

Biography



Mrs Caroline Augusta A. Scarfe (1852-1926)- member of the Socialist Party, long term supporter in Northcote, Minnie's mother, valued member of Northcote ALP for many years, took part in every election.

By Dr Jan Penney, Historian, Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust member

Caroline Augusta Rich was born in South Australia in 1852 to parents Alfred Franklin Rich (1814-1900) and Bridget nee Doyle (1830-1900). Her father had been born in Lynn, Essex, Massachusetts in America into a politically prominent family of English descent but her mother came from Tipperary, Ireland. They married in Sydney in 1845 having each migrated separately to Australia.

Alfred had been in the crew of the whaling ship *Navy* when he left America in 1835 and travelled to the Australian waters around Tasmania searching for sperm whales. When his voyaged finished at Hobart in 1836 and he was paid off he decided to stay in Hobart for a few years. He then tried Sydney where he worked his trade as a bootmaker for short time before assisting in a large stationary store. This gave him a taste for trade and, when he realised that South Australia was opening up with the Burra gold mines flourishing, he decided to make his fortune there, not on the gold fields but by assuming his old trade and servicing the miners and their families.

Alfred was already well established and quite successful in Port Elliott by 1847 as his name is listed among the petitioners appealing to the then governor to make better road provisions for the port of Adelaide by developing better road and trade connections. Alfred, a shoe maker by trade, became a naturalised Australian in 1849 and had no plans to return to America, especially after he married Bridget.

Caroline Augusta Rich was their first born child and she was named after Alfred's sister, Caroline Augusta Rich, who had died in Lynn Massachusetts in 1849 when she was just 29 years old. She was the baby in his family and he was her older brother by 6 years. A year after Caroline was born in 1852, her brother, Robert Alfred Rich, arrived but he died the following year. Emma and Fanny were both born in following few years but it seems these two girls might not have survived childhood either.

All were born in Port Elliott, South Australia, which was established firstly as a whaling outpost and spotting station on the southern end of the Fleurieu Peninsular. It had only been proclaimed a port in 1851 so Caroline's parents were among the original settlers. Port Elliott was the main port for the Murray River trade by 1851 as the river mouth was very shallow and treacherous so the mighty paddle steamers terminated their routes at Goolwa upstream. This town was connected to Port Elliott by the first Australian public railway, completed in 1854 just as the river trade began to flourish, so that the wool bales and other goods brought down river to be sent overseas could be loaded there. And in return the goods required by upriver townships and stations could be loaded from the large ships moored in the harbour.

Caroline was brought up in a successful, small business family and was very familiar with the way shops and trades could be managed to generate funds and bring status to the family. Her father was involved

in many aspects of community life in Port Elliott and she had learned from watching him how important business networks were. Her sons later followed in her footsteps.



Caroline met Walter Henry Scarfe in Port Elliott where he was then working as a shop assistant. Walter Henry Scarfe (1848-1923) was born in Bishops Sortford, Hertfordshire, England on 2 August, 1848, the second oldest of 11 children to parents Henry Cornelius Scarfe (1816-1895) and Eliza Scarfe (distant relatives) (1822-1880). He came to Port Elliott in South Australia with his family in the late 1850s and they settled there when his father took up land Port Elliott in 1859. His father was the Clerk of the local Courts for Port Elliott and Goolwa for over 29 years, as well as the electoral officer, and the family was very well known in those parts.

Walter married Caroline Augusta Rich on 9th May, 1870, at Port Elliott. They had 8 children: Rose Mary Elizabeth Scarfe (1872-1946); Herbert Edwin Rich Scarfe (1874-1964); Minnie Adelaide Augusta Scarfe (1876-1924); Mabel Victoria Scarfe (Mrs Pepper) (1880--1961); Louis Mortimer Scarfe (1881-1962-); Lawrence Cornelius Scarfe (Laurie) (1883-1962-); Florence Gertrude Scarfe (Florrie) (1885-1978); Ernest Walter Scarfe (1890-1977).

By 1902 the Scarfe family were established in Melbourne in Jolimont where they were living when their eldest son, Herbert Edwin, was married to Edith nee Nicholson by the Rev Charles Strong in the Australian Church in 1902. The Australian Church, founded by the Rev Dr Charles Strong in 1884, had a strong commitment to social justice matters and was intensively anti conscriptionist during WW1. Prime Minister Alfred Deakin was a member of that church and for the Scarfe family this church his teachings matched their own interest in such matters. Rev Strong married, and buried, almost the entire family over the years.

