

St John History

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VOLUME 18, 2018



St. John Ambulance Association

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MANCHESTER

And the Chapter of the

Order of St. John of Jerusalem (English Language).

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'Preserving and promoting the St John heritage'

St John History is the annual journal of the Historical Society, and is provided gratis to all financial members of the Society.

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St John History

Proceedings of the St John Ambulance
Historical Society of Australia
Volume 18, 2018

Editor: Dr Matthew Glozier FRHistS FSA Scot

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Introduction

St John History Volume 18, 2018

This introduction to Volume 18 of *St John History* begins with expressions of joy and humility. The annual Seminar of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia in Hobart, 2017, provided the raw material for the articles in this edition of the journal, and was my introduction to the fine work of the St John Historical Society. In particular, I was struck by the interesting and unplanned thematic connections between the detailed and well-researched papers. This happy outcome witnessed the enhancement of many papers by previous comments and information, producing a most satisfying impression of integration across the seminar program.

In the words of Priory Librarian, Professor John Pearn:

It was such an enjoyable meeting on many counts. The standard of all the presentations was top. It has been a great pleasure for me to see how the standard of research and presentation skills has improved so much over the years. All in all, our 19th seminar was a highly polished performance and probably our best yet.

It is impressive to see enthusiastic historians grow in stature methodologically and, in consequence, deliver papers containing confident theses and convincing conclusions. Of course, this does nothing to reduce the delight attached to seeing and touching artefacts from the past. Prime among these was the certificate box of Lt Col. JA Campbell OBE KStJ DSM, which has been so well restored by Dr Harry Oxe. The Seminar reminded us of the importance to history of biographical investigation. Several papers focussed on life stories, including Dr Ian Howie-Willis on Annie Duncan, Dr Alan Mawdsley on Dr William Snowball, Professor John Pearn on Dr Walter Roth and Dr Oxe on Lt Col. Campbell. Other presentations concentrated on specific aspects of St John identity: Mr Trevor Mayhew on The Grand Prior's Badge and Mr Peter Le Cornu's investigation on 'What's in a name? The ancient and peculiar case of St John Ambulance'. Two papers focussed on the historical development of St John treatment and first-response methods: Dr David Fahey's 'Expired air resuscitation', and Dr Brian Fotheringham on 'A short history of breathing ... for others'. Finally, there was also discussion of events in the St John past: Mr Michael Sellar on the involvement of different Orders during World War I, and my own on Sydney Grammar School and the formation and early years of St John Ambulance in New South Wales.

A highlight of the day was a special guest presentation by the Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross, who delivered some reflections on the importance of history. Sir Malcolm's thoughts on the place of history in Australia struck a particularly strong note with the audience. He spoke of witnessing Anzac Day ceremonies and how deeply impressed he had been by the participation of all ages and sections of the Australian community. In his words, this formed 'an amazing tribute to the achievements of their ancestors'.

We all now look forward to the twentieth History Seminar in Canberra in May this year.

Dr Matthew Glozier FRHistS FSA Scot

A 'founding mother'. Annie Duncan and the establishment of Tasmania's first St John Ambulance training centre

Dr Ian Howie-Willis OAM KStJ

At least seven St John Ambulance Association training centres formed in Australia during the 1880s and 1890s. Not all of them survived. Tasmania's first St John centre in Launceston was one of these. My paper focuses on this short-lived centre and the remarkable young woman who established it — Annie Duncan, the St John 'founding mother' in Tasmania.

Tasmania actually had three early St John centres because the St Johnnies in this State had to make three attempts before a permanent local St John Ambulance organisation could be founded. Those most responsible for the three centres were Miss Annie Duncan, Dr Gregory Sprott and Dr Thomas Goddard. Together, but at different times, they were the founders of St John Ambulance in Tasmania.



Anne ('Annie') Jane Duncan
(1858–1943)



Dr Gregory Sprott
(1863–1942)



Dr Thomas Herbert Goddard
(1885–1967)

Anne Jane Duncan (1858–1943) earned a niche in Australian history as a health inspector, one of Australia's first experts in the specialised field we now call 'occupational health and safety'. In St John Ambulance, however, we remember her for having brought the St John first aid course to Tasmania and for having given Tasmania its first St John training centre.

Who was Annie Duncan?

Annie was born in North Adelaide on 25 September 1858. Her parents were Dr Handasyde Duncan (1811–1878), an immigrant Scottish physician, and his second wife. As you will read, Annie was certainly a hard-working self-starter, but we know little about her personality. Her three surviving photographic portraits, taken at various stages between her late teens and early thirties, suggest that she was a serious-minded woman. None of them shows her smiling.

Dr Duncan had a varied, distinguished career. He studied medicine at both the University of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow, where he earned a doctorate in 1831. After travels in France and Germany, where he learned how to use a new-fangled diagnostic instrument called the stethoscope, he settled at Bath, where he married Catherine (Kate) Bowie, the daughter of a medical colleague.

In 1839 Dr Duncan and Kate migrated to South Australia. He first tried his hand at farming at Marion, now a southern Adelaide suburb, where he had been granted 80 acres of land, which he named 'Eldon'. He then opened a private practice at Port Adelaide, where he also became the Medical Officer of the local Casualty Hospital. He became the Health Officer for the Port of Adelaide as well, which required him to manage infectious diseases aboard incoming vessels.

In 1844 Dr Duncan became an inaugural member of the Medical Board of South Australia, the government authority for regulating the medical profession. He remained a member for the next 34 years, until his death.

Outside medicine, Dr Duncan had many interests. Among others, he was a classical scholar, who produced an English translation of *The History of Herodotus* by the ancient Greek father of history. Annie later wrote an affectionate biography of her father. Among others it describes how he had been a strict Presbyterian in Scotland but in Adelaide became a committed Anglican, regularly attending the Holy Trinity Church on North Terrace. Annie depicted him as, quote-unquote, 'a man of scrupulous rectitude, extremely punctilious, yet warm-hearted and full of vivacity, fun and laughter'.

Dr Duncan's three marriages

After some 20 years of apparently childless marriage, Kate, Dr Duncan's first wife, died after falling from a horse in a riding accident. He remarried shortly afterwards at the age of 43. His bride was a 19-year-old South Australian woman, Anne Williams. She bore him two sons and two daughters. The first, Andrew Henry Farrell Duncan joined the Royal Navy. The second, Charles Handasyde Duncan, who died at age 3 in 1861, was possibly Annie's twin because they were born in the same year, 1858. Then came Annie and finally her younger sister, Mary Celia, later Mrs Champion.

The children's mother, Mrs Duncan II, died of puerperal fever in 1861, soon after giving birth to Mary Celia. Dr Duncan married again in 1867; however, only two years later he lost both his third wife, Emily (née Servante), and her baby during childbirth. After that, Annie and her sister were brought up and educated by relatives and the family's female servants.

Andrew Duncan

Annie's surviving older brother, Andrew, is worth mentioning here. He served as an officer in the Royal Navy for 15 years, probably having enlisted as a 13-year-old midshipman. After his naval service he settled in South Africa, where he worked as a licensed surveyor and cartographer, skills he would have acquired in the Navy. He was subsequently appointed the Surveyor-General for Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), where he served as Acting Administrator in 1896 during the Matabele Wars. During the Anglo-Boer War, he served with the British Royal Engineers. He was later granted farmland at Hartebeestfontein near Pretoria, nowadays best known for its uranium deposits and mine. He died at age 76 in 1931.

Annie Duncan as a young woman.

When Annie was old enough, at age 16 in 1874, she became her father's housekeeper. She kept house for him until his death four years later, when she was 20. By this stage the family was living in a grand two-storeyed house on St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide, several doors east of the Town Hall and near to Dr Duncan's work. For a while after their father's death, Annie and Mary lived with an aunt in Dashwood Gully near Kangarilla in the Onkaparinga Hills south of Adelaide. Dr Duncan left annuities to his daughters, giving them a measure of independence.

Meanwhile, Annie and Mary had lived the lives of fashionable upper middle class young women of their times. They took singing and dancing lessons, dressed stylishly, took part in amateur theatricals, learned archery and attracted the interest of eligible young men in Adelaide 'Society'. Annie is said not to have taken her admirers 'very seriously' and remained single; however, in December 1884 Mary married an immigrant English school teacher, the Reverend Arthur Hammerton Champion.

The marriage of Mary and the Rev. Champion was a turning point in Annie's life. In 1885 he was appointed as the fifth headmaster of the Launceston Church Grammar School in northern Tasmania. He remained there for the next ten years, until 1895. Mary produced six children, but she was never in robust health, and so Annie moved to Launceston to be their housekeeper and her sister's carer. She would also have helped care for her expanding little brood of nephews and nieces.



Annie Duncan at age 18, Adelaide, c. 1876.

A 'founding mother'.

The Rev. Arthur Hammerton Champion

We'll briefly digress at this point to consider Annie's brother-in-law, the Rev. Champion, and his career. After graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge, he migrated to Adelaide, where he met and married Mary Duncan. They then spent their married life moving from one school and Anglican parish to another. His next appointment after Launceston was as headmaster of Australia's oldest school, the King's School at Parramatta, Sydney, where he spent 11 years (1895–1906).

After the King's School, Champion became a full-time Anglican priest ministering to a series of parishes in southern New South Wales and Gloucestershire, England. His appointments included four years in Canberra and eleven years in Bungendore, east of Canberra. He was also a Canon of the Goulburn diocese. His last Australian appointment was at Lake Bathurst, south-east of Goulburn. His wife died at Lake Bathurst in 1925. The next year he returned to England, where he served near Bath and then finally at Cherington in the heart of the Cotswold Hills in Gloucester. He finally retired at 80 in 1939, settling in nearby Cirencester, where he died at 95 in 1954.

As mentioned, Mary bore her husband six children: four sons and two daughters. The oldest, Arthur Handasyde, was born in South Australia in November 1885, shortly before the family moved to Launceston. The other five were all born in Launceston: Reginald David, Augusta Joanna May (known as 'Joanna'), Ursula Aystah (who died aged 10 months), Christopher Henry Duncan and Geoffrey Servante. Three of the four boys joined the Army during World War I. Arthur became a captain and was seriously wounded in both Gallipoli and France; Christopher and Geoffrey were both killed in action in France. The sole surviving daughter, Joanna, married twice, produced a son, published a murder mystery novel, *Incidental Murder*, and settled in Cirencester. She died there aged 81 in 1969.



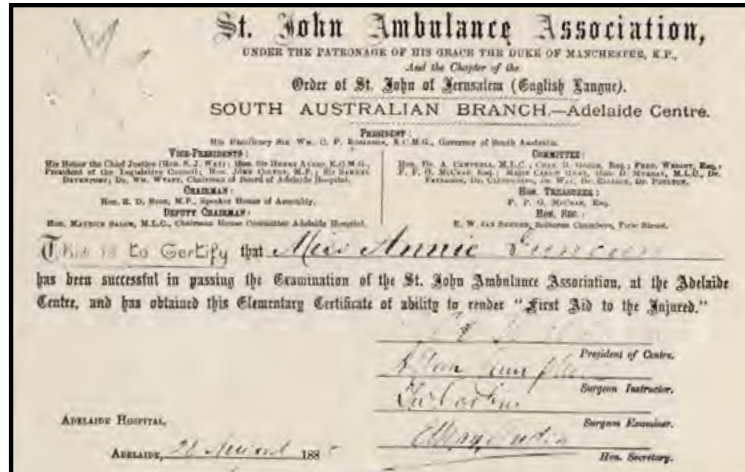
Mary Celia Champion (née Duncan, 1861–1925), Annie's younger sister, and the house occupied by Annie and the Champion family during their sojourn in Tasmania. Mary's semi-invalidity was the reason why her older sister Annie moved to Launceston. Annie's duties as Mary's carer and housekeeper allowed her sufficient time to serve as Secretary of the Tasmania Centre of St John Ambulance.

Annie Duncan and St John Ambulance

In the year she moved to Tasmania (1885) Annie Duncan joined the inaugural women's St John Ambulance first aid class in Adelaide. A local and permanent Centre of the St John Ambulance had formed there in December 1884 and opened for business in February 1885. The first class for women began in July 1885. A total of 67 women joined the class; 51 took the examination; and 45 passed, one of whom was the 26-year-old Annie Duncan.

Soon after this Annie Duncan relocated to Launceston, presumably with her new first aid certificate among her prized possessions. In Launceston Annie found there was no local St John Ambulance Association Centre, so she set about establishing one. The easiest way of doing that was apparently to set it up as a sub-centre of the Victorian Centre, which had been founded two years earlier in 1883.

Annie arranged a well-attended public meeting in the Collegiate Institute in Launceston on Wednesday 30 March 1887 to consider her proposal for a local St John Ambulance organisation. In the chair was the influential Archdeacon Francis Hales, the principal Anglican clergyman in Launceston,



Annie Duncan at age 29, 1887, about the time she established the Launceston branch of St John Ambulance.

Annie was awarded her First Aid certificate on 28 August 1885 having passed the requisite examination as a member of South Australia's inaugural St John Ambulance women's class. It was issued by the Adelaide Centre of the St John Ambulance Association.

who had been the vicar at Trinity Church for 34 years. During the meeting Annie explained the purposes of public first aid training, and was appointed secretary to the sub-centre committee which the meeting agreed to form.

In its first year, the Launceston sub-centre taught at least two first aid classes, one for men and another for women. Over the next couple of years the sub-centre taught various classes in northern Tasmania: in Devonport, Deloraine and Scottsdale as well as Launceston. Annie's regular duties as secretary would have involved all of the following: advertising of classes; drawing up enrolment lists; obtaining and issuing the necessary supplies (bandages, text books etc); securing a venue for each class; engaging medical practitioners to teach and examine the classes; collecting and banking enrolment fees and other monies; arranging for the issuing and presentation of certificates; organising presentation ceremonies; and managing the correspondence arising from all of the foregoing.

During the first year various managerial difficulties emerged in the link with the Victorian Centre. For instance, the Victorians demanded a share in the money from fees paid for the classes run in Tasmania. As the sub-centre secretary, Annie Duncan had to negotiate the sub-centre's way around such obstacles.

The independent Tasmanian Centre of the St John Ambulance Association

The upshot of such disagreements was that the Launceston sub-centre petitioned Sir Herbert Perrott, the Chief Secretary of the Association at St John's Gate, London, for permission to become an Association Centre in its own right. After a couple of years of three-way correspondence between St John's Gate, Launceston and Melbourne, in March 1891 Perrott approved the upgrading of the sub-centre to become a Tasmanian Centre separate from and independent of the Victorian Centre. The work of the Centre flourished for a while, with probably several hundred students undertaking first aid and home nursing courses.

A new difficulty had meanwhile emerged, however—the age-old rivalry between Tasmania's two main cities, Launceston and Hobart. The newly independent Launceston Centre was managed by a Launceston-based committee, of which Annie Duncan was the secretary. Perhaps fearful lest Hobart interests should set up a rival centre, the committee petitioned Perrott again, requesting that 'the Launceston Centre be understood to include the whole of Tasmania'. Again Perrott proved obliging, writing back in September 1891 to assure the committee that the 'Head Centre' in London recognised them as the 'Tasmanian Centre'.

A 'founding mother'.

Meanwhile, the Launcestonians' newfound authority as the 'Tasmanian Centre' was being challenged by no less than the wife of Sir Robert Hamilton, the Governor of Tasmania, Lady Teresa Felicia Hamilton, who had been appointed as the Launceston Centre's 'Lady Patroness'. A social activist, Lady Hamilton wished to conduct first aid classes in Hobart and to use first aid as the basis for 'mission' work among Hobart's poor. She asked the Centre committee in Launceston for help in implementing her vision. They had to curb her exuberance and enthusiasm by insisting that the class be run strictly in accordance with Association rules. The class, Hobart's first, with about 36 students, eventually ran between June and September 1891.

At the end of that year, Lady Hamilton attended the Centre's annual general meeting in Launceston. As well as delivering an address elaborating her grand vision for St John mission work in Tasmania, she was there to be presented with the Association's 'medallion', the award for successfully completing three first aid courses. Her medallion was the second presented in Tasmania. Annie Duncan's had been the first.



Annie Duncan at age 33, 1891, the year her Launceston St John Ambulance sub-centre was upgraded to be the 'Tasmania Centre'.

Annie departs Launceston and the Tasmanian Centre collapses

Within about 18 months of this meeting, in 1893 the Centre lapsed. The reasons for this lay in Australia's severe economic depression of the early 1890s. Short of money, Tasmanians probably saw first aid training as a luxury they could do without, and so class sizes dwindled to the point of non-viability.

The depression had also forced Annie Duncan to reassess her options. She realised that for the first time in her life she must find paid employment; and for that she needed training that wasn't available in Launceston. After eight years' residence there, in 1893 she quit the city and her St John Ambulance work to travel to London. She had been the Tasmanian Centre's motive force; and so without her it collapsed. The Centre committee in Launceston revived again during World War I but lapsed again and wasn't revived for a second time until 1928, after which it achieved permanence.



The St John Ambulance Association Medallion. Annie Duncan gained Tasmania's first, having earned three consecutive first aid certificates (including a certificate for home nursing) in three successive years.

Annie Duncan's later career

After departing Launceston, Annie trained and qualified as a health inspector in London. She then worked as a factory inspector, ensuring that factory owners provided a safe, clean working environment for the many thousands of women employed in London's knitting mills, garment-making workshops and laundries. She returned to Australia in 1897, and became a government-employed factory inspector in Sydney. In this position, which she retained for 21 years until she retired in 1918, she was an Australian pioneer in the field of occupational health and safety.

In retirement Annie lived in both Adelaide and Sydney. She spent her last three years in North Adelaide and died 12 days short of her 85th birthday in 1943. She never married. She became active in various social welfare causes but does not seem to have renewed her St John Ambulance links after leaving Launceston. A trail-blazing feminist decades before that term was invented, her many involvements included the National Council of Women, and the Business and Professional Women's Club of Sydney. After retiring to Adelaide, she became an accomplished water-colourist and wrote her father's biography.



'Old Government House, Belair', 1934, painted when Annie was 76.



Water colour painting of the South Australian Mounted Police Barracks entrance to the quadrangle, painted by Annie in 1936.

Not being a Tasmanian, much less a Launcestonian, I have no idea if Annie Duncan is remembered in the city where she spent her eight years between the ages of 27 and 35. Even though her St John Ambulance Centre disappeared soon after she left Launceston, I hope she hasn't been entirely forgotten. She had recognised a local need and took effective action to satisfy it. Tasmania consequently became the third Australian colony after Victoria and South Australia to benefit from a sustained St John Ambulance presence.

If Tasmanian St Johnnies wish to commemorate their organisation's achievements, 2017 was the year to do so because 30 March was the 130th anniversary of the day when their 'Founding Mother', Annie Duncan, introduced the St John Ambulance first aid course into the Island State! That is certainly something worth celebrating!

Dr William Snowball (1854–1902). Australia’s first paediatrician

Dr J Alan Alan Mawdsley OAM KStJ

Dr William Snowball joined St John Council for Victoria in 1889 and remained for 13 years until 1901, shortly before his death.¹ He was one of a number of very prominent Victorians who were recruited to join the Council because he was one of the most famous paediatricians of his day, referred to as ‘the father of paediatrics in Australia.’² The Council was very conscious in those days of the need for official endorsement.



Dr William Snowball

The Chairman of the St John Council at that time was Lloyd Tayler, a well-known Melbourne architect who had designed, among other things, the Australia Club, the neo-Renaissance style Commercial Bank building at 333 Collins Street, and the Kamesburgh mansion which later became the ANZAC Hostel.

Other members of Council who sat with William Snowball included Dr James Edward Neild (recognised as the founder of St John in Australia), Dr John Springthorpe (the feisty doctor who took on the Establishment over many different causes), and Dr Dan Greswell (the Victorian Chief Health Officer).¹



Lloyd Tayler



Dr James Edward Neild



Dr John Springthorpe



Dr Dan Greswell

William Snowball was born in Carlton, Melbourne on 7 November 1854.³ He was the son of John Snowball (1817–1896), a pioneer colonist, and his wife Catherine (née Iley; 1828–1887), both from Durham, England. They married in Shoreditch, London in 1852 and immediately migrated to Australia on the HMS *Admiral*.

John and Catherine had seven children, all born in Australia; William was the oldest sibling. The high childhood mortality rate of those times is seen in three of their children dying in childhood: John Iley Snowball (1858–1859) at the age of 13 months; Jane Snowball (1863–1865) at age 21 months; Phebe Snowball (1865–1880) at age 14½ years. It is unknown whether or not the loss of his brother and sisters influenced William’s ambition to become a doctor, but it is hard to imagine that there would not have been a significant distress at the death of his little brother when William was aged five, and his little sister when he was eleven. Joshua Snowball (1859–1934), John Cuthbert Snowball (1862–1940) and Joseph Robinson Snowball (1867–1914) were William’s surviving siblings.⁴

Education

William was educated at Melbourne Grammar School when the school was only about ten years old, and the first headmaster, Dr Bromby, was still in charge. He graduated Bachelor of Medicine at Melbourne University in 1875. Dr Charles Bage, another doctor who became a St John member, was one of his classmates and Dr J E Neild was one of his lecturers.⁵



The old Melbourne Hospital. Snowball's University certificate book shows that in 1872 he passed his examinations in Greek, Latin and Chemistry before going on to clinical studies at the Melbourne Hospital.⁶

There were seven medical students in William's year group who served their apprenticeships with the Melbourne Hospital surgeons as 'Surgical Dressers', and to the physicians as 'Ward Clerks'. Professor Harry Brookes Allen, said,

Snowball was a splendid dresser under that excellent surgeon, the late Mr WG Howitt, and his house surgeon, Dr E Hinchcliff; and afterwards a diligent ward-clerk, under, if I mistake not, that humorous oddity, Dr Joseph Black. Each of the seven surgeons then had only one dresser, and the seven students endeavoured to provide each of the four physicians with two clerks. The surgeons saw both in-patients and out-patients, so that there was an enormous amount of work for the dressers and clerks.⁵

In 1876 William travelled to England where he studied at University College, London, gaining the Licentiate degrees of the Society of Apothecaries, the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh. He undertook about two years of postgraduate work in various hospitals including the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, before returning to Australia.³ He was appointed Resident doctor at the Hospital for Sick Children, in Melbourne in 1878.⁵

The Hospital for Sick Children

The Hospital began in 1870 as the Free Hospital for Sick Children in a house on Stephen Street in what was then the red light district of Melbourne, near Little Bourke Street. The staff consisted of visiting honorary physicians, and the clientele would have included the children of street workers of the district. The first nurse-cum-housekeeper in 1870 was a Mrs Bail.⁷ The nursing staff in those days was untrained. In the gold rush boom times of the early 1880s, Stephen Street was spruced up and renamed Exhibition Street because it led directly from the Yarra River to the new Exhibition Building in the Carlton Gardens.⁸

In 1873, the Hospital moved around the corner to a slightly more respectable address at 13 Spring Street, and was renamed the Melbourne Hospital for Sick Children.



