

Preserving Memories

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



PETER COLLINS
2023

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PETER COLLINS

‘I WENT TO WORK AT THE WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT, AN AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT. I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO WORK ON THE FIRST COMPUTER IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE. THIS WAS A VALVE COMPUTER CALLED WREDAC’

In the late 1910s the Collins family established a market garden in the Western suburbs on the land around the Torrens River, where the primary vegetable grown was celery. In the 1950s the family established a second garden on Valetta Road specialising in growing tomatoes.

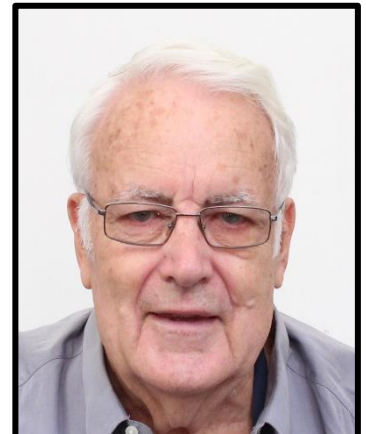
Peter grew up on the market garden and continued to live in the West Torrens area once married with children.



1943



1963



2023

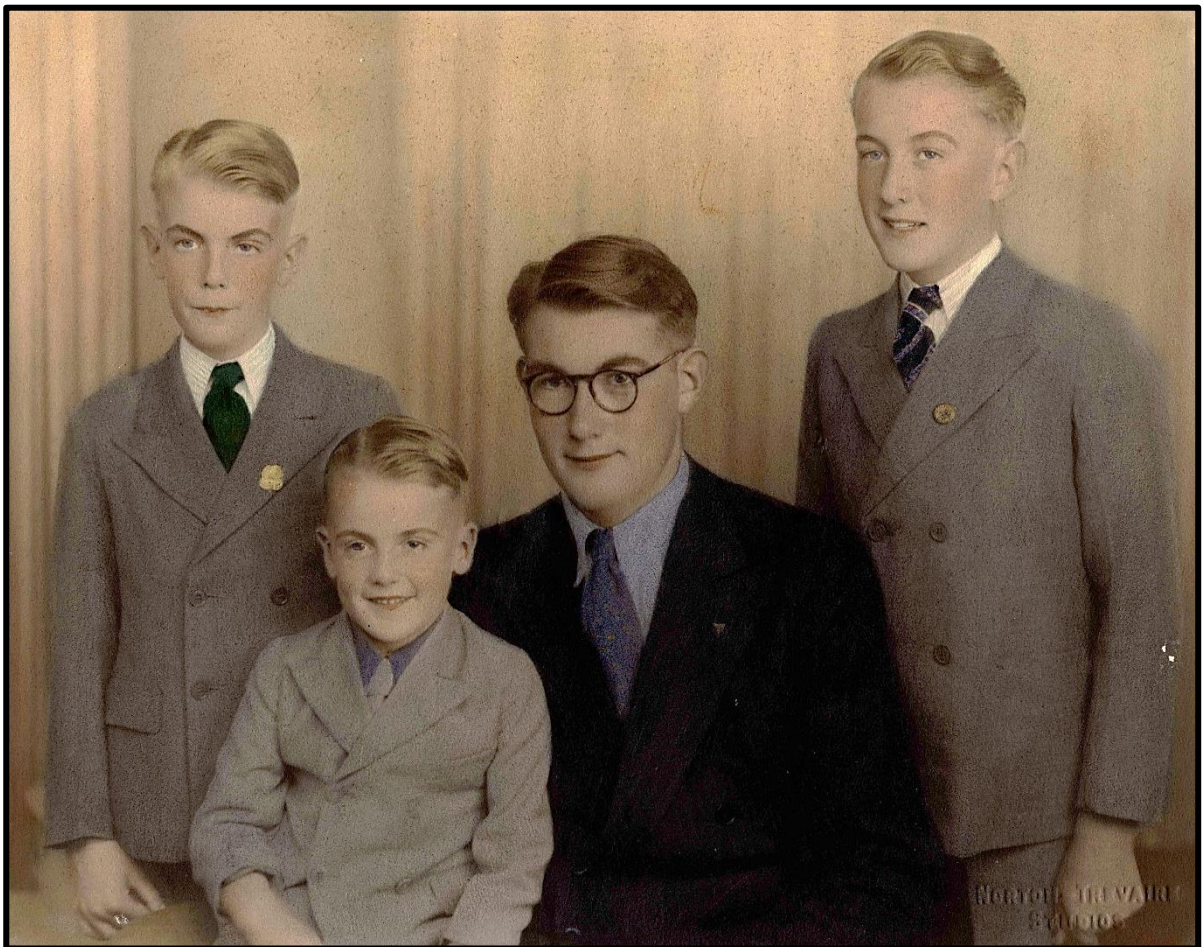
Peter has an interest in family history research and shares his wealth of knowledge on his ancestors that first settled in the newly established colony of South Australia, and in the West Torrens area.

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Peter Robert Collins was born on the 7th of January 1942 at the Memorial Hospital, North Adelaide. His parents were Hurtle Sutton Collins and Edna Mavis, née Stanford.

I am the fourth son of the fourth son of the fourth son.



Ken, Peter, Ted, Ray Collins circa 1947

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Collins family

Paternal Great Grandparents – Thomas and Elizabeth Collins

In 1851 Thomas Collins married Elizabeth Allan at the age of 18 in Cambridge, England.

Elizabeth lived at Barton, on the outskirts of Cambridge. Thomas was from the next county, Huntingdonshire, which became part of the Cambridgeshire district in 1974.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.	
Nil.	ARRIVED.
PASSENGERS INWARDS.	
Passengers per <i>Navarino</i> —Mrs and Miss Stebb, and Dr James Hannan, in the cabin; Joseph Ann, John, Mary, George, and Sarah Attenborough, Ethelinda Bolton, Philip and Ann Bevan, Thomas and Elizabeth Collins, Gilbert Clark, Elizabeth A. Duposi, George Faulkner, James George, George, Elizabeth, and Mary Hitchcock, William and Katherine Hopkins, James Henry, William and Eliza Jarrett, and three children, Alexander and Jane Johnson, and three children.	

Adelaide Times 27 September 1851, page 4

The newly married couple left their homeland in 1851 aboard the ship *Navarino* to settle in South Australia, starting an orchard in the Adelaide Hills around Uraidla.

Uraidla was not a surveyed township but developed and gradually evolved over the years into a gardening and fruit-growing village. Elizabeth's parents Abraham and Susanna Allen and five of her siblings came to South Australia on the *William Hammond* soon after, arriving on 19 January 1854.

Elizabeth's siblings

- George William (1818-1897) came with his wife Ann nee Stonebridge (1813-1893)
- John (1820-1891) came with his wife Sarah nee Green (1824 -)
- Sarah (1826-1894) with her illegitimate son Elias Morley Allen (1820-1903)
- Thomas (1830-1864)
- Edward (1828-1905) came with his wife Jane nee Cutting (1830-1888)
- Another brother Abraham (1823-1879) travelled with his wife Elizabeth nee Rutter (1824-) to New South Wales on the *Blundell* arriving 7 May 1853.

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Thomas and Elizabeth had twelve children. Two of the children died at the ages of seven and five, from an unknown illness that passed through the Adelaide Hills in 1864.

Thomas Collins (1832-1900) married 24 May 1851, Elizabeth Allen (1833-1902)

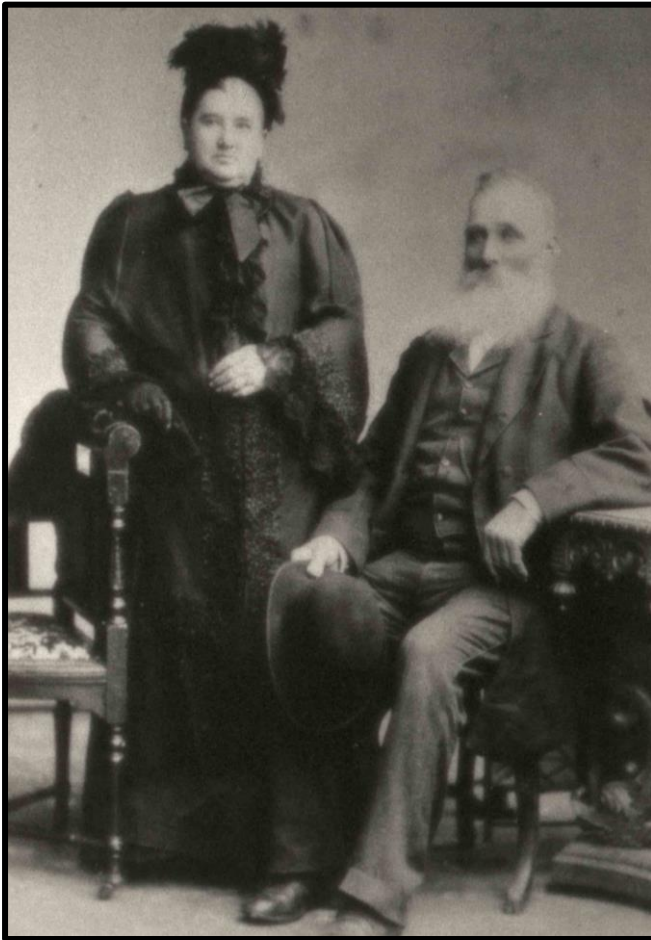
1. Susanna Harriet (1852-1938) married 24 Jun 1875, William Hart
2. Mary Ann (Polly) (1854-1930) married 29 Jun 1876, Philip Capple Day
3. Jane (1856-1864)
4. Elizabeth (1858-1864)
5. Robert (1860-1936) married 28 Dec 1887, Sarah Jane Price
6. Thomas Herbert (1863-1933) married 10 Apr 1889, Susan Richards Goulden
7. George Edward (1865-1937) married 11 Jul 1888, Emily Catherine McAnulty
8. Sarah (1867-1935) married 21 Mar 1889, William James Winter
9. Emily (1869-1951) married 26 May 1892, Ernest Hedley Harfield
- 10. Ernest John (1871-1947) married 29 May 1895, Florence May Sutton**
11. William Alexander Rufus (1874-1946) married 7 Jun 1900, Bertha Mahala Judd
12. Edith Alice (1876-1950) married 24 Feb 1912, Stephen Joseph Ryan



Thomas and Elizabeth Collins and family, circa 1881 (Ernest John at front)

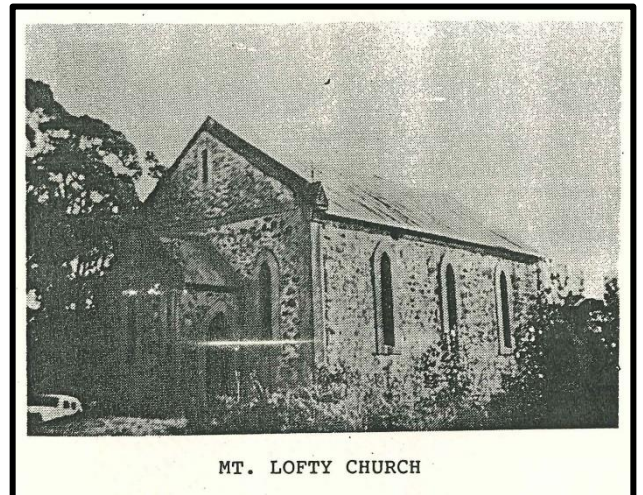
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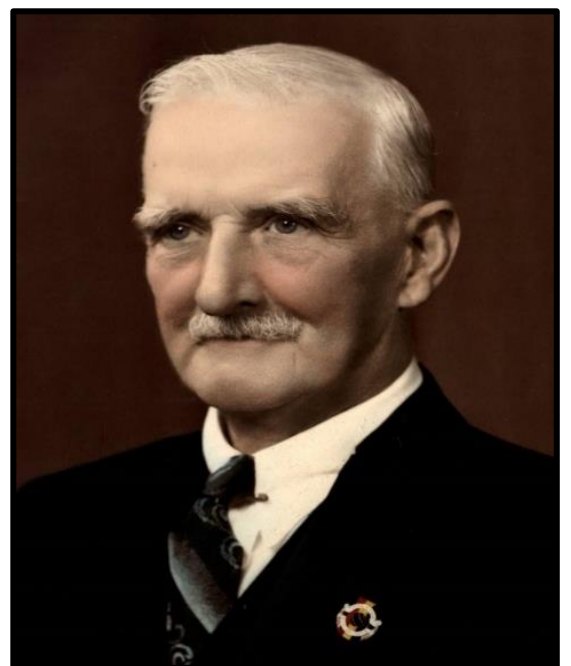
Elizabeth and Thomas Collins circa late 1890s

In his later years Thomas was a lay preacher at the Mount Lofty Primitive Methodist Church.



Ernest John Collins

Thomas and Elizabeth's tenth child and fourth son, (Peter's grandfather), Ernest John, was born at Cox's Creek on 13 August 1871.



Ernest John Collins circa 1921

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Sutton family

William Henry Sutton (1818-1887) married Emma Collins (1820-1868) in 1843 in Birmingham, UK.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
249	October 22 nd	William Henry Sutton	24	Bachelor	Cabinet-maker	Lichfield Street	John Sutton	Jeweller
		Emma Collins	23	Spinster		Cotes Hill Street	Thomas Collins	Iron Moulder

Married in the Parish Church of St Philip's according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after Banns by me, W. H. Moulton Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Henry Sutton and Emma Collins in the Presence of us, Harriet Moulton and William Henry Moulton Clergyman

William, Emma and their 2 year old son William Thomas arrived in 1847 on the *David Malcolm*, settling in Norton Summit.

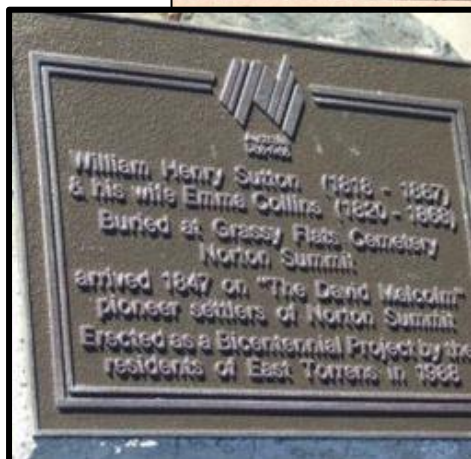
THE BARQUE "DAVID MALCOLM."
This barque, chartered by H.M.S. Land and Emigration Commissioners, sailed from Plymouth Sept. 21, and arrived on Wednesday, with 4 cabin passengers and 222 Government emigrants. Four deaths and two births occurred during the voyage one of those who died was an adult, and the other; three were infants.

Adelaide Observer, 7 January 1847, p5

The district had several names before settling on Norton Summit or Norton's Summit. Other names were Sutton or Sutton's Summit, Morialta and Birmingham. The name was agreed upon possibly after a Sutton married a Norton.

William first built a log and mud hut from which he sold groceries, sweets and wine. He then built, and was the first licensee of, the Scenic Hotel at Norton Summit. William was a Rechabite member, which he had to leave after he acquired the hotel as the Rechabites were opposed to alcohol and drinking.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. [March 12, 1847.]



the LIST of publicans' new licences, new applicants for the old houses, renewals of publicans' licences, new wine licences, renewals of wine licences, storekeepers' new licences, renewals of storekeepers' licences, slaughtering licences, and the pawnbrokers' licenses granted by the Adelaide Licensing Bench, held at the Police Court House, Victoria-square, Adelaide, on Monday, the ninth day of March, 1874:

[Those marked * have obtained Country Licences.]

- 335. Smith, George, Victor Harbour Hotel, Victor Harbour
- 336. Smith, John, Ship Inn, Port Adelaide
- 337. Smyth, Frances N., Talbot Inn, Gouger-street, Adelaide
- 338. Sorrell, George, Foundry Hotel, Hindley-street, Adelaide
- 339. Stapleton, John, Cumberland House, Elizabeth-street, Adelaide
- *340. Steed, William, Junction Hotel, Roseworthy
- 341. Stewart, Thomas Arthur, Scotch Thistle, Portland Estate
- 342. Stebbles, George the younger, Tavistock Hotel, Rundle-st, Adelaide
- 343. Stoneham, Arthur Charles, Royal Oak Hotel, North Adelaide
- 344. Stuart, Margaret, Orient Hotel, Wakefield-street, Adelaide
- 345. Suckling, Martin, Riverton Hotel, Riverton
- *346. Sutton, William Henry, Senic Hotel, Norton's Summit

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Scenic Hotel, Norton Summit 1908 [SLSA B18552]

Emma's parents were Thomas Collins (1791-1861) and Sarah Cope (1781-1879). This is a second (alternate) Collins family link for Peter. Emma was their third child and the only one to immigrate to Australia.

