



ISSUE 23 - SEPTEMBER 2012



THE WAYFARER

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

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POEM BY WESTON BATE

EVENTS

Horse Breaking

He stayed on his horse

For almost

As long as a boy would care to stay

In a lolly shop



The Annual General Meeting

Of The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc. Will take place on Sunday 16 September 2012 2:00pm

At The Ballarat Library Meeting Room 178 Doveton Street North, Ballarat 3350 All are welcome. Afternoon tea will be provided.

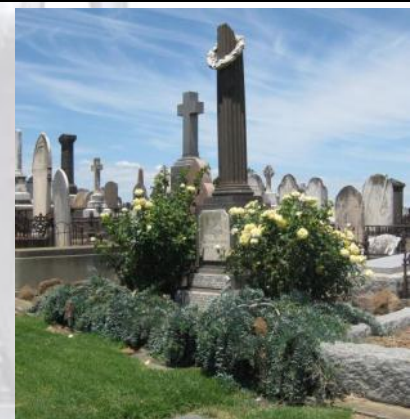


Seniors Week Cemetery Tour Adam Lindsay Gordon; His Life and Beyond. Conducted by Travis M Sellers. This tour is popular with a limit of 25 Saturday 13 October at 10.30am.

Meet at the main gates in North Road South Caulfield near the Hawthorn Rd corner. Cost \$10.

Bookings essential. Ph.03 5261 2899 or

<http://www.adamlindsaygordon.org/tours.htm>



The Garden on the grave of Adam Lindsay Gordon. Brighton General Cemetery Melbourne Vic.

Roses:: Golden Fairytale (Korkelda) Hybrid Tea Rose – Wattle: Acacia Baileyana Prostrate

White Diosma

Why not become a Member? Only \$15:00 plus \$5 joining fee.

Help us to keep the memory of Gordon alive, with access to our members area.

For details please go to: <http://adamlindsaygordon.org/joining.htm>

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ARTICLES



From "The Looker-On" Cheltenham, England, Races 25th and 26th March 1852

There were, of course, the usual average of "broken bones and bruises," but as Lookers-On we are not required to express sympathy for these accidents of fence and field- in the risk of which the glory of steeplechasing appears pre-eminently to consist. To express regret, therefore for awkward tumbles or dislocated joints, which, like wounds in action are esteemed rather matters of congratulation than incidents to be mourned over, which would be unsportsmanlike and out of place and character-so we would pass them over with a complimentary shrug, hoping those who experienced them are "going on favourably!"

LINDSAY GORDON LAGOON – CENTRAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/> In 'Search' type- Lindsay Gordon Lagoon condition report.

Our story begins in the 1850's with the purchased the lease of Yallum Park from son, Lawrence Allen Wells on the 30th bookkeeper in Mount Gambier. However with the South Australian Survey Department- 1879 at four shillings a day. He made become an assistant surveyor



Austin House Yallum Park

brothers Thomas A Wells and Harry E Wells who Thomas and Solomon Austin. Thomas Wells had a April 1860. Lawrence started his career as a his adventurous nature made him apply for a job ment. He was successful and started on 1 January quick progress through the ranks and by 1883 had

Another brother, Mr. F.C Wells of Lake 1849 who worked on Mingool Station, Henry E. Wells, and in 1866 was appointed cadet in the Survey Department of the colony. He had the pleasure of travelling to Adelaide with Adam Lindsay Gordon to take up his position. Gordon was returning to the South Australian Parliament and upon arrival introduced Charles to the then Surveyor-General.

Colac had a son, Charles Frederick Wells, born in near Mount Gambier the property of his uncle Mr. Charles Frederick Wells, born in near Mount Gambier the property of his uncle Mr. Charles Frederick Wells, born in near Mount Gambier the property of his uncle Mr.

Both surveyors continued with their work, which also entailed exploring, until they were both appointed to the Calvert Scientific Exploring Expedition in 1896. Lawrence as leader and his cousin Charles second in charge.

By 21 July they had reached latitude 26 24' and filled the water-kegs as they were about to move into unexplored territory and could no longer be sure of water supplies. The country was sandy with porcupine grass, desert gums and bloodwoods. Mulga thickets and small forests of desert gums were encountered, as were occasional sand ridges. On 23 July 1896 a lagoon was discovered which Wells named after Adam Lindsay Gordon, the poet. Birds of all kinds were plentiful here. The immediate area was in stark contrast to the monotonous mulga scrub beyond.



