

## **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS**

**7-9<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Wednesday 7/9/2022**, twenty- two WHC members, along with Dr Philip Jones and his partner met at the Angaston Union Chapel on Penrice Road at 5pm. Most attendees had a welcoming glass of local wine in hand as Dr Jones and the President of the Angaston & Penrice Historical Group, Dr Bill Gransbury, both spoke about the formation and building of the Union Chapel by John Howard Angas in 1844. We were also joined in the Chapel by about 36 locals who also accompanied us for a meal and an A/V presentation on GFA's story and paintings by Dr Philip Jones at the local Wanera Restaurant. We stayed as a group at the Vineyard Motel in Angaston.

**Thursday 8/9/2022** we had a light breakfast in the motel before driving a short distance to Mr Ian Williamson's house at 90 Murray Street. Ian with Dr Bill Gransbury were instrumental in providing local information on the sites utilised by George French Angas, GFA, and they gave local assistance with logistics. Their assistance was invaluable. From 90 Murray Street we were shown the site of the iconic view of the "Opening of the Free Chapel at Angaston, German Pass". Our imagination was required as the vista is basically overgrown with many large trees, but a large rock and waterfall in the drawing was seen! Ian explained how the adjacent old stable was possibly associated with one of the early buildings seen in other paintings. The old Union Chapel is a 'marker' in many of GFA's paintings as we stared and looked and tried to observe the Chapel from 3 other sites: viz Fife Street, Dean Street and at the far eastern end of Murray Street. Being a cold and forecast rainy day we were fortunate to avoid rain, for most of the day.



Old Union Chapel

A lunch at Lamberts's Winery with a talk from Kirk Lambert on his wines followed by Mr John Angas giving a talk on the Angas buildings we were to visit. After lunch we went to near the site of Terrawatta, the first settlement in the area, followed by a passing-by the old Angas Chapel.



Angas Mausoleum

Then we were privileged to have a guided tour of the Collingrove House by John and Jan Angas which was splendid with its magnificent treasures. Following this we were also privileged to inspect the inside of the Angas Family vault on Lindsay Park...some regarded this as a highlight!

A gourmet meal at Vintner's Restaurant adjacent to our motel was another highlight.

**Friday 9/9/2022** Today the Angaston Blacksmith's Shop and Museum was opened for us, with a demonstration of the use of a forge and anvil for the making of some blacksmith items.



The blacksmith's forge

After a coffee at the local bakery we then went to the Bethany Church and cemetery, with an inspection of the historical gum tree at the cemetery. This tree is purported to be the first site of a congregation meeting in Bethany. Some ventured on to Biscay Road to sight the Barossa Ranges as depicted in GFA's Bethany and Lyndoch paintings. A short talk on Bethany by the local historian, Mr Everard Leske. Fortunately, he was able to arrange for the remaining expeditioners to visit the Tanunda Museum. Here we had an excellent depiction of the early Barossa settlers' life.

The assistance of locals was greatly appreciated, especially local historians.

**Tim Tolley. Expedition Leader**