William and Emma had seven children.

1. William Thomas (1844-1904) m Elizabeth Norton (1848-1941)
2. **Ralph Collins (1849-1927) m Ellen Barnett (1851-1938)**
3. John Henry (1851-1884) m Margaret Ann McAnulty (1858-1928)
4. Emmalina Ann (1853-1900) m Charles Nunn Kidman (1858-1940)
5. Ellen Amelia (1856-1911) m Charles Curnow (1843-1925)
6. Edwin Harlow (1858-1915) m Margaret Ann Stodart (1863-1942)
7. Benjamin Hurtle (1860-1883)

A favourite pastime was for young men to climb tall saplings and to sway from side to side. Benjamin died when a sapling snapped, and he fell to the ground.

When Emma died in 1968, William married Mary Ann Waite (1840–1914). William died in 1887, aged 69, of stomach cancer.

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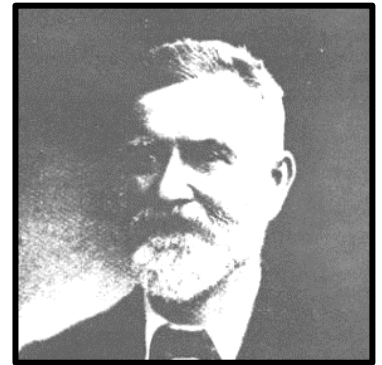
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Paternal Great Grandparents – Ralph and Ellen Sutton

Ralph Collins Sutton (1849-1927) was their first child born in South Australia.



Ellen and Ralph Sutton circa 1890



Ralph Collins Sutton

Ralph married Ellen Barnett (1851-1938) in 1870.

1. Edith Jane Clara (1871-1957)
2. **Florence May (1873-1939)**
3. Gertrude Ellen (1875-1933)
4. Herbert William (1877-1959)
5. Alfred Henry (1878-1929)
6. Emma Alice (1880-1911)
7. Beatrice Maude (1883-1968)
8. Hurtle Collins (1886-1936)
9. Ernest James (1888-1901)
10. Lavis John (1890-1951)
11. Stanley Ralph (1893-1931)



Florence May Sutton

Ellen's father, John Barnett arrived at Kangaroo Island in the *Emma* in July 1836, six months before the *Buffalo*. Her Mother was Mary Jane Scutchings, the daughter of James Scutchings and Jane Hewitt.

Ellen died on Christmas day in 1939.

Ralph and Ellen's second child, Peter's grandmother, Florence May was born 29 December 1873.

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Sutton Family, 1920 [SLSA PRG-280-1-39-152]

Four generations of the Sutton family photographed at the 50th wedding anniversary of the Ralph and Ellen Sutton. Ralph Collins Sutton married Ellen Barnett in Adelaide on 30 November 1870. The anniversary get together was held at the Rechabite Hall, Ashton, SA, at 4 pm, exactly 50 years to the day. This photograph features the family of Edith Jane Clara (1871- 1957), the Sutton's eldest child.

Back row from left: Verner Alfred Leslie LePoidevin (grandson-in-law), Frederick James Osborne (son-in-law), Leslie Verner LePoidevin (great grandson), Edith Jane Clara Osborne nee Sutton (daughter).

Front row from left: Ellen Beatrice LePoidevin nee Osborne (granddaughter), Norman Eric LePoidevin (great grandson), Ellen Sutton (nee Barnett), Gordon James LePoidevin (great grandson) and Ralph Collins Sutton. [SLSA PRG-280-1-39-152]

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Paternal Grandparents – Ernest and Florence Collins

Florence May Sutton (1873-1939) married Ernest John Collins (1871-1947) on 29 May 1895 at Norton Summit.



Wedding of Florence May Sutton to Ernest John Collins 1895

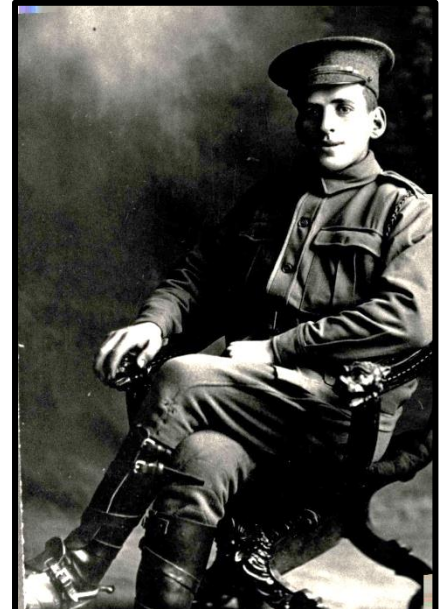
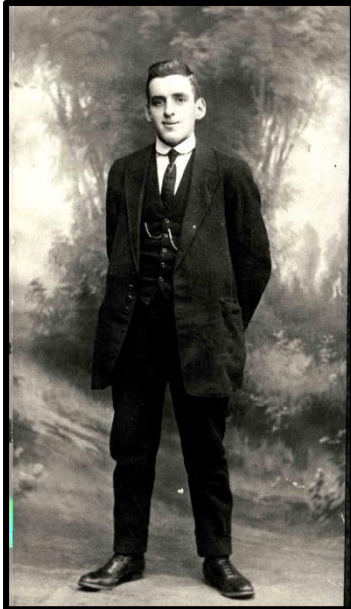
Children of Ernest and Florence Collins

1. Leslie Thomas Ralph Collins (19 Mar 1896 - 29 Dec 1916)
 - Died Somme France, World War 1
2. Ernest William Collins (8 Feb 1898 - 1 Jan 1914)
3. Ethel Gladys Collins (7 Nov 1899 - 21 Feb 1984)
 - married at the Methodist Church, Lockleys, 4 May 1921, Laurence Stanley Palmer Phillips (10 Apr 1899 – 24 Mar 1949) [1939 lived in Kent Terrace, Lockleys]
 - married at Mile End, on 20 Dec 1952, Archibald Horace Melville
4. Emma Elizabeth Collins (28 Apr 1901 - 29 Jan 1974)
 - married 17 Jan 1922, Frederick Louis Klar (1892-1960) [lived Seaton Park]
5. Florence Edith Collins (13 Oct 1902 - 2 Mar 1940)
 - married 18 Sep 1926, Lockleys, Reginald Mortimer (c1900 -1976)
6. Alfred Stanley Collins (10 Jan 1904 - 3 Aug 1984)
 - married 15 Jan 1927, Lockleys Baptist, Roma Doreen Stephens (21 Jan 1906 - 28 Aug 1968) 1943 [lived Main Street, Lockleys]
[Son, Don Collins, West Torrens basketball player, 1951 & 52 Woollacott Medal winner. He also represented Australia in Bowls at the Empire Games]
7. **Hurtle Sutton Collins (18 Mar 1906 - 7 Jul 1976)**
 - **married on 27 Mar 1929, at the Lockleys Baptist Church, Edna Mavis Stanford ALCM (30 Aug 1906 - 23 Jan 1998)** [daughter of Edwin Stanford and Elizabeth (Ingham) / brother Kenneth Edwin, Rosedale, 325 Henley Beach Road, Meldreth (Brooklyn) Park] [Children – Ted, Ray, Ken and Peter]
8. Beatrice Ellen Collins (23 Sep 1907 – 14 Feb 1988)
 - married at the Lockleys Baptist Church on 14 March 1931, Norman Alwyn Probert (15 April 1909 – 17 November 1985) [Children, Alwyn, Trevor, Darryl and Rodney] [lived Mount Gambier area]
9. Laurie Lavis Collins (14 Mar 1910 - 5 Oct 1977)
 - married 18 March 1933, Adelaide Clarissa Mavis Jean Cassidy (12 Mar 1913 - 7 Jun 1996) [Children – Carleen and Rosemary]
10. Roy Frederick Collins (30 May 1914 - 13 October 1987)
 - married 23 Jul 1938 Henley Beach, Jeanette Dorothy Tume, Henley Beach (1918 - 20 Oct 2005) [Children – Ian, Marilyn, Susanne and Robyn] [1939 lived 43 Tapley's Hill Road, Seaton Park / 1943 lived 34 North Street Henley Beach]

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Ernest and Florence's eldest son Leslie served in World War 1.



A.F.A. 2042.
114 Gen. No. 5248.

FIELD SERVICE POST CARD

The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added, the post card will be destroyed.

[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

Master H. Collins
Adelton Post Office
Adelaide
South Australia

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital
{ sick } and am going on well.
{ attended } and hope to be discharged soon.

I am being sent down to the base.

I have received your telegram, letter dated 12th March
parcel " "

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you lately for a long time.

Signature only: *H. Collins*

Date: 19th June

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

(35209) W & W2107-292 1.125m. 5/10 J. J. K. & Co., Ltd.

THE LATE DRIVER L. T. R. COLLINS.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Collins, of Basket Range, have received news that their eldest son, Driver Leslie Thomas Ralph Collins, died of pneumonia on December 29 in France. Driver Collins enlisted from Basket Range in August, 1915, and proceeded to Melbourne and trained with the Field Artillery. He left

Driver L. T. R. Collins.

for Egypt in November the same year, and left Egypt for France with the first Australian troops. He saw service in both Belgium and France. For his manliness he was held in high esteem, and great sympathy is felt for the parents and family.

Advertiser, 26 January 1917, page 9

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Ernest and Florence Collins settle in Lockleys

My second uncle, Ernest, died when he was 14, so that left only my eldest uncle Les to help my grandfather run his market garden. During the First World War it was very important to provide food for everyone at home in Australia, so if you were a farmer, or a food producer, you were required to stay home and grow produce for everyone to live on.

One day Les went into town, to the market with a load of produce. A woman handed him a white feather, which meant he was a coward for not enlisting. Being labelled a coward upset him and he took it very seriously. He enlisted the next day, even though he didn't have to because of the nature of his work as a food producer. He became a driver in France, driving horses and delivering guns and ammunition to the front line. It was a very wet winter in December 1916, and he contracted influenza. He reported sick but the Doctor sent him back to the trenches where he then died.

After his death the family sold up and moved for a brief time to Victor Harbor. My father remembered vividly the local Priest breaking the news to the family.

The fertile soils along the Torrens River (Karrawirraparri) from Mount Pleasant through Campbelltown to the lower reaches in Lockleys and what was known as the Reedbeds, were attractive to farmers, market gardeners and nurserymen.

In 1918 Ernest and Florence Collins, brought their eight remaining school age children to Lockleys and started a market garden on Valetta Road, on the northern side of the river. At this time, he didn't have anybody to help him in the gardens as his children were all too young.

At the same time another family from Ashton near Norton Summit, the Hank family acquired 18 acres on Torrens Avenue. The Hank boys Bob, Bill and Ray went on to be notable West Torrens football players.

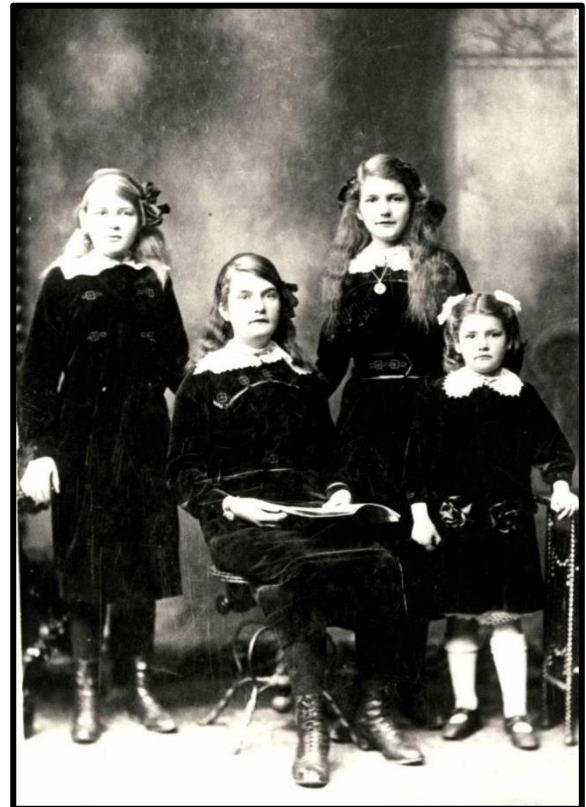
In 1939, Florence suffered a stroke, upsettingly it was on Christmas Day and whilst removing the turkey from the oven. She died five days later. Ernest died in 1947.

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Laurie, Hurtle, Roy, Alf circa 1914



Flo, Emma Ethel, Beat circa 1914

Father - Hurtle Sutton Collins

Ernest and Florence's seventh child Hurtle was born 18th March 1906 at Ashton.

When the family moved in 1918, Hurtle and his siblings went to the Lockleys Primary School.

Hurtle had aspirations to become a chemist, but as the second surviving son, Hurtle was obliged to work at the family market garden.



Hurtle Collins, circa 1914

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Stanford family

Peter's mother, Edna Mavis Stanford, is a descendent of four pioneer families of the local Henley Beach and Lockleys areas. Having an ancestor who arrived in South Australia up to and including 28 December 1846, Peter qualifies to be a member of the Pioneers Association of South Australia. *I've been a member for about 40 years but have never been to a meeting.*

Thomas Stanford

Thomas Stanford and his brother Henry arrived in Australia aboard the *Rajasthan* from Lingfield, Surrey, England, in 1838. In 1841 he purchased land in the Meadows area, and in partnership with his brother-in-law Robert Burley established holdings cultivating a variety of produce.

The successful candidates, and the prizes awarded, are as follows:
WHEAT.—Best sample, Mr W. Duffield, Little Para, gold medal, value five guineas, given by his Excellency the Governor.
2nd best sample, Captain Dashwood, silver medal, value three guineas, by H. Hughlings, Esq., Halifax.
3rd best sample, **Messrs Stanfords and Burley**, Meadows, silver medal, value two guineas, by the South Australian Company.
BARLEY.—Best sample, Messrs Stanfords and Burley, Meadows, silver medal, value two guineas, by J. B. Neales, Esq.

Agricultural and Horticultural Show, South Australian 24 Mar 1843 p2

Newspaper reports of the time have them exhibiting and winning prizes at the Agricultural and Horticultural Shows.

They went on to form the Company of Corn Factors and General Commission Agents. They had stores in Flinders Street and built their own jetty at Port Willunga.

According to *Allen's Almanack* of 1844 one of the most well established holdings in the area was 'Bashan Farm' of **T. H. Stanford (sic) and Robert Burley**, with 43 acres wheat, 4 acres barley, 1 acre oats, 1 acre potatoes, 1 acre peas, ½ acre garden, 100 cattle, 2 horses and 40 pigs. In 1846 Dutton recorded 'Messrs Stamford have a large farm and dairy . . . I have seen tons of cheese on their premises; they were farmers formerly in Kent.'^{10,7}

Meadows Heritage 1983 Department of Environment and Planning

In 1853 the partnership was dissolved.

NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between us the undersigned, as cornfactors, farmers, and general dealers, under the firm of "Stanfords & Burley," was this day dissolved by mutual consent. Dated this 18th day of December, 1852.
**THOMAS STANFORD.
HENRY STANFORD.
ROBERT BURLEY.**
Witness, J. H. FISHER, Adelaide.

South Australian Register, 17 Feb 1853, p2

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Prompted by a visit from their father James, the brothers moved to Tapley's Hill Road, Fulham, across the river from *Moore Farm*, the property of A H Davis.

Pioneer A.H. Davis connection

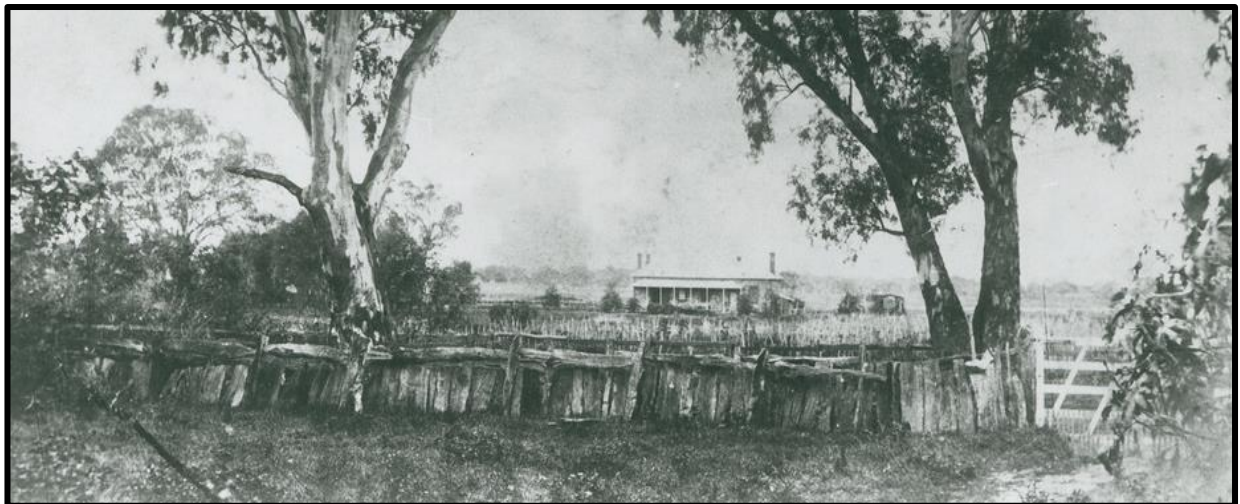


A.H. Davis [WTHS LH0206-06]

Abraham Hopkins Davis had arrived in South Australia from Surrey, England on board the *Lord Goderich* with his wife Mary and four children in 1838. He was the first chairman of the District Council of West Torrens and the first alderman of the Adelaide City Council.