After a substantial reconnaissance trip, October 1896 found the party just over halfway through the two Sandy Deserts, when it was decided that Wells's older cousin Charles Wells and George Jones, (the 18y.o. nephew of David Lindsay) would make a side journey to the west, and then rendezvous with the main party at Warburton's Joanna Spring, some 300 km further north. The increasing heat of the advancing summer, lack of feed for the camels, and scant water, caused both parties incredible hardship - the main party was soon only travelling at night, and were forced to abandon virtually everything at Adverse Well, and the remainder the following day. Low on water and unable to locate Joanna Spring, innocently miss-mapped by Warburton, they made a desperate dash for the Fitzroy River arriving at Quanburn Station on 13 November 1896. Charles Wells and Jones abandoned the side trip, and following after the main party by about twelve days, perished. Their sun-dried bodies were finally found on 27 May 1897, 26 km south west of Joanna Spring, after five search expeditions by Larry Wells. It is estimated that they died on or about 21 November 1896.

They were brought to Adelaide and buried in the North Road Cemetery. (NLA Trove Newspapers)

DID DR. MURRAY HAVE INFLUENCE OVER ADAM LINDSAY GORDON?

—————Dr. Murray, the man who conducted the *post mortem* on Gordon. —————

In 1875 Mr.G.S. Searle writes in his pamphlet: "A Narrative-Voyage of the Brig 'Carl' in 1871 " Dr. Murray, a man unredeemed by one single virtue. Cruel, treacherous, mean in money matters, a liar in word and a traitor in action. Appeared as a polished individual. Brutal in authority-with all the trickery of the monkey, all the ferocity of the tiger, but a coward in danger.

Mr Alexander Sutherland writes in the daily press of 8th September 1898:

"When the full story of the death of Adam Lindsay Gordon can eventually be written, it will be found that Dr. Murray was the evil genius of the poet for some months before that fatal morning on the Brighton Beach. Truly a black record for one man."

We can ask, what were the connections between Gordon and Murray, leading up to the time of Gordon's suicide? They were intimate friends for over 12 months. (Murray says so himself at the inquest.) Murray was a member of the Brighton Artillery Corps where he was the assistant surgeon, and Gordon was also a member. Murray was also practising medicine in Brighton at the time and was in the habit of prescribing opiates. (He had later drugged with opium all the patients at a Sandhurst (Bendigo) small pox sanatorium, where he was mistakenly put in charge, in order that he could go away for the weekend.) Gordon suffered from bad racing falls and would have needed attention. Dr. Murray was also interested in horses, winning a prize at the Port Phillip Society Horse Exhibition of November 1870. Gordon is said to have asked a friend for money to pay for his last publication, but was refused.

On the evening before Gordon's suicide, Gordon, explaining a packet of cartridges purchased, had told his landlord Mr. Kelly that he had arranged to have shooting practice with a friend, whom he did not name, the following morning.

What was the character-in-action of Dr. James Patrick Murray?

In 1866 Dr. Murray was second in charge of an expedition to find Leichardt. They ran out of water and Dr. Murray was left in charge of the party including 65 horses, whilst the leader Duncan McIntyre went with the camels to their previous waterhole 75 miles back to replenish the camp, which was, in the meantime, to move back halfway to meet him. No sooner had McIntyre left them than Dr Murray ripped open bags of flour where he had hidden bottles of Brandy and Wine. He and the party became blind drunk and the fifty to sixty horses with their packs wandered off into the desert. Duncan McIntyre, on his return sacked Dr Murray and recovered only three of the horses. The rest had starved to death. On his return to civilisation, Dr Murray blamed the whole incident on Duncan McIntyre and said that McIntyre was not a fit person to have led the expedition. And he was believed. From then on that expedition was plagued with disasters.

In February 1871 Dr. Murray sold his Brighton practice-Timberley Lodge.

In March 1871 Murray resigned his commission as assistant surgeon of the Brighton Artillery and in April 1871, during which time his wife had become pregnant with their third child. He then purchased a Brig named "Carl" for £1600. He tried unsuccessfully to recruit a crew locally but had to recruit from Melbourne where Harry Mount (Gordon's Ballarat partner) unluckily for him, took up the offer along with others. To cut a long story short, Murray deserted his pregnant wife, who still stuck by him, and sailed to the South Pacific Islands with the falsely stated intention of establishing a cotton plantation.

