



ISSUE 51 — SEPTEMBER 2019



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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THE ADAM LINDSAY
GORDON
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SIR ARTHUR ERNEST STREETON (1867-1943) (The Argus 22 October 1924 Page p18)

The Spring St. Adam Lindsay Gordon Statue Appeal

To The Editor of the Argus

Sir, - It is interesting to note the appeal of the Gordon Memorial Committee for funds for a monument to Adam Lindsay Gordon. Ever since its evolution upward from its ancestor, the Hyracotherium, the horse has been the companion, the slave, and the idol of mankind; stories of its fame, like some of our best humorous stories, date back to the misty ages of the past. Today, because of its gameness and beauty, but principally because he is one of the greatest money making machines in the world, he is the centre of interest in gambling, festivity, and fashion, and one wonders how many in the multitudes are attracted to the structure, finish, and beauty of a racehorse, how many owners and jockeys and bookmakers are interested in the fact that Adam Lindsay Gordon is known even in Europe as the one Australian poet of the horse, who was a passionate lover of the steed, and whose monument in Mount Gambier, South Australia, reminds us of his great powers as a rider. It is to be hoped that some of the important people referred to will come down handsomely with contributions to the fund for Australia's poet of the horse, and not confess, by their indifference, that there is no money to be made by putting up a monument to this poet and real sportsman.
Yours &c. ARTHUR STREETON South Yarra, 21 Oct. 1924.



The Spring Street Statue Gathering 2019 By Leigh Hay. On a cold, overcast winter morning in Melbourne, the sun managed to shine for the Adam Lindsay Gordon gathering on Saturday 22 June, held at Gordon's statue in Spring Street. Unfortunately ALG Secretary John Adams and his wife Elrae could not be present, so Lindsay Smelt offered their apologies and thanked them both for their commitment to previous gatherings.



Lindsay then welcomed those attending and led the tributes to Gordon with a brief overview of his (Lindsay's) recent trip to Cheltenham in the UK. Lindsay is researching a biography of Gordon, with plans to publish in 2020 to commemorate the 150th year since Gordon's death. Gordon's birthplace has always been believed to be in the Portuguese Territories of the Azores, but a key factor in Lindsay's research has been the discovery that puts Gordon's birthplace in Cheltenham England. Lindsay read *By Flood and Field* and Tristan Bate read *By Wood & Wold* (both excerpts from *Ye Wearie Wayfarer*). Frances Bader read *The Song of Autumn* (in memory of Patricia Anne Convery).

Janice Bate thanked John Adams for initiating the inaugural gathering and for ensuring this event has occurred annually and that a short history of the gatherings might be in order. The 2019 gathering concluded with Janice suggesting three well-deserved cheers for John and Elrae.

**Patricia Convery - A Friend of The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee
by Frances Bader**



Patricia at the 2016 Gathering.

Photo by Marumi Smith.



In Memoriam Reading by Frances Bader at the 2019 Gathering.

Long time St Kilda Historical Society (SKHS) member, former executive committee member and Vice-President 2013-2015, Patricia Convery, sadly passed away too soon, on 13 January 2019 after a period of ill-health.

St Kilda history, theatre heritage and the art deco movement were her particular interests. Over the last decade or so she researched and wrote a number of articles, gave talks, and led walks on those topics dear to her heart. Some articles may be found in past issues of the *St Kilda Times*, the SKHS newsletter, as well as newsletters of *Friends of St Kilda Cemetery* where she also led guided tours. Her article on *The History of the Emerald Hill Theatre Company* may be found on CoPP's website.

Patricia was also a member of *Friends of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens*. Some of us may remember that she was involved in their successful 150th Anniversary Exhibition in 2011. In addition she was instrumental in having a headstone unveiled, in January 2014, over the lonely Sunbury grave of Tilman Gloystein, the almost forgotten designer of the Gardens, and in having a tribute plaque installed by CoPP in the centre of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens during 2015.

Following a career as librarian at the State Library of Victoria where she specialized in providing and delivering Library Services for People with Disabilities, Patricia later worked at The Melbourne Arts Centre organizing the memorable *Spotlight* series showcasing local performers.

Friends remember Patricia as eloquent, erudite and sociable and that she loved to travel to history and heritage places both in Australia and overseas. Closer to home they especially remember sharing a glass of champagne with her when attending the Adam Lindsay Gordon (ALG) Commemoration at his Spring Street memorial (sculpted by Paul Raphael Montford). Lines repeated on those occasions from *Ye Weary Wayfarer* by ALG seem a fitting tribute to Patricia:-

*Life is mostly froth and bubble,
Two things stand like stone,
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.*

Patricia will always be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues.

IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA CONVERY

A Song of Autumn



'WHERE shall we go for our garlands glad
At the falling of the year,
When the burnt-up banks are yellow and sad,
When the boughs are yellow and sere?

Where are the old ones that once we had,
And when are the new ones near?
What shall we do for our garlands glad
At the falling of the year?'

'Child! can I tell where the garlands go?
Can I say where the lost leaves veer
On the brown-burnt banks, when the wild winds blow,
When they drift through the dead-wood drear?

Girl! when the garlands of next year glow,
You may gather again, my dear—
But I go where the last year's lost leaves go
At the falling of the year.'

Adam Lindsay Gordon

**DINGLEY DELL COTTAGE
NEAR PORT MACDONNELL SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
SOUTH OF MOUNT GAMBIER**

In January 1922 several members of the Dingley Dell committee made a visit of inspection with the object of ascertaining the materials which will be necessary for the renovating of the poet Gordon's old home at Dingley Dell, and the various classes of tradesmen and tools which will be required for the work.

Crs. P. Krummel, R.M. Haig, the Town Clerk Mr. A Shepherdson, and Messrs. A.E. Knight and C.H. Hirth were the Mount Gambier representatives, and they were joined in the inspection by Crs. R.C. Hayman and A.J. Kain, of Port MacDonnell. It was decided that the work required skilled labour which should be proceeded with at once, so that everything will be ready for the working bee which is to be held at Dingley Dell on 30 January 1922, a public holiday.
(*Border Watch Mount Gambier Tuesday 10 January 1922, page 3*).

On February 17th 1922, Dingley Dell, owned by George Frederick Madely, Port MacDonnell was purchased by the South Australian Government, Minister in charge of The National Pleasure Resorts Act 1914 at the request of the Dingley Dell Restoration Committee. 15 Acres for £165. It was the first house on South Australia's Heritage Register.
Title Deeds. (J.K. Moir Border Watch (Mount Gambier, Thursday 2 December 1937, page 1).

From then until 1929 the Dingley Dell Restoration Committee worked hard with working bees to restore the cottage. During the 1930's The Mount Gambier Branch of the ANA organised a number of pilgrimages to Dingley Dell.

**The Advertiser Adelaide S.A. Tuesday 13 August 1929 page 14
FIRST PILGRIMAGE TO DINGLEY DELL
ADAM LINDSAY GORDON'S OLD HOME**

**Nearly 300 residents of the Mount Gambier district attended the first pilgrimage to Dingley Dell
The old home of the poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon near Port McDonnell, last Wednesday afternoon.**



Thirteen old residents who claimed the acquaintance of Gordon.

Front Row (from left)- Mr. W.K. Glass, Mesdames E. O'Brien-Peter Hay - John Hay, Messrs. J.J. Driscoll, M.R.Callander, and E.K. Locke.

Back Row. Messrs.Chas. MacKenzie, Chas. McArthur, John Livingston, G.H. Kilsby, Jas. Bodey and A.A. Kilsby



Some of the visitors in front of Dingley Dell



Mr. John Livingston, an ex-member for Barker, on the extreme right, recounting memories of Gordon, and incidents at his father's station Curratum after the wreck of the Admella in August 1859



Members of the Dingley Dell Restoration Committee and Australian Natives' Association.
From the left- Messrs. John Fletcher jun. (President A.N.A.) C.H. Hirth, J.T. Kerin. J McB. Cameron. A. Shepherdson (town clerk), W Hayman, P.F. Krummel (chairman Dingley Dell Restoration Committee), W. Hay (mayor), H Pick (chairman Port McDonnell District Council), H.M. Hogan (secretary A.N.A.), and R.M. Haig



BOOK LAUNCH GORDON OF DINGLEY DELL 2nd Edition By Lorraine Day. Launched at Craig's Hotel Ballarat on Sunday Afternoon 4th August 2019 By John Adams

Lorraine Day has given me the honour of launching this amazing book, which is in a larger print with many coloured photos. My name is John Adams and I am a member of The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee, formed on Australia Day 2006, at the suggestion of Travis M Sellers, to carry on the work from the many organisations and people of the past who did their bit in promoting Australia's first poet of note, Adam Lindsay Gordon 1833-1870. Lorraine has been a member of our organisation almost since the start, or the "get-go", as the Americans would say.

Like most people, my interest in Adam Lindsay Gordon was via a book of Gordon's poems given to me as a birthday present in 1970 when I was 37 years' old. Strangely enough up to then, my years mirrored the life of Gordon but 100 years later, except that I spent my life on a chair in a bank and Gordon spent his life on a saddle on a horse. I was born in 1933 and Gordon was born in 1833.

