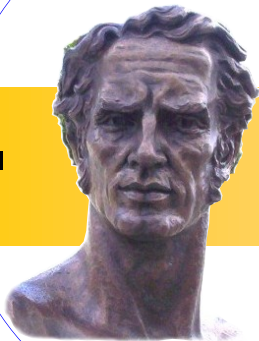




THE WAYFARER

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MOIR & MCLAREN 2
THE PRIVATE COLLECTORS

JOHN RIDDOCH AND THE ASPERITIES OF LIFE

CONTINUED: JOHN 3
RIDDOCH AND THE ASPERITIES OF LIFE

POEM: A BASKET 4
OF FLOWERS

NOTICES

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JOHN RIDDOCH ONE OF ADAM LINDSAY GORDON'S GREATEST FRIENDS

ELECTIONS Wednesday March 1 1865 Robe S.A.

South Australia House of Assembly Split voting was allowed.

There were 2 vacant seats for "Victoria" and Gordon and Riddoch were put up against the unpopular Stow, who did not bother to campaign outside of his stronghold, so sure was he of winning. By Saturday all of the electorate ballot boxes had arrived, except from East Wellington, which arrived Saturday evening.

Results

Gordon :	Robe	63
	Mount Gambier	91
	Penola	46
	Mosquito Plains	93
	Port MacDonnell	11
	Border Town	22
	Kingston	14
	Total Gordon	340

Riddoch:	Robe	62
	Mount Gambier	82
	Penola	52
	Mosquito Plains	91
	Port MacDonnell	4
	Border Town	20
	Kingston	17
	Total Riddoch	328

Stow:	Robe	41
	Mount Gambier	249
	Penola	31
	Mosquito Plains	11
	Port MacDonnell	26
	Border Town	2
	Kingston	6
	Total Stow	366

Total Polled:		
	Robe	105
	Mount Gambier	351
	Penola	84
	Mosquito Plains	113
	Port MacDonnell	32
	Border Town	24
	Kingston	25
	Total	734

Add to this the **East Wellington box** 44
Total voters **778**
And the final actual votes were:
Gordon 378
Riddoch 370
Stow 367

The previous column shows the statistics. Now for the stories.



Robe Feb 1865. An excitable Irishman very nearly got himself into serious trouble on Monday evening. He went to the Criterion Hotel and set fire to a flag on which was written, 'Vote for Stow and Gordon.'

The landlord gave him into custody for attempting to set fire to his house. The charge was not sustained, and the prisoner was dismissed, after a night's lodging in the Police Station. The nominations took place on the 15th February. Messrs. R.I. Stow, J. Riddoch, and A. L. Gordon were nominated and seconded.

Very few persons attended. After the nominations, Mr. Erasmus Gower, the Returning Officer for this district, gave notice that the 1st of March next would be the voting-day. **Wellington Tuesday March 7 1865** The scene at East Wellington was animated, flags

flaunting in the breeze, and horsemen and vehicles continually arriving and departing, although a great number of those on the roll did not take the trouble of recording their votes. Gordon and Riddoch were the favourites, one solitary vote being recorded for Mr Stow. The East Wellington box was the last to arrive in Robe due to the horse being knocked-up. Yesterday morning (Monday) Mr. W. Lyon received a telegram, with which he rushed across to East Wellington, proclaiming the fact that their ballot-box had turned the election, and that Gordon and Riddoch were the sitting members. This announcement was received with great enthusiasm. **ROBE TOWN. On Wednesday, the 1st March 1865, at 9 a.m.,** the voting commenced and was kept up with great spirit the whole day. Great excitement existed, and each Committee worked hard. I have heard many old residents state that they never witnessed so much anxiety, party feeling, and excitement in any election before. It is not only at Robe, but the same feeling has existed all over the district of Victoria. A good deal of ill-feeling was expressed towards the end

of the polling from a report circulating that one of Mr. Stow's supporters had had been forcibly prevented from coming to vote. The driver who was bringing the man in laid informations against five persons for assaulting him and stopping him on the road. These informations, however, were afterwards withdrawn, the parties summoned paying Court expenses and compensating the driver. On Saturday, the 4th, the ballot-boxes from all the other voting-places arrived, with the exception of East Wellington, which caused a good deal of dissatisfaction. The box might just as well have been sent by the mail, and have arrived with the others as, having been sent by a trooper on horse back, who states the reason of the delay was his horse knocking-up.

