

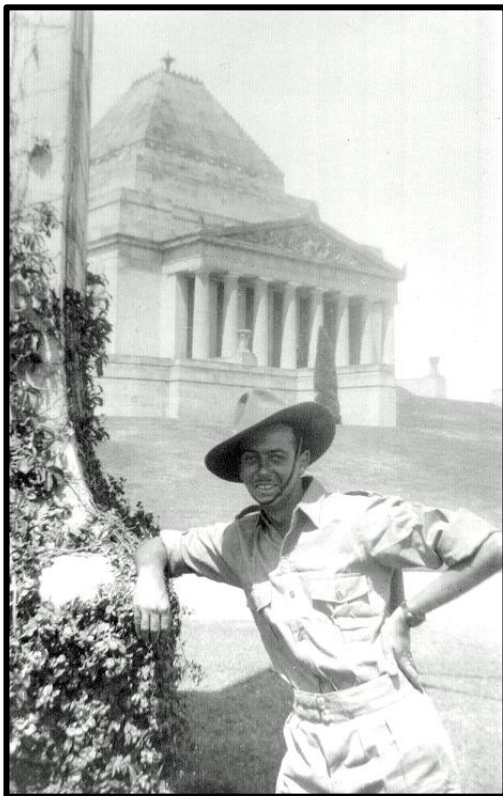
Preserving Memories

A joint project of the City of West Torrens and the West Torrens Historical Society

FRANK & LILY (MARY) PRETTEJOHN, Brooklyn Park

From information provided by Mary in 2000 and updated 2022 (personal quotes in italics).

**FRANK AND MARY WERE MARRIED OVER 60 YEARS AND RECEIVED
A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN.
IN 2021 MARY CELEBRATED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY.**



Frank Prettejohn, during World War 2



Mary Prettejohn, 1940



Frank and Mary Prettejohn, 1987

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Frank's Family Background

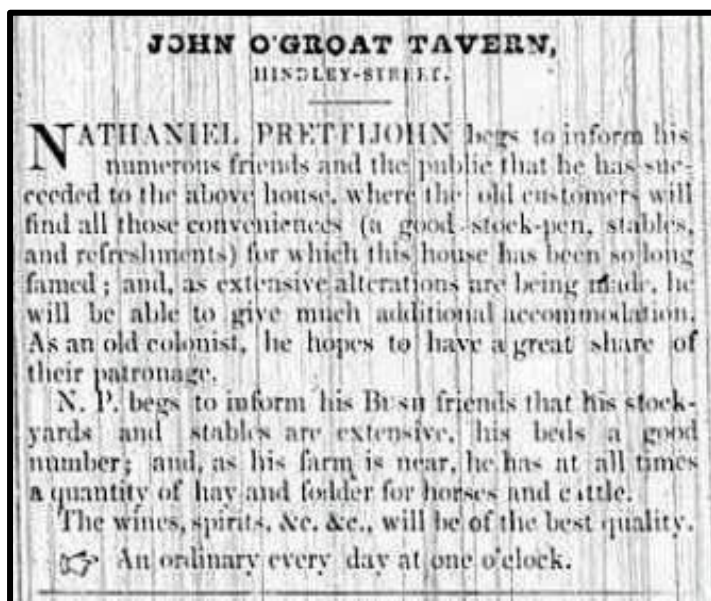
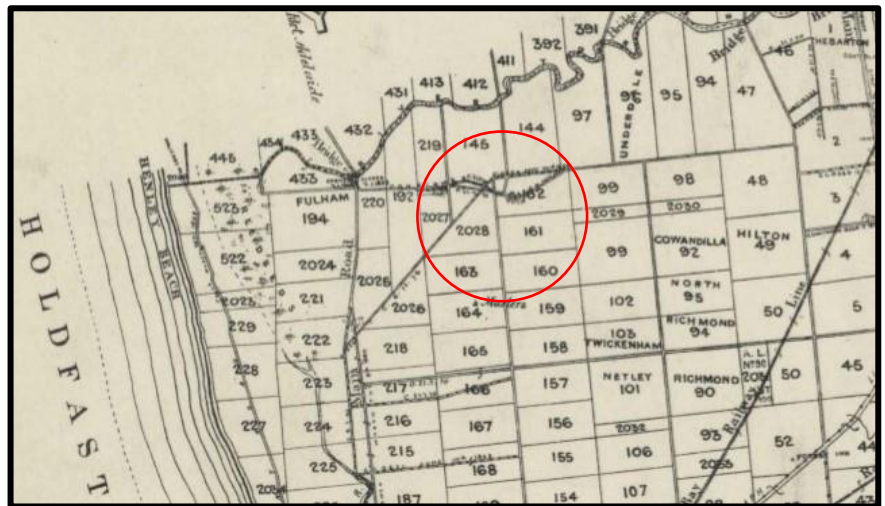
Frank's paternal great grandparents

Frank's great grandparents Nathaniel & Mary Gillard Prettejohn, with four children, left Devon in 1839, on the *Orissa* and arrived in South Australia in 1840.

Their children were:

- Mary Jane Prettyjohn
- Philip Prettejohn
- Nathaniel Prettejohn
- Elizabeth Anne Gillard Prettejohn

They settled in District A, Section 161, Brooklyn Park on a farm of three acres. It was enclosed by posts and rails, included a house, stockyard and a well sixteen feet deep containing three feet of water.



South Australian Register 1 April 1846

Nathaniel after obtaining a liquor license in March 1845, established the "John O'Groat Tavern" in Hindley Street in 1846.

Another son, Peter Gillard Prettejohn was born on 31 May 1846 in Hindley Street.

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Frank's paternal grandparents

Frank's grandfather John Prettejohn Gillard Prettejohn, was born 25 April 1842 in Reedbeds. Frank's grandmother Caroline Eliza Hyne, was born 27 September 1845 in Adelaide.

Frank's Father

Harry Gillard Prettejohn was born 29 April 1880.

1880. District of Adelaide									
Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Deputy Registrar	Name of Field after Registration of Birth
April 29 th Harry 1880	M		John Gillard Prettejohn	Caroline Eliza Hyne	Farmer	John Prettejohn, Father, Reedbeds	7 th June 1880	John A. Hunt	Plunkett

Entered at the General Registry Office, this 7th day of June 1880.

John A. Hunt
Deputy Registrar

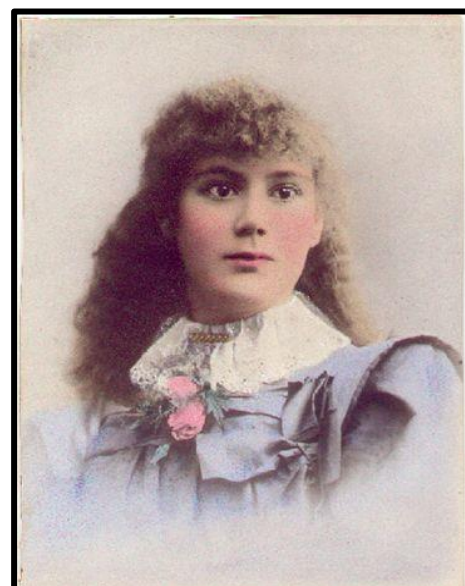
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION OFFICE
ADELAIDE
I hereby certify that the above particulars are contained in an Entry in the Register kept in the Office in the State of South Australia. Given under my hand and seal this 22nd day of MAY, 2000

J. B. Ryan
Registrar

Harry Gillard Prettejohn, birth certificate, 1880

Harry's first wife and children

Harry Gillard Prettejohn married Florence May Holman (born 14 April 1881) on the 5 October 1904 at the Baptist Church in Hilton. They lived in Bagot Avenue, Hilton.



Florence May Holman, circa 1890

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Harry and Florence had three sons:

- Stanley Gillard Prettejohn
21 Oct 1905 - 31 Mar 1977
- Gordon William Prettejohn
26 Nov 1907 - 18 Aug 1958
- Wilfred Holman Prettejohn
15 Jan 1913 - 21 Jun 1991

Florence died on 14 December 1914.

On 3 September 1918, Harry Gillard Prettejohn purchased 4 Gertrude Street from Herbert Skuse.

Harry and his sons moved there.



Wilfred, Stanly Gordon Prettejohn, circa 1918

Frank's Mother (Harry's second wife)

Chrissie Julia Butterfield was born 30 November 1880 in Giles Corner, to parents Henry George Butterfield (born 9 August 1858 at Reedbeds), and Julia Thomasine Hill (born 6 April 1861 at Fairview Farm, near Tarlee).



*Butterfield family / Chrissie Butterfield bottom RHS
[WTHS LH0590-05]*

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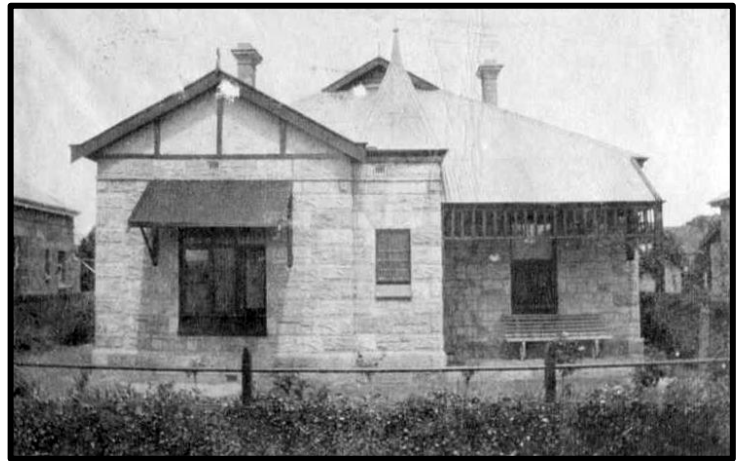
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Harry and Chrissie's marriage



Harry Gillard Prettejohn and
Chrissie Julia Butterfield, 1918

The marriage of Harry Gillard Prettejohn, son of the late Mr. Prettejohn, Brooklyn Park, to Chrissie Julia Butterfield, of Lockleys, late of Fulham, eldest daughter of Mr. H. G. Butterfield, was celebrated at the Brooklyn Park Methodist Church on Saturday, March 2, 1918 by the Rev. W. H. Hanson. The bride, was given away by Mr. H. G. Butterfield. Mr. and Mrs. Prettejohn are spending a few days at Victor Harbour. [sic] [The Mail, 9 March 1918 p6]



4 Gertrude Street, Brooklyn Park Extension



Stained glass
window installed at
the Brooklyn Park
Methodist Church
in honour of Harry
Prettejohn

In August 1922, 4 Gertrude Street was placed in the joint names of Harry Gillard & Chrissie Julia Prettejohn.

