

## MANN TERRACE DEVELOPMENT

### i) History of the Olive Grove between Park and Mann Terraces.

The olive grove between Park and Mann Terraces lies partly on Park Land and partly on land now owned by the State Highways Department that would, at one time, have also been part of what is known as the 'North Parklands'. These parklands were amongst the first planted by the Adelaide City Corporation in their project of developing the parklands after they had fallen into considerable disrepair and neglect in the 1840s. This 'project' was commenced in 1856 when Messrs. John Bailey and Son were given the commission to undertake tree planting in the North Parklands and City areas.

"In 1856 South Australia's first botanist, John Bailey was authorized by the then Governor to "trench and plant" in the North Parklands and the City. Bailey planted 1354 trees and was paid 400 pounds for the contract".<sup>1</sup>

John Bailey had been the first Colonial Botanist from 1839 to 1841 and Director of the second Botanic Gardens. After he had been "retrenched" from this position in September, 1841,<sup>2</sup> and the site of the gardens leased out (this was most probably due to the financial collapse of the colony in 1841 which caused the setting up of a permanent Botanic Gardens to be abandoned until 1855), Bailey established a plant nursery at Hackney (near the vicinity of present Kent Town), which contained many varieties of fruit and ornamental trees, including olives.<sup>3</sup>

This nursery, which was to continue (under different ownership) for approximately 50 years, became well-known as "Bailey's Gardens". The present Botanic Gardens were established in 1855 under G.W. Francis, the first Director;

"Eight acres were planted in the first year, and by 1865 most of the 40 acres was occupied. Bailey's Gardens, then in full activity, provided a valuable source of supply, and we can see today the results of the co-operation of Francis and Bailey".<sup>4</sup>

It would not be unreasonable to assume that Bailey may well have transplanted young olive trees into the area he planted for the Council. The "South Australian Register" of 17 June, 1875, (Page 7) says that, "... the olive tree was introduced in the earliest days of the colony, Governor Hindmarsh having brought one with him in the Buffalo, which arrived on December 28th, 1836. Some time afterwards a number of the best French varieties were imported from Marseilles, and planted at Bailey's Gardens, Hackney, whence by cuttings, truncheons, or seedlings the plantation at Ridge Park, Glen Osmond, of Captain Simpson, and other smaller ones in various places have been drawn".

This is substantiated by an article in the 1948-49 Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia (S.A. Branch) which states that, "In 1845, the South Australian Company introduced into South Australia olive truncheons of the varieties, "Salonen", "Blanquette", "Verdale", and "Bouquettier"; these were planted in Bailey's Garden". Examination of the Minute Book of the Public Works Committee of the Adelaide City Council for the years 1856-1861 revealed that at the meeting of 16 June, 1858, under the heading of "North Adelaide Plantations and other City Planting"; "Your Committee advise also that Messrs. Bailey and Son be requested to replace in the North Adelaide Enclosures, and according to their original plan, all the dead trees, and to furnish the Council with a sketch of the ground indicating the spots where the trees are planted, and their names".

Thomas Worsnop, former Town Clerk of the Adelaide City Council, in his "The Jubilee of Municipal Institutions of Australasia", 1890, writes that, "It was not until the winter of 1856 that a commencement was made in planting the Park Lands, the first start being made on the north of the river, between it and Pennington Terrace, on each side of the City Road, at the instance of the then Governor, Sir R.G. MacDonnell ..... The fencing and planting of the Park Lands soon followed ...." 5

*Thus, while it is certain that John Bailey did plant the North Parklands and other areas for the City Council, there is no direct (i.e. a statement from some primary or secondary historical source) evidence available that he planted olive trees in this section of the Parklands for which he was contracted, in the years 1856/1857, nevertheless the connection would seem to be strongly inferred.*

The noted supporter of olive growing in South Australia, Samuel Davenport did not begin to cultivate olives until the early 1860s and then on his Beaumont property at Burnside, and according to one source, he was reputed to have obtained his cuttings from Bailey's Garden, "some years before John Bailey's death in 1864". 6

The 1933-34 Proceedings for the Royal Geographical Society of Australia (S.A. Branch) has a statement that, "John Bailey brought out six species (of olives), more ornamental than useful) (this would have been on his journey out to South Australia)". Thus, it would seem that Mr. Bailey, who had worked for an important botanical nursery at Hackney, near London, was interested in the cultivation of olives from the very early years of the colony's life. 8

- ii) Comparison of age with other olive groves in the Adelaide City Council area.

The second factor in the historical importance of the Park and Mann Terraces olive grove is their age relative to the remaining

olive groves, as opposed to individual trees or clumps of trees, in the City of Adelaide. *If the olive grove in the North Parklands was planted in 1856/1857 by John Bailey, then it would be the oldest olive grove still intact in Adelaide today and the trees would therefore be approximately 125 years old. The next oldest grove would be that adjoining the Old Adelaide Gaol.*

"The South Australian Register" of 17 June, 1875 says that" .... only comparatively in recent years that attention has been directed to the subject of (olive) oil manufacture in its commercial aspect. Mr. Sheriff Boothby was the first to take substantial steps with a view to demonstrating its value, and after for six or seven years carefully planting the enclosure around the Gaol, he began with half a ton of fruit in the year 1870 to manufacture the oil. (This would bring the planting date of the olive trees to 1863/1864). The produce was of such a quality that it was readily bought at 11s and 12s per gallon".

