



ISSUE 21 - MARCH 2012



THE WAYFARER

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

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BALLARAT AND GORDON THE UNFOLDING STORY



Behind the little cottage sitting snugly in the Ballarat Botanic Gardens is a long history beginning in 1853 with the opening of the Ballarat Hotel in Lydiard Street, just before the Eureka rebellion. After the alluvial miners had finished scouring the accessible gold, Ballarat became a rich, peaceful city with new industries and surrounding profitable farms, and in 1862 (150 years ago) a railway line was completed linking with Melbourne via Geelong.

The hotel became known as Bath's Hotel in 1854 and in 1857 it was purchased by Walter Craig who built a cottage behind his livery stables in 1864.

The livery stables were the equivalent of the modern taxi rank and somebody had to be in attendance all the time to answer calls for horses to carry men on their urgent daily business. The buildings became the oldest of their kind in Ballarat.

In 1864 a rowing course was cut through the reeds in the Wendouree swamp and in 1867 it was in this area where Gordon rented a cottage in Mill Street, an area known as 'Swamp' where Nazareth House now stands and Gordon, with Harry Mount, became partners in the running of Craig's livery stables. They worked in the attached cottage during the day.

We are told that the stables had a capacity of 40 horses with 12 looseboxes. Gordon took up rowing on Lake Wendouree and joined the Ballarat Troop of Light Horse shortly after it was reformed. He raced on his horses at Dowling Forest and was a member of the Ballarat Hunt Club. On March 9 1868 Gordon's life in Ballarat reached its pinnacle when he was promoted to Senior Sergeant in the Ballarat Light Horse. Then disasters struck in quick succession with fire destroying the Livery Stables, a fall from a horse which left him bed-ridden and the death of his only child Annie at the age of 10 months. Gordon then left for Melbourne.

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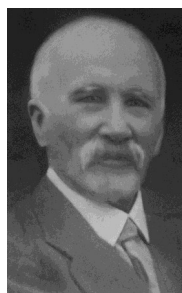
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BALLARAT



Mr. Fred J Martell
(Photo: Gold Museum Ballarat)

In 1922 the building which became Cobb's Stables was sold for £3750 They include offices, motor

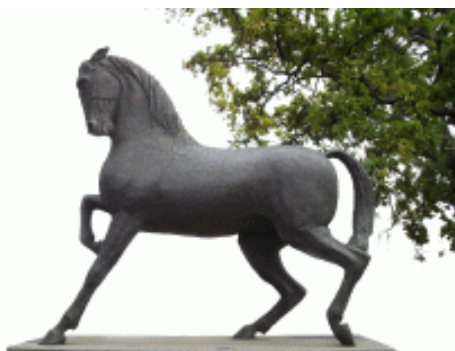
garage, and dwelling rooms. In 1933 at the centenary of Gordon's birth a former principal/registrar of the Ballarat School of Mines for 20 years, and one of the founders of the Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery, Mr. F.J. Martell began moves to have the cottage in Bath Street moved to the Botanical Gardens. Mr. R.A. Crouch (Ballarat's benefactor, known for the Crouch Art Prize) advanced the money for the project.

In August of the same year, the Gordon Lovers' Society was formed in Melbourne to support the Gordon Memorial Committee, (formed in 1910) in the centenary celebrations of Gordon's birth. The Gordon Centenary in Ballarat was celebrated at Craig's Hotel on Oct 19 1933.

In April 1934 plans and specifications have been prepared by the city engineer (Mr L H Finch) for the re-erection of the Adam Lindsay Gordon memorial cottage

The building firm of A. and G. Quale won the tender in June 1934 to dismantle the cottage in numbered sections and then fitted them back together next to the fernery at the gardens.

The cottage had been used as a commercial travellers' sample room for many years on its original site.



THE EQUESTRIAN STATUE
STURT STREET BALLARAT

This statue was erected as a memorial to Adam Lindsay Gordon and to horses and mules killed in World War 1.

It is mounted on Warrenheip granite and is of cast bronze.

The sculptor was Raymond B. Ewery.

Funds were provided by visitors to the Ballarat Memorial Cottage.

Top Plaque

HE PAWETH IN THE VALLEY,
AND REJOICETH IN HIS STRENGTH:
HE GOETH FORTH TO MEET THE ARMED
MEN.

HE MOCKETH AT FEAR,
AND IS NOT AFRAID,
NEITHER TURNETH HE BACK
FROM THE SWORD.

JOB 39 V21-22

Bottom Plaque

ERECTED BY
THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON SOCIETY TO
MARK THE CENTENARY
OF THE POET'S LIVING IN BALLAARAT

ALSO AS A MEMORIAL
TO THE 958.600 HORSES AND MULES
KILLED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR,
INCLUDING 196.000
THAT LEFT THESE SHORES
NEVER TO RETURN.

