen. It is possible that he remained with his father and helped him on the property until he purchased his own property, Section 63 in the Hundred of Ridley.

In 1888, Albert Richard was employed by the District Council of Caurnamont from which he resigned his position as Pound Keeper on 25 May 1888, presumably because he was suffering ill health. He made his last will and testament on 16 February, 1891 leaving his estate to his mother. Albert Richard died eight days later in Miss Tibbett's Hospital, Wakefield Street, Adelaide and was interred in West Terrace Cemetery.

The inscription on his tombstone reads:

In Loving Memory

of

A.R. Bolt

the 4th beloved son of

R & M Bolt of Mannum

who died at Miss Tibbett's

Hospital, Wakefield St.,

25 February, 1891.

Aged 23 years.

Mourned by a large circle of

friends.

[[129

ALFRED THOMAS BOLT

Richard's and Mary Ann's ninth child, Alfred Thomas (Alf) was born at Mount Torrens on 18 April 1870. His life followed the same pattern as his older brothers - they were born into a family whose heritage was farming and so Alf pursued that lifestyle.

Alfred Thomas and his brother Allan Christopher (Kit) farmed Section 56, Hundred of Ridley during the early to mid 1890's. Following the death of their brother, Albert Richard on 25 February 1891, Alf farmed his property, Section 63 which had been left to his mother. The nearby hill on the property was known locally, for many years as Bolt's Hill. However, it is presently referred to as Peters Hill.

When he married, he took his bride, the former Louise wilhelmina Peters, to his farm at Haywood's Hill. In 1908, Alf bought a property at Pampoota where his parents lived and spent some time preparing the house, a pine and pug dwelling comprising two bedrooms and a large kitchen. However, Louise was "bitterly disappointed" when she saw her home. In later years, a stone house was built.

Myrtle May, their only child, was born on 2 June, 1901 and was a great support to both of her parents before and after her marriage. Because Louise suffered poor health, Myrtle was responsible for many of the house-keeping chores.

Alf farmed his property alone and ran cattle before the barrages were built, (the advent of the barrages at Goolwa caused the swamps along the river to be flooded rendering them useless for grazing). Apart from his work Alf enjoyed fishing and spending time with his family. Although he bought a car, he did not drive it - Myrtle was the family's chauffeur. Louise died on 27 August, 1933 and was interred in the Mannum cemetery. Alf died on 12 April 1940, and is interred beside his wife.

[[1291

MYRTLE BOLT, the only child of Thomas Alfred and Louise wilhelmine (nee Peters) Bolt was born at her grandmother Peters' farm, near Freeling on 2 June, 1901. She was christened at Nairne when she was three weeks old. The family lived between Haywood Hill and Black Hill until 1908 when they moved to Pampoota. Myrtle was very fond of her pet cat, "Pussy" - he loved to sleep on her feet at night. "Pussy" went with them to Pampoota but, despite the river crossing, found his way back to Black Hill - friends found the cat but, unfortunately it died before Myrtle saw it again.

Being an only child, Myrtle spent many hours alone and consequently "made her own fun". Her father made a billy goat cart for her and she rode in it with the goat pulling it along. "It was pretty rough", recalled Myrtle, but she did not

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mind because it was such fun. She spent hours riding her half-Shetland/half-Timor pony, "Dodger" and when she was older, "Vanity". She often rode into the paddocks to look for the cows or brought them in for water - her pony was her greatest pleasure - she was never lonely when riding. Another of her pastimes was walking on stilts. When she was older, she used to row across the river to visit friends at Mypolonga. Myrtle's school days were spent at the Burdett one-teacher school and she has happy memories of those days when the children played games such as Rounders, Hopscotch and Skipping.

Each week, the family travelled by wagon to Mannum, the business centre, to purchase supplies. Myrtle often drove there alone in the sulky. As well, supplies were bought on the "Pyap" when it tied up at Dickson's Landing each week.

With school days behind her, Myrtle assisted her mother at home taking over many domestic duties as well as milking cows which she learnt at the age of five. Because of her mother's poor health, Mrs. Andrew Dunne an aboriginal neighbour, was employed to do the washing. Myrtle remembers how well she worked, "and the washing was as white as snow". Mr. Dunne was a fisherman and rabbitier. Myrtle has fond memories of her youth - hers was a happy, loving family.

During 1924 car dealers were constantly hassling her father to purchase a motor car but he was quite adamant that he would do so only if they taught Myrtle to drive - they did and so Alfred bought a Chrysler from P.K. Morris, Murray Bridge. Myrtle became the family's chauffeur often driving into Mannum and Murray Bridge.

It was during a Sunday visit to the Crook's family that Myrtle met Ed Thiele. They began attending concerts and pictures together, "because Ed had a motor-bike and side-car", quipped Myrtle. They enjoyed each other's company before becoming engaged two years before their marriage.

Edmund Bernard Thiele, the elder of two children was born in the homestead on the Hillview farm of his parents Winnie and Frederick Arnold Thiele. Ed attended Pallamana School after which he worked on his father's farm. He relaxed after the week's toil by competing in Rifle shooting for which he won trophies. His father bought him an Indian Head motor bike and that was used for driving sheep and going to Murray Bridge. He later owned a Harley Davidson with a side car. Ed was a valued member of the Murray Bridge Cycle Club for six years.

On 7 February 1931, Ed and Myrtle were married in Christ Church Lutheran, Murray Bridge by Pastor John Dohler. The bride and groom travelled to the church together by car. Ella Thiele (Ed's sister) and Bertha Peters were Myrtle's attendants with Mavis Trotter and Jean Thomas - flower girls. Ed's attendants were Arnold Bretlag and Les Peters. There was no reception. However, they spent their honeymoon travelling along the Coorong in Grandfather Thiele's Ford car - camping in a tent.

After the honeymoon, they lived with Myrtle's parents at Pampoota since neither enjoyed good health. Ed managed both the Pampoota and Pallamana properties, while Myrtle was busy with household chores and milking cows. The Farmers' Union "milk boats" collected the cans of milk twice daily at that time and settlers often travelled in to Murray Bridge for the day and returned on the afternoon boat. Ed and Myrtle continued to live with her parents until they died (Louise in 1933 and Alfred in 1940) after which they moved to Rocky Gully, where Ed was share-farming with Norm Thiele.

The Pampoota property was managed by the Rawlins family. In later years, Colin and Graham (Ed's and Myrtle's sons) managed both properties. The Pallamana farm was sold when there was a possibility that Monarto City would eventuate. Colin moved to Meadows while Graham continued to work the Pampoota farm. After their retirement, Ed and Myrtle lived with Graham and his wife Jan.

Ed died on 20 November 1992 and was interred in the Murray Bridge cemetery. Myrtle now in her ninety third year, lives at Rest Haven, Murray Bridge.

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ALLEN CHRISTOPHER (KIT) BOLT, the tenth child of Mary Ann (nee Dunn) and Richard Bolt, was born on 28 May, 1872. He was the grandson of the late Mr. George Dunn, founder of Mount Torrens. During the early 1890's, Kit farmed Section 56, Hundred of Ridley, with his brother Alfred Thomas.

Late in the nineteenth century, he and his brother Jack, took up land in the Hundred of Murtho area where they were farmers. Kit joined the Imperial S.A. Bushmen's troop, 4th Contingent which departed Adelaide on 1 May 1900, aboard the 'S.S. Manhattan' bound for South Africa where the Boer War was fought from 1899-1902. He was held in high esteem in the community and, it was recorded in the newspaper that "there was no more fearless rider and no better type of bushman in the Commonwealth, than Kit Bolt". He injured his leg badly while chasing cattle but that did not deter him from saving a boy's life in the high river of 1909 by jumping from the punt in mid stream, fully clothed at the time of the punt accident. In recognition of that heroic action, Kit was presented with a gold watch by the residents of Renmark and was awarded a medal by the royal Humane Society. He had, on more than one occasion, risked his own life to save others.

In his 45th year, Kit Bolt enlisted in the A.I.F. and became a member of the 3rd Light Horse Regiment during world war 1.

The Anzac Mounted Corps captured Rafa, Palestine on 9 January, 1917. Trooper Kit Bolt, Army, No 27, Unit C died on that date.

An article in the local newspaper, "The Pioneer", paid tribute to him: "Kit Bolt will be mourned by a large circle of friends for many a day" - "A beautiful rider and shot and absolutely fearless".

[[12B

EDITH ANNIE (BOLT) LAHNE

Edith Annie Bolt, the eleventh child of Mary Ann (nee Dunn) and Richard Bolt, was born on 22 September 1875. Being the youngest girl of a family of twelve children, Edith no doubt worked extremely hard helping her mother with household tasks and assisting with farm yard chores.

On 1 February 1907, Edith married Johann Frederick Lahne (born on 10 February 1876) at St. Pauls Anglican Church, Pulteney Street, Adelaide. After their marriage, Johann and Edith lived on a small farm in Mannum. They owned land extending from Berryman Ave., (Mannum) to the BP Roadhouse - including Murray Park - and kept cows, pigs and poultry. Johann bought a carrying business (wagon and horse team) and carried goods between Adelaide and Mannum. After he sold that business, Johann worked as an overseer for the Mannum District Council after which he bought a farm three miles along the Adelaide Road.

Johann died on 21 March, 1939 and was buried in the Mannum cemetery. After his death, Edith sold the farm and lived in the house which they had built, when first married. Part of the land was sold to the Housing Trust of South Australia and it was there that the first "Trust Homes" were built in Mannum.

There were three children of the marriage, Norman Ernest, Ivy Edith and Linda May.

Edith died on 12 February 1954 and was interred in the Mannum cemetery.

[[12B1

NORMAN ERNEST LAHNE

Norman Ernest Lahne, the eldest child of Edith Annie (nee Bolt) and Johann Frederick Lahne was born on

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26 October 1908 at Mannum. He attended the Mannum Primary School until he was

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fourteen after which he was employed at Campbell's mixed grocery/drapery store, Mannum. He travelled in a hawker's van along the river area and as far as Claypans, Copeville, and Perponda displaying and selling goods in those remote areas; he bought eggs from the farmers on his monthly visits.

On 20 June 1930, Norm married Aileen Isobel Reschke at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Adelaide.

During the war years (1939-1945), Norm worked at the munitions factory at Woodville. Many men and women unable to join the Forces, were employed in the manufacture of Military weapons, ammunition, equipment and stores required by members of the services. After the war, he worked as a driver, for the Metropolitan Tramways Trust and drove their double decker buses along the route to Port Adelaide.

Aileen died on 2 October, 1966 and was buried at Mannum. Norm died in 1988 aged seventy nine years. They are survived by their son, Barry.

[[12B2

Ivy Edith LAHNE, the second child of Johann Frederick and Edith Annie (nee Bolt) Lahne, was born on 21 October, 1911 and died on 23 March, 1912. The cause of her death is unknown. Ivy was interred in the Mannum Cemetery.

[[12B3

LINDA MAY LAHNE

Linda May Lahne, the third child of Edith Annie (nee Bolt) and Johann Frederick Lahne was born on 22 May 1913. She began her education at the 'old' Mannum Primary School and after one year there, transferred to the new school in Walker Avenue where she completed her education the Upper Primary.

During her school years, May worked extremely hard at home. Each morning, she and her mother rose at 5.00a.m. and drove in the buggy to their farm three miles away and milked twenty cows - drove home, ate her breakfast and set off for school. After school, the milking was repeated. May commented, "Do you wonder I always vowed I would never marry anyone who kept cows!"

She was fourteen when she left school and commenced work at Campbell and Mayer, a mixed grocery/drapery store. May first met her future husband, Erskine (Joe) Lockhart Randell at school. Joe who was born on 27 July, 1908 was a friend of May's brother, Norm. Joe began his working life at B. Walker and Sons, flour millers. For the first year, he was on probation after which he began a ten year apprenticeship which qualified him as a shift miller working 24 hours "shift work". After twenty seven years at Walkers, Joe left and worked for twenty five years at Horwood Bagshaw where he became a fitter.

May and Joe were married in St. Andrew's Church, Mannum on 28 September 1935. They have two daughters, Dawn and Pamela and six grandchildren.

Both May and Joe attend Senior Citizens meetings of which May was secretary for three years - Joe sings in the Senior Citizens' Choir. May attends C.W.A. meetings and has enjoyed handicrafts. She attended embroidery classes at the College of Further Education and gained second place in the state for her work, part of which was a beautiful firescreen worked in single strand embroidery thread.

May & Joe live in retirement in Mannum where they have lived all of their lives.

[[12C

RICHARD ARTHUR BOLT, the twelfth (and youngest) child of Richard and Mary Ann Bolt, was born on 5 September, 1878 at Mannum. Unfortunately, little information has been recorded about Richard but it is known that he married Johanna Christina (Anna) Kuchel who was the second of six children born to her father's second wife, the former Louisa Traeger.

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Anna who was born on 25 May 1879 was baptised in St. John's Lutheran Church, Dutton on 20 July, 1879 by Pastor E.D. Appelt. It is likely that her parents were living at The Tablelands near Neale's Flat. Anna was known to be an excellent horsewoman.

Richard and Anna lived at Burdett and while there, cared for a child (Oscar Peterson) who attended the Burdett School from 1912-1916.

Both Richard and his brother John (Jack) moved to a property near Renmark and there they established a cattle and horse dealing business. Richard trained race horses and raced them at country meetings where he met with some success.

After their retirement Richard and Anna lived at Renmark. There were no children of the marriage but there was a foster daughter, Wanda Henningson.

Richard died at Renmark on 29 March, 1951, aged 72 years. His remains were transferred to the home of his niece, Mrs J. Randall, Mannum from whence he was buried in the Mannum Cemetery. Anna who died at 90 Picasant Ave., Plympton, on 14 March, 1958 aged 78 years. She was interred in the Mannum Cemetery beside her husband.

[[13
JOHN BOLT

Born 12 April 1835

Died 30 October 1877

John Bolt was born in Devon, England, the third child of Christopher Dart and Nancy (Ann) Bolt and baptised in All Hallow's Church, Broadwoodkelly, Devon on 3 May, 1835. He emigrated to Australia with his family when he was twelve years of age, arriving at Port Adelaide on 3 May 1847. It is believed that his first job was that of ostler somewhere in Divett Place which was behind the Supreme Courts in the city of Adelaide. Both John and his brother, Christopher, were working in the Mannum area in 1852. They were employed by the Hon. John Baker who owned Lake Albert Station, near Wellington to drove 11000 head of cattle to Angipina, East of Copley in the Far North of South Australia.

During the Victorian Gold Rush of the 1850's, John, accompanied by Mr. Gregory Rowe of Mannum, took a wagon, drawn by bullocks and laden with bacon and cheese, to the gold fields. There, they succeeded in selling their wares - and the wagon and team! In the early 1870's, John tried his luck again - this time at the Snowy River gold fields but without his previous success.

When Christopher moved to Garra, near Lameroo, early in 1875, John succeeded him as manager of Granite Rocks Station which was owned by the Hon. John Baker. It is known that John died on 30 October 1877 aged 42 years at either Mannum or Tungkillo after suffering sun-stroke and paralysis. However, story has it, that he fell from the balcony of the hotel.

John was buried at Mount Torrens beside his father Christopher.

[[14
CHRISTOPHER (KIT) BOLT

Christopher Bolt, the fourth child of Christopher Dart & Nancy (Ann) Bolt was born in Devon, England on 8 March 1837. He was baptised on 19 March, 1837 at BroadwoodKelly, Devon where his parents and grand-parents lived.

Because of social conditions in England during the nineteenth century, Christopher and Nancy and their five children (Elizabeth weeks; Richard, John; Christopher and Ann) emigrated to Australia. They departed Plymouth Sound in January, 1847 and sailed via London on the barque "Theresa arriving at Port Adelaide on 3 May, 1847 after an arduous journey.

Christopher (Kit) who received very little education, was required at the age of

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ten, to tend his father's cows in the parklands, near the River Torrens. When extra milk was needed, Kit either rode a large black billy goat or drove a pair of goats, in a specially constructed cart, to Unley for supplies. At the age of eleven, Kit was sent to work for Mr. Johann Martin of Unley for a few shillings a week and his board. He propelled a wheel-less single-furrow plough. It was during that time that he saw his first reaper, an implement driven by two horses controlled by a man who walked alongside holding the reins.

In approximately 1850, Christopher (Sen.) moved to a property within a half a mile of Mount Torrens and it was there that Kit learnt farming practices from his father.

Kit saw the River Murray for the first time in 1852 when he went to work at Caloote Station, near Mannum, mustering sheep for Mr. George Dunn. Kit's experiences were many and varied in the virgin bush; he often travelled hundreds of miles for work, mainly with sheep. At the age of twenty when he was shearing sheep at Booborowie (an Aboriginal name meaning "round waterhole") a pastoral run near Burra, Kit recalled that Dr. Browne, the owner summoned the shearers together and warned them of "instant dismissal" if they interfered with the rabbits on the property!

In 1862, Kit and his brother, John, drove a herd of cattle (said to have been eleven thousand!) owned by the Hon. John Baker from Lake Albert, near Wellington to Angipina in the Far North. In his stories of times past, Kit remembered that in 1868/69, the Hon. John Baker lost 1400 head of stock because of drought. On another occasion, during the drought, he lost two thousand sheep (part of a flock being moved from the drought-stricken north to the river pastures). The sheep, without water for several days, stampeded when they scented the water as they neared the river and rampaged through a shepherd's hut nearby, maiming and suffocating each other.

Kit Bolt's earliest memories of Mannum were a one-roomed pine and pug shack which was located at the end of the main street close to where the boiler of the steamer "Mary Ann" is housed. The shack was occupied by a Mr. Edmund Rowe whose son, Godfrey, accompanied Kit's brother John, to the Goldfields. Nearby lived an old sailor, Mr. William Beck, who grazed about a hundred cattle on the site of Port Mannum. Mr. Beck secured the services of a Mrs. Baseby and her family to assist with the work but died soon afterwards leaving his estate to her. Shortly afterwards, the Government acquired part of the property which became the township of Mannum.

During 1871/72, Christopher (Kit) Bolt managed Purnong Landing Station (the site of the present township) for Mr. Henry Scott. Christopher wished to marry and, because there was no house available at Purnong Landing Station, he established Granite Rocks Station for the Hon. John Baker. The station was situated three miles above Mannum - along the river near the site of the Government quarry from whence granite rock was taken by river steamer to build the river locks in later years.

It was there that Christopher built a house and farm buildings and where he took his eighteen-year old bride (Mary Ann Finn, of Keyneton) after their marriage at Woodside on 19 January, 1873. Mary Ann Finn was the second daughter of seven children born to Elizabeth (nee King) and Robert Finn. There were three children (two boys and a girl) from Elizabeth's previous marriage to Eliza Topsfield. Mary Ann's father, Robert Finn, was a shepherd who worked on stations along the Murray Flats. At the time of his death in 1869, he was employed at King's Old Station which was situated along the Rhine River valley. Robert's brother, Stephen G. Finn, held the lease of Purnong Landing Station before Christopher Bolt became manager there, in the early 1870's.

It is possible that Christopher met his future bride through his association with her Uncle Stephen.

Two of Mary Ann's and Christopher's children (Mary Ann Elizabeth) and John Robert) were born during their time at Granite Rocks.

The station was stocked with four hundred head of cattle and three thousand sheep. While Kit was managing Granite Rocks Station, a large number of cattle,

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brought from Melbourne, strayed. Kit, with the help of an aboriginal boy and a band of bushmen, followed their trail to Blanchetown and from there, north-east into the scrub. Deciding to make camp for the night, the party came upon a clearing only to find a corroboree in progress.

They withdrew hastily to the residence of Mr. James Tressle, manager of Cobdogla Station on the banks of Lake Bonney near the present Lock 3. (We must assume that the river level was low and so they crossed without difficulty). Kit and James Tressle had known each other when the latter managed Curnamont Station.

Presumably, Mrs Isabella Baker (wife of the late Hon. John Baker who died 18 May, 1872), persuaded Kit to undertake the managership of her newly acquired properties in the Eastern portion of the state. And so in 1875, Kit relinquished his position at "Granite Rocks Station" (his brother John succeeded him there) and, with Mary Ann (Polly) and their two children (MaryAnn almost two years of age) and John Robert (approximately three months old) moved to Wow Wow Plains (Now known as Lameroo) to manage Garra Station. The station property totalled 831 square miles in ten separate leases. After nine months at Wow Wow, the well collapsed necessitating withdrawal fifteen miles (approximately 26 km) south-west to Garra Well or Gnararawoorra (an aboriginal name meaning clay ground/land) which lies in the corner of leases 2478A, 2097 and 1881. (Christopher shortened the name to Garra).

Although the area had been settled previously, colonists had been forced to leave because of the ravages of dingoes and the high cost of freight on implements and food. During his ten years at Garra, Christopher fenced most of the property. Mr. John Hunt of Cooke Plains transported supplies and fencing materials to Garra from Tailem Bend - a seventy miles journey which took three days by horse-drawn wagon - at a cost of eight pounds (\$16.00) per ton.

Kit and a few reliable bushmen, with the aid of a compass were among the first pioneers to travel sheep through the dense scrub between Pinnaroo and Loxton's Hut (now Loxton) - 5000 sheep were driven through in ten days without loss!

While he was manager of Garra Station, Kit cultivated some land at Garra well to grow horse feed. He grew three or four crops of approximately twenty acres and averaged fifteen hundred weight of hay to the acre. Mr. Bolt did not cultivate land at Wow Wow while that was the centre of operations. He wanted to cultivate this land, but was forbidden to do so by the owner who knew that the land there would grow good crops and that if this were known farmers would want to take over the land. The Bakers preferred to grow what was needed at other stations he owned and cart it out to Garra (excerpt from "Lameroo and District History" by Alan Jones). It had been a policy of the late Mr. John Baker, to discourage farming practices.

During that time the station stock consisted of approximately 24000 sheep. In 1885, there was a rabbit plague and the dingo problem worsened - boundary riders reported that upwards of forty sheep a night were killed by the marauders and the rabbit problem became intolerable! In twelve months, Christopher's flock was depleted by 8000. Little wonder that, with the responsibilities of his position and the stress of coping with additional burdens, Christopher resigned. He and Mary Ann and their children (now increased in number to six), once again faced a long and tedious journey back to the river area where they settled on their own property - section 74, Scrubby Flat in the Hundred of Forster (in 1892 Christopher apportioned section 74c to the Curnamont District Council for use as a cemetery).