From "The Cultivation of the Olive", 1883, is the following extract, "Mr. Barnard states that the trees at the Adelaide Gaol, varying from eight to eighteen years old, (This would have meant that the oldest trees were planted in 1863), produced a nett return of £9 per acre ...." (This had been taken from the "Adelaide Observer" of 1 October, 1881). The Mayor's (of Adelaide) Annual Report of 1879/1880 (Page 104) states that; "The original plantation of olives, now about twenty years in existence, occupying about seven acres and containing 1,127 olive trees, has suffered by the construction of the Nairne Railway (it is believed that this may be referring to the plantation in the vicinity of the Adelaide Gaol), some 364 olive trees having been removed by the labourers employed in the excavation and on the embankment for this railway, and although they were at once replanted under direction of the Park Lands Gardener, and have all survived, yet it will take some years before they regain their original vigour". *Therefore, it would seem that the olive grove standing near the Old Adelaide Gaol dates from the early or mid-1860s. From the Mayor's Report of 1877-1878, (Page 8) it is found that the olive plantations then existing in the Adelaide City Council area were valued at £5,500. The bulk of the income obtained from olives by the Council at this time must have come from the older plantations in the Northern Parklands and the Adelaide Gaol area, as the other plantations were still quite immature.*

The minutes of the 30 August, 1867 meeting of the Public Works Committee indicate that, "Your Committee advise that .... the Olive planting suggested by him (the City Gardener) stand over until next year", and the "Register" of 1875, says that the "bulk of the plantations are yet quite young". In addition, the Mayor's Report of 1882/1883 reports that;

"The olive trees on the Park Lands, except the Plantation at the Gaol, have had little care or attention paid to them since they were first planted until the present year; they have been subject to fires year by year and to daily depredations by boys and men, much to their injury and disfigurement. As a result, .... very little revenue had been obtained from the produce which had been gathered from them in the past .... The Olive Plantations near the Gaol

have been carefully attended to by the Sheriff with untiring zeal, and they are now aiding the City Fund by the proceed from the sale of the oil".

The Adelaide City Council continued to plant olives throughout the Parklands in the 1870s as the following extract from the "Register" of 17 June, 1875 shows;

"The olives in the enclosures between the City Bridge and North terrace, it may be observed, are properly trained; and this year there is a nice although not heavy crop of fruit on them. The trees on the East terrace plantation have not been so well trained, and a large proportion of them were unfortunately destroyed by fire some time ago. Altogether the Adelaide Corporation, having a due appreciation of the value of the olive, have had about 30,000 trees planted on the Park Lands surrounding the city. Some 5,000 or 6,000 of these adjacent to the Gaol have been in bearing for the last few years, and a few others in different parts have begun to bear during the last year or two; but the bulk of the plantations are yet quite young. It is to be hoped that due attention will be paid to them so as to ensure that return which they ought to yield a few years hence. The amount received last year from the Goal plantations was £61, which was handed over to the Sheriff for the purchase of improved appliances wherewith to carry on the industry in future years".

The Mayor's Annual Report of 1872 indicated that, "The number of trees planted during the season has been 5,542 - consisting of 2,357 olives, 950 gums and 2,235 various ornamental trees and plants suitable for the climate."

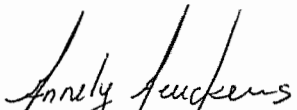
In the Adelaide City Council minutes of the meeting 4 June, 1872, "Your Committee have directed the Town Clerk to call for tenders for 800 trees, for planting in the squares; they have also instructed him to direct the Gardener to utilize the large number of young olive trees, in the olive ground on East Terrace, in replanting where trees have failed, during the year, in the several plantations of the City".

Eight years later the Report of 1879/1880 (Page 103) states that, "the Park Lands Gardener reports that he has planted in the City Squares 1,228 ornamental trees, and in the plantations on the Park Lands, 1,900. In addition to this he has forwarded to Olive plantations 3,000 young plants for next year".

If olive planting did not commence until 1868, then the plantation on East Terrace would only have been 4 years old in 1872, however, in the previous quotation from the Register of 1875, we see that a large number of the trees were destroyed by fire, so that many of the remaining olive trees in East Terrace would be no older than the early 1870s.

Thus, the remaining 3 large olive groves in Adelaide are:

- (i) Olive Grove Park Terrace/Mann Terrace, circa 1856/1857, if the assumption that John Bailey planted the olives is correct.
- (ii) Adelaide Gaol - circa early-mid 1860s.
- (iii) East Terrace - majority would date from early 1870s.

