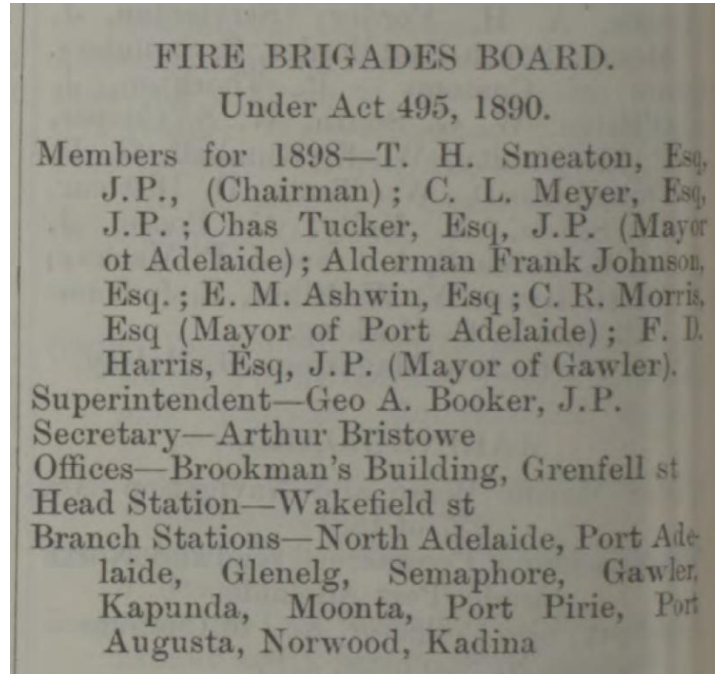


## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1898

### *From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1898*

Arthur Baker, fireman, Sturt Street North side, Saltram Place.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade, G. A. Booker, Superintendent Fire Brigades SA.



*Sands and McDougall 1898*

### *Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 5 January 1891, page 2*

Latest News.

At 2.40 o'clock on Friday morning a small fire occurred in a fancy goods shop in Pulteney-street, occupied by Mrs. Annie Boddington. The Fire Brigade was called, and extinguished the flames. No serious damage was done.

### *Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 10 January 1898, page 2*

FIRE IN WAYMOUTH-STREET.

At about 10.30 on Monday morning a small fire occurred in a dwellinghouse occupied by Salem Gabriel, a Syrian, living in Waymouth-street. The Adelaide Fire Brigade was promptly on the spot and the flames were subdued before they had extended beyond the kitchen. The house is the property of Mr. B. P. Mudge and the damage was not great. The city coroner has been informed.

### *Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 1 February 1898, page 4*

FIRE STATISTICS.

The report of the Fire Brigades Board for last year, which has just come to hand, is as usual a most interesting document, principally however, because of its appendices. Among other things the board states that arrangements are soon to be made for the establishment of a station at Kadina, that £1,000 has been voted towards maintenance of the brigade by the Adelaide City Council, that a station capable of accommodating 16 men, with engines, reels, and horses, has been provided at Port Adelaide, and that the stables at the Adelaide station

have been considerably improved. It is further announced that the superintendent has issued a warning as to the dangers attending the use of the cinematograph, and that "the Places of Public Amusement Bill" has been submitted to the board for criticism and amendment. It is hoped that this measure will be passed next session. The contributions received by the board last year were:—£3,676 17s. from the insurance companies, £2,754 0s. 9d. from the Government, £993 1s. 6d. from the Adelaide Corporation, and £837 12s. 10d. from suburban and country corporations. The expenditure on the Adelaide Brigade was £4,761 8s. 5d., including £2,529 19s. 11d. in wages, and £182 in board fees, while £3,769 7s 8d. went on suburban and country brigades, the chief item being £1,221 15s. 10d. for Port Adelaide. The total net expenditure by the board was £8,145 4s. 7d. During the year the brigades received 102 alarms, of which 65 were genuine fires, but only in ten cases did serious damage result. Every country brigade was officially inspected during the year, and all the plant was overhauled. Mr. Booker strongly recommends that fireplugs shall be replaced by pillar hydrants at Port Adelaide, Port Pirie, Norwood, Kensington, and St. Peters. No fatalities occurred during the year, but five firemen were injured by burns, scalds, or other accidents. The total strength of the South Australian Fire Brigades is 1 superintendent, 7 foremen, 3 cadets, 11 first-class firemen, 19 ordinary firemen, and 14 auxiliary firemen, while the plant consists of three steam fire-engines, a hose and coal van, eight horse reels, seven hand reels, three hose carts, two telescope ladders, thirteen horses, and 12,000 ft. of hose. A striking commentary on the superstition that Friday is specially unlucky is contained in this schedule of the days on which calls were received during the year:—Sunday 15, Monday 15, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 14, Thursday 16, Friday 11, and Saturday 16.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 19 February 1898, page 8***

FIRE IN PULTENEY-STREET.