They soon bought a home, *Trevispin* at 43 Clarendon Street, Thornbury (since demolished) where the family lived for the rest of their lives. Here Caroline became heavily involved in the Australian Labour Party's Northcote branch on many levels. She was a member of the Women's Committee up to her death having previously been a stalwart member of the early Socialist Party, the first explicitly Marxist Party in Australia. It operated as a force for socialist education within the wider labour movement.

Within the ALP she often operated as a delegate of the Northcote Branch at state and federal meetings, was a fund raiser of some repute working all the stalls at events and fetes, managing the gatherings such as the annual Christmas Party and holding frequent meetings at her home. Meanwhile she took care of her large family and ran a substantial house and home.

Perhaps her greatest assistance to the ALP was at election time. Caroline was a determined canvasser and it mattered not whether this involved municipal elections or federal or state elections, the ALP Northcote Branch relied on her enthusiastic support, her wealth of knowledge and her unstinting hard work. Caroline was elected the first president of the Women's Organising Committee of the Political Labour Council.

Although in some ill health around 1916 Caroline still remained involved wherever she could. She was described as having a 'cheery disposition' and was well respected by her local community but especially by the members of the Northcote ALP. Her husband, Walter, was a manager and accountant by profession and her eldest son, Herbert became a draughtsman. The other three sons all went into the clothing trade. Ernest, Louis and Laurie were all women's tailors by profession as well clothiers and

merciers each with their own shops, Ernest in Thornbury and Laurie in Brunswick. Louis worked in Brunswick also, perhaps with his brother. While the four men each married and had a family only Mabel did so. Rose Mary, Minnie and Florrie never married.



Rose Mary was a milliner by profession and opened her own shop at 224 High Steet Northcote in 1914. Like her brothers she preferred to own a small business. She was described as 'an artist in millinery' in her advertisements. She ran a successful business there for many years. Minnie worked with her mother all her life supporting the ALP but seems never to have been employed by the party but rather worked as a full time volunteer. Florence was a sales assistant most of her life and she lived the longest dying, when she was 93 years old.

The Reverend Charles Strong from the Australian Church buried Walter when he died in 1923 and Caroline when she died in 1926. In between these two events their daughter Minnie died, just a year after her father, and was buried next to him at Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery also with a graveside service by Rev Strong. Her death was sudden and unexpected after just a short illness and the family and the ALP members grieved for her. She and her parents lie together in their shared grave.

Sisters Rose Mary and Florence were left alone in the house at Clarendon Street as their brothers were all married and with families of their own. Rose Mary Scarfe died in September 1946 and Florence reserved a place beside her for when her own time came. Florence continued to work in sales for many years. Florence had to wait some 32 years to join her sister as she died in 1978.

BACKSTORY



Surname	Given Names	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Cemetery	Section	Location	Service Type	Service Date	
SCARFE	Arnold Hackett			Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery	CHURCH OF ENGLAND	CO-COE*H***643	Interment	18/01/1921	Show Map
SCARFE	Caroline Augusta			Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery	INDEPENDENT	CO-IND*P***13	Interment	15/12/1926	Show Map
SCARFE	Florence Gertrude			Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery	INDEPENDENT	CO-IND*P***14	Interment	15/09/1978	Show Map
SCARFE	Minnie			Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery	INDEPENDENT	CO-IND*P***13	Interment	31/10/1924	Show Map
SCARFE	Rose Mary			Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery	INDEPENDENT	CO-IND*P***14	Interment	16/09/1946	Show Map
SCARFE	Walter Henry			Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery	INDEPENDENT	CO-IND*P***13	Interment	27/08/1923	Show Map

▼ DECEASED DETAILS ◀ 3 OF 3 ▶

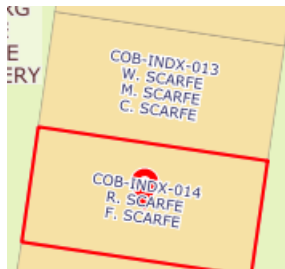
Reference Number	1410032
Surname	SCARFE
Given Name	CAROLINE AGUSTA
Date of Birth	
Date of Death	
Age	76Y
Service Date	15/12/1926
ServiceType	Interred

▼ DECEASED DETAILS ◀ 2 OF 3 ▶

Reference Number	1407688
Surname	SCARFE
Given Name	MINNIE
Date of Birth	
Date of Death	
Age	48Y
Service Date	31/10/1924
ServiceType	Interred

▼ DECEASED DETAILS ◀ 1 OF 3 ▶

Reference Number	1406619
Surname	SCARFE
Given Name	WALTER HENRY
Date of Birth	
Date of Death	
Age	75Y
Service Date	27/08/1923
ServiceType	Interred



53) / Thu 23 Dec 1926 / Page 12 / OBITUARY.