He also acquired sections 60/1 and 66/8. It was on section 74 that Kit built a four-roomed wattle and daub house with hessian ceilings which were white-washed (a preparation of lime and water). In later years, a breeze-way separated an additional two stone rooms with the front verandah on the boundary of the Crown Land over-looking the River Murray. A dairy was built into the cliff face. Mary Ann would have used the breeze-way for washing and cooking on an open fire, (later a wood fire was installed in the kitchen.)

Their three youngest children, Phoebe, George (Murray) and Martha were born at Scrubby Flat. The River Murray was the life-line for the residents of Scrubby Flat. They relied on the paddle steamers for the delivery of goods, shopping,

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trading and taking produce to market and for travelling between towns along the river and to places beyond. Christopher took an active part in the local community being the councillor for the Hundred of Forster in the District Council of Caurnamont for twenty six years (three of them as Chairman). He laid the Foundation stone of the Forster Hall on 14 October, 1914. The eradication of rabbits (vermin) and road building were among the many agendas which he addressed. As a councillor, he petitioned the Government against building locks across the Murray giving a list of reasons to support this theory that they would cause salinity in later years. He was a principal witness before the Railway Commission during debate concerning a railway line to Pinnaroo.

Mary Ann who had suffered crippling arthritis, died on 25 November, 1914 at Exmouth Rd., Exeter, the home of her sister, Phoebe Bremner (nee Finn). Christopher's youngest daughter, Martha, continued to keep house for her father and his youngest son, George (Murray) until her marriage in 1918 when his daughter, Phoebe undertook that duty.

Christopher rode a horse until he was eighty five years of age. He suffered impaired vision when an accident with a nail robbed him of the sight of one eye and a cataract blurred the vision of the other eye.

He accepted the rigours of his austere life and even in retirement, scorned "new fangled ideas" such as the motor car which he dismissed as unnecessary and was heard to remark that the tyres "should be stuffed with horsehair". He was most annoyed when his son Ab. built a bathroom onto his own house and proclaimed that a seat on farming implements would make men less "manly". In later years, he was given a "wireless" for his birthday and was known to remark that there would be no rain because of too much electricity in the air.

In 1922, when he was eighty five, the family arranged a birthday party for Kit - all of his descendants gathered at Scrubby Flat to celebrate the grand old man's birthday. There was always plum pudding and apple pie with rivalry among the older boys about who could eat the most serves or drink the most cups of tea! The parties were held annually.

In 1926, George (Murray) who was working the farm, married and his wife, Grace, tended the old gentleman until his death. Many people had recollections of Christopher sitting on a bench under the kitchen window, passing the time by telling stories of his life to his friends and relatives.

Anecdotes concerning Christopher abound. The following two are worth recording:-

"The story is told that, sometime prior to his death, Christopher made his own coffin. Unfortunately that created a problem on the day of his funeral - the coffin was too large for the grave! At the conclusion of the service by the Reverend Bond, the grave was widened and the coffin lowered."

"Unable to swim, Christopher devised a way of "fording" the river. He hung on to his horse's tail and was thus "ferried across!"."

On 14 December, 1928, at the age of ninety one years and nine months, Christopher (Kit) Bolt, one of the oldest pioneers of the Murray (having settled at Mannum in 1852), died. He was interred in the Bowhill cemetery - a truly remarkable man.

[[141

MARY ANN ELIZABETH BOLT

Mary Ann Elizabeth Bolt, the eldest child of Christopher and Mary Ann (Polly) Bolt was born on the 16 April 1873 at the Granite Rocks, three miles east of Mannum. At that time Christopher was manager of the Granite Rocks Station for the Hon. John Baker.

When Mary Ann was two years old, her parents left Granite Rocks and moved to a

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newly established station at Garra near Lameroo. It was at the Garra Station that she received most of her education from a private tutor employed by the station owners. When her parents moved to Scrubby Flat in 1885, Mary Ann completed her schooling after which, being the eldest child, she was required to help her mother at home with domestic duties and tending the younger children. When her mother's health deteriorated, more demands were placed on her.

At the age of eighteen, Mary Ann met and courted Francis (Frank) Johns a very tall, thin farmer who was ten years older and who lived six miles further east. Because of her commitments at home, the courtship continued for seven years by which time Mary Ann's younger sister, Nancy, was old enough to replace her at home and she and Frank Johns were able to marry.

Their wedding took place at Mary Ann's home at Scrubby Flat. The Rev William J. Bussell officiated at the ceremony on the morning of 24 March 1898. The attendants were Frank Johns's sister Elizabeth and her husband Thomas James Coon of Forster - their wedding had taken place on the previous evening, (23 March).

Francis Johns was the fifth son born to John and Jane Johns a Cornish family who emigrated to South Australia early in 1852. Francis was born at Long Gully near Angaston on 14 October 1863. When he was nine years old, his family moved to Section 804 in the Hundred of Alma. (That district was known as Lower Alma) a few miles from Hamley Bridge, where his family spent the next fourteen years. On leaving school, Frank worked at home with his younger brother Joseph.

To gain extra income, Frank had purchased a heavy horse stallion, which he took around the district - sometimes travelling as far away as Two Wells. He was often away from home for as long as two weeks at a time.

In 1886 Frank, with his parents, younger brother Joe and sisters Alice and Elizabeth moved to a property Sections 50, 58, 59 in the Hundred of Forster. The next few years were spent clearing their land which was covered in dense native pine. The pine logs were used to build a three-roomed pug and pine house. Frank and Joe slept in a shack which they built opposite the property.

Before his marriage, Frank built a two-roomed pug and pine dwelling approximately ten chains west of his parents' home. This was where Frank and Mary Ann spent the first six or seven years of their marriage. After Frank's mother (Jane) died in 1903, Frank and Mary Ann moved into his parents' larger house where another room had been added and Mary Ann was able to care for her ageing father-in-law.

Mary Ann's and Frank's first child, a son, was stillborn. Mary Ann always rode her horse side-saddle and had a habit of jumping off the horse. While in an advanced stage of pregnancy, she jumped off her horse and landed heavily on the ground causing her to lose her baby. A few years later, on 19 July 1907, Mary Ann and Frank were blessed by the birth of a daughter Mary Elizabeth Jane. Mary Ann was assisted at the birth by a close neighbour, Mrs. Read. Four years later, on 6 March, 1912, Alice Ann was born. Mrs. Whitfield assisted at the birth - both girls were born at home.

Frank and his brother, Joe, worked in partnership for many years until Joe's son was old enough to work. Frank bought his brother's share of the property to allow Joe to purchase an adjoining farm.

Frank and Mary Ann, with the help of their two daughters, Jane and Alice, farmed their property successfully for many years. Their five-horse team was able to handle all of their implements. Wheat was carted to Purnong Landing - a distance of three miles and stacked on the bank of the river for loading on to riverboats. Like most pioneer women, Mary Ann made their own butter, bread and occasionally soap.

Daughters Jane and Alice attended school in the old building on the hill at Purnong Landing. Later, Alice attended the new school in the township of Purnong and because of the extra distance, her father bought her a pony to ride.

Most of the family's shopping was done on the river steamer "Pyap" which usually called into Scrubby Flat on the Friday of each week. The "Pyap" was a trading

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steamer owned by Eudunda Farmers Co-op, who purchased in return, eggs and butter from the local farmers. The eggs for which Mary Ann received two-pence or three-pence a dozen, were carried in boxes filled with cocky-chaff. With a hundred sheep, a few cows and the fowls for added income, they were kept busy.

Once, when Mary Ann was down near the "Pyap" her horse, which had a habit of "backing up" backed the buggy into the side of the "Pyap". Mary Ann was very upset for several days afterwards because she realised that, but for the "Pyap", the buggy would have gone into the river.

Frank, in his ageing years, developed a sore on his lip causing him great pain over a long period. He had the sore removed and travelled to Adelaide for treatment every three months. Mary Ann was worried about his health and it was thought that her concern for her husband's condition, caused her own health to deteriorate. She suffered diabetes and blood pressure and was kept on a strict diet. In October 1934, when her condition worsened, Mary Ann was admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital where she remained until her death. At the time of her death, on 17 February 1935, she was suffering from Shingles and Gastroenteritis and weighed only seven stone. Following a service in their home, her remains were interred in the Bowhill cemetery. Frank, at the time of Mary's death, was in the Mannum Hospital suffering from Bright's Disease and Dropsy. Five weeks later, on 28 March 1935, he passed away and was buried beside his wife at Bowhill.

Albert Schubert, whom Frank had employed to work the farm and who later married Frank's daughter, Jane, continued working the farm after Franks' death.

[[1411

Mary Elizabeth Jane JOHNS

Mary Elizabeth Jane Johns was born at the home of her parents Francis and Mary Ann (nee Bolt) Johns on the 19 July 1907. Mary Ann was assisted at the birth by a close neighbour Mrs Read.

Jane as she was known, grew up in the quiet rural surroundings of their home with her parents, sister Alice and grandfather Johns.

In 1913, Jane attended the old Purnong school which meant a walk of two miles. She also attended Sunday School at Purnong Landing in Mr. Reuben Tyler's Church (The Plymouth Bretheran), and went to their Sunday school picnics.

As Jane grew older, and with no boys to help her father, Jane assisted with jobs such as stooking and carting hay, picking stumps, feeding horses and cows. When her father's health deteriorated, he employed Albert Schubert to work the farm. Albert continued to help Jane and Alice after Frank's death.

On 4 December 1947, Jane married Albert at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Nildottie. Pastor W. Juers officiated at the marriage. Alice, Jane's sister, was Matron of Honour with Otto Bormann, Best Man.

Jane and Albert with Alice and her husband Rudy Bormann, worked in partnership for a few years increasing the size of their farm with the purchase of an adjoining property through Marginal Lands. In 1950 they sold their properties and Jane and Albert moved to 5 Lexia Street, Berri. (The journey from Forster to Berri took six hours). Albert obtained work on fruit blocks. Later he worked at Wood Sons packing shed and worked as a builder.

Albert died on the way to hospital following a heart attack on the 16 July 1968. He was buried in the Berri cemetery.

Jane resides in St. Catherine's Nursing Home at Berri.

[[1412

ALICE ANN JOHNS - 6 March 1912

Alice Ann Johns was born on 6 March 1912, the second surviving child of Francis

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and Mary Ann Johns. The birth was in the family home where her mother had the assistance of Mrs. Whitfield Senior.

Alice, like her sister Jane, grew up in the Forster district. Her education began in the old Purnong School in 1917. A teacher Miss Amy Allanson requested that the school be moved to a stone building at the rear of William Tyler's residence until the Purnong District Hall was built, and so Alice's final year of education was in the new school - "The District Hall". Because of the extra distance to travel, Alice's father purchased a pony (Dolly) for her to ride.

On leaving school, Alice assisted her mother with the house-hold chores, milked cows and tended the fowls. Outdoor farm work was not unknown to Alice; she assisted her father in many ways - from picking stumps and clearing land to stooking and carting hay and feeding horses.

Alice and her sister, Jane, started a garden in a hollow near their well. There, they grew vegetables and fruit. Unfortunately, a heavy torrent of rain caused flooding in the area and rendered useless their well and a number of others nearby (including that of Uncle Murray Bolt).

Family outings were restricted to going to church and visiting relatives around the area. Alice purchased a tennis racquet for ten shillings (\$1.00) from Mr. Bill Schreiber, the local mechanic/blacksmith much to the annoyance of her father. She joined the Purnong Tennis Club, and became one of its regular players. Alice found great enjoyment in the sport and continued to play in the Riverland where she won a number of trophies.

Following the death of her parents, Alice, with the assistance of her sister Jane, managed the farm. The 'girls' retain many of their parents' treasured items, among which are their father's three-pronged fork, a favourite chair and chiming clocks (to mention a few).

Alice and Rudolf (Rudy) Bormann courted for three years before their marriage on 12 July 1941 in St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Nildottie. Pastor Juers officiated at the ceremony. Rudy who was born at Millendella on 27 October, 1910 came to the Forster area in 1929 and lived on a small property near Bolt's landing. In 1950, when the families sold their property, Alice and Rudy moved to the Riverland where he found work grape picking for Lel Briggs at Barmera. Later, he found permanent employment with Mr. Neilson for whom he worked for seven years.

They purchased their own fruit block three quarters of a mile north of Monash, and worked it for fifteen years until their retirement when they purchased a home in Amy Street, Barmera. Rudy, suffering kidney failure, died on 28 February, 1985 and was interred in the Barmera Cemetery. Alice continues to live in retirement at Berri.

[[142

JOHN ROBERT BOLT

John Robert Bolt, the second child of Christopher and Mary Ann Bolt, was born near Mannum on 9 November 1874. His early childhood was spent at Garra Station, near Lameroo. When he was eleven years of age, the family moved to Scrubby Flat, Hundred of Forster. Little is known of John's adolescent years, but it is assumed that he worked on the farm with his father.

On 5 March, 1902, John married Elizabeth Jane (Lizzie) Johns of Forster (formerly of Hamley Bridge). The officiating minister was the Rev. J.A. Williams.

Lizzie and John settled on land at Bakara which John cleared of scrub. In 1909 the family moved to a farm a Forster formerly owned by the Retallick family. The scrub was rolled using a wooden roller which they made themselves from red river gums - up to four feet across. The log rolled along inside a frame when pulled by a team of horses. The boys' task was to "nick" the larger mallee to make the work easier for both the roller and the horses. Sometimes horses were injured as they walked over the rolled timber. It was tedious and gruelling

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work. The best timber, in the gullies, was left for cutting. John and his boys carted it to the river landing at Forster and sold it to the paddle steamer masters.

Sport was an important part of John's life. He was a keen cricketer and travelled far, to play.

In 1928, the Forster property was sold and the family moved to Angaston where John found work wood-cutting with Mr. Jack Zeinert - wood-cutting, at that time was quite lucrative since the wineries purchased it for their boilers.

John and Elizabeth were devoted parents to their seven children and earned their respect and love. The family was devastated when John Robert's life was brought to an untimely end by an accident at the saw mill where he was working. He died on 3 November 1944. Elizabeth (Lizzie) continued to live at Angaston until her death on 7 March 1952. She was buried at Angaston beside her beloved John Robert.

[[1421

ROBERT ARTHUR (CLEMENT) BOLT, the eldest child of John Robert and Elizabeth Jane Bolt was born on 29 April 1903 at Forster South Australia. He died on 21 March 1906 at Nildottie aged 2 years 11 months after suffering Bronchial pneumonia. He was interred in the Forster cemetery.

[[1422

BLANCHE VICTORIA MARIA BELL BOLT

Blanche Victoria Maria Bell Bolt, the second child of John Robert and Elizabeth Jane (Lizzie) Bolt (nee Johns) was born at Mannum on 22 April 1904. At that time the family lived at Bakara. When Blanche was six years of age, they moved to a property at Forster and Blanche attended the Forster school, which was held in the Rossaweller Church.

Like most country girls of that era, Blanche worked at home assisting with both domestic and farm chores until she left to work as a house-keeper at Loxton.

On 27 May 1927, Blanche married Paul Albert Rohrlach in the Forster Hall. Paul was the third child of Edward Paul Rohrlach and Emma Pauline (nee Schmidt). In 1928, when Blanche's parents moved to Angaston, Paul bought their property. Kevin, the eldest of their six children, was born at Mannum. By the time Kathleen, their second child was born, the family had moved to Angaston where they had bought a dairy from Ted Dohnt who had purchased their property at Forster. Work on the dairy meant long hours and hard work for both Paul and Blanche. Because Paul delivered milk twice a day in the town. Blanche, with more than enough work to keep her busy, found it unnecessary to leave home often - visits to her parents who lived near-by, were her only outings. She assisted Paul with all of the farm chores - even helping with the slaughtering - as well as keeping house and raising their children. Kevin remembers his mother as a hard worker who enjoyed few pleasures though she loved dancing.

The family car was used for the milk deliveries until the war years when it was necessary to use a horse-drawn milk cart. Paul, Blanche and their children milked the twenty five cows twice daily. Fresh cream was sold to their customers and bulk cream was sent to the factory. Blanche also dressed poultry and sold it locally, as well. She sold eggs to provide extra income during those lean years. One of her prized possessions was a preserving outfit which she used to preserve fruit.

Both Blanche and Paul were keen gardeners - their daughter, Kath remembers the flower garden - especially the beautiful roses and dahlias. Blanche enjoyed taking photos and used an early model Kodak camera.

In 1948, Paul and Blanche sold their Angaston property and moved to a farm at Gee Geela in the south-east. Life was easier for Blanche for the never ending drudgery of milking cows and feeding pigs, was gone but by then, Blanche's

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health was falling - the years of toil had taken their toll. Sadly, on 7 August 1957 at the age of 53 years, Blanche died at home. She was buried at Bordertown. Paul continued to live at Gee Geela until his death on 18 March 1972. He was buried at Bordertown.

[[1423

Anthony Christopher (Bob) Bolt

Anthony Christopher (Bob) Bolt the third of John Robert and Elizabeth Jane (Lizzie) Bolt's seven children was born on 22 July, 1909 at Forster. After he left school, he worked with his father on the family's Forster property, one of his tasks being to tend the Clydesdale horses. At one time, they owned fourteen Clydesdales and Bob used to prepare them for judging at Agricultural Shows; he also "broke in" Clydesdales for other farmers.

Bob, like his father was a keen sports-person and enjoyed playing football, tennis and cricket. He was known as kind-hearted and disliked arguments.

After the Forster property was sold and his family moved to Angaston, Bob worked on the construction of the Loxton to Berri road.

On 9 February 1909 Bob married Edith Eleanor Larritte, at Renmark where they lived and worked on a fruit block, with Edith's help. Bob continued his interest in Clydesdale horses, preparing and grooming them for the shows, The horses were harnessed to a sulky and driven around the show-ground for judging. They also continued to break-in horses.

Unfortunately, in 1945, their marriage of eighteen years, ended. Edith, unable to cope with five children, sought help with her family. Beryl, the eldest, went to work at Victor Harbor where she helped care for older people. Bill and Mervyn went to live with a family friend, "Lofty" Cheeseman, while Ron, aged five, and Pat, aged two years were sent to the Morialta Children's Home.

Bob, although very fond of his children, had little contact with them after the marriage ended.

During the next twenty years, Bob worked on a fruit block at Mannum and helped build a house there. Next, he worked for his friend "Lofty" Cheeseman at Eden Valley tending grape vines. The work involved the use of various sprays and it is believed that Bob suffered stomach ulcers as a result of inhaling toxic fumes over a long period. He died on 12 May 1965 aged almost 58 years, and is buried at Berri. Edith, aged 85 years lives at Angaston.

[[1424

HAROLD JOHN BOLT

Harold John Bolt, the fourth child of John Robert and Elizabeth Jane (Lizzie) Bolt, was born on 13 June 1909 at their Forster home. He attended the Forster school and walked there each day. On Sundays the family attended Rossaweller church at Forster travelling by horse and buggy. Harold recalled that "the poor old horse struggled up the sandhills" - the unmade road bore no resemblance to the present day metal road.

Rabbits were in plague proportions in the area when Harold was young and so, immediately after seeding, he and his brother, Bob, trapped rabbits and sold them to a carrier from Mannum - that was their pocket money. In those times of Depression, many people relied on rabbits for food as well as selling them to supplement their meagre income. Often the boys caught foxes and possums in their traps and even a goanna!

One incident which Harold remembered vividly, occurred when he was "eight or nine years old". He and his brother were on their way to their rabbit traps, when they were confronted by a "big old goanna in the sand". The boys chased it and after a long, hard run, they caught it - proudly, they told their father who was not impressed! He warned that had they "cornered" the goanna, it would have attacked them.

Another of Harold's anecdotes tells of the day when he and a group of boys and girls on their way home from school decided to collect magpies eggs. The boys climbed the tree while the girls waited below. They were astounded when they saw Policeman Brock from Swan Reach riding over the hill on his big white horse - towards THEM! The girls ran off to hide in the nearby bushes while the boys, believing Policeman Brock had not seen them, crouched silently in their tree - his booming voice shattered the silence as he shouted "You come down NOW and I'm going to cut you across the tail!" The boys nearly fell out of the tree with fright! True to his word, Policeman Brock punished them and threatened to report the incident to their parents. Unfortunately, for the hapless Bolt brothers, Policeman Brock was to stay overnight at their house; he stressed that THEY must report their prank first - they did - with dire results!

After he left school, Harold worked on the farm with his father until he was nineteen when the farm was sold and the family moved to Angaston to live. Harold found work with Doug Prosser, a local farmer who owned a property at Meribah. The two worked both properties travelling to and living at Meribah while they sowed the crop. Harold believes that Doug who bred his own horses, owned the best team at Forster. He was especially fond of a pony, "Cheeky" who was reared with a bottle because her mother had died. Cheeky learned to open gates and if she could not, she would "paw the ground!"

Even though those far-off days were 'tough', Harold remembers them wistfully. Everyone worked extremely hard but there were great times when they played cricket or tennis on Saturdays and afterwards, danced until 1am - 2 am, arriving home on horseback at sunrise! They paid "a bob" (shilling = 10c) to attend the dances. Mr. Albert Schmaal was the M.C. (Master of Ceremonies) and Mr. Dick Schmaal played the accordion.

In later years, Harold bought a property of 670 acres (268 hectares) at Eden Valley - there was "beautiful timber" on the property and so he decided to leave approximately 200 acres (80 hectares) standing, and cleared his property of the inferior timber. He grubbed the trees by digging around the base, first, to cut the roots and completed the task using a tree-puller after which the wood was cut and sold to the wineries. Harold also split posts which sold "at a very good price".

During his years on the Forster farm, Harold had been taught blade-shearing by his father and had earned 7/6 (75 cents) per hundred sheep. While at Eden Valley, he joined his friend Colin "Snip" Randall on a shearing venture at Murray Flats (in the Sedan area). The sheep were very sandy but, because they had signed a contract for "three or four sheds", they could not refuse to complete the job. consequently, the combs and cutters needed replacing frequently and they carried only enough money to pay for food!