His real intention was to enter the slave trade as his ship was fitted up to hold slaves, and upon arrival at the islands dressed his crew up in missionary costumes and enticed the natives to his ship. Once alongside he would drop heavy iron weights onto the canoes, sinking them and dragging the survivors into the ship's hold. He and the crew later fired into the ship's hold during all of one night to quell a disturbance, killing and wounding 70 natives and next day throwing them into the sea along with the injured. After a second voyage a year later the crew were caught and at the subsequent court case, Dr. Murray at first ignored the court order to appear, for a period using the excuse that he had to run the Bendigo small pox sanatorium. (When the small pox outbreak occurred he was in Bendigo, and offered his services, and was mistakenly appointed by the Victorian Government.) He then turned Queen's evidence to the court in Sydney invoking the wrath of God upon himself, saying that God had forgiven him, and he was let off on his own lying evidence. He even told the Bendigo Council that his severance pay from the sanatorium was insufficient, and he was given more. Harry Mount and others were charged with murder, but Harry Mount was later exonerated and died in Canada. Dr Murray fled to England in January 1873 leaving his family behind.

Dr. Murray's own father gives us the final character-reference. Not one which any employer would like to read! Sydney Morning Herald published 23 May 1873

"As regards Dr. Murray, the celebrated "Carl" man-catching approver, whom I have for years cut off as a disgrace to creed, country and family — your condemnation of that cruel, unhappy being I fully endorse and add, although opposed to capital punishment on principle, that if any of the Carl crew murderers ever ascend the gibbet for the seventy kidnapped and cruelly slaughtered poor Polynesians, Dr. Murray should be the first, as head. "

(NLA Trove Newspapers)



DR. JAMES PATRICK MURRAY.

ARTISTS AND AUTHORS

Geoff Dening

<http://www.starnow.co.uk/geoffdening>
 CD "The Ballad of Adam Lindsay Gordon"
 DVD Presentation "Champions" Racing Museum

Brenton Manser

<http://www.brentonmanser.com.au/admella.html>
 DVD "The Wreck of the Admella" 2009

The Torquay Froth and Bubble Literary Festival

<http://www.torquayfrothandbubbleliteraryfestival.com/>

Lorraine Day

<http://www.freestylepublications.com.au>
 "Gordon of Dingley Dell": The Life of Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870) Poet and Horseman
 "Reef of Despair." The wreck of the SS Admella - COMING SOON !

Michael Wilding

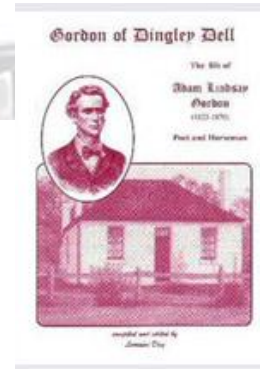
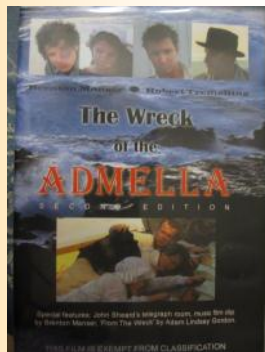
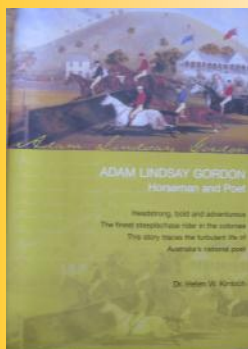
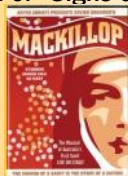
<http://www.scholarly.info/home/>
 "Marcus Clarke" Edited by Laurie Hergenhan, Ken Stewart and Michael Wilding
 "Wild Bleak Bohemia"; Marcus Clarke, Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Kendall-OUT SOON !

Dr. Helen Kinloch

Adam Lindsay Gordon-Horseman and Poet

Xavier Brouwer

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xavier_Brouwer
 "MacKillop" The Musical
 At present exploring the poems of Adam Lindsay Gordon For "Sighs of Sorrow"



POEM



AL GORDON

I see the wattle shine
 And hear you sing,
 Charged with its fragrance,
 You will ride again,
 Across a landscape
 Waiting for your pen.

Your life amounted
 To a steeplechase,
 More hazardous than those
 At which you rode,
 And fell – or triumphed,
 Dashing to the front.

We ride with you in spirit,
 And we weep
 That life's sharp thickets
 Proved too sleep
 To leap.

At cottages in Dingley Dell
 And Ballarat,
 Or Brighton's hitching post
 And poignant grave
 You are acclaimed.

Now, where the busy
 Traffic boils
 Your statue speaks
 Of spring
 Always of spring.
 Your winter left behind.

Weston Bate
 June, 2012