The original Free Hospital for Sick Children

The Hospital remained there for a further three years until the former residence of Sir Redmond Barry became available in 1876. With this move, the Hospital appointed Dr Hunter as its first resident doctor, and the Hospital began to grow. Mrs Bishop was in charge of the nursing staff from 1875 to 1899. She oversaw the establishment of the Hospital's nurse training school in 1878. William Snowball was the first appointee with specialist paediatric training.⁷

The following table from the Hospital's 1878 Annual Report shows the wide variety of disorders that William dealt with. The Hospital tried to avoid cross-infection by not admitting children with infectious diseases. An exception was made for children who might die, so the list of admissions does include that number. However, serious diseases like diphtheria also posed a great problem in the outpatient department. William suggested admissions to an isolation pavilion, and he subsequently, and successfully, lobbied for a new hospital in Fairfield. This became The Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital⁷ which operated from 1904 until its closure in 1996 when it was known as the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital.

List of diseases treated during the past twelve months					
Abscess	7	Hydatids	1	Prolapsus Ani	1
Arthritis	1	Hydrocele	1	Rheumatism	10
Contracted Tendon	1	Injuries &C.	20	Rickets	1
Croup	1	Kidney Disease	8	Spinal Disease	8
Calculus	2	Liver Disease	4	Skin Disease	10
Diarrhoea And Dysentery	11	Lung Disease	18	Scrofula	6
Debility	6	Nervous	38	Splenic Disease	1
Diphtheria	3	Nacvus	1	Synovitis	3
Dyspepsia	4	Necrosis	3	Strabismus	1
Epulis	1	Ophthalmia	5	Syphilis	3
Febris	4	Phlebitis	1	Talipes	9
Fibroid Tumour	1	Periostitis	3	Typhoid Fever	116
Hernia	2	Peritonitis	1	Tonsilitis	3
Heart Disease	8	Phymosis	3	Ulcers	2
Hip Disease	21	Perotitis	1		

August, 1878

W. Snowball M.B. &c.
Res Med. Officer.

William held his residency position at the Hospital for Sick Children for three years during which he took the Bachelor of Surgery degree at Melbourne University in 1881. He then resigned from the Hospital to commence his own paediatric practice in Carlton. On leaving the Hospital, William was presented with a handsome testimonial certificate by the Hospital committee and invited to become an Honorary Medical Officer of the Hospital.



On 20 November 1881, Snowball married Mary Sophia Burton at St Philip's Church, Sydney.⁹ They subsequently had five children, four sons and a daughter:

- John Hearn Snowball (1886–1916)¹⁰
- Cuthbert William Snowball (1890–1979)
- Eric Charles Snowball (1893–1917)¹⁰
- Thomas Keith Snowball (1895–1943)¹¹
- Katharine Mary Snowball (1899–1939)¹¹
- John and Eric died in the great War.



Snowball was a highly respected and successful practitioner. Many letters of appreciation written to him by his patients and their parents are in the Royal Children's Hospital archives and show that he treated patients from all social classes and from all over the state.² Two of these letters were from Lady Janet Clarke in 1899 expressing thanks, friendship and sending small 'remembrances' from her overseas travel.⁶

Snowball purchased a block of land in 1889 at the corner of Victoria Street and Drummond Street in Carlton where he commissioned a two storey Victorian terrace house that was built by his brother, John Snowball. It has a magnificent staircase in the entrance hall and some remarkable stained glass windows. It was named 'Frosterly', after the village in County Durham, England, which had been his father's birthplace.¹² He practiced there from 1892 for only ten years before retirement. The building became a private boarding school called University High School for the next five years until taken over in 1907 as the headquarters of the Melbourne Weather Bureau.

A book on the early history of medicine in Victoria said of him,

He was a big, genial man of great ability and remarkable personal charm. We have reason to believe that his surgical work was mediocre, but he was a great physician. He was a talented teacher at the bedside and a skilled consultant. He served on the attending staff from 1881 until just before his death in 1902. During that time he led in the development of the small parochial hospital into one of world ranking.¹³

Sir Redmond Barry's residence was in a large block bounded by Rathdowne, Canning and Drummond Streets in Carlton. Modifications were made to the original building, and a mish-mash of other buildings were erected on the estate. Snowball's influence was seen in the design.

As chairman of the honorary medical staff at the Children's Hospital, Snowball co-operated closely with management to enlarge and improve accommodation. Infection was a constant threat, often introduced by out-patients or their parents and breeding freely among the sick, especially in overcrowded, sunless wards. At his insistence, a new and separate out-patient block was built in 1897 and he helped to plan a new in-patient block. With wide windows, sunny verandas and facing north, it was to open in 1903.³

The 1902 *Intercolonial Medical Journal of Australasia* said of William,

He at once made its success the work of his life, and may be said with truth to be the real medical founder of the present flourishing Institution—which, next to the Melbourne Hospital, has the biggest out-patient practice in the State. Until his premature decease, he was its leading spirit, guiding and directing its growth, the wise adviser in all building operations, and in fostering clinical teaching.⁵

The Children's Hospital remained at the Carlton site for the next 70 years through two World Wars and the Great Depression, growing busier and more famous until bursting at the seams. It gained its 'Royal' appellation in 1953. In 1963 it moved to the Stevenson and Turner-designed modern hospital site in Royal Park. This building served for the next 48 years until the new building was opened in 2011.⁷

In August 1900 the first letter was received from the Registrar of the University of Melbourne asking the Honorary staff to suggest one member of the staff engaged in clinical teaching who might be appointed to represent the department of diseases of children in the Faculty of Medicine. The Honorary staff nominated Dr Snowball.⁷

In 1897 the Children's became the first public hospital in Australia to establish a radiology department when the committee purchased X-Ray equipment for £25 and appointed Herbert Hewlett to operate the new machine. Roentgen had only discovered x-rays in November 1895, a little over one year earlier. Dr Hewlett wrote,

Dr William Snowball suggested that I take up the new photography, as it was then called. We obtained a small coil with a very small spark gap...and our source of current was a battery of large bichromate cells.⁷

Dr Snowball

suggested that nursing trainees should be instructed in household duties and invalid cooking, and in the duties and bearing towards employers when engaged in private nursing, as many nurses upset household arrangements when private nursing from want of knowledge and other causes.



The Melbourne Children's Hospital, 1898.



The Royal Children's Hospital, 1963.



The Royal Children's Hospital, 2011.

The suggestion was adopted.⁷ It is interesting because Snowball, himself, employed a young nurse from the Children's Hospital as a nanny for his children. Her name was Esther Dorothea Harcourt Vernon, known as 'Dorothy', and she was to become profoundly important in the family. She had emigrated from Blackburn, England, alone at the age of 17 in response to an advertisement for girls to take up nursing in Australia. She was one of 13 nurses who graduated in 1891 from the two year course at the Children's Hospital.⁸ She began her employment at Frosterly and moved later with the family to their country property at Narracan. Hobill Cole (1863–1935) was another famous paediatrician who joined staff of the Children's Hospital from 1887 and was a close friend and associate of William.



Esther Dorothea 'Dorothy' Harcourt Vernon, William Snowball and Dr Hobill Cole and three of William's sons: Eric, Cuthbert and John Snowball at Narracan, c. 1900.

He was president of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association in 1895. He was a member of the Yorick Club and he organized club members to provide £2 a week to help provide 'wood, a little brandy or other necessities' for needy cases among the outpatients of the Children's during the 1893 depression.⁷

Snowball was a jovial and entertaining man, a keen reader and a founding member of the Australian Ornithologists Union. There are two references to him in the Club's journal; he was mentioned as having received three eggs of the Tongan scrubfowl; in the following month, an article reported on the species of birds that had been collected on his behalf, in the Northern Territory.¹⁵ The *Intercolonial Medical Journal* said, 'He possessed one of the best collections of Australian birds' eggs, and had learned much of the natural history of his native country'.⁵

In 1901 Snowball developed Bright's disease, today called chronic renal failure. Obituaries reported that he and his wife 'lived quietly with their five children on his Narracan property in the last months before he died on 22 April 1902'.

His funeral, at the Melbourne General Cemetery, was attended by many professional colleagues and fellow members of the Yorick Club. His contribution as a pioneer paediatrician, would have been greater had he lived more than forty-seven years. His death was fairly recorded as 'a national loss'.⁵ His Will appointed Dr Frank Hobill Cole and the Equity Trustees Company to be the executors of the estate, and Dorothy Vernon as Trustee and Guardian of the children.



The Committee of the Children's Hospital recognised William's life work by naming a ward after him, and endowing a cot. In conjunction with the medical staff they erected a beautiful memorial tablet, placed in the vestibule of the old Hospital.

It mentions that he had been 'for 24 years Medical Officer, Teacher and Trusted Adviser'. The epitaph was borrowed from the gravestone in St Paul's Cathedral, London, of its architect Sir Christopher Wren, SI MONUMENTUM REQUIRES CIRCUMSPICE—'If you seek his monument, look around'.² It was most appropriate at the time, but fame is fleeting. The new generation doesn't have much remembrance of the old and 'we wouldn't want old-fashioned plaques cluttering up the nice new hospital, would we?', so the memorial is no longer in the vestibule but has been sadly relegated to archival storage. Pioneers are easily forgotten but it is our important role as historians to remember them.



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Safety promotion, first aid and St John service. The international service of Dr Walter Edmund Roth (1861–1933).

Major General Professor John Pearn AO RFD GCStJ

Exceptional doctors have always played a key role in the volunteer ambulance services established to provide trained emergency care for the injured and sick.¹

In the many nations where St John doctors served in pioneering roles the life and service of Dr Walter Roth stands out. In the United States, Australia and the Caribbean this medical pioneer established 'firsts' in the domains of injury prevention, first aid and the welfare of indigenous members both in Australia and British Guyana.² In pre-Federation Australia, the idea of trained by-stander first aid was still a novel practice. First aid, as a new concept, had been invented several years earlier (1878) by Surgeon Major Peter Shepherd (1841–1879), a Scottish doctor-soldier based at the Woolwich Arsenal in London.³

When the first public first aid classes were taught in Australia in Melbourne in 1883, Adelaide in 1884, Brisbane in 1889, Sydney in 1890, Launceston in 1891 and Perth in 1892 the lecturers were a stereotypic group of young British-born doctors. They were characterised by a remarkable set of similar qualities, including altruism, unbounded energy, multiple but intersecting interests, a commitment to community service, an adventurous personality and professional ambition.

In this group, two brothers, Reuter Emerich Roth (1858–1924) and Walter Edmund Roth (1861–1933) contributed enormously to the medical and intellectual life of their adopted country. Together with an elder brother, the ethnographer, Henry Ling Roth (1855–1925), the lives of these three London-born scholars and researchers are recorded as a special fraternal sequence in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.⁵⁻⁷ Walter Roth, in particular, was to leave an enduring legacy in Australian life.

Walter Roth came to Australia initially (1887) as a medical student, probably because of an affair of the heart.⁸ With his ladylove, he stayed for four years. He returned to London, and emigrated again as a newly graduated doctor in 1892. His extraordinary life has been the subject of several biographies,⁷⁻¹⁰ and biographic fragments.¹¹⁻¹³

Pioneers are those who go before; and who are ahead of their time. By this definition, Walter Roth was a true pioneer ahead of his time, extraordinarily in six independent domains first aid, pre-hospital care, the prevention of thermal injuries and safety promotion, anthropology and ethnography, botany, numismatics, and Aboriginal welfare.

Several accounts mention, in passing, his role in St John Ambulance work in Australia. This paper adds further details to the biographic record of Dr Walter Roth, in the context particularly of his pioneering role in first aid training and injury prevention.

Walter Roth was an extraordinary member of an extraordinary family. His father, Hungarian-born Mathias Roth (1818–1891), was a Viennese- and Padua-trained doctor. Following the Hungarian Revolt of 1849, Mathias emigrated to London and married an Englishwoman, Anna Maria Collins.⁹ The couple had nine children, of whom Walter was the sixth, born in London on 2 April 1861.⁷

Walter grew up in London under strict but privileged circumstances. His father, Mathias, promoted healthy living and preventive medicine. Perhaps because of his Hungarian upbringing, Mathias Roth was passionately interested in exercise and gymnastics as these activities contributed to health.



He promoted the teaching of the Dr Pehr Henrik Ling (1776–1839),¹⁴ and published *Gymnastic Exercises*, which was to run to seven editions by 1887.¹⁵ Mathias was to name his third child and second son, Henry Ling Roth (1855–1925), after this pioneer.⁵

Walter Roth enrolled initially in medicine at Oxford University (1881), then in law. He inherited these pedagogic memes. Whilst he was still a young university student he published an article on 'School Hygiene' (1884) in the *British Medical Journal*; and *The Elements of School Hygiene* (1886) as a book.¹⁶ After graduating with his first degree (Arts) he emigrated to Australia in late 1887.

Walter taught initially at the Brisbane Grammar School (1888).^{17–19} After a brief period as Director of the School of Mines and Industries in Adelaide 1889, he was appointed Assistant Science Master at Sydney Grammar School (1890–1892).²⁰ As a teacher, he developed a special camaraderie with his pupils, a relaxed style now well accepted but one less common in those former conservative Victorian times. In a newspaper interview in 1901, he recalled –

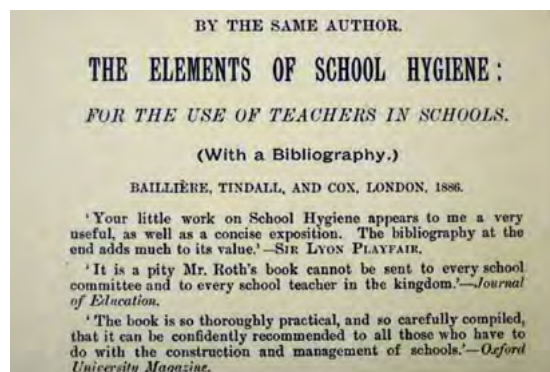
... it is a point of pride that some of my best friends of today have come from the ranks of my old Grammar pupils, all of whom have gone well in life ...⁷

A St John Ambulance Pioneer

Research by Mrs Betty Stirton has documented Walter Roth's contribution to the teaching and examining of St John Ambulance first aid skills.²¹ Roth was appointed as a Lecturer to the Glebe St John Ambulance Sub-Centre on 6 October 1892. Subsequently (20 March 1903), the Glebe Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade was the first (uniformed Division) to be established in Australia.²² Walter's elder brother, Reuter Emerich Roth (1858–1924), was appointed to the newly-formed Brigade as the foundation 'Medical Officer in Chief'.²³ Whilst he practised as a general medical practitioner at Young (1893), Walter also taught St John classes; and in addition acted as a First Aid Examiner. In that era, St John placed great emphasis on separating the roles of lecturer and examiner. The Association (and later also the St John Ambulance Brigade) maintained a rigid policy of integrity in the issue of its First Aid Certificates. Lecturers could never be the end-point Examiners when the final tests were undertaken for the issue of Certificates of competency and knowledge of First Aid.²⁴

In his later life as a doctor in many parts of Queensland, (April 1894–1904) he instituted a 'detached' St John Centre at Normanton (initially reporting to Sydney) where he both lectured and examined in First Aid. In 1894 he was appointed Surgeon and Superintendent at the Cloncurry, Boulia and Normanton Hospitals. It was particularly in Normanton that he taught his first Queensland first aid classes (authorised on 5 June 1896), using the St John handbook as the curriculum.²⁵

In common with all St John doctors, Roth used the 'Little Black Book' of the St John Ambulance Association as the curriculum for his first aid classes.²⁶ It was the era of rigid and prescriptive first aid training, with a particular emphasis on 'First, do no harm'.²⁷ Roth used the 1887 edition of *First Aid to the Injured* for his classes.²⁸ Much has changed in first aid teaching since that time. For example, the



first aid management of burns and scalds today teaches the immersion of the burnt limb in running water for 20 minutes. In Roth's day, the doctrine was:

Drenching the [burnt] part well with flour, it should be spread thickly over the wound, and not disturbed for some time ... Any oil, such as salad, sweet, or linseed, may be applied ...²⁹

Walter was awarded Honorary Life Membership (5 January 1893) for his contribution and service to the St John Ambulance Association. His St John service in both New South Wales and Queensland was almost certainly the exemplar for the subsequent uniformed (Brigade) distinguished contributions of his elder brother, Reuter Roth.

Fire safety and injury prevention

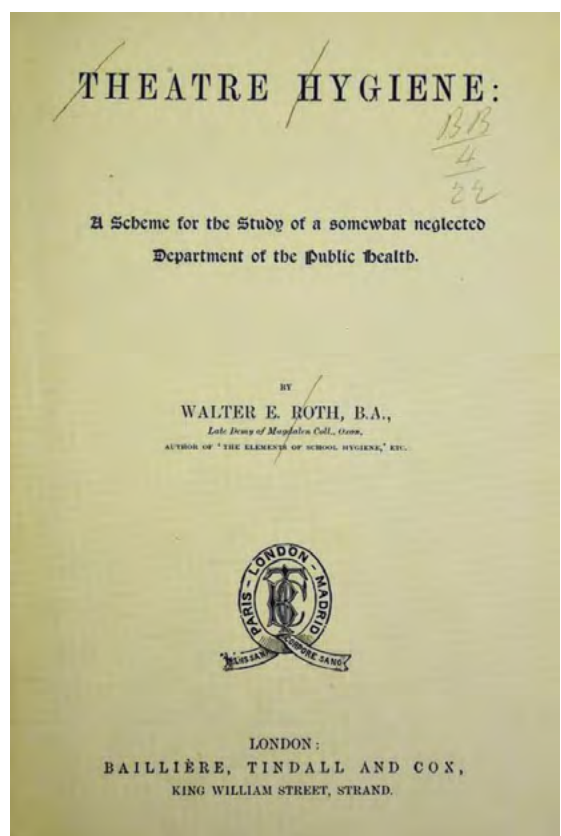
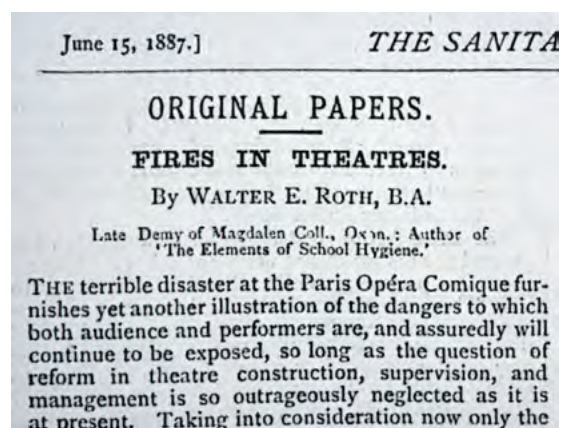
From his base in London, Walter Roth was a pioneer in the domain of fire safety. In Australia, the domain of pre-hospital care, and the teaching of first aid includes the concept of 'Preventive First Aid', was a doctrine introduced by the present author in 1989.³⁰ Preceding this, in the specific field of fire safety and the prevention of thermal injury, Walter Roth was the Australian pioneer.

Whilst he was still a medical student at Oxford (1887) Roth published two pioneering papers in *The Sanitary Record*.^{31, 32} He had been impressed and distressed at the huge loss of life in three recent fires in entertainment theatres: those in Exeter, Paris and Vienna. He wrote about:

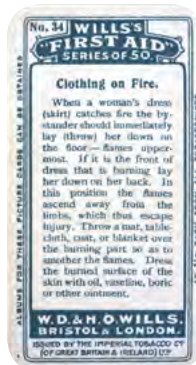
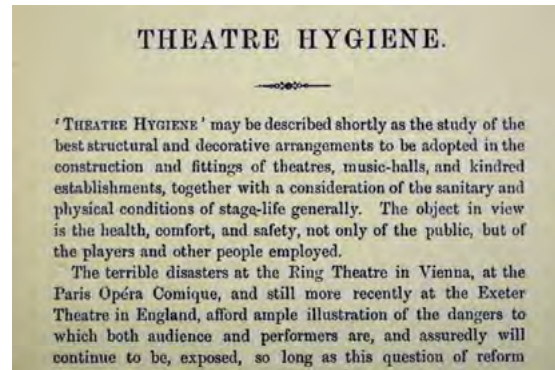
The terrible disaster at the Paris Opéra Comique [which is] yet another illustration of the dangers to which both audience and performers are, and assuredly will continue to be exposed, so long as the question of reform in theatre conditions, supervision, and management is so outrageously neglected as it is at present.³³

Whilst in Sydney (1888) he published a book on fire safety and public health entitled *Theatre Hygiene*, with the sub-title, *A Scheme for the Study of a somewhat neglected Department of the Public Health*.³⁴

He was a determined advocate for fire-resistant construction and architectural improvements in public entertainment theatres. He wrote about the principles of fire safety including architectural details of firewalls, fireproof curtains, fire-escapes, proscenium curtains in theatres and first aid for burns victims. He was the first to recommend the use of water in the first aid treatment of burnt victims, in an era when contemporary doctrine was to cover the burnt skin with flour and oil. His legacy is the high standard of thermal safety enjoyed by citizens in the twenty-first century; and the scientific treatment of their burns.



In 1889, he presented a major paper on this topic at the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, held in Sydney. Entitled 'Theatre Hygiene', he used the word 'hygiene' in the sense of public health and preventative medicine. A century later, the International Association of Fire Safety Science held its first conference in 1986 and thereafter published its *Fire Safety Journal*.