A fencing contract which was a gruelling experience, yielded even less money. The ground was so hard that the post-hole digger was useless - they were forced to "bar the holes" (use a crowbar).

While living at Eden Valley, Harold met and married Melva Hilsenitz. For health reasons, Harold sold the Eden Valley property and purchased "a beautiful farm" at Truro. He and Melva and their three children, William, Melva and Robert lived there until 1981 when the family moved to a fruit block at Cadell.

Realizing that he was a farmer, not a gardener, Harold sold that block and purchased a house on three acres (1.2 hectares) of land where he runs some sheep. He enjoys his retirement and reminiscing about days gone by when, Harold believes, people were happier in their communities and families closer-knit.

[[1425

OLIVE BRIDGERT MAY BOLT

The fifth child of John Robert and Elizabeth Jane Bolt was Olive Bridgert May who was born on 23 March 1911 at Forster. She would have been well trained in domestic skills by Elizabeth and would have been of great assistance to her mother. She attended school at Forster and either walked or rode the distance

daily.

After she left school, Olive worked as a domestic on various farms. She moved with her family to Angaston in 1928.

Olive met Ralph Clarke and they were married at Angaston. The couple moved to Strathalbyn. Sadly Olive suffered throat cancer and died on 9 August 1959 aged forty eight years. She was interred in the Strathalbyn cemetery.

[[1426

MYRTLE IVY BOLT

Myrtle Ivy Bolt, the sixth child of John Robert and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Jane Bolt (nee Johns) was born at home on 26 August 1914. At the age of five, she began school in the Rossaweller Methodist Church at Forster. It was a small one-teacher school with approximately twenty pupils at that time. At first she walked the six miles to school through Mr. Francis' paddock but when Melvin, her younger brother, started school, they rode together on horse-back. Myrtle remembers well the times when the horse bucked them off and raced home leaving its riders to walk! She has vivid memories of the times when her "pig-tails" were dipped into the ink well by some practical joker.

It seems that bird-nesting was a very popular past time and Myrtle sometimes "skipped" school to join in the fun - with disastrous results at times.

At the age of eight years, Myrtle learned to milk a cow but not without some anguish! She will never forget the day when her mother decided to teach her. The cow was leg-roped, Myrtle was on her stool trying to squeeze out the milk when the cow kicked! "The brute" knocked her over - milk, stool and all! In spite of her protests and tears, her mother insisted that she must not run away but finish the task - Myrtle did. She mastered the art of milking and learnt to handle the separator and make butter.

Often Myrtle went with her father in the wagon or buggy when the 'P.S. Pyap' called and everyone in the area did their shopping on the paddle steamer.

In 1928, when the family moved to Angaston Myrtle left school and found employment at Thorn's Packing Shed cutting fruit for which she was paid five shillings (50c) per day. Her teenage years were very happy and she really enjoyed attending dances in and around the district - often, her only means of transport was "on the back of an open, breezy truck made comfortable with pillows".

Myrtle met Clarence Heinrich Rudolph (Rudy) Herbig when he was delivering potatoes to a local merchant. Rudy and his brother were market gardeners who supplied the Military Forces with vegetables during the 1939/45 war. They were grandsons of Johann Frederick and Caroline Herbig who were pioneers of the "Herbig Gum Tree" at Springton.

The friendship between Myrtle and Rudy developed and on 30 September 1935, they were married in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Tanunda by Pastor Presser.

After their marriage, Rudy and Myrtle moved to a farm at Mannum, (approximately six miles - 9 km - along the Purnong Road. Myrtle enjoyed "hobby" gardening and was amazed at a "freak" carrot with seven roots which she grew. Always a busy person, she milked cows, made bread, butter and soap. She also enjoyed knitting and sewing for her family. Rudy and Myrtle were blessed with five children - Christopher, Douglas, John, Keith and Dawn.

Farm life was demanding and there were times of hardship when they battled against floods, droughts and grass hopper plagues. Despite those experiences, Rudy and Myrtle enjoyed their farm and had many happy memories.

After forty five years of hard work and long hours on their farm, Rudy's health deteriorated and so, he and Myrtle retired and moved to Murray Bridge in 1981. Rudy's health continued to decline and following a stroke at a Nursing Home, he remained bed-ridden until his death at the age of eighty three years and seven

months.

Myrtle continues to live at Murray Bridge and is actively involved with her daughter, Dawn, in floral art. She is an active member of the Garden & Floral Art Society, Senior Citizens Club and her church. She delights in the company of her children, six grandchildren and friends.

[[1427

MELVIN REGINALD BOLT

Melvin Reginald Bolt was the youngest child of John Robert and Elizabeth Jane Bolt. He was born on 31 July 1919 at Mannum when his parents were living at Forster. He attended the Forster school and he and his sister Myrtle took it in turns to ride their horse to school. In 1928 his family moved to Angaston where Melvin finished his schooling.

He went to work with his father, cutting wood. Later he was employed with R.F. Angas at Angaston as a sawyer, at a saw mill cutting railway sleepers. In 1940, he went to work at Salisbury, helping with the construction of ammunition factories, travelling to and from Angaston to Salisbury each day by train.

Also in this year Melvin married Melva Selina Traeger of Black Hill. They had three children: Malcolm John born in 1940, Terence Daryl in 1941 and Carolyn Jane in 1950.

Melvin began work at the I.C.I. Quarries at Angaston in 1941 and worked there for five years. After world war II ended, he took up home building, brick laying and plastering etc.

In 1950 Melvin and Melva moved to Laura for twelve months, then to Spalding, where he continued in the building trade until 1963. He then worked with E & W S Dept, where he was employed at the time of his death.

Sadly, Melvin died suddenly at his home on 20 January 1969, at the age of 49 and is buried at Spalding Cemetery.

[[143

CHRISTOPHER ALBERT (AB) BOLT

Christopher Albert (Ab) Bolt was the third child of Mary Ann and Christopher (Kit) Bolt and their second son. He was born at Rhine, River Murray on 6 December, 1876 while Kit was manager of Granite Rocks. As a baby, he travelled with his family to live at Garra Station near Lameroo where his father became the manager.

When Ab was approximately ten years of age, Kit returned to the River Murray area and purchased a property at Scrubby Flat, Hundred of Forster. It was there that Kit taught Ab farming practices which held him in good stead when he began farming his own property.

In 1895, Ab was employed by the District Council of Caurment to destroy rabbits and it is documented that he earned four shillings per day (approximately 40c).

Ab was known as an excellent sportsman. He played football and, like his brothers, was an ardent follower and player of cricket travelling many miles either on horseback or by horse and buggy to play in matches. At Forster, he regularly participated in the annual Sports Day events and excelled at both athletics and swimming. He was a superb horseman and often "broke in" horses for farm work.

It was in 1900, that Ab with his younger brother Walter and Richard (Dick) went out into virgin scrub on section 44, Hundred of Forster (known as Claypans). The brothers formed a partnership known as The Bolt Brothers and worked

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laboriously to clear and farm their land. Their dwelling was a hut situated between Claypans and Forster. Ab and his brothers owned a house treadle winnower which was powered by Clydesdale horses which were changed regularly - one, Noble, was a favourite. When Richard joined the army and was sent overseas during World War I, Ab & Walter sowed his crop for him.

Following Walter's marriage to Grace in 1904, Ab lived with them until his own marriage to Emily (nee Ricketts) on 7 April, 1908. He met Emily who lived at Waterloo, near Manoora, when she was visiting her brother who owned a property at Forster (later bought by Ab's elder brother, John Robert).

After their marriage, Ab and Emily purchased a property at Scrubby Flat adjoining that of Ab's father from a Mr. Riedel. Initially, they lived in a wattle and daub cottage with a white-washed hessian ceiling. Later, Ab and Walter built a stone house to replace the original house and many years later a bathroom was added (much to Kit's indignation - such "new fangled" ideas were unnecessary!)

Five daughters (Effie, Lorna, Winifred, Edna & Hazel) were born to Ab and Emily. Teachers who were appointed to the school, boarded with Ab and Emily - one, a Miss Lee, married the local Presbyterian minister, Rev. Hawke. Their son, Robert Lee, later became the Prime Minister of Australia.

Drought years along the River Murray were especially difficult for the family and Emily often wondered where the next meal would come from. When the river was low, before the locks were built, it was possible to walk across, near Manunka. Fish jumped out of the brackish water and were caught easily in nets. They were quite edible when caught alive. Dead fish littered the river banks. Life for the women was extremely difficult, - no less for Emily. She cut willow to feed the stock and for a number of months, milked five cows each day for a pint (600mls) of milk to keep the cows "in milk". It was a bitter blow when chaff which had been bought to feed stock was stolen from the barn. In 1914, to bring in extra money in order to survive in those harsh times, Ab and his youngest brother, Murray, worked for the Council, road-making.

During the 1917 flood, the paddle steamer "Pyap" when delivering a new piano to the family, came up to Kit's stables (an indication of how high the river had risen).

Great was the family's excitement when in 1922, Ab bought his first motor car, a Ford Tourer. He drove it home proudly, but when driving it into the shed called out "whee-whoa!" as he would have to a horse! When the family went for a drive, the girls squealed with fright (or delight!), when Ab reached 25 miles per hour (40km/hour) over the rough unsealed roads.

In 1930, Ab and Emily sold their Scrubby Flat property and bought a house at California Street, Nailsworth where they spent their remaining years - Ab doing odd jobs and gardening.

Typical of his generous nature, Ab went to help his brother Walter's sons on the farm, when Walter was ill in the Royal Adelaide Hospital, in 1934. Likewise, when his sister's husband, (George Retallick) needed help on his farm at Taplan, Ab was there to lend a hand.

Emily died on 28 June, 1958 and Ab five years later on 23 August, 1963 - both were buried at Centennial Park cemetery.

[[1431

Effie Marguerite Bolt

Effie Marguerite Bolt the eldest of Christopher Albert (Ab) and Emily (nee Ricketts) Bolt's five daughters was born at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 3rd March, 1909 at home, Scrubby Flat, Hundred of Forster, River Murray and baptised on the paddle steamer 'Etona'. As a child, she loved climbing and her earliest recollections were of climbing up the side of the horse stall which was built of rails and posts and watching the old "Arab" feeding the baby foal, "Venus" which her father said would be hers when she was old enough. "Venus" grew to be "the

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smoothest horse" Effie ever rode - "like a rocking horse". Venus suffered a badly lacerated wound after getting tangled in barbed wire. After constant care and bathing with condys crystals the wound healed. Later, the girls drove "Venus" in the sulky when they went to school - he would never step over a fence even if the wire was on the ground and once she was "broken in to the sulky, never played up once," recalled Effie. She also remembered a painful incident when "Midge" kicked her in the stomach while she was putting the collar on "Venus".

Before Edna's birth in 1915 Effie accompanied her father to Adelaide when he was a witness at a court case. They travelled to Purnong where they boarded the PS "Murrundie", a passenger boat (she remembered that Lottie Cockshell was a stewardess on the boat). It was dark when they boarded the coach at Mannum and travelled as far as Blumberg (Birdwood) where the horses were changed. In Adelaide, they stayed with Great Aunt Phoebe (Grandmother Bolt's sister) who bought her a "lovely navy frock with buttons and a hat to match". Her sisters, Lorna and Win were sent a red outfit each.

At the end of 1916, Effie and her cousin Blanche who had come to stay, went to school "to get used to it" before she began in 1917. Her father took the girls to school. There was "a terrific thunderstorm" and the girls ran "up hills and down gullies and dad was there in front of Sears' place so we didn't get wet". She began school in earnest in 1917 at the Rossaweller Church (which served as the one teacher school) where Miss Mabel Andres was her teacher. Lorna, Effie's younger sister, began on the same day "to keep Effie company." The adventurous pair decided not to follow the approved track but chose a "shorter" route across the paddocks - Grandfather's - and along the cliff top - shorter maybe, but the sand and hills made the going slow and the track was very close to the cliffs which were a sheer drop to the river! However, the fisherman and his wife across the river (and anything else they could watch) provided an interest for the little girls - and delayed their arrival at school! Needless to say, the adventure was short-lived once their parents were made aware of their continued late arrival at school.

Soon afterwards, while Effie was being held up to see the water level in the tank, she slipped and hit her head on the school wall. Later, because she felt unwell, her teacher sent her home - she remembered lying under a pine tree beside the road and later seeing a farmer and his team going home near dark and finally, her father picking her up. She was curious about the reason for leaving the lantern on the road, her father explained "To let the others (searchers) know that you have been found." She recalled that the clock in the kitchen showed 8.00 pm. Several days were spent at home until she recovered.

Miss Andres had been giving the girls music lessons on the church organ and so, at the end of 1917, their father bought a piano which arrived on the PS "Pyap". Because the river was very high, the vessel came into the swamp and tied up by their grandfather's stables. The music lessons continued until Miss Andres became engaged to Rev Frank Dingle and left. However, her successor, Miss Malone, "a good pianist," continued with the lessons. Lorna and Effie played duets and Lorna was delighted when, as she said, "It's my bang now!"

Because the teachers boarded with the family, Effie's father had another room built and a verandah added by Mr Rogash.

During 1920, Effie spent a term at the Purnong School - a drive of seven miles in the sulky. That was her first experience of a male teacher. She recalled that the boys had been trained in chivalry and unharnessed the horse and harnessed it again after school. It was in 1921 that she sat for her Qualifying Certificate (QC), the final Primary School examination. She had been well taught by Miss Hilda Tilmouth. For the exam, the students were rowed across the river to Walker Flat by Mr Francis who, with Mr Groth was a supervisor during the examination. That proved to be Effie's final day at school for on the following Monday her parents told her that she was needed at home to help. On 14 February, 1922, her youngest sister, Hazel was born at home. The mid-wife did not arrive and the young Effie was sure that her mother was dying!

Sand-drift caused by over-clearing of land rendered many roads (including Murray Bridge and Swan Reach) impassable. Consequently, Effie's father took his stock

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to the market at Mount Pleasant where his cousin, Charlie Bax was the auctioneer. The girls were taught to drive "so that dad could hop out and push the car up the sandhills." That was a regular occurrence when the family travelled to church at Claypans.

Some years later, Effie went to work as "live-in" help for the Leane family at Southwark - Mrs Leane was an invalid - Effie would have liked to become a nurse but was advised against it.

In 1930, her family moved from the farm to California St Nailsworth and because Mrs Leane had died, Effie found work as a sewing machinist near the markets in Adelaide - she rode her bicycle to work from Nailsworth, daily. She later worked for Dr Tostevin as a home help/housemaid.

With her sisters, Effie was an active member of the Enfield Methodist Church and taught in the Sunday School. She and Win travelled by train to Brisbane in October 1935, to attend the National Christian Endeavour Convention spending several days in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

James Dick and Effie met at a dance in the Rechabite Hall opposite the church and were married in July, 1936 at the Enfield Methodist Church. There were five children of the marriage - Allan, John, Claire, Glen and Robert. Effie continued her involvement in church activities and attending Ladies Guild Meetings. The children attended Sunday School there and John and Claire were married in the same church.

Effie and Jim owned a motor bike during the early years of their marriage, and later bought a Baby Austin motor car which was sold when their fourth child (Glen) was born because as husband Jim remarked 'we couldn't have two babies in the house'.

For holidays they rented a house by the beach at Grange. Later a Bedford utility was bought and the family (there were 5 children by then) went for camping holidays at Port Vincent - two tents, no fridge, running water or electricity - but a lot of fun for the kids (a lot of organising and hard work for Effie though!). They later bought a Vanguard Sedan, towing a trailer with the camping equipment. A camping holiday in Melbourne was curtailed by a car accident along the Coorong near Salt Creek. Car, trailer and family were transported to Reedy Creek, where Effie's sister Lorna and her husband Jim lived. The next day several large bushfires were burning and the roads to Melbourne were closed. Many people were involved in fighting the fires and it was "all hands on deck" to help wherever needed. They postponed their holiday to Melbourne until the following year.

When some of the children grew older and no longer accompanied them on holidays, the tents were replaced with a caravan. Several holidays were spent in Victoria. In 1971 they travelled to western Australia where Effie became ill with a particularly bad bout of 'flu, requiring a stay in Narrogin Hospital. Discovering a condition which they called "a tired heart" Effie enquired when she would be able to ride her bike and was informed 'Oh, you'll never ride a bike again!' Well, it took some time for her to recover, but it did not keep her from her bike riding!

After Jim retired, they spent the winter months of each year caravanning in Queensland, enjoying the warmer weather!

Effie was a volunteer for Meals on wheels, riding her bicycle from Sefton Park to Prospect (uphill on the way home!) one morning each week. She spent over 20 years in this service and made many friends among the volunteers, retiring in 1986.

A keen gardener, she grew vegetables and some flowers, even though she suffered from hayfever! They had several chooks, and Effie used to sell the eggs to her neighbours. Old chooks not laying any more were a welcome item at the dinner table.

During the fruit season, Effie bottled apricots and peaches from her parents trees, and made jam. It was a family outing to pick the fruit and then hard

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work for Effie to get the produce into the cupboards!

She sewed and knitted for her family, often altering "hand-me-downs" to suit. Fair Isle and other patterns were always a feature of the garments she knitted. Several rag rugs were made by the family and apart from recycling materials, were a time for the family to be together. She crocheted supper cloths for each of her 15 grandchildren.

In 1985 Effie moved to Aldersgate Village where she was involved in many activities and made many new friends. She weeded and watered the garden outside her unit, was involved in the Fellowship group, taking her turn on the scone-making roster, and was a member of the bowling team. She discarded her bicycle and took to the buses for transport.

Her eightieth birthday was spent with her large family - 5 children, 15 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren (with 2 due in the following month!). Her four sisters - including Win from Western Australia and Lorna from Portland, Victoria - were all present at the gathering together with several members of their families.

During her last couple of years, her health was not good, but she was always independent and kept her sense of humour. A fall requiring an ambulance trip for Xrays, revealed 3 cracked vertebrae in her lower spine, but she was still able to make a joke about it.

Effie died on 16 June 1990 at the Memorial Hospital in North Adelaide. She had entered hospital for treatment for a leaky heart valve (which she had probably had for the previous 20 years!) and suffered a heart attack the following day.

She was cremated at Enfield, following a service in the Aldersgate Chapel.

Interesting recollections recorded by Effie:

Staying with Auntie Nance (Retallick) twice - once when she and Uncle George lived at Bandon and once when they lived in George's parents' house along the Purnong Rd, cousin Cecil was a baby and I remember him being bathed in a bowl.

The 1914 drought when little rain fell.

"Princess was a foal and very spindly - grandfather called her "Spider" because she was "all legs". Her mother "Arab" got into a bog at the "Tapo" Swamp (down the river past Uncle Dick Bolt's place)".

Taking the Surveyor to Mannum to catch the "Birdseye" bus back to the city - crossed the river at Purnong as it was narrower there. The passengers always helped pull the punt which was on a wire rope, across the river.

Going to Mannum which was our business centre (banks, shops etc) we crossed the river on the Forster/Walker Flat punt - the journey was five miles shorter though both punts were 22 miles from Mannum. It was always a treat to go to Mannum - often had a new dress. The Pyap carried a wide range of goods but only a limited supply of footwear.

[[1432

LORNA HELEN BOLT

Lorna Helen Bolt, the second of Christopher Albert and Emily Bolt's five daughters, was born at Mrs Lawrence's Private Hospital, Mannum on 20 March, 1911 with Dr. Sprod in attendance.

At the age of five, she started school at Forster "to keep Effie company". School was in the Rossaweller Methodist Church which was one mile down stream from Forster punt on the Eastern side of the River Murray. Lorna's earliest memory is when her sister, Effie became "lost" - she had left school early because she was unwell and had fallen asleep under a pine tree. The girls walked the three miles to school and often sat on the high cliffs on the southern side of the cemetery to watch the fishermen wash in the river; they

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played by the roadside frequently arriving at school at 11.00am! Her first teacher was Miss Mabel Andres who boarded with Lorna's parents. Later, the girls and their teacher travelled to and from school in a sulky drawn by a quiet Arab horse named Venus - Venus never became accustomed to motor vehicles and "went wild" whenever he saw a car.

The next teacher, Miss Susan C. (Mollie) Malone, taught Lorna and Effie piano lessons until she was transferred to another school. A very popular young teacher, Miss Edith Emily Lee was with the family for two years and later married Reverend C.A. Hawke, the local minister. Other teachers whom she remembers, were Misses Hannon, Christerton, Harper and Tilmouth (Grade VII). The final Primary School examination was the Q.C. (Qualifying Certificate). When students from the Forster School sat for that exam, they rowed across the river to Walker Flat.

Lorna and her family attended the Rossaweller Methodist Church and Sunday School and later, when that church closed, they travelled to Claypans Church. At that time, the local shop was owned by Mr. Alf Francis, who was also the Post Master. In 1914 building began on the Forster Hall and it was Lorna's grandfather Christopher Bolt who, as Chairman of the Curnamont District council, laid the foundation stone. Sports Days were held at Curnamont (Purnong) on Christmas Day and at Forster on New Years Day. Water sports, slippery pole and many other sports were enjoyed by everyone. Lorna recalls that when world war I ended in 1918, Miss Lee, the teacher, made "two beautiful banners" (one for Forster School and the other for Purnong where sports were held to celebrate peace).

Paddle steamers which plied the river, in those days were always a treat for the children - they would go over to the cliff's edge to wave. Lorna remembers such names as 'Gem', 'Captain Sturt', 'Nellie', 'Pyap', 'Marion' and 'Federal'.

At the age of fourteen years, Lorna went to work for Mrs. Stan Tyler at Purnong for twelve months, earning ten shillings (\$1.00) per week - "time off" was deducted from her wages. After working for several other families, Lorna found employment at Buckingham's Bakery on Prospect Road. They employed nine girls who worked long hours - seldom finishing before 7.00p.m. On Good Friday, they begun work before 6.00a.m. to prepare the Hot Cross buns. She remembers having to peel a bucket of potatoes each afternoon ready for pasties.