A SHOP AND CONTENTS DESTROYED.

At 2.30 on Friday morning a call was received at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station to attend a fire in Pulteney-street, and a reel and steam fire-engine were immediately dispatched. Upon their arrival at the scene it was found that the confectioner's shop occupied by Mr. Damen Costa, which is situated on the west side of Pulteney-street, about halfway between Pirie and Flinders streets, was in flames. The fire had gained a strong hold and was threatening to spread to the shops on either side—Mr. William J. Rawlings's tinsmith's establishment on the north and Mr. Walter E. Muggs's boot shop on the south. The brigade at once got to work with one line of hose, which effectually stopped the flames from spreading. In a few minutes the fire was completely mastered and it was only a matter of time to extinguish the whole thing, but this was not accomplished before the interior of Mr. Costa's shop had been burnt out with all its stock. The fire had also found its way through the wooden ceiling. The building was insured in the Commercial Insurance Company for £50 and Mr. Costa held policies in various other companies on his shop and the whole of its contents. The amount has not yet been ascertained. Taking into consideration the high wind that was blowing it is a wonder that the conflagration did not extend further, as the place was thoroughly alight when the brigade reached the locality. The adjoining shops were severely scorched by the heat and flames and sustained slight damage through smoke and water. The coroner has been informed, and an inquest will be held to-day.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 19 February 1898, page 7***

FIRE IN PULTENEY-STREET.

SPLENDID WORK BY THE BRIGADE.

The rareness of large and destructive fires in Adelaide is frequently commented upon— often as an instance of Adelaide's slowness— by people in the other colonies, but the citizens most concerned are willing to accept the accusation of want of pace in that regard, and give the credit to Superintendent Booker, his men, and his "system." Yet another instance of a

dangerous fire nipped in the bud, if that metaphor may be employed, occurred early on Friday morning. At 2.22 a.m. a call by a stranger was received at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in Wakefield-street for a fire in Pulteney-street. The brigade, under Superintendent Booker, turned out smartly with reel and steamer, and the reel at North Adelaide was also ordered out. On arrival in Pulteney-street the brigade found the shop occupied by Mr. D. Costa, confectioner, almost opposite to the Pulteney-street School, to be well ablaze. This shop is the fifth from the north of a row of seven flat attached buildings, and it looked at first as if the whole block must go. The flames were beating fiercely along under the verandah, which runs the whole length of the block. The wooden crosspieces of the verandah were well alight, and all the glass fronts of the shops from end to end were blackened and scorched. The fire had even burst through into the shop to the south— that of W. E. Mugg, bootmaker— the joists and fittings were alight, and it seemed every moment as if the premises to the north, occupied by Mr. Rawling, tinsmith, plumber, and gasfitter, must also catch alight. The brigade got to work promptly with one line of hose. They fortunately found an exceptionally strong pressure of water in the main—doubtless due to the absence of demand on it elsewhere at that early hour— and to begin with stopped the flames from spreading. This was, in firemen's language, a magnificent stop. Then the full stream of water was turned on Costa's premises, which was practically a lock-up shop, as it contained only one apartment, and gradually quelled the fierce fire in that. It had completely destroyed all the fittings, and had a strong hold on the ceiling. How Rawling's place escaped is almost a miracle. The Rawling's sleeping apartments lay just to the rear of the centre of the flames, and only a thin wooden partition — now very much charred—separated them from the gutted shop. One of Rawling's little children lay asleep near the partition while the flames were scorching it. The main damage done consists of the total destruction of the contents of Costa's place, with the shop itself and all its fittings. The adjoining premises were severely scorched by the fire and heat, and there was also slight damage to the stock in them by water. At present the cause of the fire is unknown. Mr. Costa's stock and premises are insured in the Commercial Union Company, while the stock of the other buildings is also insured. The whole block of shops belongs to Mr. H. D. Goll. The Coroner was informed, and decided that unless further evidence came to hand he would not held an inquest.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 3 March 1898, page 4***

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

Some noticeable improvements have recently been made in the internal arrangements of the Adelaide Fire Brigade Station, by which additional room and greater convenience has been secured. The engine-house has been considerably enlarged, and now presents the appearance of a fine central hall, fitted with all the latest appliances and kept in apple-pie order. All the old structure at the back has been removed, and a handsome eight-stall stable has been erected in its place, so that as now constituted the horses will be able to take up their positions at the reels without a moment's loss of time with a corresponding smartness in the turn-out. A central passage leading from the engine-house to the men's rooms is lined with the accoutrements of the men, each being numbered and ready for immediate use. The mechanical and sanitary arrangements of the stables are exceedingly complete and up to date, the fittings being in varnished hardwood, which ensures their cleanliness, while heavy ventilators carry off all fumes and smells. Large louvres and plate-glass windows at the back admit plenty of fresh air, while a spacious loft is provided above the stables. New lavatories and all conveniences are provided for the men, and the station is now complete in every detail.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 1 June 1893, page 6***

#### ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.

About 30 members of King William-road Literary Society visited the Adelaide Fire Station on Tuesday evening last, May 30, and were shown over the buildings by the assistant in command, Mr. Cleveland. The various electrical fittings, mode acted upon in case of an alarm

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

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of fire, the various engines, fire escapes, &c., were all thoroughly explained. In the midst of the explanations an alarm of fire was given, and a general stampede ensued, the horses were harnessed, and the engine was in the street in about 30 seconds, giving practical proof of the efficiency of the firemen. After a little music by various members, the Rev. R. Kelly (president of the society) proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Cleveland for his explanations and courtesy in showing the visitors the Adelaide Fire Station. Mr. S. Parsons seconded, and Mr. C. Allen supported. Mr. Cleveland, in reply, was sorry the superintendent (Mr. Booker) was not present. The fire brigade did not hide their light under a bushel, but were only too happy to show the visitors through the buildings, and at some future time would be glad to see other members of the society who had been prevented being present that evening. The visitors thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

***Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Wednesday 13 July 1898, page 5***

An inquest on the fire which occurred in the Supreme Court Hotel on Sunday morning was held to-day. A verdict of incendiarism against some unknown persons was returned. Four separate fires were found in different parts of the house, but not much damage was done owing to the speedy arrival of the brigade.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 18 July 1898, page 3***

METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE.

DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-SERVICE MEDALS.

In response to the invitation of Mr. T. H. Smeaton, Chairman of the Fire Brigade Board, a large number of ladies and gentlemen gathered at the Metropolitan Fire Station, Wakefield-street, on Saturday afternoon, July 16, to witness the presentation of long-service medals to members of the brigade. Mr. and Mrs. Smeaton received their guests at the inner door of the watch-room. Those present included the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. J. G. Jenkins and Mrs. Jenkins, the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. Tucker) and the Mayoress (Mrs. Brown), the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. L. O'Loughlin), Hons. D. M. Charleston, C. Willcox, and H. Adams, M.L.C.'s, Messrs. T. Scherk, R. Wood, E. A. Roberts, and J. Hutchison, M.P.'s, Aldermen Fuller and Johnson, Councillors Wyles, Myers, Sellar, and Bruce, the Mayor of Port Adelaide (Mr. C. R. Morris), the Mayor of Gawler (Mr. F. Harris), the Town Clerk of Adelaide (Mr. A. Wright), Messrs. W. J. Sowden, C. L. Meyer, A. Mackie, G. Brookman, G. F. Stewart, A. Bristowe (Secretary of the Board), and E. M. Ashwin, and the wives and lady friends of most of the gentlemen named.

The members of the brigade having been drawn up in line at the rear of the station. Councillor Smeaton said the responsibility of the Fire Brigade Board was a growing one. Year by year the area over which its operations extended was increasing. The Board were fully seized of the necessity of exercising the utmost care over their expenditure. The Brigade was protecting the lives and property of the citizens at the small cost of £4,500 per annum. Wherever the Board thought it necessary to extend the operations of the brigade they endeavoured to do as well as they possibly could in the circumstances, and he was sorry, therefore, that some towns, instead of trying to assist them, were attempting to thwart them in their aims. Unless a better method of maintaining the brigade was initiated the work of the Board would be greatly hampered in the future. The work of the brigade in the city was known to all.

Good wine needed no bush. The Adelaide Brigade held a record for the alacrity with which it turned out. The Superintendent told him it held a world's record, and he could readily believe it. From the time of an alarm being sounded the brigade could be away from the station in 6-10 seconds. He had seen them turn out in 7 seconds. There were eighteen men in the brigade, distributed between the city and North Adelaide. When on full duty they had eleven men in the central station and three at North Adelaide. To these men they owed much of the immunity which Adelaide enjoyed from serious fires. By the smartness with which the brigade