He was always in the news and headlines for something, he went bankrupt twice, and married twice. His second marriage helped him get back his house.

The Davis family lived at Moore Farm on the southern side of the Torrens River.



Property of Abraham Hopkins Davis, first called Moore Farm then known as Nunkarrie approx 491 Henley Beach Road Reedbeds/Fulham, 1868 [SLSA B 17498]

The house was demolished in the 1950s and a store, currently Romeo's Foodland, and the Lockleys Hotel were built on that and neighbouring land.

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Coupled Siblings

On 19 January 1848 Thomas Stanford married Emily Davis, the second daughter of Abraham Hopkins Davis. His brother Henry married Emily's sister Mary Ann, the eldest daughter of Abraham Davis.

Both sisters died at an early age, Emily in 1856 aged 35, one day before the death of her 10 day old son Frederick, and Mary Ann in 1857 aged 38.

On the 26th instant, at the Reedbeds, Emily, the beloved wife of Mr. Thomas Stanford, and daughter of Mr. A. H. Davis, of Moore Farm, aged 35 years.

South Australian Register, 27 Mar 1856, p2

DIED.

On Sunday, the 29th instant, in Halifax-street, Mary Ann, the beloved wife of Mr Henry Stand ord, and eldest daughter of Mr A. H. Davis, of Moore Farm, in the 39th year of her age.

Adelaide Times, 30 Nov 1857, p2

The South Australian Register reported on 2 November 1872 that Henry was a drinker and committed suicide on the 30th of October, the anniversary of his marriage, at the West Terrace Cemetery where Mary Ann was buried in 1857.

SUICIDE AND INQUEST.

On Friday afternoon Mr. T. Ward, J.P., held an inquest on the remains of Henry Stanford, whose body was found hanging by the neck to a rail in the fence of the West-terrace Cemetery on Thursday night. The enquiry took place at the Elephant and Castle Inn.

Thomas Stanford, of Reedbeds, farmer, deposed that the deceased, who was his brother, was last seen by him alive three weeks ago, when he thought of going up the country. He

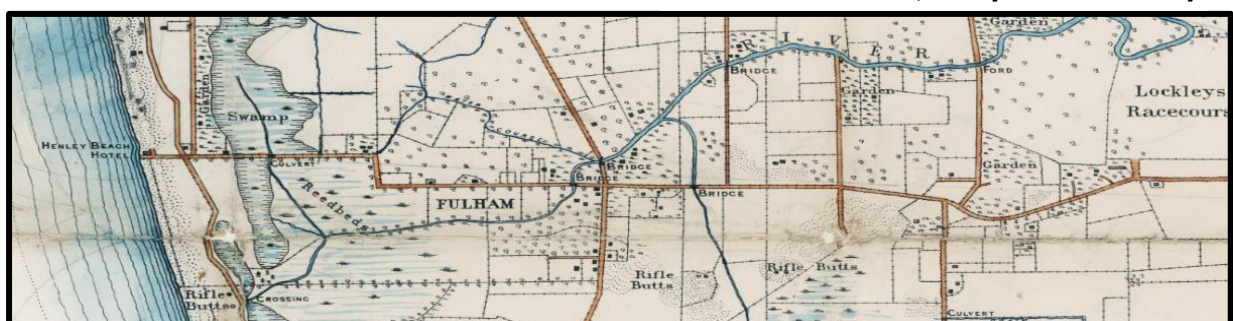
The Jury, of which Mr. E. J. Hodgkinson was foreman, brought in the verdict that "Deceased committed suicide whilst in a state of temporary insanity."

South Australian Register, 2 Nov 1872

Thomas Stanford's land acquisitions

On the northern side of the river, Thomas Stanford leased a 134-acre estate known as the Reedbeds from William Wright who had received the original 1838 land grant. Thomas subsequently bought the entire estate, and it is now known as Fulham Gardens.

Fulham Reedbeds area, 1882 [WTHS LH0025-16]



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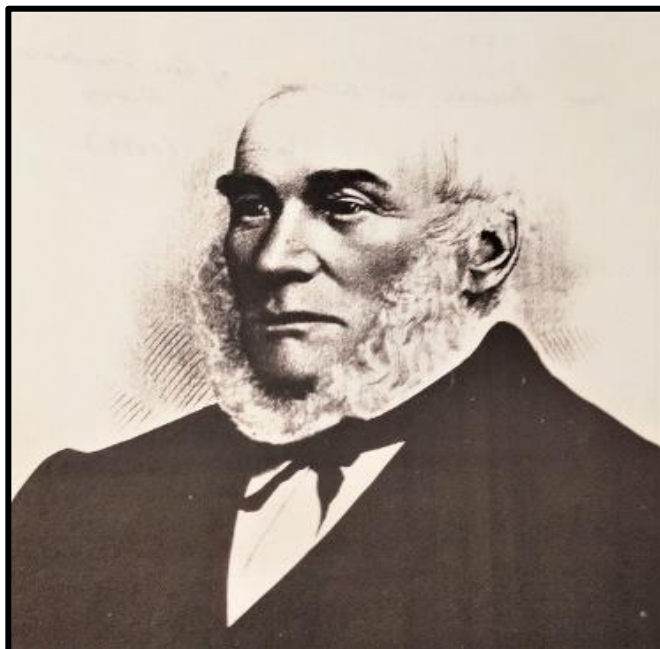
Maternal Great-Great Grandparents - Thomas and Emily Stanford

Thomas and Emily had six children before she died in 1856.

1. **James (3 Dec 1848 - 14 Feb 1919)**
2. Kate (19 Mar 1850 - 11 Nov 1927)
3. Thomas (17 Apr 1851 - 09 Sep 1935)
4. Emily Harriet (24 Jun 1852 - 23 Nov 1937)
5. Mary (21 Dec 1853 - 03 Oct 1880)
6. Frederick (18 Mar 1856 - 28 Mar 1856)

On 4 February 1858 Thomas married Julia Matilda Bowen having 7 more children.

1. Ada (30 Nov 1858 - 06 Jun 1914)
2. Ellen (14 Apr 1860 - 25 Apr 1935)
3. Alfred (24 Jan 1862 - 27 Oct 1938)
4. Moreton (17 Jan 1864 - 10 Jun 1928)
5. Evangeline (29 Nov 1866 - 09 Mar 1953)
6. Lydia (29 Jan 1868 - 11 Dec 1944)
7. Horace (18 Jul 1870 - 1945)



Thomas H. Stanford

Peter believes that the second family inherited Thomas Stanford's wealth and assets.

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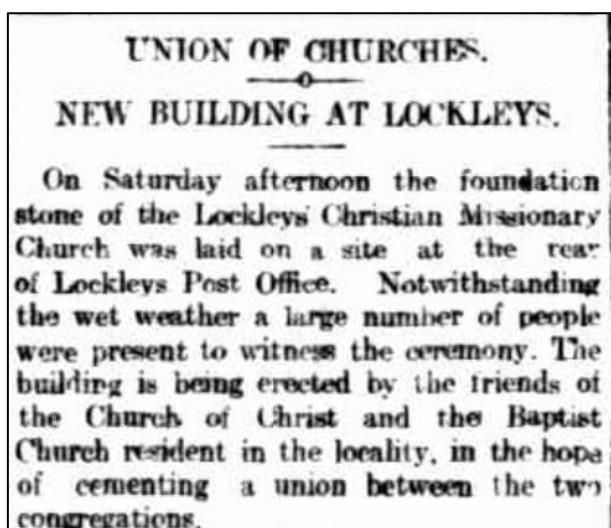
Maternal Great Grandparents - James and Margaret Stanford

Thomas and Emily's eldest child James Stanford (1849-1919) married Margaret Fielder on 13 August 1839 at Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide.

Margaret was the daughter of pioneer famer John Edward Fielder (1808-1903) of Henley Beach and Margarett Debney (1818-1885). John and Margarett both came to South Australia on the *Lloyds* arriving on 1 December 1838.



Margaret and James Stanford



Register, 10 Sep 1906, p9

James was an elder of the Henley Beach Church of Christ before the establishment of the United Church on Torrens Avenue at Lockleys (later affiliated with the Baptist Union).

Margaret was a senior Deaconess of this church, and she laid one of the foundation stones.

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James and Margaret settled at Lockleys with their 10 children.

1. Amy (1875-1938), married 20 February 1901, William Henry Percy
2. **Edwin, known as Ted, (1876-1951), married 24 June 1903, Elizabeth Ingham**
3. Alfred Ernest (1878-1947), married 1907, Mildred Bailey in Perth, WA
4. Maud (1880-1951), married 16 November 1927, Walter Burton
5. Marion (1883-1884), twin
6. Charles (1883-1964), twin, married 12 July 1911, Alice Maude Teague
7. William (Willie) (1885-1962), married
 - (1) 3 April 1911, to Ruby Elsie Jane Brown (1885-1935);
 - (2) 1937, to Alma Richards (1902-1999)
8. Clifford (1887-1970), married 23 September 1914, Elsie Mullis Richards
9. Gerald (1889-1977), married
 - (1) 24 January 1920, to Gladys Beatrice Hilda Johnson
 - (2) 17 May 1927, to Isabella Myrtle Smallacombe
10. Elsie (1891-1962)



Clifford, Edwin (Ted), Alfred, Will and Gerald Stanford, Circa 1910



Will Stanford

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Maternal Grandparents - Ted and Elizabeth Stanford

Edwin (Ted) Stanford was born at Fulham on 11 June 1876.

He married Elizabeth Ingham, born 6 March 1880 at Laura, daughter of James Warren Hall Ingham, (see page 33), on 24 June 1903.



Edwin Stanford, 1897, aged 21 years



Elizabeth Ingham circa 1900

MARRIAGES.
STANFORD—INGHAM.—On the 24th June, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. J. Colbourne, Edwin, the eldest son of James Stanford, Fulham, to Elizabeth, the third daughter of James W. H. Ingham, New Hindmarsh.

Express and Telegraph 1 Jul 1903, p1



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Ted had an orchard and market garden *Riverdale* on Torrens Avenue at Fulham (now Lockleys), near the banks of the Torrens River.

1935 [WestMaps Public]

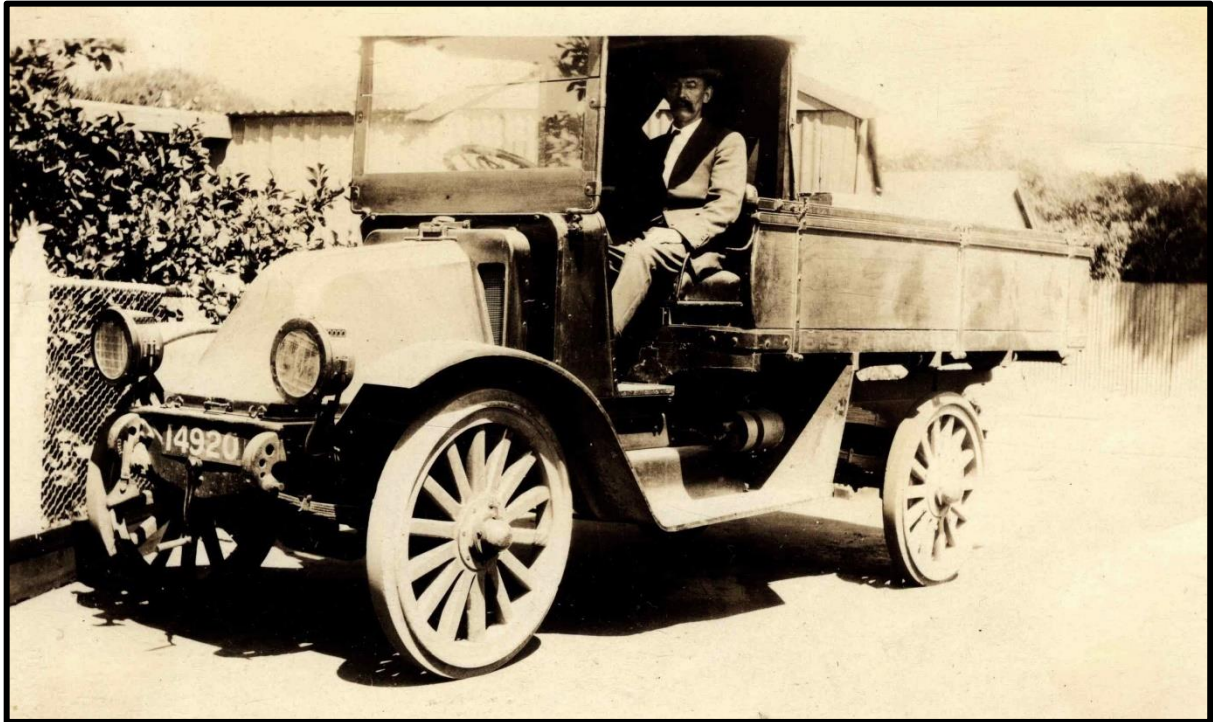


Torrens Avenue, Lockleys 1903



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Ted's first truck, an International, circa 1905

Ted and Elizabeth had two children:

1. **Edna Mavis (1906-1998)**
married 27 March 1929 to Hurtle Collins (1906-1976)
2. Kenneth Edwin (1913-1990) married 5 October 1939 to Charlotte Elizabeth Hodge (1917-1982).



Kenneth purchased Beach Road Motors, 261 Henley Beach Road, Brooklyn Park around 1956. This was a BP fuel station and vehicle repair shop. He ran this business with assistance from his sons, Brian and Graham, until his retirement in 1977. Kenneth was a member of the Lockleys Bowling Club.

Graham represented South Australia's Sheffield Shield Cricket team in 1968 and coached the Torrens Cricket Club.

After his father's retirement, Graham reshaped the family business as Stanford Mowers Pty Ltd, which for a time was the largest mower organisation in Australia.

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Ted and Elizabeth moved around 1929 to 325 Henley Beach Road, Brooklyn Park.



325 Henley Beach Road, Brooklyn Park, 1929



Ted, Edna and Kenneth, circa 1925

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Ted owned a large amount of land and spent hours in the garden. He was known for his award-winning flower displays.



325 Henley Beach Road, Brooklyn Park, circa 1932

For the centenary of South Australia in 1936 he made a special display with a map of Australia and 'the old gum tree'.

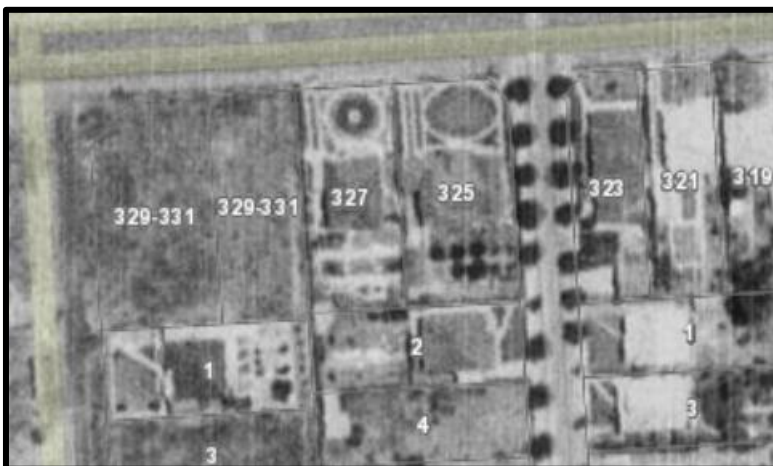
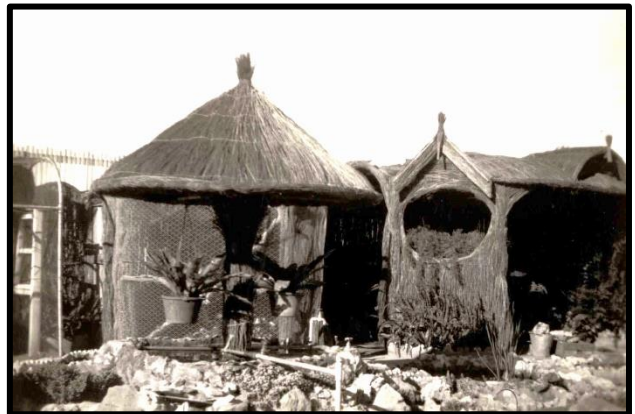


Flower display west of house: top Buffalo, Australia map in centre, Ted next to 'The old gum tree' and AD 1936 at front

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In about 1941 the land at 327 Henley Beach Road was used to build a replacement home for Edwin and Elizabeth - The garden at this property was also elaborate.



