



THE WAYFARER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC.

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THE POWERS THAT BE...CONCLUSION

By: John Adams (Final Part)

From 1923 subdivisions of the estate took place and Myrning which had been renamed *Gleneagles* was demolished in 1940 and that land was also subdivided for housing.

The "Monarch of the Glen" Red gum (hundreds of years old) on Gleneagles Estate there are the remnants of another ancient Red Gum showing where the aborigines cut off a canoe from the trunk'.

Upon the death of Gordon on 24 June 1870, Robert Power sent a telegram to brothers John and George Riddoch at *Yallum* informing them of Gordon's death.

It was the Power brothers who paid Gordon's funeral expenses and were the chief mourners at his funeral along with Gordon's wife Maggie.

Robert Power died on the 4 November 1914 he left a son, Herbert Power and two daughters.

The funeral took place at half-past 9 o'clock at the

Brighton General Cemetery on the morning of 5 November 1914.

Herbert Power, their second son was born in London 1836 and came to Australia in 1839 with his parents. He was educated at the Diocesan Grammar School, founded by Richard Hale Budd on 1 April 1849, being one of the original scholars at that school, which was the precursor of the Melbourne Grammar School. [Budd is buried a short distance from both Gordon and the Power brothers at the Brighton General Cemetery].

On leaving school, he went on the land, and was manager of his uncle David's Mount Gambier estate when only 19 years of age.

As far back as 1857, Mr. Herbert Power won a steeplechase at Penola, South Australia, on a horse called *Steelribs* and became acquainted with the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon, with whom he formed a life-long friendship. The Power family was well known in racing circles and Robert (Herbert's brother) and Herbert were

considered the 'beau ideal of young Irish gentlemen amateur riders'

On March 9 1864, a meeting was held in Melbourne, at which it was decided to amalgamate the Victorian Turf Club, and the new body thus formed was the Victoria Racing Club. A committee was chosen the same afternoon, and two of its members were Herbert Power and his brother, Robert Power. Herbert Power did not remain on the VRC committee a great many years. He was then a keen amateur rider, and in 1875 he was one of the band of enthusiasts who founded the Victoria Amateur Turf Club.

Norman and Hector Wilson. Herbert Power, E C Moore, A E French and F D McLeod met over dinner at Craig's Hotel (Ballarat) on the night of 13 October 1875, and decided to form the VATC. Further meetings were held in Melbourne on 10 November and 22 November. From these meetings came an expanded list of 28 foundation

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THE POWERS THAT BE...CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

members, of whom Herbert Power was one.

This club had its first meeting at Ballarat in 1876, but soon settled down at Caulfield. From its inception in 1875 until he retired in January 1916, Herbert was a member of the VATC committee, and he was chairman in 1889, 1895, and 1907. When he retired from the committee he was appointed one of the trustees of the Caulfield racecourse. He was one of the auditors of the VRC from 1880 until 1905. During his long career as an owner many good horses carried his "brown, white cap" colours.

He was one time chairman of the Victoria Club, the owner of the winners of a Melbourne Cup, two Sydney Cups, an Australian Cup, and two Victoria Derbys; a breeder of thoroughbreds, and a good judge of a horse and of racing generally.

At various times Herbert Power was largely interested

in pastoral properties. He owned *Bungowannah Park*, near Albury, until he handed it over to his son, Reginald Power. He was interested in a large property in Riverina with the late C B Fisher, in Retro, near Capella (Qld) with Thomas Chirnside, and *Cowl Cowl*, on the Lachlan River (NSW), with Charles Mackinnon and George Dill.

Herbert Power was one of the earliest members of the Melbourne Club, having joined in 1859. He was also a very old member of the Athanaeum Club. He was a splendid horseman, the brothers Power, and William being well known as riders in the Hunt Club Cup. His victory in this event over the Flemington course on his own horse, *Freetrader*, was often recalled by old sportsmen.

The Power family lived at *Moonga* on Toorak Road, Toorak. Herbert Power's children were Reginald, Herbert, Eric, Gladys, Nora and Meta.

Herbert died on 1 June 1919

at his residence, *Moonga*, Toorak Road, Toorak, in his 84th year. Herbert Power left his widow Connie (Constance) Power *née* Hammill and four daughters. His youngest son, Lt Reginald Power was killed in WW1.