On 24th June 1970 Elrae and I went to the grave of Gordon in The Brighton General Cemetery in Melbourne on his 100th anniversary that year and were struck by the fact that there was no-one else there and that the grave looked derelict.

I then visited the bookshops and found that there were scarcely any books on Gordon but plenty on the other poets. During the following years I came to the conclusion that we, here in the south of our continent, are left behind when it comes to publicity for Australian History. In fact, I saw a well-known Sydney author saying on TV that Adam Lindsay Gordon committed suicide by riding his horse over a cliff !

In that same year of 1970 the Caulfield Racecourse mounted an Adam Lindsay Gordon Centenary exhibition, which we attended, with a function in their Board Room, arranged by Leonard Joel. There we met and shook hands with the trainer of Phar Lap, Tommy Woodcock. The Brighton Historical Society also displayed their Adam Lindsay Gordon items in glass cases.

I have found that Lorraine's book, first published in 2003 , has much new and more detailed and comprehensive information about all of the events that took place before during and after the reckless life of Gordon.. This book should be in every school

It has been recently discovered that ALG's birth notice (originally thought to be born at Horta on the island of Fayal in the Azores; We now know it was at Charlton Kings, near Cheltenham in England.

How many school children know that:

160 years ago tomorrow (5 August 1859) Gordon was witness to the then worst maritime disaster – the wreck of the iron-hulled steamship *Admella*, less than 18 months after arriving in Adelaide from Glasgow on her maiden voyage, on Carpenter Rocks, in the south-east of South Australia, with the loss of 89 lives including many children and one of the rescuers.

Gordon arrived in Ballarat late in 1867 to run the livery stables in Bath Lane behind Craig's Hotel. Less than a year later, in March 1868, fire destroyed the stables and threatened the hotel. Fortunately, the horses were saved and many of the conveyances, but ALG's business was ruined.

While in Ballarat, ALG, his wife and baby lived in a six-roomed weatherboard cottage near Lake Wendouree.

The cottage which had adjoined Craig's Livery Stables and served as a storeroom, was later moved to the Ballarat Botanic Gardens in 1933 and restored. For a while it contained ALG memorabilia (later moved to the Gold Museum) and today serves the Ballarat Craft Council. Under the auspices of the Gordon Lovers' Society and the Gordon Memorial Committee, a bust was unveiled in 1941 opposite the cottage in the gardens.

While in Ballarat, ALG frequented Dowling Forest. One day following the fire, after training his horse Viking, he then mounted Necromancer to ride back to Ballarat. He always preferred to ride across country rather than using the roads but, at one particular fence, Necromancer balked and then rose too close to the fence, hitting the top rail and falling back on the rider. While scrambling to its feet, Necromancer trod on Gordon's face. After laying in the paddock for some time, Gordon was conveyed to the Ballarat Hospital. He suffered broken ribs, a broken nose, broken jaw and a severe depression in his skull. Possibly, after this accident, which would have left him with considerable facial scarring, he thereafter sported a beard.

I am pleased to see Lorraine here today amongst close friends, and we welcome and commend her book to all.

Did you know that Walter Craig, the proprietor of this hotel here dreamt of his own death and also that the dream foretold him that his horse "Nimblefoot" would win the 1870 Melbourne Cup?
I have included a poem that I have found.

Author Unknown.



Nimblefoot. Illustrated Australian News Monday 5 December 1970 Page 204

CRAIG'S DREAM

"There are more things in heaven and earth
Than dreamt of by philosophy;"
Which, when graciously given by men of worth,
All sceptical ideas defy.

Thus, of all dreams of which men tell,
Nought could be clearer or less vague
Than that so strangely which befell
The lost, the much-loved WALTER CRAIG.

One night, the veteran, on his couch
Ill, 'twixt the intervals of pain
(As next day to his friends did vouch),
Dreamt he beheld that Racecourse plain,

Where yearly meets the sporting crowd,
Anxious to see "the numbers up,"
And warmly greet, in accents loud,
The Winner of the Melbourne Cup.

He dreamt he saw the well-known scene-
The Stand, the leaps, the wall, the legs;
Crowds greater, too, than e'er had been;
The usual swarm of worthless dregs.

He saw the horses at their post
Before the starter's flag parade,
Of which his own nag pleased him most,
Whose jock in violet was arrayed.

It seemed, besides, that he (whose loss
Of late the sporting world must grieve)
Noticed the rider of his horse
Was wearing black upon his sleeve,

He watched the struggle down "the straight,"
His own horse winning at the Stand
He saw (in dreams), with pride elate
(Whose rider wore that mourning band).

