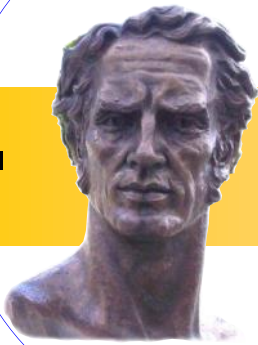




ISSUE 36 — DECEMBER 2015



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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ISSN 1834-4070
ISSN 1834-4089

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(Photo by Elrae Adams—Sunday 18th October— Annual General Meeting Coleraine Vic.)

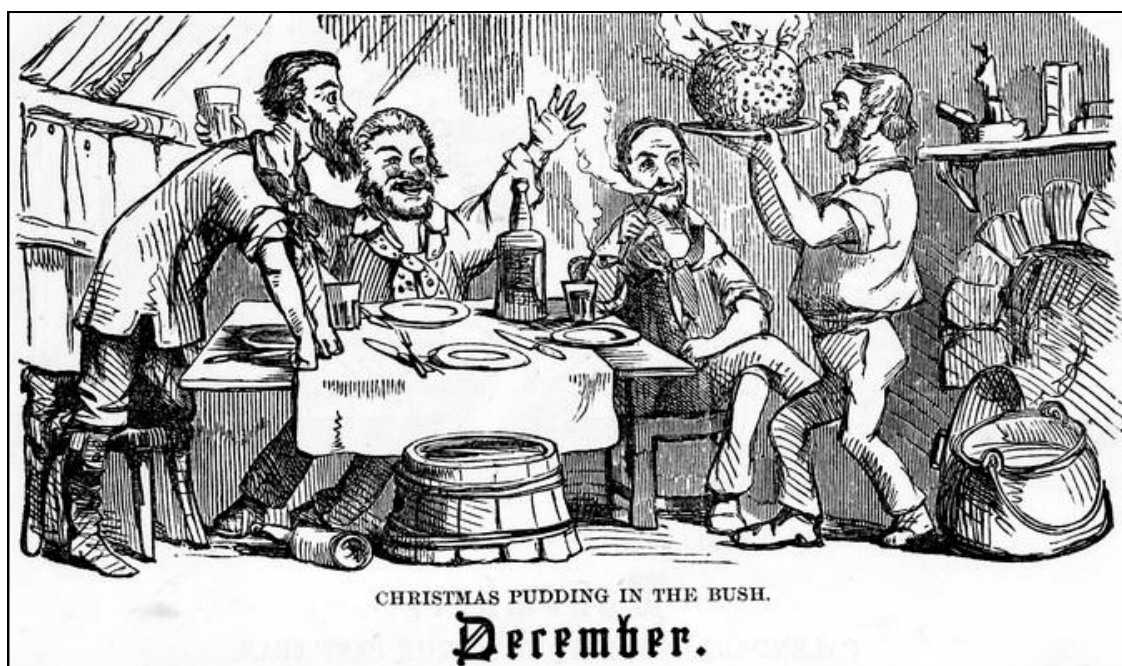
Standing-Lorraine Day and Jenny Childs

Seated-From Left-John Adams; Patron, Janice Bate; Host, Maisie Mitchell; Patron, Weston Bate;
Helen Dehn; Virginia Barnett; Allan Childs.



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

FROM THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC.



Wood engraving published in Melbourne punch, supplement, 1856 . State Library Victoria . MP00/00/56/supp12

CHRISTMAS OUTBACK (By H. J. L.) (Abridged from *The Mail* : Adelaide, SA :Saturday 25 December 1926 Pg9)

It was Christmas eve, and a cool change had arrived, so all hands, including the boss, his wife, and two little girls, the mistresses help, the whole station staff, overseer, sheep boss, storekeeper, jackeroos, blacksmith, musterers, boundary riders, donkey drivers, dam-sinkers, woodcutters, fencers, and the whole of the aboriginal camp were in high glee. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, just one day like all days, but still there was something magically alluring in this day, something that made the bush open its soul.

A warm morning's sun came up over the rolling mirage, reflecting on the plain. Scarcely, had its large red orb got clear of the horizon than a burn could be felt in its rays, which is usual on a midsummer day in the far outback. Still, the day promised to be mild. Already the aborigines were astir, the children flocked down to the Afghan hawker, and soon tins of cake; fruit, and plum puddings were being opened and eaten with a relish. At the men's quarters they still slept. It was Christmas Day and breakfast usually at 6 a.m. sharp was pushed on until 8 o'clock to give the lads a chance to enjoy a sleep-in, which was fully patronised by all, who reposed under mosquito nets.