The funeral of Herbert Power took place at the Brighton Cemetery on 2 June and was attended by many close personal friends. The service was conducted by the Rev. Father Quinn, of Elsternwick, and the Rev Father Benson, of Toorak. The pall-bearers were Sir Lauchlan Mackinnon, Sir John Grice, Senator Fairbairn, Messrs James Wilson, J C Stanford, Norman Wilson, W L Russell Clarke MLC, James Grice, and C W Leonard.

(Source and acknowledgements: *City of Stonnington History Section; Champions, The Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame; State Library of Victoria (Eileen Kaye); Trove digitised newspapers; Gwen McWilliam (Progress Press 28 Jan 1997)*

"Upon the death of Gordon on 24 June 1870, Robert Power sent a telegram to brothers John and George Riddoch at Yallum informing them of Gordon's death."



(above) "Monarch of the Glen" Red gum in the foreground of *Myrnong* - Toorak

(City of Stonnington History Section)



(above) Photo of *Myrnong* in Kooyong Road. The stables were to the right of the building.

("Early Toorak and district" by E M Robb (1934) p52)

FURLONG'S ROOMS IN THE ROYAL ARCADE, MELBOURNE

By: John Adams

I commenced this article with the intention of highlighting the efforts of one man and his scrapbooks of sketches to depict the life in the Victorian era in England, New Zealand and Australia and to keep them for us all to see what life was like in the past. I was waylaid by the Winscombe Avenue Tecoma Village Action Group and some rooms in the Royal Arcade Melbourne.



(above) "Sunday 5th July 1914 New bungalow finished. Sleep for the first time under my own roof.

Clearing the land and laying out garden at Winscombe—Main Road Belgrave (now Tecoma). Sketch by Charles Hammond of his home."

"It used to be said that if you stood in Collins Street between Swanston and Elizabeth Street for long enough you would meet everybody in Melbourne"

So where do we start?

It used to be said that if you stood in Collins Street between Swanston and Elizabeth Street for long enough you would meet everybody in Melbourne. Everyone from the nitpickers to nobles.

I have now come to believe that this would also have held true if you had stood in the Royal Arcade in Bourke Street, with a slight variation. You would have met everybody who was anybody in the world of Institutions, Associations, Clubs and Societies.

Between 1889 and 1916, it is recorded that you would have met such varied clubs as The Federated Letter Carriers Association, The Christian Spiritual Church, The Photo-Play Acting and Photo-Play Writing Group, The Philharmonic Society Amateur Orchestra, The Sixth Class Teachers'

Association, Numismatists, Warehouse workers and The Shop Keepers Association, and a place where "you could come and cure your stammering and become an Orator—there's a fortune in it!"

On 21 May 1909, the (Royal) Historical Society of Victoria was founded at a public meeting held in Furlong's Rooms, Royal Arcade. *The Argus* reported somewhat of the comedy of the evening with the 'Walter Mitty' claims;

"Several gentlemen then exchanged pioneer dates. 'I was born in 1831 at the corner of Craig's-lane and Little Collins-street,' said one. 'Well, I was here six months before you were born.' And so on, till Mr A C Macdonald concluded these exchanges by saying, 'I am hardly a new chum. I came here in 1828'."

The comedy, of course, is that only at a meeting intended to form a historical society would such outlandish claims be made when Melbourne wasn't founded until (30 August) 1835.

Central to this story are three characters, Charles R Long, Charles (Charlie) Hammond and Adam Lindsay Gordon with Mr Long involved in starting the Australian Literature Association at a meeting in the Furlong's Room at the

Royal Arcade on Wednesday 26 July 1889 and Hammond who came along to sketch it. All three men walked large through the history of early Victoria.

Would you believe that in 1889 an Australian literary society would be formed over three literary greats, Kendall, Gordon and Marcus Clarke to "counteract the growing tendency to make football and cricket the sum of our existence? *The only heroes that we had, it was said at the inaugural meeting on Wednesday 26 July 1889 in Furlong's rooms, were cricketers and footballers.*" Sound familiar?