Though from our midst he's passed away,
This instance of the second sight
Has been fulfilled – and, strange to say,
In every point minutely right.

Nought stranger fiction could invent,
As dreamt, the horse so resolute
That carried off "the Great Event,"
Was "Panic's" son, fleet Nimblefoot."

Melbourne Punch Thursday 17 Nov 1870, p 7

At OUR LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following were elected to office. 2018/2019
 President, Allan Childs.
 Vice President, Viv Sellers.
 Secretary, John Adams,
 Treasurer, Travis M Sellers.
 Committee Members. Jennifer Childs, Lorraine Day,
 Elrae Adams, Virginia Barnett, Terry Maher, Lindsay
 Smelt and Joan Pretty.



Visit Adam Lindsay Gordon's
 Dingley Dell Cottage.
 Port MacDonnell S.A.
 Phone Allan Childs 0408 382 222

MEMBERSHIP RENEWELS DUE TO 30 JUNE 2020 JUST \$15

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The Secretary

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc.

PO Box 809

TORQUAY VIC 3228 AUSTRALIA Application for new

membership Just \$20 through our website:

www.adamlindsaygordon.org

THE HENRY LAWSON MEMORIAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY meet
 monthly on the third Saturday of each month (Feb-Dec.) Mon-
 astery Hall rear St Francis Church 326 Lonsdale Street. Entry
 via church car park in Elizabeth Street Melbourne. 1.30. to
 4:00pm. \$5 for afternoon tea.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ADAM LINDSAY GORDON

19 OCTOBER 1833 to 24 JUNE 1870

will be commemorated next year with ceremonies being
 planned by our committee. Gordon was a Mounted
 Policeman, Horse Breaker, Drover, Champion Jockey,
 Member of Parliament and, ABOVE ALL, a Poet who
 captured the imagination of the Australian Public at the time
 of the early gold rush.



The AGM of The Adam Lindsay
 Gordon Commemorative Committee
 Inc. will be held on Sunday afternoon
 13th October, firstly for lunch at The
 Brighton Schoolhouse Restaurant 15
 St Andrews St. at 12 noon then the
 AGM at the Marine Hotel 215 New
 Street Brighton Vic 2-4pm
 The luncheon meal is at your own
 expense. All Welcome.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE
 COMING PUBLICAION OF A BOOK
 "GORDON OF DINGLEY DELL" 2nd EDITION
 BY LORRAINE DAY OF
 FREESTYLE PUBLICATIONS

**Promotional price - \$35.00 -
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PLEASE SEE POSTERS
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

OUR ADAM LINDSAY GORDON ENCYCLOPEDIA

Many have offered to submit an entry and have not yet done so. Our closing date for
 publication is February 2020 and we would urge that those entries be submitted to us
 before the Christmas season takes over.

Items such as The Yorick Club and The Australian Natives' Association, Gordon's influence
 on Australian Artists, The Westminster Bust Unveiling are still to be covered, and many
 more.

If you have the time to contribute, please contact our secretary by email at:
adamlindsaygordon@gmail.com Thank you to all those who have already submitted.



FROM THE EDITOR

"Mr. P.F. Sullivan, the peregrinating proprietor of the "Gordon-Egerton Advertiser," makes a
 very naive announcement in his last issue. "There will be no publication of the "Advertiser"
 from 14th of May to 31st August. owing to the proprietor leaving for the Fiji Islands on a
 holiday trip. Advertisers, subscribers and correspondents please note:

P.F. is indeed fortunate to be able to slip away from the land of the profiteers and sojourn
 for three months where bananas, coconuts and dusky maidens grow. In the mean-time
 residents will have to be satisfied puzzling out what the items of news would have been."
Melton Express (Vic.1915 - 1943), Saturday 15 May 1920, page 2

