



15 DEC 2016

Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association

INCORPORATED
ESTABLISHED 1983

12 December 2016

Mr Mark Hamilton
Hamilton's Ewell Vineyards Pty Ltd
Old Farmer's Trustee Building
Level 2
15 Bentham Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mark

We refer to your informative article "South Australia's 'First Family' of Wine" in Issue 240 of "*The Pioneer*". Unfortunately you did not provide sources, but we presume you made the statement that William Holmes Hamilton (b 1820) arrived on the "*Duke of York*" based on the book "*The Hamiltons*" by Douglas Wilkie. We have pointed out to Douglas Wilkie that this is quite probably not correct. We believe William Holmes Hamilton more likely first arrived on the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* in 1837.

Please read our Position Statement 002 on our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/kipaview/ps/ps002>.

We note that the article in "*The Pioneer*" was very similar to that in the first three pages on your website at http://www.hamiltonewell.com.au/pdfs/Final_Our_Heritage2.pdf. We are concerned that there are many historical inaccuracies in that website article and would ask that you urgently consider the following corrections :

- Proclamation Day was not the 29th December, but the 28th December 1836
- in 1836 the *Duke of York* was a barque not a brigantine
- the *Duke of York* never encountered the *Buffalo* on its voyage, nor after
- Richard Hamilton aged 18 as a passenger/crew member on the *Duke of York* is highly unlikely (perhaps you meant William Holmes Hamilton aged 16 as Diane Cummings lists quoting BISA - but not substantiated). But we do not think that William Holmes Hamilton was on the *Duke of York* (see our Position Statement above).
- the white population of the colony 31 Dec 1836 was probably 646 (not 176) see SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STORY OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT (1934, January 24), The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), p. 23. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36472915>.

Your accompanying Hamilton family tree shows William Holmes Hamilton dying "not AUS" but it seems fairly certain he died in Adelaide on Christmas Day 1916, and was buried in West Terrace Cemetery three days later (refer your website at <http://www.hamiltonewell.com.au/pdfs/HamiltonDescendants.pdf> and our Position Statement 003 at <https://sites.google.com/site/kipaview/>).

Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association
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Clapham SA 5062
Email: KIPASecretary@gmail.com
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/kipaview/>



We have written to the Editor of "*The Pioneer*" expressing our concerns.

Whereas we congratulate you on the pride you have in your family's history, and its remarkable place in South Australia's history, we are sure that you will agree with us that it is important to ensure that any published assertions are as accurate as possible.

Yours sincerely



Anthea Taylor
Secretary

per David Wilson



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days until

Annual General Meeting -
 mark in your diary. Sunday
 afternoon, 5 March 2017 2 -
 4.30 at the Tea Tree Gully
 Heritage Museum. Cost per
 person is \$10, tour &
 afternoon tea included.

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Help, please

Are you planning to visit Kangaroo Island? Or do you live on the Island? Well, we would appreciate your volunteering to help (in a small way) with the many projects that we have "on the go". For example, we might ask that you take a photograph of a sign, and report on its condition. The first step is to

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Position Statement 002

When did William Holmes Hamilton (1820-1916) arrive in South Australia?

Position Statement adopted by the K.I.P.A. executive committee 8 February 2016.

Introduction

Contemporary accounts [1][2][3] purport that William Holmes Hamilton (senior) (W.H.H.) arrived Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island on the *Duke of York* in 1836. A sub-committee was set up to investigate the available evidence and to report back to the executive committee [4]. Their deliberations resulted in the executive committee adopting this position statement.

Primary Evidence

There is almost no extant primary evidence. However, there is primary evidence that W.H.H. applied for emigration in Dover on 13 June 1837 some six weeks before the *Kathleen Stewart Forbes* sailed from Gravesend [5]. We also know that W.H.H. and his family were residing in Adelaide in 1841 [6].

The *absence* of primary evidence, where one would reasonably expect it, cannot be ignored. For example, if he was aboard the *Duke of York*, there was no application for emigration, nor any mention of him in Captain Morgan's journal [7] (although it was acknowledged that Morgan's journal was not comprehensive). There is no direct evidence that he arrived on the *Kathleen Stewart Forbes* either.

Secondary Evidence

Secondary evidence centred on several conflicting newspaper articles dating from 1910 onwards.