West Maps public 1949



In 2005 the home was converted into a Dental Surgery [Streetview 2008]

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Mother - Edna Mavis Stanford



Edwin and Edna Stanford

Edna was born 30 August 1906 at their family home in Torrens Avenue which was on the top of a sand hill.

Peter remembers she always insisted on living on the top of the sand hills because of the history of the river flooding the area.



Corner of Henley Beach Road and Torrens Avenue, 1920

Preserving Memories

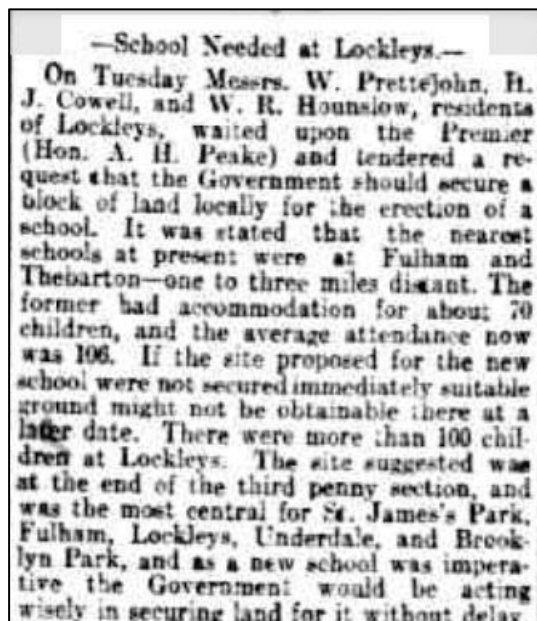
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Fulham Public School and students, 1885 (WTHS LH0432-15)

Edna attended the original Fulham School until 1916.

The residents in the area requested a new school be built for the increased number of children.

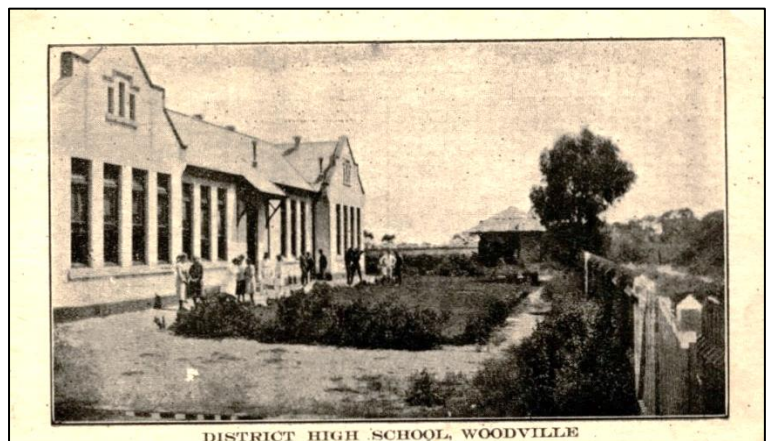


The Lockleys Primary School opened in 1916 and Edna was one of the first students enrolled.

Register, 23 Oct 1912, p9

After receiving her Qualifying Certificate, she went to the Woodville High School.

This involved a long walk down Torrens Avenue to Henley Beach Road to the horse tram ride to the city then a train ride back out to the Woodville Railway Station.



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Edna became an Associate of the London College of Music with her musical ability. She played piano but Peter recalls she was too shy and nervous to play in public. *However, she enjoyed playing duets with Hurtle at home. Hurtle played the violin 'by ear'. While they played, I cried and begged them to stop.*



Edna Stanford, circa 1925

A H DAVIS (1796-1866)	---	m 1818	---	Mary WILLIAMS
Lord Goderich 1838	I	Lord Goderich 1838		
Emily DAVIS (1821-185)	---	m 1848	---	Thomas STANFORD (1803-1889)
Lord Goderich 1838	I	Rajasthan 1838		
		James STANFORD (1848-1874)	---	m 1874
			I	
		Edwin STANFORD (1876-1951)	---	m 1903
			I	Elizabeth INGHAM (1880-1967)
		Edna Mavis STANFORD (1906-1998)	---	m 1929
				Hurtle COLLINS (1906-1976)

The Davis-Stanford family connection

Preserving Memories

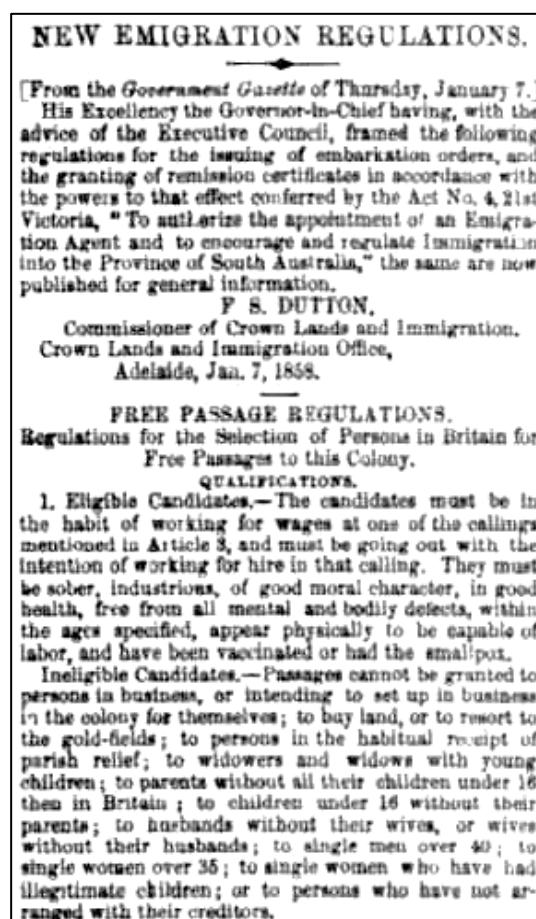
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Maternal family background

Edna's mother / Peter's grandmother's family, (Elizabeth Ingham), originally lived in Heytesbury & Sutton Veny, Wiltshire and in Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire. Her paternal and maternal ancestors can be traced back for several generations.

In the 1850s farm labourers from Wiltshire were reported to be the lowest paid in England and were targeted by migration agents recruiting labourers to work in South Australia. The cotton industry employed many people in Lancashire.

When they migrated to South Australia both the Richardson and Ingham ancestors became Brick makers at Hindmarsh.



South Australian Register 13 May 1858, p4

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Richardson Family

John Richardson (1794-1876) married Sarah (née Dann) (1797-1869) on 15 May 1830 at Knook, Wiltshire.

John was the son of Richard Richardson and Mary Hurdle

His paternal grandparents were John Richardson and Michal Churchill

His maternal grandparents were Edward Hurdle and Mary Young

Sarah was the daughter of John Dann and Esther (née Lewis)

Her paternal grandparents were John Dann and Ann Westly

Her maternal grandparents were John Lewis and Mary Smith

John and Sarah were nonconformists, and the children were christened in the Independent Congregational Church in Heytesbury. Their children were:

1. James (1821-1888) married 17 September 1856, Ann Cooper
2. Joseph (1823-1887) married 11 May 1845, Eliza Sweet
3. Ann (1825-)
4. **John (1827-1898) married 25 December 1848, Anna Maria Axford**

Anna Maria's parents were William Axford and Sarah Franklin

Her paternal grandparents were William and Elizabeth Axford

Her maternal grandparents were Richard Franklin and Jane Dyer, this ancestry can be traced back for several generations.

5. William (1830-) married 25 December 1851, Sarah Dyer
6. Edward (1833-)
7. Isaac (1835-)
8. Harriet (1839-1927) married 14 May 1863, William John Randall

John and Anna Maria appear to be only of their siblings to bring their first two children to South Australia. They arrived on the *Anglia* on 20 March 1852.

John and Anna Maria's children were:

1. Frederick (1849-1946) married 27 September 1877, Marian Munns
2. John (1851-1915) married 2 November 1872, Amy Snoswell
3. **Anna Maria (1853-1935) married 4 April 1874, James Warren Hall Ingham**
4. Josiah (1857-1937) married 22 December 1883, Sarah Ann Ingham
5. Sarah Ann (1860-1945) married 30 October 1876, George Thomas Oxlade
6. Isaac (1863-1949)
7. James (1865-1959) married 1 March 1893, Maria Munn
8. Harriet (1868-1868)

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Ingham Family

The Ingham family in the 1840s worked in the cotton industry in Lancashire.

James Warren Ingham (1818-1875) and Hannah (née Hall) (1821-1905) arrived in Port Adelaide on the *Utopia* on 9 July 1858. They were accompanied by one child from his first marriage and four from his second marriage.

ship Utopia , 947 tons, Captain H.C. Keen, from Liverpool 28th March 1858, arrived at Port Adelaide, South Australia 9th July 1858							
N	Ingham	James Warren	43	Labourer / Spinner	811/1	Haughton, Lancashire	with family
		Hannah (Hall)	34				
		William	7				
		Elizabeth Hannah	5				
		James Warren Hall	3				
		Squire Robert	1				
N	Ingham	Ralph Warren	15	Labourer	811/1	Haughton, Lancashire	with parents

James was the son of Joshua Ingham and Martha Dyson.

His paternal grandparents were Robert Ingham and Nancy Warren.

His maternal grandparents were Joseph Ryan and Betty (Unknown Maiden name).

James's children with Mary (née Horsfield)

1. Charles (1835-1908) married Ann Holroyd
2. Alfred Warren (1837-1841)
3. Nancy Anne (1836-1915) married Humphrey Addington
4. Ralph Warren (1842-1880) married Martha Jagger

James's children with Hannah (née Hall)

1. William Hall (1850-1880)
2. Elizabeth Ruth (1852-1901) married Joseph Reuben Daniel
3. **James Warren Hall (1854-1935) married Anna Maria Richardson**
4. Squire Robert (1856-1936) married Susan Beatrice Broad
5. Thomas Warren (1859-1931) married Jane Halbert
married Catherine Deacon Cassidy
6. Annie Maria (1862-1940) married Isaac Richardson
7. Sarah Ann (1865-1956) married Josiah Richardson
8. Mary Jane (1867-1868)

Controversially, Charles was charged with domestic violence against Hannah.

After James died Hannah married James Theodore Weeden, on 16 February 1884.

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Children of James Warren Hall Ingham and Anna Maria Richardson

1. James John (1875-1965) married Mary Ann Davie
married Caroline Elizabeth Mason
married Pleasance Bird (née Drew)
2. Annie Maria (1876-1914) married Robert McConnell
3. Sarah Ann (1878-1958) married Henry Horace Marsson
4. **Elizabeth (1880-1967) married Edwin Stanford**
5. Fred (1881-1947) married Eva May Berresford
6. Walter (1884-1947) married Martha Ann Staveley
7. Septima (Stella) (1886-1978) married Charles Henry Harris
8. Hilda Laura (1888-1978) married Albert Axford Roberts
9. Leonard Warren (1890-1955) married Amy Florence Groom
10. Linda (1892 stillborn)
11. Charles Clarence (1894-1989) married Gertrude Ann Clune

Elizabeth Ingham

Elizabeth was known to her siblings as Bessie.

I overheard a conversation between my grandmother and her sister Stella, discussing the subject of death. Stella was adamant that she did not want to know when she was going to die. My grandmother disagreed vehemently. She needed to know so that the house would be perfectly clean. This attitude was consistent with her habit of polishing the outside brass taps.

I only met her oldest brother James John once, but I was surprised how his facial features differed from those of the rest of the family.

He resembled someone from a Cornish background. On reflection, this gives a clue to the ethnic origin of the Richardson family.



Septima - the seventh child known as Stella

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Hurtle and Edna Collins, Marriage and Children

WEDDINGS

Collins—Stanford

The marriage of Mr. Hurtle Sutton Collins, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Collins, of Lockleys, to Miss Edna Mavis Stanford, A.L.C.M., only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Stanford, of Rosedale, Henley Beach road, Meldrith Park, was celebrated at Lockleys Baptist Church. Rev. S. Bowering officiated. Mr. A. Powell presided at the organ.

The church was decorated by the teachers of the Sunday School. The bride, who entered the church with her father, was preceded by Rex Harris, who carried a shell pink cushion. The bride was frocked in ivory georgette over shell pink satin, trimmed with handkerchief points, caught at the side with a diamante buckle. The veil, which formed a train, was of tulle and silver lace, arranged Russian style, and surmounted with sprays of orange blossom. She wore brocaded silver shoes and shell-pink stockings, and carried a sheaf of Easter lilies and pink dahlias. The first bridesmaid, Miss Dot Rose-warne, was dressed in pale green georgette. The second, Miss Sylvia Wilson, was frocked in apricot. The third, Miss Flo Inkster, wore blue georgette. Each carried a posy of autumn tints.

Mr. Laurie Collins, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. Mr. Reg. Burnett and Mr. Kenneth Stanford (brother of the bride) were groomsmen.

The gift of the bridegroom to the bride was a rhynestone necklet. The bride gave to the bridegroom a solid leather travelling case. The bridegroom's gifts to the bridesmaids were cut crystal necklets.

During the signing of the register Miss Lucy Rowell sang "Because." As the bride and bridegroom were leaving the church Fay Stanford and Ray Harris hung lucky horseshoes on her arm.

The mother of the bride wore a black crepe satin frock draped at the side, and caught with a diamante buckle. The mother of the bridegroom wore black satin with gold lace trimmings. Each carried a posy of autumn tints.

The bride's travelling frock was of navy crepe satin, with a fawn velour felt hat. The honeymoon was spent at Mount Gambier.

The reception was held in the Lockleys Memorial Hall, and the usual toasts were honored. Vocal items were contributed by Miss M. and Flo. Inkster, Miss Edna Edwards. Mr. C. H. Harris was master of ceremonies.

Invited guests were Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Stanford, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Collins, Mrs. Stanford (grandmother), and Mr. J. Ingham (grandfather of the bride), Mr. and Mrs. L. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. F. Klar, Mr. and Mrs. R. Mortimer, Mr. and Mrs. A. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. C. Stanford, Mr. and Mrs. H. Marsson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Ingham, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. A. Day, Mr. and Mrs. E. Day, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. S. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Stow, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Powell, Mrs. Cory.

Hurtle and Edna attended the Lockleys Primary School at the same time. Peter recalls the family story that when he met her he fell in love with her. Hurtle and Edna were sweethearts from then.

Hurtle and Edna were married 29 March 1929, at the Lockleys Baptist Church in Torrens Avenue.



Mail 20 April 1929, p5

Preserving Memories

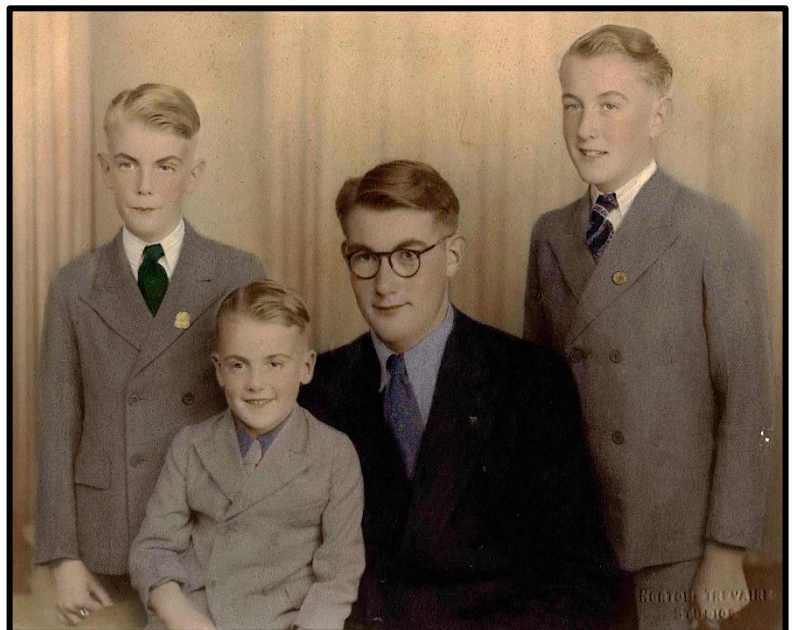
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After their marriage they moved into a new home built at 38 Malurus Avenue, Lockleys.