OBITUARY.

MRS. A. SCARFE.

There passed away on Tuesday, 14th December, at the ripe age of 76 years, an old and valued member of the Northcote branch A.L.P. The late Mrs. Scarfe

1954) / Wed 15 Dec 1926 / Page 1 / Family Notice

SCARFE.—On the 14th December, at her residence, 18 Clarendon-street, Thornbury, Carolina Augusta, the dearly loved wife of the late Walter Henry Scarfe, loved mother of Rosa, Mabel (Mrs. Pepper), Minnie (deceased), Florence, Herbert, Louis, Lawrence and Ernest Scarfe, aged 76 years. At rest.



has been actively associated with the Northcote A.L.P. ever since coming to Northcote some 17 or 18 years ago, and was an active and able exponent of the principles of Labor. No election in which the Labor Party was engaged—Federal, State, Legislative Council, or municipal—has taken place in Northcote during her residence there, but what Mrs. Scarfe took an active part. As a canvasser she had few equals. Originally coming from Adelaide, the deceased lady and her family have always taken a keen interest in Labor question. She was for many years a member of the Socialist party and took part in its activities. Mrs. Scarfe was of a cheery disposition, and was highly respected by all sections of the community, and will be greatly missed by many close friends. We extend to the family of the deceased lady heartfelt sympathy. The remains were interred in Coburg Cemetery, Dr. Strong (of whose church Mrs. Scarfe was a member) officiating at the graveside.

important matters are under consideration.
This committee had the pleasure of seeing that two of its members (Mrs. Evans and Mrs Scarfe) were admitted to the P.L.C. Conference on April 1, and allowed to take part in the proceedings, but without voting power, as the committee is not strictly an affiliated body.

arrang
the be
succes
old me
to the
On
Hall P
faces t

The Tocsin

1904 Mrs Scarfe elected as delegate to the Womens Committee by the Melbourne East Committee unopposed. Seved on many committees as treasurere, delegate, evetns organiser etc.

at an early date.
At a meeting of the Committee, held on 7th inst., the following officers were duly elected:—President, Mrs. Scarfe; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Wilkinson and

Tocsin – Womens committee Central Council

Meeting of the Socialist Party.

Thursday, 19th September.—Cottage Meeting at Mrs Scarfe's, Clarendon st., Thornbury, at 3 o'clock.

The Socialist newspaper

Involved with all the fund raisers, stall, Christmas Events etc.



5 - 1923) / Fri 4 Feb 1916 / Page 3 / Party Chronicles

The many friends of Mrs. Scarfe, a member from the commencement, will be interested in hearing that, whilst she is not a great deal better, she is no worse in the matter of her affliction of the eyes. Mrs. Scarfe is at present in search of health at Mordialloc. May her quest prove beneficial in its effects.

- 1923) / Fri 4 Aug 1916 / Page 3 / Party Chron

We regret to hear that one of the pioneer comrades of the Party, Mrs. Scarfe, to wit, is still down with illness. She has had many months of suffering, but if good wishes can accomplish it, she will yet be restored to health, and be once more a regular attendant at the Sunday night and other meetings.

: 1867 - 1922) / Thu 8 Jun 1876 / Page 3 / LAW COURT

Walter Henry Scarfe, an assistant at Messrs. Martin & Murch's of Hindley-street, stated that Mrs. Austin came to their shop, purchased some iron bedsteads, and promised to pay cash for them, but when the goods were sent round she did not pay. The witness, however, would not swear that one of the bedsteads was not minus one of the pieces, and was still in that condition. The plaintiff denied the last witness's evidence as to promising cash. The counsel having addressed the Court at some length, the Court gave judgment for the plaintiff 1s. damages.

GEORGE BALL V. LOYAL HINDMARSH LODGE,

Next week Miss Scarfe will open a millinery establishment in new premises at 224 High street, Northcote (four doors north of theatre), and announces "latest city styles at suburban prices." Adornments, lace collars, neckwear, etc., for ladies, are a speciality of Hat tam's. Their assemblage of these items easily surpasses any which we have yet seen. [Advt].