  
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SUMMARY

The olive grove between Park and Mann Terraces has a three-fold historical significance:

- (1) Significance of the olive grove as possibly the oldest remaining intact olive grove within the boundaries of the Adelaide City Council. Their approximate age, if the date of planting was 1856, would be 125 years. There are only two other 'original' olive groves still existing from the nineteenth century.
- (2) Significance of the olive grove as being representative of the first period of tree planting and general development of the Parklands undertaken by the Adelaide City Council, that is, this particular area would have been planted in the first year (or two) of the scheme.
- (3) Significance of the historical connection with the Bailey Family who, for at least five generations, produced some of the leading botanists in Australia. John Bailey was the first colonial botanist in South Australia and the Curator of the second Botanic Gardens in Adelaide. His son, F.H. Bailey, was appointed Colonial Botanist of Queensland in 1881 and held this position until his death. F.M. Bailey's son, John Frederick Bailey, became Director of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens in 1905 and in 1917 took up the appointment of Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Both his sons also became noted botanists and a grandson of F.M. Bailey, C.T. White, became Government Botanist of Queensland in 1918.

## FOOTNOTES

1. The Adelaide Parklands, Submission to the Interim Advisory Committee on the National Estate. Adelaide City Council. October, 1974. Chapter II Historical Development of the Parklands, 1836-1942, Page 2.
2. The Botanical Colonisation of the Adelaide Plains, Dr. R.H. Pulleine, Reprint from Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch (Incorporated), Session 1933-34) Vol. 35-1935, Page 43.
3. History of Nurseries and Nurserymen in South Australia, Unpublished typescript (in preparation for publication). R. Swinbourne (Technical Officer, Botanic Gardens) 1981. Bailey's Garden was situated near the junction of Hackney Road and the road to Magill (currently shown on road maps as North Terrace) at Kent Town.
4. Botanical Colonisation of the Adelaide Plains page 45
5. The Jubilee of Municipal Institutions of Australasia, October 31st, 1890. Thomas Worsnop, Town Clerk, Adelaide. 1890, Page 9
6. Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A. Branch), Vol. 50, 1948-1949, Page 30.
7. Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A. Branch), Vol. 35, 1933-1934, Page 64.
8. The Bailey Family and its Place in the Botanical History of Australia, C.T. White, Government Botanist (Read at a meeting of the Historical Society of Queensland, Inc., on Thursday, October 26th, 1944 - from the S.A. Botanical Gardens Library) Page 1.

"John Bailey had been in with Conrad Loddiges and Sons at Hackney near London. This firm had a large botanical nursery and specialised in Cape bulbs and shrubs and the beautiful flowering plants of "New Holland". The plants of both these countries had a vogue in England at that time and the firm at Loddiges catered for the demand. In addition to being expert nurserymen they were very good botanists, and published a notable work, "The Botanical Cabinet," in twenty volumes, the first appearing in 1817 the last in 1833. Each volume consisted of 100 plates partly in colour, thus 2,000 exotic plants were figures, many for the first time. It was natural, therefore, that a member of such a firm should be chosen by the Governor of South Australia (Colonel Gawler) as Government Botanist and Curator of a Botanic Garden it was proposed to establish in the young colony. For this, John Bailey was to receive the magnificent salary of £80 per annum. A botanic gardens was laid out on the banks of the Torrens River. It was divided into two sections, one devoted to flower beds and ornamental plants, the other an economic section. One important function of this latter was the growing of fresh vegetables to combat scurvy. I do not know when this Botanic Gardens was abandoned, but it was probably somewhere towards the end of 1841, when drastic cuts in administration costs were made by Governor Grey in an endeavour to pull the colony out of bankruptcy. No money being available to carry on the botanic Gardens, John Bailey turned his hand to farming; and later to nursery work, establishing the Hackney Nursery after which the present suburb of Adelaide is named. In this venture his two sons were associated with him under the name of John Bailey and Sons".

Sources:

- i) The South Australian Register, Thursday, June 17, 1875
- ii) The Jubilee of Municipal Institutions of Australasia, October 31, 1890. Thomas Worsnop, Town Clerk, Adelaide, 1890.
- iii) Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia Inc. (S.A. Branch) 1933-1934. Vol. 35 "The Olive"
- iv) ibid. 1948-49, Vol. 50 "Olives, Vines and Almonds:
- v) The Cultivation of the Olive - Notes Collected by J. Harris Browne. Adelaide. 1883.
- vi) Report on System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands, J.E. Browne, Curator of Forests, Adelaide. 1880.
- vii) The Olive and Olive Oil, J.H. Maiden, Sydney, 1887.
- viii) The Adelaide Parklands, Submission to the Interim Advisory Committee on the National Estate, Adelaide City Council, October, 1974.
- ix) Minutes of the Public Works Committee of the Adelaide City Council, 1856-1861.

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- x) The Bailey Family and its Place in the Botanical History of Australia, C.T. White, Read at a meeting of the Historical Society of Queensland Inc., on Thursday, October 26th, 1944.
- xi) Mayor's (of Adelaide City Council) Annual Report of 1872, 1877/78, 1879/1880 and 1882/1883.
- xii) Minutes of the Adelaide City Council 1872.
- xiii) Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 3: 1851-1890. Page 73.