Botany

From his days as an undergraduate student in Oxford, (1881–1884) Walter Roth excelled in botany and zoology. He was awarded the Silver Medal in Zoology and Comparative Anatomy in his pre-clinical studies leading to the award of Bachelor of Arts. During the period (1894–1907) that he lived and worked in north Queensland, he sent some 600 plants, each with careful annotations, to the Herbarium for identification and deposition. His living memorials, botanical species which bear his name, grow in the northern Queensland forests. One of his living memorials is the native pepper, *Piper rothianum* (Roth's Pepper). Another is the fungus, *Anthurus rothae*.³⁶ The Australian wattle, *Acacia rothii*, is perhaps his most appropriate living memorial, its yellow blooms symbolising his sunny disposition.^{37, 38}



The native pepper, *Piper rothianum* (Roth's Pepper).

The Science Club was started at the suggestion of a *Sydneian* correspondent, who bankered after information about "the birds of the air, the beasts in the fields, the flowers on the roadsides, and the stones we tread on in our rambles." Now, let us see what steps have been taken to give the Scientific Cuss satisfaction:—(1.) Mr. Roth showed his knowledge of obsolete pennies; (2.) MacPherson discoursed volubly for an hour and a-half on Telephones; (3.) Mr. Fitz held a select audience enthralled by his lucid lecture on Photography; (4.) G. H. B. Deek dissected the customs of bees with his usual brilliant wit (Nat. Hist. at last); (5.) MacPherson again appeared upon the scene to exhibit a collection of bugs and a lizard with two tails; (6.) MacPherson trotting out for the third time, told us how to alarm a burglar; (7.) V. Orr displayed the soul of wit in an able oration on Philately; (8.) Brereton dived into the past and brought up ancient remnants of dramatic lore. Does Hope still sit at the feet of the gentleman who wants to know about the love-lorn cow and the festive cabbage, the birdie and the brickbat?

The Sydneian, No. XCI (October 1890), p. 3.

Numismatics

Walter Roth came from a family who valued history and heritage. His eldest brother, Bernard Mathias Roth (1853–1915), a prominent orthopaedic surgeon in London, was a leading British numismatist. Bernard Roth, Fellow of the Society of Antiquities, amassed a huge collection of coins and was elected Vice-President of the British Numismatic Society. Perhaps influenced by this, his younger brother, Walter, became one of the most significant pioneers of numismatics in Australia.

Soon after his arrival in Sydney in 1887, Walter began collecting coins and medals. By 1890 he was researching, writing and lecturing on numismatics. *The Sydneian*, the magazine of the Sydney Grammar School, reported that Mr Walter Roth had given the first lecture to the School's newly founded Science Club—a talk following which his address was described as 'Mr Roth showed his knowledge of obsolete pennies'.³⁹ By 1893 he had amassed an extensive collation of coins, tokens, medals and medalets.⁹ In 1893 he sold this collection to David Scott Marshall, whose collections eventually formed the basis of the numismatic collection of the Mitchell Library in Macquarie Street, Sydney. Roth's unpublished catalogue of Australian tokens, written during or about 1893, was the first in Australia. In 1895, Walter published in *The Queenslander* a series of eleven sequential articles, under the general title of 'A Numismatic History of Australia'.⁴⁰

Another unpublished manuscript on Australian numismatics, completed in 1899 with A F Hull, was and remains a unique reference source, also deposited in the Mitchell Library. Walter Roth's research and writings, unpublished and published, formed the basis of later definitive histories of Australian numismatics. Walter Roth's principal biographer, Barrie Reynolds, said of Roth that:

... the history of Australian numismatics would have been far poorer without these mainly unpublished sources.⁹

Aboriginal ethnology and aboriginal welfare

Much has been written about Roth's stewardship, humanity, scholarship, research and publication of Aboriginal life, welfare and ethnography. As the northern Protector of Aborigines (1897–1904) and the Queensland Chief Protector of Aborigines (1904–1907) he published major works on Aboriginal life and lore; and the first significant works on Australian Aboriginal children. His encyclopaedic documentation of Aboriginal life has become a priceless, and in many ways endures as a unique record of Australian Aboriginal heritage, praised by Aboriginal and later Colonial successors alike. After his work, there was little further research and documentation of Aboriginal life in Queensland for the ensuing 60 years.

For eleven years, from 1897, Roth championed a more enlightened care of Queensland (and Western Australia) Aboriginal and mixed-race children. He worked in the context of entrenched prejudice and opposition from squatters and colonists. His role as a champion of Aboriginal dignity began in 1897, initially as an advocate for the proposed *Queensland Aborigines Protection and Restriction of Sale of Opium Act*. This Act was passed because Chinese employers often paid Aboriginal workers in opium rather than money; and European publicans employed Aboriginal people and paid them in alcohol.¹³ Dr Roth opined:

The actions of many goldminers, pearl-fishing crews and station owners [who] were often harsh in their dealings with Aborigines ... Venereal disease and the trade in opium and grog were widespread and were closely associated with prostitution of Aboriginal women to Chinese and European men. The protection of neglected children, especially those of only part-Aboriginal parentage, was again the responsibility of [Dr Roth], the Protector.⁴¹

Dr Walter Roth was one of those 'Renaissance' doctors whose service in the earlier years of St John Ambulance in Australia was characterised by wide interests, and by one whose personality was imbued with a sense of duty to society.

This singular pioneer of St John Ambulance in Australia was described in a contemporary newspaper of his day as:

A big genial fellow in the very mid-summer of his manhood, earnest above all things he has undertaken, but with the modesty and openness of a schoolboy.^{42, 43}

In 1892, Roth had returned to London, resumed his medical training and graduated with his Licentiate of the Colleges of both Physicians and of Surgeons in London in 1892. He returned to Australia, where he worked as a doctor briefly in Sydney and then in Young before being appointed Surgeon Superintendent (1894) at three hospitals in north-west Queensland: at Boulia, Cloncurry and Normanton. After a protracted period as Northern Protector and then as State Protector of Aborigines to the Queensland Government, he emigrated to British Guyana in 1908 where he worked with great distinction as an anthropologist and medical magistrate until his retirement in 1928. He died in Georgetown, on 5 April 1933 and has no known grave.

Acknowledgements

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The Grand Prior's Award

Mr Trevor Mayhew OAM JP KStJ

With the rapid expansion of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in Western Europe, throughout the 12th century, small communities started forming which provided resources to the headquarters of the Order. These communities, called Commanderies, gradually gathered into provinces called Priors or Grand Priors.

One of the communities (called a Commandery) was established at Clerkenwell in about 1140, and the original Priory Church was established at the same time. Other Commanderies were established through the country and Clerkenwell became a Priory in 1185.

In 1831, with the support of the French Commission of the Order, the Council of the English *Langue* was created in the St John's Gate at Clerkenwell. This was the old Jerusalem Tavern, a public house occupying what had once been a gatehouse to the ancient Clerkenwell Priory, the medieval Grand Priory of the Knights Hospitallers. These English Knights devoted themselves to charitable activities.

It was this British group, carrying out very substantial charitable activities, which Queen Victoria recognised and incorporated in 1888, and which became the modern Order of St John. Victoria ruled the largest empire in the world has ever known and the Order saw it as part of its role to spread Western medical practice to the colonies.



The First Grand Priors

Sir Robert Peat 1831–1837

The Reverend Sir Robert Peat one of the former chaplains to Prince George (Prince Regent and later King George IV) was recruited by the Council in 1830. On 29 January 1830, in the presence of Philip De Chastelain, and the Agent General of the French *Langue*, Peat was elected *prior ad interim*. Some three years later, Peat becoming the first Grand Prior of the revived Priory.

Sir Henry Dymoke 1838–1847

Sir Henry Dymoke, was appointed Grand Prior on the death of Peat. Dymoke re-established contacts with the Orders in France and Germany which had expanded. However, until the late 1830s, the British arm of the organisation had only considered itself to be a Grand Priory and *Langue* of the Order of St John, never having been officially recognised as such by an established Order. Dymoke sought to remedy this by contacting the Roman Catholic Sovereign Military Order headquarters in Rome. The then Lieutenant Grand Master, Philippe de Colloredo-Mansfield, refused the request. In response, the British body declared itself to be the Sovereign Order of St John in the United Kingdom, under the title 'The Sovereign and Illustrious Order of Saint John of Jerusalem'.

Sir Charles Lamb 1847–1860

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Charles Montolieu Lamb was born on 8 July 1785 in Wales. He was the son of Sir James Bland Lamb, 1st Baronet, and Anne Montolieu.

Lamb was given the name of Charles Montolieu Burgess at birth. He gained rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the service of the Ayrshire Yeomanry. He used the pen-name of Charles Montolieu Lamb by Royal Licence.

He held the office of Knight Marshal of the Royal Household between 1824 and 1864. He succeeded to the title of 2nd Baronet Burges on 1 December 1824. He held the office of Sheriff of Sussex between 1829 and 1830. He died on 21 March 1860 at age 74 at Beauport Park, Hastings, Sussex, England.

Sir Alexander Arbuthnott 1860–1861

Rear Admiral Sir Alexander Arbuthnott was born in Forton, Hampshire. He was the son of Robert Arbuthnott (the son of Robert Arbuthnot, 1st Viscount of Arbuthnott), and his wife, Cordelia, daughter of Hon. James Murray.

Arbuthnott entered the Royal Navy in 1803 and served as a midshipman aboard the warship HMS *Mars* at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. He was present at the capture of Le Rhin in 1806, and four French frigates by Sir Samuel Hood, 1st Baronet's Squadron in the same year. Arbuthnott was with the expedition to Copenhagen in 1807; and escorted the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia to England in 1814.

The Duke of Manchester, William Montague 1861–1888

William Drogo Montague, 7th Duke of Manchester KP (1823–1890). Montague was also known as Lord Kimbolton (1823–1843), and as Viscount Mandeville (1843–1855).

The English Order continued in its growth, and had been able to recruit the 7th Duke of Manchester, who became their Grand Prior in 1861. The beginnings of well-established national Hospitaller organisation began when the Order created corps of ambulances in the 1860s. In 1871 a new Constitution brought about a further change of name offering a more modest identity: The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem in England.

Grand Priors of the Royal Family

In 1876, the Princess of Wales was recruited into the Order, followed by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII). With their patronage, the Order founded an eye hospital in Jerusalem in 1882, and St John Ambulance Associations were established in large railway centres and mining districts to teach volunteer workers first aid so that they could help victims of workplace accidents. In 1887, these volunteers were organised into uniformed Brigades to serve at public events. In 1888 the Order was recognised by Queen Victoria and was made an Order of the British Crown.

Since then the Grand Prior has always been appointed by the Sovereign Head, and has always been a member of the royal family. Those 'royal' Grand Priors include:



Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales
Grand Prior, 1888–1901



Prince George, Prince of Wales
Grand Prior, 1901–1910



Prince Arthur, Duke of
Connaught and Strathearn
Grand Prior, 1910–1942



Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester
Grand Prior 1939–1974



Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester
Grand Prior 1975–present

The Award

The Grand Prior's Award (or Badge) was established in 1931 as the principal and senior Cadet award in St John. The Grand Prior of the Order, His Royal Highness Prince Arthur Duke of Connaught (third son of Queen Victoria) petitioned his nephew, King George V, to approve the Grand Prior's Award.

The Award recognises a self-motivated and capable young person's ongoing commitment, compassion, and support within the functions of the Order. The Award is achieved by the successful completion of a specific number of Proficiency badges (which vary from Priory to Priory). When the Award was first established, to qualify Cadets had to pass exams in at least 12 of 16 badge subjects: Knowledge of the Order of St John, Home Nursing, Hygiene, Child Welfare, Cookery, Handicraft, Fire Fighting, Nature Study, and Clerical Ability (which included the subjects: English, business principles and bookkeeping, arithmetic, shorthand, typewriting).

The Award is granted by most of the Pories, including England and the Islands, Wales, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and South Africa.

The Badge

The design of the badge is the badge of the Order, in silver wire, embroidered on black felt. Surrounding the badge is a wreath of St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), a medical plant used by the Hospitallers of the medieval Order of St John. Surmounting the wreath is the Grand Prior's (a prince's) coronet. A more durable and cost effective version, is available for summer uniforms (shirts). The Grand Prior Badge is worn on the left sleeve. It remains the only Cadet badge that can be worn on the St John Ambulance uniform throughout the member's St John career. When the Badge is presented it is often accompanied by a Certificate.

The first Grand Prior awardees

The first Grand Prior's badge in the World was awarded to Marion Higgins from Marrickville Cadet Nursing Division, on 15 February 1931 followed, two days later, by Cadet Sergeant G. Anderson and Cadet Corporal W Lloyd from Slough Division in the United Kingdom. *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 2 May 1933, stated that Marion Higgins was the first girl in the British Empire to be awarded the Grand Prior Badge.

The Award around the world

The United Kingdom

St John Ambulance Cadets program in England, the Islands and Wales was founded in 1922, in order to train young people in first aid, and other essential skills. It has grown to be one of the biggest youth organisations in the United Kingdom, with over 20,000 members. Members take part in a very wide variety of activities, including attending first aid events, camps, completing Proficiency badges, participating in competitions, learning leadership and training skills, and fundraising activities.

Canada

St John Ambulance commenced in Canada in 1884. The first Division in Canada was Forest City, Ontario. The first Nursing Cadet Division was established in 1935, Vancouver Central, British Columbia.

The Cadets' Proficiency program allows youth members to gain the Grand Prior's award, as well as work toward the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Proficiencies are awarded for demonstration of knowledge of a selection of over 80 subjects, and youth members are also given the opportunity to perform community service at public events (supervised by trained adult members).

Hong Kong

The St John Ambulance Brigade Cadet Command was established in Hong Kong in 1948. The St John Ambulance Team of the Hong Kong Ambulance Brigade provides first-aid and other types of training for young people between the ages of 12 and 18, and provides them with opportunities to practice and contribute to the community through local open social services. In addition to providing basic first aid, home care and marching training, the Parade Division also organises a wide range of skills training courses so that players can learn a wide range of knowledge in their spare time so that they can get more comprehensive physical and mental development.

Malaysia

Cadets in Priory of St John in Malaysia are encouraged to complete a number of the 26 badges, which are split into five different groups according to the nature of the activities. Cadets who successfully complete the Grand Prior's Award receive the award from the Order Secretariat in London, England. Cadets who obtain the Grand Prior's Award are known as Grand Prior Cadets and can wear the badge as adult members throughout their service in St John Ambulance.

New Zealand

The first Grand Prior Awards in New Zealand were awarded in 1934, to Duncan Clark and Basil Buckley in Christchurch. By December 1934, there were a total of five Grand Prior Badges awarded, including Jack Eade, Clyde MacFarlane and George Maystone. The first young women, Winifred Rogers and Hazel Smith from Christchurch, received their Award in December 1935.

Singapore

The Cadet Proficiency Badge Scheme was launched in Singapore on 7 January 1990. The objective is to encourage Cadets to take a keen interest in things outside the classroom, and to develop their interests further and learn new skills in their own leisure time. Members can choose from a wide range of activities, catering to each individual's aptitude, interest and inclination. Members are encouraged to participate and earn badges during training camps in order to achieve the Commissioner's Badge, the Chief Commissioner's Badge and subsequently, the Grand Prior Award, the highest honour bestowed to members.

South Africa

South Africa became a Priory in 1943, and its National Youth Academy started in mid-2014. Grand Prior Award training was promoted under the leadership of the Assistant Chief Commissioner (Youth). The latest members of St John South Africa youth to be awarded the GPB in 2015 are from the COGH Central Division. In 2015, Cadet Officer Sandy Williams, Cadet Officer Suhail Khan and Cadet Sgt Kim Harland were the first South African St John Cadets to be awarded the Grand Prior Badge.

The Award in Australia

Following the formation of St John Ambulance Cadets in the United Kingdom in 1922, St John in Australia soon had one of the first overseas Cadet divisions—the Glebe Ambulance Cadet Division, which was registered on 19 December 1925. The next Cadet divisions registered in 1930, were the North Sydney Nursing Cadet Division, and the Richmond Ambulance Cadet Division in Victoria.

Australian criteria for the Grand Prior's Award

In Australia, Cadets are required to meet a number of criteria to receive the Grand Prior's Award. They are:

- 12 proficiency badges, including Knowledge of The Order and Health Care and Caring, have been achieved
- no more than four proficiency badges can be achieved each year
- no more than two proficiency badges are obtained through school/college/university each year (with a maximum of six in total)
- no more than two proficiency badges may be earned prior to becoming a Cadet/youth member
- working towards proficiency badges commenced after the Cadet's 11th and before their 21st birthdays
- a minimum of four proficiency badges were achieved before reaching the age of 18
- 100 hours of service achieved, and successful completion of a program of first aid studies over a minimum period of 3 years—since turning 11 years-of-age, or from the day of joining.

Once the 12th proficiency subject has been successfully completed, the Divisional Superintendent/Manager will apply for the Grand Prior's Award on behalf of the Cadet.

Grand Prior's Awards are normally presented to members by the Prior (Governor-General) or Deputy Prior (State Governors or the Northern Territory Administrator) at a special award ceremony each year.

Two esteemed Australian Grand Prior Award recipients

Marion Higgins

Marion Higgins of the Marrickville Nursing Cadet Division was the first Australian and the first young woman to be awarded the Grand Prior Award from the British Empire, on 2 May 1933.

Little is known about Marion's later life. She continued in the Marrickville Nursing Division, and after her marriage in the late 1930s, she seems to have withdrawn from St John. She is not to be confused with Marjorie Higgins MBE DStJ who was Secretary of St John in New South Wales for many years (1940s–early 1970s).

Mark Compton AM KStJ

Professor Mark Compton is the Chancellor of St John Ambulance Australia. He joined the Glebe Cadet Division the day after his 13 birthday in 1974 and has remained an active and efficient Brigade and Event Health Services Branch member since. Professor Compton is unique among the Chancellors in being a member of a four-generation St John family and the only Chancellor to hold the Grand Prior's Award. A Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order, he is a Life Member of this Historical Society, an honour granted him for his generosity in funding the Society's annual 'Knowledge of the Order' prizes for Cadets.

First Father/Daughter Grand Prior Award recipients

Trevor J Mayhew OAM KStJ

The author of this paper was with the Bankstown Cadet Ambulance Division when his work was recognised with the Grand Prior Award. He has also been State Operations Officer (NSW); State Ceremonial Officer (NSW); Divisional and Regional Superintendent, and Deputy Chairman, Community Care Branch. Trevor is currently on the St John NSW State Council.

Michele Davidson OStJ

Michele Davidson is the daughter of Trevor Mayhew. As a Cadet with St John, Michele was attached to the St George Combined Division. She was also a Divisional Nursing Officer; a National Competition Adjudicator; former NSW State Nursing Officer (NSW), and former Regional Nursing Officer (NSW).

The Cadet Recognition Badge

Given the continuing changing of the rules over the years since the Grand Prior Award was established in Australia, a large number of Cadets, who went on to become St John Adult Officers and members, missed receiving a Grand Prior Badge. In recognition of their achievements as Cadets (with no less than one year's eligible Cadet service), and their ongoing support of the youth programs as Adult members, this group were awarded the Cadet Recognition Badge.

Some of the more recognised recipients include:

- John David Spencer AM GCStJ, Orange Cadet Division, NSW
- Lynette Dansie DStJ, Thebarton Cadet Division, South Australia, and former Chief Officer Cadets
- Joan Paterson OAM DStJ, Camberwell Division in Victoria, and former Chief Officer Cadets
- Alan Mawdsley OAM KStJ, Malvern Cadet Division, and former Commissioner of St John Victoria
- Betty Stirton OAM DStJ, Bankstown Nursing Cadet Division, NSW, and former Deputy Commissioner, St John NSW.

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What's in a name? The ancient, peculiar case of 'St John Ambulance'

Mr Peter LeCornu KStJ and Ian Howie-Willis OAM KStJ

'What's in a name?' Juliet asks rhetorically in Act 2, Scene 2 of Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*; she then goes on to argue that 'that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.'

I don't think the same argument can be applied to the name 'St John Ambulance', however. We might call our organisation something like 'Order of St John First Aid' or 'First Aiders of St John of Jerusalem' or even 'St John First Aid Australia', but none of these really 'smell as sweet', do they?

There is actually a long-running debate over our name. In the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia we have frequently been asked the question: 'Is it St John Ambulance or just St John?'

The debate is international. Overseas there has been much debate about the name. Some 15 years ago, St John International wanted all establishments to use the name 'St John' and not 'St John Ambulance'. New Zealand operates with the name 'St John', even though it is the prime ambulance service in New Zealand. Wales changed its name to 'St John', but then witnessed a drop in brand recognition within the Wales community. Australia and England have continued to use the name 'St John Ambulance'.

Types of names

Whatever the language, personal names usually derive from one of four sources: (1) industries, trades and occupations (eg 'Carpenter', 'Mason', 'Smith'); (2) places and geographical features (eg 'Brook', 'Forest', 'Hill'); (3) nicknames, which often describe personal qualities (eg 'Smart', 'Strong', 'Cameron' – 'crooked nose' in Gaelic) and (4) father's names (eg 'James', 'Richards', 'Williams').

Institutional names are similar. 'St John Ambulance', a name derived from two such sources, is a case in point. The first part, 'St John', was the name of a place—a monastery in mediaeval Jerusalem dedicated to St John the Baptist. The second part, 'Ambulance', is the name of a particular patient transport vehicle which the St John organisation developed and marketed during the 1870s.



The mediaeval monastery of St John the Baptist in Jerusalem, and a detachable 2-wheeled stretcher or 'ambulance' patented in 1875.

Mediaeval origins of the Order of St John

To see how the two parts of the name 'St John Ambulance' came together, we must go back to the 11th century AD in Jerusalem. About the year 1080 a group of Benedictine monks associated with a Catholic church in Jerusalem, St Mary of the Latins, began running a refuge for poor sick pilgrims visiting the city's sacred sites. Their leader was a monk named Gerard Thom, who might have been Italian or French.

What's in a name?