1914 Preston Leader



Advertisement for a Wife.

Evidence relating to the insertion of a matrimonial advertisement was given by a witness during the hearing yesterday of the case in which Thomas Craine, coachbuilder, of City road, South Melbourne, is claiming £1,425 from the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company and the Yorkshire Insurance Company, in respect of policies covering a number of motor-cars destroyed during a fire at Craine's works on September 30, 1917. Mr. Morley and Mr. Clyne (instructed by Mr. Doria) appeared for Craine, and Mr. Bryant and Mr. Eager (instructed by Messrs. Hodgson and Finlayson) for the defendant companies.

Walter Scarfe, bookkeeper, 43 Clarendon street, Northcote, said that he had known Craine for more than 30 years. About October, 1916, he saw Craine, who was looking very worried. He asked him the reason, and Craine said that he had a big empty house to go home to at night, and he also had business worries in the day time. Witness said: "Why do you not advertise for a partner?" meaning a wife, and Craine replied, "Perhaps it would be as well." Witness then drafted the advertisement, and showed it to Craine. It was as follows:—

Gentleman, alone, with own business near city and large residence at Toorak, freehold, wishes to meet widow or spinster, about 40, with view to above. Means required to extend business, own property. Reply to "Confidential Friend," Trevisan, 43 Clarendon street, Northcote.

Craine did not tell witness to insert the advertisement, and he objected to the words "means required to extend business," but witness sent the advertisement to a Melbourne newspaper, collected the replies, and handed them to Craine. He had had a drink with Craine during the hearing of the case. Craine said to witness: "I do not think you will be wanted again."

Mr. Bryant.—Did he not say that there would be no need for you to go back to the court, and that if you were fined, he would pay, or anything to that effect?

Witness.—I only heard him say that he thought I would not be wanted as a witness.

The hearing was adjourned until to-day.

Esq., "Bolindavale," Lancefield Junction.
SCARFE-NICHOLSON.—On the 30th April, at the Australian Church, by the Rev. Chas. Strong, D.D., Herbert Edwin Rich, eldest son of Walter Henry Scarfe, "Rosalie," Jolimont, to Edith, fourth daughter of John Nicholson, "Nyora," North Carlton, formerly of North Fitzroy.

SCARFE.—The Friends of the late Mr. WALTER HENRY SCARFE are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Coburg Cemetery. The funeral is appointed to move from his residence, 43 Clarendon-street, Thornbury, THIS DAY (Monday), 27th August, at quarter to 4 o'clock.
 R. ROBSON, Undertaker, Brunswick-street, North Fitzroy. Tel. 618, Northcote.

At rest
SCARFE.—On the 25th August, at his residence, "Trevisan," 43 Clarendon-street, Thornbury, Walter Henry, dearly beloved husband of Caroline Augusta, loving father of Rose, Minnie, Mabel (Mrs. Fenner), Florrie, Herbert, Louis, Laurie and Ernest, and dearly loved grandfather of Andrew May, Una, Edward, Fred, Leon and Arnold (deceased), aged 76 years. South Australian papers please copy.
 SKATE.—On the 26th August, at her residence,

Father of Rose, Minnie, Mabel, Florrie, Herbert, Louis, Laurie, Ernest.



LAW NOTICES

AFTER the expiration of fourteen days from the publication hereof application will be made to the Supreme Court of Victoria, that LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION of the estate of WALTER HENRY SCARFE, late of 43 Clarendon street, Northcote, Victoria, accountant, deceased, intestate, left unadministered by Caroline August (also known as Augusta) Scarfe, of 43 Clarendon street, Thornbury aforesaid, widow, deceased, intestate, the administratrix of the said estate may be granted to Herbert Edwin Rich Scarfe, of 6 Waterdale road, Ivanhoe, in the said State, draftsman, son of the said deceased. ROYSTON T. CAHIR, solicitor, 108 Queen street, Melbourne.

AFTER the expiration of fourteen days from

PORT ELLIOT.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Port Elliot, October 9.

