



ISSUE 30—JUNE 2014

THE WAYFARER

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

THE POET OF AUSTRALIA 1833-1870 WHO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LITERATURE AND THE ARTS IN AUSTRALIA

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ON OUR SELECTION

Adam Lindsay Gordon liked to swim whenever and wherever he could.

A cheerful Italian philosopher who writes to "La Nazienze," of Florence, as follows :

Sir,- I am seventy-five years of age and in the best of health and spirits. Yet I never wash, not even my face in the morning. Five years ago a towel was placed in my room, but it has not yet been changed, nor is there any need to. I have never taken a bath, and yet I have never been ill. I hold that baths, washing- basins, looking-glasses, brushes, sponges, soap, &c., are nothing but useless lumber. I have never lost a day's appetite nor a night's sleep for being without them.

I do not waste time and money at watering places or hydropathic establishments.

I go to bed in my boots and wear the same clothes all the year round.

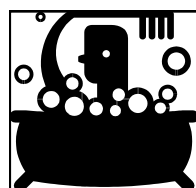
Being a chemist by profession, I know something about hygiene.

Hygiene is a myth, a superstition.

Microbes are killed by other microbes.

That's the long and short of it.

-Yours truly (signed) Frederico Corboni.



ANNUAL GATHERING—SPRING STREET STATUE GORDON RESERVE

On Saturday June 21st we will meet at the Café Excello, 99 Spring Street, Melbourne, at 10:30am, and at 11:00 we will cross to the Paul Montford statue of Adam Lindsay Gordon for our annual wattle-laying ceremony, and blowing of bubbles.

(Life is mostly froth and bubble).

All are welcome.



ADAM LINDSAY GORDON
RIDER AND WRITER

A film starring Jakin Manser as Gordon

Produced by Brenton Manser
and The Vanguard

Filmed by Robert Tremelling

PREMIERE

[The Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre](#)

Mount Gambier

Saturday Evening August 30.

Why not have a weekend in beautiful Mount Gambier and take in the show? Tickets \$15 and can be booked online at the theatre, or by phone 08 8723 8741

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ARTICLES

THE GRAVES OF ADAM LINDSAY GORDON INCLUDING HIS DAUGHTER, ANNIE LINDSAY, AND THAT OF HIS CLOSE FRIEND WILLIAM TRAINOR

A close, life-long friendship bordering on idolatry on the part of Trainor sprang up between the two jockeys. Gordon and Trainor were in Penola when Police Trooper Gordon mistakenly arrested Trainor for being drunk and disorderly when in fact he was playing the part of a circus clown at a performance.

Willam Trainor purchased the grave next to that of Gordon in the Brighton General Cemetery, Victoria, and this picture, below, shows the ground-hugging wattle slowly enveloping the two friends in death.



The Henry Lawson Society and The Adam Lindsay Gordon Committees have long been connected through the A.N.A. In fact it was as early as Sept.18th 1889 that the A.N.A. Melbourne Branch proposed raising funds for a statue to Gordon. The President of one of our earlier committees, Mr. C.R Long was active in fostering both poets through his earlier school papers, and by his formation of The Australian Literature Society, and by attendance at functions for both Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Lawson.
Your attendance at events, below is welcomed.

147th Anniversary of the Birth of Henry Lawson

Tuesday 17th June 2014-
Australian Unity- 114 Albert Road
South Melbourne
10-15am/10.30am start.
Tributes will be given and readings presented.
RSVP By Thursday 5th June 2014.
Secretary A.N.A Rosemary Kelleher
(03)98827 560
E-Mail; roseck@bigpond.net.au

Coal Creek Literary Festival-2014

Korumburra Vic Sat 4th Oct. 2014
Major Speaker, Mr. Richard Tate.
President : Brian J. Dickinson
E-Mail: briandickinson2@bigpond.com
Ph: 03 98773 713
Australian Bush Entertainment Muster
Benalla Bowls Club 25 Arundal St..
Contact:
Victorian Bush Poetry & Music Accociation
Hon. Sec. Jan Lewis
E-Mail: info@vbpma.com.au
Ph: (02) 60774 332

SCULPTOR PAUL MONTFORD AT WORK ON THE STATUE OF ADAM LINDSAY GORDON-MELBOURNE
[Paul Montford](#) was also responsible for the exterior sculptures surrounding Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance



Selecting Cabbage Tree hats to be placed under the statue's chair. One made by a Convict and another by a Chinese in Queensland. See who won on June 21st !!