After breakfast the boss comes up to the men's kitchen, and with the store keeper as clerk and cashier commences to collect funds for sports to be held in the afternoon. While the piebald mob were betting on the afternoon's events, shouting, laughing, and sparring about, the Christmas gong boomed out. Out came old Jim in cap and apron and yelled. 'Come and have a taste of the roast kangaroo.'

Soon there was a tingling and clatter of forks, knives, and tin plates. Old Jim's roasted kangaroo proved to be an appetising roast of sirloin of beef and stuffed mutton, with beet and sweet potatoes from the station garden, also large red tomatoes in tray-fulls. After the first course came three large plum puddings served in a savoury of sauce. 'A dinkum dinner,' loudly remarked Bullock, an old bush pug boxer, as he fanned himself with his hat. 'Now, when you've all done feeding we'll see how some of you young brumbies can race.' Soon all hands and the cook were down by the sport's track sweeping the ants from under the shady trees with small boughs. They were soon seated, and the sports commenced.

Few reached the kitchen when the tea bell rang. By the cool waterhole beneath a refreshing cool breeze, among the Hawker's cases of tinned fruits, cakes, lollies, cigarettes, and so on, the station boys sang song after song, and recited bush poems of Banjo Paterson, Will Ogilvie and Adam Lindsay Gordon. About 12 o'clock the merriment commenced to sag, and as the moon, half full, sank to rest in the hazy west, the soft breeze died down and mosquitoes commenced to buzz. Bullock arose, and stretching himself, said. 'Here goes to dive into me net'. Half an hour later the station, so busy by day, lay asleep in coffin-shaped mosquito nets, the stillness broken only by the occasional screech of a night owl. Christmas day outback.....was over.



DID ADAM LINDSAY GORDON TAKE PART IN THE LAST OVERLAND GOLD ESCORT BETWEEN ADELAIDE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND MOUNT ALEXANDER IN VICTORIA?

In her book "The Life of Adam Lindsay Gordon" by Edith Humphris, Pages 58-63, it is mentioned quite emphatically by Gordon's friend Elizabeth Lauder of the Bright Family, that he did.

Adam Lindsay Gordon arrived in Adelaide from England on the barque "Julia" on the 14th of November 1853, aged 20, and on the 17th of November 1853 he joined the South Australian Mounted Troopers. On the 22nd November 1853 he is said to have left Adelaide on the last overland gold escort between Adelaide and Mount Alexander under Mounted Police Inspector Wyndham.

The escort returned to Adelaide on 21 December 1853. Gordon's poem "Finis Exoptatus" is said to reflect that trip.



Mount Alexander Gold Diggings (Castlemaine Area) 1852
State Library Victoria H83.303

A LETTER TO COMMISSIONER TOLMER
Commissioner's Camp, March 2 (sic) 1852. My dear Tolmer. I have just returned from a very large public Meeting, convened for the purpose of voting you the thanks of the Gold miners. You have certainly won their golden opinions, if I may judge from some of the speeches. One gent, covered with *mud*, a regular *Digger*, or, "Brick," proposed getting up a bag of gold for presentation to you, but as it is understood that you leave this morning there is no time for it. On the breaking up of the Meeting three cheers were given for you, and three times three for your Governor by the great unwashed. A deputation was appointed to present you with the thanks of the meeting, but many fear it is too late. However this will follow you if there is a chance. Yours in haste, very truly, WM BOYCE

The above letter expresses the exuberance of the miners who received payment from Adelaide at a better price than what was on offer from Melbourne. At that stage the population of the diggings was around 25,000 but as the word got around the population of the district swelled by the tens of thousands and became quite unmanageable.

After the discovery of gold in Victoria, an overland route between Adelaide and Mount Alexander was quickly made so that the gold and the diggers would return to Adelaide rather than go on to other areas. There were eight gold escorts from Adelaide to Mount Alexander in 1852 and ten in 1853 Alexander Tolmer was on the first in March 1852 and again in April and June of that year. After the last escort of November 1853 a better way of transport by ship from Melbourne to Adelaide was then devised.