Hurtle and Edna had four sons. *I'm the fourth son of a of fourth son of a fourth son. They were hoping for a girl.*

1. Hurtle Edwin, (1931-2017), known as Ted
2. Raymond Stanford, (1935-)
3. Kenneth Ernest, (1936-2022)
4. **Peter Robert (1942-)**



Ken, Peter, Ted, Ray Collins circa 1947

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Hurtle and Edna were closely involved with the Lockleys Baptist Church where Hurtle was the Superintendent of the Sunday School. He later became an elder at the Brooklyn Park Church of Christ.



Edna and Hurtle Collins, circa 1970 (in front of their son Ted's home, Wright St Henley Beach)

Peter recalls that Edna never went to work, before marriage she stayed at home with the expectation of assisting with the housework.

Hurtle and Edna were both keen members of the Lockleys Bowling Club and had their own practice green at home watered from a bore.

*Edna (second from left),
at their Malurus Avenue green circa 1970*



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Hurtle Collins, 1956



Elizabeth Stanford with Edna and Hurtle, circa



Still bowling in 1972, Hurtle far right

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Hurtle retired in 1970 and in 1972 they moved to Glenelg.

In 1976 Hurtle died after suffering a stroke.

Edna went to live at a nursing home in Grange. She died on 23 January 1998.



Edna, Hurtle and great grandson Wayne, 16 May 1976



Ken, Ray, Edna, Ted, Peter, circa 1997

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Peter's early childhood years

When I was growing up, we lived at 38 Malurus Avenue, Lockleys. The house was in a small development, and all around us was vacant land.



West Maps Public 1949

When I was young, I used my mother's tea set as a train set. I got a proper Hornby train set later. I remember that I had a lot of soft toys and cloth toys, but I never had a Teddy Bear. I used to line them all up in my bedroom.

When I was a little older, and allowed out to play, I spent most of my time just wandering the neighbourhood with Jeffrey Abbot who lived two houses away. We grew up together, and the two of us would just wander around the neighbourhood. We knew all the neighbours and would visit them. They were all very friendly.

The end of World War 2

I remember one day; Jeff and I were standing in a vacant paddock opposite my place and there were planes flying around and people blowing their car horns and people out in the street shouting. There was great excitement and I said to Jeffrey, "What's going on?". He was a month older than me, and much wiser, he said "The war is over." I said, "What's a war?" I can remember people calling out "The war is over. The war is over." It was a big thing, but I couldn't understand what it was all about. I remember asking my brother all about it.

We went up to Parafield to watch the planes come in when they were bringing back the wounded soldiers.

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Friendships

As we got older and started school, our group expanded as we continued to wander around, and it finished up there were six of us. We were the Malurus Avenue gang, and our enemies were the Lorraine Avenue gang, and the Housing Trust kids.

The Abbot family lived two doors away on one side, and the Pooles, Kevin and Robert (who were Jeff's cousins), lived two doors away on the other side. We all played together including Ian Voysey who lived across the road and Ralph Abbot, Jeff's younger brother.



I still see Ralph and Ian, Jeffrey sadly died a few years ago. When we got older and into our teens, the Pooles went off and did their own thing, and they dropped out of the group being more interested in cars and water skiing.

West Maps Public 1949

School years

Lockleys Primary School

Peter went to the same school that his parents attended, the Lockleys Primary School in Elston Street. Since I was born 7th January 1942, I was one of the youngest in my class at school. I was in the same class as children born in 1941 and earlier.

My grade one teacher, Miss McAskill, had also been a teacher at the school when my mother was there. I've still got the grade one report she wrote for me.

I had a few cousins there, or distant cousins like Pam Bacchus, she was Pam Jackson. Ian Garratt was in my class, as was Brian Stanford. Marjorie Phillips, Rosemary Collins and Barbara Stanford were also at the school.

Peter Craig was also in my class. He became a league football umpire. The Craig family were in the wholesale vegetable business and well known in the area. Three children in my class became doctors, Barry Dale, Peter Wilson and Peter Fry.

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In grade three we had about 50 students in the class.



Lockleys Primary School, Grade 3, 1949 - Peter (circled)

When I started at school, there were about 250 students attending the school, by the time I was in grade seven, it had grown to 800. The Lockley's North Primary School was being built to cope with the bigger numbers in the district. There weren't enough classrooms, so we went to the Brooklyn Park Methodist Church down the road on May Terrace and used the hall.

The school oval was created on the other side of May Terrace, next to the golf course, as the land allocated to the school was all used for building classrooms.



School and Oval West Maps Public 1959 (Burbridge) Sir Donald Bradman Drive ^

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Primary School Sport

I was mad keen on football. I wasn't interested in cricket, I used to go out when I was in about grade four or five every morning and have a kick of the football before I went to school. I was later the captain of the school football team and a member of the West Adelaide representative team that went to Mount Gambier in 1953.



West Adelaide schools football team 1953 – Peter circled

When I was nine, I was picked for the school football team. I remember being all dressed up in my football guernsey but didn't get a game. I was originally the 19th man, then I went from 19th man down to 20th. I had Graham Craig demanding that I hand over my guernsey, because there was only 19 guernseys, and he was the now the 19th man. He never got my guernsey, there was no way I was giving that up.

I did play a couple of games of cricket in grade seven but was pretty hopeless.

Having a seventh of January birthday, I qualified to go into the junior athletics, even though I was in grade seven, I competed against the grade sixes. I went in a relay team with grade sixes and we came second in the State. I was the final runner in the relay team because the teacher thought I'd show more fight in the home straight than the younger members.

Preserving Memories

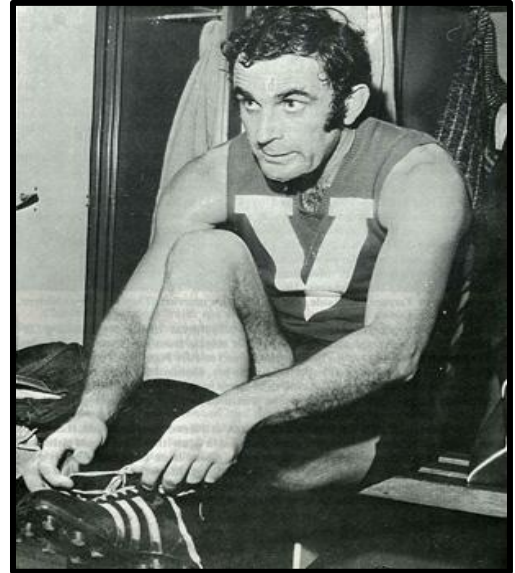
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When we got to the final, and it got to my turn in the relay, we were equal with the Kilburn team at the last relay changeover.

As it turned out, I watched the Kilburn runner disappear into the distance in front of me, it was a boy called Bob Hammond.

He became a star league footballer and was the inaugural president of the Adelaide Crows.

*australianfootball.com Bob Hammond
North Adelaide/Norwood 1960-1975*



Adelaide Technical High School

After primary school, I went to Adelaide Technical High School, where you had to pass an exam to get in. Only about one third of those who applied were accepted. I kept asking myself why I went there and still ask myself that same question even now.

Two of my older brothers went there and I've always been on the end of the queue, where you must follow along behind your older siblings and do as they did. My brother Ray only lasted at the school for two years, but Ken did very well, went to university and became a doctor.

Ken wasn't keen for me to go there because he was proud of his achievements at school, and he felt I was going to spoil his good reputation.

Looking back, I should have gone to Adelaide High because it was solely academic. Adelaide Technical was academic, but it also did technical subjects. In first year, you'd do things like woodwork, sheet metal work, fitting and turning and drawing. All those things weren't my scene.

Preserving Memories

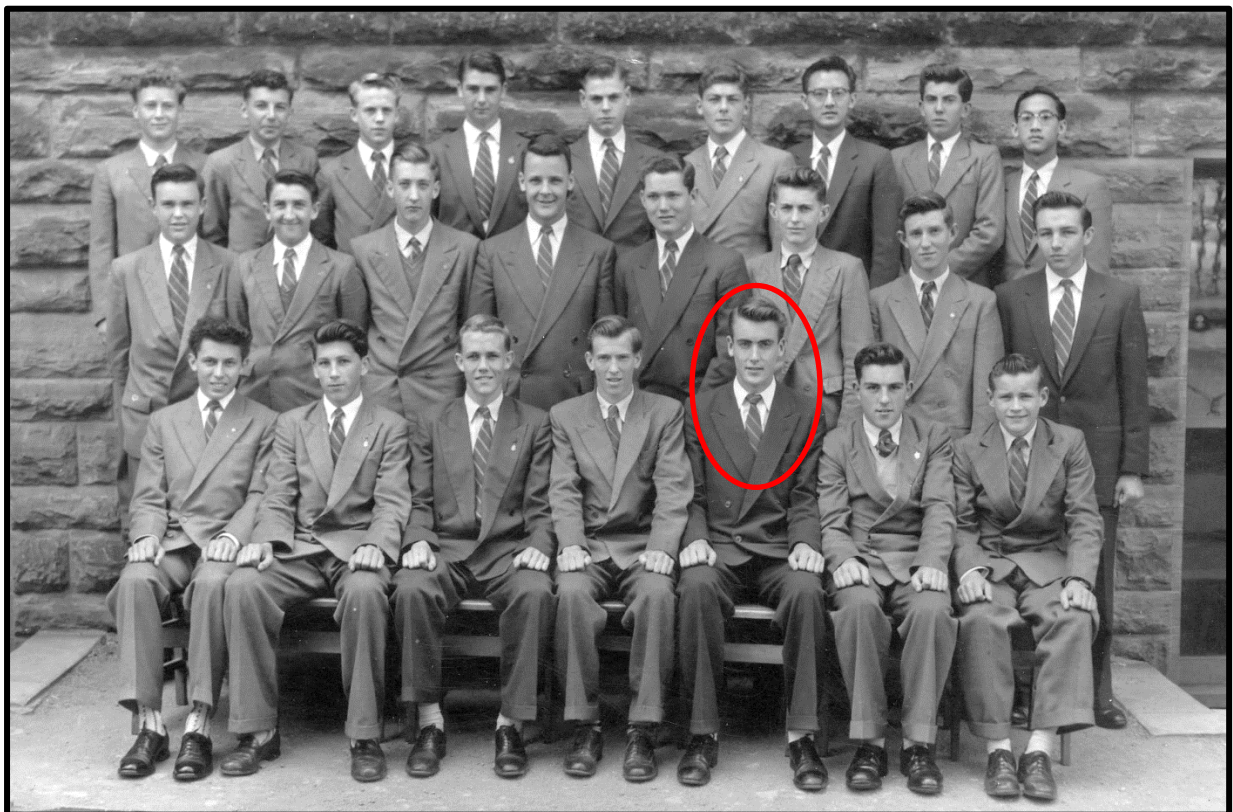
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Adelaide Tech was on the corner of Frome Road and North Terrace in the city.

To get there I caught the tram along Henley Beach Road to the city and then walked to school.

Initially the school catered only for boys. In 1914 the Preparatory School was amalgamated with the Adelaide Agricultural College. The name was changed to the Junior Technical School. In 1915 girls were admitted and a commercial course was provided. The school continued to operate under the direction of the School of Mines. In 1918 the Council decided that the School would be rebadged as the Adelaide Technical High School. [<https://blueandgoldalumni.com.au/history/>]



Adelaide Technical High School Leaving Class 1957 - Peter circled

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High School Sport

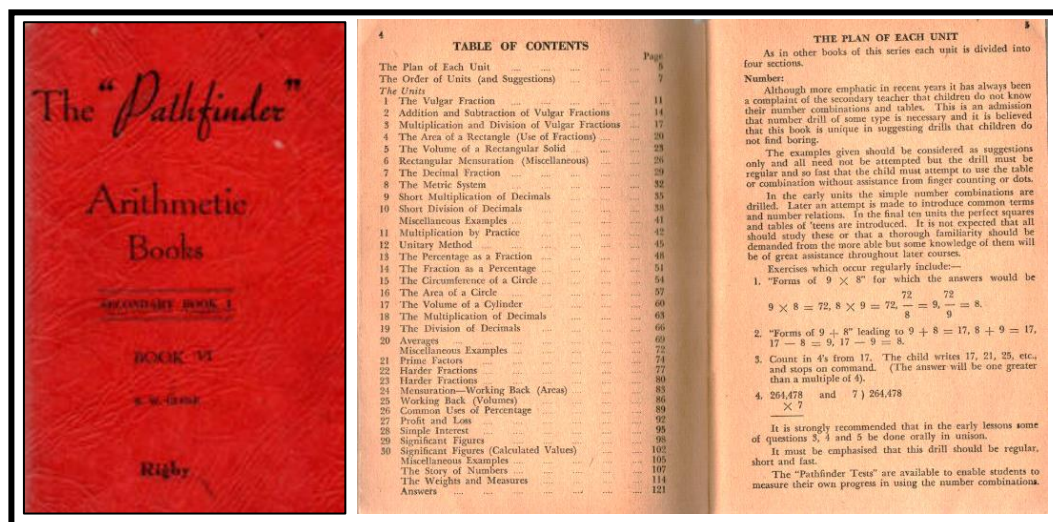
In first year, I played cricket and played the best innings of my career. I made 29 and my opening partner made 12 and I got out, caught off a wide. You can't get caught off a wide. That was not out, but I walked. I didn't know the rules.

The team's score was sixty.

In second year, I won the Junior Cup. The competition age was based on a calendar year which made me one of the oldest and I was able to compete against the first years.

I did play against Bob Hammond again, this time in cricket when he was at Enfield High. I was captain of the seconds team. Enfield won and I made a duck. My encounters with Bob Hammond were not good.

Favourite Subject



I always did well at Maths. At primary school, we'd had a Pathfinder book and I did every exercise in that book, including the supplementary questions. I finished the whole book; I think I was the only one that finished the whole book. We had a student teacher who marked it and then threw it in the fireplace and said, "That's where it belongs". I thought, "For a student teacher you've got a lot to learn". The

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sad thing is that they probably made him a headmaster, because everybody became a headmaster in those days if you survived the system.

When I was in grade seven, I came second in the class to Lynette Bissland. I suspect it was because she had neater handwriting.

When I went to Adelaide Tech and I came second again in first year despite having to do the subjects I mentioned, my dear old mother said, "It'd be nice, Peter, if you came first for a change". That was very hard to do because it was a high standard at Adelaide Tech.

If I talk to people from Adelaide Tech, they understand that. I know of others who came first in their primary school and then they finished up in the middle of the class when they got to Adelaide Tech. It was very hard, but maths was my favourite subject.

I did have an altercation with the class teacher, Spinny Williams, during the last term of leaving year. The school had a detention system where students had to stay back at the whim of the teacher. Spinny thought that this a great opportunity for him to teach another Mathematics class.

He said that we had nothing better to do. I objected loudly and threw myself on my desk. He told me that I could leave - which I did, for every detention class for the remainder of the year. Escorting my girlfriend to the Railway Station was far more important at that time of day!

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Church; Basketball and Cricket

My parents were involved with the Brooklyn Park Church of Christ, and we all attended every Sunday, including Sunday school, Christian Endeavor, Young Worshippers League. It was a very busy Sunday.

After my grandfather Ted died, we would visit the Cemetery so that my grandmother could clean her husband's headstone.



As teenagers, we played sport with the church youth group. We played a reasonable standard of basketball. The teams across the association that we played in were very strong, along with the Uniting Church in another association, and we used to compete against them.

As a teenager, I played basketball for West Torrens and a couple of other teams, including the Postal Institute.

I also played cricket in the church team during the summertime.

Football

I left school at 15 and missed playing football. A friend and I went along to West Torrens Junior Colts. He dropped out, so I was a bit wary about still going by myself. It was hard to get to practice because it was at Hindmarsh Oval, so for a while I didn't play football; I stuck with basketball.

At the age of 20 I decided to go back to football. I asked myself, "Now, Peter, what do you want to do in life?" I decided I wanted to work with mathematics, and I wanted to go back and play football.

Around this time, I received a letter from West Torrens Football Club inviting me to try out for Flinders Park, one of their affiliate clubs.

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I met the Flinders Park team president and he said, "Oh, we sent out that letter because we were short of players. We have had a lot of takers and we're not short anymore, but you are welcome to train with us".

I went along to practice not knowing a soul, starting in B-grade. My coach, Reggie Turner, was a very good coach. Sadly, he had a heart condition and was told he shouldn't play football. One day two blokes didn't turn up, so he filled in for them and dropped dead suddenly on the football field. He wasn't very old, just in his mid-thirties. People still talk about it.