The brethren's charitable endeavours flourished; and so in 1113 the Pope of the day, Paschal II, granted them independent status as a separate Order of the Church. Brother Gerard became their foundation Rector. Because of the work they did and where they did it, they took as their name the 'Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem' or simply 'Hospitallers' for short. By that time, the Hospitallers had begun establishing hospices overseas, of which there would eventually be many dozens across Europe as well as in the eastern Mediterranean region.

After 1120 the Hospitallers took on a military as well as a charitable function. This was at the urging of their second Rector, Raymond du Puy, who had been a crusading knight. Every able-bodied man available, even the 'religious', was required to help defend the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem against continual attack by Muslim forces intent on pushing the Crusaders from Palestine and adjacent territories. The Hospitallers began admitting knights into their Order, as a result of which the Order's military personnel became known as the 'Knights of St John' and the 'Knights Hospitaller' as well.

Eventually, in 1291, resurgent Muslim forces succeeded in driving the Hospitallers, their brothers-in-arms, the Knights Templar, and other supporters of the Crusader states from the walled city of Acre (present-day Akko), the last Crusader stronghold in Palestine. Most retreated to nearby Cyprus.

Rhodes, Malta and Rome

Wanting territory of their own, the Hospitallers occupied the Greek island of Rhodes in 1306. They ruled Rhodes for the next 216 years, until expelled by forces of the Ottoman (Turkish) Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, in 1522.

In 1530 the Hospitallers were granted the islands of Malta. They ruled Malta for the next 268 years, until the French general, Napoleon Bonaparte, expelled them in 1798. In the meantime, they also became known as the Knights of Malta, while their ancient emblem, the white eight-pointed cross or 'St John Cross', became widely but erroneously known as the 'Maltese Cross'. (It's properly called the 'Cross of Amalfi', because Bro. Gerard and his brethren had adopted the emblem of the Republic of Amalfi, in gratitude to merchants of Amalfi who had generously supported their original hospice.)

Meanwhile, the Hospitallers' Priory in England, a vigorous branch of the Order of St John founded in the mid-1100s, had fallen on hard times. It flourished for four centuries, eventually becoming one of the greatest land owners in England. Priors of the Order in Ireland and Scotland also prospered. Numerous Commanderies of the Order, regional outposts of the Priors, had spread across Britain.

All were suppressed during Britain's religious reformation between the late 1530s and early 1560s, their estates seized by the Crown and sold off into private ownership. Hospitallers who resisted the seizures were executed, though some escaped abroad and helped defend Malta in 1565.

That was after the elderly Suleiman the Magnificent had invaded the islands, determined to rid the Mediterranean of a source of persistent resistance to his territorial ambitions. The Knights of St John, supported by the local Maltese, famously withstood the Great Siege of 1565. Suleiman's armada eventually withdrew after suffering huge losses during the three months the siege lasted.



The Abbey of St Mary of the Latins, near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, and the first rector of the Order of the Hospital, Gerard Thom.



The 8-point cross of the Duchy of Amalfi, later called the St John, and the Maltese Cross.



The church of St John the Baptist, Maplestead, Essex, England, built by the Knights Hospitaller about 1335 as the chapel of their local Commandery.



Palazzo Malta—world headquarters of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta since 1834.

The Knights of St John were homeless after their expulsion from Malta by Napoleon. Eventually, in 1834, they regrouped and established a new base in Rome—in the Palazzo Malta, one of their surviving mansions. They remain based there to the present, continuing as a Catholic religious and charitable order, now known as the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta. They have branches in many nations, including Australia.

The ‘revival’ of the Priory of England

In the late 1820s a group of French Knights of St John hatched a plan for regaining Rhodes for the Order. The plan involved raising money in Britain, assisted by a revived Priory of the Order in England. Although the priory had been defunct for over 270 years, a small group of Englishmen, mainly Protestants, were admitted into the Order as Knights. They declared the Priory re-established in 1831 and appointed a Prior, the Rev. Sir Robert Peate. They then entered into protracted negotiations with the parent Order, which, as seen, would soon be permanently based in Rome. Their aim was to have the parent Order recognise their organisation as the Order’s legitimately revived Priory of England.

The stumbling block here, of course, was their Protestantism. Indeed their Prior, Peate, was not only a Protestant but an Anglican vicar. The very idea of a Protestant Priory of a Catholic religious order was anathema to the Order’s leaders in Rome. Eventually, in 1858, the Order disowned and broke off dealings with its upstart self-proclaimed Protestant branch in England.

Rather than quietly go into abeyance, the English Priory declared itself to be a separate order—the ‘Illustrious Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem: Anglia’. Retaining the parent order’s ‘Maltese Cross’ emblem and other ceremonial paraphernalia, the ‘Illustrious Order’ continued operating as a fraternal, collegiate organisation. Fortuitously, during the 1870s it discovered and pioneered a new form of ‘hospitaller’ work—First Aid.

The Royal Charter of 1888

The year 1888 was a great turning point for this 57-year old self-styled ‘Order of St John’. That year Queen Victoria acknowledged its good works through the First Aid movement by granting it a rare honour—a Royal Charter which established it as a British royal order of chivalry. In accordance with its newfound prestige, it took the grandiloquent new title ‘The Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem’. Fortunately, a ‘short form’ of this cumbersome name was soon adopted—the ‘Order of St John’.

What's in a name?

Under the Royal Charter, the Queen herself became the 'Sovereign Head' of the Order and her son, Albert Edward the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), its Grand Prior. Whatever the 'revived priory' had been previously, it was now an official Order of St John in its own right.

In the meantime, overseas branches of the Order had begun springing up in various outposts of the British Empire. These included 'Centres' for teaching the St John first aid course in Melbourne (in 1883), Newcastle (1884), Adelaide (1884) and Launceston (1887).

By that stage, public first aid training via the Centres of the St John Ambulance Association, plus public first aid service delivery through local units or 'Divisions' of the uniformed St John Ambulance Brigade, had become the Order's *raison d'être*.



The Most Venerable Order added lions and unicorns to the 8-pointed Amalfi cross, in 1888 to signify the Order's royal patronage.

First Aid – a new reason for being

The Order's interest in first aid had begun in 1870–71, when several of its most influential members, including the 7th Duke of Manchester, Sir Edmund Lechmere and Sir John Furley, had worked with the British National Society for the Sick & Wounded (forerunner of British Red Cross) providing relief and health care support to both combatants in the Franco-Prussian War. They brought back from the war ideas and innovations they soon applied in England.

Among these was the 'Neuss Litter', a detachable stretcher mounted on light cartwheels. Of Prussian design and manufacture, the 'Neuss' facilitated the rapid removal of the injured from battlefields to the army field aid hospitals in the rear.

A member of the Order who saw the 'Neuss' in use in France was Surgeon-General WGN Manley VC CB (1831–1901), later the commander of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Manley and his St John colleagues realised that the 'Neuss' could be readily adapted for civilian use. At their urging, during 1874 the Order decided to import a number of the 'Neuss' litters into Britain. To manage this enterprise it formed an 'Ambulance Committee' in December that year.

Apparently the 'Neuss' was not entirely satisfactory because in December 1875 Manley was granted Letters Patent on behalf of the Ambulance Committee to produce and market 'a new and improved ambulance litter'. The result was the 'Neuss-Manley' litter.



Prussian *Johanniters* (members of the German Order of St John) collecting the wounded from a battlefield during the Danish-Prussian War of 1864. The two-wheeled stretcher in the left foreground is a 'Neuss Litter'. The 'Neuss' was used again in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71, when members of the British Order of St John saw it being used.

The 'St John Ambulance' – a detachable stretcher on cart wheels

A prototype of the 'Neuss-Manley' seems to have been produced early in 1875, at least eight months before Manley was granted the Letters Patent, because in April 1875 the Order decreed that the new litter would henceforth be called the 'St John Ambulance' rather than the 'Neuss-Manley Litter'. The litters, be they 'Neuss-Manleys' or 'St John Ambulances', were not locally manufactured in England but imported from Germany.

But why 'ambulance'? The answer is etymological. 'Ambulance', derived from the French *ambulant*, meaning 'capable of being walked about', at that time referred to two-wheeled litters propelled by

walking medical orderlies. A two-wheeled litter was accordingly an 'ambulance'. In time the word was also applied to the four-wheeled horse-drawn patient transport vans then in use and to the motorised patient transport vehicles that succeeded them.

How many of its 'St John Ambulances' were imported and sold by the Order's Ambulance Committee is unknown. We do know that the London Metropolitan Police adopted the 'St John' in 1878 for use at police stations, which often ran a first aid service as well as undertaking routine policing.

The 'St John Ambulance' had only a short 'shelf-life', however. From late 1879 it was rapidly superseded by a new two-wheeled litter, the 'Ashford', which had been designed by Sir John Furley (1836–1919), one of Manley's colleagues on the Ambulance Committee.

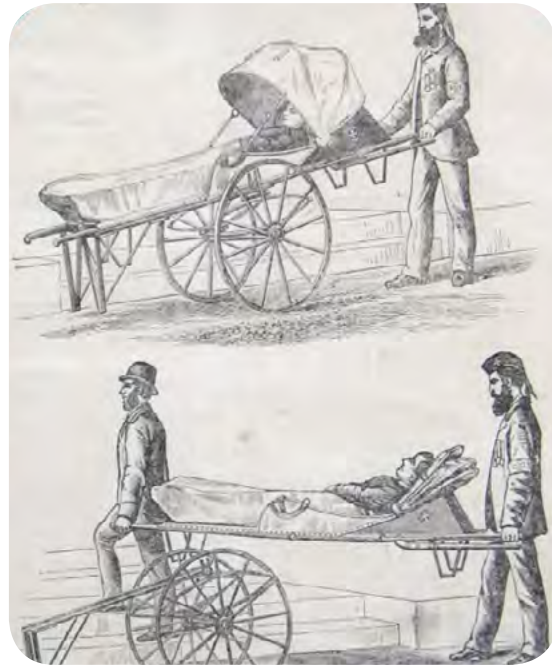
The 'Ashford', produced in Ashford, Kent, Furley's home town, and marketed by the St John Ambulance Association, was a great commercial success. Many hundreds were produced and exported around the globe during the 60 years the Association continued marketing them, 1879–1939. Dozens were imported into Australia, many of which survive in museums and St John Ambulance heritage centres.

Although many 'Ashfords' survive, we've yet to locate a genuine original 'St John Ambulance'. Possibly a long disused 'Neuss-Manley'/'St John Ambulance' moulders away unrecognised at the back of a storage shed somewhere; and there may even be one in some obscure museum. If so, our research and inquiries over the past seven years have so far not revealed where it might be.

The Museum of the Order of St John at Clerkenwell, London, certainly doesn't have one. Indeed there are only two known illustrations. One is a photograph of London Police using the litter and the other is a diagram in an 1880 brochure of the Order of St John.

Meanwhile, the name 'St John Ambulance' had stuck. The quickly superseded but iconic stretcher-on-cartwheels was a contraption whose name became the title of a world-wide charitable organisation specialising in First Aid and patient care!

'St John Ambulance' became the name of the branch of the Order that marketed the two-wheeled litters—the St John Ambulance Association, established in 1877. Marketing the litters was not the principal function of the Association, which existed primarily to train the public in first aid. The Association also published its famous first aid manual, *First Aid to the Injured*, used in instructing the first aid classes. Many millions of copies of the 'Little Black Book' were produced through the 40 editions and hundreds of impressions published between 1879 and 1958. In Australia, its place was eventually taken by a local St John manual, *Australian First Aid*.



The 'Neuss-Manleys', produced in Germany and imported by the Order of St John, it was soon renamed the St. John Ambulance. It was the contraption from which the world-wide St John Ambulance organisation took its name.



London Metropolitan Police with a patient secured to a 'St John Ambulance', 1885. The St John Ambulance 'brand' is clearly visible at the right, below the folding hood. This is the only known photo of the 'Neuss-Manley' or 'St John Ambulance'.

What's in a name?

The name 'St John Ambulance' was also applied to the St John Ambulance Brigade, established in 1887 as a voluntary uniformed field force of trained first aiders. As well as undertaking first aid duties at public events, Brigade members often worked as voluntary ambulance service ancillaries. Now called Event Health Services in Australia, the members of this branch of the Order are the 'Vollies'—the volunteers in St John uniform on first aid duty wherever crowds gather.

In 1985 the national federal Australian St John Ambulance organisation adopted the 'public' or 'trading' name 'St John Ambulance Australia'. More than 30 years later that is still the name in use. It is one widely known as that of one of the nation's most respected charitable institutions, with diverse interests in first aid training and delivery, the marketing of first aid kits, the publication of first aid training manuals and ambulance service operations in two jurisdictions—the Northern Territory and Western Australia.



The iconic 'Ashford' litter of 1879, which quickly superseded the 'St John Ambulance'.

Marketed by the St John Ambulance Association for 60 years (1879–1939), hundreds of 'Ashfords' were produced. The model shown here was one of six exported to Melbourne in 1886. Like others of its 'vintage', it survives, in the Williamstown St John Ambulance Museum.

So 'what's in a name?' and what's the origin of the ancient, peculiar name 'St John Ambulance'? As my talk has demonstrated, the answer is a long one.

To recapitulate briefly, the name comes from two sources—a monastery in Jerusalem at the time of the First Crusade in 1099 and a two-wheeled stretcher of the early 1870s designed for transporting patients swiftly, safely and comfortably.

During the intervening seven centuries between 1099 and 1875, much had happened in Middle Eastern, European, British and Australian history. The name 'St John Ambulance' encapsulates much of it.

Expired air resuscitation. An historical account

Dr David Fahey CSTJ

'Mouth-to-mouth' resuscitation is a term which is embedded in the vernacular. Indeed, it is regarded as a *sine qua non* of first aid. However, mouth-to-mouth as we now know it, has really only had a short history, being formally introduced in the late 1950's. In this paper, the following terms are considered synonymous:

- mouth-to-mouth resuscitation
- expired air resuscitation (EAR)
- rescue breathing.

It may seem intuitive that if someone has stopped breathing, we might breathe for them using our exhaled air. Life can be sustained in this way because we are supplying oxygen to the victim. We all know this, and it seems so obvious!! Why wasn't rescue breathing practised since the dawn of time? This paper will explain the answers to this question, from an historical point of view.

Historical background

First, let us consider the purpose of breathing. Even to prehistoric humans, the connection between breathing, and being alive, must have been apparent. But what was not apparent, was the true purpose of breathing. Gas exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the lungs, and the circulation of blood, were not understood until around 1800. Prior to these discoveries, doctors had absolutely no idea why we breathe. Rather than understanding that we breathe in order to stay alive, it was thought that we breathed as a result of being alive. This is a subtle but important distinction.

Consider the following from the book of Genesis ...

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (*Genesis 2:7*)

This was written in about the 6th Century BC. Here, the reference to the breath of life has nothing to do with oxygen or resuscitation. Instead, it relates the breath to some kind of vital spirit. This spirit is being described in terms of an immortal soul, acting as a kind of life force. We can't read or interpret this from the point of our current understanding of physiology.

Plato knew that the lungs resemble the structure of a sponge, and concluded that the lungs function to cool the heart, which he thought to be the seat of excitement and passion. Galen continued Plato's notion that the lungs cooled the heart. But he went further by trying to reason the link between breathing and life. Galen proposed that 'crude air' drawn into the lungs was transformed into pneuma, an undefined life-giving vital spirit. Galen's influence remained unquestioned well into the 16th century.

The first to really question Galen's teachings, and conduct his own anatomical dissections was Andreas Vesalius. Vesalius completed his masterpiece *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* in 1543. Although he did not understand gas exchange, Vesalius demonstrated that fireside bellows could be used to artificially reproduce the action of breathing and that this would keep alive an animal which would otherwise have died. Vesalius does not mention any correlation between this experiment and attempting to resuscitate a human.

This knowledge then paved the way for William Harvey to describe the circulatory system in *De Motu Cordis* in 1628. Harvey realised that the heart functioned as a pump, which drove blood around in a circuit. But exactly why we needed a circulatory system at all, was yet to be explained.

The next major leap forward came with the work of John Mayow, published in his *Tractus Quinque* in 1674. He conducted experiments showing that an animal would die when placed inside an inverted glass jar over water, and similarly, a lighted candle would go out. Importantly though, he noted that the water level rose within the glass jar. He concluded:

There is now no reason for denying the entrance of air into the blood ... The chief use of respiration ... which makes it so necessary, is that particles of a certain kind, absolutely

necessary for the support of animal life, may be separated from the air by means of the lungs, and mixed most minutely with the mass of the blood ...

Over 100 years elapsed before advances in chemistry permitted the discovery of oxygen as an individual gas. Carl Scheele, Joseph Priestly and Antoine Lavoisier each independently conducted experiments which showed the existence of oxygen. But Lavoisier seems to have claimed this prize for himself, and it was he who named the gas oxygen. It wasn't until the early 1900's, when the work of Bohr, Haldane and Krogh enabled arterial blood gases to be measured, that gas exchange was really understood.

You can see from this brief overview, that one barrier to the adoption of rescue breathing was, quite simply, until the late 17th century, no one understood the purpose of breathing.

Quite apart from the lack of physiological understanding, there were other barriers to performing rescue breathing. Strong religious views accepted sudden death as God's will, so attempting revival would be interfering with the supernatural. Social norms precluded direct oral contact with a stranger. And of course there were fears of disease.

Early accounts of rescue breathing

Despite the many barriers described above, there are early records of success with sporadic uses of rescue breathing. The first documented account is attributed to Dr William Tossach in 1774, in Scotland. In an article titled 'A man dead in appearance, recovered by distending the lungs with air', Tossach described a case of a man rescued from a coal mine explosion:

I applied my mouth close to his, and blowed my breath as strong as I could, but having neglected to stop his nostrils, all the air came out at them; wherefore, taking hold of them with one hand, I blew again my breath as strong as I could, raising his chest with it, and immediately I felt six or seven very quick beats of the heart.

It is known from tradition that rescue breathing was performed by midwives from at least 1000 BC, and there are some references to its use in the *Talmud*. The practise seems to have been handed down by word of mouth across the centuries. Evidence of this appears in a medical text written in 1769 by William Buchan. He reports of

the case of a woman in childbed who, after being happily delivered, suddenly fainted and lay upwards of a quarter of an hour, apparently dead. A physician was sent for; her own maid, in the mean while, being out of patience at his delay, attempted to assist her herself, and extending herself upon her mistress, applied her mouth to hers, blew in as much breath as she possibly could, and in a very short time the woman awaked as out of a profound sleep. The maid being asked how she came to think of this expedient, said she had seen it practised by midwives upon children, with the happiest effect.

Many authors attempt to use the following biblical reference as evidence for rescue breathing. In the *Second Book of Kings*, Elisha went to a dead child,

and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

Claiming that this was rescue breathing is tenuous at best. But this bible passage did help, at least in part, to later overcome religious objections to the technique.

Real interest in resuscitation followed the establishment of the Humane Societies, dedicated to rescuing victims of drowning. The first was formed in 1767 in Amsterdam—a city whose canals made drowning an unfortunately common event. Many other cities soon followed, and the Royal Humane Society was founded in London in 1774. The Dutch society had recommended mouth-to-mouth ventilation as the preferred method, but this was condemned by the English society as 'a method practised by the vulgar'. Also, expired air was known to contain carbon dioxide and was therefore thought to be 'noxious and unfit to enter any lungs again'. The recommended methods included the application of hot water bottles, insufflation of the rectum with tobacco smoke and rolling the victim over a barrel.

In 1776, Dr John Hunter presented to the Royal Humane Society the results of ventilation experiments he had conducted using bellows, based on the method earlier described by Vesalius. Hunter also stated, 'I shall consider an animal apparently drowned as not dead; but that only a suspension of the actions of life has taken place'. This comment reflected a real shift in attitude towards sudden death, and showed the increasing acceptance of resuscitation as a potentially justifiable medical intervention.

In 1782, the Royal Humane Society officially recommended bellows ventilation in preference to the mouth-to-mouth method, and specially-designed kits containing bellows were kept near waterways in London. Despite a number of reports of success, the bellows were abandoned in favour of various manual methods of artificial respiration. One can understand why the manual methods had appeal, because they were simple, needed no equipment, and were aesthetically acceptable. Hall's method was the first to appear, in 1856. Over 100 techniques soon followed, none of which were effective.

'Rediscovery' and acceptance of rescue breathing

The most important figure in the formal adoption of rescue breathing, was probably Dr James Elam, an American anesthesiologist. As a young resident during the polio epidemic in Minnesota in 1946, he instinctively did direct mouth-to-mouth resuscitation many times on asphyxiated patients. Everyone was sure that Elam would get polio, but fortunately he must have been immune. Elam wondered if rescue breathing could be taught widely, but the prevailing opinion at the time was that lay people would not be prepared to perform it on a stranger. Knowing the lives he had saved, Elam became inspired to conduct research into rescue breathing. Initially, he personally conducted experiments on intubated patients, to see what oxygen and carbon dioxide levels could be achieved (given that expired air contains only about 17% oxygen compared with 21% in the atmosphere). Then, in 1954, a study was performed on anaesthetised patients at the end of their surgery, using mouth-to-mask ventilation. Arterial blood gas measurements showed impressive results. Importantly, this was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM).

Elam encountered resistance within the medical community, and at the 1956 meeting of the American Society of Anesthesia, he met and teamed up with Dr Peter Safar, a Vienna born anaesthetist. Together, Elam and Safar were formidable, even if Safar seems to have stolen more of the limelight.

Elam and Safar conducted experiments on human volunteers, who were anaesthetised and paralysed. Oximetry, blood gases, and breathing volumes were measured. Experiments continued for up to 1 hour each, and the rescuers were lay persons. The superiority of mouth-to-mouth ventilation was obvious—it was simple, and achieved normal blood oxygen levels. The manual methods generally failed to ventilate anyone at all. This important study was published in the *NEJM* in 1958.

Elam and Safar presented their findings at the American Medical Association meeting in 1958, and gradually they achieved more acceptance, especially when it became clear that lay rescuers were willing to attempt the technique. One important initiative was the design of a simulation mask, which prevented direct contact during training. This training mask was a forerunner to Laerdal's Resuscitator Anne manikin.



Dr James Elam
(1918-1995)



Dr Peter Safar
(1924-2003)



Early training aid

First aid doctrine

Getting support from medical societies was one thing. Changing first aid doctrine was entirely another. In Australia, the experiments already done by Elam and Safar, were essentially repeated in order to convince local organisations such as the Royal Life Saving Society, and St John Ambulance.