Thursday and Sunday afternoons were Lorna's half days off from work - even on those days they seldom left work before 2.00p.m.

Often, after a long day at the Bakery, she would ride her bicycle home and with her sisters or friends spend an evening dancing or at the "pictures". The family attended the Enfield Methodist (now Uniting) Church and Sunday School. At one time, there were more than four hundred pupils attending Sunday School and Youth Groups with Mr. Alf Milner as superintendent. Lorna's sisters Effie, Win & Edna taught Sunday School and in 1933 the Bolt girls became members of the church. On day holidays, a group of girls from Sunday School travelled by train into the Adelaide hills and spent their day hiking. Lorna and her sister Win spent "five lovely days" on the "SS Moonta" during 1933 and really enjoyed themselves. their holiday cost them six pounds (\$12.00).

Lorna loved dancing and met her future husband, James Edward Muldoon at a dance in the Railway Station Dining Room in 1933. They became engaged in December of that year. she has fond recollections of "a lovely surprise party" which was given for her twenty second birthday. The party was at California Street, Nailsworth; the home of her parents - all of her Sunday School friends were there. On 1 December 1934, at 6.45p.m. in the Enfield Methodist (Uniting) Church, Lorna Helen Bolt and James Edward Muldoon were married by Rev. L. M. Humphrey M.A.; Clarrie Hogan was the organist and Lorna's older sister, Effie was her bridesmaid and wore a pine green georgette dress. Jim's cousin Bert Barber was best man. following a wedding breakfast at home, Lorna and Jim travelled to Victor Harbor where they spent two weeks honeymoon and because it was during the Depression years, Lorna considered that they were very fortunate to be able to have a holiday.

At the time of their marriage, Jim was driving a delivery van for Amscol (Adelaide Milk Supply Company Limited) for a wage of three pound (\$6.00) per

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week - one pound, five shillings (\$2.50 of which they paid in rent for their flat. He worked there for many years leaving home at 10.30p.m. to travel the four miles to work and arriving home at mid-day the following day.

On XXXXXX at 6.00p.m. Lorna's and Jim's first child, Linly James, was born at Sr. O'Brien's Northern Hospital, Main North Road, Prospect with Doctor Magary in attendance. That same year, Lorna & Jim bought their first house at Gaza (now Klemzig). On their two acres, they grew citrus fruit and peaches - it was very hard work and Lorna's father (Ab) helped whenever he could. One year, after a storm, half their garden was under water.

Helen June, their second child, was born on 22 XXXXXX. During the war years, an American soldier was billeted with the family for three weeks. Lorna recalled that the war years were a "nightmare". Every house was "blacked out"; the street lights dimmed and turned off early. Each day at 10.00a.m. sirens sounded for testing. Ration books were issued to everyone - each person being limited to 2 oz (60g) each of sugar, butter, tea as well as flour each week.

Linen and clothing were rationed and girls preparing for marriage found it very difficult to buy household items. Lorna remembers, very clearly, the 19 February, 1942, when Darwin was bombed by the Japanese and a hundred and forty two people were killed and many more injured.

In May 1942, Jim and Lorna sold their garden and Jim began work at "Elbarra" Station twenty five miles north of Wilgena, while Lorna stayed with her parents to await the birth of their third child, Christopher Neil who was born on XXXXXXX at Memorial Hospital. In September of that year, Lorna left on the East-West Express to join Jim at Elbarra - her sister, Win, travelled with her to help with the three children. Lorna has many stories to tell about her life in the outback (including her first 'lone' effort at bread making!) Her mother had taught her to make bread when she was fourteen, however it had not been necessary for her to use that skill - until "Elbarra" - the first batch was buried! She mastered the art and continued to make bread, 'salt down' meat and make soap which she did until 1973. Lorna even learnt to cut Jim's hair and from then onwards, Jim did not need a barber!

Being on the mail run from Bulgunya, they received their mail once a week and the mail man always found the kettle boiling and a meal waiting for him. Each year, the aborigines from fifty miles north went on their annual "walk about" to Commonwealth Hill, west of Elbarra, which was half way. There were approximately thirty aborigines in the tribe and they arrived at the house from three directions - some riding camels, the others walking - they asked for food and brandy. However, Jim gave them tea and grapes. At that time, the Government supplied food to the aborigines and so the Police officer brought food for them.

Lorna remembers a "very big rain storm" at Wilgena on Christmas Eve, 1942, when there were cars and bikes bogged on the track from Bulgunya - even the police officer from Tarcoola was bogged - he stayed overnight with Jim and Lorna and Jim helped him out the next day.

It was in February 1944, that the family left Elbarra - Jim went to Kangaroo Island to work at "Carringallanna" for A.J. McBride while Lorna and the children stayed with her parents at Nailsworth. Jim took his family to Kangaroo Island on the "Karatta" in July and their fourth child, Judith Emily, was born at the Kingscote Hospital on XXXXXXX. It was an extremely busy time for Lorna with four young children (two of whom were receiving schooling by correspondence); cooking for shearers and builders and coping with the usual farm chores. However, she found time for church activities. With no Methodist Church in the area, services were held in residents homes. Judith Emily's christening took place at the W. Kelly's house. Lorna's parents and sisters visited - mother, Emily and sister. Win travelled by plane and father (Ab) on the "Karatta".

A.J. McBride moved the family to "Murrabinna", Reedy Creek in the South East of South Australia in June, 1945. That was a very dry year and the twelve cows were milked by hand. At first, the two older children, with two children from the Banks' family, drove seven miles in the cart (drawn by a quiet horse) to

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
school at Kingston, S.E. However, in May 1946, the Reedy Creek School opened with six children.

On 3 March, 1949, Jim and Lorna were transferred to "Ashmore" another of A.J. & P.A. McBride's stations in the South East. While they were in the area, Lorna and Jim were actively involved in community affairs including School Welfare Club, Reedy Creek Tennis Club, C.W.A., and Kingston Bowling Club. On 3 January 1955 a bushfire broke out at nearby Blackford and resulted in seven men, including Jim, being hospitalised. Jim was in hospital for eight months including three in the R.A.H. (Royal Adelaide Hospital) where he underwent skin grafts to both arms. "Ashmore" was a large station and employed a number of families one of whom was under suspicion when it was found that they had applied for assistance after the bush fire falsely stating that they had been 'burnt out'. They left the property "under a cloud". Later, they were arrested for the murder of the wife's previous two husbands.

While holidaying at Portland, Victoria in 1952, Jim & Lorna bought a sheep and cattle property ("Glenloth") of 308 acres, five miles from Tyrendarra. A sharefarmer worked the property until Jim and Lorna moved to Tyrendarra in 1959. Once again the family became involved in Church, community and family activities. Their house, which Jim lined, was constructed of timber. Lorna remembers that there was no bathroom at first and so Jim "rigged up" a tent. When this proved unsuccessful they heated the water on the kitchen stove and "showered" in the shearing shed! Lorna believed that she came out "smellier than before!". Weekly shopping was done at Portland, twenty two miles away on Saturday mornings and Jim played bowls during the afternoon.

Jim worked extremely hard on Tyrendarra putting in electric fences and making many improvements to their property. As the years passed, he preferred to run only cattle.

In 1973, Lorna and Jim sold their property and moved into Portland to retire in a comfortable home where Lorna tended the flower and vegetable gardens. Both Lorna and Jim made many friends in and around the town as well as retaining their older friends. Jim "conveniently" forgot his age and obtained a job at Borthwicks where he worked for five years.

At Easter, each year they towed their caravan to Mildura for the annual bowling tournament. They stayed several weeks and while Jim bowled, Lorna revisited old friends and places. After the tournament they travelled to Adelaide to visit friends and relatives.

Lorna and Jim celebrated their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary on 1 December 1991. Sadly, Jim passed away on 28 December, 1991.

[[1433

WINIFRED NANCE BOLT

Winifred Nance Bolt (known as Win, Nance or Ben), the third daughter of Christopher Albert (Ab) and Emily Bolt, was born at Mannum on 8 November, 1912.

Growing up on her parents farm at Scrubby Flat, Hundred of Forster, Win loved minding the sheep to be yarded at shearing time and listening to the yarns of the adults (teachers who boarded with her parents, neighbours and her family). She has many fond memories of her childhood. One anecdote which Win relates, tells of the day her father brought home the first family car. Proudly, he drove it up to the shed and smartly crashed into the far wall when the Ford failed to respond (unlike his previous horse-drawn vehicles) to his loud and repetitive "whee whoa"!

The young teachers (one of whom was Edith Emily Lee, mother of Robert (Bob) Lee Hawke, former Prime Minister) who were appointed to the Forster School presented a challenge to the mischievous young Bolt girls and their classmates. One day, eighty percent of the pupils ran away from school and sat in the hot sun on a ledge of the cliff face - hiding from their teacher! Unfortunately for them, the Bolt girls forgot that Venus, their horse, required for the homeward

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
journey, was tethered at the school!

On another occasion, during winter, the children became annoyed with their teacher because she expected them to gather firewood during their lunch hour and so, they gathered the dried roots of the local "tobacco bush" - knowing only too well the outcome - the resultant stench and smoke was unknown to the unsuspecting, city-bred, teacher! School days at Forster and Purnong Primary Schools are remembered fondly - especially the simple joys of playing Hide and Seek in the thick river fogs, sitting on the school-yard fence or seeing their first plane - a sight which became a regular, weekly event - and their teacher allowing the children time off from lessons to watch the plane fly over.

Win's anecdotes continue with the story of the young Catholic teacher, Mollie Malore who was visited one day by the priest from Mannum. Information had reached him that Mollie had been seen frequenting the Methodist Church and he had travelled all day to "save" her. After a lengthy sermon on the sinfulness of a "good" Catholic being on "Satan's soil" and the hell and damnation she could expect if this were true, Mollie duly informed him that indeed she did frequent the Methodist Church - daily! The school he was standing in was, in fact, the Methodist Church in question and it doubled as a school! The priest silently departed (no doubt feeling rather foolish) and classes resumed.

At the age of thirteen, win left school and at the age of fifteen worked in Aunt Carrie Julge's grocery shop in Smith St. Southwark, for seven years where upon she left to take up Nursing Training at Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, for six months after which she trained at Naracoorte and Royal Adelaide Hospitals completing her midwifery training at Launceston Tasmania. While at Naracoorte Win gained her nickname of 'Ben' Bolt after the old English poem.

During the War years, Win served in the R.A.A.F.N.S. For three and a half years with numerous postings within Australia including Greenslopes and Oakey in Queensland, Daws Road in South Australia and Pt. Cooke in Victoria. Win married George Henry Bunce in 1947 at walkerville Methodist Church and moved to George's home town of Perth Western Australia, where they have lived ever since except for a brief period between 1966 and 1968 at Elizabeth South Australia.

With Nursing firmly in her blood, win after rearing her three children worked at various Private Hospitals and did volunteer work with the Spastic Association. She continued her volunteer work as a "Friend of Royal Perth Hospital" for fifteen years until in 1993 when at the age of 80, she reluctantly retired due to failing eye sight.

Win and George still carry on her love of yarns with their home being a haven for kids and grand kids on Sunday afternoon for lively debates and discussions over a glass or two around the family table.

[[1434

Edna Jean Bolt:

Edna Jean Bolt, the fourth of Emily (nee Ricketts) and Albert (Ab) Christopher Bolt's daughters was born at home at Scrubby Flat (Hd of Forster) on 18 August 1915. Because there was no doctor to attend Emily, Mrs Louise Johns assisted at the birth.

Born during world war 1, Edna soon learnt all of the songs of that era from her mother who sang as she worked. Edna remembers clearly when the war ended and peace was declared - even though she was only three years old. Everyone went to Purnong Landing and marched to a pleasant picnic area south of the township, to celebrate. Mr Francis drove his flat-top lorry beside the marching throng in order to "rescue those who fell by the way". In spite of the entreaties of Miss Lee, the teacher, for Edna to ride "because your little legs must be tired," her pleas fell on deaf ears. Edna would rather have "dropped by the wayside than get on that monster!" Everyone was given a nice shiny peace medal which we put on a ribbon and wore around our necks - we wore it to church for years, recalled Edna.

Although she was terrified of cars, Edna kept her fears secret. She was

convinced that a "monster" lurked in the engine and spurned the "steamy, hot, smelly thing". Even parked cars were given a wide berth and nothing could persuade her to walk in front of them. Those were the days when the majority of people drove horse drawn vehicles but, alas for Edna, the era of the motor car had arrived! Eventually, her father bought a T-model Ford - she marvels that the whole family - seven in number - filled in but they did. In those days, the agent took the buyer for a run, showed him how to stop and start the vehicle and that was the extent of the driving lessons! Edna continues, "Dad built a nice shed to put the "monster" in and the first time he drove into it, he yelled "whee whoa!" but it didn't stop it - it went right through the end of the shed and hit the buggy!" She added wryly, "His driving did improve." However, she and sister, Win, were always nervous and walked to the top of the hill whenever there was a family outing (they pretended that they were trying to race the car!) They refused to stay in the car when boarding the punt - they walked on - much to their father's disgust!

Most of Edna's and her sisters' education was gained at the one teacher Forster school. The young teachers taught them all that they had learnt in college. The girls drove in the sulky, rode bare back or walked the three miles depending upon how many girls were attending. At that time, the Rev Clem Hawke was courting the young teacher, Miss Edith Lee and often stayed with Edna's parents where Miss Lee boarded - Edna was his shadow. One morning, she came upon him shaving with what proved to be a safety razor - Edna was bewildered; her father used a blade razor and so she asked him why he was "ploughing his face!" (Of course, her sisters have not allowed her to forget!) Nor have they forgotten the time when the family visited Mr and Mrs W (Ern) Towill. Son Carl, wishing to demonstrate his chivalry, took his mother's best chenille tablecloth to the wood-heap for Edna to sit on - "It was lovely," recalled Edna, "until his mother found out".

A visit to her aunt's house in the city gave Edna her first experience with a flush toilet system. Fascinated, she pulled the chain and was so frightened by the gush of water, that she "ran for her life around the side of the house and out of sight" thinking that the place would be flooded!

In about 1925 her father decided to install the 'new' septic tank system - the only one around for twenty miles. It duly arrived on the trading boat PS "Pyap" where-upon Ab was soundly upbraided by his neighbours for wasting his money (13 pound = 26 dollars) on "such an unnecessary thing".

Times were changing for the young Edna - the "wireless" was an innovation grandfather doubted it would work!) She saw the sea for the first time and in her country child's imagination, thought the distant waves were the mallee scrub tops swaying in the wind.

Her first job, at the age of fourteen was at Forster where she milked cows for Mr Zadow while Mrs Zadow enjoyed a holiday. When the family moved to Nailsworth in 1930, the 15 year old Edna was employed by Mr Dorainger, an optometrist, at Enfield to "keep house" since his wife was an invalid. She earned six shillings (60c) per week for the first fortnight with an increase to eight shillings weekly when she did the ironing which included four Butcher's coats. (The Dorainger's son-in-law was a butcher). The work was very hard - all the floors were polished weekly (the kitchen twice) and so she stayed only six months.

Next, she found employment at a fruit and vegetable shop at Hindmarsh owned by a young couple with two children. It was a "live-in" job and she was required to help in both the house and the shop. She remained in their employ for twelve months earning eight shillings (80c) per week.

Finally, she was employed at Buckingham's Bakery, Prospect Road where her elder sister, Lorna, was working. Because they were "depression" years Edna was not employed full time but the Buckinghams were excellent employers. Her "wages" did not exceed 2 pound (\$4) per week but she was very happy and contented and made many friends during her eight years there. She learnt many skills including decorating birthday and wedding cakes.

Before her marriage, Edna, like her sisters, was a Methodist "Comrade" and assisted with the Sunday School. She remembers, fondly, "six lovely little

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
eight-year old boys" whom she taught in the Primary department.

In 1937 Edna met her future husband Kenneth Frederick Newman at a house party at Wayville. They were married at Enfield Methodist Church on 31 July, 1940 with Edna's sister, Win attending her and Ken's brother Bob best man. Because Ken was a railways employee they were required to move from place to place. They lived at Keswick until 1944 when Ken was transferred to Bowmans. It was there that they experienced fortnightly dust-storms - the one in 1945 being the worst on record. Edna moved more than six barrow loads of sand before she found the back door mat! The railways took in a scoop to move the sand from the front garden. Their next home was at Naracoorte where they experienced floods - water lay in the yard for a month! To hang out the washing, Edna walked on sleepers laid in the yard.

Four children were born to Edna and Ken, Emilie (Lee) at Ashford, Keswick, Peter at the Northern Community Hospital, Prospect and Ruth and Fred at Naracoorte. The family moved from Naracoorte and purchased a house at Millswood to be near to Ken's work. The children completed their education at Unley High and Adelaide University. Ken and Edna continue to live in retirement at Millswood. Edna a great story-teller relates an amusing anecdote: "Every year, we gathered at Grandfather's for his birthday party - held annually after he reached 85. All the "clan" had a day off from school - had dinner and tea there and so we really got to know our cousins. We always had Apple-pie, cold roast hogget and pickles - it was a lovely day. The women always served the men and the children before eating their own meal. One year, the young male cousins and no doubt Uncle Murray and the older Bolt boys, offered to wait on the ladies - the ladies were thrilled - until they received their cups of tea which they had been really looking forward to. Those "young devils" had put Epsom salts in the tea pot with the tea - Oh dear! What a rumpus!"

[[1435

Hazel Maud Bolt

Hazel Maud the youngest of Christopher Albert (Ab) and Emily Bolt's five daughters was born at home, Scrubby Flat Hd of Forster on 14 February 1922. As a small child, Hazel was quite adventurous. Her sisters remember, well, the day she climbed the windmill and could not get down! Imagine the consternation in the family as they "talked" her down - very slowly. On another occasion she suffered a frightening experience in the River Murray and had to be assisted from the water - the incident left her with a fear of water which she has tried to avoid since that trauma.

While her parents attended church, Hazel stayed with neighbours, Mr and Mrs Anthony Johns. She remembers Jean Lloyd who lived there and conjures up memories of "strong, sweet tea and dark, rich cake". Another memory which lingers is of visits to Grandfather Bolt and Auntie Phoebe and being given minties which she enjoyed eating while sitting on the hill. ("Not so big anymore", she added) before going home.

While quite young, she learnt to ride her pony, Midget - not without falling off! When she had mastered the art of riding Midget, she rode to school at Forster. It was a small school with a total enrolment of approximately fifteen children at that time.

In 1930 the family left the farm and moved to Nailsworth where the eight year old Hazel found forty-fifty students in her class - quite an experience! In 1934 when the Duke of Gloucester visited Adelaide, the children danced on the Adelaide oval - they represented the thistle of Scotland and performed Scottish dances.

When only twelve years of age, she worked at Buckingham's Bakery on Saturday mornings icing the cockles and peeling artichokes - her reward was one shilling (10 cents!). As she reflected on her youth, Hazel recalled the carefree days of her childhood when she and other children played games in the street - few cars in those days - and she quipped, with a twinkle "Street Kids?" Another vivid memory is of her mother (Emily) making apricot jam in the copper at California St, Nailsworth in the 1930's when January temperatures soared to over the

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century (38 Celsius plus) for more than a week and the family slept outside on the verandahs or on the lawn. ("Not likely these days," she added).

At the age of fourteen, Hazel left school and started work at Pengilly Florist, delivering wreathes for which she received seven shillings and sixpence (75 cents) per week. Unfortunately, prior to her sixteenth birthday she was dismissed (because her salary would have doubled!). Undeterred, she established her own dress-making business and worked from a shop on Prospect Road for ten years.

Hazel met John Lewis (Jack) Reynolds, a truck driver whose family lived at Crafers. After their marriage Jack found work "bag sewing" on the west Coast and Hazel learnt to drive in the stubble paddocks. Their first child, Geoffrey Clyde was born at Hindmarsh on XXXXXXX. Their second child Jacqueline Ann was born on XXXXXXXXXXX. "Oh Boy! what a Labour Day!" exclaimed Hazel.

The Golden wedding Anniversary of her parents on 7 April, 1958 was a most eventful day - Hazel gave birth to twin boys (Christopher John and Lewis James) it was also Easter. The occasion was recorded in the newspaper with a picture of Hazel and her twins.

The family departed Flinders Park in 1965 and purchased a hotel at Lalbert in country Victoria. However, in 1970, because of Jack's ill health (he had suffered a heart attack) and the fact that the children required a good education and stable employment, they sold the hotel and returned to Adelaide.

During the 1970's - 80's, they acquired smaller businesses - a grocery shop, post office and newsagency. In 1977 Christopher John won a Rotary apprenticeship award which was presented to him by Don Dunstan the then Labor Party Premier of South Australia at a luncheon which Hazel attended. On her return to the Newsagency which was near the Airport, Hazel was surprised when she served the Prime Minister, The Hon Malcolm Fraser - an unusual coincidence.

After Jack's retirement he and Hazel enjoyed travelling and visited many interesting parts of Australia including Mount Isa, Darwin, Exmouth Albany (where they travelled along Bolt Street) and Pt Douglas. "They were great trips", recollected Hazel.

Hazel's family of four are all involved in sport - the boys playing football, cricket, eight ball and volleyball, while Jacki enjoys netball and tennis - each winning several trophies. She is the proud grandparent of eight grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

[[144

Walter Bolt,

Walter Bolt, the fourth of Mary Ann (nee Finn) and Christopher Bolt's nine children, was born at Garra (a property near Lameroo, which Christopher managed) on 30 March, 1879. He was six years of age when his father left Garra and settled at Scrubby Flat in the Hundred of Forster. Walter's education was limited to six weeks at the Rossaweller (Forster) school. Like most country children of that era, he was required to help either on the land or in the house.