However, the other boxes were opened, a statement of which kept the excited voters at fever heat Mr. Stow standing at the head of the poll 38 ahead of Mr. Riddoch, which looked very like winning, the public knowing that 44 votes were all that were recorded at Wellington. How ever high the hopes of Mr. Stow's supporters might be they were doomed to disappointment on Monday morning, when the Wellington box was opened. As soon as the names of the successful candidates were declared to the anxious crowd, three hearty cheers spoke the feelings of the members' supporters, and a salute from the battery was fired in honour of their success. In the evening, about 9 p.m., it was rumoured that a procession by torch light would take place that evening by Messrs. Riddoch and Gordon's supporters to burn Mr. Stow in effigy. This was too much. "Stow to the rescue!" was the word, and his friends mustered in force, and at last saw the procession winding towards the open ground near Buck's Point, each man bearing a torch, with one in front bearing the effigy. With a cheer Stow's supporters rushed the procession, capsized the torches and some of the bearers, and rescued the body from the profane hands that were bearing it to an ignominious grave. (The body was composed of straw, sand, old clothes, and a little powder.) Excitement now was at its highest. By the light of a few torches still left burning, sticks were used, stones thrown, blows struck, men yelled women screamed, dogs barked and for a few minutes hubbub, noise, confusion, and disorder, ruled supreme. Men say there is a little more licence allowed for sayings and doings during election times.

THE PRIVATE COLLECTORS

YALLUM PARK



J.K. MOIR at work in his converted paw-brokers shop . 474 Bridge Road Richmond, Vic. Surrounded with shelves of 10, 000 books pamphlets , let-

ters and press cuttings of all the Australian literary personages that came to his notice.

Born in Normanton Qld Nov 24 1893. Married and divorced twice. Employed at Payne's Bon Marché Bourke Street Melbourne and one of 12 founding members of the Bread and Cheese club.

In 1952 Moir was appointed O.B.E. He donated (1954 and 1957) his collection to the State Library of Victoria. He lived alone with his cat "stumpy" and died on 28 June 1958.

In his Comprehensive Bibliography of Gordon, Ian. F. McLaren lists an index of 24 closely typed A4 pages of Moir's items held in the above collection at the Victorian State Library.



Ian F. McLaren

Born March 30. 1912 Died April 17. 2000 A Chartered account and Secretary 1930-1942. R.A.N 1942-1945 then Accountant, President and Director of various large organisations.

Member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Glen Iris from 1945 to 1947, member for the electoral district of Caulfield from 1956 to 1967 and member for the electoral district of Bennettswood from 1967 to 1979. He was Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees from 1973 to 1979.

Received OBE 1959. From 1976, connected to Melbourne University. 1965. Donated 5200 local histories to National Library 1976 . Collection of 35,000 volumes of Australiana acquired by Melbourne University Library 1976 Numerous publications, histories and biographies, 1954-1984 Adam Lindsay Gordon, A Comprehensive Bibliography published 1986.

MRS ELIZABETH (ELIZA) RIDDOCH 1881

The death of Mrs. Riddoch, wife of Mr. John Riddoch, of Yallum, formerly member of the House of Assembly, took place at Menzie's Hotel, in Melbourne, on October 2.

The deceased lady had long suffered from hydatids, a disease that has been particularly prevalent in the South-East, and in several cases has proved fatal. She had been operated on three or four times for this complaint, and becoming very ill in Melbourne another operation was considered necessary, but she succumbed to weakness and the shock. This result was entirely unexpected, and what makes the sad affair more melancholy is that Mrs. Riddoch was in Melbourne to make arrangements for her daughter's wedding, which was to have taken place at Yallum within a month. Mrs. Riddoch was held in high respect and affectionate esteem in the district in which she resided.

She was noted for her kindness of heart, active benevolence, and earnestness in every good work.

To the aboriginies she was always kind and liberal and in fact kept about her husband's estate the remains of the tribe that once owned that part of the country as their hunting ground.

Yallum is well known for its hospitality, and Mrs. Riddoch was not a whit behind her husband in extending a warm and sincere welcome to all comers. By her death the district has sustained a great loss, which will be truly mourned, and deep sympathy will be felt for Mr. Riddoch and his family in their bereavement.

PENOLA

The remains of the late Mrs. John Riddoch arrived at Yallum from Melbourne about midday yesterday, and the funeral took place today, October 6.