I was prompted into this research with a simple plea for help from the Winscombe Avenue Tecoma Village action group asking our Committee about Gordon and Charlie Hammond, Australia's most prolific sketcher whose house that he built himself, has been purchased by developers with the aim of demolition and replacement by six two-story dwellings in this idyllic setting in the Dandenong Ranges.

Well history there certainly is in that house and it is up to us to keep ourselves alert to the trashers of our heritage.

(Source: *The Argus* 22 May 1909 p16)

THE THREE FRIENDS

THE sword slew one in deadly strife ;
One perished by the bowl ;
The third lies self-slain by the knife ;
For three the bells may toll—
I loved her better than my life,
And better than my soul.

Aye, father ! hast thou come at last ?
'Tis somewhat late to pray ;
Life's crimson tides are ebbing fast,
They drain my soul away ;
Mine eyes with film are overcast,
The lights are waning grey.

This curl from her bright head I shore,
And this her hands gave mine ;
See, one is stained with purple gore,
And one with poison'd wine ;
Give these to her when all is o'er—
How serpent-like they twine !

We three were brethren in arms,
And sworn companions we ;
We held this motto, 'Whoso harms
The one shall harm the three !'
Till, matchless for her subtle charms,
Beloved of each was she.

(These two were slain that I might kiss
Her sweet mouth. I did well ;
I said, 'There is no greater bliss
For those in heaven that dwell' ;
I lost her ; then I said, 'There is
No fiercer pang in hell !')

We have upheld each other's rights,
Shared purse, and borrow'd blade ;
Have stricken side by side in fights ;
And side by side have prayed
In churches. We were Christian knights,
And she a Christian maid.

[The full version of the poem "The Three Friends" by Adam Lindsay Gordon can be viewed on our website:
http://adamlindsaygordon.org/works_thethreefriends.htm]

TOUR OF BRIGHTON GENERAL CEMETERY

As part of Seniors' Week, we will be undertaking our tour of the Brighton General Cemetery on 9 October 2011 (at 10.30am) visiting the graves of the Power brothers, Trainor, McCubbin, Robb and the Simmonds family as well as others with links to Gordon's story. To register your interest to attend the tour, visit our website www.adamlindsaygordon.org/tours.htm or ring John on 5261 2899. Bookings essential. Cost is \$5.00 (non-members \$10.00) and includes refreshments and a tour guide (right).

KATE AND WILLIAM

Keen observers of the recent wedding of Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge and Prince William, Duke of Cambridge may have noticed the bust of our own Poet Gordon looking down on the proceedings from his lofty perch inside Westminster Abbey.

One of the perks of being Australia's national poet is having a front row seat at Westminster. The downside is the endless stream of American tourists. But alas!

Whether Gordon started this craze over a now rather famous derriere, we can't say, but it's fair that he may have

pondered rewriting his stanza to read;

"Yet if man, of all the Creator plann'd,
His noblest work is reckoned,
Of the works of His hand, by sea or by land,
Pippa's bum may at least rank second."

Another looking down on the proceedings was a beaming Canon Robert Reiss who amongst others greeted Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on his arrival at Westminster Abbey with the Queen. Canon Reiss gave our Committee sterling support back in October 2009 when we laid a wreath at Gordon's bust.

FUTURE FUND: RECENT PURCHASES

The Committee recently purchased a number of books on eBay from the proceeds of our "Future Fund".

"Australian Lyrics" (1883, 1st edition) by Douglas Sladen and signed with a note addressed to his wife.

"Adam Lindsay Gordon, The Poet of Australia. Unveiling of

the memorial at Westminster Abbey" (1934) which was part of Douglas Sladen's collection.

"Bush Ballads" (1870) by Adam Lindsay Gordon. While not the very first edition, according to Ian McLaren's bibliography, this appears to be one of the corrected editions that was published soon after.

TOUR GUIDE section with numbered list of graves and descriptions: 1. Edward John 'Teddy' Russell, 2. Alexander Francis 'Maddo' Robb, 3. Frederick McCubbin, 4. Robert and Herbert Power, 5. Ernest Blain, 6. Catherine Blain, 7. William Hughes (Hugh) Kelly, 8. George Higginbotham, 9. Samuel Powell Simmonds.