THE FIRST AND SECOND MOUNT GAMBIER HOTELS



We are indebted to Graeme Wallis from The Coleraine Historical Society for presenting to us his information on the first Mount Gambier Hotel.

Photograph of a painting of first hotel in Mount Gambier - The A Mitchell Hotel, with A. Mitchell store and saddler alongside. ca.1856 National Library Aus. BRG 347/855

John Byng established the "first" inn at Mount Gambier, later frequented by Adam Lindsay Gordon. The first Mount Gambier hotel was on the site of Jens hotel and should not be confused with the existing M G hotel on the corner of Commercial Street and Penola Road. John Byng was the son of Thomas Byng (or Bing), a black loyalist slave from South Carolina who joined and fought alongside the British in the American War of Independence 1775-83. Thomas was apparently promised his freedom along with 50 acres of land in Halifax, Nova Scotia by the British forces. After the war was over he was granted just one acre.

Thomas Byng/Bing was born c1757 in South Carolina, USA. According to the Book of Negroes (pages 78-79) he was one of the African American loyalist refugees who left New York between April and November 1783 bound for Nova Scotia. "Thomas Bing, 26, likely lad. Formerly the property of John Miles of Salt Ketcher, South Carolina; left him 5 years."

His son John Byng, was born in April 1809, at Digby, Nova Scotia. He came to Melbourne in 1839, probably on a whaling ship. He married Mary Ann Wallace on 30 April 1840 in Melbourne, Victoria. She was a recent emigrant from Ireland.

He had the Victoria Tavern in Queen Street from 1840. He was in attendance at the first public execution in Melbourne on 20 January 1842 when he was described as "a tall, well developed Yankee blackfellow, who was dressed in the latest style, and astride a well-appointed prancing white horse". By 1845 he had the Victoria hotel in Bourke Lane, this hotel had to be sold in 1846 "in the interest of the insolvent Byng".

In 1846 he obtained permission from Foster Fyans, the Commissioner of Crown Lands to establish an inn on Bryan's Creek (now Coleraine) and apparently commenced construction of a building. The establishment of a network of inns throughout the western district occurred at this time to provide staging posts for the newly established overland mail service. The Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate published on Tuesday 19th January 1847 reported that Byng's application for a licence to occupy Crown land at Bryan's Creek was refused due to an objection by Edward Henty of Muntham. Later in 1846, Henty's candidate, Richardson Bell came from Portland and established the Korite Inn on Bryan's Creek. As you know, in later years, this hotel was owned by William Trainor. Having been denied a licence at Bryan's Creek John Byng moved on to Mount Gambier. He applied for a licence to run a hotel in the "new country" at Mount Gambier on 23rd June 1847. At first his application was refused, but a licence was granted on 18th September 1847.

Byng left Mount Gambier in 1853 returning to Melbourne where he took over the Victoria Inn in Little Bourke Street, then from 1855-56 had the Digby Hotel in Stephen Street (later Exhibition Street), before moving later that year to Kyneton where they took over the Gold Diggers' Arms hotel.

John Byng died of TB at Kyneton on 14th January 1858, and his wife of the same disease five weeks later. They had numerous children the descendants of whom are now scattered throughout Australia and New Zealand.

John Byng was a mighty man, 18 stone in weight, with biceps measuring 18 inches. His Mount Gambier building was composed of primitive slabs with a bark roof, lit by tallow candle. Being the only hotel, It was the haven for the very early settlers. Adam Lindsay Gordon is recorded as being in the hotel on the night of 26th December 1861 between 7:30 and 9:15 pm, the evening of his win on "Sandlark" in the then hotel proprietor, A. Alexander's paddock, . (*Border Watch Friday 17 January, 1862 Pg 2*)

THE SECOND MOUNT GAMBIER HOTEL—IN FULL REGALIA



Australia Day 2007

Amongst the early settlers in the district were Messrs Hastings Cunningham (who was allotted the land know as Compton Station.) Anthony Sutton (Dismal Swamp Station.) Leake Bros.(Glencoe Station.) Donald Black (Kongorong Station.) John Meredith (Mingbool and Murrawa Stations.) David Power (Mount Gambier.) Arthur (Mount Schank Station.) Neil Black (Warreanga Station.) Broadrib and Carter—who held land in the vicinity of the present Bloomfield Estate—and T.A. Wells. The properties held by these settlers were afterwards divided into smaller holdings, and the first farmers made their appearance in the district. Mount Gambier was established in 1855, when Mr. A. Mitchell, who had purchased four sections from Hastings Cunningham, had his land surveyed and sold in township allotments. (*Border Watch 28 March 1933 page 2*).