On Saturday morning last a fire broke out on the premises occupied by Mr. Alfred Rich, shoemaker. The damage, which was principally confined to the stock-in-trade and fixtures and the floor and ceiling of the shop, is estimated at £250. An enquiry as to the origin of the fire was held at the Local Court Office the same day, before Mr. B. F. Laurie, Coroner for the district, and a respectable Jury. From the evidence given on the inquest, it appears that Mr. Rich, who was in the habit of rising early to look after his cows, unlocked the front door of his shop and went in to light his pipe. He took his hat off and put a cap on at the same time, throwing his hat upon the counter. There had been a violent hot wind all night, and it was at that time blowing furiously. He locked the door again, and went to look for his cows. This was about a quarter-past 5. On his return in about an hour afterwards he saw smoke issuing from the chimney of his dwelling-house, as he thought; but upon nearer approach to his premises he saw that the smoke was issuing from the shop (which is a good stone building, situated about 10 yards from the dwelling-house). He instantly ran to the neighbours around for assistance, who came at once. In his fright he could not find the key of the door, and it had to be burst open, when it appeared that the fire was confined to the front shop. A plentiful supply of water was at hand, and from the ready assistance being on the spot the fire was soon got under, but not before the entire contents of the shop were consumed or otherwise injured so as to be entirely useless. When the door was burst open a cat was seen to rush from the place, but whether the cat had upset the matches which appeared to be scattered about, or whether they had been knocked down by some boots falling from the shelves, or by the hat which had been thrown upon the counter, it was difficult to say. After a patient investigation the Jury decided on the following verdict:—"That the fire was the result of accidental causes, as it appears that it originated from lucifer matches; but there is no proof of carelessness attaching to the owner, Alfred Rich." Mr. J. P. Tripp attended the inquest to watch the proceedings on the part of the South Australian Insurance Company. Mr. Rich was fortunately insured to the extent of £400.

The weather is delightful, refreshing showers having continued at intervals every day since my last, with the

AN OLD COLONIST.

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES OF EARLY TIMES.

Mr. Alfred Franklin King, who is to-day his 86th year, today, and is living with Mr. D. O'Brien, at the Old Exchange building, is a native of Boston, U.S.A., having been born there in 1813. Notwithstanding his advanced age, he is hale and comparatively strong, and retains his faculties wonderfully. When met by a representative of "The Advertiser" a few days ago, he chatted about his life in Australia during the early days of our colonial history in a very interesting manner. Mr. King arrived in Australian waters more than 61 years ago. He left America on July 3, 1837, in the ship Navy, which had previously been a Liverpool and Boston liner, and had been purchased and fitted out for whaling expeditions. The original intention when leaving the American port was to make for the Straits of Madagascar, but on the way they met the Indian Chief, a vessel which reported such phenomenal success as the result of a cruise in Australian waters, that the captain determined to alter the course and make for the same spot. Originally this plan was determined on with the object of participating in the sealing enterprise near Kangaroo Island, but no sooner was that place reached than they learned that it was too late in the season to hope for any success in this direction. No time was then lost in making for Encounter Bay, and although tows were entertained that they would be too late to secure any of that season's whales, those tows were soon proved to be unfounded, for within a fortnight they had a complete cargo of sperm oil. "You see," said Mr. King, "it was getting near Christmas, and the whales were making for the Antarctic Ocean in tremendous schools. We kept near the coast and intercepted them, but we were only just in time, for a fortnight after we arrived there was not a whale to be seen in the district. It was very nice sport, however, and for every one we managed to land we must have killed at least two."

While cruising about they met with



have killed at least two.

While cruising about they met with three other American vessels, one of which, the *James Stewart*, was sailing under the British flag, and had nominally left Nova Scotia for the purpose of securing the right of landing oil in England or British territory duty free, and for some time the vessels kept together. One night they parted company, expecting to meet next day, but six weeks elapsed before they again came together, and then by a singular coincidence all of the vessels arrived at Hobart on the same day and within a few hours of each other. This was on March 3, 1836. The other two vessels were the *South Boston* and the *Boudicca*. At Hobart the captain sold the cargo, which consisted of 16,000 barrels of oil, to the captain of an American trader called the *Black Warrior*, which, after leaving Tasmania, went to India and China. "The arrival of four vessels at Hobart in one day was an event of great importance in those far back times, and I can assure you that there was some excitement over it," said Mr. Rich.

The cargo having been disposed of in the manner indicated, Mr. Rich was free to please himself whether he returned to his native land or not, and finding things very brisk in Tasmania he determined to remain there for a while. After a few years spent in Hobart he removed to Launceston. He had a brother in New Zealand with whom he had been endeavoring to communicate, but there was no regular service between the two places in those days, and his letters did not reach their destination for some time. Just after he left, however, his brother visited Hobart on business, and having heard that Mr. Rich had made that his home, set about searching for him, but as he had gone to Launceston, and no one whom his brother met could give any information concerning him, the quest proved futile.