It was very largely attended by friends thereby showing the estimation and respect in which the deceased lady was held.

The Rev. R. A. Caldwell, Presbyterian clergyman, Mount Gambier, officiated at the funeral, and delivered an impressive address, highly eulogising the deceased lady, and giving as his opinion that many persons in the district, particularly among the poorer classes, would miss her warm-hearted and generous liberality.

MR. JOHN RIDDOCH A PIONEER PASTROLIST Tuesday 16 July 1901

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Riddoch, who passed away at Yallum Park, Penola, on Monday. Mr. Riddoch had been ill for a considerable time, and his death was not unexpected.

The deceased gentleman, who was well known and universally respected, he had enjoyed more than the 'prophetic span' of life, having reached the advanced age of 73 years.

Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on October 27, 1827, he was a boy of ten when Queen Victoria began her record reign. Scarcely had he reached manhood's estate before he began to share in a desire to found a new home under the Southern Cross, a desire at that time entertained by thousands of self-reliant Britons anxious to tempt Dame Fortune in the virgin land beyond the seas.

Once his resolve was made, Mr. Riddoch did not pause long before acting upon his plans, and thus it came to pass that he bade farewell to his native land, and sailed for the colony of Victoria in 1851, accompanied by his brother Alexander, now in Tasmania.

On his arrival there everything was in a state of ferment. Those were the stirring days when the world was ringing with the news of the memorable gold discoveries, and everybody was agog with excitement.

Fortunes were being rapidly amassed by the few lucky ones, and the fevered unrest engendered by the remarkable finds of golden treasure was no respecter of persons. It fastened on to all classes. The late Mr. Riddoch early contracted the complaint, and so plunged headlong into the bustle of that life upon the goldfields which always has had and always will have such a magnetic attraction for thousands.

Mr. Riddoch went to Bendigo, and it was with pride he used to tell his friends in after years that he was one of the many who delved for the precious metal.



Subsequently, in conjunction with his brother Alexander, he turned his attention to the business of a storekeeper and gold buyer, and having put together considerable capital, he proceeded to Geelong, and there he entered into trade. With the rapid extension of business, Mr. Riddoch a little later opened a branch in Ballarat. His untiring industry brought its well-earned reward, for, after 10 years spent in the sister colony, he decided to retire and settle in South Australia.

JOHN RIDDOCH AND THE ASPERITIES OF LIFE

(continued)

For this purpose he purchased the beautiful estate of Yallum, Penola, in the south-east.

Not long after he was comfortably settled upon his new station, of which at that time only a couple of thousand acres was freehold, the balance having been secured on what he regarded as a long leasehold, the Government put their surveyors on the land, and Mr. Riddoch had to submit to the not uncommon experience of pastoralists in those days of purchasing at auction from the Government the fee-simple.

It was at Yallum that Adam Lindsay Gordon gave to the world some of the choicest poems with which his works abound. In fact, it was in the branches of an old gum-tree, the stump of which is still to be seen only 50 yards from the Yallum house, that the poet, who was frequently Mr. Riddoch's guest, committed many of the wayward fancies of his lofty soul to paper, and it was there that he wrote "The Sick Stockrider."

There, too, it is probable that he wrote a number of other poems, which were afterwards published under the title of 'How we beat the favourite.'

Mr. Riddoch from the first time he met Gordon manifested a keen interest in his welfare — an interest that was sustained all through the poet's career, and which was frequently indicated in a very practical way by timely monetary assistance. His generous help was always at hand just when it was most needed, and if for no other reason than that he softened the asperities of life to the fretful soul responsible for 'Bush ballads and galloping rhymes' his name should be held in affectionate remembrance by Australians.

Mr. Riddoch kept the letters which Gordon wrote to him, and in these there are many pathetic allusions to the writer's troubles, and the high esteem in which Mr. Riddoch was held by the poet is clearly indicated. It is no exaggeration to say that the greatest friend in the truest sense of the word that Gordon had was John Riddoch.

It was then, as it still is, the custom in the House of Assembly for members to have small writing tables in front of their seats. Each pair of members has such a table with drawers and writing conveniences. Gordon and his colleague for the district, John Riddoch, of Yallum, shared a table in this fashion, and an intimacy thus sprang up which was one of the few lucky features of the poet's life: for in this way he secured a sincere, sensible, warm-hearted friend, whose influence was always favourable throughout the rest of his life.