The Lay of the Last Charger
or
The Roll of the Kettledrum

Forward! The trumpets were sounding the charge,

The roll of the kettledrum rapidly ran,
The music, like wild-fire spreading at large,
Madden'd the war-horse as well as the man.

Where are they ? the war-steeds who shared
in our glory,

The 'Lanercost' colt, and the 'Acrobat' mare,
And the Irish division, 'Kate Kearney' and
'Rory,'

And rushing 'Roscommon,' and eager
'Kildare,'

We, too, sprung from loins of the Ishmaelite
stallions,

We glory in daring that dies or prevails ;
From 'counter of squadrons, and crash of
battalions,
To rending of blackthorns, and rattle of rails.

And what then ? the colours reversed, the
drums muffled,

The black nodding plumes, the dead march,
and the pall,

The stern faces, soldier-like, silent,
unruffled,

The slow sacred music that floats over all !

OPENING CEREMONIES COTTAGE AND STATUE

The Argus Thursday 16 August 1934
Tribute to Gordon Ceremony at Ballarat
Memorial Cottage Opened

BALLARAT, Wednesday. - The Governor (Lord Huntingfield) and Lady Huntingfield took part in the ceremonies at which the association of Adam Lindsay Gordon with Ballarat was commemorated today. At Craig's Hotel Lord Huntingfield unveiled a plaque, given by Mrs. Ida Buckley formerly of Ballarat and now in London which recorded the fact that the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon conducted livery stables here in 1867-68.

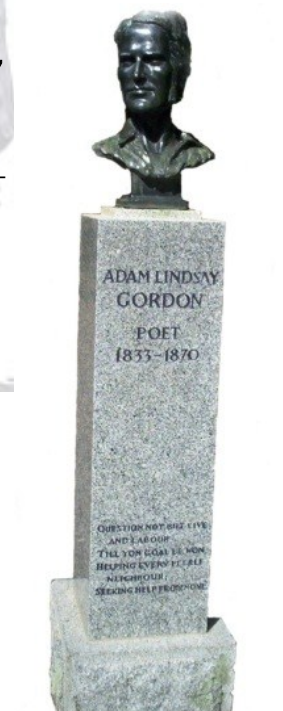
The plaque was placed in the foyer of the hotel following the transfer of the Gordon memorial cottage from the hotel yard to a site in the Botanic Gardens.

Unveiling the plaque, Lord Huntingfield said: "The name we commemorate today is a name I remember from my earliest childhood in Queensland. It is commonly supposed by dwellers in the Old World that the peoples of new countries are materialistic in their outlook, hard, and matter-of-fact, and mindful only, when assessing the worth of a man, of the crude tangible rewards of his toil. Yet the man whose name is a household word throughout Australia was, according to all worldly standards, a failure socially, financially, politically. He could not hold his own, but he lives for ever in the heart of the Australian people. The reason is that the conception of the materialistic Australian is a false one. Gordon put into verse that which can be understood and remembered by all the essential poetry of open-air life and sport

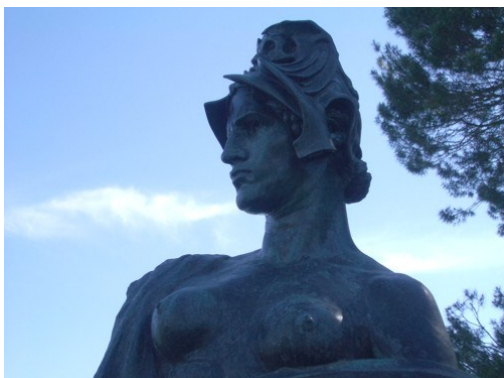
in Australia, and of the haunting loveliness of the Australian landscape. He appeals to the sense of beauty latent in every Briton. He appeals also to the love of sport. He was, indeed, a sportsman, who rode in the stiffest steeplechases when he was so near-sighted as to be almost blind. Think of his exploit on October 10, 1868, when he won the Hunt Club Cup at Flemington on Major Baker's Babler, the Metropolitan Steeplechase on his own

horse Viking, and the Selling Steeplechase on his good little horse, Cadger, which he had ridden to second place in the Grand National at Ballarat in April of that year. He took over the business of this building, Craig's Livery Stables in the autumn of 1867, and brought his wife and little daughter from Mount Gambier. Here he met and associated with all the leading hunting and racing men of the district, and here, as much as in his nature lay, he enjoyed the society of others who shared his tastes. We will think of him thus. Lord Huntingfield concluded with Will Ogilvie's tribute: "Our Lindsay Gordon From the north-west cape south to the Otway he is loved and known." There was a representative gathering of citizens at the ceremony at the memorial cottage in the Botanic Gardens, where the mayor (Councillor A. J. Darling) praised the efforts of the committee in bringing the plan for the transfer of the cottage to fruition. The president of the Ballarat Memorial Cottage Committee (Mr. F. J. Martell) said that the whole cost of the transfer of the cottage and its replacement by another building in the hotel yard had been given by Colonel R. A. Crouch. He referred to the presence of Dr. J. R. Heath, a grandson of the poet's sister, and then presented to Lord Huntingfield, on behalf of Colonel Crouch, a gold mounted walking-stick, made from one of the rafters of the cottage. Lord Huntingfield, expressing his thanks, said that the care and preservation of the cottage was one more proof of the patriotism and public spirit of the citizens of Ballarat. Later, members of the Ballarat committee entertained members of the Melbourne committee at luncheon at Craig's Hotel, where Mr. Martell was presented with a gift by the Melbourne committee. Visitors from Melbourne included Messrs. C R. Long, J. D. Jennings, Julius Grant, S H. Watson, E. Slater, and N. Wanliss.