Harry died of Tuberculosis on 7 November 1937 at Bedford Park Hospital after being in the Kalpara Hospital, Belair for seven years. He was buried at Cheltenham Cemetery after a graveside service.

On 22 March 1955, Chrissie sold 4 Gertrude Street and moved to 156 Marion Road, West Richmond to live with her son Frank and his wife Mary.

Chrissie died aged 87 on 13 July 1969 at the Lurline Community Hospital at Mile End, after only being ill for a few days. She was buried at the Cheltenham Cemetery after a service was held at the Brooklyn Park Methodist Church on May Terrace, Lockleys.

It was a very nice service, but she was not actually buried until the next day, as there was a gravediggers strike. We nearly missed the burial as we were at the wrong gate, dreadfully upsetting at the time.

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Frank Harry Prettejohn

Frank was born on the 15 April 1919 at 4 Gertrude Street, *Brooklyn Park Extension*, Lockleys, South Australia. He weighed 4lbs at birth. He was the first and only child of Chrissie Julia & Harry Gillard Prettejohn, both 38 years old, with Frank being Harry's fourth son.

PRETTEJOHN (nee Butterfield).—On the 15th April, at Gertrude-street, Lockleys, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Prettejohn—a son (Frank Harry).

Chronicle, Sat 26 April 1919, p31



Chrisse, Frank and Harry Prettejohn, circa 1926

Frank was baptised at the Brooklyn Park Methodist Church, May Terrace, Lockleys.

Members of the family lived at 4 Gertrude Street from 1918 to 1955.

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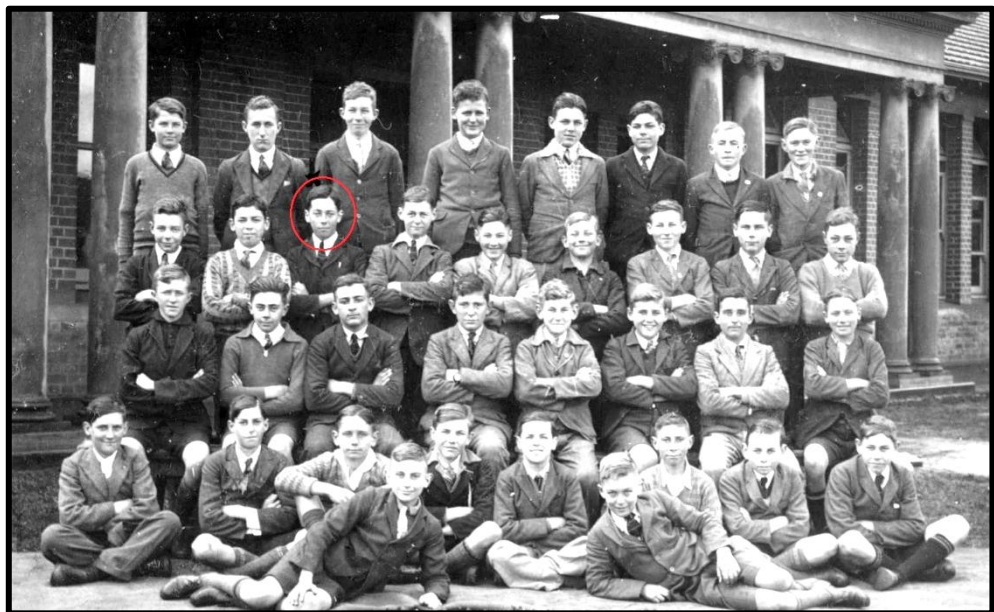


Stanley, Wilfred, Frank and Gordon Prettejohn at 4 Gertrude Street

Schooling

Frank attended Lockleys Primary School up to grade 7, around 1930.

From there he went to Thebarton Technical School, probably for a couple of years, I am not sure.



Frank (aged 15) Thebarton Technical School

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Sport

Frank was a good sportsman and played cricket for the Lockleys school.

With his brothers and school friends they would play cricket in the backyard of their home.

They were of course, Australia versus England no less. Bob Hank and Keith Stanford, who eventually played for South Australia, were some of Frank's mates in those days.

Frank played football for the Brooklyn Park Methodist Church in the Association for Church groups.

He also played tennis for Mellor Park in the District Association. Mary remembers that he played in the higher grades. *In those days these areas would have 4 to 5 teams, so you gradually worked your way up.*

Grandma Julia Butterfield on the corner of Henley Beach Road and Gertrude Street, (next to Frank's home) had a tennis court, built by his older brothers. (This is where the Brooklyn Park Post Office is now).



Gertrude Street, 1949 [WestMaps Public]

It was dirt but compressed very hard somehow, but they had lots and lots of fun. Frank always said having the tennis court at home helped him accomplish a high standard of play.

One local boy, Bob Rowan, would watch them play tennis from outside the fence, Frank invited him to play, and they became lifelong friends.

Frank's brother Stan took him to his first football match when he was in his teens. They went to see West Torrens play and he remained a loyal fan his entire life.

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Music and Singing

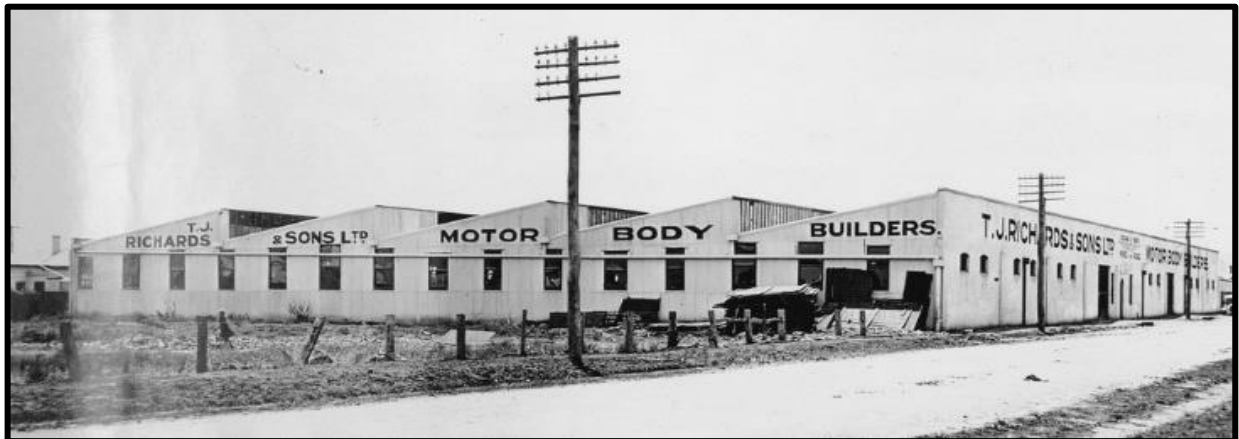
Mary was told that before she met Frank he had a stutter, and that it was suggested to his mother that singing may help with this.

He learnt to sing with Mrs. Dutton who lived near his home. She was an English lady and was known in the music circles as "Madam Silcock". [This was a title used in England if they had all qualifications to teach music, singing etc.] She taught him to do breathing exercises and eventually Frank became known as a Baritone, (in between Tenor & Bass).

Occupations

Frank's first job was in the office of T.J. Richards, a motor car building business, who were later taken over by Chrysler Aust. Ltd.

After a year, he was not happy in this job and looked elsewhere.



*T.J. Richards & Sons Ltd. 'King of the Road' Motor Body Building Factory, Keswick, S.A. 1922
[SLSA B28400/3]*

He became an apprentice painter to Mr. Johnston, Master Painter / House Decorator. Mr. Johnston was trained in England and was a very good teacher of his trade.

Frank was considered an excellent tradesman.

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Mary's Family Background

Mary's Paternal Great Grandparents

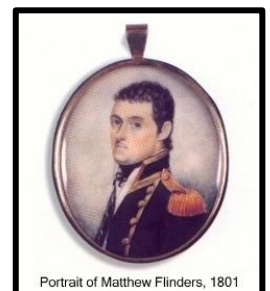
Mary's great grandfather was Dr Henry Chambers who was born 1816 in Sheffield, England and died 10 July 1881 in Koringa (Home for Incurables) Fullarton. He left England and arrived in Port Adelaide on 18 January 1846 on the *Kingston*, as the ship's surgeon.



Mary's great grandmother was Christian Cock. She was born 1826 in Fife, Scotland and died 7 December 1867 in Kadina. She, with her parents Robert and Catherine Cock and five siblings, sailed on the *Buffalo* arriving at Glenelg on the 28 December 1836.

Henry and Christian were married on 15 March 1847 in Mount Annan, near Balhannah.

Mary has an auspicious family connection with Captain Matthew Flinders, her half 3rd great uncle, who was the first person to circumnavigate Australia. In 1802 he mapped the coast of South Australia.



Mary's Paternal Grandparents

Mary's grandfather, Henry Chambers, was born 24 August 1855 in Port Adelaide and died 16 March 1921 in Kadina.

Mary's grandmother, Ellen Louisa Clift, was born 20 February 1859 in McLaren Vale and died 27 May 1946 in Adelaide.

They were married on 21 December 1876 at St. Mary's Church in Wallaroo.



Chambers family
(Back: Ted, Bill, Ellen, Henry, Flinders; Front: Alec, Frank)

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Mary's Maternal Grandparents

Mary's grandfather, David Snodgrass, was born 19 January 1834 in Paisley, Scotland. He arrived in Australia, October 1849 on board the *Macedon* and died 2 February 1910 in Wallaroo.

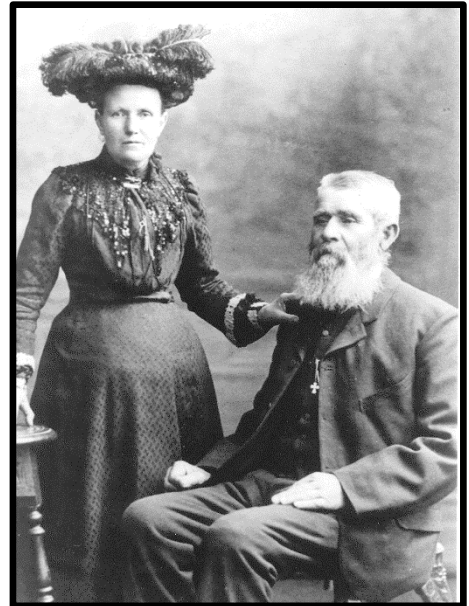
Mary's grandmother, Ellen Robinson, was born 1 December 1848 in Cheshire, England. She arrived in Australia 8 November 1849 on board the *Duke of Wellington* and died 20 October 1937 at Sunny Brae farm, near Wallaroo.