In 1900, at the age of twenty one, Walter, with brothers Christopher (Ab) and Richard (Dick) moved out into virgin scrub country twenty miles east of Mannum and pioneered the area known as Claypans (near Section 44 Hundred of Forster). There they lived in a one-roomed pine and pug hut (with a stone chimney) situated along the Claypans/Forster road. The brothers set about the task of clearing their 2000 acres (approximately 800 hectares) of land with little more than axes and a great amount of grit and determination - clearing approximately one acre per man per day. The felled timber was sold to the paddle-steamer masters or used for firewood. When the brothers had cleared enough land, they sowed their first crop using a two-furrow horse-drawn plough to prepare the soil. The grain was broadcast by hand and sheep were driven over it to bury it. A five foot stripper drawn by three horses, was used for harvesting. After harvest, the grain was transported by wagon to Purnong Landing from whence it

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was taken by river barge to Mannum where it was milled. In later years, the brothers rolled the scrub with a scrub roller and ran sheep and cattle on their property. The brothers remained in partnership until 1910 when Ab and Dick began farming their own properties.

On 27 September 1904, Walter married Grace Bridget Johns daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Johns whose property adjoined that of Walter's father. The Johns family had moved from Barabba (near Hamley Bridge). A young Methodist (now Uniting) minister - Thomas Ray Caust) officiated at the marriage ceremony which was held in the bride's home.

They began their married life in a four-roomed stone house built on the Claypans property by Walter and Anthony Johns (Grace's father). The house was constructed of limestone with window surrounds and corners of cliffrock brought from Scrubby Flat - an ordinary saw was used to "square-up" the stone. The mortar used was a mixture of coarse washed sand and slaked lime which would have been burnt on the property. The walls of the house were 14 inches (35cm) thick. Walter cut Box mallee from Box Flat (Payne's property) to build the stables and other out buildings. Box timber was known to be more durable than river gum timber.

Soon afterwards, Walter and his brother (Ab) built a cellar (apart from the house). At first, the gable roof was constructed of native pine timber which was tarred to render it water-proof. However, in later years the original roof was replaced with galvanized iron. The underground cellar was an important part of pioneer housing since it provided an ideal "cool room" for meat which was preserved or "pickled", (with salt petre made into a brine), jams, fruit and dairy produce. Milk was separated in the cellar and the cream stored there until it was sent to the factory.

During the early years of her marriage, Grace would have used cast iron utensils in her kitchen with a cast iron kettle and a fountain of water always on the wood stove ready for use - the rain water for domestic use was carried inside from the underground tank in buckets. Tubs were used for washing clothes (using a wooden scrubbing board) and for bathing on the verandah. For ironing, she would have used either "Mrs. Potts" irons or a box (coal) iron. A large mangle served as a "press" for such items as sheets, towels, blankets etc.

On 11 October 1905, Walter's and Grace's first son Walter James Anthony Christopher (Jim) was born. It is thought that Grace's mother assisted at the birth and also at the births of Jeffrey, Leslie and Gordon. For the births of her younger boys, Grace went to Mannum to Mrs. Lawrence's Private Hospital. She travelled there a week before the due date of each confinement and stayed at the guest house also owned by Mrs. Lawrence.

Of great concern to everyone in the area was the mouse plague in 1916 when mice over-ran the properties. It was reported that "The place was moving with mice and they destroyed large quantities of hay". Walter always innovative, made a "trap" - a tin with a "trip" lid - when the unsuspecting mouse ran on the lid, it tilted and the mouse dropped into the water below! Walter carted large numbers of corpses away by wagon for burial!

Walter's eldest son Jim, recalled that in 1920, he went with his father, Uncle Frank Johns, Uncle Joe Johns, Uncle Ab Bolt and Uncle Murray Bolt to help clean their wheat with a horse treadle winnower. (They cleaned wheat at each farm in turn).

[The horse treadle winnower was a J.S. Bagshaw machine powered by a draught horse - the horses, which were shod with a heavier than normal shoe, were changed hourly. The winnower cleaned sixty bags of wheat per hour]. It was common practice for the farmers to help each other and they often gathered to "yarn" even when a bore was "pulled up" bringing coffee and lunch with them.

The flood of 1921 (when six inches (150mm) of rain fell) caused havoc to wells in the area. Walter's newly dug well was rendered useless when the "spoil" was washed into it. The creek between the house and the sheds became a stream of water approximately a chain (7m) wide and flowed for several days. It was reported that the water at Box Flats (Payne's) was nine feet (approx 3m) deep

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
and lay there "for almost six months". The destruction of the well meant that Walter needed to cart water from the river in a two hundred gallon tank, by dray.

In later years, as the family grew, so too did the house and Grace enjoyed the luxury of a bathroom. Like her neighbours, Grace made her own bread, pickles, butter and jam (the latter in large quantities in the copper) and taught her boys many domestic skills from making all of the above to assisting with the laundry. Well known for her fastidiousness, Grace kept a spotless and immaculate house. As her older boys grew and began to farm their own properties, she employed a girl to assist her with the household chores.

For meat, Walter killed a sheep each week - at night. Son, Les, recalled one night when as a child, he was elected to hold the lantern so that Walter could see - it would seem that Les' efforts were unsuccessful because suddenly Walter called, "Can you see what I'm doing?" Les, "No!" "Well neither can I", retorted Walter.

After harvest, Walter transported his grain to Purnong Landing in an English wagon (English wagons had large wheels and straight sides and carried forty bags of grain weighing one hundred and eighty pounds each). Six horses pulled the load from the paddock but only three were needed to pull it to the Landing. The bags were stacked on the river bank to await the steamer's arrival.

Walter shod his own horses and did most of his own black-smithing though he did not have any formal training. Distance prevented farmers from travelling to the Blacksmith for urgently needed repairs and so they learned to be innovative.

Cricket played an important part in Walter's life. He was a keen batsman and played in the Claypans district for many years travelling long distances on horse-back to participate. His son, Les, recalled that one Saturday, Walter immaculately dressed in cricketing "whites" had mounted his horse (Marian) but she "pitched" him before he was seated! Walter continued playing cricket after he retired and had moved to Prospect where he played cricket until he was 75.

When he retired from farming in 1942, Walter, with Grace, went to live at Prospect. However, Walter, never a man to be idle, worked for several years at Northern Salvage Company as a valued member of their workforce.

A quiet, softly-spoken, unassuming gentle man, Walter, although small in stature, possessed great physical strength and endurance. He was exacting in his work habits and taught his sons by example, the values which he held high. His self reliance and strength of character held him in good stead following the death of Grace on 24 February 1963. He continued to live alone in his Prospect home caring for himself and visiting his family from time to time.

In March 1969, more than two hundred family and friends met at the Botanic Gardens to honour his ninetieth birthday and to pay homage to a much loved man who was held in high esteem by many people.

On 28 September 1969 at the age of ninety years and six months, Walter died and was buried beside Grace at Centennial Park cemetery.

[[1441

WALTER JAMES ANTHONY CHRISTOPHER (JIM) BOLT

Walter James Anthony Christopher (Jim) the eldest of Walter and Grace Bolt's eight sons was born on 11 October, 1905 in the Claypans homestead. On 3 February, 1907, Jim was baptised on the river Murray Mission boat "Etona" by Rev. Hew F. Severn. He attended the Claypans School and with his brothers walked the two and a half miles. Sometimes, the boys walked a different way to check their rabbit traps and there were occasions when they were late because they had been bird-nesting! One of his school days which Jim will not forget, was when he was "kept in" after school on the first day back after the term holidays. Instead of walking straight home on the last day of the previous term, Jim and his brothers played in the "snotty gobblers" (a parasite which grows on Mallee trees). Their teacher had seen them and did NOT forget! As it

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was the time of world war I, all children learnt to knit and knitted face washers for the soldiers. They also learnt wood-carving, making tea-pot stands and fancy lids for glove boxes.

Being the eldest of the family, there were times when Jim was needed at home to help his mother or father. An elderly friend told that his first recollection of Jim, was of a little boy, standing on a box, black stockings up his arms, stirring jam in the copper! Walter had built the homestead and when more rooms were added, Jim remembers staying home from school to help mix mortar and carry stones. His father collected the cliff stone from the river and cut the corner stones with a hand saw. As one can imagine, the saw wore out very quickly!

Jim was pleased to leave school because when he was not needed to help his mother, he could spend time with his father doing farm work which he loved. (Because there were no girls in the family to assist their mother with the household chores, each boy was expected to help in the house until the next brother left school). From a very early age, Jim helped his father by harnessing the horses, filling the nose-bags and taking the horses to water. He worked with horses until 1951 when he bought his first tractor. Jim's team of ten horses included Baldy, Jimmy (purchased from the March family) three which he bought from Sir Sidney Kidman at a sale at Kapunda also Darby and four others. His best horse was an eight year old chestnut which he bought from his neighbour, Lou Kossatz.

In 1923, Jim with father, went out to the Hundred of Bandon farm to roll scrub. His father took the four horses and scrub-roller while Jim took the wagon with the hay-chaff. The following year, Jim and his brother, Jeff, went out to the property to cut "spring-backs" (saplings or branches which "spring back" from the roller). They lived in a "humpy" made from bags and iron. Later, their father built a large stone room - the lime needed for the mortar was burnt on the property in their home made kiln.

Jim and Jeff worked together until 1927 when Jeff married and worked his own farm. Jim remained on the same farm for sixty years.

The "Pyap" was a "store" boat which brought supplies to people living along or near the river. Jim's mother, needing help in the house, asked if anyone on the paddle steamer knew of a girl whom she could employ for a short time during harvest. The cook knew that Ella Mavis (Girlie) Trotter was at home at Wongulla with her mother and so Jim's mother contacted Girlie who worked for Mrs Bolt for twelve months milking cows, cooking, washing and doing general domestic chores. She remembers how fastidious Jim's mother was - even with eight boys to tend, nothing in the house was ever neglected.

Girlie often told of the pranks of the younger boys. She remembered well, one day when two of the boys angered their mother and were sent outside to help their father. Because it was harvest time and raining, there was nothing to be done in the paddock and so the two "culprits" sewed wheat bags together and made a hood for the sulky. Next they harnessed their white horse, Carbine and drove to the house. Stopping outside the fence, they called to their mother. "Hey! Missus, you want anything today?" - pretending that they were hawkers. Mother would not acknowledge their presence and so they called louder and louder in their impudent voices. After being ignored, they drove off!

Jim and Girlie were married at Haywood Hill School on 26 September, 1931. The River Murray was in flood and the groom and his family had to be rowed nearly two miles across the river to attend the wedding. (Twenty five years later, when Jim and Girlie celebrated their silver wedding anniversary, the River Murray was in flood again and many guests attending the celebrations in the Purnong Hall were forced to travel there, via Murray Bridge since the ferry was not operating because of the high river).

Afterwards, Jim and Girlie went to Adelaide to have their photos taken and to buy the necessary furniture for their two-roomed house which was on the Hundred of Bandon property approximately five miles from Copeville. (Jim had paid a man six pounds (\$12.00) to add the second room to the existing dwelling which his father had built earlier - it took three weeks to build).

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After their week's honeymoon, they travelled to their "new" home by truck with the local carrier taking their newly acquired furniture with them. Girlie had not seen the house previously - there was no bathroom or laundry - for a bath, the tub was brought into the kitchen and bathing took place in front of the fire. Girlie did the washing by boiling the clothes in a four gallon bucket on a brandis over an open fire. (A 'brandis' was a four-legged rectangle frame with a movable central bar. It was placed over the open fire and buckets were placed on it to boil water).

Later a 'wash-house' constructed of broom bush was made for a shelter and shade, but the open fire, outside was used for many years.

A bull-nose verandah was added to their two rooms and several years later, the end of the verandah was built in with louvres and used as a bedroom. After twenty three years of living in the two rooms, Jim and Girlie had a new, modern, house built complete with bathroom and laundry; however, the laundry was converted to a spare bedroom for the local teacher and never became a laundry!

The first Sunday after their marriage that they went to church, was very embarrassing for Girlie, they were late and had to walk to the front of the old Copeville Hall and sit in desks used for school during the week. No-one had seen Girlie previously and she felt that all eyes were on her that day! They have been known to be late only one other time during their fifty two years of attending Copeville Church. Girlie soon made many friends. She rode her pony, Skipper into Copeville for supplies and took eggs and butter to sell at the service store van when it came to Jeff's house.

Jim was always interested in cricket and football. While at home at Claypans, he and his father rode on horseback to play cricket. After his marriage, he and Girlie followed the local football team. Driving the sulky, their only means of transport to Copeville, they rode on a truck or buckboard to the district football match - sometimes arriving home in the early hours of the morning.

Their older daughter, Janet was born in the Mannum Hospital on XXXXXXXX and their second daughter Louella was also born there on XXXXXXXX.

Girlie became involved in Church Fellowship, Red Cross (during world war II), the Women's Agricultural Bureau (W.A.B.) and A.C.W.W. (Associated Country Women of the World). Through W.A.B. and A.C.W.W. Girlie and Jim travelled to Perth (1974), Africa (1977), Germany, Europe and the British Isles (1980) New Zealand, Canada and U.S.A. (1983) and many places throughout Australia, to attend Conferences. The trip to Africa was a highlight as they were able to visit Janet and her husband, Robert in South West Africa, Namibia where Janet and Robert spent eleven years.

Jim kept records of the rainfall and unusual weather patterns on the farm from 1931 and copied the records of the Copeville rainfall from 1911 to 1931. He is able to quote rainfall figures and weather changes etc. for all of those years (1911 until he left the farm).

Over the years, Jim owned some very faithful sheepdogs to which he became very attached. One of them, Ringo which he acquired from Ray Symonds, Jim believed was his best dog. Ringo always knew what Jim expected of him. When he retired and left the farm he gave his faithful dog, Junior, to a friend as town life would not be good for a working dog - Jim knew that Junior would have a good home. One of the first letters Jim received in his new home at Strathalbyn, was from Junior, telling him about his Junior's new life with his new "boss".

Jim spent sixty years on the farm before he and Girlie retired to Strathalbyn. His hobby became the garden and Girlie continued her interest in Church Fellowship and W.A.B. of which she became a life member.

Sadly, on 7 May 1993, Girlie a much loved and respected wife, mother, sister, auntie and friend, died. She was interred in the Strathalbyn cemetery.

Jim continues to live at Strathalbyn.

[[1442

JEFFREY ALLEN GEORGE RAYMOND (JEFF) BOLT

Jeffrey Allen George Raymond (Jeff) Bolt, the second of Walter and Grace Bolt's eight sons, was born at their Claypans home on 9 March, 1907. It is presumed that Grace's mother attended at the birth. He was baptised at Forster on the Church of England Mission boat "Etona" on 11 August, 1907 by Rev. (later Archdeacon) W.J. Busell.

He began school in 1913 at the age of five years eleven months and, with his older brother, Jim, walked the two and a half miles across the paddocks to the Claypans School. His first teacher was Miss Grace Beckmann. The boys often walked a different way to school in order to check their rabbit traps. (Rumour has it, that they were, sometimes, late for school because they went bird-nesting!)

Jeff has a vivid memory of his first day at school - his mother had packed his lunch in a new serviette which had been stored in moth-balls and the pungent odour had penetrated the bread - Jeff was very sick!

Hard work was not unknown to Jeff. Even as a young school boy, he was expected to milk cows before and after school and to help in the house. He completed year eight at the Claypans school and during that time, was taught many domestic skills by his mother. Consequently, he could "turn his hand" to such culinary arts as making bread, jam, cakes and pickles.

When he was sixteen, he drove a five foot stripper for his Uncle Johnny Johns. Later that year, Jeff left home at Claypans with Jim to work on a farm owned by their father at Section 14, Hundred of Bandon. They toiled at cutting "springbacks" (young saplings which had "sprung back" from the roller when the scrub was rolled). The boys lived in a bag "humpy" until their father built a stone room for them.

In 1925, Jeff acquired a "block of land (Section 99 Hundred of Bandon) on the Western side of Section 14. The block was scrubland and so in 1926, Jeff rolled one hundred and fifty acres (60 hectares) using a scrub roller and horses. He burnt the scrub and ploughed the ground which he sowed to wheat in 1927. However, that was a drought year and his labours were in vain for he did not reap even one bag of wheat!

Always resolute, Jeff "battled on" against the frustrations which confronted him during the Depression years (when the price of wheat dropped to two shillings and two pence (22 cents) per bushell (60 lbs) and completed the task of rolling the scrub.

In 1927, Jeff married Gwendolyn Ernestine Towill, the daughter of Mr and Mrs William ('Ern') Towill of Claypans. Gwen also attended the Claypans Primary School. After their marriage, at the home of Gwen's parents, they lived in a house built by Jeff's father, Walter and a builder, Bill Donhardt.

During the years 1931-1935, Jeff travelled to Kapunda to Sir Sidney Kidman's horse sales and there purchased horses which needed to be "broken in" for farm work. "What a job!" recalled Jeff. "Breaking in wild horses!" He remembered that the first two horses he bought, cost thirty one pounds (\$62.00).

Charcoal burning was Jeff's next venture. With the shortage of petrol during World War II, cars were fitted with gas producers and there became a demand for charcoal and so Jeff set about learning how to "burn" it from mallee stumps. Since he knew little about the process, it was a matter of "trial and error". At first they "over burnt" but with characteristic persistence and a great amount of hard grimy toil, they succeeded and burnt tons of charcoal. Jeff estimated that he supplied Shearers Implement Company at Mannum with thousands of bags of charcoal at eleven pence (10 cents) per bag. The price later increased to four shillings and sixpence (45 cents). Roy Briggs, the local carrier, carted the bags of charcoal (approximately three hundred bags per load) to Shearers. With the proceeds, Jeff paid for a ten furrow plough, and eight foot stripper and a six leaved harrows which he had purchased from the Company.

Stump-picking on the property was another "back-breaking" job. It was a requirement that the mallee stumps be split to fit through a ten inch (25cm) ring. They were loaded on to trucks and sent to Adelaide either by truck or rail and netted approximately six shillings (60 cents) per ton.

Jeff and Gwen raised five children, Raymond, Roma (Tyler), Eileen (Burdett), Kenneth and Tasma (Mansfield) now deceased. When the children commenced school they walked to the Hundred of Bandon School which, at that time, was situated on property owned by Mr. William (Bill) Johns. In 1945 the portable schoolroom was transferred to the North West corner of Section 17 of Jeff's property which was a convenient position for the children enrolled at that time.

The actual removal of the standard-size rural school building, must, surely have been a most precarious exercise! Jeff and his brothers Jim, Les and Gordon used "wallaby" jacks to raise the building to the height of two horse-drawn trolleys upon which the room was positioned and secured. The trolleys were driven side-by-side to the new site and there re-located.

For several years, Jeff enjoyed playing tennis, however, in 1960 when the Karoonda Bowling Club was formed and its greens laid, he began playing bowls and won the Club's championship singles in 1962. In September, 1964, Jeff joined the Encounter Bay Bowling Club and travelled to Victor Harbor each Saturday to play and returning to the farm on Sunday night.

From 1960-1964, Jeff served as a councillor with the East Murray Council representing the Hundred of Bandon ward.

On 29 January, 1965, Jeff and Gwen moved to Victor Harbor to live. They both played bowls and Jeff served several years on the Committee and became Vice-president of the club as well as being a selector. He won the Championship singles in 1967/68. During his years with the club. Jeff served as Greens and Bar Manager and was awarded Life membership. In 1985, he was honoured by the club when the No. 3 Green was named the Jeff A.G.R. Bolt Green at an afternoon ceremony.

On 27 August 1988, Jeff and Gwen left Victor Harbor and made their home at Murray Bridge to be nearer their family.

[[1443

LESLIE GRAHAM BENJAMIN BOLT

Leslie Graham Benjamin Bolt, the third child of Walter and Grace Bolt, was born on 15 August, 1908, in the family home at Claypans and was probably delivered by his grandmother Johns, the local mid-wife at that time. On 24 April, 1909, Les was baptised on the "Etona" a River Murray Mission boat, by Rev. Hew F. Severn.

As a small child, he was hospitalized with a severe bout of pneumonia. He walked two and a half miles with his brothers to attend the Claypans School and left after completing year seven.

For many years, Les helped his mother with the housework and had his first job away from home when he went grape-picking at Renmark with Mont Towill, in 1925 working for and living with, George Bennett whose wife was a relative of Mont. In 1926, he again went grape-picking, this time, at Loxton where he stayed with his Auntie Nancy Retallack and her husband, George. Those wages enabled him to buy his first motor-bike, an A.J.S. He later sold that and bought a Harley Davidson motorcycle and side car from Murray Cockshell who had purchased it at the Royal Adelaide Show in 1924 for one hundred and five pounds (\$210.00).

In 1926, Les was best man for his Uncle Murray when he married Grace Machin and it was then that he met Meredyth Joyce Steed (Merrie) who was a bridesmaid for her long-time friend, the two having attended Goodwood Primary School, Sunday School and church together. After Primary School, Merrie attended Unley High School and Unley Business College after which she worked at several office jobs. At the time of her marriage, she was working as an adding machine operator in the Customs Office at Port Adelaide. Les and Merrie courted for seven years

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before they married at 3.00pm on Saturday, 15 July, 1933 at the Church of Emmanuel, Young St., Wayville, a mission church of St. Augustine's Church of England (now Anglican), Unley. Immediately following their wedding reception, Les and Merrie returned to their home on the farm as there was no money for a honeymoon.

From 1927, until his marriage, Les had lived with his brother and sister-in-law (Jeff and Gwen) while he and Jeff worked together developing their farms and working at road-making to earn extra money during the Depression years. With the acquisition of Sections 136 and 137 Hundred of Bandon in 1930, Les was faced with the daunting task of clearing the mallee from his land and preparing it for seeding. The scrub was rolled using a horse-drawn scrub-roller after hand-cutting the perimeter and burnt following which, the seed was sown with a combine.

In 1932, Les employed Mr. C Evans of Karoonda to build a four-roomed dwelling of limestone with brick facings to doors and windows - he tendered eighty pounds (\$160.00) for the labour and burnt all of the lime needed for mortar on his property. The house was ready to occupy in 1933 and the usual out-buildings erected.

Cows were milked and the milk separated. Cream was taken to Copeville Railway Siding (five miles away) and thence to Adelaide. The sale of cream and eggs helped pay the grocer and green grocer who travelled from Mannum, weekly.

During the early years of their marriage, candles, kerosene lamps and lanterns were used for lighting. However, in later years, a 32 volt stationary engine was installed and it was possible to use an electric washing machine and iron which replaced the "Mrs Potts" irons which were heated on the wood stove. In 1966, when E.T.S.A. (Electricity Trust of South Australia) connected remote areas with electricity, 240 volt appliances were used.