Alexander (*Sandy*) Mitchell (1824-1864) was the third licensee of the first Mount Gamier hotel from around 1856, and his licence was transferred from the present Jen's site to his second Mount Gambier Hotel in December 1862.

Adam Lindsay Gordon took inspiration from a set of six Sir Noel Paton illustrations of “The Dowie Dens O’ Yarrow” hanging as Plates in the above Mount Gambier hotel, to compose his poem “The Feud” published in the Border Watch on the 30th of August 1864.



Ascent of Vesuvius. Coloured copper engraving of the 18th century. Goethe ascended Mount Vesuvius in March 1787; in the "Italian Journey" the ascent is described in detail.

The spectacular eruptions of Mount Vesuvius in 1858 led the good people of Mount Gambier to wonder whether a communication would be made with their own Mount.



Painting: ANGAS, George French ,Australia,
1822 - 1886 Blue Lake, Mount Gambier
Art Gallery of South Australia
Published through Wikimedia Commons

The First Montsalvat Arts Festival, Eltham, Victoria. Sunday 13 September 2015

Continuing from the article in our previous edition of "The Wayfarer".



Our Venue—The Skipper Gallery—in the grounds of Montsalvat

At the invitation of Lella Cariddi, Montsalvat's Poet-in Residence, our committee member, Dr Helen Dehn, give a presentation on Adam Lindsay Gordon

"Good morning poetry lovers, and thanks to the Montsalvat Arts Festival for the opportunity of speaking to you today about Adam Lindsay Gordon. The first thing I want to emphasize is that poetry evolved as a reflection of classical values. Classical values were those that exalted extraordinary talent, beauty and/or ability: never more so than in the field of music, which was viewed as an effort to achieve the most exquisite pinnacle of emotional expression. The passions implied by Classical values, which underpinned early Greek culture and are re-

flected in many of its plays, are exemplified in the story of Medee.

Medee killed her two children after her husband had left her for another woman in a passionate act of revenge. Traditional values are more Roman in character, and probably evolved with Rome's greater emphasis on property ownership and inheritance laws, both giving the breadwinner a compelling reason to stay with his wife and protect his children.

This evolving emphasis may have been buttressed by the adoption of Christianity as the state religion, with its stories about a holy family.

Traditional values were compatible in England and came to be exemplified by England's middle class.

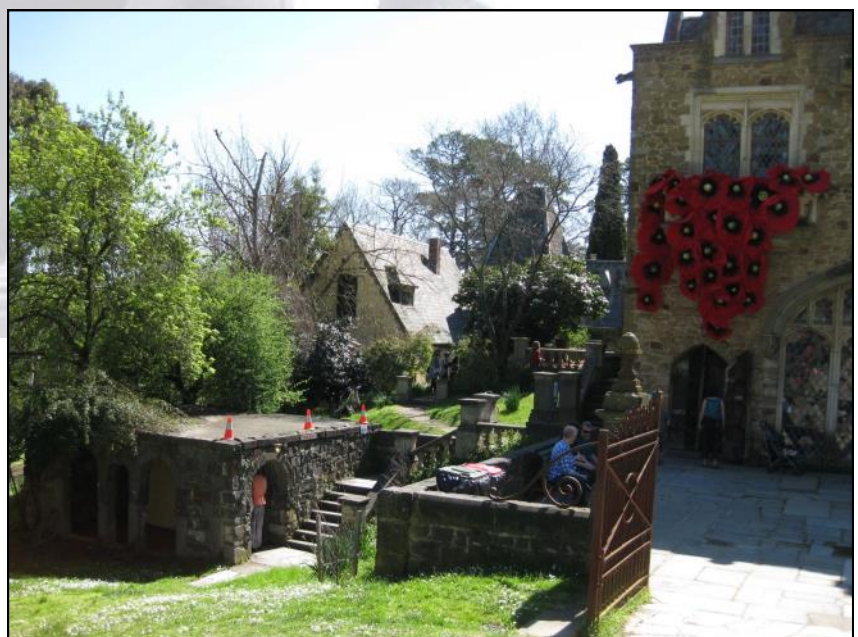
They were crowned along with Queen Victoria and her large family, although aristocratic England retained elements of a Classical culture in its patronage of the arts.