They were married 20 October 1868 in Alma Plains.

David and Ellen Snodgrass had sixteen children which included twins Annie Lowrie and Frances Tweed (Fannie) born 13 June 1879 at Sunny Brae farm, Wallaroo.

They were identical twins and always dressed the same. Annie died 10 April 1961 in Torrensville and Fannie died 25 May 1964 in Torrensville.

The "twin aunts" as they were known, played an important part in Frank and Mary's life.



Ellen & David Snodgrass



Annie & Fannie Snodgrass 1959

Parents



Mary's Father

Flinders Frederick Chambers was born 22 July 1888 at Kadina, and died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville of Bilateral Pneumonia on 12th August 1973.

His name acknowledges the family connection with Captain Matthew Flinders.

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Mary's Mother

Lily Mary Snodgrass was born 14 November 1888 at Wallaroo, and died at the Masonic Village, Somerton Park on 15 January, 1975.

Mary's Parents Marriage

Flinders and Lily were married on 6 August 1913 and is recorded as being held at the residence of Ellen Snodgrass, Hundred of Wallaroo.

Both were buried at Centennial Park, South Australia



Flinders and Lily Chambers, 1913

Lily Mary Chambers (Mary)

Lily Mary Chambers, (known as Mary) was born on 24 February 1921 at 14 Darebin Street Mile End, South Australia.

She was the fifth child and second daughter to Lily Mary (née Snodgrass) and Flinders Frederick Chambers

She was baptised at the Holder Memorial Methodist Church.



*Chambers Family 1923, Flinders, Murray, Ellen, Lily
Front: Mary, Jock (in chair), Doug*

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Mary's siblings were:

Irene (Ellen) 1914-2005 (*Davies*)

Murray Flinders (Flin) 1916-2000

Henry Franklin (Jock) 1917-1987

Douglas George (Doug) 1919-1997

David Matthew (Matt) 1925-1994



back row - Irene (Ellen), Douglass (Doug), Lily (Mary), David (Matt)
front row - Murray, Lily, Flinders (Flin), Henry (Jock)

The Chambers family lived at 14 Darebin Street, Mile End, from about 1919 to 1961.

Flinders and Lily Chambers then moved to 118 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville (the home of Annie and Fannie Snodgrass).



14 Darebin Street, Mile End

School

Mary went to the Thebarton Girls School on Henley Beach Road, through to year 10.

I hated the years 8, 9 & 10, because I did Home Science Studies, besides normal classes - this was Art, Dressmaking, Laundry & Cooking

Guides

During Mary's years at school she belonged to the Guide movement, firstly as a Brownie then a Guide. She was a pack leader and then a Tawny Owl for the Brownies when in grade eight.

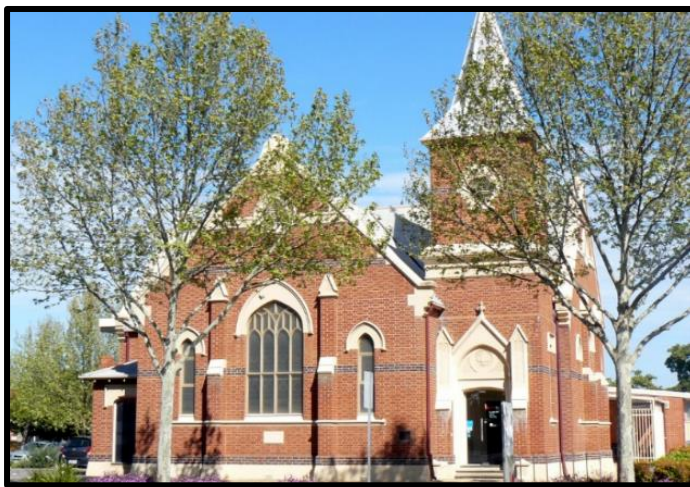
There were about four of us Guides who used to walk home together, on the way home we had a penny each to spend and when I think of the shop keeper Mrs. Narely, she used to get all these boxes of lollies out I now realize she was a martyr.

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Sports

I played basketball from the junior's right through to A grade for the school (years 8, 9, 10), until I was 17. We had a terrific time, after we had played from about 15, we used to go to dances, if we had boyfriends they came, naturally, but we went as a group all-round the place.



Holder Memorial Church, Mile End, A grade premiers, 1939 (LH0046-07) Mary Chambers first from left in Middle row

Holder Memorial Church

Mary's family attended the Holder Memorial Methodist Church on Fisher Terrace (now South Rd) at Mile End. She recalls that when she was old enough she went to Christian Endeavor at 10 o'clock, then to church at 11, home for lunch and then back to Sunday School.

Holder Memorial had a Sunday school picnic in the October holiday. They would hire a train, (Mary jokes: *Yes that's no fairy tale*), for the children and parents, because as Mary recalls there were 409 children attending the Sunday school.

They would walk from the Holder Memorial Church through to the Mile End railway station and go to Blackwood, Belair or Long Gully. She says they only went to Long Gully twice. This location was discontinued as the more adventurous children of the group incurred sprained ankles and wrist injuries.

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Mary attended the Sunday School Anniversary events held between 1926 and 1931. These were initially held in the Old Thebarton Town Hall, on South Road towards Thebarton Oval, then as the numbers attending increased it was held in the 'New' Thebarton Town Hall which opened in 1928. [This is now the Thebarton Theatre]

The men used to have to put the platform up after the pictures were finished at 11pm. We had one session at 10am, home for lunch, then at 2pm and 7pm, then back on Monday night for prizes.



Holder Sunday School Anniversary, Ern Odgers would assemble the platform in the Town Hall [WTHS 0046-26]

Quite a few times I was one of the young ones who had to recite a Bible Passage. I also several times sang with 3 other girls. They always had an orchestra. One year there was only 4 pianos. Girls were in white dresses & boys dark pants & white shirts.

When I was about sixteen, (1937), I joined the Church Choir, that was good fun too, because there were so many young ones in it. We used to give concerts round various churches and occasionally they hired a bus and we went into the country or the hills area.

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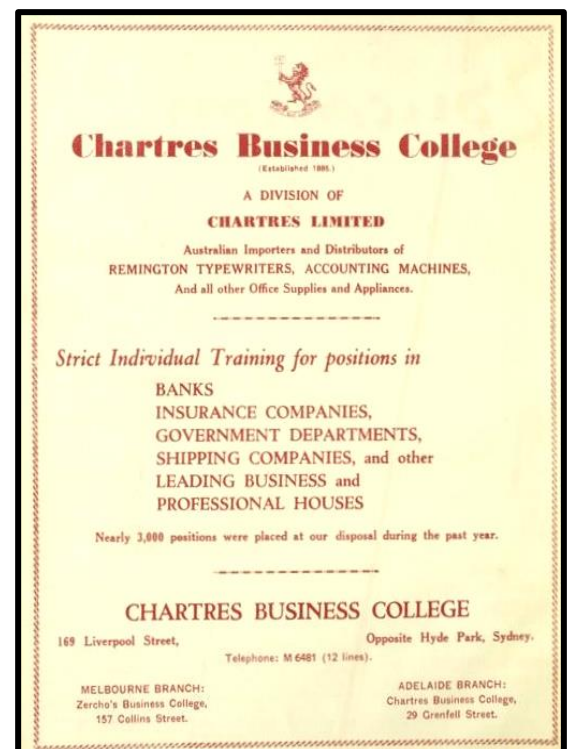
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Mary's first occupations

When I finished Grade 10, Dad sent me to the Chartres Business College, where I learnt shorthand, bookkeeping & typing. I really loved that.

I used to see Frank there who was attending a business course.

He was a bit of all right.



*Education Vol.23 No.1 (15 November 1941)
[nla.gov.au/nla.obj-571627542]*

Mary started working around 1937, just before turning 16. Her first job was at General Motors Holden, Woodville as a secretary to the Inward Store Manager.



Holdens Railway station, Woodville, (on the Grange line) 1949 WestMaps

She would take a tram to Adelaide and there was a special train (and fares) for Holden's staff, which stopped at the Holden's Woodville station.

From there I had a good 10 minute's walk to where my office was.

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There was a special train to take us back to Adelaide when we knocked off. If we worked overtime we had to go to Port Road to catch a bus, it took all my overtime pay to get home.

Mary's wages were 5/- a week and she worked at this job for about 18 months.

Mary's next job was with A.W. Dobbie & Co. in Adelaide. She was the secretary to the Manager.

[In 1862, Alexander Dobbie, a Scottish immigrant, had completed his apprenticeship as a brass moulder and commenced his own foundry business in Gawler Place, Adelaide. It originally produced religious iconography for local churches (brass crosses, candlesticks, vases, offertory, etc.), by 1885 was known as A.W. Dobbie & Co. www.dobbie.com.au]

At the time Mary worked there she recalls that they sold milk separators, sewing machines and wirelesses.



Gawler Place 1924 [SLSA B2204]

Continually looking to improve her skills, after 12 months, she went to work at Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Co. as secretary to the accountant.

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Frank and Mary

Mary was a member of the Holder Memorial Church Choir when Frank's music teacher Mrs. Dutton encouraged him to also join. Mary also learnt from Mrs. Dutton, and she encouraged their friendship. *She would schedule his lessons to follow mine & allow 10 minutes to walk me to the tram. We were both around 17 to 18 years old.*

The singing lessons had helped reduced Frank's stutter so by the time Mary met Frank, it was only on rare occasions he stuttered.

Frank had also learned to play the piano and Mary recalls that he was a really good pianist.

Many times when our crowd from Holder Memorial Church would go to each other's home after church he would play, and we would have fun having a sing song.



Holder Memorial Church Choir, 1938, (LH0046-01)
4th from left Second Row: Frank Pettejohn / 2nd from right Third Row: Mary Chambers.

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World War 2 (Frank)

Mary recalls that World War 2 changed their lives.

All but one member of their Holder Memorial Church Choir joined the forces.

Some were killed and it really was a sad time when this happened because we had been such good friends all of us.

Frank enlisted in the Army Imperial Forces on 6 August 1941 and is recorded as a Sapper, (a soldier who performs military engineering duties). He was first sent to Long Island near Murray Bridge.



Frank's painting skills were used to paint signs and special camouflage work. His friend Cohen, who was a carpenter by trade, often made the signs.



Mary and Frank in Mildura, 1943

He served a second stint in the Australian Imperial Forces stationed at Bonegilla (near Wodonga, Victoria), 2nd Armoured Division, Engineers section. This was disbanded as a unit and became 2/4th Australian Field Squadron which moved to Benalla, Victoria.

Frank went to a local church and they invited him to join the choir with a couple of others from his unit. He sang several "solos" whilst in Benalla.