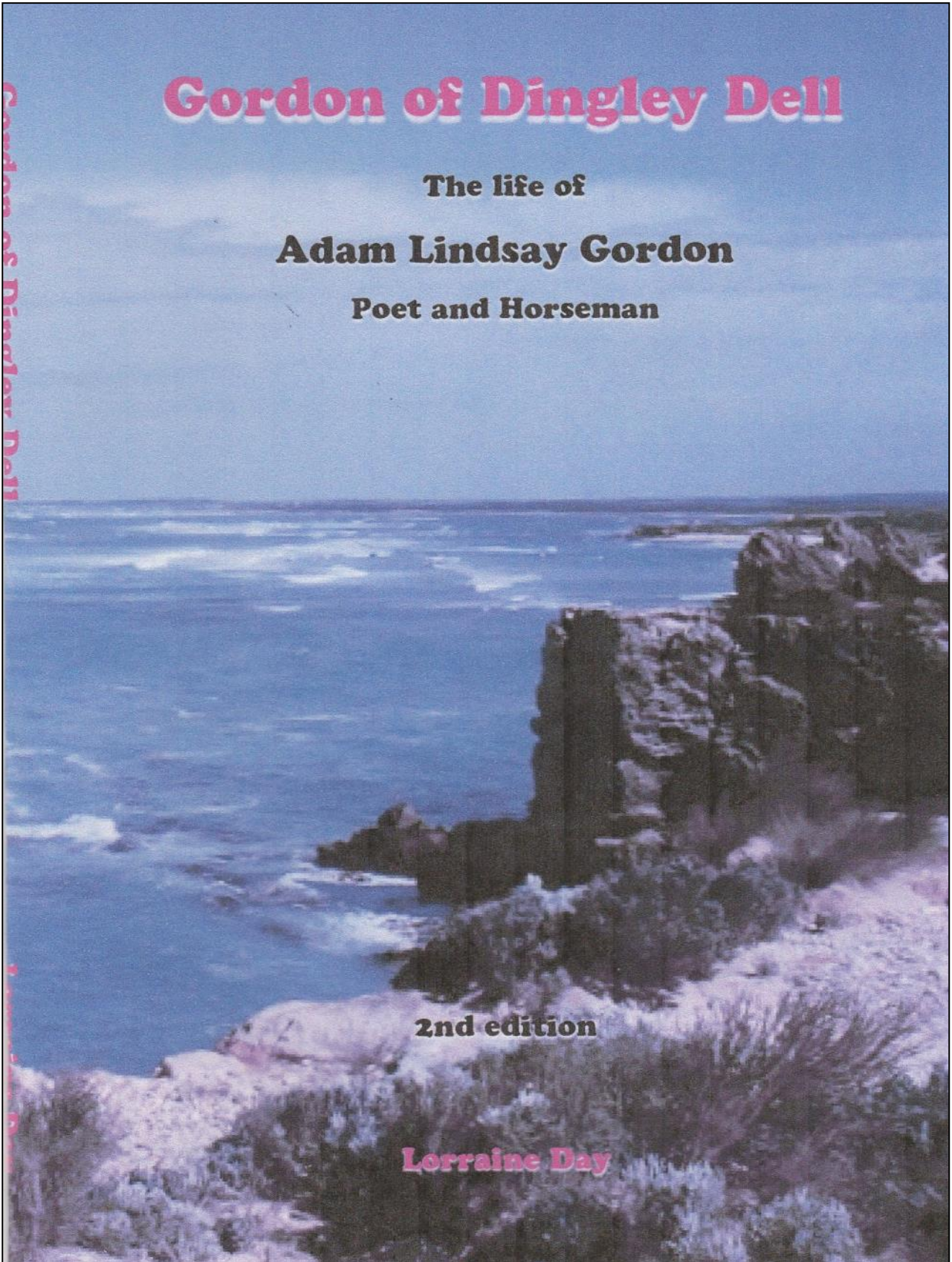


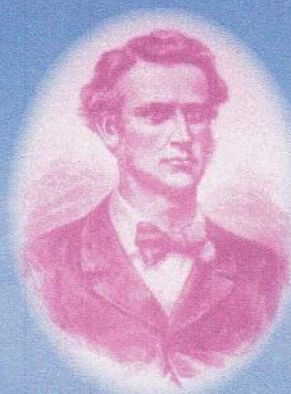
Gordon of Dingley Dell

**The life of
Adam Lindsay Gordon
Poet and Horseman**

2nd edition

Lorraine Day





Gordon of Dingley Dell tells the remarkable story of a man who, despite numerous cruel blows dealt him throughout his life, retained his pride to the last. Adam Lindsay Gordon had a unique understanding of a horse, just as he was a unique poet. When he was astride a horse, the horse and rider became one.

His daring feat of horsemanship when he defied death during the famous 'Leap' at Mount Gambier has never been equalled; his impact on Australian literature and horse-racing, in particular steeplechasing, was unparalleled.

A trooper, a horse-breaker and a Member of the South Australian Parliament, Adam Lindsay Gordon was regarded as both a fearless man of action and a dreamer, but it was not until after his death that he was taken seriously as a poet – Australia's national poet!

The years he spent in the south-east of South Australia and in the western district of Victoria, are now remembered and relived at Dingley Dell Cottage and Museum, Port MacDonnell, the poet's home for nearly two years from March 1864, and now an important part of the colonial history of this country.

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