On XXXXXXX, Les and Merrie's first child, Graham Walter was born and on XXXXXXX, their daughter Kathleen Joyce. Both Graham and Kathleen attended the Hundred of Bandon School. During the years when their children attended the local school, Merrie and Les provided board for the teachers who for that period were Sheila Witters, Nancy Barber (Burdett), Reva Roberts, Kath McMahon, Greta Hurrell (Bolt), Nell Donnelly and Di Jolley.

Les recalled that during the 1940's, he picked stumps for sale in Adelaide and with his brother, Jim secured a contract with Rosella Preserving Company to supply them with charcoal. For that, they received five shillings (50c) per bag.

During that era, horses played an important part in farming - Les' first team of six horses served him well. He later increased his team to ten. Farmers became very attached to their horses even though tending them early each morning and at night after a tiring day in the paddock, added to their already long arduous day.

In 1948, Les purchased his first tractor - a MacCormack Deering W6 and Merrie enjoyed the luxury of a kerosene refrigerator at the same time.

It was in the 1950's when the Copeville tennis team was re-formed, that Les and Merrie enjoyed playing. However, in later years they both joined the Karoonda Bowling Club and enjoyed bowling there until 1971 when they left their Hundred of Bandon farm and retired to Victor Harbor where they became members of the Encounter Bay Bowling Club.

After their retirement, Les and Merrie enjoyed travelling and toured New Zealand and all states of Australia.

[[1444

Gordon Cecil BOLT

Gordon Cecil Bolt, the fourth son of Walter and Grace Bolt, was born on 8 April,

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1910 at the Claypans homestead. His earliest childhood memories include visits with his parents in the horse-driven buggy to cousins Lahne, Peters, Preiss and Johns. Gordon remembers attending his Grandfather Kit Bolt's birthday parties and recalls that he watched, fascinated, wondering how Grandfather twirled his walking stick!

He commenced his schooling at the Claypans School at the age of seven years walking (or running) the two and a half miles with his brothers. One of his chores before leaving home for school was to wash the dishes. One particular morning, having completed his task, he ran hoping to 'catch up' with his younger brothers Cyril, Eric and Ivan who had left home thirty minutes earlier only to find them playing in the scrub quite close to home! Knowing that they would all be late for school, he swore at them. Unfortunately for him, his father who was passing with his team of horses, overheard his colourful language - Walter, who was known never to use bad language, took off his belt and gave Gordon something he has never forgotten!!

At thirteen years of age, Gordon left school and remembers that his last teacher was Miss Alma Bellis who married Graham Payne, a local farmer and settled near Cambrai. His first job after leaving school was picking black sticks on two hundred acres of his eldest brothers property near Copeville. (Black sticks remained after a 'dirty burn' when not everything was thoroughly burnt. The sticks were stacked into heaps and burnt at night. At the age of eighteen, he went to work for Dave Burley. That entailed starting the day at 5.00am, feeding, tending and grooming the horses with a curry comb down to their fetlocks - all before breakfast. His other daily tasks included carting stumps off newly cleared land, seeding, sieving cocky chaff through a 'punch hole' sieve (a home-made sieve fashioned from a sheet of iron with small holes punched in it and edged with timber) and preparing the horses' nose-bags before going to bed at 8.30pm.

Gordon remembers that during the twenty four week period he was employed there, he worked 15 hours per day with a half a day off weekly to play football - his wages amounted to two pounds (\$4.00) per week.

In 1930, Gordon began a three-year sharefarming job with Roy Lawrie on a property previously owned by Gus (Goosh) Weidenhoffer (in later years Reuben Tyler owned the property). He cleared two-hundred acres for farming and burnt the stumps as they were not marketable at that time. His best harvest was on 300 acres of wheat from which he reaped 1500 bags. His share was one hundred and twenty eight pounds (\$256.00).

On 11 April 1931, Gordon married Lila Daphne Wotton at the home of her parents Mr. Harry and Mrs. Wotton (nee Staples) of Mannum. Lila had been employed by Gordon's parents. Her father worked at Shearers Implement company as a stationary engine driver. After their marriage, they lived on Roy Lawrie's property where Gordon was share-farming. It was March 1933, when Gordon's father gave him a block of 750 acres (Section 13 Hundred of Bandon) near Copeville. There Gordon built his first house of mallee posts and broom bush which he cut and carted. The iron roof was held down with stones and the house lined with hessian. Two years later, he replaced it with a tin house. Gordon had learnt many skills from his father including building with stone, burning lime for mortar and how to 'put down' a bore. Consequently, he was able to build his own stone house and tank stand. The stone was carted on a trolley which Gordon had made himself from an old 'Overland' car. He was the first in the area to construct a 4-wheeled, rubber-tyred trolley. Having no saw, he cut and shaped the timber with an axe, since there was no suitable building stone on his property, the horse-drawn trolley was a useful acquisition for carting it. Gordon erected the house with the assistance of Mr. Reuben Tyler (senior).

This was done following the removal of his appendix. His operation was performed on a Sunday and the following Saturday, he discharged himself from hospital hoping to play in the football Grand Final - however that was disallowed. Never a man to be idle, he dug a lime kiln on the Monday. That entailed digging a pit 10 feet by 5 feet by 2 feet 6 inches deep. He then carted stones and put them into the pit ready for burning.

During the 1930's Gordon travelled to Kapunda.. Sometimes with his brothers

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Jim, Jeff and Les to attend the Kidman horse sales. An unbroken light pony would cost approximately four pounds (\$8.00) and was used for ploughing and reaping. Over a four day period at the sales, one horse per minute was auctioned. After the sales, the horses were driven by stockmen from Kapunda to either Swan Reach or Purnong. From there, the farmers took delivery.

Some of his early implements included an 8 foot stripper, a six leaved set of harrows purchased from Shearers and a 10 furrow Loxton stump-jump plough which he paid for with the money earned from burning charcoal. With the advent of motorised farm machinery, he purchased his first tractor, a kerosene powered Fordson followed by two International tractors, 3 Fiats - one with bomber tyres which worked very well on his sandy homestead block - and another Fordson. To purchase his first motor bike, a Harley Davidson and side car for which he paid five pounds, Gordon travelled pillion to Wanbi with his brother Cyril. Near Galga, on the way home, one of the bars on the side car snapped and so they left it there and returned the following week to retrieve it.

In the late 1930's Gordon bought 1063 acres of land, (Section 162 Hundred of Forster) from Stan Tyler at a cost of 400 pounds. Later in the 1940's he purchased a further 3003 acres, (Section 148 and 149 Hundred at Bandon), from Dr. Cowan for 2002 pounds - 150 acres of which were partly cleared - the later purchase was in his son Henry's name. His total holdings amounted to 4800 acres most of which he cleared himself, "(suppose I've been a tree destroyer", quipped Gordon. In later years, he ran both sheep and cattle (purchased from Cullulleraine, Victoria) on his property.

Gordon's interest in sports began at an early age when, as children, he and his brothers, each with their own boxing gloves, tried to emulate their Uncle Ab who was renowned throughout the river area for his prowess with the gloves. He commenced his football career with Forster as a ruck-man, rucking for four quarters. Later, when he played for Copeville, there were six members of the Bolt family playing for that team. As a cricketer, he was selected to play in Country Carnivals in Adelaide for six years including 1947 - 1949, he was a valuable "all-rounder". As a spin-bowler, his best figures included 'a couple of hat-tricks' of which he is very proud.

The highlight of his batting career was scoring a century. Both Cecil and Bill played in the same team as their father. When the Copeville Tennis Club was re-formed, the family played together in the same team. Fishing for the big Murray cod was enjoyed by all of the boys in the family. Gordon continues his keen interest in local football and International cricket matches.

Gordon and Lila raised five children - Cecil Henry, Albert Walter, William Alfred (identical twins), Irene Daphne and Warren. Lila supported Gordon in all of his ventures. Sadly, she died on 11 October 1975, at the age of 64 years, after a life-time of hard work. Gordon does not consider that he has retired. He lives at Wongulla caring for a small fruit block and carting a few stumps.

[[1445

Cyril Edmund BOLT was the fifth son and child born to Walter and Grace BOLT on 23 December 1914 at Mannum S.A. He started school at Claypans School in 1921 and finished in 1928. Getting to and from school involved an 8 km. round walk. During this time he crammed an incredible amount of information into his head, a lot of which he remembers to the current day. At least 10 lengthy poems learned then, can still be fluently recited. Geographical and Historical facts interested him. He still remembers his teacher's names of Miss Barnes, Miss Bellis, Percy Payne and Jack Clarke. One day at school, Cyril and Norm Kluge had a disagreement. Norm told the teacher, so Cyril filled Norm's hat with water at the end of the school day and ran away. The teacher sent Cyril's older brother Gordon to catch Cyril. Cyril outran Gordon and escaped the punishment that night. Next day he got the cane.

On another occasion, he was to be caned in front of the class. As the cane was about to strike, he pulled his hand back, causing the cane to be broken as it hit the teacher's desk. The teacher ordered that a student get a mallee stick from outside. This left the expected marks! Despite these incidents he was a

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capable student especially with his Arithmetic. In those days cricket was played on the school oval which consisted of limestone rubble. whilst fielding a ball, Cyril slipped, tearing the flesh from his knee. This required a trip with his father to the Mannum hospital. He still bears the large scar today.

On leaving school in 1929, he worked for his Dad, who had a contract to build 15 chain (300 metres) of the rubble road between Copeville and Claypans. Cyril and his brother dug the rubble from the quarry and loaded it into a two horse tip-dray. His father then carted the rubble to the road and spread it with a shovel. Later his Dad and Cyril built 10 chain (200 metres) of the Purnong to Bow Hill road and 10 chain of the Forster Hall to Purnong-Nildottie road. This manual work was tough and began the development of Cyril's strong physical and mental characteristics. Terrible dust storms in 1929, whilst building the roads, made the demanding work even more difficult.

In 1930 Cyril moved onto his brother Jim's farm and worked with him until 1936, helping clear the scrub and develop the farm. He bought his first motor bike in Adelaide. It was a New Imperial that cost 30 pounds (\$60). His brother Les followed the proud new owner along the Birdwood road in his car. Enjoying the speed, Cyril left Les behind, only to take the wrong turn to Mount Pleasant. He vividly remembers the handle bars shaking as the motor bike developed the speed wobbles. Needing more power, Cyril later traded in this bike for a Harley Davidson 7.9 that cost him 40 pounds (\$80). At Copeville cricket, Cyril and his brother were having some fun on their Harleys, spinning around in circles. Alf Carslake came over waving his arms around when the boys decided to leave. Alf is reported to have said, "Those mad Bolt boys !" which probably summarised the feelings of many around Copeville with the boy's motor bike riding habits. It was also during this time when he first gave his wife-to-be, Jean Hein, a ride back to her home after a Forster dance. In those days on the rough Forster to Copeville road, that was quite an experience on a Harley.

Always an active person, he enjoyed sport, playing football and some cricket and tennis. One year he won a football trophy for the best and fairest.

After 1936 he moved onto the undeveloped eastern part of the property by himself, rolling, burning and clearing the land. In 1937 Ron Sugars joined Cyril for 2 years until Ron joined the army. Cyril continued to work by himself for 3 years making slow but steady improvement to the property. In this time he developed his strong independence and work ethic that became his hallmark.

Early in 1943, Cyril began his relationship with Eugena (Jean) Hein. This was at a clearing sale for Bill Johns at Copeville. Jean had gone up to Copeville for a holiday from Adelaide, to which she had moved from Copeville in 1936. Even though Cyril had known Jean since the early 1930's Jean's brother Gary bet Cyril 2 shillings (20 cents) that he would not kiss his sister Jean. Cyril took him on and said that he would do it for nothing. Thus began the excellent long-lasting relationship that still continues happily today. They married at Saint Pauls Church of England in Pulteney Street on 6 November 1943.

In March 1943 he decided to leave farming and moved to Adelaide working for Rofe and Co. as a truck carrier. After a fortnight working there, he was "called up" by the army to train for war service. He never enjoyed the army, finding it difficult to accept mindless instructions. In November 1943, he was honourably discharged from the army. He had become a qualified mechanic in the army and was sent to Elliott's Garage, Payneham, to assist with the war effort as Elliotts were repairing vehicles used to produce vegetables for the war. After working there for 10 months fixing cars, trucks, utilities and motor bikes, he moved to Len Smith Ltd in Flinders Street. They had an army contract to supply specialist army equipment. There he manufactured gears, shafts and other special machined pieces. After a few years he became leading hand. He maintained his life-long interest in repairing motor cars by setting up a "back-yard" garage and working on them after hours. By this time his nick-name, originally given to him during his football playing days, was well accepted by all as "Lofty".

In March 1946 with the birth of their first child only a month or so away, Cyril went to Mataranka in Northern Territory. This was a part of his job at Smiths to buy ex-army vehicles. Another employee, Hugh Dunlop went with him. They got

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to Alice Springs by train and to Mataranka on the back of a carrier's truck. The day before they arrived there had been an army payroll robbery. The police incorrectly associated Cyril and Hugh with the robbery and arrested them. They had no identification papers with them and could not prove their identities. After some tense phone calls to Adelaide, proof of identity was established. The police realised that they had arrested the wrong people, gave them a meal and let them go. Next day, not content with just leaving as the police officers suggested, they went to court in Katherine where they cleared their names and were able to claim damages for wrongful arrest, as by then, the true robbers had been caught. They returned home 4 to 5 weeks later, with no trucks bought, just in time for Garry's birth. Doctor Alpers, the delivering physician, rang Cyril and said, "You'll have to extend your garage!" Not understanding that he had become a father, Cyril said to Dr. Alpers in characteristic fashion, "What the hell is wrong with you?" They bought a house, whilst Jean was in hospital at 19 Chatham Road, Keswick for 1200 pounds (\$2,400), most of which was cash.

In February 1948, with Diane due to be born, Cyril was out working. When Jean began having contractions, her mother started getting very concerned. When Cyril finally got home, they only just made it to hospital, with the birth almost occurring in the passage of the hospital.

He worked at Smiths until November 1948, when he began his own full-time motor car repair business in the backyard of his home. Always being a hard worker, he usually worked from 8a.m. to near midnight, 6 days a week and sometimes 7 days to keep up with the work. He soon built up an excellent business through his reputation of top quality work. Most business came from word of mouth from satisfied customers and he maintained most of the local small business vehicles, including bakeries, taxis and greengrocers. As business grew, he employed mechanics to keep up the work. Being versatile in many areas, he extended the workshop in 1949, onto the adjoining block. Secondhand materials were used, due to the post-war shortage of new materials. Business grew further until finally 6 workers were employed. Seeing the back yard of their house and adjoining block, with the amount of work going on, was something to be seen. Finally of course new premises were necessary. He always had an outstanding reputation for honesty, very low prices and excellent quality work. His commitment to his customers was real and sincere. In 1949 he went to Nhill in Victoria for one of his regular customers to buy the first model Holden from a new car dealer. At that stage, new cars were very difficult to obtain. Even though he worked very hard in this period, he did not forget his family. Travelling became a special interest of both Cyril and Jean. Most Sundays would be spent touring around the state. The evening would be completed by a visit to his parents home at Prospect or an evening meal at their favourite Cafe (The Blue and White Cafe in North Adelaide).

1951 was an eventful year with Cyril permanently losing the sight in his right eye. This occurred with a piece of steel flying into his eye whilst hammering a car part into place. This caused him considerable difficulty for sometime as judgement of distance was not easy with one eye. He wore an eye-patch for a long time. Also in that year, Garry contracted poliomyelitis, just after starting school. After being told that he would not walk again, Cyril could not accept the then accepted method of placing the patient in leg irons. Instead he withdrew Garry from hospital and arranged daily visits to a physiotherapy clinic using the Sister Kenny method of movement. This proved successful after 3 or 4 months and illustrates Cyril's strength of character of doing what he believes in.

Cyril developed an interest in Chevrolet cars and owned many models starting with a 1935 utility. He later owned models made in 1949 (utility), 1952, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960 and 1961. Most of these had the number plate S.A.5030, whilst travelling through New South Wales, in Corowa he saw the 1949 model for sale and decided to buy it. Getting it home was a problem, so Jean agreed to drive it and followed him all the way back to South Australia even though she had no driver's licence. Chevrolets were a source of great pride to him, with the 1961 V8 being his favourite. Always keen on rivalry, he could often be seen burning off other cars at traffic lights. Perhaps that is why the V8 was his favourite! After a party for his brother Jim at the Mannum waterfalls, Cyril and one of his brothers were discussing proudly that they each had the more powerful car. Pride was on the line! The issue was immediately resolved with a

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
match-up on the Mannum road.

In 1957 Cyril undertook a major development of his then backyard business, by building a very large new workshop at 143 West Beach Road, Richmond. He designed and did much of the physical work himself, including manufacturing the steel roof trusses and wall members, laying the concrete floors and installing the roof. As he was extremely fit in those days, it was no problem for him to dig the pits and deep drainage trenches. Today no thought would be given to do these manually. His business grew progressively until at the peak he employed 15 staff. Throughout most of the growth year, Jean had managed the accounts and paperwork as well as maintain the house.

In 1962, prosperous business allowed him to have a new house built at 22 Birdwood Tce., North Plympton, and in 1963, he built mainly by himself, a holiday house overlooking the River Murray at Goolwa. Here the entire family and grandchildren were to spend many relaxing times. A ski boat was bought and has been used extensively by all three generations. Cyril enjoyed water skiing and continued to slalom ski until he was 75. Since he began to have more recreational time, also in that year, he commenced his involvement with 10 pin bowling. He won many trophies over the years until 1987, with his best achievement being a high score of 278 out of an almost impossible 300.

Being skilled in many areas and always enjoying the challenge of thinking through a problem, Cyril easily adapted to areas other than those in which he had experience. He developed good skills in many building projects and supported his son Garry in the construction of two houses. Most of the actual building was done by the father-son team, with the assistance of Garry's father-in-law, Harold Woodrup. At the age of 65, Cyril was seen proudly walking across the top of a timber beam only 75mm wide with his arms overhead. As the beam was 4.5 metres up, this was to demonstrate to all watching, his pride in putting this major beam into place. It also illustrates his confidence and daring! When Diane required some additions to her house, he made some major building renovations for her.

In 1984, he finished his involvement in the Richmond business. So that he could continue working on cars in his own environment, he had a small garage built at the back of his Plympton home. He celebrated his 70th birthday there, just after the shed was built. Over the next 10 years, he continued to work on customer's and friend's cars. Many have been seeing him for 50 years and continue to this day. When he is idle he becomes restless and does not enjoy wasted time. For this reason, he keeps himself very busy and continues to work 6 days a week on tasks that interest him.

In November 1993, Cyril and Jean celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Despite having very adequate means, both have lived humble lives, never being wasteful or lavish. Their anniversary was spent with the whole family in their favourite dining place - The Maid of Auckland Hotel. This hotel offers modest meals at excellent prices and demonstrates Cyril and Jean's conserving manner for such an occasion, due to the tough times they went through in the 1930's depression. In recent years Cyril has adopted a simple dietary philosophy of "I eat to live - not live to eat!", as he has been heard to proudly announce to people. He readily admits that his favourite food is good old-fashioned bread and jam. Jean continues to make large quantities of jam each year.

No story about Cyril would be complete without further mention of his love of travelling. Over the years he has travelled around Australia by caravan and campervan on at least 10 different occasions. He toured Tasmania in 1956 and 1972. New Zealand was visited in 1971 and 1985. In 1976 he and Jean took a world tour on the ocean liner Australis. He soon learned that he enjoyed travelling most, if independent in his own car. This trip lasted for 6 months and took them to diverse places such as Panama, Egypt and behind the Iron Curtain. Some quick explaining that they were Australian helped, but nevertheless they were quick to return to the motorway. Enjoying this trip immensely, they again toured Europe in their own car for four and a half months in 1980. At one stage whilst in East Germany they wandered off the motorway to buy some bread, only to find themselves at gun point. Again at the age of 79 and with Jean 81 they went with their son Garry and daughter-in-law Heather to Europe for thirteen and a half weeks in 1994. Always prepared to help others,

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
whilst in London, Cyril saw a broken down car on the road. He climbed over a pedestrian fence to go to the motorists assistance and went onto the busy London road to push the stranded car off the road. He demonstrates to this day a fantastic memory of place names visited. He readily begins chatting with anyone and always amazes people with his knowledge of places in their countries.

Cyril continues to live a comfortable yet simple life with Jean in their Plympton home. They live for their family and grandchildren and do everything possible to support and assist them. They have been wonderful parents. They both like to reflect on the past and their achievements and believe that they have seen more changes in their life times than any other single generation!

[[1446

Eric Reginald BOLT

Bessie Edith O'TOOLE.

Eric Reginald Bolt was born on 7 July 1916, the sixth of eight sons born to Walter and Grace Bridget Bolt. He was born at Mannum.

As a child he was raised on his parents' farm at Claypans in the Mallee and was taught farming by his father, the knowledge gained being a valuable asset for his future.

Eric attended school at Claypans from 1923 to 1930, with a Miss Bellis as his teacher. Before he left for school, to which he had to walk approximately two and a half miles, he was required to help milk cows and wash dishes. On occasions, that meant he had to run halfway to school to be on time. One morning instead of going to school, he spent his time catching birds - a venture which was short-lived once his parents became aware of it. After school, he and his brothers were required to do farm chores. Because 1930 was a "good year" on the farm Eric left school in September to help his father cart hay. Consequently he did not complete his seventh year at school and so at the age of fourteen, he was helping his father and brothers on the home property of Claypans.

In 1936, Eric's father leased a property at Claypans from the Department of Lands for one hundred and fifty pounds (\$300.00) per year. Originally, it had been a soldiers' settlement block.

Eric and his brothers Ivan and Lyle batched together on the property which was partly virgin scrub and which had to be cleared for farming. The brothers cleared the property by using a "Plum" axe and mullenising it (Eric still has the original "Plum" axe he used). In 1942 Eric acquired the lease for the property and in 1950 he made it freehold at the cost of 18 shillings per acre.