Adam Lindsay Gordon's First Book of Four
"THE FEUD"
 A BALLAD
 DEDICATED TO NOEL PATON, R.S.A.,
 AS A KEY TO HIS ILLUSTRATIONS OF
"THE DOWIE DENS O' YARROW."
 BY A. LINDSAY
 MOUNT GAMBIER
 LAURIE, WATSON, & LAURIE



1864

The Sixth Scene—1860
 Painting by Sir Joseph Noel Paton.
 Oil on board, 33.5 x 41.5 cm
 Reproduced with the kind permission of
[The University of Dundee Museum Collections](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/museum/collections)

'The Dowie Dens of Yarrow,' is from one of a series of six pictures, painted for the Royal Association for Promoting the Fine Arts in Scotland, for the purpose of engraving. The popular old Scottish ballad known by the above title contains no such actual scene as is represented here, but it may be accepted as a fit sequel to the story, and shows the lifeless bodies of the knight who fell in mortal combat and his lady who died beside him when she found him stricken down, carried by retainers to their castle home.

Dafforne, James. "British Artists: Their Style and Character. No. LXVII. Sir Joseph Noel Paton." Art-Journal. (1869)-The University of Michigan).

Background to Gordon's publication of "The Feud".

There are stories around "The Feud" which conflict in the telling. They start correctly with Adam Lindsay Gordon in Australia in the 1850's, known to all as a mounted police trooper, horse-breaker, drover and jockey. In 1861 he received £7000 from his deceased mother's estate. That same year the Border Watch newspaper commenced in Mount Gambier, which Gordon later frequently visited, to read newspapers and books from their shelves, in-between weekend steeplechases. He married in 1862 and built a house in Mount Gambier and purchased land. Gordon became established in the town.

In March 1864 he purchased Dingley Dell, in June he lectured to a church group on Phrenology without any reference to notes or prior preparation, he entertained the group for an hour and a half. In July he thrilled the townsfolk in the Mount Gambier Border Steeplechase on a course circling the town. In July he made his famous fence leap at the top of the precipice surrounding the Blue Lake. One month later his poem "The Feud" was published as his first venture. The old legend was put into print by Sir Walter Scott, which Gordon probably would have known already, and was brought to his attention in a series of six pictures/engravings based on the paintings by Sir (now) Joseph Noel Paton, painted in 1860. His Scottish passions were at once aroused and he proceeded to write his own version, based on the scenes depicted..

Story Versions-1863

There are two versions in circulation on how Gordon came to write his poem. Both could be correct. **Version one**, the more plausible, puts Gordon in the Mount Gambier Hotel with a group of friends, and is shown the set of six pictures/engravings. Gordon then was inspired to compose his poem "The Feud". 30/50 copies were published by The Border Watch in pamphlet form, for which Gordon paid £6 and sold them at a bazaar either in aid of a new hospital or to go towards church funds. Gordon soon afterwards was elected to the SA Parliament and presented a Bill which culminated in the building of the Mount Gambier hospital. Gordon has been writing poetry and sketch-drawings from his school days for friends, and up to his death in 1870 he concealed his name from his publications.



The Mount Gambier Hotel—Established December 1862

The other version is given by Gordon's closest friend William Trainor who said that they were returning to Mount Gambier and stopped at Woodford to feed their horses. Gordon saw a picture called "The Feud" hanging over a mantelpiece and was so taken with it that upon returning to Mount Gambier, he wrote his version of the poem called "The Feud".

How "The Feud" came to public attention.