Those on the sub-committee who supported the notion that W.H.H. was aboard the *Duke of York*, cite several references particularly his obituary (*Chronicle* 1917)[8], and a newspaper article purportedly from an interview with W.H.H. on his 93rd birthday (*The Register*, 1913) [9]. Those who challenged the notion that he was aboard the *Duke of York* point out that there are several errors of fact in the article written by a journalist of an Adelaide newspaper 76 years after the event, and should be regarded as only secondary evidence at best.

Those opposed cite a similar newspaper article written three years earlier by a local journalist from a "chat" with WHH in 1910, (*Kangaroo Island Courier*, 1910)[10] in which he is said to have stated that he first landed in Kangaroo Island in October 1837 on the *Cathleen* [sic] *Stewart Forbes*. They claimed that this article is slightly more authoritative, although needs to be similarly treated as secondary evidence at best.

Discussion

It was acknowledged that if W.H.H. did arrive in 1837, it did not preclude his first arriving in 1836. There is no evidence, however, to support two journeys: if he did this he would have had

contact our Secretary, who has a growing list of things to do. Thank you.

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Trove under threat

[Trove](#), the wonderful historical resource provided by the National Library of Australia is under threat due to funding cuts. Please sign this [online petition](#) to send your support to oppose the cuts.



to quit the *Duke of York* in Hobart, and travel back to Dover to his family, before making a second trip to South Australia.

Conclusion

The sub-committee of the Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association charged with investigating the evidence [4], could not find a consensus as to how and when W.H.H. first arrived in South Australia.

Accordingly, any contemporary accounts which purport William Holmes Hamilton (snr) to have arrived on the *Duke of York* need to be treated with caution.

References

- [1] *The Islander*, 6 Feb 2014, "Unmarked but not unloved" <http://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/2070565/unmarked-but-not-unloved/>
- [2] *The Islander*, 16 April 2015, "150 unmarked graves named". page 3.
- [3] Wilkie, Douglas <http://hamiltonfamilyhistory.blogspot.com.au/2007/11/5-bound-for-south-australia.html>
- [4] View the collaborative website of the sub-committee showing their deliberations, and all sources <https://sites.google.com/site/whhamiltonsubcommittee/home/>. (You will be asked to register.)
- [5] The South Australian Company's Register of Emigrant Labourers Applying for a Free Passage to South Australia, State Records of South Australia, GRG 56/68/45, Application No.1124
- [6] Census of South Australia 1841, State Library of South Australia, Family History Collection
- [7] Journal of the Duke of York', R. C. Morgan. (Mitchell Library, State Library of N.S.W.)
- [8] OBITUARY. (1917, January 13). Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), p. 16. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article87440966>
- [9] CONCERNING PEOPLE. (1913, March 5). The Register(Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), p. 12. Retrieved October 4, 2015, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59254773>
- [10] A Veteran Islander. (1910, February 5). The Kangaroo Island Courier (Kingscote, SA : 1907 - 1951), p. 4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article191632627>

Comments

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Patrons: Vickie Chapman M.P., Ian Gilfillan, Bruce Williams, Jayne Bates, Ivy Wooton, Ken McWhinnie, Dianne McWhinnie

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Position Statement 003

Where was William Holmes Hamilton (1820-1916) buried?

Position Statement adopted by the K.I.P.A. executive committee 6 June 2016.

Introduction

Some contemporary accounts [1] purport that William Holmes Hamilton (senior) (W.H.H.) is buried in Kingscote Cemetery, in an unmarked grave. Along with other matters concerning W.H.H., a sub-committee was set up to investigate the available evidence and to report back to the executive committee [2]. Their deliberations, and subsequent research resulted in the executive committee adopting this position statement.

The Lions Club of Kingscote has recently completed a "Kingscote Heritage Cemetery Project 2014" which resulted in a headstone being erected for "William Holmes Hamilton 7.2.1820-25.12.1916" in Kingscote Cemetery purporting that he is buried at that location [3].

Primary Evidence

There is no extant primary evidence that W.H.H. was buried at Kingscote Cemetery.

Secondary Evidence

There is no authoritative secondary evidence that the W.H.H. was buried at Kingscote Cemetery.

A man named William Holmes Hamilton died in Adelaide in a hospital on 25th December 1916. [4]

A man named William Hamilton was buried at West Terrace Cemetery on the 29th December 1916, and was not exhumed or removed [5].

Discussion

It seems W.H.H. travelled from Kangaroo Island to Adelaide late November 1916 for medical treatment, was admitted to Adelaide Hospital where he died, and was subsequently buried in West Terrace Cemetery.

