



HISTORY ROOM

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CURRENCY CREEK AND THE POST OFFICE.

By Peter Humby with additional notes by Anthony Presgrave

The Currency Creek Special Survey was done in 1839 in response to investor pressure to open up land in the Fleurieu Peninsula region of the colony..

The township survey consisted of 907 allotments mainly of a half acre. Apart from taking the watercourse into account, little regard was given to the topography and some of the streets actually cross escarpments with impossible gradients.

Purchase of a township allotment entitled the purchaser to an allotment in the new Town on the Goolwa, (now known as part of North Goolwa), and one 80 acre country section. A large number of purchasers were investors who never set foot in South Australia, or Australia for that matter.

There are three squares, Gawler, Albert and Victoria and the streets are named after members of the South Australian Company or other influential citizens who had a hand in the preparation of the survey. Travelling through the settlement today Adelaide Place, Wellington Road, Frome Street and O'Halloran Street exist and part of the main road to Goolwa is Bevan Street. Edward Street also exists as a fenced reserve opposite the hall, and all are roads named on the original survey.

There were two or three early roads into the district from Adelaide, and it is thought that the original route of the postal service was via Willunga and Port Elliot as the numbers of the original numeral cancellers followed the mail routes and as Willunga was 69, Port Elliot 70, Goolwa 71 and Currency Creek 72 it seems reasonable that this was the original mail route, but from 1866 the main route was via Mitcham, Belair, Coromandel Valley, Clarendon, Kangarilla, Meadows and Finnis Flat now Ashbourne.

The Post Office was opened in 1844 at the house and shop on the main road adjacent to Currency Creek watercourse and remained here until 1902. It then moved to the former hotel across the road until about 1905 when it was moved to Hamilton Lodge, a residence in O'Halloran Street. In 1912 it moved to a new weatherboard building erected on the corner of Wellington Road and Kay Street (the main road) and this was replaced in 1961 by the building that still stands, this was also the General Store from where it closed finally in 1988. From this date a Community Mail Agency was conducted back at the original 1844 residence for a period of time.

When postcodes were created in 1967 it was allocated 5251 on 7 September but changed to 5214 (Goolwa postcode) in September 1979.

A telephone exchange was installed from 1923 and this became an automatic exchange in 1970.

The Hotel operated from 1858 to 1881 after which it became a private residence. Licensees were John Varcoe 1858; unknown from 1859 to 1863; D. Jones 1864 to 1870; George Lush 1871; J. Schluer or Schluter 1872 – 1873 and George Lush 1874 to 1881.



Currency Creek c1910 Post Office in foreground at right



Former Currency Creek Hotel



Hamilton Lodge



The Post Office and General Store in its final location

POSTMASTERS

Prior to 1866 it has not been possible to trace the names of postmasters

E Odgers	July 1866 to May 1867
Thomas Goode	June 1867 to December 1878
Peter Kemp	January 1879 to January 1902
Located at Former Hotel	1902 to 1905
Bertha Jane Bricknell	to 31 March 1912
Stephen Henry Lukeman	1 April 1912
Charles Stuart Jackman	1 March 1920
Charles Raymond Shepherd	1 March 1927
Hubert Meredith Newman	11 March 1937
Harold Deykin Goode	1 July 1937
William Joseph Douglas Jolly	1 December 1948
Allen Gordon Bessell	5 May 1952
John Trevor Butler	1 May 1961
Graham Butler	1 December 1963
Edward Louis Coventry	2 September 1968
Patrick William Seymour	11 July 1977
Norma Nita Lindner	14 November 1977
Eva Mary Jurgens	1 March 1982
Lindsay Alwyn Way	8 September 1983

Office closed on 30 September 1988

Margaret and Ern Taylor operated a Community Mail service from their home which was the original Post Office building for a short time after the closure.

HISTORY ROOM PROJECTS

The scanning of Births Marriages and Deaths registers has been completed thanks to the dedication and patience of a small team of our volunteers. The task now is to make them available for research.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING.

We are in need of volunteers to check the newspapers for relevant articles and clip them for inclusion in our records. If anyone feels that it is something they can do it would be appreciated. The work is not arduous but needs to be ongoing to maintain our records. It could also include the mounting of small items on a larger sheet of paper to preserve them. Please speak to Joel or Andrea if you are interested.

HAPPY RESEARCHING

Help is available in the Goolwa History Room when a volunteer is on duty, if you are travelling some distance it may be advisable to phone the Library to ascertain whether a volunteer is available. (The Room and Family research databases are accessible whenever the Library is open but some documents may only be viewed when volunteers are present.) Genealogy research by appointment Tuesdays and Wednesdays - phone 8555 7000.