Mr. J.B. Mather was a boy in the Border Watch office when the poem was printed. He rescued some discarded faulty copies from a bin. 25 years later Mr. J Sincock was working as a young reporter in the same office and found copies between the leaves of the first ledger of the Border Watch whilst doing research

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(from previous page)

Both handed their copies on. Mr. Mather's copy finished up printed in the August 1891 first edition of *Literary Opinion*, then in *The Australasian* in 1895. When the copyright expired in 1912 the poem was taken up in Douglas Sladen's edition of Gordon's poems and later in that of F.M Robb in Melbourne.

It is interesting to see how this Scottish legend which was handed down by word of mouth is then used by Sir Walter Scott, collector of Scottish ballads in his 1803 *Minstrelsy* and then painted by Sir Joseph Noel Paton with variations in 1860, and then re-worked in 1864 by Adam Lindsay Gordon, himself of Scottish descent.

Ending by Sir Walter Scott:

She kissed his cheek, she kaim'd his hair,
 She search'd his wounds all thorough;
 She kiss'd them, till her lips grew red,
 On the dowie houns of Yarrow.

"Now, haud your tongue, my daughter dear!
 "For a' this breeds but sorrow;
 "I'll wed ye to a better lord,
 "Than him ye lost on Yarrow."

"O haud your tongue, my father dear!
 "Ye mind me but of sorrow;
 "A fairer rose did never bloom
 "Than now lies cropp'd on Yarrow."

Ending by Adam Lindsay Gordon
 She stretched upon the dead man's breast
 With one long weary sigh ;
 And the old man bowed his lofty crest
 And hid his troubled eye !

They called her, but she spoke no more,
 And when they raised her head
 She seemed as lovely as before,
 Though all her bloom had fled ;
 But they grew pale at that they saw—
 They knew that she was dead !

PLATE VI
Dies irae : dies illa
 The requiem breaks the midnight air, the funeral bell they toll,
 A mass or prayer we well may spare, for a brave moss-trooper's soul ;
 And the fairest bride on the Border side, may she too be forgiven !
 The dirge we ring, the chant we sing, the rest we leave to Heaven !
 (Adam Lindsay Gordon) [The Poem in Full](#)

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON 1833–1870
ARTHUR HOEY DAVIS - STEELE RUDD 1868–1935

“ON OUR SELECTION”

A.H.Davis was born at Drayton near Toowoomba Qld and left school at the age of 12 for jobs on Station properties, and became a stockrider at the age of 15. He moved to Brisbane at 18 to take up office work. As a sport he took on rowing, and began writing a column on rowing using the pseudonym Steele after an English essayist, and Rudder later shortened to Steele Rudd. (*Wikipedia*).

Whilst working in Brisbane Arthur Davis was longing for the bush. He was given a book of Adam Lindsay Gordon's poems and was fascinated by the poem "The Sick Stockrider". At a newspaper interview in 1932 Steele Rudd said:

"I was amazed to think that the life I know so well was actually in a book!

I thought of the careless, brown-faced, bearded stockmen I had known, but couldn't in-any way associate them in my mind with the writing-of poems, and so I read Gordon, and read him again and again, and fretted more for the mountains and plains than ever. And while I fretted I thought, and I thought of everything I had ever seen or that had happened before I was exiled to that frozen, wretched office.. And, so thinking, I stacked up in my mind the pile of incidents that I had since pulled out and used-such as they are.

"And now that 'On Our Selection' has become a celluloid record, capable of long outlasting we who wrote it and who have acted it during the past quarter of a century. I think it timely to pay this homage to the name of Adam Lindsay Gordon.

Upon the memory of his gifted head must be placed much of the blame of my literary sins."



Steele Rudd's stories started in *The Bulletin* in 1895, then into books, which became plays and films.

On Oct 24 1912 the newly formed Bert Bailey Dramatic Company performed "On Our Selection" at William Anderson's King's Theatre in Melbourne to raise funds for Gordon's proposed statue, now in Gordon Reserve Spring Street. Grant and Duggan were present at the unveiling in 1932.

The principal company members being Bert Bailey, Edmund Duggan and their finance manager Julius Grant, the last two were members of The Gordon Memorial Committee and together they toured the country until the 1930's.

[Further Reading](#)