(In later years, Frank and Mary returned to this church and discovered that the current organist was the son of the organist during Frank's military time).

Frank was well respected amongst his Army friends. Mary was heartened to receive letters from one hospital attendant who said they would look after him when he returned to the unit.

Frank served in New Guinea on 31 March 1943 to 12 November 1944 and Dutch Borneo 26 May 1945 to 4 December 1945. He was discharged on 17 December 1945.

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World War 2 (Mary)

In 1940, when Mary was working at Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Co., she applied to work at the Postmaster General's Department (PMG).

They had advertised a six week training course for Machine Telegraphists.



The Mail, Sat 2 Nov 1940

I was accepted to train and on passing the course started work in the Telegraphist Office. Our group of ten were the first women to accept the idea of relieving men to go to war.

It was an eye opener, this huge place, with over 200 men, some doing Morse code others Telex, and a few on the Murray Multiplex Machines, as ours were called.

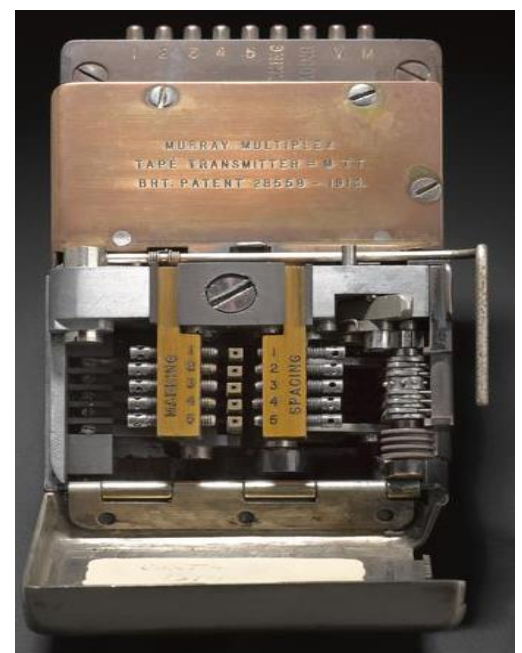
They talk about sex discrimination now. Some men really did not welcome us, mainly because they didn't want to join up.

Later on, there were more girls brought in. I loved the time there, and the work because we were helping the war effort.

We sent and received telegrams to all Capital Cities. You would type the message on the Murray Multiplex machine. It would come out on a tape with a series of five holes per letter.

This would then pass through a transmitter to where it was to go. Upon reaching the destination it would be transcribed back into words and straight on to a telegram. You had to know how to read the tape as often either the machine or transmitter would develop a fault and the message would be unreadable.

[The Murray Multiplex transmitter was used with the Murray keyboard perforator. The tape output from the perforator was fed into the transmitter via a loop. If the loop shortened significantly, it pulled down an arm and stopped the transmitter until the operator caught up. Consequently, the operator could maintain a natural typing speed without affecting other operators working into the same line.]



Murray multiplex tape transmitter, collection.scienceuseumgroup.org.

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Girl Telegraphists Do Man-Sized Job

For the first time in G.P.O. history, a husband and wife are both at work in the machine-telegraphy room.

THE wife, Mrs. Aileen Graham, is one of a growing band of women working on what used to be an exclusively masculine job. They are replacing men engaged in war service.

Mrs. Graham left Darwin shortly before the first Japanese raids. Her husband is engaged on more advanced transmission work at the post office, though he works in the same room as his wife.

The women machine telegraphists send or receive 60 to 80 telegrams an hour. They work the same hours—36¼—as men, and receive the same pay—£268 to £364—according to their service.

Eleven are working and 18 are training. As a preliminary they must pass a stiff typing test at 50 words a minute. After six weeks' training, they work on the Murray-multi-plex, the teleprinter, or the teletype. On each machine the keyboard is only slightly different from a typewriter's. To use the Murray-multiplex, they must know a five-unit code.

SOLDIERS' WIVES

Some of the machine telegraphists are single; most of these spend their spare time working at the Cheer-up Huts. Others are soldiers' wives, like Mrs. Frank Prettejohn. Mrs. M. Rouse's husband is a prisoner of war in Borneo, and Mrs. Bill Flemming's husband is in the R.A.A.F.

All work an hour on the receiving machine, then an hour sending. As the telegraph service is open until 11 p.m. they work in shifts, often doing some overtime to meet the increase of work resulting from war-time conditions.



★THESE GIRLS are working at the General Post Office on the Murray-Multiplex machine, for which they must know a five-unit code. They can send 60 to 80 telegrams an hour. Nearest the camera are Miss S. Bartholomew and Mrs. M. Robins.

The News, Tue 13 April 1943, p5

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Mary has a vivid recollection of a telegram bound for the Navy in Sydney.

One day I had a 200 word, or should I say figure, telegram for the Navy in Sydney. The code consisted of five figures and a letter, that meant you had to change machine from figures to letters, with two spaces between each code, then this had to be all repeated.

When I finished, from the receiving machine in Sydney, came a message, "Well done bro, [meaning brother] we'll show these Sheila's how to do it". My reply, (I was much more reserved in those years), "Sorry to disappoint you, it's a Sheila Mary this end". Of course apologies were received.

She also recalls another time when her supervisor had announced that the 'Superintendent of Telegraph' wished to see her.

I was wondering what I had done. He advised me that a very high secret message was coming from Sydney, he wished me to receive it, no one else was to know about it, and to give it to the supervisor immediately. I received it and it was to advise Eleanor Roosevelt would be arriving in Australia on such and such a day etc. Sometime down the track she of course duly arrived and went home again.

When the news of her being here was out, there were commotions and questions about who received that. It was amazing, some of my fellow workers were trying to find out who had received it, and why they hadn't heard about it.

I never ever let on it was me. I guess it was an honor when you think about it, out of staff of 200, to be chosen to do this, must have thought I could be trusted.



Eleanor Roosevelt meets members of the Australian Red Cross FAIRFAX ARCHIVES

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And the best message of all:

A message came that Frank was on his way home for leave, of course most knew I was to be married and I remember the chap who received it, he was halfway down the room, standing on his chair, waving the telegram and yelling out my name "He's on his way home, Mary."

Engagement and Marriage

Frank's 21st birthday, in April 1940, whilst he was in the Army, was held at the Rechabite Hall, Henley Beach Road, Mile End.

Mary remembers that it was about that time that their relationship changed from being together in a of group friends to becoming important to each other.

Mary and Frank announced their engagement in November 1941 and they married a year later in December 1942.

CHAMBERS—PRETTEJOHN. — The engagement is announced of Mary, youngest daughter of Mrs. and Mr. F. F. Chambers, of Mile End, to Sapper Frank Prettejohn (A.I.F.), youngest son of Mrs. and the late Mr. H. G. Prettejohn, of Lockleys.

Chronicle, 13 November 1941

CHAMBERS—PRETTEJOHN. — The marriage of Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Chambers, to Frank (A.I.F.), son of Mrs. and late Mr. H. G. Prettejohn, Brooklyn Park, will be solemnised at Holder Memorial Church, Fisher terrace, Mile-End, on December 1 at 7 p.m.

Advertiser, 1 Dec 1942 p6



Engagement, 1941

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Frank and Mary were married at Holder Memorial Church at 7pm on 1 December 1942. Mary remembers that the night was beautiful and bright but a bit windy.

It was an Army wedding with the best man Don Langman, groomsman Keith Stanford, and Frank, all in full Army uniform. Mary's bridesmaids were Gwen Wade and Enid Moore.



Wedding, 1942

The officiating minister was the Reverend Eric Ingamells. There was a full choral service of 25 people and these were mainly ladies as the men were at war. Mary says that the church was almost full with their choir friends. She remembers that the flowers were beautiful - apricot Gladiolas, blue Larkspur and a bowl of Christmas lilies.

The reception for about 30 people was held at Mary's parents' home. Mary says they did a wonderful job, having everything ready to go for when Frank arrived home. He was able to wire on the way home and he arrived on Sunday. They married on the Tuesday.

The newly married couple spent their first night, as Mary recalls: *in a lovely big room at St. Vincent's Hotel in Glenelg*. They went for a honeymoon in Victor Harbor, staying at a boarding house, and walking to a place called *Seymour* for their meals.

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World War 2 (other memories)

When the Australian mainland came under direct attack for the first time from Japanese aircraft Prime Minister Curtin warned the nation to be ready for attack. South Australia and Adelaide heeded his warnings and 9-inch thick concrete bunkers were built throughout the suburbs including South Road at Thebarton. They housed telephone networks that would relay messages back to the Bank of South Australia's underground tunnels in King William Street.



Mary recalls that her father, Flinders Chambers, who was the Head Accountant in the daytime at the Adelaide G.P.O., was a volunteer Warden and Night Supervisor.

[In Adelaide, air raid shelters formed one part of civil defense provisions. These included 'constant' air raid drills, air raid sirens, blackouts, publicity and public education surrounding ARP, bracing, sandbagging and shuttering buildings, watch-posts and towers, and an extensive city and suburban ARP communications network. The network was comprised of Sub-Control Stations, dispatch riders, air raid wardens and watchers. Meanwhile all school children received a cloth first-aid bag containing bandages, ointment, a blood group disc, a rubber cork 'for biting down on during bombardment' and a barley sugar or Butter Menthol, 'both of which had to be continually replenished. *Summary of State Heritage Place: 26512*]

The air raid drills enabled the volunteers and community to be prepared for any attacks.

We had a number of ladies answering phones and had a local team who worked outdoors. They would make believe to be injured and had to phone in for help. Mum and I did volunteer work at night.

The bunkers were closed at the end of the war and some, like the Thebarton shelter, have been repurposed. Currently the Adelaide branch of the Australian Society of Magicians use it as their headquarters.

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During the war, January 1945, Mary purchased a block of land on the corner of Blackburn Street and Cowandilla Road (now Sir Donald Bradman Drive) in Cowandilla,

[The road was initially known as Rowland Road, then Cowandilla Road, Burbridge Road and now Sir Donald Bradman Drive. The block at the time was number 30.]

She sold this in the mid-1950s to a Mrs Tilley. (Mrs Tilley rented a shop from them when at Marion Road.)