The poet resigned his seat in November, 1866, and was succeeded by the late Mr. Umpherston. This was in the third Parliament.



**YALLUM PARK MANSION
Completed 1880**

In the fourth Parliament, which assembled in May 1868, and was dissolved in March, 1870, the late Mr. Henry Kent Hughes sat with Mr. Riddoch in the representation of Victoria. After the dissolution of this Parliament Mr. Riddoch never sought reelection but confined his attention to pastoral pursuits,

which for many years fully occupied his time. He spent much money in improving his Yallum property, and in addition to owning what soon proved by careful management and judicious expenditure, to be one of the finest estates in the country, he became the possessor of other sheep runs, which he worked for some time before disposing of them. In conjunction with the Hon. George Riddoch, M.L.C., who has served as a member for the district of Victoria, he bought Glencoe station, 15 miles from Mount Gambier, one of the finest pastoral properties in the state, and the two brothers also owned Weinteriga Station, on the Darling.

Mr. Riddoch was a most genial host, and for many years the hospitality at the Yallum mansion was enjoyed by many noted people. Perhaps the most distinguished of his numerous guests were the young Princes, the late Duke of Clarence and the present Duke of Cornwall, when they were in Australia in 1881. Mr. Riddoch was a liberal supporter of every movement for the improvement of the people in the south-east, and his benefactions, if enumerated, would constitute a formidable list.

Mr. Riddoch had for the last 35 years taken a warm interest in the Mount Gambier Institute, which he had always regarded as one of the most valuable educational institutions in the district. It was at his instance that the Parliament voted £1,000 for the erection of the institute, and arranged for a further subsidy of pound for pound on private subscriptions up to £300 for the same purpose. The foundation stone was laid in January, 1868, by Mr. Riddoch.

At the turning of the first sod of the Mount Gambier and Narracoorte Railway in November, 1885, Mr. Riddoch intimated that he had decided to give a sum of £1,000 for the enlargement of the institute, and that the Government had promised to supplement it to the amount of £1,000. Parliament voted the money, and the £2,000 was expended in building a second story to the institute, giving commodious rooms for a picture gallery, museum, committee rooms &c., on the upper floor, and the enlargement of the library and hall on the lower floor. Mr. Riddoch's liberality made the institute one of the best buildings in the town. In 1890 Mr. Riddoch, in connection with his brother, Mr. George Riddoch, gave £75 in two prizes of £50 and £25 for the best farms in the district. These prizes were continued for three years, and for the first two years brought out keen competition, but the third year competition fell off, because certain farms were too good for any others to compete successfully with them. Then the prizes were withdrawn, for three years -1889 to 1891-Mr. John Riddoch who was then Chief of the Mount Gambier Caledonian Society, gave £10 a year in four prizes in connection with the society for competition by boys and girls attending public and provisional schools in the County of Grey.

The prizes were given for proficiency in general school work as per class iv. and class v. standards.

He was a past master in the masonic craft. The deceased gentleman leaves a family of one son -John A. Riddoch, who is the manager of Yallum— and three daughters — Mrs. Langdon, of Melbourne, and two unmarried. Mrs. Riddoch died in 1881



**GORDON HOUSE
Behind
Yallum Mansion
Used from the
1860's**

A BASKET OF FLOWERS

From Dawn to Dusk
Written at Yallum Homestead

DAWN

ON skies still and starlit
White lustres take hold,
And grey flushes scarlet,
And red flashes gold.

And sun-glories cover
The rose, shed above her,
Like lover and lover
They flame and unfold.

Still bloom in the garden
Green grass-plot, fresh lawn,
Though pasture lands harden
And drought fissures yawn.
While leaves not a few fall,
Let rose-leaves for you fall
Leaves pearl-strung with dew-fall,
And gold shot with dawn.

Does the grass-plot remember
The fall of your feet
In Autumn's red ember
When drought leagues with heat,
When the last of the roses
Despairingly closes
In the lull that reposes
Ere storm winds wax fleet ?

Love's melodies languish
In 'Chastelard's' strain,
And 'Abelard's' anguish
Is love's pleasant pain !
And 'Sappho' rehearses
Love's blessings and curses
In passionate verses
Again and again.

And I !—I have heard of
All these long ago,
Yet never one word of
Their song-lore I know ;
Not under my finger
In songs of the singer
Love's litanies linger,
Love's rhapsodies flow.