Eric played cricket and football for Claypans and then for Copeville, but due to his desire to succeed as a farmer and the shortage of money, sports were not a high priority, although he went to cricket with his father and was encouraged to play sport, but due to an eye injury his sporting days were limited further.

On 7 September 1940, Eric married Bessie Edith O'Toole at St. James Church of England (now Anglican), Torrensville. They made their home at Claypans (and during their early years of marriage, Eric's brother Ivan lived with them and helped on the farm until he moved to his own property at Claypans).

Due to several droughts during the early forties Eric went with two of his brothers to burn charcoal on a property near Copeville to earn extra money. He burnt charcoal between 1943-45 near Kunlara, buying the stumps for ten shillings a ton and selling the charcoal for three shillings and sixpence (35 cents) a bag. With the money he earned from charcoal, he was able to buy his first vehicle, a 1938 Dodge.

Bess stayed on the farm, milked the cows, looked after the pigs and fowls and generally contributed to the farm which greatly helped Eric achieve his goals. He had been taught blacksmithing skills by his father and being self-taught at repairing machinery, saved money by maintaining his own farm equipment. Consequently, his property soon became free-hold and he was able to purchase a tractor to replace his horses.

Bess's only contact with people during Eric's absence was when she pushed the babies pram across the paddocks to visit Mrs. Schmaal.

Apart from doing his own farming, Eric sharefarmed for Arthur Morrell at his property at Claypans between 1946 - 1952. In 1959 Eric purchased another farming property at Forster, paying six pound seven and sixpence per acre - his total farming area was then 3000 acres (1200 hectares).

Eric and Bess had four children, losing their only son Robert at the age of 3 years. Jill, Chris and Sue went on to their chosen lifestyles with the full support and assistance of their parents.

Eric became a Councillor in 1966 for the District Council of Marne and served fourteen years in that position. In 1981 Eric and Bess sold their original homestead property at Claypans. Although they had moved to Mannum to live in 1977, Eric still worked the farm.

Eric lives in semi-retirement now. Although he still owns the property at Forster and continues to run sheep and maintain it, he does have a sharefarmer for the crops. When he moved to Mannum, Eric worked for a local builder and has done so for the past thirteen years.

[[1447

IVAN NOEL BOLT, the seventh of Walter and Grace Bridget Bolt's eight sons was born at Mannum on 13 July, 1918.

At the age of four years when he was out in the paddock with his father who was seeding Ivan who was standing on the back of the implement slipped and his toes were caught in the cogs of the machine. His parents started on the journey to Mannum by horse and buggy to take Ivan to the doctor. Fortunately, they met Uncle Ab in his car and he took them the rest of the way. Dr. Sprod attended to the patient but unfortunately, Ivan was left with "three mangled toes" on his right foot.

Ivan attended the Claypans school a distance of two and a half miles from his home and with his brothers ran most of the way. They put a peg in the ground and could see by the shadow it cast whether they were early or late. There were approximately twenty children at the school at that time. His teachers were Perc Payne and George Ferguson. Ivan remembers learning about motor bikes and flying kites which seemed to be his teacher's favourite subjects.

At the age of nine, Ivan started going with his father to cricket at Mannum each Saturday. His mother always packed a Griffiths' tea tin full of sandwiches which were consumed heartily by either side! Ivan used to bat or field if necessary. He continued playing cricket for Claypans for many years and received Life Membership of the Club. He was awarded a "Long Serving Player Certificate" by the Country Carnival Cricket Association for having played at least one hundred and sixty games or in twenty carnivals.

He also played football for Copeville and Galga during his sporting life.

When he was fourteen, he carted rubble in the dray to help his father and Uncle Ab who were making part of the Purnong - Bowhill Road. They camped in Bill Day's house. In later years when Ivan and his brother, Eric, were "batching" at Eric's Claypans' property, they used to sit around the open fire at night on weekends with Ron and Jim Trotter and make toast which they ate with his mother's green tomato pickles for supper.

During 1940 Ivan's father bought him a farm at Claypans. After Ivan had worked

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
hard and "battled" to repay him in two or three years, he remembers that he was still "stony broke". It was hard work rolling down scrub with horses in those days. He also helped to burn charcoal and many pits were "put in" by Ivan and his brothers. They were "as black as the coal at night" and used to sleep in wheat bags because they were up early for work again the next day.

On 17 March, 1945, Ivan married Adelaide Tyler who lived with her family on a farm near Copeville. They raised four children - Joylene Mary (Joy) - Mrs Collins, Cheryl Annette (Mrs Denham-Kerr), Noel Bradley (Brad) and Kym Anthony. Joy contracted crippling Multiple Sclerosis and fought bravely to lead a normal life with her family. She was a gentle girl - an inspiration to all who knew her. Joy died on 2 October, 1985, at the age of forty three years. Cheryl, a teacher, lives in New Zealand and visits her family regularly. Bradley (Brad) continues to farm the family property. After a long courageous battle with cancer Kym died on 13 March 1992, aged thirty seven years.

In December 1976, Ivan and Adelaide moved to Mannum to live since all of the children had married and the boys were managing the farms. Ivan and Adelaide continue to live in Mannum.

[[1448

LYLE LIONEL BOLT

Lyle Lionel Bolt (or as his Birth Certificate states, Lionel Lyle Bolt) the youngest of eight boys born to Walter and Grace Bridget Bolt, was born on 1 August, 1922 at Mannum. His childhood followed the same pattern as his older brothers with work ethics being firmly impressed upon him at an early age and which he has never forgotten.

His lasting memories of schooldays are working on the teacher's motor-bike, going to the shop for cigarettes and swimming in Mont Towill's tank.

Schooldays behind him, Lyle was required to work on the farm with time off for the weekly football match. He bought wheat from various farmers for W. Thomas & Co and had to "lump" it at Copeville siding. He was a good mechanic and repaired cars for people in the district. During world war II, Lyle organised Red Cross dances which were held in the Purnong Hall and which were always well attended - the music was wonderful! His Harley Davidson motor-bike was very important to him being his only means of transport to Adelaide where he enjoyed going to the pictures with his friend Tom Heffernan.

In May 1941, Lyle met Phyllis Miller who was a teacher at the Claypans school. During their courtship, outings were restricted because of the shortage of petrol. Phyllis remembers travelling to Adelaide twice on the back of the "Harley" - once while going down Anstey's Hill, the lights failed causing a few moments of anxiety.

Phyllis and Lyle were married in the Methodist (Uniting) Church, East Parade, Norwood on 29 May 1943. Phyllis's father, Rev. Horace Miller, officiated at the ceremony. The first years of their marriage were really "tough"; they used to put two horses in the trolley to drive to church which they never missed. Later, Lyle had an old car "cut down" and made into a "buck-board" so that they could travel about more often. Lack of petrol was a problem during the war and so a small petrol tank was fitted under the bonnet (and the petrol used to start the vehicle). The large tank was filled with kerosene. That, of course, was illegal! A "kind" neighbour reported them. Consequently, the police officer visited them (Phyllis still remembers his reaction when he removed the cap from the tank - "Pooh! the smell of the stuff!")

Lyle worked extremely hard burning charcoal and, later, cut and sawed a load of wood each week for Roy Briggs, the carrier, to collect. Also, they milked up to nine cows and kept fowls "to make ends meet". Being very ambitious, Lyle worked long hours and toiled, to buy two other farms - Morrells and Gerhardys. Having paid for them, he set his sights on western Australia. Prior to that, however, he had established a Merino Stud known as "Gate Pines" which soon became well known and respected throughout South Australia and beyond. Building the stud to such a high standard took a great amount of his time. In 1965, the stud was

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
transferred to Western Australia - their three sons, David, Philip and Vernon were as keen as Lyle to "spread their wings" and helped to establish "Gate Pines West" at Bilbarin, Western Australia.

Farming proved to be quite different in Western Australia - it took a long time to adjust to different soil types and seasons. The sheep took some time to adapt to drinking at dams. The "boys" decided to grow oats and barley in particular because of the nutrients suitable for sheep, contained in the stubble. Lyle carts all of the oats to "Poultry Farmers", a place in Perth where pellets etc. are made for pigs and poultry. Most weeks, he makes two trips to Perth leaving home towards evening and returning the following morning after collecting super, fuel or parts for the farm.

Lyle and the boys do all of their own mechanical repairs which, of course, has saved thousands of dollars. Another of Lyle's jobs involves visiting sheep stations out from Carnarvon. A number of station owners buy rams from Gate Pines West and so Lyle keeps in touch - checking rams and hoggets at least once a year.

Even though he is over seventy, Lyle continues to work extremely hard. Phyllis is waiting patiently for the time when he decides to take a few days to relax.

[[145

Richard (Dick) Bolt

Richard (Dick) Bolt, the fifth child of Christopher (Kit) and Mary Anne (nee Finn) Bolt was born at Garra (near Lameroo) on 9 November, 1881. In 1885, the family moved to a property at Scrubby Flat, Hd of Forster and so Richard attended school there. Little is known of his life during those formative years but in 1900 he, with brothers Walter and Christopher (Ab) formed a company and went out into the Claypans area to clear their property. It was virgin country and the three boys with great courage and tenacity set about their awesome task living under extremely primitive conditions in a bag hut. It is recorded that the boys cleared sufficient ground to sow a crop - existing on money earned by selling wood to the paddle steamer masters.

After his marriage to the former Eda Pauline Selma Kluge, Dick and his bride lived at first, in a two-roomed house with a cellar. (It is interesting to note that the floors were made of lime which was wet thoroughly, well tamped and left to harden). In later years the house was extended to accommodate the family. It was high on the cliff with a very steep approach to the river - the area being known as Bolt's Landing where the paddle steamers tied up on their weekly trips. Dick's daughter, Elsie, recalled a horrifying incident when their horse, Dave, harnessed to the wagon backed into the river and drowned. Dick an excellent horseman and naturally "very good with animals", was called out often to tend neighbours horses or cows.

Well known for his sense of humour and friendliness, Dick enjoyed involvement in community activities. He was a member of the Curnamont District Council for a number of years representing Scrubby Flat ward. As well, he was Treasurer of the local sports clubs, a member of the Forster School Committee and for many years secretary of the Forster Cricket Club. Dick and his brothers John and Walter were ardent cricketers and played each week during the summer. During the winter, Dick enjoyed football. The family looked forward to Saturday since that was their day of enjoyment and fun. After the sporting events, they stayed for a concert or dance. Both Dick and Selma loved dancing. When there was time for her to relax from the daily chores, Selma busied herself with needlework. She was an expert needle-woman and seamstress. She made her own and the girls' clothes, crocheted by copying from pieces of work which she saw.

During World War 1, Dick saw active service overseas with the 3rd Light Horse for two years when he was discharged as medically unfit. Grandma (Martha) Kluge, Selma and daughter, Elsie, tended the farm in his absence. On his return, Dick began a butchering business often killing up to eight sheep (or a beast) and selling the meat in the Claypans/Forster area.

On one occasion, his brother, Ab, took a load of hay to Dick's farm and when the

two men were cutting it, Dick's fingers caught in the chaff cutter and were badly mutilated. Ab took him down the river and shouted for help. It was four hours before he received medical attention at Mannum.

It was in 1925 that Dick acquired his first car and two years later he sold his property and went to live at Clarence Park. He obtained work at GM Holdens after which he managed the Commercial Hotel at Two Wells. Following that venture, he and Selma settled at Inman Valley (Victor Harbor). Years later, they returned to Plympton Park to live. Dick was a member of the ROAB Lodge and reached the third degree.

Following major surgery, Dick died in the Daw Park hospital on 24 January, 1967. His ashes were interred at Centennial Park cemetery. Selma died on 1 January, 1968 and was buried in the Victor Harbor cemetery.

[[1451

Elsie Alma Bolt

Elsie Alma Bolt, the eldest child of Richard and Selma (nee Kluge) Bolt, was born on 1 January 1910 at Mannum and was baptised at St Andrews Church, Mannum. She attended both the Forster and Purnong Schools after which she helped at home on the farm.

She remembers that one year, she fed twenty seven lambs and gave all of them names. She helped her father with the horses each morning. While her mother prepared breakfast (usually porridge). She often drove "six lovely old Clydesdales" in the plough and remembers "lots of foxes".

Neighbouring families were supplied with fruit and vegetables from the large garden for which water was pumped from the river. Elsie and her mother made jam - even making the jars from bottles by placing a hot ring around the bottle and plunging it into cold water - the neck of the bottle snapped off leaving a smooth surface. The jam covers were made from brown paper and "stuck down" with flour paste.

As many as twenty five cows were milked by hand twice daily and the pigs fed after "separating" was completed - the cream was sold to the factory. The swamps across the river yielded lush feed for their cows and so each morning the cows were taken across the river behind the boat to graze and in the evening taken back to the property where they were milked and yarded over-night. Those were the days before the locks and barrages were built.

Like all river settlers, at that time, they bought their supplies on the "Pyap" when it tied up at Bolt's landing.

Saturdays were always a highlight of the week when the cows were milked early and the family made ready ("bathed in the tub") to travel by wagon or sulky to cricket or football and the social evening (usually dancing) which followed.

The family "spent two or three days" each year at the Adelaide Show travelling there in the coach from Mannum. with changes of horses at Palmer and Chain of Ponds. (In later years the horse-drawn coach was replaced by a large Studebaker car). They stayed at the Botanic Hotel during their visit.

On Easter Monday, each year, Elsie's and neighbouring families packed picnic lunches and travelled to Oakbank races on the back of Mr. Francis' truck which was covered by a large canopy for shelter. "It was a great day", Elsie recalled.

Although only young at the time, she remembers the years during world war 1 when her father was away from home. "Grandma Kluge, mum and I looked after the farm," Elsie remembered.

Stock was purchased on Market days at Mount Pleasant. Elsie accompanied her father in the wagon and helped to drive home any stock which he purchased.

In 1927, Elsie left the river area with her family. She later worked in the Two

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
Wells Hotel with her parents. When the family moved to Inman Valley, she accompanied them and found work at Victor Harbor. Elsie met Blythe Halley Warland and they were married on 8 January, 1932. After their marriage they lived on the farm at Back Valley owned by Blythe's father. On XXXXXX their son Gordon Leo was born. Sadly, on 22 May that same year Elsie's husband died. After his death, Elsie returned to work until her parents moved to Plympton Park.

Elsie remembers her eighteen years of living near the River Murray very fondly and one of her cherished memories is of a recent houseboat trip along the river with neighbours. She had crossed the river many times but she had never travelled along it. Great was her joy when she recognised old landmarks - especially her old home which brought back many happy memories - the only change was the willows lining the banks.

At the age of eighty four years, Elsie lives in active retirement at Coffin Bay - a respected member of the community. She tends her beautiful garden (and her cats!) and loves to cook. She was taught tatting by an English lady in Tasmania and has completed many beautiful pieces of work. Failing eye-sight prevents her from crocheting now, but she keeps herself occupied with other handicrafts. She obtained her driver's licence at the age of sixteen and regularly drives into Port Lincoln.

Apart from a few problems with her legs, Elsie keeps good health. Her son Gordon married Nellie Pane in Brisbane and Elsie is the proud grand parent of four grand children and eight great grand children.

[[1453

Richard Keith Bolt

Richard Keith Bolt, the third child of Richard and Selma (nee Kluge) Bolt was born at Mannum on 10 July, 1924 and baptised at St Andrews Church, Mannum. Richard was three years old when the family moved from their Forster Farm to live at Clarence Park.

Little is known of Richard's early life but on 24 July, 1944 he married Lulu Tavener. At that time he owned a farm at Torrensvale, Victor Harbor. Their only child, Richard George was born on 24 XXXXXXXX.

Richard Keith became well-known for his love of horses and for his expertise as a horseman. In 1951, he gained first prize at the Inman Valley Red Cross Gymkhana and again, in 1954. Succeeded in winning the Yankalilla Patriotic Gymkhana. He was also a member of the RAOB Lodge.

For many years, Richard Keith suffered ill health and on 6 October, 1971 at the age of forty seven years, he died in Adelaide. Lulu died in 1991. They are survived by their son.

[[1454

Maxwell (Max) Allan Bolt

Maxwell (Max) Allan Bolt, the youngest child of Richard and Selma (nee Kluge) Bolt was born on XXXXXXXX at home at Clarence Park. While he was a baby, his family moved to Two Wells where his father owned a hotel. From there, the family moved to Inman Valley where his father had purchased a dairy farm. Max attended the Inman Valley Primary School and later the Victor Harbor High School. During that time, he assisted his father on the farm - carting hay and milking cows.

Following his school days, Max found work as a drink waiter at the Crown Hotel, Victor Harbor where he remained for two years during the time that the Air Force was based there. Apart from his work, and assisting his father, Max played cricket (and some football) for Inman Valley.

Because of "broken shifts" and irregular hours, Max sought other employment and in 1949, was employed by Sir John Cowan at his Glen Lossie Dairy. He milked one

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hundred cows twice daily (by machine) and worked at general farm duties. It was at Murray Bridge that he met his future wife Elizabeth (Bette) Rice. Bette was employed by the South Australian Railways in their Refreshment Rooms at Murray Bridge and remembers the troop trains. She also worked at a Munition Factory in Murray Bridge (near the present site of Milling Industries).

When the Munitions Factory became defunct, Nilsen Cromie - now Nilsen Electrical Industries, established their business on the site and Bette worked for them until her marriage.

In 1950 Max returned to Adelaide where he lived with his cousins Cyril and Jean Bolt while working for Telecom.

Bette and Max were married in St John the Baptist Anglican Church, Murray Bridge on 26 April 1952. They lived in Adelaide until Max's retirement in 1986 when they returned to Murray Bridge. They have two children both of whom are married and five grandchildren. Max does voluntary community work by helping people with "odd jobs". He also makes walking sticks which he fashions from wood.

[[146

Elizabeth Nancy BOLT

Elizabeth Nancy Bolt was born on 17 December 1883. An element of mystery surrounds her birth. However, according to family legend, she was born at Mount Pleasant which is puzzling since her father, at that time, was manager of Garra Station. We must assume, then, that Mary Ann's health was poor and she required medical attention which was not available at Garra. The isolation and lack of medical assistance would have been of concern to both Christopher and Mary Ann. Baby Nancy was born three months prematurely and was so tiny, that a wedding ring could be placed on her arm. Nancy, as she became known was given the names of her two grandmothers - Elizabeth Finn and Nancy Bolt. When both Mary Ann's and Nancy's health improved, they would have returned to Garra to be with the family.

On leaving Garra Station in 1885, Christopher purchased land at Scrubby Flat in the Hundred of Forster and it was there that Nancy and her brothers and sisters grew up. She attended school in the Rossawella Church, Forster walking a distance of one mile with her brothers.

Little is known of her early life except that on leaving school, Nancy was expected to care for her ailing mother and to help with the household chores. Those responsibilities had been shouldered for many years by her older sister, Mary Ann who wishing to marry, looked to Nancy to relieve her of those duties.

Nancy loved dancing and recalled to her family many years later how she enjoyed going to dances with her brothers sometimes arriving home as late as three o'clock in the morning!

Nancy married Walter George Retallack on the 11 August 1911 on the Church of England Mission Boat "Etona" at Forster. George Retallack, one of eight children of John and Margaret Retallack, was born on 3 March 1885 at Cavanagh a small district, twenty miles northwest of Peterborough. The Retallacks farmed land at Bakara and also at Forster on Section 52.

Nancy's father, Christopher Bolt, some time earlier, had purchased a number of blocks in the newly surveyed Hundred of Bandon. The Section 14 block was partially cleared by Nancy's three brothers - Christopher Albert (Ab), Walter and Richard. It was on that property that George and Nancy settled following their marriage and where they lived in a bag hut in what would have been very primitive conditions. George's brother Tom helped him clear the land and work the farm.

Forster was the birth place of George and Nancy's two children which would suggest that Nancy had returned to either the home of her parents or George's parents for the births. Cecil Claude was born on the 12 July 1912 and Muriel Margaret Jean (Jean) on the 9 May 1914.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, George and his brother Tom felt it was their duty to serve their country and so they enlisted in the army. George served with the 3rd Light Horse and was stationed in Egypt. Sadly Tom Retallack paid the supreme sacrifice.

During the war years, while George was overseas, Nancy with her two young children, lived in a house directly opposite her sister Mary Ann Johns who would have been a great comfort and support to her during those lonely years. Nancy employed a sharefarmer named Dave Burley to work the property at Copeville while George was overseas.

After his discharge from the army, and his return to Forster and his family, George, Nancy and the two children Cecil and Jean moved to Loxton to try their luck farming in that district.

Most of the journey by horse and buggy, was through scrub along tracks. They settled on a small property where they stayed for a short time. George purchased a property at Loxton East. There he cleared the land and later, with the help of his son Cecil, farmed for twenty five years. On Sundays, the family attended the Loxton Congregational Church travelling by horse and buggy and occasionally on a Saturday night, there was an outing to the picture theatre in the same transport.

Together, they built a private tennis court near their home and nearly every Sunday would invite neighbours for a social afternoon of tennis. Nancy would provide afternoon tea of delectable cream puffs, sponges and scones. Often their friends would stay for the evening to play cards.

Late in 1945, the S.A. Government acquired the Retallack property and that of their neighbours for the War Service Land Settlement scheme in which blocks of twenty to thirty acres were allotted to world war Two soldier settlers for irrigation. George and Nancy purchased a house in First St., Loxton at a homes Auction in the Loxton Institute but had to wait for some time before being able to move in.

George and Cecil found work sharefarming on a property at Pata. George retired after a few years leaving the sharefarming entirely to his son Cecil.

Nancy's and George's life in retirement did not last for long as George fell at the back steps of their home and broke his leg and was sent to Adelaide. He never fully recovered and died on 5 December 1954. He was buried in the Loxton cemetery. Nancy remained in their home with Cecil for another nine years. She had good health throughout her life; however three months before her eightieth birthday she was admitted to hospital where she died on 6 September 1963 after suffering from pneumonia.

Nancy was buried with her husband George in the Loxton cemetery.

[[1461

CECIL CLAUDE RETALLACK - 12 July 1912 to 25 March 1986

Cecil Claude Retallack, the first child of Elizabeth Nancy and George Retallack was said to have been born at Forster on 12 July, 1912.