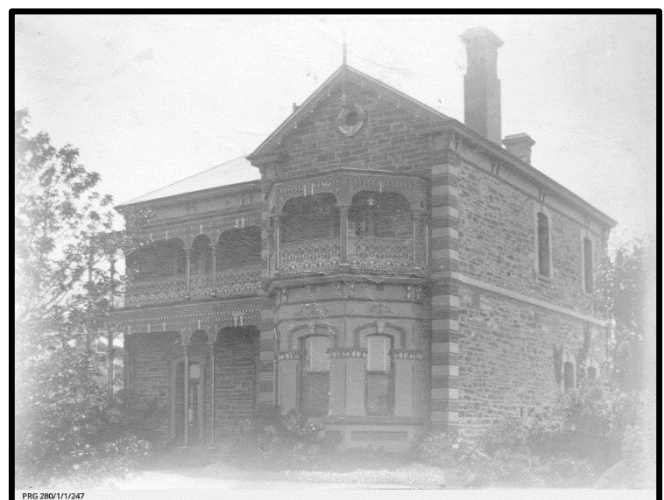


WestMaps Public, 1959

On the same block, the House *Kia Ora* still stands as part of *Flora McDonald Lodge* nursing home.

[In 1936, Mr James Byrne bequeathed the house to the Sisters of St. Joseph, who established a school for girls wishing to enter the Order. After 20 years the school was transferred to Aldgate and the house was adapted to accommodate elderly people.

It was known as Sisters of St. Joseph Providence until 1971 when it was renamed *Flora McDonald Lodge* Nursing Home in honour of Sister Mary McKillop's mother.]



Kia Ora circa 1907 [SLSA PRG 280/1/1/247]

Frank lived here in his final years.

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During Frank's service in New Guinea 1943/1944 he returned to Petrie Queensland for a short time and Mary had an adventure when she went to visit him. Petrie Airfield was a World War 2 military airfield located just to the south of the North Pine River in what is now Lawnton, Queensland. At the time you were not allowed to cross the borders and Mary tried to be surreptitious.

I went up to Petrie to be with Frank whilst the unit was resting there. Dad got me on a plane to Canberra and I went by bus to Sydney, where my brother Jock met me. His ship was in Sydney at the time, and he had got me a ticket to Murwillumbah. He asked a soldier to take care of me and to see I was alright. Imagine today, I was only 22, I think.

When we arrived there, this soldier spoke to a cabby to take me somewhere to sleep for the night. It was very dark because of blackout and he took me to his home. The lady was lovely and said: "Don't worry I'll wake you in time to catch a bus to Southport".

I was on the bus at 3.30 am, and the bus driver had a ticket for me to take the train from Brisbane. I arrived in Brisbane around 4pm and went to put my luggage in on the train for Petrie and the fellow said "This isn't a Queensland case." It was a tapestry type. Well, I nearly fainted. I thought "I'm gone; I'll be thrown in jail", as you weren't allowed to cross borders during the war. Anyway, I must have scared him too, because he said, "It's all right dear, it's all right, I was only kidding, but you have come a long way haven't you".

At Petrie, eventually Frank caught up with me. The station was two stories high and he was on one floor and I the other. A guard eventually brought us together.

Frank had found a flat for them to stay in at Petrie. They only stayed a few weeks as Mary recalls the landlady was 'a bit of a nut case'.

On one of their days together Frank & Mary hired a horse and cart. Unaccustomed to the area and its narrow tracks they soon found themselves stuck and could not turn around. They unharnessed the horse and cart, turned them around separately, re-harnessed the horse and were on their way, convinced no one would know of their adventure.

To their astonishment when they returned the owner could not understand how they had controlled the horse with the way the harness had been set up. Frank's reply was, 'Well the horse knew which way was home'.

The Mail 20-Sep-1947 pg 4

★ Roundabout

MR. Frank Prettyjohn, who became Port Germein's new postmaster this week, is the first to admit that he doesn't know much about horses, cows, and the rural scene generally.

But, at Port Germein, he is not likely to repeat a performance which, when he described it to them, convulsed his Army comrades in Brisbane.

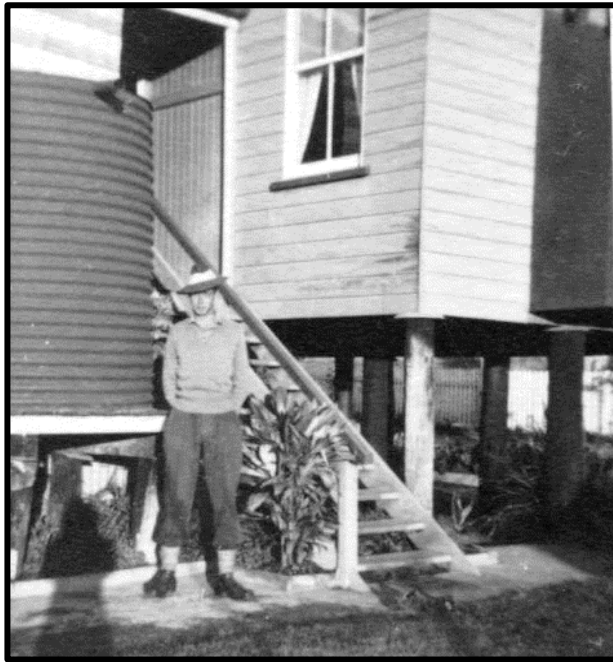
While camped near Brisbane, Mr. Prettyjohn decided to take Mrs. Prettyjohn, who had a flat nearby, for a drive into the country.

He hired a horse and sulky, and managed famously by letting the horse follow its nose. But when it was time to turn for home, Mr. Prettyjohn had to take the horse out of the shafts, turn the sulky manually, and harness the horse up again.

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Our second lodging in Petrie was with the dearest old couple, they were so good to both of us. We did our own cooking and had our own kitchen, but shared a laundry with another couple, Roy Bell and his wife Peg.



Frank at Petrie



Boarding House at Petrie

They also made friends with Phyl and Neil Orchard.

Frank was always bringing one or two of his mate's home for a meal. The night we knew the boys were moving on, we three girls went down to the Junction Road, as we weren't too sure which way they would leave.

Well, we were scared out of our wits, along came the army police on motor bikes, swishing their headlights this way and that, we three laid flat on our bellies, hiding, so we never really picked out our men as they made their way to the war zone again.

When Frank was sent to serve in Borneo in May 1945, Mary, Peg and Phyl packed up their flats with plans to stay in Sydney. Phyl, however, had found out she was pregnant, so she went back to stay with her sister in Winchelsea.

Peg and Mary stayed in Sydney and boarded with Mrs Price, a widow, whose two sons were at war. Mary went to work at the G.P.O in Sydney as a typist and Peg worked for Edments.

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They stayed in Sydney until peace was declared on 15 August 1945. Mary recalls that morning:

Peg and I were going to walk out the back gate when Mrs Price was coming in. She said, "Where are you two going? Peace has been declared, listen to the noise!" Then we heard the ferries.

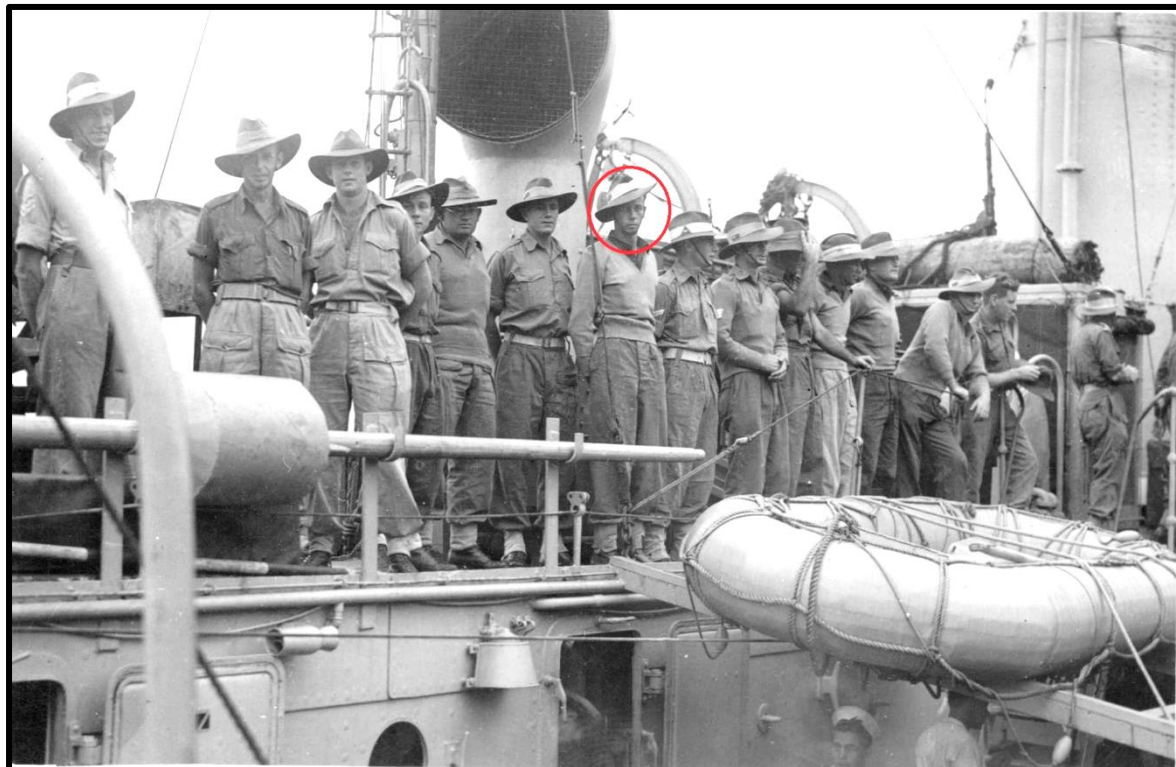
We rushed around to Joyce (Mary's sister-in-law), and she was crying with joy. We asked her if she was coming into Sydney but she couldn't because she had her baby, Janice. Just as well she'd have been crushed in the crowd. It was terrific, dancing together, hugging one another.

As soon as we could we made our way home to Adelaide, to wait for our men.



Civilians and Soldiers in the street celebrations for VP Day in Sydney [Australian War Memorial P02018.409]

Return from the War



Frank and the troops returning home after peace was declared

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Frank was discharged on 17 December 1945. His friend Bob Rowan, who was in the Army transport department, rang to say Frank would be arriving by train at Wayville.

Mary's brother Jock had already arrived home.

I can always remember Jock saying "God what have they done to him, he looks like the boys who were prisoners of war that we brought home". Frank looked so thin and ill.

They set up their first home in a self-contained flat at Mary's parents property at 14 Darebin Street, Mile End.

In February 1946, when Frank was able to return to work, he had decided that he didn't want to go back to work with Johnston's where he had done his trade.

He opted to have his own painting business known as *F. Prettejohn - Painter Decorator*. An architect who had been in the Army unit with Frank gave him plenty of work. He had another man working for him and sometimes Mary's brother, Jock, would work with him on weekends.