In 1960, Dr Bruce Clifton, an anaesthetist at Royal Prince Alfred in Sydney, conducted the experiments on anaesthetised volunteers from life saving clubs. And in 1961, the same experiments were done again by anaesthetists Roger Bennett and Tess Brophy at St Andrew's Hospital in Brisbane. Scores of ambulance officers, rescuers and life savers took turns performing mouth-to-mouth, thereby gaining confidence with the new technique.

But the first aid organisations were slow to change. The new technique (often nick-named the 'kiss of life') was viewed with suspicion. The manual methods of artificial respiration continued to be included in first aid textbooks, well into the 1970s. Rescue breathing is first mentioned in the St John's *First Aid Manual* from the UK in the 17th impression of the first edition, in 1961. However, it was included as an appendix, and was not part of the approved first aid course. With the second edition in 1965, rescue breathing was described in the main text as the preferred method, but Silvester's manual method was still included as an alternative. The first edition of *Australian First Aid* in 1969 included exactly the same material. Finally, in 1980, the second Australian edition included no mention of manual methods. The Royal Life Saving manuals in the 1960s presented both alternatives, and by the 6th edition of 1976, manual methods were removed.

Chest compressions/CPR

No mention has been made throughout this paper of chest compressions, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. External cardiac compression wasn't described until 1960, and it took a decade to be incorporated into what we now call CPR. Rescue breathing alone is only helpful if the victim's heart is still beating. An historical account of the development of chest compressions will be provided in a future edition of *St John History*.



Dr Bruce Clifton
(Sydney)



Dr Roger Bennett
(Brisbane)



Dr Tess Cramond
(née Brophy)
(Brisbane)



Illustration from *Australian First Aid*, 1962

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A short history of breathing ... for others

Dr Brian J Fotheringham AM KStJ

Following is a brief background of five people who contributed greatly to the development of artificial respiration from the 1820s to the 1920s. The names of these people will be known to many; Silvester, Schafer, Nielsen, Eve and Safar, but details of their lives may not be so well known.

It is, of course, acknowledged that other persons contributed to developing knowledge of resuscitation. These include Benjamin Howard, Marshall Hall and JV Laborde, whose methods are represented here along with those of Schafer and Silvester. This extraordinary illustration was published in c. 1915 and shows five different methods of performing artificial respiration. This aid to confusion was written by Dr LM Frank Christian and was published by the St John Ambulance Association in a 48-page booklet titled *How to Act in Cases of Emergency ... Aids to Memory* for 'First Aid' Students.

Incidentally, in that same publication, Schafer revised the section on artificial respiration and commented in Appendix 16: 'Laborde's method ... has been lately shewn to be detrimental to respiration'.



Henry Robert Silvester (1829–1908).

Dr Silvester was born in London and studied medicine at King's College, London. He gained qualifications as a Surgeon (in 1853) and he also earned a Doctorate in Medicine from the University of London. He worked at King's College and the Clapham General Dispensary as a physician.

In 1856 (161 years ago), a London physician named Marshall Hall published a method of artificial respiration involving repeatedly rolling the casualty from lying on his* back to lying on his side. Silvester tried this method on a patient, but the patient died. He then was faced with a similar dire clinical situation and tried his method of lying the casualty on his back and passively moved his arms to alternately press down on the chest (causing expiration) and then extend above the head (inducing a little inspiration). It worked! He published his method in the *British Medical Journal* in 1858. He even experimented with fresh cadavers placing a tube containing water in their tracheas and watching the movement of the water level.

The very first manual on first aid written for St John Ambulance was titled *Handbook describing Aids for Cases of Injuries or Sudden Illness*. The author was Peter Shepherd and the manual was published in 1878. It contains dramatic illustrations of resuscitation using the Silvester method, which Shepherd says was approved by the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.

* In this paper 'his' is intended to mean either 'his' or 'her'.



The main criticism of the Silvester method was that the patient was on his back and his tongue kept obeying gravity and hence tended to block the airway. Despite this criticism, the Silvester method of artificial respiration was still advocated in *Australian First Aid*, published in 1972, ninety-four years after Peter Shepherd published the method in 1878.



Dr Silvester received the prestigious Fothergillian Medal from the Royal Humane Society in 1883. Only three examples of this medal were ever issued in gold, and Henry Silvester received the last of those three. The medal is that of a child blowing life into the dying embers of a torch. The inscription '*Lateat Scintilla Forsan*' is the motto of the Royal Humane Society and means 'Peradventure a little spark may yet lay hid'.

Henry Robert Silvester died in March 1908.

Edward Albert Sharpey-Schafer (1850–1935).

Edward Albert Schafer was born on 2 June 1850 at Hornsey, near London. He was educated at Clewer House School and studied medicine at University College, London. His doctoral adviser was the physiologist, William Sharpey. Edward Schafer was awarded the first Sharpey Scholarship in 1873. He stayed at University College as Assistant Professor of Practical Physiology. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1878 when he was only 28 years old. He was the Fullerian Professor at the Royal Institution and became the Jodrell Professor at University College, London in 1883, a position he held until 1899. Schafer then took the post of Professor of Physiology at the University of Edinburgh, retiring in 1933.

Schafer's main claims to fame are that (together with George Oliver) he discovered adrenaline, and that he coined the term 'endocrine', referring to the ductless glands such as the adrenals, the thyroid, and the pituitary whose secretions flow directly into the blood stream. For his work in physiology he received the Royal Medal in 1902, the Copley Medal in 1924 and he was knighted in 1913.

His family life was marked by tragedy. He married Maud Dixey. They had four children. His wife died in 1896, one of his two daughters died in 1905, and both his sons died in action in World War I. His eldest son had been named John Sharpey Schafer, the middle name being the surname of Edward Schafer's doctoral adviser at University College. In 1918, Edward Schafer prefixed his own name with Sharpey in memory of both his son and of his former teacher. He married a second time, this time to Ethel Maud Roberts. He died on 29 March 1935, aged 84 years, but despite living to this age it was



still not long enough to see his grandson, Edward Peter Sharpey-Shafer become the Professor of Medicine at St Thomas' Hospital in London.

In relation to the resuscitation of casualties, the Schafer method was first described in 1903. Schafer advocated that intermittent pressure be applied to the small of the back of patients lying face down. The patient's tongue was then unlikely to compromise the airway, but there was very little active inducement for inspiration. The illustration comes from the 21st edition of *First Aid to the Injured*, published in 1913, an edition that also advocated the Silvester method.



Holger Louis Nielsen (1866–1955)

Holger Nielsen was a physical fitness instructor and a Colonel with the Danish Army.

He was born on 18 December 1866 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Holger was an extraordinary sportsman with success in fencing, shooting and in athletic field events. He featured in the 1896 Summer Olympic Games in Athens. Those 1896 games are unique ... the first in the modern Olympic movement. He gained a bronze medal in Men's Fencing, in the sabre event. At the same games he won a silver medal in Men's Shooting (in the Free Pistol event) and another bronze medal in the 25 metre Rapid Fire Pistol event. Holger also competed in the discus throw, but did not gain a medal.

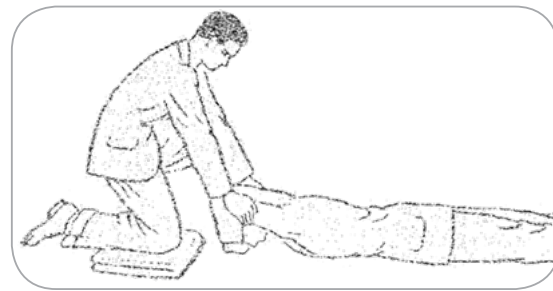


Holger Nielsen's artificial respiration technique, widely introduced in the 1940s, had the patient lying face down with the elbows bent so that the hands were under the forehead. Then compression to the back of the chest was applied causing expiration, followed by the raising of the patient's elbows, causing a little inspiration.

This form of resuscitation was first published in 1932. The National Research Council supported this method in 1951, but it was superseded by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in 1958.

Holger died on 26 January 1955, aged 89 in his home in Hellerup, just north of Copenhagen.

It is interesting to note this quotation from Wikipedia about Holger Nielsen: 'He is probably best known for drawing up the first modern set of rules for the game of handball' [in 1898].



Frank Cecil Eve (1871–1952)

Frank Cecil Eve was born in Silsoe, Bedfordshire on 15 February 1871 and was educated at the Bedford School and Emmanuel College. He gained a Bachelor of Arts from Cambridge and studied medicine at St Thomas's Hospital, graduating in 1900. He was awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree from Cambridge and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London).

He married Sarah Ellice Buyer, a fellow doctor, in 1911, and they had one son.

Frank Eve took up the posts of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and the Victoria Hospital for Children, both in Hull, on the east coast of England. In 1932, he wrote an influential article in the respected medical journal *The Lancet*, titled 'Actuation of the Inert Diaphragm by a Gravity Method', a title that may have been of interest to some in the medical fraternity, but it was hardly a headline likely to interest the popular press! Another paper, this time published in the highly regarded *Journal of the American Medical Association* was titled 'Resuscitation of the Drowned Today'. The word 'Today' in the title drew unfortunate attention to the date on which the paper was published—April Fools Day, 1944.

The 'gravity method' led to the introduction of the Eve's Rocker, a now rare piece of apparatus, one example of which is in the St John Museum at Unley, South Australia. Eve's method of resuscitation was quickly adopted by the navies of Britain and Sweden, and brought him international fame.

The logic in this method was that when the patient, tied to a stretcher mounted on a central pivot, was tipped head down the abdominal organs moved headwards, pushing the diaphragm so that air was expelled from the lungs. When the patient was tipped feet down, the abdominal organs moved towards the pelvis pulling the diaphragm that way, thus drawing air into the lungs. The recommended rocking of the stretcher was 9 rocks per minute; head down for 4 seconds and then feet down for 3 seconds.

Eve went further than putting a blanket over the casualty to provide warmth. He advocated hot water bottles be applied to the neck of the casualty to revive the chilled nerve cells at the base of the brain.

Eve's method drew a good deal of criticism, mainly along the lines that the relevant apparatus would not be at hand when needed. Other comments were quite extraordinary, for example, 'What if you swallowed a grape ... is this a new way of making wine?'

Frank Eve was an expert ice skater and enjoyed golf, tennis, fishing and natural history. He died on 10 December 1952 at Beverly, UK, where he had lived since his home in Hull was destroyed by a bomb in World War II.



Peter Josef Safar (1924–2003)

All of the above methods of artificial respiration were abandoned when Viennese-born Dr Peter Josef Safar, an anaesthetist, introduced mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in 1958.

Safar was born on 12 April 1924 in Vienna, Austria. His father, Karl, was an ophthalmologist and his mother, Vinca, was a paediatrician. It was no doubt expected that Peter might study medicine.

However, in 1938, Austria was occupied by Nazi Germany. His parents lost their jobs and Peter was sent to a labour camp in Bavaria. He avoided being drafted into the German Army by artificially stimulating his skin with tuberculin cream to enhance his eczema to unacceptable levels.



Eventually he began his medical studies at the Vienna University in 1943. He met his future wife, Eva, in 1947. In 1949, the year after graduating in Medicine he gained a scholarship to Yale University in America. After a brief return to Vienna in 1950 to marry Eva, he took his new bride back to America where he specialised in anaesthesia. He worked in Peru for 12 months, a time when he learned 'that simplicity is no barrier to good practice'.

Back in America he settled into work at the Baltimore City Hospital where he was sufficiently trusted that he could persuade his medical and nursing colleagues to be sedated, pharmacologically paralysed and then subjected to either the resuscitation techniques of Holger Nielsen or to expired air resuscitation. All these brave human guinea-pigs survived! Expired air was found to be clearly the better of the two methods.

From 11 to 20 March 1960, Peter Safar was a participant and speaker in the International Convention on Life Saving Techniques held at the University of Sydney.

Soon after Safar's experiments on expired air resuscitation, William Kouwenhoven and his co-workers found that external chest compressions on humans could be used to provide useful circulation of the blood in cases of cardiac arrest. Safar combined external air resuscitation with chest compressions so that cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was introduced to the world.

Safar met a toymaker from Stavanger, Norway, whose name was Asmund Laerdal. They, together with Bjorn Lind, a Norwegian anaesthetist, developed Resusci-Anne, a device used world-wide to teach CPR techniques.

The death (due to asthma) of Peter Safar's 12-year-old daughter in 1966, prompted him to do further work in intensive care and cerebral resuscitation. He founded the International Resuscitation Research Centre in Pittsburgh, curiously on the site of a former coffin factory.

Peter Safar retired in 1994, having received multiple awards from all corners of the globe. He died on 3 August 2003 after battling cancer. He was aged 79.



Acknowledgements

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The importance of history

Lt Col. Sir WH Malcolm Ross GCVO OBE GCStJ

Note on the author and the occasion. Sir Malcolm Ross was appointed Lord Prior of the Most Venerable Order of St John in 2016. In April–May 2017 he visited New Zealand and Australia at the invitation of their Priors of the Order, to familiarise himself with St John Ambulance work in both nations. On 28 April he spoke to the 19th annual seminar of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia in Hobart, Tasmania. He chose ‘The Importance of History’ as his topic. The following comprise his speaking notes on that occasion.



I am not a scholar let alone a history scholar but a soldier; and so in preparing to talk at this seminar this morning I had to think about the importance of history, first, and then the importance of the history of St John. So these are the thoughts of a simple foot-soldier.

I have lived a life more surrounded by history than most people. I was educated at Eton which was founded in 1440 by King Henry VI, and where pupils still wear morning coats. I spent 25 years in the Brigade of Guards where my regiment, the Scots Guards was founded in 1642, whose parade dress is still a red tunic and a black bearskin cap (often mistakenly called a busby). There are practical aspects in both cases. Eton tailcoats are long-wearing and demonstrate the status of the wearer in that community. The Guards wore bearskin caps in battle to appear taller and more formidable while the colour of their tunics camouflaged any loss of blood. So tradition is important and uniform, or dress, can be a physical connection with tradition.

Latterly I worked for 18 years in The Queen’s Household and then for a short time with Prince Charles. I have been quoted as saying that the Queen does not like change and I know that to be true. Quite a few times when proposing a plan for an event to her, she would say, ‘My father told me such-and-such’ or ‘My father did it that way’; and once, when organising something only held once before –and that was in 1918—she stumped me by saying ‘My grandfather did it the other way round.’ She was born in 1926 and was only 10 when her grandfather died ... but she knew!

As well as the practical aspects of tradition it is right and proper that we should respect the past. On Tuesday last I attended my first ANZAC Service, in Christchurch, New Zealand, and it was as meaningful and wonderful an event as any I have ever experienced. In the UK, our veterans on Remembrance Sunday are mainly old servicemen. The ANZAC Service brought out whole communities, including masses of young people. It was an amazing tribute to their forebears.

Those snapshots of my life and experience all relate in one way or another to history, so we had better talk about St John’s history. I find this quite a difficult one to grasp. Did our story start in 1887 or in 11th century Jerusalem? Does it matter? It obviously does to the purists, and I apologise if that is offensive in this gathering. But, as I have tried to suggest, history can be useful through the medium of tradition. It can be an important part of our organisational ‘body’; but if it is no more than various museum pieces that are nice to look at but of no practical use, it will be unsatisfying. So we must be selective.

There is a terrible word in modern vocabulary and that word is ‘brand’. For many years the Order has had ‘ambulances’—coming from the Latin root word ‘ambulare’ meaning ‘to walk’ or ‘move about’. The word clearly described the activities being carried out and was respected and recognisable.

The importance of history

Some parts of the Most Venerable Order, however, do not have ambulances or do not include the word 'ambulance' in their title.

This deviation from our history is unhelpful. At home in Scotland, where I was Prior for six years, friends and others who I come into contact with have no idea what 'St John' means. If I attach the prefix 'Order of' before 'St John' it might help and if I add the suffix 'Ambulance or Eye Hospital' they are more likely to understand.

St John's distinguished history is very much something that we can be very proud of but it is in no way elitist, something only to be pursued by specialist historians. It is our simple duty to learn from it, to promote it and to enhance it. Wherever possible it should have relevance to St John of today. An example of this is the wearing of mantles at Chapter meetings. Without naming and shaming, there are establishments where this is not the custom, and I have felt that this is disrespectful to those who have gone before and whose standards were not being upheld.

The title of this seminar was variously described as the 'history of St John' and 'the history within St John'. I have a preference for the latter as it suggests that our story is not something to be written in a tome then placed on a bookshelf' but is alive and ongoing.

Thank you for listening to me; and thank you for inviting me to address this seminar. The process of preparing my notes for this talk has caused me to think about things which I had not considered before, so one of us at least will have benefitted from this gathering.

Lieutenant Colonel JA Campbell OBE KStJ DSM

Mr Harry F Oxer AM ASM KStJ

Lt Col. JA Campbell was a foundation member of St John Ambulance in Western Australia, from 1892. Ian Howie Willis and Dr Edith Khangure had looked up some of his history for their books.

There was a serendipitous find of an artefact, which had obviously belonged to him. This raised my interest in finding as much as I could about this man, how he came to be a foundation member of St John in Western Australia, and what in his background made him appropriate for this.

He was foundation committee Treasurer of St John in Western Australia, and gave 33 years of continuous service, then a further 20 years were given by his son JR Campbell, totalling 53 years for the family. He and his son were among the earliest St John Knights of Grace in Western Australia—JA was the second, in 1911.

A very proud record! But who was he?

Looking into his life and achievements gave a fascinating glimpse of the life of his times.

First there was the finding. Militaria expert John Burrige was called to the cleaning out of a home, where it was said there were some military bits that might be of interest to him. He had for some time been interested in the 'Campbell' of 'Campbell Barracks', the headquarters of the Australian Special Air Service (SAS) in Swanbourne, Western Australia. John had located an elderly man living in the house known to have belonged to the Campbells. He was tidying up some old stuff, and wanted to know if it was of any use or interest militarily.

He told that a number of medals had been recovered amongst the dirt in an old chicken run—it was reputed that they were thrown there to glitter, and encourage chickens to forage!

In an old garage, they found some papers, an old sword, and an old black box, with St John Ambulance insignia thereupon. The box was of no interest to the occupant, and was given to John. He knew that the 'Campbell' whose name is born by the SAS barracks had been a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John, but had no idea what the box was, so he showed it to me as a St John person and asked me. I have never seen anything like it.

It was firmly identified as having belonged to Lt Col. JA Campbell, who had commanded the volunteer military in Western Australia from 1901 to 1902. He had an extraordinary personal military history, followed by his involvement with St John Ambulance in Western Australia, from its very first ever meeting. Some of the information for this comes from an old paper by a Robert Tierney.

Joseph Alexander Campbell was born in Dalkey, near Dublin, in Ireland on 26 October 1842. This apparently was quite a good suburb, in reasonable circumstances, but there is very little known about his childhood. What we did know was that in July 1857 he enlisted in Dublin, aged 14 in the 79th Cameron Highlanders. I wondered why.

Dr Khangure, with her historical knowledge, suggested the Great Potato Famine. It was indeed that time, which was 1845 to 1851, and caused an estimated 2.5 million deaths, and a further million who emigrated. Though it allegedly was said to have finished in 1951, for a number of years afterwards recovery for the country was very slow, and families were known to encourage children, when they became old enough, to either emigrate or enlist, which would enable them to have a life, and decrease the charge on the domestic purse.



To India

Joseph Campbell sailed from Dublin on the same day that he enlisted, aged 14 years, heading for India. This was the time of the Indian Mutiny, when the Indian sepoys, who were employed by the British Army, mutinied over some religious problems associated with their musket cartridges.

Joseph was landed in Calcutta, and thence was put on a train to Cawnpore, which had been the scene of the most terrible massacre. They couldn't go further on the train, were very much involved in the terrible scenes of this massacre, and they finish their journey on foot to Lucknow. He was 15.

He joined Sir Colin Campbell, a noted military leader of the time, and was involved in numerous campaigns including the second release of Lucknow, and then with repelling hill tribe raids. It seems likely that he was possibly a drummer boy but he also, according to the regiments records, used to assist with transporting and looking after casualties. It is possible that this was the start of his interest in looking after the sick. He obtained decorations for bravery during these battles.

After 14 years in India, in 1871 Joseph was transferred back to England. There he served for seven years, in the Isle of Wight, Aldershot, Edinburgh Castle, and Glasgow. In 1878 he was promoted to Regimental Sergeant Major of the 79th, and was sent to Gibraltar for four years, where he was made Warrant Officer in 1882.

In 1882 he went to Egypt, and was Regimental Sergeant Major at the battle of Tel El Kebir and other battles in Egypt. During these Joseph won a Distinguished Conduct Medal, and was mentioned in dispatches. He brought back the souvenir short sword and scabbard presumably from one of the enemy!

I am indebted to Peter Lutley, historian to the Special Air Services Museum in Perth, who researched documents, and found the following among the on-line *Historical Records of the 79th Cameron Highlanders in Egypt at Tel El Kebir*:

'Sergeant-Major Joseph Campbell at once set out with volunteers to give such assistance as they could to the wounded, and they found their services most acceptable to Surgeon-Major Will, who, in spite of dysentery, from which he had been suffering since the regiment left Ramleh, was lending his entire energies to the care of the wounded, and trying to alleviate their sufferings.



To Australia

In May 1882, Joseph's commanding officer in Egypt appointed him to proceed to Western Australia, 'to take charge of instructional staff, and encourage volunteering'. After the last British soldier who had been in the colony looking after the convicts left in 1861, Western Australia had 40 years of raising their own volunteer defence forces. These were a bit casual to start with, but eventually one or two British military officers were attached to help with administration—a Commandant and an instructor. Campbell, then a sergeant major, was commissioned in 1886 as a lieutenant, more befitting his task and status as in charge of instruction. At that stage he also became Adjutant of Volunteer Forces in Western Australia.

Joseph was required by Sir John Forrest, the Governor of Western Australia, to raise and equip volunteers for the Boer War. He was very successful, and raised over £1300—so much so that Parliament gave him a vote of thanks, and a cheque for £100. During this period, he was promoted to Captain.