Flinders Park B grade Football team, 1965 – Peter circled

In that first year, for about the last six matches, I had worked up to A-grade. The team were minor premiers and all we had to do was win the first semi-final to move into A1, the goal of amateur league players. I know about 20 blokes who years later are still talking about how they played in that match.

I was played in the centre and, unfortunately, I played against two ex-Port Adelaide league players. By quarter time I was absolutely stuffed because every time I went for the ball I'd get a punch tackle, 'Bang', in the stomach. I quickly learnt about the

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punch tackle; I was on the end of several. These two opponents were expert at it, and it's the only time I've hit somebody on the football field. Everybody saw my retaliation except the umpire, so I was lucky that time and didn't get reported.

I finished up playing 202 games over ten seasons at Flinders Park, and I'm a life member. I played the whole time with an inguinal hernia, but I had never got it repaired. Consequently, as I kept playing, it got worse and worse.



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I was member of the Club's committee that decided that players should wear red shorts.

We were first Club to do so. The rationale was that colour television was coming in the next year, 1975, and the A1 matches were being televised.

[illegible]

The Club was languishing in A3 but three years later Flinders Park won the premiership in the newly formed South Australian Football Association (SAFA) league. The broadcasted matches attracted an audience of up to 100,000 viewers.

My football and basketball interest follows on to supporting the state South Australian teams. I am a keen Adelaide Crows and 36er's supporter and in the past went to all the matches. We stopped going to the 36ers because it became too difficult to climb up and down stairs.

Likewise with the football, initially there was a group of us, but later I was only one going and I had to get to the stadium early, tackle the stairs, and sit alone for a couple of hours just to get a decent seat. I only went to one game when football moved to Adelaide Oval. Now I just watch them from home and swear at the TV.

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Lockleys Memorial Hall & Cinema

Back in the fifties and sixties, there were no such things as nightclubs and discos. Hotels closed at 6 o'clock. You couldn't go out and about like young kids do these days. Very rarely you'd have a party or other social activities unless it was somebody's birthday.



[WTHS LH0460]

We would go to the pictures which were on every Saturday night. Normally I would go to the Lockleys Theatre.



I was very angry and upset with the council for allowing the demolition of the Lockleys Theatre last year. It was built and dedicated as a Soldiers Memorial Hall with money donated by the local residents including my parents. It was a gift to the people of West Torrens and a soldiers' memorial.

My uncle Les was killed in World War One and my parents donated a lot to the project as part of the memorial for my uncle. The building meant a lot to me and my family, so knocking it down is akin to demolishing a War Memorial and equivalent to desecrating a sacred site. The Rowell family were also big donors. I found it quite insulting, and I know there's other people who share my sentiments. I think it could have been saved.

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LOCKLEYS MEMORIAL HALL

Fete Will Raise Funds

Brig.-Gen. S. Price Weir will open a fete in aid of the Lockleys Memorial Hall on the grounds of Mr. A. Bailey, Rowell road, Lockleys, on Saturday, December 1.

The stallholders will be:—Sweets, Mrs. McGowan; flowers, Mr. E. A. Lassoock; jumble, Mrs. King; cakes, Mrs. Johnson; produce, Miss G. Inkster; strawberries and cream, Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith; ice cream and cool drinks, Mr. W. Y. Scrutton; tulips, garden, Christmas tree, and dips, Mrs. T. H. Hayman; afternoon tea, Mr. E. J. Rowell.

Mr. C. Stanford will be in charge of the side-shows.

News 24 Nov 1923 Page 1

Lockleys Memorial Hall

Twelve months ago Lockleys started to raise funds to build a soldiers' memorial hall on land donated by Mr. J. W. Mellor. The land has a frontage of 75 ft. to the Henley Beach road and a depth of 150 ft., and before building can be begun £1,800 or £1,900 must be raised. During the past year £1,200 has been raised through donations, fetes, and other functions. Mr. T. A. Powell is president of the executive which has been pushing on with the scheme, and Mr. G. J. Rowell is secretary.

News 12 March 1924 Page 5

LOCKLEYS HALL.

SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL OPENED.

The new Lockleys Soldiers' Memorial Hall was opened by Mr. T. A. Powell (Chairman of the committee) on Sunday afternoon. Representatives of all denominations attended, and the Rev. T. Vigis presided. Mr. Powell related the work done to accomplish the erection of the Memorial Hall. The movement, he said, began in 1922, when the residents decided to erect a memorial that would be useful to the district. He paid a tribute to the generosity of the contractors, Messrs. C. and H. Curtin, who had supplied many extras free, and it was due to them that the structure was so complete.

Mr. Vigis expressed his appreciation at the various religious bodies having been asked to take part in the ceremony. The Sunday school children were addressed by the Rev. J. Wiltshire, who asked them to reverence the memory of the fallen by taking care of the hall, and regarding it as a sacred trust. The Rev. H. W. Canst delivered an address. He appealed to his audience always to strive for peace, and to keep green the memories of those who fell for the sake of freedom and better world conditions.

The opening and dedication of the hall and silence room were performed solemnly, with a procession of the trustees, headed by Mr. Powell, while the crowd stood in silence. Vocal items were given by Miss Elsie Woolley, Messrs. Woolley and Sable Grivell. Mr. J. R. Furness was the pianist.

The hall stands on an allotment at Mellor Park, facing the Henley Beach road. The land was given by Mr. J. W. Mellor. Built of brick and stone, the building contains supper rooms, dressing rooms, and other modern conveniences. Photographs of fallen soldiers have been hung in the silence room, and a memorial tablet has been erected. The hall will seat 500 persons. The total cost was £3,600, of which £1,600 has been raised by public subscription and various efforts. The architect was Mr. R. Graham.

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University and Work

Adelaide University

My father had wanted to be a chemist, a pharmacist, and he tried to live out his dream through me. During my leaving year at Adelaide Tech, he organised a pharmacy apprenticeship for me.

I left school at the end of year eleven, in 1956, aged 15, because his friend told him that they like their apprentices to be finished their study and qualified by the age of 21.

I didn't do Leaving Honours and I missed out on being captain of the school cricket team and so could have won the Senior Cup and a few other things.

Since I hadn't done leaving honours chemistry it complicated my pharmacy study. I hated pharmacy, it wasn't what I wanted. After two years of not concentrating, refusing to study, and not wanting to be at Uni, I got a letter from the Registrar of Adelaide University saying, 'Can you give a good reason why we should allow you to continue at university level because we want to disqualify you under clause four C?' So, I wrote back, 'I do not plan to attend your university ever again.' That was my initial university career. I told them to stick it. I hated it.



Adelaide University [SLSA B 13680]

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Pharmacy Apprentice to Weapons Research Computers

When I worked as an apprentice in pharmacy, I only got paid a shilling an hour in the first year. One night I had to work overtime and so I made one and sixpence, but it cost me two shillings to get to work and back by tram.

After I quit that job and University, I went to work at the Weapons Research Establishment, an agency of the government. I was fortunate enough to work on the first computer in the southern hemisphere. This was a valve computer called WREDAC, and then we graduated to a transistor computer called the IBM 7090. This was featured in the film Hidden Figures if you ever saw that film. I was much happier in this job.



IBM 7090 [Wikimedia Commons]

Back to Adelaide University, 1961

I stayed on working with the computers for a while then I decided I was going to go back to study because some of the younger staff who were working at Weapons Research Establishment invited me to go along to study with them. I thought that I couldn't go back to the university because I had told them to stick it, so I chose to not raise it. For the first year I studied part-time, and I passed. I did well in my mathematics, so I then went back to full time study at Adelaide University.

However about halfway through the year, I got another letter from the Registrar that said, 'How come you're at university? We banned you; you'd better come and see us.' I got caught out and had to eat a bit of humble pie! Luckily, he said, "Well, you're halfway through the year. We'll let you finish the year, but if you don't do well, you're out".

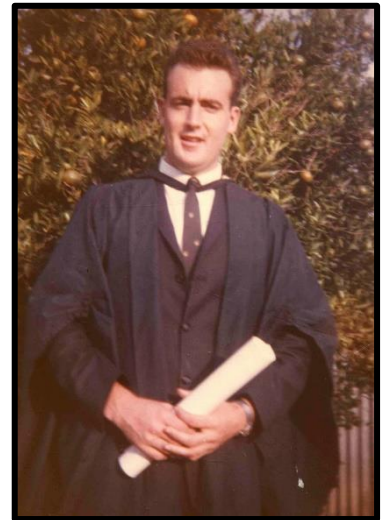
That was the first time in my life that I studied and worked hard. I got a distinction, two credits and a pass. When I told my father that I had even got a Credit for Chemistry he commented "So you should have. You have done the subject three times."

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I'd given up work for that year to go to university full time. I was paying my own fees and it was costing me a lot of money. University wasn't cheap and I wasn't getting paid. I did that for two years.

Eventually, in 1966 I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. I later obtained a Bachelor of Economics degree.



Chrysler at Tonsley

Back in 1964 I had got married so I needed money and had to go back to work. I still wanted to finish my degree, so I took a job at Chrysler, at Tonsley Park. I worked on the computer in the evening and night shifts and studying in the day.



Inside the Tools Building, 1964 [Back to Tonsley, Chrysler Club of SA]

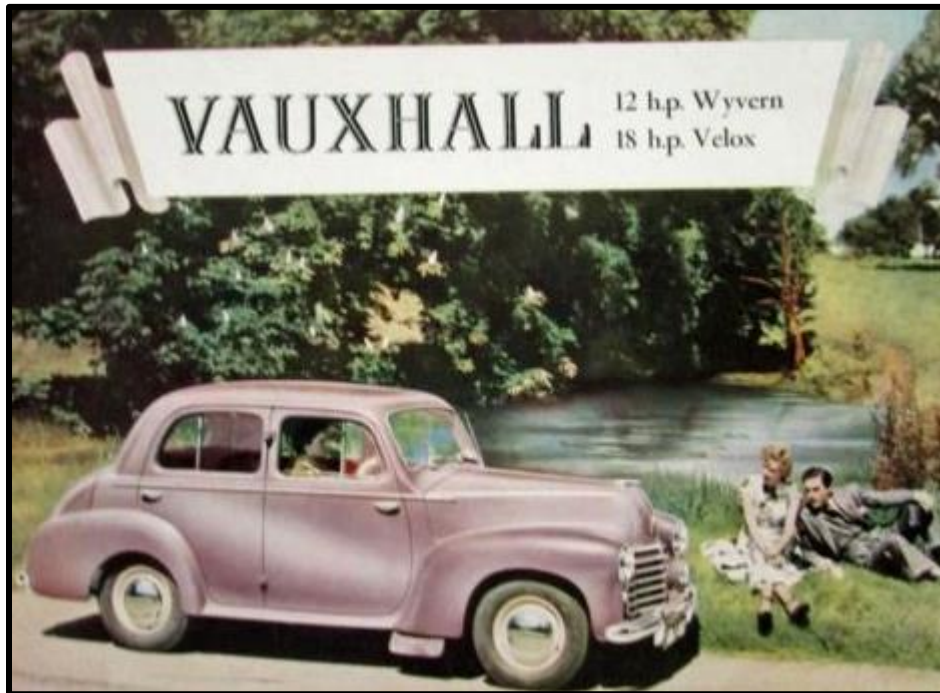
The job at Chrysler was a real culture shock to start with. At WRE there were about six of us who used to work on the computer and suddenly I was the only computer person at Chrysler. I was responsible for doing all the pays. I knew I couldn't stuff up the pays, because all these people were lined up, the wives at the door of the factory waiting for money from their husbands. Consequently, I was the computer guru.

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First Motor Car

With my job at WRE being near Salisbury and Chrysler being down south, I needed transport. I was fortunate enough that my father changed cars and when he bought a new car, I inherited his Vauxhall Velox. I then bought an EH Holden.



Vauxhall Sales brochure [ebay.com.au]

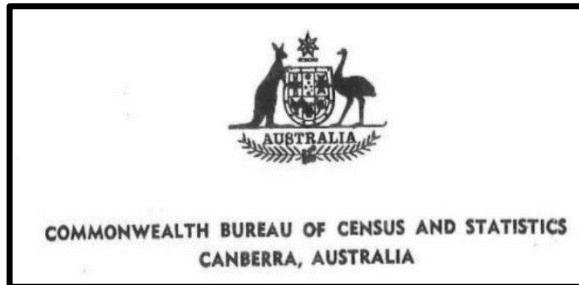


1964 EH Holden [www.grays.com/1964-holden-eh-special]

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Bureau of Census and Statistics (Australian Bureau of Statistics)



When I finished my degree, I went became a computer programmer at the Bureau of Census and Statistics. I had an issue with someone and nearly got into a fight one day, so I was moved to a different department working on subject matter.

I established the Statistical Services Group. The Group gave statistical advice and assistance to State Government departments and Community Groups wishing to 'Conduct Survey'. As part of my role, I negotiated to have state specific survey questions attached to the Monthly Labour Force Survey. I combined data collected in this manner with data provided relating to household water and electricity usage to estimate the impact of various appliances on water and electricity usage. From this I analysed and published the first seasonally timed series data for South Australia.

I was the Director of the Computer Services branch for about 15 years until I retired in 1997, at the age of 55.

After retirement I was a Consultant at the Department of Transport while expanding my role as a university lecturer and tutor.

University Lecturer and Tutor

About 1984 I was invited by the Adelaide University Head of School, Margaret Meyler, to tutor first year students in Economic Statistics at the University of Adelaide. This role expanded over time, and I lectured for several years. I was also responsible for the Summer School for several years.

I taught for about 20 years until I received a letter from the then new Head of School. It said 'Do not know who is teaching Summer School this year but it will not be you. You will not be teaching next semester either'. This confirmed my long-term belief that your job is only as secure as your next boss.

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I also taught at Bradford College (later Kaplan), The University of South Australia (UNISA) and the South Australian Institute of Business and Technology (SAIBT) at the same time. All of these were tertiary institutions and those that graduated from Bradford and SAIBT can proceed directly into second year at either S.A. universities.



With SAIBT student in 2012, Fiona Hui, a 2022 City of Adelaide Council candidate

I was the Course Coordinator in Economic Statistics at Taylors College in Subang Jaya, Malaysia. In this role I went to Malaysia twelve times over six years. In the past few years, I suffered some serious illnesses so have reduced my workload to only teaching external students.

Federal and State Elections

I was first employed as a Tally Clerk at a State Election at 18 years of age. About 12 years later I was invited by a colleague to be a Polling Clerk. When he retired, I assumed the role of Polling Booth Manager and continued in that role until I was selected to be a Returning Officer.

I was a Returning Officer for five elections in four different seats. After the 2014 elections the Electoral Commissioner Kay Mousley retired, and all of the senior Returning Officers were invited to her farewell afternoon tea where we were thanked for our loyal service. We were not offered employment at the next election.

When she was working at the Federal Electoral Commission Kay asked me to manage the Hampstead Primary School booth. Kay had previously worked for me at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. I ran the booth for several elections until I worked directly with the Commission.

Other Casual Employment

Later, to supplement my income, I calculated the dividends at the Dog races on Thursday evenings and at the Trots on Saturday nights. I also worked at several country racetracks.

From the age of sixty, for several years I was a Newspaper deliverer on Sunday mornings. I learnt what it felt like to be incompetent in your job, I felt I should have been sacked but wasn't!

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Married life and children

A girl named Rosslyn Wendt came down from Hamley Bridge and I met her at the Lockleys Primary School. It's got a bit of history, hasn't it? She also attended the same Sunday School, at Brooklyn Park. I think there were over 200 kids there. A lot of our social activities were based around the church, and the youth group.



Peter's 21st with Edna, Rosslyn and Hurtle, 1963



I married Rosslyn on 25 January 1964 at the Brooklyn Park Church of Christ.

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For the first year of our marriage, we lived at Cowandilla in Goldfinch Avenue and then we moved to 2 Thanet Street, behind 325 Henley Beach Road. This was our family home where we had our family and where our kids grew up.



2 Thanet Street, Brooklyn Park, built in 1939, circa 1965

My grandmother Stanford lived on Henley Beach Road, and she swapped houses with her son Kenneth to live at 2 Thanet Street.