Frank suffered from poor health and was advised by the doctor to give up painting because of lead in the paint.



Frank's Buckboard sold to F Jackson, 1947



Mary and Deane, 1947

First child, Deane

Deane Frank Prettejohn was born at the Calvary Hospital at 7pm on 10 July 1947, weighing 6lb 9oz.

Mary was worried as he had lost weight and as he was 6lb 4oz when taken home.

He gave us all a bit of a scare for 4 days.

PRETTEJOHN (nee Mary Chambers). —
On July 10, at Calvary, to Mr. and Mrs.
Frank Prettejohn—a son. No visitors for
five days.

'No visitors for five days' Advertiser Sat 12 July, 1947

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Move to Port Germein

In 1947 Frank had applied to study to be a Non-Official Postmaster. It was soon after Deane was born, that they received confirmation of a position in Port Germein.

Deane was 6 weeks old when they set off by train at 8am. They arrived in Port Pirie, and from there travelled by bus to Port Germein arriving about 3.30pm.

Mary recalls that they had never thought of going to look at the town before accepting the position.

My first impression of the town was 'God what have we done.' Then the bus took us around to the Post Office which was right on the seafront. It was a lovely stone home.

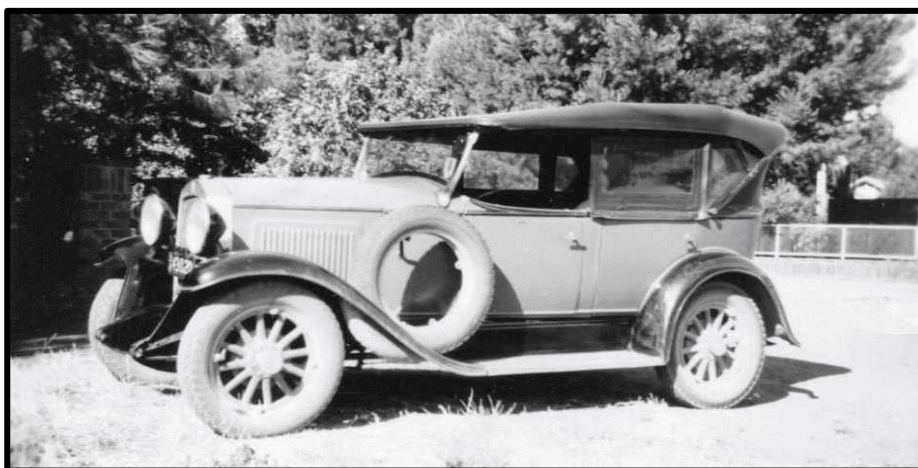


Frank and Deane, Port Germein

The house consisted of two bedrooms, lounge, a big kitchen and dining room. There were three high steps out from the kitchen to the back verandah which had a bathroom one end and laundry at the other end.

From the kitchen window I could see for miles and miles across farmland to the beautiful Flinders Ranges. They were changing colors all the time and I knew we would be happy there.

The only thing was that there was no mains water to the house and the dunny was down the end of a huge block. At night Frank had to come with me as I was so scared. There was no electricity, so I had to learn to cook on a wood stove and how to light and clean kerosene lights. When our furniture arrived, my brother, Matt, and Norma his wife came up and worked like Trojans to help us get unpacked and our linos laid.



Willys Overland Whippet, family car, 1948

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Port Germein Post Office



Besides the postal work, they had the telephone exchange which opened at 8am and went through to 10pm. If the service was needed after that time, there would be an opening fee. Hours on Saturday were 8am to 1pm and Sunday 8am to 10 am.

Through the phone we met our dear friends Mary and Fred McDougall, who had the Baroota exchange.

Though it kept us both busy, we loved it there. We didn't have a car, but we still went to church, there being no difficulty to attend any functions as we would be taken by either McDougalls or Broadbears.

Christmas Service.—A Christmas service was conducted by Rev. W. J. C. Kunst in Port Germein Methodist Church. The hymn "Silent Night" was sung by Mrs. F. H. Prettejohn and Messrs. L. A. Broadbear and Kunst, and Mrs. Kunst sang "The First Noel," with Mrs. H. Callis as organist. A baptismal service was conducted for Deane Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Prettejohn.

Recorder, Sat 27 Dec 1947, p4

Preserving Memories

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Mary recalls that there was a large storm that flooded the backyard up to the back door. The sea was also at high tide and that lapped the front door.

After the storm had receded the side fence was removed to assist with the cleanup. The locals assisted with pumps to remove the large amount of water that was still in the back yard. Fred McDougall, with some help, removed three truckloads of seaweed from the backyard.

Deane, who was still a toddler, went missing that day and they called in the help of the next-door neighbour, the local policeman. They had looked for over half an hour and the next step would be calling for further help. Mary decided to check the dog kennel and found him there, asleep.



Recorder Wed 28 June 1950, p3



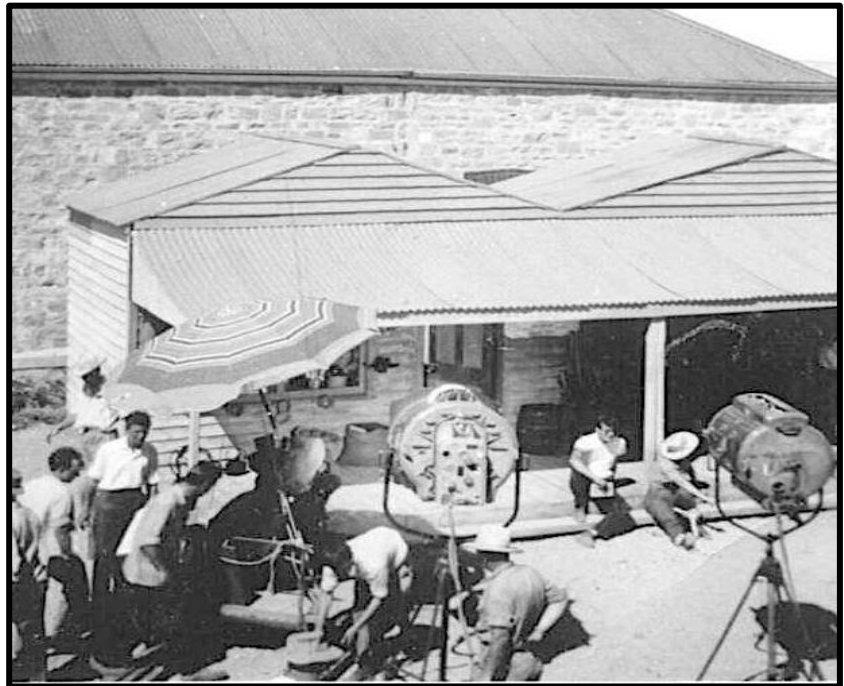
Chronicle, 14 Oct 1948

Frank and Mary were involved with fundraising for new furniture for the Methodist Church. In a Guild evening event they organised, Frank sang a solo.

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Mary remembers that on a return visit to Port Germein in January 1957 they witnessed part of the filming of the motion picture, *Robbery Under Arms*, which took place in the main street next to the Hotel.



[portgermeinhistory.com]



Trevor and Deane, Port Germein, 1951

Second child, Trevor

Whilst at Port Germein, their second child, Trevor Harry Flinders Prettejohn was born at the Port Pirie Hospital on 28 December 1950, weighing 6lb 4oz.

Mary jokes: *He just cried non-stop, didn't like what he saw I suppose.*

Prettejohn (nee Mary Chambers).—On December 28 at Port Pirie Maternity Hospital, to Mrs. and Mr. Frank Prettejohn—a son (Trevor).

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Clarendon Post Office

In 1951 they moved from Port Germein to Clarendon in the Adelaide Hills. Mary recalls that this too was a lovely stone home.



Former Clarendon Post Office

The Telephone Exchange was open 24 hours a day and eventually we were able to get a lad to sleep there at night to answer phones after 10pm.

There was a doctor in the area which made the work load heavy. People here were most unfriendly. This upset Frank and he took ill, nearly having a breakdown and he had to go away for six weeks.

I took over the office and Auntie Fannie came and looked after Deane and Trevor, and prepared meals for us.

Moving back to West Torrens

In 1952, the family moved to 4 Gertrude Street, Brooklyn Park with Chrissie Prettejohn.

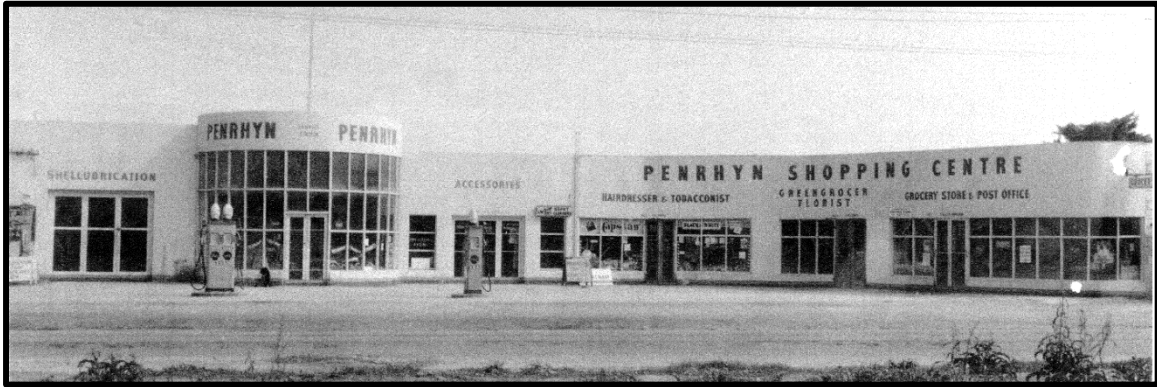
They bought a Post Office/Grocery Store business at the corner of Passmore Street and Marion Road West Richmond.

Mary remembers that this was not a money order office, but as soon as Frank took over, the GPO made it one.

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The business grew rapidly and later, in 1952, they moved it to Slade's Penrhyn Shopping Centre at 162 Marion Road West Richmond. Mary remembers that there was also a petrol bowser / garage in the centre, on the corner of Brittain Street and Marion Road.



Penrhyn Shopping Centre, 162 Marion Road, West Richmond, circa 1964

The Post Office kept Frank pretty busy as he was also going around collecting and delivering orders.

We had part time ladies helping in the grocery section and at night we would weigh up sugar, flour etc., as they were not prepacked in those days. My Aunties, twins Annie and Fannie, would come and help us pack at night.

We were also helped in the shop by a good friend Yvonne Jackson. We had a very good business, but once again Frank's health gave out and we had to sell it. This was about 1957. I think he had nearly 3 months off this time.