Officers of the Western Australian Defence Force. Lt J Campbell is in the back row, centre (Battye Library ref 188-7).



(Above) Officers of the WA Volunteer Defence Forces, Karrakatta Camp, Easter 1898, recruiting and training recruits for the Boer War there. JA Campbell is seated 2nd row, third from the left.

(Right) The second contingent, also raised, trained, and equipped by Captain JA Campbell, setting off to the Boer War, down Barrack Street, past the new Town Hall, Perth.



In 1890 he was promoted to Major, and in 1897 he led a Western Australia contingent to England, to represent the colony at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, for which he received a medal. In 1898 he was at the Karrakatta camp, during Easter, recruiting and training more recruits for the Boer War. This was the Second Contingent that Joseph had raised trained and equipped, and we have a picture of them setting off down Barrack Street past the new town hall in Perth. In 1901 he was made an acting Lieutenant Colonel, in charge of the military forces for Western Australia.

Two of Joseph's sons went to the Boer War. One returned, the other was killed in action later, at Gallipoli.

After retirement, Joseph became ADC to the Western Australia governor, Sir Gerald Strickland. He had been with St John Ambulance, ever since he was a lieutenant, soon after his arrival in Western Australia.

However, in 1914, with the start of World War I, he wanted to be involved again, was appointed in charge of selection of volunteer officers for commissioning in the armed forces, going to fight with the British. In 1916 he actually re-enlisted, aged 73, to be made commanding officer of the first Australian Imperial Force troopship, travelling with the volunteers to England, to join the battles in Flanders. He was finally discharged in June 1917 aged 74, after 46 years of British military service.

By the end of this he had an impressive selection of medals. These were the ones that were found in the chicken run, and they have been expertly remounted by John BurrIDGE.

Medals and distinctions: L-R:
OBE (Military); Distinguished Conduct Medal; Indian Mutiny Medal; Egypt Medal 1882 Tel el Kebir; British World War 1 Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Medal; Khedives Star.



What about St John?

Henry Mathieson Jacoby, a young man aged 24, came to Western Australia from South Australia. Having done a first aid course there, he arranged the first-ever first-aid course to be taught in Western Australia in 1892. He also wanted to establish a committee to initiate a branch of St John Ambulance in Western Australia. They looked around and sought prominent and distinguished citizens with influence to be members of the proposed organisation.

The first committee of St John in Western Australia was formed as a result of Henry Mathieson Jacoby having sought and obtained a letter of authority from St John in England to set up a branch of St John ambulance in Western Australia. The first group met on 15 March 1892, in the military office in Perth. Perhaps this is how Campbell initially became involved, as the lieutenant instructor there.

The group appointed a committee which included the chairman, Dr Jamieson, secretary Jacoby, and the treasurer was recorded as 'Lieutenant' Campbell, though he had been promoted to Major in 1890. Presumably a secretarial error when writing up the minutes. We have the handwritten minutes of this very first meeting, which are on display in a glass case in the St John Western Australian Museum, and they are also of course digitally recorded.

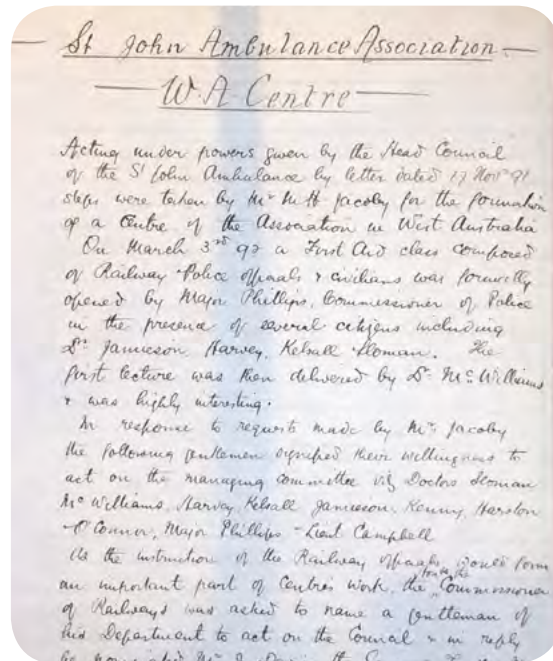
JA Campbell was a distinguished soldier, also with many years of service in Western Australia, and he had been ADC to the Governor of Western Australia. With St John, he served first as treasurer, becoming secretary in 1907, and served St John for a total of 33 years. He was succeeded by one of his sons, JR Campbell, in 1925. In succession, father and son gave 52 years of continuous service to St John in Western Australia, helping to guide us through the lean and difficult years of the wartime colony.

Progress for this fledgling organisation had not been as good as hoped—they were doing too few courses, though had they had produced a course for women very early. Jacoby apparently went back to viticulture, and left St John.

The railways initially had a very enthusiastic St John division, but separated from St John and went somewhat their own way.

St John Ambulance was revitalised in 1898, when Campbell was persuaded to take up the treasurer rôle again. He found only £2 in the bank, and debts of £50. They worked hard, and traded out all problems and paid off their debts, and 10 years later in Western Australia were teaching 300 people first-aid each year.

He was admitted to the Order in 1907 as an Honorary Associate ('Officer' we would call it now), then promoted directly to a Knight of Grace in 1911, aged 69. He died aged 81, and lies in Karrakatta cemetery. His grave was found, and had been neglected, but is now tended by Special Air Service, as the final resting-place of a distinguished soldier and WA statesman (though clearly, he never served in the SAS!) His son, JR Campbell, was in 1947 present at the inauguration of the Commandery of Western Australia.



Minute book. St John Ambulance Association, Nov. 1891–April 1894.



What about the Box?

John Burridge, the militaria expert who retrieved all these memorabilia, donated a full set of the miniatures retrieved from the chicken run, and the Egyptian short sword, to the Special Air Service Museum in Swanbourne Western Australia. John has retained the set of full-size medals, but kindly allowed me to have a photograph of them, and identified all of them. The Knight of St John regalia—the neck jewel and breast star—are still held by family descendants.

The way I acquired the box was that I was in John's shop having some medals remounted, and he mentioned that he had retrieved a box with the St John emblem thereupon. He didn't know what it was, but was aware that Lieutenant Colonel JA Campbell had been a St John Knight of Grace. I had discussed with him my involvement with the St John WA Museum, and he asked me if I knew what the box was. I asked around and showed it, and no one seems to have seen anything like it. We've asked the museum in the United Kingdom, in London – and they have no real idea.

He donated the box to us. It is, after all, a hundred years old, and important to us.

It is a thin but strong wooden box, 450 × 85 × 85 mm, and was covered in a very thin black leather. There were several bits of this missing, and an attempt to repair it with a large and inappropriate nail had been made. There is an internal fabric lining, but no inside fittings. The leather was brittle, and peeling off in several places, exposing the wood, and on the bottom of the box the leather was more wrinkled and also peeling off. We took photographs, and then undertook restoration.



It looks better now. John Burridge and I discussed it over several visits, then out of the blue, he offered us this box! He felt that it was much more appropriate in the St John Museum, rather than on his bench, wondering what to do with it. And it wasn't militaria anyway!

We tidied it up for exhibition, after photography of the initial condition.

He kindly donated it to us, and has been most helpful to us, with support and photographs, and providing us with more historical information about this man, so that we now have a very considerable dossier on JA Campbell.



But what was it for?

Regalia? It's the wrong shape and the wrong size, doesn't fit anything.

A swagger stick—again it's all wrong.

The consensus was that it was probably a box made specially for sending perhaps an important St John parchment or other document, rolled, safely from England to Australia by ship. Perhaps something like a Grant of Dignity, though we don't have one among the records.

I think we will never know.

What then is the relevance of this box to us, and to the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia?

We believe it is a very significant artefact, of undeniable provenance, in the history of St John Ambulance in Western Australia. It is an important memorabile of a founding member in Western Australia.

In summary, Lieutenant Colonel JA Campbell KStJ was a distinguished soldier who rose from the ranks. He served as a British soldier in many war areas. He helped significantly to build the colony of Western Australia during its formative years.

He was a most significant foundation member of St John Ambulance in Western Australia, who gave us 33 years of service.

It was his Box, and he kept it, though we are not sure what St John function it had. We believe it is an important acquisition in our record of Western Australia St John history.

A Letter, and a Roll of Honour*

Mr Michael Sellar CSTJ

Three separate Orders of St John were active during the first and second World Wars. The three Orders were:

1. the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (Order of Malta)
2. the *Johanniters* (the German Order only, as the Dutch and Swedish Orders did not become independent until 1946)
3. the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem (St John).

World War I was between Germany, Turkey and the Austro-Hungarian Empire on one side and the Allies (British Empire, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, and later, USA) on the other. The *Johanniters* were active on the German side, had eight hospital trains and were running about sixty hospitals. St John was on the Allies side, and the Order of Malta was active on both sides. Both these latter Orders also operated hospital trains as well as hospitals and treatment centres.



Hospital trains could have operating theatres, pharmacies, and other medical supplies, and could accommodate about 32 casualties in each carriage. They were self-sufficient with on board catering and staff quarters.

In addition to its work with the Red Cross in the Joint War Committee, St John provided reserves to both the Army and the Navy. About 25,000 male members of the St John Ambulance Brigade were trained as either Royal Navy Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserves (RNASBR) or as Military Home Hospitals Reserve (MHHR). When war was declared, about 2000 of these Reserves were immediately mobilised. Most histories give the impression that these men were deployed in France but the reports to the Priory Chapter make it clear that the regular army medical staff were sent overseas from UK-based hospitals and were replaced by reservists. Ultimately, most of the reserve were deployed, and another 25,000 other Brigade members enlisted in the forces. Amongst these were the 130 St John Field Ambulances which were staffed entirely by St John personnel, and was the only unit to wear the St John Cross on their uniforms. About 10,000 female members of St John served in hospitals at home or abroad.

*This was paper was presented during the 2017 Annual Seminar of the Historical Society under the original title, 'The Orders of St John at war in the Twentieth Century'.



130 Field Ambulance staffed entirely by St John Members.



The VADs with the cross on their aprons are Red Cross personnel while the plain aprons are St John.

As part of the war effort the population were encouraged to set up temporary hospitals to assist in the recovery of the wounded. St John had over a hundred of these often set up in Divisional headquarters. The first St John casualty of the war was the temporary hospital set up in West Hartlepool which was hit by shells fired from a German battleship off the east coast of England. Fortunately there were no human casualties.

Fund raising for St John activities was a major concern. There were many Flag Day collections. One of these was commended for raising over £100 by selling single cigarettes at 3 pennies a shot. That means the enterprising nursing members involved sold over 8000 single cigarettes in two days.

The Hospital at Etaples

The St John hospital at Etaples in Northern France was probably the best known St John contribution to the war effort. It cost the Order £75,000, and over its four-year-life it treated about 35,000 patients. In addition to the war contribution the Order carried on its usual activities of providing first aid services and training.



The St John Ambulance Brigade hospital at Etaples in Northern France.
(Top) A general view of the Hospital, and images of surgical wards at the Hospital.

The Letter

On 14 May 1918 the Priory Chapter of St John wrote to the Grand Master of the *Johanniters* requesting he protest to the Kaiser about the sinking of British Hospital Ships by the German navy, and the poor treatment of Prisoners of War. Here is the text of the letter.

14th May 1918.

We, Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, Prince of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Grand Prior of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England, and the Knights of Justice, Knights of Grace, and other members of the said Order, in Chapter-General solemnly assembled, desire to approach the most illustrious Grand Master of the Bailiwick of Brandenburg, and the Knights of Justice, Knights of Honour, and other members of the Johanniter Orden, with regard to certain belligerent acts committed by the Imperial German Government during the present war, which appear to us to be opposed to the declarations, maxims, and professions of our ancient and illustrious Order of Christian Chivalry. Strongly imbued with the spirit of our Order, we would beg of the noble members of the Johanniter Orden to petition his Imperial Majesty the German Emperor, and exercise their influence with the Imperial German Government to prevent henceforth the sinking of hospital ships, to foster in all camps the humane treatment of sick and wounded prisoners of war, and to observe scrupulously all the provisions of the Geneva Convention. We regret to record our opinion that in these respects the Government of his Imperial Majesty has not always acted up to the ideals and laws of our Christian brotherhood. These objects are so much the purpose and goal for which our ancient Order has continually striven, that we appeal with the more confidence to its eminent members in Germany, in the hope and belief that they will unite with us in endeavouring to uphold our historic mottoes, "Pro Fide" and "Pro Utilitate Hominum" and to maintain the highest standard of Christian generosity, charity, mercy and honour.

To the Most illustrious Grand Master of the Bailiwick of Brandenburg of the Johanniter Orden and Knights and Members of the Orden.

*Arthur, Grand Prior,
Herbert Jekyll, Chancellor,
Plymouth, Sub-Prior,
Evelyn Cecil, Secretary-General.*

This letter was published in the British and European press. The *London Evening Standard* accused the Grand Prior of breaching the convention that members of the Royal Family do not comment on political matters, and also of fraternising with the enemy. The Swiss press, however, praised the letter for its humanitarian aims and the diplomacy of its language.

The Roll of Honour

Three days after the publication of the letter, the St John Ambulance Brigade hospital at Etaples was bombed on the 17 May 1918; another followed on 31 May. The casualties from the first bombing were: 1 Officer, '1 Nursing Sister, 167 Other Ranks killed'.

The second bombing saw casualties of '27 Officers, 11 Nursing Sisters, 584 Other Ranks wounded; 18 Other Ranks missing. 1 Enemy Aircraft brought down. Crew of 3 captured. 1 Officer, 4 Other Ranks died in hospital'.



A bombed ward in the Hospital at Etaples, May 1918.

After the war St John commissioned a Roll of Honour book listing the 1011 dead members, which resides at St John's Gate, but during the centenary of World War 1 was carried in procession at the annual church service at St Paul's Cathedral.



Contained herein are
the names of those
Brethren of the Order,
Members of the St. John
Ambulance Brigade and
Members of the Territorial
Branch of the St. John
Ambulance Association
who laid down their lives
for their country in the
Great War of 1914-1918



CREWE DIVISION

Burnell J.I.	Private	Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve
Kinlay A.E.	Private	Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve
Perkins A.	Private	Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve
Russell H.N.	Private	Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve
Russell J.V.	Private	Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve

A Roll of Honour commemorating those members of the Order of St John who died during World War I. Before coming to Australia, the author was an Officer with Number Four District (Cheshire), serving with the Crewe Division.

During World War 2 (1939–1946), the Axis forces consisted of Germany, Italy and Japan; the Allies: the British Empire, France, Poland, USSR and later, the USA. The Order of Malta was most active on Axis side as its headquarters was in Rome. When Italy was defeated, the Order of Malta lost four Hospital Trains to Germany. *Johanniters* was still running about 60 hospitals in Germany, but most of these hospitals were in what became East Germany and on the reunification of Germany, they were found to be so run down as to be irredeemable, so the *Johanniters* was left with about 15 hospitals. The Order of St John worked mainly through a Joint Committee with the Red Cross.

In 1944 there was an assassination attempt on Hitler, involving about 140 senior German military staff, some of whom were members of the *Johanniters*, as well as several from the Order of Malta. At least 12 *Johanniters* and 5 of the Order of Malta were executed by the Nazis.

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Sydney Grammar School and the formation and early years of St John Ambulance in New South Wales.

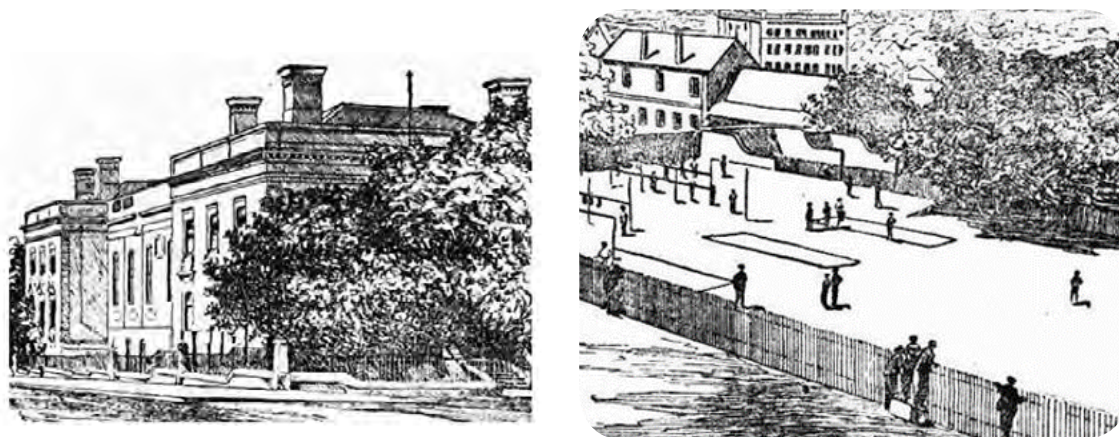
Dr Matthew Glozier FRHistS



The St John Ambulance Association was founded in NSW with early and heavy links to Sydney Grammar School. Old boys, parents and staff from the School were present among the foundation committee members. This heavy involvement stemmed from the influence of men like Albert Weigall, Grammar's headmaster, who shared a strong sense of philanthropic obligation alongside value for uniformed service. The pre-existing Sydney 'establishment' character of Grammar's old boys in part helps explain the remarkably strong Grammar presence in the subsequent creation of the St John Ambulance Brigade in NSW in 1900. However, the strong sense of brotherhood-in-arms forged by combat experience in the Boer War in South Africa also goes a long way to explaining why so many Grammar old boy Brigade committee members were military men and ex-members of the NSW Army Medical Corps. They had already gathered active experience under fire of the application of St John Ambulance theory in the field. The scope of this Grammar involvement in early St John Ambulance activity, and an interpretation of its meaning, is the focus of this paper.

Sydney Grammar School

'Old Sydneian' is the term used to describe the alumni of Sydney Grammar School. The school itself is unique in its creation, being the result of an Act of Parliament in 1854 aimed at establishing an educational institution with the specific purpose of teaching boys to a level that enabled them to matriculate into the newly-founded University of Sydney. The site on which the school sits is much older. Its central room, the Big School room, was the largest internal space in the colony when it was built in 1830 to serve the short-lived Sydney College of Francis Halloran.



Façade of Sydney Grammar School (left) and the playground at College Street (1895).

The college gave its name to College St, occupied by both Grammar and the Australia Museum. In the era that witnessed the establishment of St John Ambulance activity in NSW, prominent old boys of the School included our first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, and a number of military leaders such as Colonel James AK Mackay, Colonel William DC Williams, and Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Chauvel.

Grammar's central city location and its intellectually ambitious mission marked it out from the start as an institution that attracted the sons of NSW colonial elite, aspirant and wealthy citizens. Through the fathers of boys, the School exerted a broad influence throughout the upper echelon of Sydney society and the professions.¹ Significantly, a large number of Sydney's citizens who played a leading role in the early life of St John Ambulance had sons at the School contemporaneously with this philanthropic activity. It is this proximity that makes so meaningful the link between the School and the formation of the St John Ambulance Association. Alongside the children of the colonial elite the School also attracted a range of talented teachers. Grammar's headmaster, Albert Bythesea Weigall, was instrumental in recruiting men of ability as masters. Some of these men remained at the School their whole career, while others' tenure was fleeting. Reuter Roth, who was instrumental in the establishment of the St John Ambulance Association in NSW, falls into the latter category (as does his brother, Walter Roth): both went on to impressive careers in the military or science, where their medical training was employed to good effect.

Thus we are dealing here with a large number of Old Sydneians, current or former masters, and a broad community of Grammar interest (including many prominent parents of Grammar boys), amounting to a disproportionately weighty group among the leadership of NSW society, the professions and the academic world. This sets the scene for the creation of St John Ambulance Association in 1887–1890 (and the subsequent creation of the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1900).

First committee of the St John Ambulance Association

In 1881, NSW witnessed the first classes in ambulance instruction at Eveleigh Railway Workshops, using the rules of the British St John Ambulance Association. These classes were conducted by Dr Samuel Thomas Knaggs MD (Staff Surgeon Naval Brigade). Knaggs had no Grammar connections, but when he helped form the inaugural committee that began the St John Ambulance Association NSW in July 1887, its twenty-one members included seven men with significant links to the school. (like Knaggs, neither the Governor, Premier, Vice-President of the Sydney City Executive Council, EJ Salomons, or future Premier and Prime Minister, GH Reid, had any Grammar links).²

Grammar parents

- Sir Frederick Darley, Chief Justice (1st President of the St John Ambulance Association)³
- Alderman Alban Joseph Riley, Sydney's Lord Mayor (Vice-President)⁴
- JR Street MLA (Secretary)⁵
- Captain Francis Hixson, RN, Commander NSW Naval Forces (committee member)⁶
- Edmund Fosbery, NSW's Inspector-General Police (committee members).⁷



Col. WDC Williams GCB



Major RE Roth



Major Alfred Broughton VD



Lt-Col Robert Vandeleur Kelly CB

- **Old Sydneians**

- Charles James Roberts (Ad.1857; OS 1862)*, Sydney's Postmaster General (Vice-president)
- Captain Alfred Broughton (Ad.1857; OS 1859) (Treasurer).

Of interest, Sir William Windeyer, the man who objected to a Jewish Chief Justice in the form of Sir Julian Emanuel Salomons QC—and in consequence may have single-handedly delayed the initiation of St John Ambulance Association activity in NSW—was himself a Grammar father.⁸ Whatever the cause of the delay between 1887 and 1890, the first actual committee meeting bringing to life the St John Ambulance Association of NSW did not occur until early-1891. By this stage some of the personnel from 1887 had changed and now exactly half of the Ordinary Committee members were men with significant Grammar connections (five out of ten).