The Argus Monday 27th October 1941
A. L. GORDON PILGRIMAGE
BALLARAT, Sunday.-The annual pilgrimage to the Adam Lindsay Gordon Cottage and the unveiling of the bust of the poet presented by Mr. J. K. Moir, of Melbourne Gordon Lovers' Society, attracted a large gathering to the Ballarat Botanic Gardens today, including visitors from Melbourne and provincial centres. Cr. A. Mackenzie president of the cottage committee, was chairman, and Cr. W. J. Perkins, Mayor, welcomed the visitors. After an address by Mr. Newton Wanliss, of the cottage committee, Mr. C. R. Long, president of the Gordon Memorial Committee, Melbourne, unveiled the bust. Prayer was offered by the Rev. F. C. Eggleton. Several Gordon relics were handed over by Mr. J. K. Moir. Mr. J. Howlett Ross rendered the Archbishop of Canterbury's address at the unveiling of the Gordon bust in Westminster Abbey, and a Gordon poem was recited by Miss C. Malmgren, of Melbourne. The bust was by Mr Fletcher and was cast by Cappell Lee Pty Ltd and the pedestal from Mr Barrow.



BELLONA



THE GODDESS OF WAR

Canberra's First Statue Photo by Nigel McRae.

<http://www.canberrahistoryweb.com/bellona.htm>

THOU art moulded in marble impassive,
False goddess, fair statue of strife,
Yet standest on pedestal massive,
A symbol and token of life.

Thou art still, not with stillness of langour,
And calm, not with calm boding rest ;
For thine is all wrath and all anger,
That throbs far and near in the breast
Of man, by thy presence possess'd.

With the brow of a fallen archangel,
The lips of a beautiful fiend,
And locks that are snake-like to strangle,
And eyes from whose depths may be glean'd

The presence of passions, that tremble
Unbidden, yet shine as they may
Through features too proud to dissemble
Too cold and too calm to betray
Their secrets to creatures of clay.

Thy breath stirreth faction and party.
Men rise, and no voice can avail
To stay them—rose-tinted Astarte
Herself at thy presence turns pale.
For deeper and richer the crimson
That gathers behind thee throws forth
A halo thy raiment and limbs on,
And leaves a red track in the path
That flows thy wine-press of wrath.

http://www.adamlindsaygordon.org/works_bellona.htm

Acknowledgements: National Library of Australia Trove
Newspapers. J.K. Moir Collection. Geoffrey Hutton.
The Gold Museum, Ballarat.

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



Election forecasting is not new!

LETTER FROM THE MAN IN THE MOON

To The Editor of the Border Watch Newspaper 4
March 1865.

Dear Editor-Knowing the weakness of your
readers to obtain the earliest possible infor-
mation as to the election of Wednesday, and having a fellow
feeling for them, although so far removed from all sublunary
things, I have put myself to great inconvenience in order to
accommodate them by sending you the state of the poll.
I yesterday rigged up my 75 feet reflector, an instrument so
powerful that even your pretty white stone houses form no
covering to you, when I chose to have a peep at you, and I had
a scrutiny of the ballot-boxes as they were driven in charge of
the red coated gentleman and the trooper to Robetown yes-
terday. I send you, by special messenger, the result of my scru-
tiny, and I hope it will please everybody. I should like to have
sent all your three men in to Parliament, as I think you de-
serve to have them all, but as I can't do it, I hope the electors
will be none the less grateful to me for what I have done, or
refuse me a hearty vote of thanks for my trouble, when they
next do congregate together. I have strong sympathies with
you on account of the injustice of your rapacious rulers in Ade-
laide, and hope your new members will prevent your being
swindled as you have hitherto been.

But to return, I find the votes to stand as follows:-

Gordon.	Riddoch.	Stow
392	412	385

I remain, yours complacently,

THE MAN IN THE MOON.

P.S. from the Lady of the Man in the Moon.- I have just read over the
above letter from my old man, and would advise you to put no confi-
dence in his figures. He was somewhat elevated last night, being in
company with a few friends, and I believe he was seeing double to-
day.