156 Marion Road, West Richmond

In early 1953 they moved to 156 Marion Road and rented the house at the back of the shops.

In September 1953, they bought the house when it came up for sale. Around 1955 they built a bedroom on the back so Frank's mum (Chrissie Prettejohn) could live with them.

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Frank, Trevor, Mary and Deane, circa 1953

Deane

Deane was schooled at Lockleys and Cowandilla Primary Schools, then from 1960 to 1963 he attended Plympton High School. He worked as a Technician with the Postmaster General's Department (PMG) and Telecom/Telstra, working in Adelaide, the metropolitan suburbs, and various towns in the mid north of South Australia.

He played Uniting Church Association cricket in Adelaide from 1961 to 1967 and competitive table tennis in the country towns. After marrying in 1968, he worked in Port Lincoln for 2 years and played football and cricket for the Tasman teams. By 1973 the family, now with three children had returned to live at Flagstaff Hill. Deane continued to play cricket indoors in the 1980s. Change of life circumstances had him living in St Mary's, retiring, and then remarrying. He currently plays an integral role in the West Torrens Historical Society as their Website manager.

Trevor

Trevor attended Cowandilla and Netley Primary Schools and then Urrbrae Agricultural High School. Tertiary qualifications led him to employment in Agriculture Research and various Dairy Industries, and later lecturing in this field. He also ran two successful small businesses.

Trevor played football and cricket while living in Myponga and Mount Gambier.

Trevor and first wife Sue have 3 children, and his second wife Susan also has two children. Trevor and Susan now live in Woodlands Retirement Village, Mount Gambier, but they caravan around Australia when possible, visiting their children and 10 grandchildren.

He is a member of the Mount Gambier Lakes Rotary Club since being involved in its foundation 34 years ago.

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Around 1957, Frank again became ill and could not work. Mary went back to work as a secretary at Metters Ltd. When he recovered, he got a job in the Grenfell Street Post Office. Here he met John Reid, a workmate who became a lifelong friend.

Passmore Street and Marion Road Delicatessen

Around 1962 the delicatessen in front of their home came up for sale and Frank decided he wanted to go back into business. The other shops in the centre were rented to Mrs Tilley who had a lending library; and Dr. Laird and Dr. Flaherty for a medical clinic.

The doctors relocated further north on Marion Road and they were replaced for a short time by a TV sales and repair firm. Mrs Tilley moved to a shop across the other side of Passmore Street and the TV firm also moved. After Mrs Tilley moved, Frank removed a wall between the former library and the delicatessen enlarging the shop. When the TV firm moved they used that area for the storage.

Frank employed two part time girls, a German and a Yugoslav, and with their European knowledge and help with certain products and meat, their business grew to be a very large delicatessen, and Mary recalls: *according to travellers the best in the west.*

In the summer on a Sunday, with the passing traffic, we would almost take as much as the week, because there were not many if any Continental Delicatessen's at that time. We were also helped in the delicatessen by a friend Richard Sutcliffe who Frank had met at Grenfell Street Post Office.

One winter, during a storm, the drains on Marion Road became blocked and the water level reached the doorstep of the business. All attempts by Richard and Deane to restore the flow failed, they could only wait for the flood to subside and fortunately little damage was caused.

The shop sold a variety of groceries. Interestingly the law of the time was that certain grocery items, like condensed milk, packets of tea and tinned fish, could not be sold at night. Each evening at 5pm and Saturdays at 12pm a framed mesh cover was attached over these shelves. The reasoning for this was so that it did not impact the livelihood of other grocery stores that did not trade those later hours.



156 Marion Road, West Richmond, circa 1964

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The business was also an agency for the Savings Bank of South Australia. This required a safe to be installed in the storeroom. One night the room was broken into through the back door, next to Frank and Mary's bedroom. They were awoken, but did not realise what had happened until the next morning. The thieves' endeavour to break into the safe was unsuccessful.

Running the business involved working long hours. After a few years, in 1964 they sold the delicatessen business and bought a house at 4 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn Park. Mary remembers that this was a really lovely home with eight rooms, plus a family room with its own toilet and bathroom out the back.



4 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn Park

A lady named Cheryl Dunn from Tumby Bay boarded with them there for a number of years. She was a hairdresser with a salon in Galway Avenue, Plympton. She became a very integral part of their family. Cheryl met and eventually became engaged to Frank Poldrugo. On the day of her wedding Cheryl asked if she could get ready and leave from their home. Mary remembers this as a very special day. As they were such close friends she was especially saddened by Cheryl's death in July 2000 and Frank's in April 2012.

Frank and Mary sold the home and shops on 156 Marion Road in June 1966 when plans were announced to widen Marion Road.

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Franks next ventures

In 1964 they bought a Sandwich Bar in Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide, but they found this to be a disappointing venture.

Their next business at 274b Henley Beach Road, Underdale encompassed a Post Office, Dry Cleaning and Stationery.

Subsequently, Frank was offered the Athelston Post office, which was a full-time office. This led them to meet Alma and Erwin Mettner who became close friends for many years. Frank started going in his lunch hour to play cards twice a week with Erwin who was in a wheelchair. Mary joined them and it began a very happy friendship.

From there, Frank went to the Keswick Post Office, which had three part time staff.

Mary mentions that it was not unusual for Frank to be asked to train men who were to take up a Post Office.

Frank was a very competent Postmaster and his work was so neat, it was incredible really, and naturally this never went unnoticed by the Inspectors.

In 1972 Frank moved from Keswick to St Morris and finished his working life there. He was robbed at knife point, and this really upset him terribly, so he retired.

Mary's work changes

While they were living at 156 Marion Road, in West Richmond, around 1957, Mary worked at Metters Ltd. on Henley Beach Road.

In 1958 Mary started working for Milne & Co. as a secretary to the Accountant, Mr Rod Kent.

She recalls that one day she was called to see the Manager Director of Milne & Co., Mr Russell, and sworn to secrecy for the two-day discussions involving the take-over of Milne & Co. by Gilbeys.

I was to take shorthand notes and to transcribe them into a final document. Anyway it all went well and we became Gilbeys about a fortnight later.



[ozwhiskeyreview.com.au]

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[Gilbeys was a successful London wine and spirit merchant who had been importing various products into the country since the early 1900s.]

Mary worked at Gilbeys, in the Milne & Co. building at Thebarton, and then the business moved to Grange Road. She worked there for a number of years only resigning after her father died in 1973, so she could look after her mother.

They wanted me to take leave and stay with them but I couldn't, Mum was more important than work.

She had worked at both places for about 15 years and remembers how much she loved it there.

Sadly Mary's mother died in 1975. Mary was then able to return to work and started back at Thomas Hardy & Sons on Henley Beach Road at Mile End, as secretary to the Export Manager.

Mary recalls that in 1977, the Export Department won the National Export award. [The award stated that 'Thomas Hardy and Sons Pty Ltd, South Australia, winemakers and brandy distillers, through determined marketing efforts in the last six years has made significant gains in the sales of Australian bottled wine to more than 14 countries'].



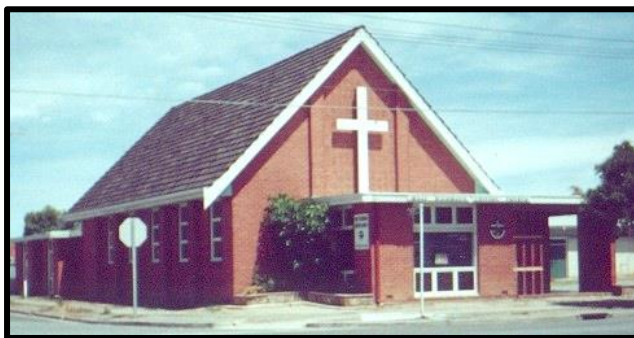
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Church and social activities

For about a year, whilst they were living at 156 Marion Road, Frank and Mary attended services at the Plympton Methodist Church. Here they met Horrie and Betty Lewis, and Doris and George Fordhan and formed a long friendship. *We spent many enjoyable evenings playing cards with them.*

The children, Deane and Trevor went to the Sunday school at the Plympton Methodist Church. Deane played cricket for a team which represented Plympton Methodist Church and another time representing the West Richmond Methodist Church.



West Richmond Methodist Church, circa 1999

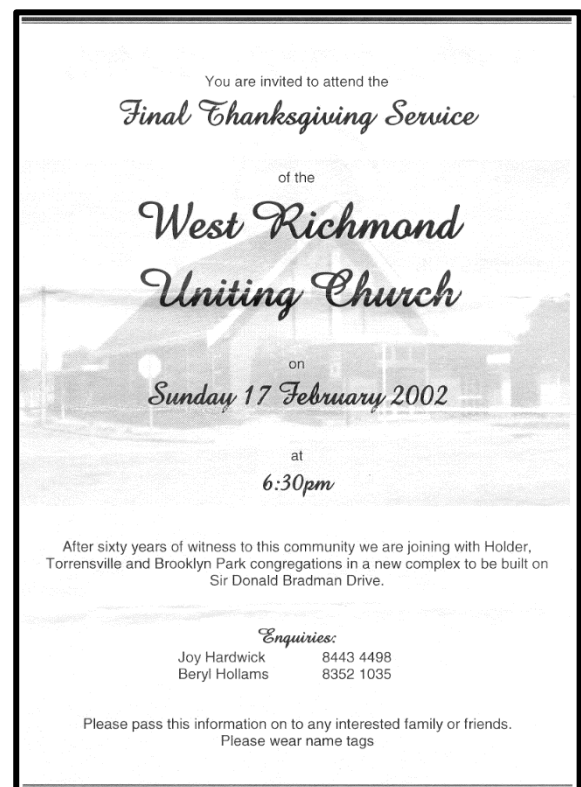
In about 1963, they became members of the West Richmond Methodist Church. Mary belonged to the 'Night Fellowship' and was President for a couple of terms.

In later years she also joined 'Day Fellowship' and at times was the President or the Secretary. Mary took part in 'Chat and Share' where they did a lot of craft work.

When Frank sold the business, he joined the church and they both sang in the choir and enjoyed participating in the concerts.

When the West Richmond Methodist Church closed in February 2002, Mary gave a closing prayer on the last evening. This was amalgamated with three other Churches to form the Adelaide West Uniting Church.

For many years, Mary was also involved with Frontier services, being secretary for a couple of years and spent a lot of time managing the fundraising with souvenir sales.



Preserving Memories

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Moving on

In 1978, Frank and Mary moved to 185 Marion Road, Richmond to a smaller yard and home. Frank had thrombosis and the Brooklyn Park garden was too much for him to look after.