In March 1842, thinking he might do



proved futile.

In March, 1843, thinking he might do better in Sydney, Mr. Rich left for that city, and during the next three years made it his home. Mr. Rich speaks with a good deal of enthusiasm about his life in Sydney. "I worked at my trade (book-making) for a fortnight, and then I took a position as auctioneer's clerk, with Mr. J. Heydon. Our principal line was books and stationery. I think those book sales were the largest of their kind ever held in Australia. Often they would last all day and till late at night, and sometimes for several days. Almost all the books and stationery which came to the colony went through our hands, and we sold tremendous quantities of American pirated editions of popular novels. You see, we could afford to sell American copies of the English 3/6 editions for 7/6 and do well out of it; and the peculiar thing was that these editions were mostly imported by the American consul." He then went on to explain that by the payment of £1 1/2 for a license an auctioneer could carry on business without further payment. "It was not an annual payment," he said. "You simply took out your license and paid your guinea, and you were legally constituted an auctioneer for the term of your natural life." Still this did not cover the total fees which had to be paid to the Government for the privileges enjoyed, as the taxgatherer claimed 1/2 per cent. on the amount of all sales.

During the year 1846 Mr. Rich came to South Australia, having heard from Mr. J. M. Solomon of the fine prospects which this colony afforded an energetic and enterprising man. At this time the Burra mines were just starting, and there was a fine touch of humor in Mr. Rich's descriptions of the way fortunes were amassed by lucky investors in shares. "It was the Burra that gave many of our pioneers who have become wealthy their first start. I could mention names conspicuous in the history of South Australia of persons who would probably have been as obscure as the majority of us but for the success of this venture. Shares bought for £5 were soon worth £70, and then £140, and so on. One needed only a few of these to set him going, and when once a man got a fair sum of money there were plenty of openings for him. However, Mr. Rich was not amongst the fortunate few who took up shares in this venture, but contented himself with taking employment at his trade. "Even that was not so bad," he continued. "It was easy to earn £2 per day when things were fairly brisk; but the gold fever was the ruin of many, and the colony suffered much from it, etc."





tented himself with taking employment at his trade. "Even that was not so bad," he continued. "It was easy to earn £2 per day when things were fairly brisk; but the gold fever was the ruin of many, and the colony suffered much from its effects. When the stings broke out men caught the contagion, and off they went, often leaving good positions, and frequently doing badly enough when they got to the fields. Yes, I had a touch of it, but my desire was to go to America to the gold diggings in California." Here Mr. Rich explained how by a singular combination of circumstances he was prevented from returning to his native land, even after all arrangements had been made for doing so. "Still," he added, "there was no need to go away to look for gold, for this was the golden era in the history of South Australia, and all you had to do was to turn your hand to work. Those who stopped at home made on the average more money than those who went either to America or Victoria to seek it on the goldfields."

Speaking of the climate, Mr. Rich says it has much improved since those early days. "The heat is not so severe now as it was then. I remember in the year 1847 there was an unbroken spell of the most intense heat I have ever known. The air was thick and still, with not a breath of wind. The sun was as red as blood, and would not cast a shadow at any part of the day, and this lasted from the middle of February till March 19. It was impossible to work, and you could not bear to have a fire to cook anything. When the change came at last it was very sudden and terribly complete. The ground was thoroughly parched with the long continued and terrific heat, but only a few hours of the storm that marked the end of the spell were required to make Adelaide and surrounding country more like a series of lagoons than anything else. I have never known such a flood." Mr. Rich then in vivid and picturesque language described what he considers to have been the greatest flood known in South Australian history during the last half century.

"The new bridge at Morphett-street, a

new flood known in South Australian history during the last half century.

"The new bridge at Morphett-street, a stone structure of a single span, had only been opened 16 days, and there were two other bridges within a short distance of the spot, but 12 hours after the first flash of lightning there was not a trace of any of them left. Indeed, the Torrens was swept as clean as it was when the white man first came here."

Amongst other interesting incidents related in the early days Mr. Rich tells with much zest of the excitement occasioned by the arrival of the first steamship that visited Port Adelaide waters. This event took place in 1847, the vessel coming here from Sydney, and almost the entire population, Mr. Rich said, went to the Port. A great romance is added to the recital of the episode, of what is in many respects an interesting life, by the fact that Mr. Rich is a descendant of the Riches, who during the seventeenth century figured conspicuously in English history as the House of Warwick.