Now, Australia inherited Traditional rather than Classical values.

Adam Lindsay Gordon, however, was more of a Classicist than a Traditionalist."

The full talk may be read [here](#).

A Part of
The Great Hall and Grounds
of Montsalvat



THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON POET'S TRAIL



OUR TRAIL COMMENCES AT ADAM LINDSAY GORDON'S BIRTH PLACE

HORTA ON THE ISLAND OF FAIAL IN THE AZORES GROUP-PART OF PORTUGAL

22.10.2014



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ABOUT TRAVELLERS POINT their goals and objectives.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Michael Wilding Wins Colin Roderick Award

14 October 2015

The Foundation for Australian Literary Studies based at James Cook University has presented the annual Colin Roderick Award.

The winner was Michael Wilding for his book "Wild Bleak Bohemia".

The book uses contemporary newspaper reports, court records, published memoirs, private letters and diaries, and tells the story of three troubled geniuses of Australian writing - Marcus Clarke, Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Kendall - and their world of poetry and poverty, alcohol and opiates, horse-racing and theatre, journalism and publishing.

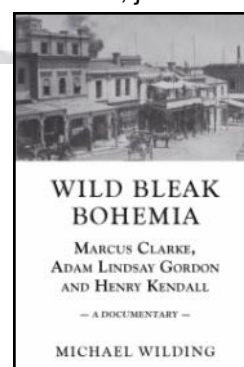
Michael Wilding says it's an honour to win the prize, and it's also a surprise.



[LISTEN TO INTERVIEW](#)

Order Michael Wilding's new Plant novel ASIAN DAWN

At <http://www.scholarly.info/book/399/>



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ONLINE OFFICE NOW OPEN TO THE WORLD](#)

THE C.J. DENNIS SOCIETY

On 17th November, 1915, 100 years ago this year C.J Dennis purchased a property in Toolangi of 3.5 acres (14,000 m2) for 22 pounds. Now "The Singing Gardens" with a Tea House, the gardens are situated about 21 kms north of Healesville. Vic. (1694 Healesville-Kinglake Rd, And are were the Annual Festival of the C.J. Dennis Society.is held.

In October of that same year, 1915, C.J. Dennis published "The Songs of a Sentinal Bloke" which was an immediate success.

The Website of The C.J. Dennis Society
<http://www.thecjdennissociety.com/>

A video edited by their Secretary Jim Brown
"The Anzac on the Wall"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXOKsmxa8Bo>

The Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society

Monthly meetings: Are held on the third Saturday (except January) from 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Location:

The Monastery Hall at the rear of St. Francis Church,
326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. (Enter through the gate beside the bookshop then walk straight down to the hall and come in through the rear door. "Roving M. C." If you wish to accept, volunteer on the day, assured you will enjoy the warm camaraderie and experience.
All Welcome



VISIT GORDON'S [DINGLEY DELL](#)
PORT MACDONNELL S.A.

Phone Allan Childs

0408 382 222



Photo-Smith2006
Wikimedia Commons

HYMN OF THE NUNS (Adam Lindsay Gordon)

Jehovah ! we bless Thee,
All works of Thine hand
Extol Thee, confess Thee ;
By sea and by land,
By mountain and river,
By forest and glen,
They praise Thee for ever!
And ever ! Amen !

The heathen are raging
Against Thee, O Lord !
The ungodly are waging
Rash war against God !
Arise, and deliver
Us, sheep of Thy pen,
Who praise Thee for ever!
And ever ! Amen !

Thou Shepherd of Zion !
Thy firstlings didst tear
From jaws of the lion,
From teeth of the bear ;
Thy strength to deliver
Is strong now as then.
We praise Thee for ever !
And ever ! Amen !

Thine arm hath delivered
Thy servants of old,
Hath scatter'd and shiver'd
The spears of the bold,
Hath emptied the quiver
Of bloodthirsty men.
We praise Thee for ever !
And ever ! Amen !

Nathless shall Thy right hand
Those counsels fulfil
Most wise in Thy sight, and
We bow to Thy will ;
Thy children quail never
For dungeon or den,
They praise Thee for ever !
And ever ! Amen !

Though fierce tribulation
Endure for a space,
Yet God! our salvation !
We gain by Thy grace,
At end of life's fever,
Bliss passing man's ken ;
There to praise Thee for ever !
And ever ! Amen !