NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING.

The 8th General Meeting for the Society for 1988 will be held in:-

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 130 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE

ON

MONDAY 24th OCTOBER '88 AT 8.00 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of the previous general meeting:
   Minutes of the previous general meeting, held in the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide on 26th September 1988, having been circulated in this journal to be confirmed.

3. Papers and journals:
   Papers and journals received from other societies and organisations since the last general meeting, will be tabled at this meeting.

4. Speaker:
   The speaker for this meeting will be Mr Peter Tregilgas, Director of the Aboriginal Cultural Centre - Tandanya.
   The subject of his address will be:-
   "Tandanya"

5. Supper will be served at the close of the meeting.

R. Allison
Hon. Secretary
120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
THE HASTINGS PAPERS

by Lola Cameron-Bonney

(A response to the article, 'Black Wars on the Coorong', published in Australasian Post, February 13, 1988.)

An American couple, the Timms, were credited with finding out the early history of an incident which happened on the Coorong. The papers found at Campbell Park, were evidently copies of G.J. Hastings' notes and pages from a book that he was at the time writing.

G.J. Hastings, lived and worked on McGrath's Flat Station, about fourteen miles south of Meningie. Situated on the Coorong, this Station ran Aberdeen Angus cattle and was owned by the twin sons of Donald McCullum, Thomas and Donald. Thomas was a member of the South Australian Parliament, and G.J. Hastings worked for them. His house was up the hill from the homestead, we still have a photograph of G.J. and my aunt Miss Pearl Cameron, which was taken in the courtyard of McGrath's Flat house.

G.J. Hastings and my grandfather were friends, my grandfather helped him with some of the historical facts that he needed to know, a part of his book was incorporated in the book, 'Coorong', (Minchin and McCourt). I knew both these authors personally, Minchin from childhood and McCourt always called to see us on his travels. He owned a property called Bourke's Island, near Beachport, S.A. G.J. Hastings was a cousin to my grandfather's close neighbour, Elliot Hastings, who owned the adjoining farm to ours. Elliot's daughter, Mary (Mrs Allan Dawson), and my mother Lily Cameron (nee Cameron) were girlhood friends and remained so until my mother's death in 1984.

Mary and Allan Dawson's daughter, Jean, is the wife of Vern McLaren, National Trust and Wildlife top man.

G.J. Hastings and my grandfather, often talked about the early history of the Coorong. My grandfather's grandmother (who was still alive when my mother was aged thirteen), and her husband were the first persons to see and meet the people from the 'Maria' wreck. My grandfather's father was a Scottish Highlander, his mother was an Australian Aboriginal princess of the Milmanjirie-Tempromjinjirie Alliance. Grandfather spoke five of the Coorong languages. The people from the wreck were handed along from tribe to tribe with instructions that they were to be
treated with respect and generally cared for, on the third handing over some young bucks from the third tribe, sneaked out of the camping area and killed the people. Their tribe then asked the help of the other tribes, including the Milmanjirie and Tempromjinjirie, to round up the young murders who were tried by the elders and then taken out and speared to death for their terrible deed. The hanging carried out after this happened only caused the death of innocent people, grandfather’s grandmother said that they did not understand the language of the ‘interpreter’, who apparently could not understand the Coorong languages, which do differ all the way along this stretch of water. Some words have a similarity, including the name for God, or the Great Spirit, which is understood all the way from the Murray River to where the Coorong ends near Kingston, South East. This hanging caused hatred and bad feeling mainly because neither side could understand the other, and apparently there are still people trying to foster that feeling by continuing to tell all the wrong things. I just wonder how long it will continue before someone has guts enough to print the truth.

Having taliked to aunt Mary Dawson, I confirmed that G.J. Hastings had never lived at Campbell Park, home of the late K.D. Bowman and family. The copy that is in our possession of G.J. Hastings’ historical work, was written in his own handwriting on a pale blue Croxly pad. Some of G.J. Hastings’ family still live at Meningie. Before finishing off about the ‘Black Wars on the Coorong’, let me point out that Milmanjirie territory extended from a place named Hack’s Point to Walker’s Point on the mainland side of the Coorong. The Younghusband Peninsula was never used as a ‘home’ area, as it was a ‘Hunting Zone’, set aside and free to be used by all the tribes. From Walker’s Point was then Tempromjinjirie territory as far as Noona-meena Ranger Station, then came Coagulinjirie, a smaller tribe, then all the others. Milmanjirie territory ended a long way South of the Murray Mouth.

The murderer, Malachi Martin, (right name Martin McQueen), was an Australian born Irishman, who turned out to be no credit to either the Irish, or his family, wherever they lived. A detective from Adelaide, dressed as a swaggie, put paid to this character’s dreams.

My husband whose father was Irish, doesn’t want to own Malachi as a compatriot.

Copyright remains with the author.