Although Nancy and George were farming on Section 14 in the Hundred of Bandon, Nancy would have returned to the home of her parents at Scrubby Flat or to the Retallack property Section 52 in Hundred of Forster for the birth.

Cecil's first few years would have been spent on Section 14 in what were very humble and primitive surroundings since the family's dwelling was a simple bag hut.

After his father George, enlisted for active duty in world war one, Cecil's mother returned to Section 50, Hundred of Forster. It was from there that Cecil walked the two miles to school at Purnong. The first day, his mother with sister Jean in the pusher walked to school with him.

A near tragedy occurred on the day that Cecil's mother left him in the care of his Aunt Phoebe at Scrubby Flat while she and his sister Jean went to meet his father who was returning home from the war. Cecil went with his Uncle Ab Bolt and cousins Winnie and Edna in the wagon down to the wharf to unload bagged wheat. The three children were given strict instructions not to go near the high, fast-flowing river, but like most children, they were curious and so they stood watching logs and pieces of debris floating past. A piece of debris passed close to the bank's edge and Cecil cried out, "I can catch it!" In an instant, he had fallen into the river and disappeared. While Edna ran to her father nearby, Winnie stayed to watch for Cecil's re-appearance. Uncle Ab raced to the water, pulled off his coat and dived into the river. Fortunately, he found Cecil and brought him ashore - thankfully, Cecil recovered quickly!

Uncle Ab, affected by the incident, sat down with his head between his knees and was described as looking "as white as a sheet". Ab took Cecil back to Auntie Phoebe telling her to put him to bed and keep him warm - however, the venturesome Cecil was none the worse for his alarming experience.

When the family moved to the Loxton area, Cecil resumed school at Loxton East using a horse and buggy for transport. On leaving school, he helped his father on the property until it was purchased by the South Australian Government.

Cecil enjoyed playing tennis socially on the family's private court. After moving into Loxton, Cecil and his father, found work share-farming at Pata and Cecil continued share-farming after his father retired.

With his eye sight failing, he lost his driver's licence and rode his bicycle six miles to work. He was forced to retire because of his blindness and in his later years loved meeting old friends and reminiscing about events of the past.

Cecil passed away on the 25 March 1986 and is buried in the Loxton cemetery.

[[1462

MURIEL MARGARET JEAN RETALLACK

Born: 9 May 1914 - Forster SA

2nd child of George and Nancy Retallack (nee Bolt)

Muriel Margaret Jean (JEAN) the younger of Nancy and George Retallack's two children was born at Forster on the 9 May 1914, probably at the home of her grand parents, Christopher and Mary Ann Bolt on Section 74, Hundred of Forster. Jean was a few years old when her father left for service in World War One. During that period, the family lived on Section 50, near Jean's cousins Jane and Alice Johns.

On her father's return from the war and when she was five years of age, the family moved to Loxton where they purchased a farm. Jean and her brother, Cecil, attended the Loxton East school travelling the two miles distance by horse and buggy. After a minor mishap with the horse bolting, their father purchased a bicycle which they shared. Cecil rode one mile and left the bicycle for Jean and she rode the next mile while Cecil walked.

On leaving school, she helped her mother, father and brother Cecil on the farm. Jean loved to play sport and often played tennis on the court which her father made. One of the regular players was a near neighbour, farmer Edgar Schultz.

Jean married Edgar in the Congregational Church Loxton on 21 April, 1938. Edgar, born at Towitta (near Sedan) on 15 October 1903 came to the Loxton area with his family during the early settlement of the district. Jean and Edgar settled on a farming property adjoining her family's farm. She milked up to eight cows each night and morning out "under the stars" until Edgar erected a shed so that milking could be done under cover, because of the extreme summer heat.

Two of their children were born while they were on the farm - Dean on XXXXXXX

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and Trevor on XXXXXXXX. Jean's and Edgar's property was acquired by the South Australian Government for War Service land settlement.

They purchased a house in the township at an auction held in the Loxton Institute. The family continued to be involved with tennis and football in Loxton. Edgar and Jean and their family which now included a daughter, Lynette (born on XXXXXXXX) were members of St. Petrie's Lutheran Church.

Jean took an active interest in the community being involved in many service clubs and holding various positions. Edgar passed away on 8 October 1963 and is buried at Loxton. On 18 February 1975 Jean married Rudolf Heinrich who died on 9 May, 1985. After a courageous battle against cancer, Jean died on 2 April 1994 and is buried at Loxton.

[[147

PHOEBE BOLT

Phoebe Bolt was the seventh child of Christopher and Mary Ann Bolt of Scrubby Flat (Forster-on-Murray) where she was born on 28 May 1886. At an early age, Phoebe went to live with her Aunt Phoebe (Mrs. Playfair, the wife of a sea captain) after whom she was named. Her aunt was childless and the younger girl provided company for her. It is known that Phoebe's mother suffered debilitating arthritis and went to stay with her sister while seeking treatment. It seems reasonable to assume that Phoebe cared for her mother during that time.

Sadly, Phoebe's friend, Tom Retallack, was killed in action during world war I. As a result, Phoebe suffered a nervous break-down and depression. Like her mother, she was also stricken with crippling arthritis.

It seems that after her mother's death in 1914, Phoebe continued to live with her aunt who had re-married (a Mr. Bremnan) and accompanied her on many interstate holidays. Phoebe's illnesses were re-curring and she spent long periods in hospital. Following gold therapy to her hands in later years, her mobility was much improved and she was able to care for herself during her remaining years which she spent at her home near Port Adelaide. There, she lived quietly, keeping in contact with her family - she enjoyed sitting in her rocker on the front porch of her home.

Phoebe died on 26 December 1972 and is buried at Centennial Park cemetery. Her brother Murray, who died twelve months later, is buried beside her.

[[148

GEORGE MURRAY BOLT

8th Child of

Christopher and Mary Ann Bolt (nee Finn)

George Murray Bolt was born at Scrubby Flat (Forster-on-Murray), South Australia where he remained for the first forty years of his life. He was baptised on the Church of England Mission Paddle Steamer "Etona 1" on 25 September, 1891 by Arch-deacon Bussell who was the priest at Christ Church, Strathalbyn and who travelled regularly on the Etona. Little is known of Murray's early years; however, older brother, Walter told the story of when he was looking after brother Murray when he was a toddler; boy-like, Walter was playing with his other brothers and forgot about his charge - suddenly, he remembered and looked up in time to see Murray walking along the railing of the fence and slip into the flooded river!

The River Murray was the life-line to the outside world for settlers in the area and Murray, like many others, relied on paddle steamers like the "Pyap" which plied the river and stopped at the various landings along the way - Murray's Landing being the Scrubby Flat Landing. On those weekly visits, Murray bought his household and farm requisites and sent his bags of grain and wool to Market on the steamers with their barges in tow.

Murray travelled extensively. In his early years his mode of transport was horseback and he rode regularly to Mount Pleasant to trade his stock at the Market. During the first world war, he took his horses to Mount Pleasant where they were bought by the army and sent to the Middle East. Murray told the story, proudly, that his brother Richard, who was serving with the army overseas, had recognised Murray's favourite horse on the battlefield, by its brand.

His love of horses remained with him all his life. He did not use a tractor for farming at Scrubby Flat - only his horses. He pumped water from the River Murray and carted it up for his stock. Murray devised his own form of irrigation and controlled the amount of water on to his leased portion of swamp-land by opening and closing a sluice gate on a small creek. He cleared some land adjacent to his brother walter's property and built a shack where he stayed for weeks at a time.

Like his brothers, Murray loved sport and they played cricket and football for the same teams. From the stories told, it seems that the football played in those earlier days, was much harder and rougher than today. On one particular day, there was a rumour that the opposition was "out to get Murray" and they did! He suffered a broken wrist. However, the opposition had the rest of the Bolt boys to reckon with - they retaliated on Murray's behalf! The Bolt brothers travelled long distances on horse-back each weekend to play their sport. Before the introduction of punts (ferries) and when the river was in flood, the brothers straddled the buggy on the boat, swam the horses and rowed across the river. During the dry season, when the river was low, they rode their horses across, dodging the water-holes.

With the advent of the motor car, Murray was one of few to own one. His first car was a 1926 Imperial Chevrolet, four cylinder, core clutch and half spring. Murray over-turned that car while travelling at seventy five miles per hour and broke his leg. In 1927, he bought another Chevrolet (a Capitol, overhead valve, four cylinder, full spring and conventional clutch).

In 1926, Murray married Grace Riley Machin, a city girl whom he met at a dance while she was staying with her uncle, George Crowther, on his Claypans property. (Later owned by Murray's nephew, Eric Bolt).

A son, Benjamin was born and fourteen years later, a daughter, Elizabeth. In 1930, two years after the death of his father, Christopher, Murray left the river area and worked a fruit orchard at Greenock. Times did not improve and so Murray packed his Chevrolet truck with fruit and vegetables bought from the East End Market and locally and hawked them to farm houses in and around Freeling. In 1936, he moved to Seppeltsfield where he enjoyed working and learning about grape-growing. In 1938, the family moved to Park Terrace (now Greenhill Road), Wayville. Murray worked for a short time at Islington and at Cotch and warne in the city making arms and rifles for the army. In 1948, he began work at Kelvinators where he stayed until his retirement after which he was in demand as a gardener in the suburbs.

Murray loved travelling - this included camping with his family (well into his senior years) all over Australia. He was ever watchful, alert and content to study the weather, crops, trees and stock - and always drawn back to his roots.

Murray and Grace are survived by two children, four grand-children and two great-grand-children.

[[1481

Benjamin George Bolt

Benjamin (Ben) George Bolt was born at his maternal grandparents' house, Third Ave., Forestville on XXXXXX, the elder child and only son of Grace Riley (Machin) and George Murray Bolt.

The first four years of his life were spent at Scrubby Flat, Hundred of Forster and he remembers a storm which caused flash flooding. The water gushed down the

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cliff and ran between the two halves of the building and gouged out gutters down the hill. Although very young at that time, Ben has lasting memories of the trading steamer "Pyap" when it brought supplies to the Scrubby Flat landing and remembers his father with a tank on his wagon getting water from the river.

It was about 1930 when Murray exchanged the Scrubby Flat property for one at Greenock in the Barossa Valley hoping for a better life during those difficult times.

At the age of six, Ben commenced school at Marananga. He attended the one-teacher school where there were approximately thirty children in grades 1-7. From grades 4-6, Ben rode his bicycle (a Christmas present when he was seven) to the Daveyston School. His final year at Primary School was at Greenock and it was there that he received his Qualifying Certificate. When his mother, Grace, visited her parents in the city and Port Noarlunga for short periods, Ben attended Miss Hardy's Private School on the corner of Clarke and Rose Tce., Wayville, where he remembers working on a small slate.

Memories abound of life in the Barossa Valley. Those times of depression were hard times indeed. During the school holidays, Ben went on the truck with his father, Murray, hawking fruit and vegetables around the country-side.

He helped with the cutting, sorting, spreading and stacking of trays of fruit ready for sulphur and drying. Bike riding was a favourite pastime and he often rode to Tanunda for football and to Nuriootpa Shopping (approximately four miles).

When the family moved to his maternal grandparents' house at Wayville in 1938. Ben continued his education at Adelaide High School and Muirden College. School holidays during World War II were frequently spent on the farms of his cousins, Jim and Jeff Bolt at Copeville and Eric who lived at Claypans. Ben travelled there by train leaving Adelaide at 7a.m. for the day trip. After a mid-morning stop for refreshments at Murray Bridge, the train proceeded to Tailem Bend and thence to Karoonda where there was a change of trains and lunch before the final stage of the journey. Ben also recalls that he stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Brown who were fishermen on the river at Scrubby Flat. "The trip there used to take about three quarters of a day". He travelled with Prossers, carriers, who delivered mail and supplies along the way.

Following the completion of his secondary education, Ben was employed by the Electricity Trust of South Australia. During the 1950's while power was being installed in the country areas, Ben spent many weeks in the outback. He travelled to Radium Hill, Port Augusta, Mount Gambier and Morgan. It was during those times that Ben met his future wife Audrey Welke who was employed as a cook at the Kapunda Hotel. After a long courtship, they were married at The Church of Emanuel, Wayville on 18 June 1960. With their two children, David John and Christine Anne, they live in the family home at North Unley where they have resided for twenty four years.

Ben's interests and hobbies were many and varied - he enjoyed working with his hands. A competent sports person, he trained and competed in athletics for many years as a member of the Adelaide Harriers Club competing in middle distance races and specialising in all facets of jumping.

As a St. John Ambulance Officer with the Motor Cycle Division, Ben (with his father as a spectator) went to many of the motor sports to attend to injuries. He enjoyed making amateur movies as a member of the Adelaide Filmo Club.

Another of Ben's hobbies which occupied much of his time, was breeding canaries - keeping cats away from his prize birds was an on-going problem! Gardening has always been a favourite pastime. He began by growing different types of bulbs including tulips, gladioli and daffodils. Today, many varieties of flowers including a large collection of orchids are found in his garden.

Many family holidays were spent travelling and camping around Australia with his parents and sister, Elizabeth. Other holidays were spent at Port Noarlunga and Sydney. Ben and his Uncle Tom drove to Melbourne for the Olympic Games in 1956 and enjoyed the experience immensely. During school holidays, Ben, Audrey,

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
David and Christine enjoyed caravanning.

At the age of sixty five years and after forty four years in their employ, Ben retired from the Electricity Trust of South Australia.

The family is actively involved at St. Augustine's Church Unley - both Ben and David being wardens at different times.

[[1482

ELIZABETH ANN BOLT

Elizabeth Ann Bolt, the second child of Grace Riley (nee Machin) and George (Murray) Bolt, was born on XXXXXXX at Ashford Private Hospital, Keswick. Since her brother Ben was fourteen years her senior, Elizabeth was surrounded by adults until she began her school days at Goodwood Primary School. She walked the one mile each way, daily, until she reached Grade Six when she was given a bicycle for Christmas and allowed to ride to school.

Primary School days over, Elizabeth attended Adelaide Girls High School in Grote St., Adelaide to further her education. During those years, her mode of transport was tram and bus. Her parents encouraged her in a wide range of activities foremost of which was classical piano lessons for ten years. She was an organist at her church and played twice each Sunday. Elizabeth enjoyed calisthenics and represented the state in competitions. However, so many extra curricula activities, together with her studies, was too heavy a work-load. Sport, too, was high on her priority list - and has continued throughout her life. Accompanied by her parents, Elizabeth spent many a long day at the Adelaide oval watching either cricket or football.

After she had matriculated, Elizabeth worked at Ashford Community Hospital until she was eighteen years old at which age she commenced her nursing training at Royal Adelaide Hospital. In 1961 she graduated as a Registered Nurse. Those days of training, she considers to have been some of the most wonderful times of her life. It was a time of hard work and study - and living and sharing with many friends at the Nurses Home.

Many changes came into Elizabeth's life following her engagement to her future husband James Ronald Harmer. Her dear mother and friend - her greatest teacher - died prematurely. After her marriage at the Church of Emanuel Wayville, Elizabeth continued to work at the Royal Adelaide Hospital until just before the birth of their first child, Catherine Ann on XXXXXXX, after which she settled down to being a housewife. Jim and Elizabeth bought the Fullarton house in which they currently reside. On XXXXXXX, their second daughter Jane Elizabeth was born. Twelve months later, boredom encouraged her to return to work.

On 18 December, 1973, Elizabeth's beloved father whom she respected and held in high esteem, died - he was her greatest admirer.

Jim and Elizabeth share many and varied interests. Together with their daughters, they have travelled extensively throughout Australia and overseas. Their love of sports of many codes both as participants and spectators has been maintained.

Both of their children married following a good education and have travelled widely - one daughter married a Canadian, in Canada. Elizabeth and Jim have two beautiful grand-daughters and are looking forward to retirement, soon, in their new house at Magill.

[[149

MARTHA BOLT b 1890

Born 9 July 1890

Died 24 October 1965

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Martha Bolt, the youngest child of Christopher and Mary Ann Bolt of Scrubby Flat (Forster-on-Murray), was born at home on 9 July 1890. Unfortunately, nothing is known of Martha's childhood, but it is known that she lived at home house-keeping for her ageing father and unmarried brother, George (Murray) after the death of her mother in 1914.

On 7 September, 1918, Martha married Albert (Emil) Helbig, a farmer from Jellicoe who was, at that time, working for Mr. John Johns who built a two-roomed stone cottage on his property for them.

Emil and Martha moved about working for farmers in the area. When Emil left farming, he worked as a slaughterman for a butcher named Dollard, in Mannum. Later, he worked at Shearers where he made machinery.

Emil and Martha bought a house in Shearer Street, Mannum and lived there for the remainder of their lives. Emil died on 18 May 1961. Martha continued to reside in their house preferring to live quietly tending her garden, visiting friends and helping people in her community. She died on 24 October 1965, aged 75 years and is buried in the Mannum cemetery. Martha was survived by her daughter Ivy (Mrs. Teakle) and her son, Norman.

[[1491

Ivy Edna Helbig

Ivy Edna Helbig the eldest child and only daughter of Albert Emil and Martha (nee Bolt) Helbig, was born at the Mannum Hospital on 17 February 1920. A small baby, she struggled for existence for three days. For fourteen years, she lived with her parents in Mannum where she attended school.

After leaving school, Ivy worked for her mother's cousin, (Martha Peters) caring for her daughter and attending to general domestic duties. At weekends, she crossed the river and spent time with her parents. After two years, she went with her parents to live at Rockleigh (approximately eight miles from Harrogate) where her father had obtained work.

It was there that Ivy met her future husband, Arthur Teakle when she attended a dance at which Arthur was playing the piano accordion. They were married in the Mannum Methodist Church on 14 January 1950. Arthur saw service in the Second World War with the thirteenth Field Regiment, second A.I.F. Ivy and Arthur lived in his 100 year old homestead which was on his property near the ruins of Rose Hill Church not far from Harrogate - later however, a new house was built. Ivy assisted with all of the farm work even the shearing and wood cutting. After thirty nine years, Arthur exchanged the farm for his sister's house where Ivy has remained since Arthur's death in 1989. She continues to work part-time, tends her large garden and participates in church and community functions.

[[1492

NORMAN LAWRENCE HELBIG

Norman Lawrence Helbig, the second child of Martha (nee Bolt) and Albert Emil Helbig was born at the Mannum Hospital on 17 April, 1921. All of Norman's school days were spent at Mannum.

After leaving school, he was employed at David Shearers factory helping to produce farm machinery. He later worked at the Mannum Club.

Norman's health deteriorated and as a consequence he became too ill to work and went to live with sister Ivy and her husband Arthur at Woodside, until he was admitted to the Valley View Nursing Home. After six years of continuing illness, Norman died on 18 August, 1991 and was buried at Woodside Uniting Church Cemetery beside his brother-in-law Arthur and nephew, Brian.

[[1493

IVAN HELBIG, the youngest of Martha (nee Bolt) and Albert (Emil) Helbig's three

Bolt Book Text in full -- living birthdates removed.txt
children, was born on January 1928 and died in January that year, aged 3 days.
The cause of his death is unknown.

[[15
ANN BOLT

Born 6 October 1839

Married 20 March 1858 to George Sayer

Ann Bolt was born on 6 October 1839 in the village of Broadwoodkelly, Devon, England, the fifth child (and second daughter) of Christopher Dart and Nancy (Ann) Bolt. She was baptised in All Hallows Church, Broadwoodkelly, on 20 October 1839. The family was residing in the village at the time of the 1841 Census. In 1846, Ann accompanied her parents to Australia on the barque "Theresa" arriving at Port Adelaide on 3 May 1847. Little is known about Ann's childhood.

On the 20 March 1858, Ann married George Sayer in her father's house "Rocky Farm", Mount Torrens. It is recorded that Ann and George lived in Mount Torrens for some years after their marriage while George worked as a shoemaker.

Records show that Ann and George had several children two of whom died of Scarlet Fever - George on 4 October 1863 aged three years and six months and Thomas aged Seventeen months. It is known that in 1873, George Sayer was living in Adelaide and was named as witness to the will of his father-in-law (Christopher Dart Bolt) of "Rocky Farm" Harrogate. Research has revealed that George, in 1877, was manager of a boot-making factory at Hackney where he remained for several years. Later, he worked as a saddler in Wakefield Street, Adelaide. Extensive research has shown that neither Ann nor George died in South Australia - it seems reasonable to assume that they either moved inter-state or returned to England.

[[151

George SAYER

George, the eldest child of George and Ann Sayer was born on 12 April, 1860 at Mount Torrens, South Australia. On 4 October, 1863, he became the first of George and Ann's children to die during the Scarlet Fever epidemic of that year and was buried in the Mount Torrens Cemetery.

[[152

Thomas SAYER

Thomas, the second child of George and Ann Sayer was born in May, 1862 at Mount Torrens, South Australia. At the age of seventeen months, he became the second of George and Ann's children to die of Scarlet Fever - just ten days after his brother. He was buried in the Mount Torrens Cemetery.

[[153

TheLma SAYER, daughter of George and Ann Sayer, died of Scarlet Fever on the same day as her brother Thomas. She was buried in the Anglican Cemetery, Mount Torrens, South Australia.

[[154

William Albert SAYER

Records indicate that William Albert was the fourth child of George and Ann Sayer. Born on 29 April, 1864, he died the same year of unknown causes. William was buried in the Mount Torrens Cemetery.

[[155

Walter Charles SAYER

Walter Charles was the fifth child of George and Ann Sayer and was born on 10 March, 1866 at Mount Torrens where he died the same day of unknown causes.

[[156

George SAYER

George was the sixth and youngest child of George and Ann Sayer and the second of their children to bear his father's name. Tragically, this child also died on 4 January 1873 after suffering Phrenitis. He was buried in the Walkerville Cemetery.

[[16

PETER BOLT was the sixth and youngest child of Christopher and Nancy Bolt. He was born in March 1842 and baptised at All Hallows Church, Broadwoodkelly on 25 April, 1842. He died on 26 June 1842 aged 3 months.

[[quote

"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."

Quote from Edmund Burke - an Irish born politician.