Ordinary Committee members (1891)

- Major Arthur Carew Hunt⁹
- Surgeon-Colonel William D Williams (Ad.1872; OS 1873), an Old Sydneian
- Dr Robert Vandeleur Kelly (later Chairman 1892-1902), a Grammar father¹⁰
- Philip Gidley King MLC was a Grammar grandfather, but like the other parents his grandson was attending the school almost contemporaneously with the first meeting of the Association committee¹¹
- Dr Reuter E Roth (later Chairman 1903-9).¹²

Although employed by the school, Roth was no school teacher; but he did show a deep concern for the healthy growth of adolescents. After immigrating to the colony in 1883 he established a private medical practice on College Street, alongside heavy voluntary philanthropic commitments, including the delivery of many public lectures on health-related issues. He was particularly interested in youth physiognomy, exercise, and posture as aids to learning. This, combined with his personal passion for the sport of fencing and his youthful experience with cadets, led to his appointment as Principal Medical Officer of the Public Schools Cadet Force in 1890. His own direct, personal association with Grammar dates from 1896. However, between 1890 and 1892 his brother, a trained surgeon, taught science at Grammar: Mr Walter E Roth.¹³

Significantly, this brought Reuter within the orbit of the School and he stayed close, serving in the NSW Army Medical Corps alongside many Old Sydneians in South Africa during the Boer War (1899–1901). Later on he became a Trustee of the Australian Museum next door to Grammar (served 1906–1921).

The initial 1887–1891 membership of the Associations' committee retained a solid corps at its executive level. However, among the ordinary committee members there was considerable movement and this tended increasingly towards men with links to Grammar. For example, the committee meeting that began the year 1892 included seven men, five of whom were intimately linked to the School.¹⁴

Association Committee members (1892)

- Major Carew Hunt
- Captain Broughton
- Dr Vandeleur Kelly
- Mr Wilfred Docker, a Grammar grandparent whose grandson entered the School the same year he served in the committee¹⁵
- Mr PJ Brennan, a future Grammar father.¹⁶

By the time of this initial 1892 meeting, a vacancy had arisen on the committee and (given the high level of Grammar input by this stage of the story) it should come as no surprise that the place on the Association committee was offered to non-other than the Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School, Albert Bythesea Weigall, CMG (Headmaster, 1867–1912).^{17, 18, 24}

Headmaster Weigall accepted his nomination and attended the meetings of the committee in 1892.²⁶ Weigall appears to have served on the committee for one year only, however it is significant that two years later he engaged a St John Ambulance Association member to deliver classes on

* Ad. = year of entry to Sydney Grammar School; OS = exit year.

first aid and ambulance work in evening classes at College Street. This man was Walter Roth, who had already spent time teaching science at the school and was the brother of Dr Reuter Roth who, a short time later (in 1896), was engaged by Grammar to exercise the boys according to the so-called 'Swedish' system of drill. The headmaster was an energetic advocate of St John's work and he advertised his satisfaction with the results of the work done by both Roth brothers, saying: 'since there is often a close correspondence between the mental and bodily attitude, it [might] have also a distinctly good moral effect on the School'.¹⁹ Though Roth's time at Grammar was brief, consisting of a single year, Weigall's promotion of the work of the St John Ambulance Association created a lasting bond and the School continued to host evening public lectures in first aid and ambulance work.²⁰



Albert Bythesea Weigall
CMG MA

The Boer War

It is impossible to separate Grammar enthusiasm for the St John Ambulance Association from the generally militarist attitude fostered within the School under the leadership of Headmaster Weigall. He led the School's cadet corps in person as its captain, marching it down College Street to farewell the Sudan contingent in 1885. Weigall promoted a spirit of veneration for uniformed military service which saw Old Sydneians volunteer to service in the war in South Africa in staggeringly high numbers. Almost 150 old boys of the School fought in the Boer War.²¹ Among the most prominent of them was Surgeon-General William DC Williams, commander of the NSW Army Medical Corps.



Dr Walter Edmund Roth

Colonel Williams was ably assisted in ambulance services in South Africa by three Grammar fathers:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Vandeleur Kelly
- Major Thomas Henry Fiaschi²²
- Captain Thomas Morgan Martin.²³

Furthermore, two men who were already the nucleus of the St John Ambulance Association also served in the Corps:

- Major Alfred Edward Perkins (Ad.1877), DSO, VD, MB, MCh, MD
- Major Reuter Roth, DSO.



Sir Frederick Darley GCMG

All these men, upon their return to Sydney after the completion of their war service, were instrumental in the promotion of the work of the St John Ambulance Association, the prestige of the Venerable Order of St John, and the creation of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

St John Ambulance Brigade NSW

The St John Ambulance Brigade was formed in NSW in 1900. The Governor, Sir Harry Rawson acted as Patron, and the first President was a Grammar father, Sir Frederick Darley, GCMG.

The first Brigade Committee was headed by an Old Sydneian, Captain George Thomas Lane Mullins (Ad.1877; OS 1879), Chief Superintendent of Police, (later Brigade Commissioner). All four of his brothers had been educated at Grammar.²⁴

The other members included a large number of men who had seen action in uniform in South Africa as members of the NSW Army Medical Corps which, as has been noted, was commanded and staffed by a large number of Old Sydneians.



Lt Col G Lane Mullins

The Brigade's Medical Officers were:

- Lieutenant-Colonel R Vandeleur Kelly (Vice-President)
- Major Reuter Roth (Executive Committee)
- Major Alfred Edward Perkins DSO (Ordinary Committee).

The Vice-Presidents and Executive Committee members included:

- Sir John See (Sydney Lord Mayor) (Vice-President)²⁵
- Mr E Fosbery (Vice-President)
- Dr Thomas Storie Dixson (Ad.1864), MB ChM (Executive Committee; Brigade Deputy Commissioner from 1903), attended Grammar alongside all his brothers.

The Ordinary Committee included:

- Mr James Muir (Ad.1873; OS 1874)
- Lieutenant-Colonel Fiaschi.

Other non-Grammar members of the Ordinary Committee were: Dr A Jarvie Hood, the Rev. Mr SS Tovey, Mr Eldred R Moser, Mr W Buchanan Gray, Mr GH Williams and Mr FJ Collins.



Dr Thomas Storie Dixson

The Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem

Socially, politically and medically prominent leadership of the St John Ambulance Association in NSW created a high level of press interest in the Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem. Several newspapers carried information about the medieval origins of the Order, its recent receipt of royal patronage in Britain, the prestigious link between local activity and aristocratic leadership from the British headquarters at St John's Gate in London, and the names of the privileged few Australian men fortunate enough to receive this 'much-coveted' decoration.²⁶

In late-1901 a Sydney newspaper reproduced images of the medals of the Order with the names of the small number of local men who had received this rare and 'somewhat sparingly bestowed' honour.³⁹ Of the five named Australian recipients of a decoration within the Order, four of them were strongly linked to Grammar:²⁷

- Lieutenant-Colonel R Vandeleur Kelly (Knight of Grace)
- Surgeon-General Williams (Hon. Associate)
- Major Roth DSO (Hon. Associate)
- Major Broughton (Hon. Associate).

Similarly prestigious was the Order's medal for gallantry in saving life. By 1903, no Australian had been awarded this medal, yet Captain Lane Mullins claimed:

It is the intention of the St John Ambulance Association ... to recommend ... cases for the consideration of the Order [and] some cases have recently been investigated.²⁸

The connection to British aristocrats and royalty was, again, a point of honour. It was claimed all was being done 'with the approval of HRH the Grand Prior'.²⁹

By 1905, Australia could boast of having five knights of the Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem; four of them were Grammar men:³⁰

- Surgeon-General Williams CB
- Colonel Vandeleur Kelly CB
- Lieutenant-Colonel Roth DSO
- Major George Lane Mullins.



Hon. Associate badge and neck badge of a Knight of Grace.

Images from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 October 1903, p. 8.

Due to the close personal connections among these men, the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade worked closely together. Furthermore, Storie Dixson and Roth were instrumental in the creation of the NSW Red Cross Society in 1905 with the express aim of 'affording aid to sick and wounded [men] in wars and national disasters'.³¹ Anxious to avoid 'waste and over-lapping of patriotic and benevolent efforts', the Red Cross was established in parallel with St John Ambulance activity with evident oversight of all three organisations by the same cadre of leaders.³²

This leadership set the tone for the 'rendering' arm of St John activity in NSW via the Brigade, with substantial and enthusiastic voluntary service being offered by a large number of Grammar associates in the era leading up to the Great War of 1914 to 1918, and going beyond it into the 1920s. This included Old Sydneians of the calibre of Dr William Clarke (Ad.1865; OS 1868);³³ Dr John Springthorpe (OS 1871);³⁴ Dr William Francis Quaife (Ad.1873; OS 1876);³⁵ Dr Fairfax Ross (Ad.1874; OS 1876);³⁶ Dr Sydney Jamieson (Ad.1875; OS 1876);³⁷ Sir Philip Whistler Street (Ad.1877; OS 1880); Dr Leo EF Neill (Ad.1877; OS 1883);³⁸ Dr Norman James Dunlop (Ad.1879);³⁹ Mr Leonard Dobbin (Ad.1882);⁴⁰ Mr John Cosh (Ad.1886; OS 1891);⁴¹ Dr Esca Morris Humphery (Ad.1887);⁴² Mr James Stewart Hawthorne (Ad.1889; OS 1889);⁴³ Dr Arthur Percy Wall (Ad.1891; OS 1891);⁴⁴ Major Alexander Livingstone Kerr;⁴⁵ Group Captain Hugh Raymond Guy Poate (Ad.1896);⁴⁶ Sir Kenneth Whistler Street (Ad.1902);⁴⁷ Major-General Dr. Frederick Arthur Maguire;⁴⁸ Colonel Thomas Morgan Martin (Ad.1903; OS 1906);⁴⁹ Dr James Murray Gordon Pirie (OS 1916);⁵⁰ The Hon. Sir Leslie James Herron, Twelfth Chief Justice of NSW;⁵¹ Dr William Inglis;⁵² Dr Hugh Harvey Chesterfield-Evans.⁵³

Among Australians abroad, Sir Leslie Boyce (OS 1913)—the Taree-born Old Sydneian Lord Mayor of London in 1954—was an enthusiastic advocate of all aspects of St John Ambulance activity.⁵⁴

The early and heavy Grammar links among the foundation committee members of the St John Ambulance Association stemmed from the influence of a few key individuals. Far from participation in St John facilitating entry into Sydney Grammar School for ambitious parents, it appears more correct to suggest that having boys at Grammar gave influential men like Weigall, who shared a strong sense of philanthropic obligation, to advertise the benefits of Association membership to a more-or-less captive audience. The pre-existing Sydney 'establishment' character of Grammar's old boys in part helps explain the remarkably strong Grammar presence in the subsequent creation of the St John Ambulance Brigade in NSW in 1900. However, the strong sense of brotherhood forged by combat experience also goes a long way to explain why so many Brigade committee members were military men who had served in the NSW Army Medical Corps. They had already gathered active experience under fire of the application of St John Ambulance theory in the field. This alone is a persuasive argument for their motivation in creating the St John Ambulance Brigade after the war.

Appendix 1. Office-bearers of the NSW Centre, St John Ambulance, 1887

This Committee formed due to the encouragement of Lady Brassey in July 1887 with the aim of starting the St John Ambulance Association NSW. It formed at a meeting in Sydney Town Hall at which speeches in support were delivered by Lord Carrington (Governor), Sir Henry Parkes (Premier), Ald. AJ Riley (Lord Mayor of Sydney), Sir Frederick Darley (Chief Justice), EJ Salomons (Vice-President Executive Council), and GH Reid (future Premier and Prime Minister).

Note: underlined names indicate Sydney Grammar School connections.

Patrons	Lord and Lady Carrington
President	<u>Sir Frederick Darley</u> (Chief Justice)
Vice-Presidents	<u>Alderman Alban Joseph Riley</u> (Lord Mayor of Sydney) <u>Charles James Roberts</u> (Postmaster General; Vice-Pres St John) Major-General John Soame Richardson (Commander NSW Military Forces) <u>Captain Francis Hixson</u> (Commander NSW Naval Forces) <u>Edmund Fosbery</u> (Inspector-General Police) Sir Julian Emanuel Salomons QC
Executive Committee	<u>Alderman Alban Joseph Riley</u> (Chairman) Lt Col. TS Parrott (Army Engineers) (Deputy Chairman) <u>JR Street</u> MLA (Secretary) Captain Henry Evelyn Woodville Preston JP (Secretary; replaced Street) <u>Captain Alfred Broughton</u> (Treasurer)
Ordinary Committee	Dr Samuel Thomas Knaggs MD <u>Major Arthur Carew Hunt</u> Hanbury Davies (Crown Council) <u>Colonel WDC Williams</u> Captain JHA Lee (NSW Naval Forces) <u>Dr Vandeleur Kelly</u> (later Chairman 1892–1902) <u>Dr Reuter E Roth</u> (later Chairman 1903–1909) Dr TB Clune Dr Henry Augustus Ellis <u>Philip Gidley King</u> MLC

Appendix 2. Office-bearers of the NSW Centre: St John Ambulance Association, 1890–1931.

✓ indicates Sydney Grammar School connections.

President.	Treasurer.	Chairman.	Secretary.
✓ 1890, Sir Frederick Darley.	✓ Capt. Broughton.	✓ A. J. Riley, Esq.	Claude Solomons.
1891-1892.	Capt. Broughton.	✓ Dr. Vandaleur Kelly.	Miss A. Greenaway.
1893-1896.	E. McDonald, Esq.	Dr. Vandaleur Kelly.	Miss A. Greenaway.
1897-1899.	Frederick Waley, Esq.	Dr. Vandaleur Kelly.	Miss A. Greenaway.
1901-1903.	J. Barre-Johnstone, Esq.	Dr. Vandaleur Kelly.	Miss A. Greenaway.
1903-1904.	J. Barre-Johnstone, Esq.	✓ Major Reuter Roth.	Miss L. F. Lockyer.
1904-1906.	F. J. Hart, Esq.	Major Reuter Roth.	Boles R. Rainsford.
1906-1908.	C. A. Maxwell, Esq.	Major Reuter Roth.	Boles R. Rainsford.
✓ Mr. Justice H. E. Cohen.	C. A. Maxwell, Esq.	Hanbury Davies, Esq.	Boles R. Rainsford.
1909-1910.	E. E. Brooks, Esq.	Hanbury Davies, Esq.	Boles R. Rainsford.
The Hon. Sir William Cullen, K.C.M.G., Lieut.-Governor (1914-1916).	E. E. Brooks, Esq.	✓ Dr. T. Storie Dixon.	Mrs. Aubrey Withers.
	E. E. Brooks, Esq.	Dr. T. Storie Dixon.	Sister A. B. Parry.
	E. E. Brooks, Esq.	Col. J. A. Dick.	Sister A. B. Parry.
1917-1918.	E. E. Brooks, Esq.	E. E. Brooks, Esq.	Sister A. B. Parry.
1920.	E. E. Brooks, Esq.	Dr. Harold Norrie.	Sister A. B. Parry.
✓ 1923-1925, Sir Philip Street, K.C.M.G.			Sister A. B. Parry.
1925-1927.			Sister A. B. Parry.
1928-1930.			Sister A. B. Parry.
1931.	Col. J. C. Selmes, D.S.O., V.D.	T. H. Henderson, Esq.	Sister A. B. Parry.

Notes

1. The Old Sydneians' Union was initiated by Headmaster Weigall in 1893. However, none of the men mentioned in this article served as either President or Secretary of the OSU (although between 1893–1905 Weigall himself presided, as did Prime Minister Edmund Barton and the Hon MH Stephen). The Fathers Association was not formed until 1962. C Turney, *Grammar: A History of Sydney Grammar School, 1819–1988* (Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1989), pp. 382, 392.
2. St John Archives (NSW). Second Annual Report (1st printed Annual Report, 29 April 1892). For this and other information from the St John Archives (NSW), I am very grateful to Betty Stirton
3. His sons, Henry Silvester Darley (Ad.1877; OS 1879) and Cecile Bertram Darley (Ad.1885; OS 1886), were very recently Old Sydneians: SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 144, #1377; Vol. 1, p. 236, #2746.
4. His sons, Spencer Riley (Ad.1888), Howard Birkenhead Riley (Ad.1891; OS 1894), and Alban Richard MB Riley (Ad.1898) all enjoyed attendance at the School immediately following Lady Brassey's promotion of the scheme in 1887: SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 279, #3395; Vol. 1, p. 312, #3897; Vol. 1, p. 380, #4906.
5. Had recently sent two sons through Grammar: John William Street (Ad.1876; OS 1879) and Kenneth Leslie Street (Ad.1883): SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 133, #1207; Vol. 1, p. 223, #2561.
6. He had three grandsons on the cusp of entry into the School: Rowan Purdon Hickson (Ad.1890; OS 1891), William Leeman Hickson (Ad.1890; OS 1891), and Charles Hamilton Hickson (Ad.1891; OS 1891): SGS Archives, *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 293, #3610; Vol. 1, p. 293, #3611; Vol. 1, p. 311, #3876.
7. Had already seen his son, Vincent Frank Fosbery (Ad.1878; OS 1883), pass through Grammar: SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 166, #1705.
8. Edward Windeyer (Ad.1888; OS 1889) entered the School in the year following Lady Brassey's promotion of the scheme: SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 281, #3423
9. His sons, Cyril Owen Carew Hunt (Ad. 1889; OS 1895) and Arthur Lionel Carew Hunt (Ad.1892; OS 1892), were then at school: SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 281, #3423.
10. His son, Robert Hume Vandeleur Kelly (Ad. 1889), was then at school: SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 286, #3510.
11. Arthur Philip Gidley King (Ad.1887; OS 1889): SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 265, #3186.
12. Assistant Master, 1896: *The Sydneian*, Vol. 121 (1895), p. 14.
13. Assistant Master, 1890–1891: *The Sydneian*, Vol. 88 (1890), pp. 8, 10; Vol. 90, pp. 2, 10, 12; Vol. 91, pp. 2, 11; Vol. 92, p. 8; Vol. 93 (1891), p. 7; Vol. 99, p. 8; SGS Archives: Trustees Reports (1890, 1891).
14. Having no Grammar links were Major TS Parrott and Dr TB Clune.
15. Wilfred Brougham Docker (Ad.1892): SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 320, #4016.
16. His son was George Joseph Brennan (Ad.1900; OS 1900): SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 400, #5206.
17. RS Watsford (ed.), *Sydney Grammar School From its Earliest Days* (Sydney: WT Baker and Co., 1924), p. 18.
18. *The Australian Star* (8 February 1892), p. 3.
19. *The Sydneian*, No. 130 (April 1896), p. 1; RE Roth, *A Manual of School Drill and Physical Training* (Sydney, 1904); *The Sydneian*, No. 132 (August 1896), p. 1; SGS Archives: Trustees Report (1896), p. 1; Turney, *Grammar*, p. 119.
20. St John Archives (NSW): Second Annual Report (1st printed Annual Report, 29 April 1892).
21. Matthew Glozier, 'Sydneians in the Boer War' in *Sydney Grammar School Magazine*, No. 3 (Winter 2016), pp. 38–40.
22. Carlo Ferruccio Fiaschi (OS 1896).
23. Harold Joseph Martin (Ad.1895); Harold Morgan Martin (Ad.1900); Charlie Morgan Martin (Ad.1901); Thomas Morgan Martin (Ad.1903; OS 1906): SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, pp. 349, 402, 421, 448, #4449, #5250, #5530, #5940; St John Archives (NSW): *Short History of the NSW Centre of SJAA* (1931), p. 143.
24. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (24 October 1903), p. 8.
25. His sons at Grammar include: Henry Matthews See (Ad.1898) and James Villiers Gray See (Ad.1905): SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 369, #4748; Vol. 2, p. 1, #6279.
26. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (24 October 1903), p. 8. *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser* (28 December 1901), p. 1646.
27. Lieutenant-Colonel Parrott VD was the only man among Australian members of the Order who lacked Grammar connections.
28. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (30 October 1903), p. 10.
29. Ibid.
30. *The World's News* (8 July 1905), p. 9. His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Northcote) was the exception.
31. *The Sunday Times* (14 April 1918).
32. Ibid.
33. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (9 February 1898), p. 3.

34. Joy Damousi, 'John Springthorpe's war' in *The La Trobe Journal*, No. 96 (September 2015), pp. 103-16 @ www.slv.vic.gov.au/sites/default/.../La-Trobe-Journal-96-Joy-Damousi (accessed 26 August 2016).
35. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (10 October 1900), p. 4.
36. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (15 September 1900), p. 13.
37. SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 120, #1020; St John Archives (NSW): Press clipping series: 88 (10 March 1904).
38. SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 142, #1342; St John Archives (NSW): Second Annual Report (1st printed Annual Report, 29 April 1892).
39. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (24 January 1929), p. 12.
40. SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 202, #2247; St John Archives (NSW): Press clipping series: 88 (10 March 1904).
41. *Evening News* (10 July 1901), p. 3.
42. 'Obituary of EM Humphery' in *The Sydneian*, No. 348 (December 1961), p. 119.
43. SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 288, #3536; St John Archives (NSW): 1911—NSW Centre—21st Year of its Existence.
44. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (2 August 1929), p. 12.
45. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (28 November 1913), p. 10; 'Major AL Kerr', *Reveille*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (1 October 1938), p. 25.
46. Ian Howie-Willis, 'Sir Hugh Poate. 'Father' of the Priory in Australia of the Order of St John' in *St John History*, Volume 15, pp. 24–37.
47. SGS Archives: *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Vol. 1, p. 437, #5776.
48. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (18 December 1951), p. 8; *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* (11 June 1953), p. 1.
49. Thomas Morgan Martin (Ad.1903; OS 1906): SGS Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 1, p. 448, #5940; St John Archives (NSW): Short History of the NSW Centre of SJAA (1931), p. 143.
50. *The Biz* (25 March 1964), p. 2.
51. 'The Honourable Sir Leslie James Herron' @ http://www.supremecourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/sco2_aboutus/sco2_history/chief_justices/sir_leslie_james_herron.aspx (accessed 26 August 2016).
52. *Radius: The Magazine of the University of Sydney Medical Alumni Association and the Faculty of Medicine*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (September 2008), p. 20.
53. 'Chesterfield-Evans, Hugh Harvey (1922–2005)' in Plarr's *Lives of the Fellows Online* (15 May 2009) © The Royal College of Surgeons of England Reg Charity no: 212808 @ <http://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs/E000614b.htm> (accessed 5 September 2016).
54. Sydney Grammar School Archives: *Liber Nominum*, Vol. 2, p. 89, #7601; *Daily Examiner* (11 January 1952), p. 4.
55. Sons, Edgar Henry Cohen (Ad.1899) and Cecil Heope Cohen (Ad.1900; OS 1906), attended the School.