This is a summary of the Adelaide Hospital records [6]: William Hamilton, age 96, Coffe, widower, born England, residing Kangaroo Island was admitted 30/11/16 through emergency (no doctor's name like other entries) and discharged 7/12/16 with the notation "To CB" (2 weeks before his death) with epithelioma of the hand (skin cancer?) "CB" is the "Cancer Block" a section of the Adelaide Hospital, and possibly had its own admission and discharge records.

The West Terrace Cemetery Authority has provided the following:

<i>Interment Right #</i>	<i>WP27960</i>
<i>Section</i>	<i>R5X (Road 5 Extension)</i>
<i>Row#</i>	<i>C9</i>
<i>Site#</i>	<i>20</i>



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days until

Annual General Meeting - mark in your diary. Sunday afternoon, 5 March 2017 2 - 4.30 at the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum. Cost per person is \$10, tour & afternoon tea included.

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Site expired

31.12.1999

"This is a paupers' site which has a number of other interments that were placed about the same time. Our records show William Hamilton was placed in this site on the 29 December 1916 but there are no records of any family contact or Funeral Director information and no information regarding exhumations for this site." [5]

It is difficult to understand why W.H.H. was buried in a "paupers' grave" apparently without family present. After all, he was an eminent and well regarded Kangaroo Island citizen [7] and his probate was 60 pounds [8]. However, we need to acknowledge that this was war time, the logistics of removing a body to Kangaroo Island would have been difficult, and that it was in summer and a prompt burial was imperative. Perhaps the hospital authorities were not able to communicate with the family for instructions? Also, his son William Holmes Hamilton junior was facing financial problems about that time [9]. WHH was insolvent much earlier in 1866 [10].

His death notice indicates his residence to be the Destitute Asylum – this might be because it was his emergency accommodation after arrival from Kangaroo Island, before going into hospital.

Concerning the absence of secondary evidence of W.H.H. being buried at Kingscote Cemetery, the Kangaroo Island Council advised that there is no mention of William Holmes Hamilton (senior) in their cemetery records [11].

Conclusion

The sub-committee of the Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association charged with investigating the evidence, could not find a consensus as to where W.H.H. was buried. However, ongoing research has shown that there is no primary or authoritative secondary evidence to support that W.H.H. was buried at Kingscote Cemetery.

Authoritative secondary evidence shows that it is almost certain that William Holmes Hamilton (snr) was buried at West Terrace Cemetery.

References

[1] *The Islander*, 6 Feb 2014, "Unmarked but not unloved"

<http://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/2070565/unmarked-but-not-unloved/>

also *The Islander*, 16 April 2015, "150 unmarked graves named" page 3.

[2] View the collaborative website of the sub-committee showing their deliberations, and all sources

<https://sites.google.com/site/whhamiltonsubcommittee/home/>. (You will be asked to register.)

[3] Kingscote cemetery, March 2016, photo by Anthea Taylor



[4] South Australian Genealogical and Heraldry Association, <https://www.genealogysa.org.au> Text: Given

Name(s): William Last Name: HAMILTON Death Date: 25 Dec 1916 Gender: M Age: 96y Approx. Birth Year: 1820

Marital Status: N Relative 1: Relative 2: Residence: Kangaroo Island Death Place: Adelaide District: Adelaide Symbol:

H Book/Page: 407/33

[5] West Terrace Cemetery Authority, 29 March 2016, email correspondence with Chris Ward.

[6] S.A. Government Records, GRG78/50, Discharge Register Adelaide Hospital 1869-1923

[7] A COLONIST OF 73 YEARS. (1910, July 29). Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), , p. 3. Retrieved April 3, 2016, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article103892185>

[8] PROBATES GRANTED. (1928, September 7). Blyth Agriculturist (SA : 1908 - 1954), p. 4.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article215178900>

[9] A FARMER'S INSOLVENCY. (1909, October 20). Port Pirie Recorder and North Western Mail (SA : 1898 - 1918), ,
p. 3. Retrieved April 3, 2016, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article95471741>

[10] Insolvency Notices (1866, March 28). The South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), p. 3.
Retrieved April 8, 2016, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28786167>

[11] Jan Sundberg, Customer Service & Library Officer, Kangaroo Island Council, email correspondence with David Wilson 25 January 2016

Comments

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Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 24 January 1934, page 23

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STORY OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