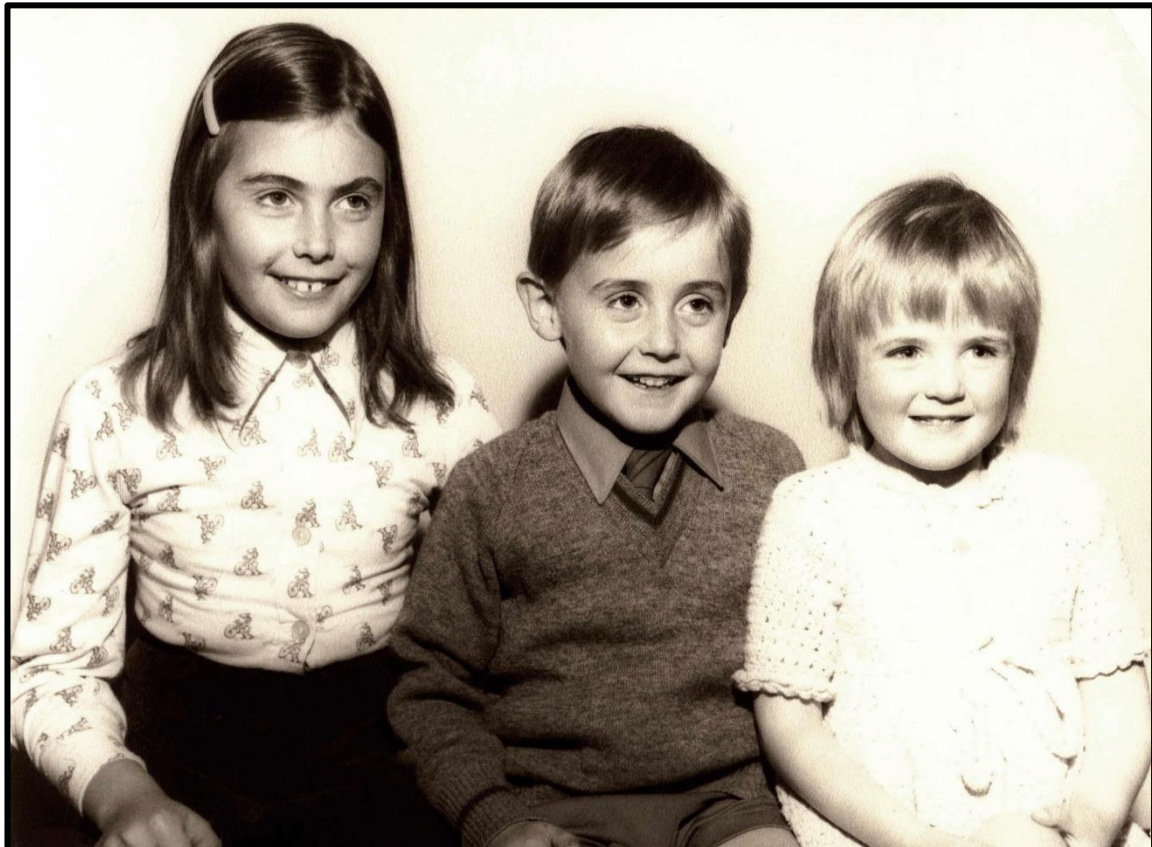
When she moved back to Malurus Avenue to live with my parents, her house in Thanet Street became vacant. I bought it and we lived there for over thirty years.

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Rosslyn and Peter had three children:

1. Carolyn Maree (18 June 1966)
2. Michael Peter (25 April 1970)
3. Rebecca Louise (31 March 1972)



The children started their schooling at Lockleys Primary School, like Rosslyn and I and my parents. In 1978 my two younger children transferred to Lockleys North Primary School. Rosslyn believed that Michael's ability to learn would be improved by the more traditional classroom setup.

I was more concerned about Michael's opportunities under the West Torrens football system! I was proved correct when he won the Association's Under 10 medal and won medals for best and fairest in both matches against the Whyalla League. Michael was also best and fairest for West Torrens in the Under 13 competitions.

Michael and Rebecca had a pact to hate the new School. Michael's hatred only lasted one day as he discovered that the school had a swimming pool.

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Carolyn

While at Underdale High School Carolyn spent a year in Erie, Pennsylvania where she gained experience working on the School newspaper.

She was initially a cadet journalist at Port Augusta, and then she worked as a journalist for The Advertiser and was the city reporter.

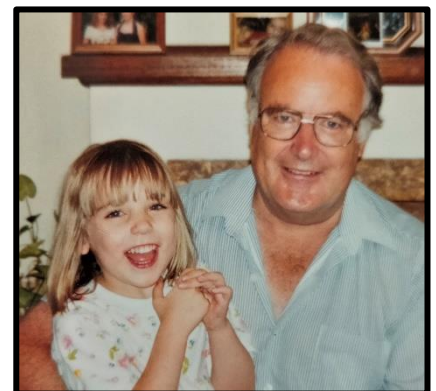


She married Roy Eccleston, who was the editor of The Weekend Australian. They were in Canberra and then in America for four years.

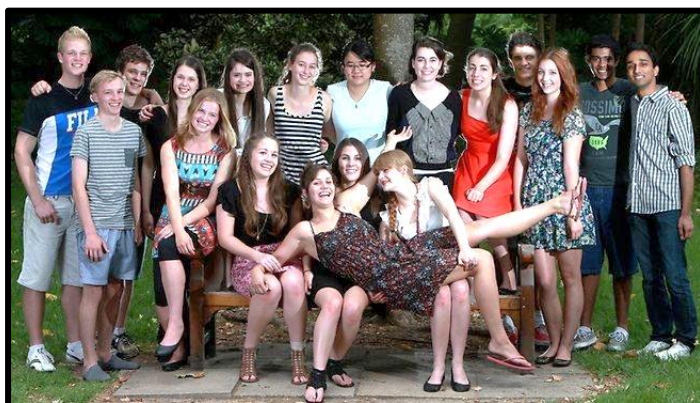
She has co-authored several books including Trailblazers: 100 Inspiring South Australian Women published in 2019. Carolyn is a member of the South Australian Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography and a committee member for Oral History Australia (SA/NT). She also edits the Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia.

With Paul Sendziuk, she is currently writing a social history of working life and workplace culture at General Motors Holden in the post-World War II period.

Carolyn and Roy have two children Bronte and Jack.



Peter with Bronte



Bronte (in red dress) was in the top 20 of the state for the Year 12 exams in 2012.

Jack is a lawyer and was for a time an associate to the judge in the Supreme Court in Adelaide.



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Michael

Just recently, at the age of 50, Michael has been winning Chancellors' Awards and Vice Chancellors' Awards from the University of South Australia.

He works in Darwin and in 2022 was the Policy Advisor at the National Indigenous Australians Agency.



He has two children, Paige and Michala.

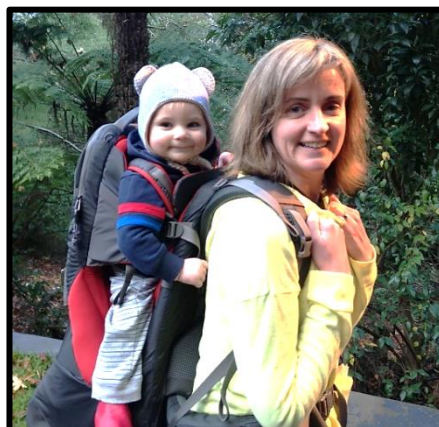


Michael with Paige at her graduation with Michala circa 2022

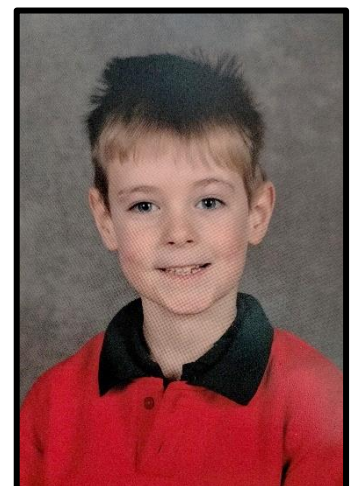
Rebecca

Rebecca went to Tasmania after gaining her degree in Adelaide and gained a postgraduate degree in Planning (Urban Site Planning).

She married and had a son, Jem and now lives in Melbourne. In 2022 she was the Director, Regional Planning Partnerships at Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.



Jem and Rebecca circa 2013



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My children have all gone their separate ways, have done their own thing and been quite successful. It's pretty hard when you've got one child in Adelaide, one in Darwin and one in Melbourne. I don't see much of them.

It's even harder because my grandchildren are living interstate as well and I miss seeing them, but I do keep in touch with them fairly regularly.

Moving to Henley Beach South

Rosslyn and I parted company quite a few years ago and she died only recently.

I've been with Helen for 23 years. We rebuilt a house at Henley Beach South and have lived there ever since.



Peter with granddaughters Paige, Michala and Helen, 2016

Community Involvement

Church and Sunday School

Until I married, I was a Sunday School teacher. Later I was the Sunday School Treasurer, and was the Church Treasurer when I was a member of the Church board.

School Committees and Sports Coach

While Carolyn was at Primary School, I served on the School Council and was the chairman for one year. During this year we achieved having a toilet block built on the school oval.

I coached Michael's under 10 football team at Lockleys North for two years until a promotion at work prevented me from continuing.

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When I was Chairman of the Underdale High School Sports Council, we struggled to find ways to fund a gymnasium. Infuriatingly the Rudd Government later gave the school one, no questions asked.



Carolyn went to America as part of the AFS International Student Exchange Program. I joined the Local Chapter and was its chairman. I also served on the State board as its Secretary/Treasurer. Later I was on National Board.



Rosslyn was responsible for ensuring that all students left the country and none were left behind. She also met the arriving overseas students. I was the 'bagman' ensuring that no baggage was lost.

Rotary and Meals on Wheels

I became a member of the Flinders Park Rotary Club six months after it was chartered on 8 May 1983 and remained a member until its demise in 2011. I was President twice, Treasurer, and an Assistant Governor for two years. The club was involved in many community projects. Some ex-members are still assisting Meals on Wheels and I was a driver for several years.



I joined the West Torrens Rotary Club along with three other Flinders Park members and we have all been active in the Club's activities. I am the incoming Treasurer and Roger Webb is the President.

Probus

I am a member of the Combined Probus Club of Lockleys.



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Horse Racing

In 1973, whilst working at the Australia Bureau of Statistics, I suggested to a group of colleagues that they lease and race a Thoroughbred. I insisted that my maximum contribution was 10%.

Eventually a syndicate of six people was formed and the necessary arrangements made. One of the group, (to avoid problems at home), put his mother's name in the race book. In contrast, I appeared as an equal owner.

I named the horse Peccavi which is Latin for 'I have sinned.' People who knew my Church background thought that this name was most appropriate.

Peccavi won its first trial by six lengths, and we were convinced that we had a champion. Reality set in when we were beaten by a horse named Awesome who only ran once.



Peccavi circa 1976

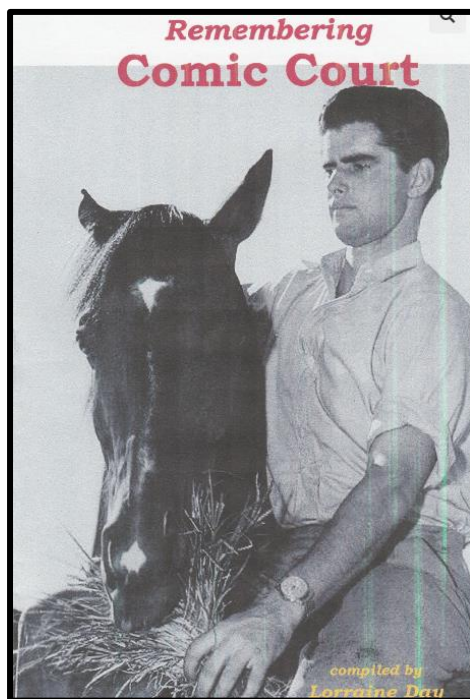
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Peccavi led in all of its races and managed to win five times, all in the city. Each win was a great thrill. I said that we would have won many more times if the races had been 20 metres shorter. Our first win was great surprise to the race caller, Ray Fewings, who said that the win was something that he never expected to see.

When I arrived home that night, I was met at the door by my five-year-old son, Michael, who had an outstretched hand. He wanted a share of the winnings.

I had developed an interest in horses at an early age and enjoyed hearing "and here comes Bernborough". I could not understand why horses had to pay someone when they won. For example, Bernborough paid 2/6 for the win.



At the age of seven, I went to stables at Glenelg where I met Jim Cummings who trained Comic Court which was my favourite horse at that time.



[freestylepublications.com.au]

Jim and I had an in-depth discussion about the progeny of Powers Court and Witty Maid.

I wondered why I was the only one in the family to have an interest in horses, until I heard one day that a taxi arrived every Saturday to take Grandfather Collins to the races.

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The Collins Market Gardens

The Torrens River was ideal for irrigation and the alluvial soil would come down from the hills making the surrounding land very fertile. The western suburbs were well endowed with market gardens, a lot of them were from Chinese and Italian families. There were lots of nurserymen as well.

My father had two market gardens off Valetta Road. One was between Valetta Road and the river. My father sold it in the mid-fifties to the Depasquale family. They sold it to the Education Department and the Kidman Park Technical Girls School was built. The SA Sports Institute is there now. They only used half of the land, there's a lot of land sitting there vacant that was part of the Collins market garden.



West Maps Public 1959

Originally, Hurtle, grew celery and he was one of the largest celery growers in South Australia, along with the Packers, who were on the other side of town near Campbelltown. Most of the celery was grown and sent to Victoria.

The Victorian market gardeners didn't know how to grow celery, until my father went over and showed them how to do it. I don't think that was very smart for the business.

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Hurtle (circled) and workers harvesting celery circa 1947



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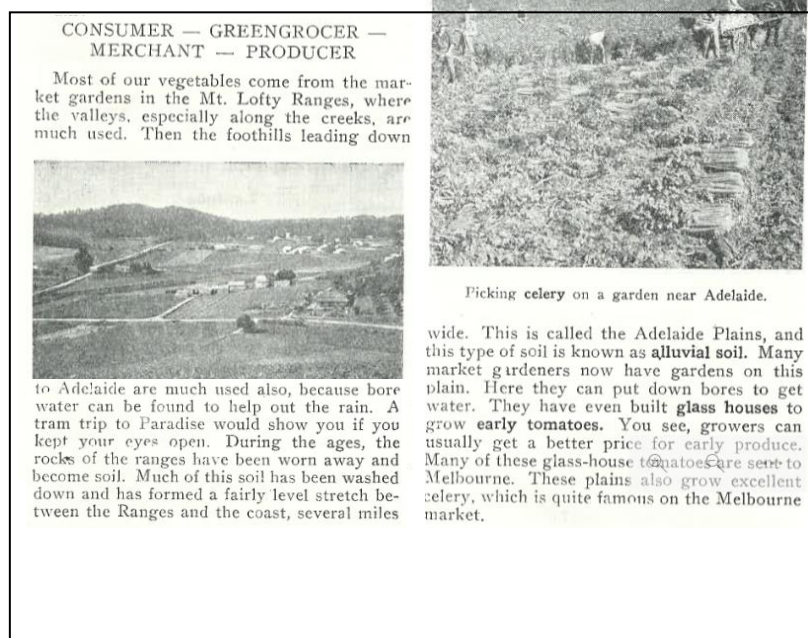
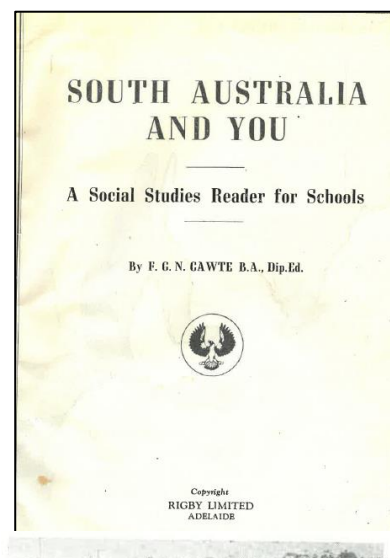
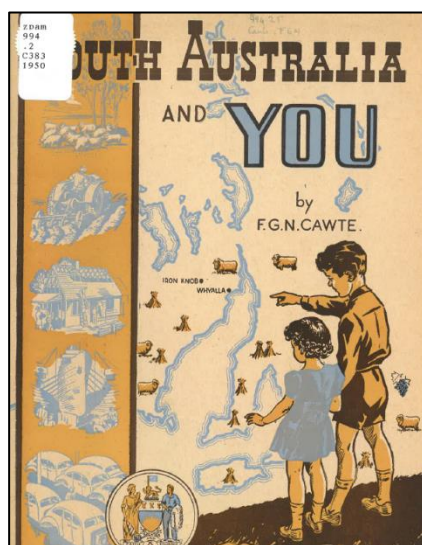
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I've also heard that whenever my father tried to expand or diversify something would go wrong.

For a while he had extra land off Marlborough Street. There were a lot of small creeks flowing from the Torrens which then flowed into the Port River lower reach. The land was prone to flooding but had very fertile soil. He grew potatoes. My brother told me a storm one night wiped out all the potato crop that year.

After selling the original garden in Valetta Road the brothers bought more land further west. It was around 15 acres and they grew tomatoes as their specialty.