Fresh flowers in a basket—
An offering to you—
Though you did not ask it,
Unbidden I strew ;
With heat and drought striving
Some blossoms still living
May render thanksgiving
For dawn and for dew.

The garlands I gather,
The rhymes I string fast,
Are hurriedly rather
Then heedlessly cast.
Yon tree's shady awning
Is short'ning, and warning,
Far spent is the morning,
And I must ride fast.

Songs empty, yet airy,
I've striven to write,
For failure, dear Mary !
Forgive me—Good-night !
Songs and flowers may beset you,
I can only regret you,
While the soil where I met you
Recedes from my sight.

For the sake of past hours,
For the love of old times,
Take 'A Basket of Flowers,'
And a bundle of rhymes ;
Though all the bloom perish
E'en your hand can cherish,
While churlish and bearish
The verse-jingle chimes.

And Eastward by Nor'ward
Looms sadly my track,
And I must ride forward,
And still I look back,—
Look back—Ah, how vainly !
For while I see plainly,
My hands on the reins lie
Uncertain and slack.

The warm wind breathes strong
breath,
The dust dims mine eye,
And I draw one long breath,
And stifle one sigh.
Green slopes softly shaded,
Have flitted and faded—
My dreams flit as they did—
Good-night !—and—Good-bye !

DUSK

Lost rose ! end my story !
Dead core and dry husk—
Departed thy glory
And tainted thy musk.
Night spreads her dark limbs on
The face of the dim sun,
So flame fades to crimson
And crimson to dusk.

Published in 'Bush Ballads and
Gallopings Rhymes' (1870).

A Basket of Flowers was written on a valentine card for the children of John Riddoch to give to their aunt, Miss Mary Lord. The poem was not commenced when Gordon set out on his journey from Yallum Park (SA) to Casterton (Vic). The story goes that when he rested under a tree, as he did occasionally, for it was very hot, he would write our a verse that he had composed and by the time he reached his destination, the poem was complete

Acknowledgements go to The National Library of Australia Trove Newspapers and to Geoffrey Hutton's "Adam Lindsay Gordon The Man and the Myth."
And the Victorian Parliament website
It is interesting to note that old newspapers make good reading and give out, sometimes, information that prompts further research, for accuracy..

http://adamlindsaygordon.org/works_abasketofflowers.htm

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON

CEMETERY TOURS FOR 2012
We have been given permission by the Brighton General Cemetery to conduct our 2012 tours.
During Australian Heritage week
Sunday 15th April at 10.30am
During Victorian Senior's Week
Saturday 13th October at 10.30am
It is never too early to book 03 5261 2899
Meet at the main gates North Rd near Hawthorn Rd corner at 10.30am. Tour lasts approx. 90 minutes and includes refreshments. Cost \$10

New Members Welcome

*The Melbourne City Council have replaced the plaque stolen from the footpath in front of Gordon's Spring Street Statute and at the same time have included some corrections.
*Amongst the ever-increasing number of websites we have been able to include Adam Lindsay Gordon in the website <http://www.aussieeducator> (Go to their Site Map for Famous Persons)

LAMBTON MOUNT
THE MAN WHO ACCOMPANIED GORDON,
WITH SHEEP, TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

From The Melbourne Argus 17 May 1887

A letter from Lambton L Mount, president of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce.

Sir—Our late railway disaster is my excuse for repeating an idea mentioned by me to the "Engineer" a year ago, of constructing railway carriages, "lock, stock, and barrel," entirely of malleable steel, excepting the glass in the windows and the upholstering, which latter should be very ample. I should not permit a particle of wood to enter into its construction, not even for seats or doors, as it furnishes so much material for splinters and spears, whereby to crush and impale passengers to death. Let the frame on which the body of the carriage rides be as light as possible, comfortable with great strength, and let the body itself be made preferentially-cylindrical, like a huge boiler, say 9ft. or 10ft. diameter and 50ft. long, covered outside with some good weathering felt material to keep off the heat. I would have the doors at the ends, as on American carriages, and windows as usual on the sides. In this age of cheap steel a carriage of this description, by comparison with the present ones, would be much cheaper, lighter, and safer. Lambton then goes on to propose a signalling system using electricity, and or, by the weight of the passing train to trip levers acting on semaphores that would notify the trains behind that the line is clear ahead.

Lambton L Mount

Anapolis, Kooyong-road, Caulfield, May 16 1887