The Advertiser

SPECIAL FINANCIAL SUPPLEMENT Adelaide: Wednesday, January 24, 1934 SINCE 1836

The State of South Australia is yet more than two years from its first centenary, an event which will be appropriately celebrated in 1936. A hundred

years, though it far exceeds the average life of a man, is no long time in the history of a people; and those of us who remember that this State was planned and settled by our own immediate - grandfathers, although we are familiar in our daily lives with the results of their labors, cannot but marvel at the achievement in British colonisation which South Australia represents in so many phases of its growth and progress. And if this achievement seems wonderful in our eyes, how much more so must it appear to the intelligent traveller from abroad, who, in nine cases out of ten, comes from some country whose origins go back through history into tradition, and whose founders, unlike the respectable gentlemen in frock coats and top hats who first projected the settlement of South Australia just before the dawn of the Victorian era, are possibly to be found among the mythical deities and pagan kings of an incredible past. Before the gods that made the gods Had seen their sunrise pass. The White Horse of the White Horse Tale Was cut out of the grass. It is not true of Borneo only that it was not built in a day; and no visitor from any considerable city of the Old World, can fail to be astonished by his first sight of Adelaide, which, as to the magical speed with which it has been brought to something like maturity, is as a mushroom compared with the venerable civic oaks of Europe. What is true of its capital. Is about equally true of the State as a whole. Within the short space of ninety-eight years, South Australia's extensive territories have not only been explored, and mapped, and fenced, north, east, south, and west, but hundreds of thousands of acres of the best land have been brought to the highest stage of production, and, apart altogether from mere pastoral occupation, settlement has extended more and more into the marginal areas in which the successful farmer must be something of a scientist as well as a pioneer. The whole State is intersected by roads, the best of which are among the best in the world, and is served by an extensive network of railways; and settlement has been equally encouraged and expedited by vast schemes of water conservation, irrigation and reclamation. At December 31, 1836, the white population of South Australia consisted of 646 persons. The white population today exceeds 580 thousand—more than a thousandfold increase in less than a hundred years. And despite this tremendous increase, of which we owe so much to overseas immigration, the people of this State remain more predominantly Anglo-Saxon than almost any other community in the British Empire. Except that there was a rough counting of human heads in the early years of South Australian colonisation, there are no other reliable statistics available for the period before 1841; and even for the succeeding decade, the records are fragmentary. We do know, however, that in the season of 1841-42, 4454 acres was sown to wheat, for a yield of 86,280 bushels, and that a further 1,100 acres produced equally good crops of barley and oats. Ninety years later, in the season 1931-32, the South Australian wheat crop covered 4,071,370 acres, and more than 48,000,000 bushels was harvested. In the same year, more than 1 million acres was cropped for barley, oats, and hay. The area under cultivation increased more than a thousandfold in 90 years—from 6,722 acres in 1841-42, to 7,872,145 in 1931-32. The 112 acres devoted to vines in 1816 offered little indication that South Australia was to become the vineyard of the Commonwealth, with more than 52,000 acres devoted to this crop; and the 100,624 gallons of wine produced in 1856 (the first year for which such figures are available) constituted a slender drop in the bucket of 16459,595 gallons with which the State record was broken just 70 years afterwards. It is for 1856, also, that the Statistical Register makes its first mention of orchards—only 3 acres. The present acreage exceeds 29,000. In 1841, we possessed 1,310 horses, 21,026 cattle, and 250,080 sheep. The horse has long since passed his hey-day: but we would have been able to muster a team of nearly 284,000 horses in 1913; and, although the number has since declined to less than 200,000, we now have nearly 70,000 motor vehicles to make good the loss. The fact that there is about one motor vehicle for every eight people in the State, is in itself sufficiently eloquent of the wealth of the community, even in these hard times. As to our flocks and herds, the original 250,000 sheep have increased to approximately 7,000,000; and our cattle now number nearly 300,000. What sheep mean to South Australia, especially in view of the recent national recovery in wool values, may be gathered from the fact that between July 1 and November 31 of last year, 126,293 bales were disposed of at the Adelaide wool sales. The total price received was £2,119,130, and the average

12.6UL a pound. Relatively, this is a small wool V cheque. From 1923-24 to 1927-28, ln-1 elusive. South Australian wool realised an average of more than £5.000,003 a year, pastoral production generally more than £7,000.000 a year, and wheat more than £8,000,000 a year. The world slump in commodity prices has substantially modified these figures; but South Australia, in common with the other States, is emerging from the crisis, primarily as a consequence- of its steady adherence to a policy of sound finance, in which direction It i&s admittedly served as an exemplar for the rest of the Commonwealth, whose own example has been held up to the admiration of the world.