Occasional papers

‘With prejudice aforethought’. The depiction of Crusaders, Templars and Hospitallers in the historical novels of Sir Walter Scott and Dorothy Dunnett

Dr Ian Howie-Willis OAM KStJ

I first met the Crusaders in fiction 65 years ago, when I was 14. That year I was awarded the first prize in my Methodist Sunday School class—a book, Sir Walter Scott’s historical novel, *Ivanhoe*.

As I soon discovered, the villain in this adventure story was Sir Brian de Bois-Guilbert, a Knight Templar, a nasty fellow. Wrongly, I assumed that his fellow Knights Templar must also be evil—driven by pride, lust and ambition rather than the precepts of the Christian faith whose emblem they wore.

Wrongly, too, that was the view of the Templars I retained for over 30 years. It was one confirmed by my later reading of Sir Steven Runciman’s three-volume *A History of the Crusades*.

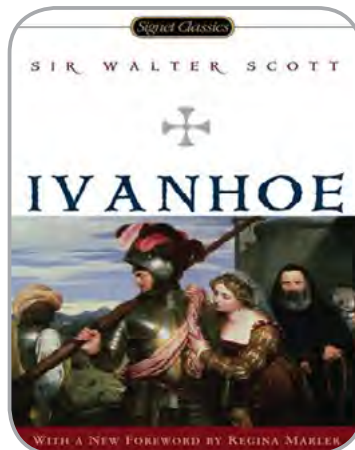
This paper discusses the pejorative depiction of the Hospitallers and Templars in four historical novels by two great Scottish historical novelists—Sir Walter Scott and Dorothy Dunnett, who were writing 150 years apart. The novels are Scott’s *Ivanhoe* and *The Talisman*, in which Templars are among the chief protagonists; and Dunnett’s *The Disorderly Knights* and *Pawn in Frankincense*, in which Hospitallers are.

Sir Walter Scott was the foremost historical novelist of the early nineteenth century. His novels became immensely popular and were translated into many languages. Since the 1820s, when Scott published his Crusader novels, historical fiction has advanced greatly. The historical novel of the early 21st century is accordingly a more sophisticated genre than in Scott’s day. Compared to Scott’s lightweight historical romances, the historical novels of, say, a Hilary Mantel are ‘serious literature’. Scott isn’t in Mantel’s league but more in that of Dan Brown of *The Da Vinci Code* fame.

All ‘serious’ historical novelists observe certain conventions. Historical fiction and empirical history are distinct and separate disciplines, each with its own methodology. For the historian the ‘rules’ are more prescriptive than for the novelist, who is not bound so strictly by events, places and personalities. The historical novelist may invent events and characters but the historian may not.

In both *Ivanhoe* and *The Talisman* Scott painted an ugly portrait of the Templars, who are the villains in each novels.

The plot of *Ivanhoe* essentially reduces to conflict between an ‘honourable’ knight, Wilfred of Ivanhoe, and an ‘evil’ knight, the Templar Sir Brian de Bois-Guilbert. Scott seems to have based his character de Bois-Guilbert on the Preceptor (Master) of the Templars in Scotland 1286–1292, Brian



de Jay. de Jay was notoriously hot-headed, cruel and treacherous; however, he was probably the exception among his brethren rather than the rule. Appointed the Templar Master in England in 1292, he was possibly killed fighting for the English in the Battle of Falkirk in 1298.

In *The Talisman* the plot boils down to the exploits of three heroes, Sir Kenneth (the Scottish Prince Royal in disguise), King Richard the Lionheart and the Sultan Saladin, opposed to whom are the wicked, nameless Templar Grand Master and his accomplice-in-crime, a Crusader baron called Conrade Montserrat.

Both literary critics and historians will disagree with Scott's depiction of the Templars. A literary critic would fault *Ivanhoe* and *The Talisman* because their characterisation is weak. Scott's character development relies on unsubtle, stereotypical 'good'/'bad' and 'honourable'/'dishonourable' dichotomies.

Historians have other reasons for criticising Scott. First, the portrait of the Templars he paints is grossly prejudicial. What Shakespeare did to blacken the character of King Richard III is analogous to what Scott did for the Templars. Both created malign personas for literary purposes, but their creations do not necessarily approximate the facts of history.

As depicted by Scott, the Templars are superstitious, brutal, arrogant and manipulative. Scott portrays Sir Brian and the nameless Grand Masters, whom the reader will infer to be archetypal Templars, as classic villains—psychopaths seeking their own ends whatever the cost.

Then there's the historical authenticity of Scott's novels. There are numerous instances where Scott either gets his history wrong or sets historical fact aside when it might interfere with his plot. For example, which particular Grand Master of the Templars did he have in mind when he created the evil chap in *The Talisman* who is beheaded by Saladin at a banquet for King Richard the Lionheart? Was it the 10th Grand Master, Gerard de Ridefort, or the 11th, Robert de Sablé, the two successive Grand Masters during the Third Crusade? de Ridefort was certainly beheaded, but in 1189 before King Richard arrived in Palestine; de Sablé was Grand Master when the Crusade ended, but died of natural causes the next year, 1193.

Another example: Scott develops a close personal relationship between King Richard and Saladin in *The Talisman*. That relationship, however, was wholly fictitious. Richard and Saladin respected each other from afar but never met, as Scott has them doing on several critical occasions.

Even in his own day, Scott was criticised for his historiography. The great German historian, Leopold von Ranke, Scott's contemporary, was 'offended' by Scott's habit of creating 'historical' portraits that were 'completely contradictory to the historical evidence'. It was Scott's cavalier approach to historiography that convinced von Ranke that history must be source-based.

The principal historiographical objection to *The Talisman*, however, is the book's idealised depiction of Saladin and his Islamic civilization. According to *The Talisman*, Saladin is a chivalrous sophisticate, a cultured polymath with near miraculous healing powers. The historical Saladin seems to have ruled justly and was respected by Crusaders such as King Richard I for his combination of military genius, bravery, magnanimity and ability to compromise. That, however, is not to say that Saladin was the suave, omniscient nobleman depicted by Scott.

Further, Scott depicts Islam as an enlightened religion of peace which only ever fights to defend itself. Other depictions were possible. Thus, Scott failed to consider the possibility that Islam had overrun formerly Christian lands through military conquest and that it was an aggressive, expansionary religion waging continual jihad against Christianity and the West. Nor did it apparently occur to Scott that the Muslim sultans might have been intent on subjugating those they deemed 'infidels' to impose their own uncompromising Islamic world view wherever their conquests took them.

In his bias towards Islamic civilisation and prejudice against mediaeval Western Christendom, Scott employs the same stereotypical dichotomies that he does with his characters. Thus, the Muslims are civilised and sophisticated, the Crusaders primitive and unenlightened. This pejorative duality suffuses *The Talisman*. Most historians would agree that civilizations are too complex and diverse to be so neatly pigeonholed.

Focussing now on the Templars, Scott presents a highly pejorative view. In *Ivanhoe* the Templar de Bois-Guilbert is a 'classic' villain. In *The Talisman* the villain is the unnamed Templar Grand Master,

who plots the assassination of Richard the Lionheart then gets his just deserts when Saladin beheads him at a banquet in Richard's honour. For his part, Richard and other Crusaders are depicted as brave but crude oafs. Were they really? Didn't some possess the finesse which Scott attributes solely to Saladin?

Jonathan Riley-Smith had *The Talisman* in mind when he observed that according to Scott the Crusades were 'the incursions of glamorous but uneducated westerners into a civilisation superior to their own'. At best, Scott provided his vast readership with a warped view of the Crusading era, one biased by its romanticised view of Saladin and Islam.

Scott's prejudicial portrayal of the Templars has greatly influenced public perceptions of what the Templars were like. His depiction of the Crusaders remains influential through film and television adaptations of his novels. *Ivanhoe*, for instance, has been made into five feature films and nine television series, most recently in 2005. As well as that it has been the subject of six operatic adaptations, including by Rossini and Sir Arthur Sullivan. Similarly, *The Talisman* has been subject to various film and television adaptations, most recently fairly loosely in the 2005 Ridley Scott epic film, *The Kingdom of Heaven*.

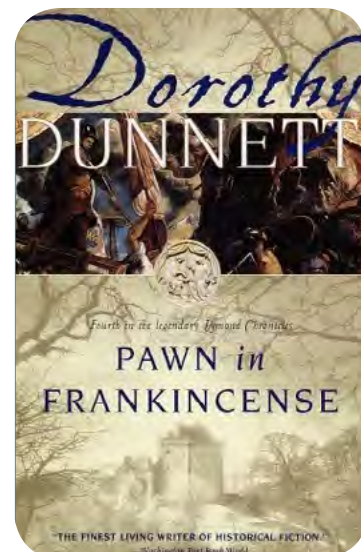
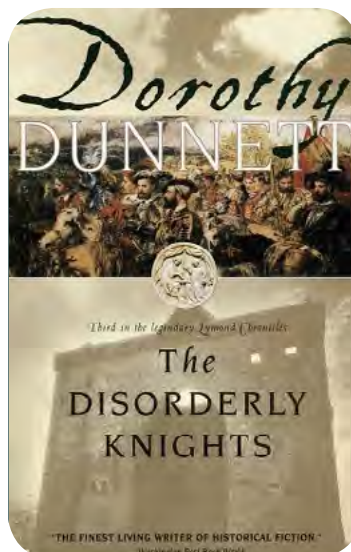
The major objection to such adaptations is that viewers assume they are seeing history accurately portrayed. Sadly, what they see is history both distorted and subverted. As Riley-Smith pointed out, *The Talisman* 'propagated a romanticised view of the Crusades [which] has nothing to do with reality'.

If Scott's view was so wrong, how did he acquire it? Scott was strongly influenced by a Scottish historian of the Enlightenment, the Rev. Dr William Robertson, a Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Principal of Edinburgh University. Despite his ecclesiastical eminence, he preached the superiority of Islamic civilisation over that of the Christian West.

Scott borrowed from Robertson to paint a picture of Crusaders who were vainglorious, avaricious and boorish. Few of them were genuinely moved by religion or the crusading ideal; most had taken the Cross out of greed and ambition. The worst of them were the brethren of the military orders, who may have been courageous but were also arrogant, corrupt and unprincipled'.

The Robertson-Scott paradigm still pervades much popular writing about the Crusades. As Riley-Smith observed, *A History of the Crusades* by Sir Steven Runciman, 'the most admired history in English', was 'almost what Scott would have written had he been more knowledgeable.'

Turning now to Dorothy Dunnett and her Hospitaller novels, Dunnett was greatly disparaging in her portrayal of the Knights of St John during the 1550s. In *The Disorderly Knights* the plot involves a contest of wills between a Scottish Knight of St John, Sir Graham Reid Mallett, and his mortal foe, a soldier of fortune called Francis Crawford of Lymond. This contest continues through *Pawn in Frankincense* until one of them kills the other.



Dunnett has presented a view of the Hospitallers in the mid-16th century that is as pejorative as was Sir Walter Scott's depiction of the Templars in the late 12th century. The arch-villain of both these novels is Sir Graham Reid Mallett. Mallett, an apparently saintly Knight of Malta, who seems to be the very model of Hospitaller virtue; but behind the devout Hospitaller façade is a ravaging, power-hungry psychopath scheming to supplant the 47th Grand Master, Juan de Homedès.

The Grand Master, however, is also corrupt. As portrayed by Dunnett, de Homedès is a miserly, callous, indolent, vengeful, selfish, disorganised despot. As well as all that, he is prejudiced against those of his Knights who are not his fellow Spaniards. The Order he heads is brutal, cruel, arrogant, incompetent and riven by ethnic and national enmities. It is an ugly portrayal. Dunnett's perspective on the Order is encapsulated in the irony of the book's title, *The Disorderly Knights*.

But how accurate is Dunnett's historicity as mediated through these two Hospitallers, Mallett and de Homedès? Mallett, of course, is a fictional creation; and little is known of the personality of the de Homedès of history. Only Dunnett has apparently attempted to put personal flesh upon the 'skeleton' that survives in the historical record. She creates a reprehensible character. She has de Homedès the Grand Master, doing nothing to prevent the Ottomans and Barbary corsairs from over-running Gozo and shipping the island's Christian population away into slavery in 1551. He provides no support for the Order's troops battling vainly to retain their North African bastion at Tripoli but punishes the survivors for losing the stronghold to the Ottomans. According to Dunnett, he has no redeeming features at all!

Dunnett is even-handed in her treatment of the Hospitallers and their Ottoman foes. Unlike Scott in *The Talisman*, she does not romanticise Islam and its rulers. The Ottoman court she depicts is capriciously cruel. It grossly exploits those of its minions who are most vulnerable—the concubines of the harem and the young boys who will one day become its eunuchs. She describes a world of Islam which is cruel, unjust and corrupt. The fate of its individual inhabitants is determined not by the rule of the law or the precepts of religion but by the whim of influential figures of the royal court like Roxelana Khourrem, the consort of Suleiman the Magnificent.

In concluding, I will observe that while Scott's portrayal of the Templars and Dunnett's depiction of the Hospitallers are both historical fiction, they operate at differing levels of literary sophistication and historical authenticity. Scott's Crusader novels are best described as 'entertaining light historical romance' but 'bad history', Dunnett's books as 'good, well-researched history' and 'sophisticated literary fiction'. Dunnett's two novels conform to the conventions of historical fiction and set a standard of historicity that Scott's novels fall far short of. Ironically, while Dunnett is accordingly the more accomplished historical novelist, Scott has been by far the more influential; and unfortunately that has done much to distort popular perceptions of the Crusades and Crusaders.

The Roll of Honour of the Most Venerable Order of St John in New South Wales. First step towards a general history of St John in the Premier State

Dr Matthew Glozier FRHistS FSA Scot

This year I began work on a Roll of Honour of New South Wales members of the Most Venerable Order of St John. The result is a book with the title, *The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in Australia: New South Wales Members, 1895–2017: An Official, Complete, Annotated Listing*.

St John had an early and impressive start in New South Wales, where Australia's initial St John First Aid training occurred in 1881. A state branch of the St John Ambulance Association was formed in 1890. The St John Ambulance Brigade began in Sydney in 1900, by which time NSW could boast of having six members of Queen Victoria's prestigious Royal Order of Chivalry that was the Venerable Order of St John. By 1905, five Australians were Knights of the Order and all of them came from New South Wales. When a national Commandery was established in 1942 (which subsequently became an independent Priory), the State played a key role in Australia-wide leadership through the towering figure of New South Welshman, Sir Hugh Poate, the country's first Bailiff Grand Cross—the pinnacle of achievement within the Order.

Membership of the Venerable Order has always been prestigious and bestowed sparingly. My research confirms that New South Wales adhered to the general Australian trend that the vast majority of members, both in the past and today, come from among the ranks of first-aiders operating within the traditions first established by the Association training arm of St John and by the active-response aspect of the organisation initiated by the Brigade almost a century-and-a-quarter ago. Their achievements are a fitting reflection of the ideals of medieval chivalric self-sacrifice which continue to inspire and inform St John activity world-wide today.

My book is the first ever official, complete, annotated and critical listing of New South Wales members of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. It traces them, their achievements and the history of St John in New South Wales from the first member in 1895 through to 2017. It includes a wide range of Australians with a New South Wales association, either by birth or adoption. For each individual, the book provides (as a minimum) their full name, the date and grade of investiture or promotion within the Order, and reference notes for the origin of the information. In many cases it has also been possible to include biographical details, for example an investiture citation or newspaper article.

Some background on the author. My short-term passage to St John history began with my preparation of a book on participation in the Boer War, 1899–1902, by Old Boys and Masters of the school at which I teach, Sydney Grammar School. One of those participants particularly attracted my attention—Reuter Emerich Roth. I began work on a biography of Roth and this is the factor that drew me into contact with the highly active and effective St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia. Dr Ian Howie-Willis and Professor John Pearn encouraged me to present a paper at the annual history seminar in 2017, so I prepared a study on the origins of St John Ambulance in New South Wales. In the era of the 1880s and '90s, graduates of Sydney Grammar School dominated the Professions in Sydney; especially medicine. As a result, many Old Sydneians were involved heavily in the formation of the St John Ambulance Association in 1890 and the subsequent creation of the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1900. Many of them (like Roth) were uniformed medicos who served in South Africa in the NSW Army Medical Corps, thus bringing together several different strains of my research and writing work over the previous few years.

My book is the result of extensive research in the archives of St John Ambulance Australia (NSW). I was drawn into the archive during my research on Roth and the Old Sydneians who promoted

St John activity in New South Wales. I experienced the kind welcome of Mrs Betty Stirton OAM DStJ, the long-term NSW Archivist who has done so much to preserve and build the St John history collection in the state. My research prompted me to consider expanding my investigation of the origins and subsequent history of St John Ambulance in New South Wales. A logical starting point was to discover the identity of key leaders and personalities from start to present; a list was in embryo. And so I began work on constructing a nominal roll of members of the Venerable Order of St John, as this honour was (and remains) the ultimate way to recognise the sustained and long-term hard work of St John volunteers. Thus, this book is necessary both because it fills a gap in St John historical knowledge and because it is an important stepping-off point for a full-scale official history of St John Ambulance in New South Wales.

During my recent Long Service Leave, I was privileged to spend a couple of days each week in the archives, under the welcoming and supportive care of Mrs Stirton. I got to know the collection and to test it in terms of how much biographical information it contained on individuals who had been honoured with membership of the Order. As it turned out, there was a wealth of data relating to the service history of Order members. There is also a rich photographic archive, with a pleasing emphasis on annual investiture ceremonies held at Government House. All of this material provided details about the lives and activity of Order members. Among them are included some very prominent public figures, colourful characters and ordinary Australians, all of whom were committed deeply to the finest traditions of public philanthropy and the betterment of the human condition.

It is my intention to keep adding to the Roll of Honour of New South Wales members by producing supplementary volumes covering every subsequent five-year period of investitures and promotions within the Order. These additional volumes will form part of a definitive and reliable ongoing record.

Contributing authors

Dr David Fahey CSTJ is a consultant anaesthetist at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. He is also a clinical senior lecturer in anaesthetics at the University of Sydney and an examiner for the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Within St John, he is the Historical Society's Deputy President and the Assistant Commissioner (Clinical) for St John Ambulance in New South Wales.

Dr Brian J Fotheringham AM KStJ was the Historical Society's inaugural President. A retired medical administrator, he is a former Commissioner for St John Ambulance in South Australia, where he is currently the Chairman of the State branch of the Historical Society and Curator of its Museum.

Dr Matthew Glozier FRHisS FSA Scot teaches History at Sydney Grammar School. He is an Honorary Associate in the Medieval and Early Modern Centre at the University of Sydney, and Official Historian of the Australian Air Force Cadets. Matthew is also President of the Sydney Society for Scottish History. His extensive published works examine issues surrounding international mercenary army communities, especially Scots and French Protestant Huguenot soldier diaspora. Matthew is also very interested in Australian military history, including that of the RAAF, Cdets and the Boer War. His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, Governor-General of Australia, launched Matthew's most recent book celebrating Air Force Cadets' 75th anniversary 1941–2016 at Government House (Canberra) in February 2016. He is currently researching a biography of Brigadier-General Dr Reuter Roth.

Dr Ian Howie-Willis OAM KStJ is a professional historian. As well as being the Historical Society's Editor and a former Priory Librarian, he is the historical adviser to the Office of the Priory of St John Ambulance Australia.

Mr Peter LeCornu KStJ is a former Priory Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Office of St John Ambulance Australia. He started working at the National Office in 2004 as the National Training Manager, after a long career in vocational education and training. He was promoted to CEO in 2009 and retired from that position in 2015. He is a keen walker and walked the ancient El Camino de Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route in 2015.

Dr J Alan Mawdsley OAM KStJ is the Historical Society's President. A retired psychiatrist, he is a former St John Ambulance Commissioner for Victoria, where he is currently the Secretary of the Historical Society's State branch.

Mr Trevor Mayhew OAM KStJ has held many positions in St John Ambulance in New South Wales after joining as a Cadet in 1953. Most recently he was the State Ceremonial Officer. A retired occupational health and safety manager, he also spent 14 years in the Army Reserve in both the medical and signals corps, in which he was a warrant officer.

Major-General John H Pearn AO GCStJ is a former Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force and a Professor Emeritus in Paediatrics at the University of Queensland. He is currently the Priory Librarian for St John Ambulance Australia.

Dr Harry Oxer AM ASM KStJ is a retired anaesthetist. He spent the first part of his professional career as a Medical Officer of the Royal Air Force. After migrating to Australia in 1976 he was a senior consultant at the Fremantle Hospital. Until his retirement, he was simultaneously the Medical Director of the St John Western Australian State Ambulance Service. Dr Oxer is the Historical Society's immediate past President and is currently the Director of Ceremonies for the Commandery of the Order of St John in Western Australia.

Mr Michael Sellar CSTJ life-long involvement in St John Ambulance began in England at the age of 18 in 1955. He migrated to Australia with his wife and three sons in 1972. On retirement, he undertook theological studies, graduating with a B.Th. degree from the Melbourne College of Divinity. He linked up with St John Ambulance again after moving to Victoria and has given the St John organisation there many years' service, most recently as the President of the Historical Society's Victorian Branch.



‘Preserving and promoting the St John heritage’

The front cover of *St John History* Volume 18 displays a portrait of Annie Duncan who earned a niche in Australian history as one of Australia’s first experts in the specialised field we now call ‘occupational health and safety’. In St John Ambulance, however, we remember her for having brought the St John first aid course to Tasmania (in Launceston) and for having given Tasmania its first St John training centre.

Annie spent eight years in Tasmania (1885–1893) and even though her St John Ambulance Centre disappeared soon after she left Launceston, we hope she hasn’t been entirely forgotten. She had recognised a local need and took effective action to satisfy it. Tasmania consequently became the third Australian colony after Victoria and South Australia to benefit from a sustained St John Ambulance presence.

Cover images: Annie Jane Duncan, 1883 (item number B10480); Mounted Police Barracks (B10473), Old Government House, Belair (B6417)—all obtained from the State Library of South Australia, with thanks.

Cover design: Ryan Kellow, St John Ambulance Australia Inc.