My family market garden was featured in our Primary School textbook. I took the photo to show my teacher that our garden was the picture in the book.



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Over time there were new housing developments in the area and as a result, theft and vandalism became a real problem. My father found one day his crop of tomatoes had been stolen, and the roosters that his brother was going to make money on at Christmas were stolen. This is when they decided to sell the land. They were going to subdivide but ran into difficulties.

They subsequently sold the land to the Woodville Council for the princely sum of \$20,000.

In 1981 it was made it into a Reserve and named Collins Reserve acknowledging the family.



Clis Collins, Edna Collins, Mayor John Dyer, Alf Collins, Roy Collins, Jean Collins

Being a market gardener never appealed to me, I was never interested in market gardening, and I never wanted to take over from my father.

My uncle Laurie who lived on Frogmore Road had his own market garden.

Two other brothers, Alf and Roy, along with Roy's son Don, were all part of the Collins conglomerate and worked in the family market garden working for their brother and uncle, Hurtle.

When my father sold the market garden, they had to find other work like green keeping.

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Collins family, Lawn Bowls champions

Hurtle and his brothers Alf, Laurie and Roy all played lawn bowls competitively at the Grange Bowling Club. Roy's son Don also played.

The Collins family were very well known in lawn bowls throughout South Australia. Don Collins was a champion bowler, representing Australia in the World Bowls Championship in Sydney in 1966. In 2000, Don was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in recognition of his services to bowls and was inducted into the South Australian Bowls Hall of Fame.

Don was also an excellent basketballer, and he won the Woollacott medal for the Most Valuable Men's Basketball Player in South Australia in 1951 and 1952. He was the 'Bob Hank' of basketball because he won Woollacott medals at the same time as Bob Hank won his Magarey medals.

I've got no idea how the Collins family all got involved in lawn bowls. My Uncle Roy was the first one to win a major award, winning at state singles title in his twenties. Alf won... I'm not sure whether it was pairs or singles. Don was a singles bowler. Laurie won a state pairs title. I often watched them when I was younger.

Hurtle, my father, was also a prominent bowler, but certainly not up to Don's standard. None of us boys followed in his footsteps. None of us are bowlers.



THE COLLINS family has almost a monopoly on bowls titles — pictured (from left) are brothers Alf, Hurtle, Laurie and Roy and Alf's son Don.

Ninth classic for Collins family

The win of Ron Culley and Laurie Collins in the State pairs final on Sunday represented the ninth success in a bowls classic for the Collins family.

In the long list of Collins bowls wins the major successes have been —

- Two State singles championships.
- Two State fours championships.
- One State pairs championship.
- Two Adelaide masters' singles championships.
- Gold medal in the triples of the first world bowls series.
- Silver medal in the fours.

Roy won the State singles in 1948 and was runner-up in 1958, and the State fours in 1960 and 1963 (once as skipper and once as No. 3 for Don).

He has twice been Grange champion, and was runner-up in the Australian pairs with the late Jim Tomlinson in 1947.

Don won the State singles in 1968, and was runner-up for the third time the following year.

He won the Adelaide masters' singles in 1966 and 1967, and was runner-up in the State fours in 1965, after transferring from Grange to Salisbury.

He has won the Salisbury singles title three times, and the pairs twice.

As a leader in the victorious Australian side in the first world series in Sydney in 1966 Don won a gold medal in the triples and a silver medal in the fours.

Alf, who with Roy represented the State for more than 10 years, has won the Grange pairs championship for the past two years with Bryce Shipway and with Don once reached the semi-finals of the State pairs.

Laurie, who has not yet played for the State, has won the Grange pairs, and with Culley, and Ted Reeves as leader, has won the Grange New Year's Day open triples for the past three years.

Hurtle, who was at one time a social member of Grange, is a skipper with Lockleys in the club's second side—II Red.

There was a time when all four teams in the Grange Division I side had skippers named Collins: Alf, Laurie, Roy and Don.

The family's contribution to bowls is not only as players.

Roy has been green-keeper at Lockleys for three years, and Don took over the same role with Salisbury last year.



BOWLS

ARCH GROSVENOR

Advertiser 5 January 1971

Personalities of the Month

THE COLLINS FAMILY

The Grange pennant card for the day told the unique story of one of South Australia's great bowling families.

Skipper for each of the four pennant teams was Collins ... brothers Alf, Lawrie and Roy and Alf's son Don.

The pennant day was one for the record books. So is the Collins family.

The bowling brothers, the three mentioned above and Hurtle, and second generation Don are among the great names in the sport in this state.

ALF

Alf, now 76 and recuperating after an operation to his voice box, is the senior member of the 'clan'.

A top pennant player for Grange for many years he was still active in the season just gone bye.

He played successfully in Second Division for his club on Saturdays and was a top division player mid-week.

Major individual honors have eluded Alf throughout his bowling life but he is renowned as a team bowler.

With son Don he won the Grange Pairs and has figured highly in events at club and interstate level.

Alf represented SA extensively for a lengthy period.

He is a good thinker of the game and is keenly sought for tuition by the ladies of the Grange club.

ROY

Brother, Roy, ten years his junior, was a marvellous exponent of the game until his decision to take up a greenkeeping job at Lockleys brought his bowls to an untimely end.

"It just wasn't possible to mix the two," said Roy, "so I gave away playing. I'm pretty wrapped up in fishing nowadays, but, you never know, I might go back to bowls one of these days. It's a fine game."

Roy started bowls at Grange just after the Second World War and played there for some 20 years before his retirement to take over the greens duties at Lockleys.

He kept the Lockleys greens for 12 years until his retirement last year.

Roy was a handsomely skilled bowler.

He won a state singles title in the mid-50's and was runner-up two years later.

With nephew Don, he twice won the State Fours. Roy skippered on one winning occasion, with Don his No. 3. The roles were reversed in the other success.

Twice a club singles champion at Grange and also a holder of the championship pairs crown, Roy played several times for South Australia.

The lack of regular interstate competition and Roy's unavailability to travel for bowls on occasions curtailed his appearances.

The highlight of his bowling career came at Middle Park, Melbourne when he was runner-up for the Australian Pairs titles with the great Jimmy Tomlinson.

HURTLE-LAWRIE

Unfortunately two of the famous Collins brothers passed away within 15 months of each other a few years back.

Lawrie, who would have been 70 and Hurtle, four years his elder, were both popular, energetic bowlers. Lawrie played at Grange and Hurtle was a Lockleys member.

Hurtle played consistently in Division Two pennants.

Lawrie was a top ranking Division One pennant player. He was a popular, happy go lucky bowler and winner of many club and open events.

His main bowling achievement was winning the state pairs with Ron Culley.

DON

Second generation Collins, Don, is a former world champion.

He was leader in the triumphant Australian triples team in the world championships in Sydney in 1966.

Don was also a silver medallist as leader in the Australian fours combination.

Australia won the W.M. Leonard Trophy that year.

Don started his bowling career having a roll-up with his dad.

After experiencing night bowls, he joined the Grange club and played there for 17 years before transferring to Salisbury.

He has been at Salisbury for 13 years, the last 11 as greenkeeper.

Don was the first Salisbury bowler to appear in a state final.

He won the 1968 title at Parkside, beating Darkie Sanders 32-8.

Don has been runner-up for the crown on four occasions.

He is also a dual state fours champion and twice victor in the Adelaide Master Singles.

The bowling evergreen never won a singles titles at Grange, the pairs win with his dad being his only championship success.

Six times he has been Salisbury singles king. He has also won the

pairs on seven occasions with Andy Byrnes.

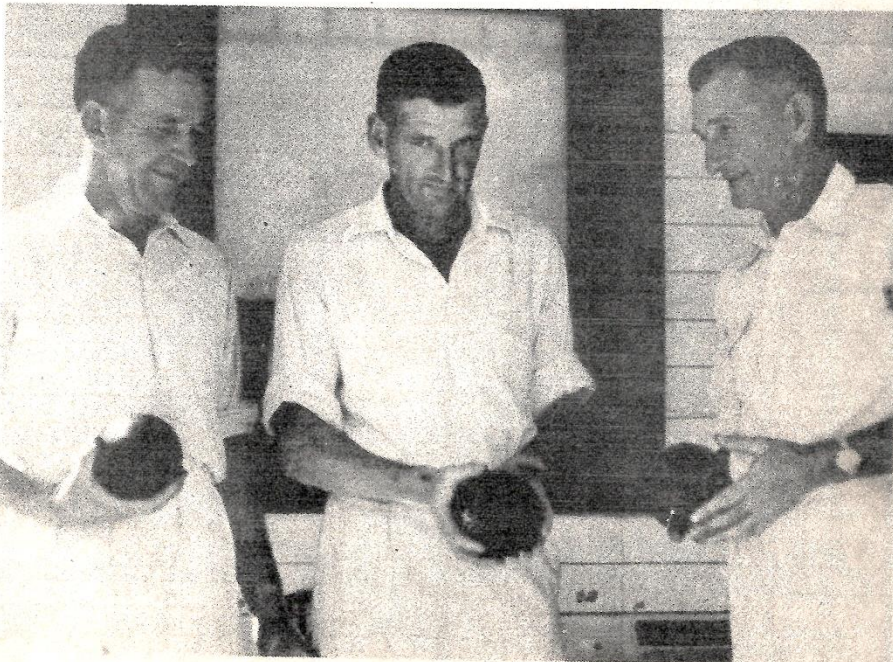
A regular top grade pennant player with Salisbury Don represented SA several times in a 16-year interstate career.

He admits life is hectic playing bowls and keeping greens but at 52 he looks to have a glowing future ahead of him.

The famous Collins name will be to the fore for many years yet.



• Don Collins, now the Salisbury greenkeeper and a top pennant player.



• Three of the Collins brothers at Grange (from left): Lawrie, Roy and Alf.

Lawrie SA BOWLER, MAY, 1980 — 5

Preserving Memories

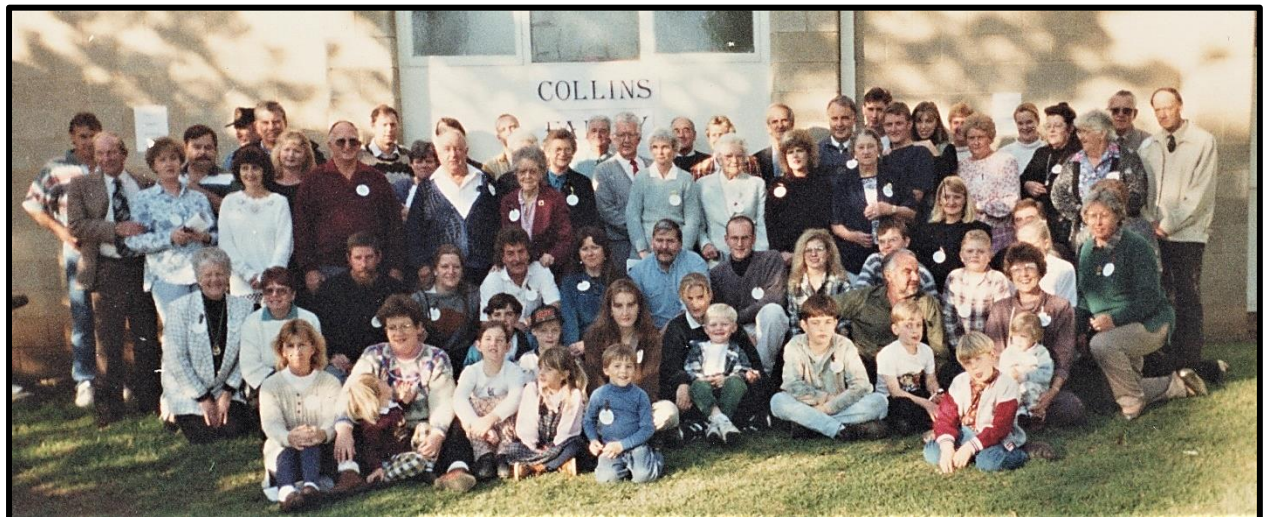
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My Family History

My interests now are family history. Having a large family, 27 first cousins on the Collins' side alone, and many that I don't see much of, I decided to organise reunion to celebrate the 100th wedding anniversary of our grandparents in 1995.

Many of the relations are interstate and sadly, you lose contact with them. Unfortunately, a couple of family members died while I was still planning it, but most of them turned up. It was a great reunion.

I spend a lot of time researching the family tree and in doing this I am regularly finding new relations to add to the family tree.



My brother Ken died in August, 2022. He was a doctor and had been living in Western Australia, where he was heavily involved in Rotary. It's quite incredible what he's done and what he achieved in his life.

A lifetime of humanitarian work

KEN COLLINS, AM

Doctor
Born: December 16, 1936,
Adelaide, South Australia
Died: August 4, 2022, Perth,
Western Australia

DR Ken Collins always went the extra mile for his patients. As a young graduate, he volunteered to help out in Indonesia. "Travelling distances over rough terrain, long days, often treating in excess of 100 patients daily in primitive conditions were part of the challenge," Ken wrote in a Rotary publication last year, celebrating the service organisation's century of work in Australia.

"On hearing that a doctor was coming, some people



walked miles, even days, to be seen. Most had never had access to a doctor in their lives."

Ken was born to Edna and Hurtle Collins. As a boy in Adelaide, he showed a natural ability for card games and sports, playing junior football for West Torrens.

Once he had enrolled in medicine at the University of Adelaide, however, he gave up football.

In 1957, Ken married Colleen Denham. The marriage, which produced four sons, ended in divorce in 1975.

After graduating in 1960, Ken became a junior resident at Royal Adelaide Hospital. Part-time service in the Royal Australian Air Force led to promotion to squadron leader.

He became a GP in Western Australia in 1965. After four years in Sydney, Ken returned to Perth. In 1971 he established a practice in suburban Thornlie, operating it until retirement in 2000.

In 1976, Ken married Diane Douglas, who had been his office manager. They had two

daughters, Simone and Amber. Ken was a committed long-term Rotary member.

He served in a leadership capacity at every level, and in 1991 became the only Rotarian worldwide to have received the Most Exemplary Rotarian Internationally award – a record that endures today.

In 2008, Ken founded Rotary Freshwater Bay in Perth. Professor Ralph Martins, a specialist in dementia studies, admired Ken's manner of addressing audiences.

"I had got to know Ken through Rotary," he said.

"There was the powerful voice, complementing a gentle manner, which is a rare combination. We became great friends. His passion for improving people's lives was striking."

Ken's own survival from polio added force to his commitment to Rotary's polio-eradication program, which began in 1985.

He spent weeks working in camps in Hong Kong for Vietnamese refugees, accompanied by his wife and young daughters. A stint on the West Papua/Papua New Guinea border was among his most arduous postings.

Awards of Member of the Order of Australia (AM), WA Citizen of the Year and a Centenary Medal were further recognition of Ken's enormous community contribution.

Ken is survived by Diane, Simone, Amber, sons Ken and Ashley, 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

-PATRICK CORNISH

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On reflection

I am satisfied with my lot in life.

Having my father involved in my career choice caused me to chop and change and I struggled a bit with this, but this was a lesson for me. I learnt not to interfere and not to tell my children what to do and how to live their lives. Just be there to support them. I've done that.

My career has been a series of highs and lows. The highs have been influenced by some great people who became great friends particularly at the tertiary level. However, I have learnt that one's job is only as secure as one's next boss. Working in both the private and government sectors has proved to be a challenge. My greatest enjoyment in the last twenty years was teaching overseas students and building lasting friendships with the staff at both SAIBT and UNISA.

One of my disappointments is that I have not kept close enough contact with my childhood friends.

This disappointment was reinforced by a recent gathering of the friends and their partners in the Barossa Valley. This friendship which has continued for nearly eighty years is still strong and deeply felt. Most importantly the friendship is sincere.

Lastly, I am very proud of my children and grandchildren, I hope that in the future I will be remembered with love and affection.

Preserving Memories

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The *Preserving Memories* project aim is to interview people who have lived in or had extensive connections to the West Torrens area. The West Torrens Historical Society in conjunction with the City of West Torrens invite them to share their memories and talk about the events and experiences which helped to make up their life's history. It allows us all the chance to reflect on the past and to preserve those memories into the future.

This interview was conducted on 12th November 2022 by Graham Parry, member of the West Torrens Historical Society. We are committed to publishing biography works of quality and integrity. In this spirit, this document therefore reflects the experiences, views and opinions of the participant and are not necessarily the views and opinions of the interviewer, the West Torrens Historical Society, nor the City of West Torrens Council, and therefore neither the Society nor Council accepts responsibility for any comments or opinions expressed by the person being interviewed.

Thank you, Peter for participating in the project and providing other valuable information relating to West Torrens and its residents over the years.

Interview conducted: Kandahar, North Plympton, 12th November 2022
(Peter's words in italics.)