185 Marion Road, Richmond

In about 1979, Mary, with her friend Alma Mettner travelled to the West coast of the USA and Canada.

Frank had been a Justice of the Peace since 1st April 1955, and after forty years of service he resigned on the 19th January 1995.

Frank moved to the Flora McDonald Lodge Nursing Home in Cowandilla in 2000 and lived there until he died on the 21st September 2004. He was cremated and buried at Centennial Park.

Mary stayed in the Richmond home for another four years, until December 2008. She was having occasional falls and to lessen the worry for her son Deane, moved to the Vermont Retirement Estate in South Plympton. She was comfortable there with her own bedroom, kitchen and lounge, and enjoyed the company where everybody was friendly. She played cards with a group of about ten other residents. She enjoyed the excursions to clothing outlets.

Mary's favourite sister-in-law, Joyce, also lived in the village. She went to the Vermont Uniting Church on Cross Road with Joyce, her daughter Mary and son-in-law John. She was grateful that they were very pleasant company and included her in so many outings with Joyce. She remembers that Vermont was always clean and the gardens were well looked after.

In 2015, aged 94, Mary broke her arm and whilst in Griffith Rehabilitation Hospital recovering, it was decided that she have six weeks respite in Alwyndor at Hove.

Deane was visiting me one day when a sister came in and asked Deane if I would like to move in here permanently as a room had become available. He replied to her that I was capable of making my own decisions. The sister apologised and asked me, to which I replied 'Yes, please'. I was shown the room, which I liked very much. All the paperwork was signed and I became a full time resident on the 1st December 2015.

I do not regret my decision. There is always something happening run by LifeStyle like, seated exercises, quiz shows, movies, visit to shopping centres and day trips.

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Special celebrations

25th Wedding Anniversary (1967)

The first of December 1967 marked Frank and Mary's 25th wedding anniversary. A catered party was held at their home in Brooklyn Avenue and the boys helped to prepare the garden. Mary remembers that it was a wonderful and successful day.

Deane's 21st Birthday (1968)

Deane's 21st birthday was held on 10 July 1968 at the Marion Hotel. Mary also put on a special dinner at home at Brooklyn Avenue on the Sunday. Mary says: *This was more for the oldies and it was lovely.*



Trevor, Mary, Frank and Deane Prettejohn

Preserving Memories

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Franks 50th Birthday (1969)

On the 15 April 1969, Franks 50th birthday celebrations were held in the Masonic Hall, Henley Beach Road, Torrensville, with about 80 people attending. Richard Sutcliffe, who worked at weekends and nights at the shop at 156 Marion Road, did the catering for them. Mary remembers there was dancing and it was a very happy night.



Franks 50th Birthday, 1969

Mary's 50th Birthday (1971)

A few friends gathered on 24 February 1971 at the Hotel Australia O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, to celebrate Mary's 50th birthday.

Trevor's 21st Birthday (1971)

Planned to be held in a hall in Kurralta Park on 28 December 1971, when they arrived they found it to be double booked. The family managed to pull off a change of venue to their home at Brooklyn Avenue, with friend Frank Poldrugo helping Deane and Trevor to put up lights and decorate the backyard. Their friend Yvonne Jackson came over immediately to help Mary inside. Mary remembers that despite the setback, the party was a great success.

Franks 60th Birthday (1979)

Mary recalls that for Frank's 60th birthday, on the 15 April 1979, Marj and Frank Maidment held a lovely dinner at their home, for a number of Frank and Mary's friends.

Mary's 60th Birthday

On 24 February 1981, Mary was given a surprise party at home.

Alma and Erwin had come to tea and we were playing cards when the back door bell rang and I went to open it and there was all this crowd - it was a lovely surprise.

Frank and Mary's 40th and 50th Wedding Anniversary (1982/1992)

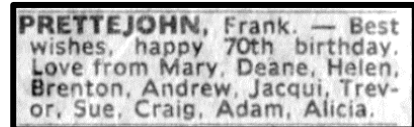
In 1982 and 1992 celebrations had been arranged but unfortunately Frank had to have operations and to their disappointment, they were cancelled.

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Franks 70th Birthday (1989)

About 60 people attended a party at their home on 15 April 1989. Mary remembers that it was a perfect day and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Frank loved having parties and friends at home but hated going to them himself.



Mary's 70th Birthday (1991)

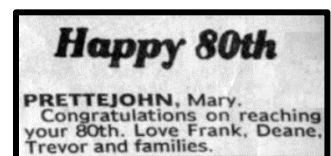
Held on 24 February 1991, Mary had a party with friends from the Church and arranged by her friends Heather and Marj. *The lunch was in our yard under the lovely trees. Heather had a pool and after lunch those who wanted to, went for a swim. The others came and sat around the pool. It was good fun. On the weekend we celebrated with family and friends.*

Franks 80th Birthday (1999)

15 April 1999. *What a day, Frank had a ball, whilst Deane and I were exhausted and worried whether it would be too much for him. This was held in West Richmond Uniting Church Hall, for about 90 people. It really was lovely, and it meant a great deal to Frank.*

Mary 80th Birthday (2001)

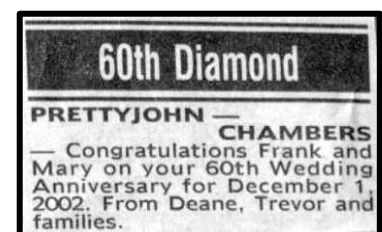
24 February 2001. *Dear oh dear! I nearly drove Deane and Helen up the wall, one day I will do this, next no. It was because Frank was so sick, and I had to put him in a nursing home, and I did not want him there. However, I had decided a week before I would have a party. Deane's wife, Helen, did the organizing of the catering, and with the help of Marj and Susan serving, did an excellent job for about 30 people.*



On the Sunday, just the family went over to the Nursing Home and took lunch to Frank, they let us have a lounge room. Frank was the best he had been and was so excited about it all.

60th Wedding Anniversary (2002)

In 2002, a party was held at Frank and Mary's house at 185 Marion Road, Richmond, to celebrate with family and friends. The family had arranged for an announcement in The Advertiser. They received greetings from Her Majesty the Queen, the Governor General, Peter Hollingworth and the Governor of South Australia, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson. Other greetings from politicians included Prime Minister, John Howard; Leader of the Opposition, Simon Crean; Premier of South Australia, Mike Rann; Liberal Leader, Rob Kerin, and MP's, Chris Gallus and Stephanie Key.



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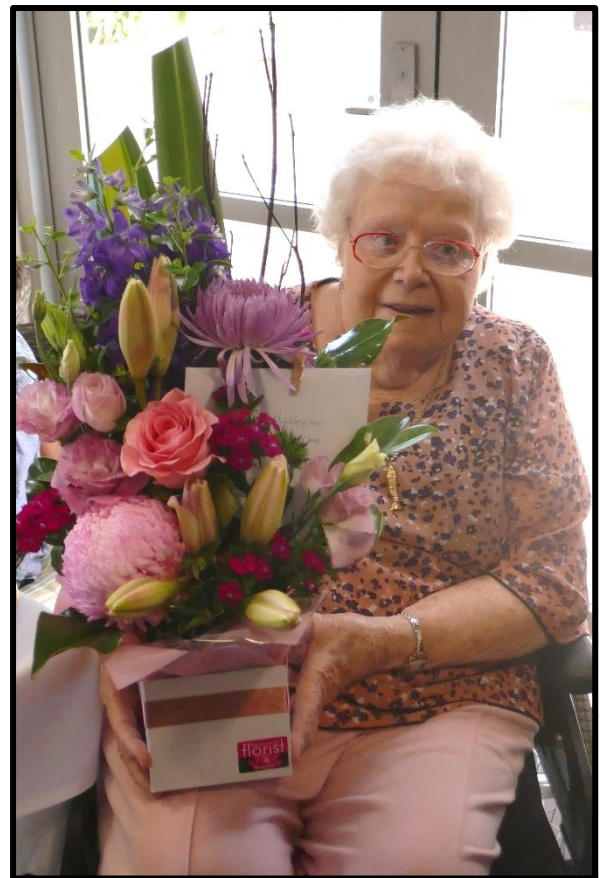
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Mary's 90th and 100th Birthdays



Mary's 90th Birthday, 2011

Last year, 2021, was Mary's 100th birthday. She met her sons, Deane and Trevor and their wives, together with granddaughter, Alicia, her son Harvey, and baby Myla, for lunch in the Alwyndor cafeteria. During the lunch State Government local member Corey Wingard came to see her. She received flowers from Legacy and to Mary's surprise, the photo taken was sent to them and published in their newsletter.



Mary's 100th Birthday, 2021

On Saturday the 27th of February, a party was to be held in a private club for about 40 relatives and friends, but the night before the lift broke down and it was decided to hold the celebration at Deane and Helen's home. They managed to call all the intended guests to advise of the change and Mary was pleased that all still attended.

Their home has a large, enclosed pergola across the back overlooking the lawn and a lovely garden. It was a lovely day and everybody had a good time. I told my guests of my grandson Craig who had flown from Brisbane and another grandson Adam and his wife Emma who had flown from Canberra. If I had known of it, I would have told them about the 100 figure Craig had made out of plastic for my birthday cake. This now stands in a vase at home.

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Looking back... and now

Frank and I met first through our music teacher, became sweethearts and eventually marrying. We were very much in love and this enabled us to support each other when running businesses, our home and through illness. Our love lasted over 60 years until Frank died and I still feel his presence and love with me today.

Mary says that many times in their younger years people would say, 'Aren't you sorry you didn't have a daughter?'

We were blessed with two lovely young men. Our answer was always the same we wouldn't change our boys for anything, they can bring us our daughters. As it so happens the daughters have changed but Frank and I both love and enjoy the company of our daughters second time round.

Since 1942 their family has grown from two sons to now include four daughters-in-law, thirteen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Over the years Mary and Frank met and became friends with a large number of people.

From their time at Port Germein, two families living on nearby farms became good friends. *Over the years the children of one family have remained close friends of our children.*



My twin aunts, Annie & Fannie were gifted in craft. They taught me Wood burning (Pyrography), which involves using a heated metal tool to burn designs into wood surfaces.

Learning crafts from the twins enabled me later, when I retired, to assist others when I joined a craft group at the West Richmond Methodist Church.

This group was for church and community members. One lady taught me how to make dolls with "ugly faces". I also learnt from a different lady how to make "teddy bears". After learning these skills I then taught the members of the craft group.



I am still interested in craft today and make 3D greeting cards.

Thank you to Mary and her son Deane, for providing the story and photos to enable the compilation of Frank and Mary's life, and for their valuable contribution to the Preserving Memories project.

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24 February 2022, Mary's 101st Birthday