had turned out on the previous Sunday to the Supreme Court Hotel, the Insurance Companies had been saved about £3,000. Apparently four separate fires had been started there, but this fact would never have been discovered but for the promptness of the brigade. They were present that day to distribute long-service medals to men who had served in the brigade for ten years. It might fairly be taken for granted that men who had served for such a long period had conducted themselves as they should do, and the Board did not consider that they had done all that was necessary for the men when they had paid their wages. (Cheers.) Mrs. Smeaton then decorated the following members of the brigade with bronze medals suitably inscribed:—Fireman Gibaut, Fireman Sinclair, ex-Fireman Gabrielson, Foreman Sinclair, and Foreman Cleveland. Superintendent Booker was presented with a silver medal. The Commissioner of Public Works, Hon. J. G. Jenkins, congratulated the brigade on the efficient manner in which they carried out their work, and the Mayor of Adelaide proposed complimentary votes to the host and hostess. These were heartily accorded, and rounds of cheers were given for the brigade and Mr. and Mrs. Smeaton. Afternoon tea having been served, visitors were afforded an opportunity of witnessing the practical work of the brigade, its members being exercised in steamer, reel, and ladder drill. The North Adelaide, Norwood, and Unley brigades also took part, and the evolutions, under Superintendent Booker, were performed with characteristic smartness in the presence of a large crowd of people.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 7 September 1898, page 5***

FIRE IN PIRIE-STREET.

A SKATING-RINK DESTROYED.

Shortly after 3 o'clock this morning the constable on beat in Pirie-street saw flames issuing from the skating-rink adjacent to the Aurora Hotel in Pirie-street, just beyond Hindmarsh-square. He at once gave the alarm to the Fire Brigade. In a few seconds the engine and a reel from head-quarters were on the spot, and were speedily followed by the reels from North Adelaide and Norwood. By the time the firemen arrived the building, a structure of wood and iron, was blazing fiercely. There was no chance of saving it, and efforts were directed to preventing the spread of the flames to the hotel. These were successful, and in less than a quarter of an hour the flames in the rink had been subdued. The interior of the building was entirely destroyed. The building had been used for skating purposes on Tuesday evening.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 8 September 1898, page 3***

THE FIRE IN PIRIE-STREET.

The cause of the fire which destroyed the iron building adjacent to the Aurora Hotel, Hindmarsh-square, is not known. The building was erected by Messrs. Syme and Sison in 1886, and was let in conjunction with the Aurora Hotel, then known as the Marquis of Queensberry, to Mr. David Green, a professional athlete and boxing-master. Later on Messrs. Syme & Sison converted it into a skating-rink and spent a lot of money on the place, including £120 or £150 for a floor. The venture did not pay the firm and the rink was closed. It had been vacant for sometime when Mr. John L. West took it over as an athletic hall and subsequently bought the firm's stock of skates and reopened the rink. He is understood to have done well. Once the building was known as Mac's Athletic Hall, the occupier being Mr. George McLaughlin, who also kept the hotel. The building itself was insured for £330 in the North British Office, and the contents for £100. The insurance will cover the loss. The land belongs to the late Miss Da Costa's estate, and is included in that which under her will His Excellency the Governor was requested to deal with for charitable purposes.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 22 November 1898, page 4***

FIRE AT KENSINGTON.

At 10.50 p.m. on Monday a call to a fire in Union-street, Kensington, was given by a small boy to the Norwood Fire Station. The reel at once went to the fire. At the same time a telephone

message was received at the Head Fire Station, Wakefield-street, and a fully equipped reel was instantly dispatched to Kensington. The fire was in a carpenters workshop, occupied by Mr. E. A. Pemberton, who did not know how it started. The building was of galvanized iron, measuring about 21 ft. by 20 ft., and when the brigade arrived was burning fiercely. The houses near by were endangered, but the efforts of the firemen saved them. The carpenter's shop and its contents were completely destroyed. The owner could not make any estimation of his loss. The stock and premises were insured.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 16 December 1898, page 2***

FIRE.

A call was received from the Morphett-street Fire Alarm on Friday morning, and within a few minutes the metropolitan reel steamer and ladder were in attendance at the scene of the fire, in a house in Rose-street. The North Adelaide and Unley reels arrived a few minutes later, but buckets of water were sufficient to suppress the flames. The house was not inhabited, but was stored with timber.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 29 December 1898, page 4***

FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

Excitement was provided for numbers of holiday-makers before they had left the city for the various resorts on Wednesday morning. It was occasioned by an alarm of fire, which was sounded in Hindley street at about ten minutes past 10, when smoke was seen issuing from the establishment of Mr. P. J. Winch, chemist, which is situated near to the Theatre Royal. Some apprehension was felt owing to the inflammable nature of the stock in the shop. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which arrived in good time, was quickly followed by the North Adelaide reel, and the Norwood and Unley contingents were also early on the scene. The firemen soon discovered that there was more smoke than fire, but it was not until they had been working hard for half an hour that they could leave the place in safety. The damage was reported to be slight, but the origin of the fire is a mystery.