History of the Kingston Family

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary .......................................................... 3

Introduction ........................................................................... 5

Methods ............................................................................... 6

Kingston Family History...................................................... 7

Sir George Strickland Kingston  1807- 1880................................. 7
Ludovina Catherine da Silva Cameron.  1824-1851...................... 15
Strickland Gough Kingston  1848- 1897..................................... 15
Charles Cameron Kingston  1850- 1908..................................... 17
Lucy May McCarthy  1853?-1919.............................................. 25
Albert Augustine Edwards  1888- 1963..................................... 26

Conclusion............................................................................. 30

Appendices........................................................................... 32

Appendix 1 Table of Available Historical Resources ...................... 32
Appendix 2 Family Tree .......................................................... 36

References............................................................................ 37
Executive Summary

The contributions of the Kingston family to South Australia’s early development have been substantial. Originally from humble beginnings in Ireland, the Kingstons became prominent figures in the early colonisation of South Australia and the establishment of the city of Adelaide. Throughout the 19th century, the Kingstons became heavily involved in Australia’s political landscape and as a result helped shape Australia into a federation. As significant as their contributions to Australia are, individuals of the Kingston family were also well known for their outlandish behaviour.

This project assesses the individuals relating to Kingston House and provides a history of their family, their persona and their achievements within the state and on a national level. This project also examines the claims concerning Albert Edwards and a possible connection to the Kingston family. Albert Edwards led an influential and aspiring life reminiscent to certain Kingston family members and although there has been much speculation the claims have never been fully proven. The project Industry Partner is the Kingston House Development Committee. The committee is dedicated to the continual maintenance and operation of the Kingston House property situated in Kingston Park, South Australia. The Kingston House Development Committee has been conserving the property for over 20 years. Information from this project can be used for the purposes of the Kingston House Development Committee in assessing the significance of the house and therefore ensuring its continued conservation. The information can also be used to help educate the local community about the Kingstons and their impact in Australia.

From the history of the Kingston family it can be seen that the Kingstons played a very prominent and admirable part in Australia’s history. The Kingstons made significant achievements in the birth of a colony and the birth of the nation. Many of the more prominent Kingstons were also well known for their undisciplined character and unconventional actions. In relation
to Albert Edwards and his association with the Kingstons, evidential information was not found, however the information about Bert demonstrates qualities found to be very similar to the Kingstons and the possibility that they are related should not be overlooked.
Introduction

The objective of this report is to provide a history of the Kingston family, specifically those associated to Kingston House in South Australia, by researching and documenting their personalities as well as their contributions to society. In particular, the lives and accomplishments of George Strickland Kingston and Charles Cameron Kingston have been heavily focused on as their achievements in Australian history have been considered extremely significant by many historians (Langmead 1994; Glass 1997). This report also focuses on exploring the allegations that Albert Augustine Edwards was the illegitimate son of Charles Cameron Kingston, a revelation which is significant as the prospect has never been fully explored before and has never progressed from rumour to factual truth. The content of the allegation is also an interesting subject in itself as it addresses the issues of illegitimacy and adultery. Both issues would have been seen as unmentionable especially in the early colonial period of South Australia when the majority of the population prised respectability and morality above all else. Both published and unpublished resources relating to the Kingstons have been examined as well as archival material such as birth records. Information on all available historical resources will be presented in this report as a table (refer to appendix 1). Information concerning relatives more closely associated to Kingston House have been presented as a family tree (refer to appendix 2).

The project has been run in consultation with the industry partner, the Kingston House Development Committee. Kingston House was the home of the Kingston’s during the 19th century and early 20th century. The house is owned by Heritage SA and is maintained by two parties, Friends of Kingston House and the Kingston House Development Committee, both of which are community groups run by volunteers. The Friends of Kingston House organisation raises funds for the continual maintenance of Kingston House and the Kingston House Development Committee work to maintain and preserve the house. Both organisations want to know more about the significance and contribution of the Kingston family members relating to the
Kingston house as well as information relating to Albert Edward’s connections with Charles Cameron Kingston. This information will be used to expand previous knowledge about the Kingstons and reveal new information which can be used to help assess the significance of the house for conservation purposes. The information in this report can also be used for interpretation purposes in conjunction with the museum aspect of Kingston House thereby providing locals with a more intimate knowledge of the Kingston family. Throughout the report, Kingston House has often been referred to as the Marino property, the name which was most probably used by the Kingstons to describe the property.

I would like to acknowledge Peter Moriarty of Kingston House who has assisted in and contributed his ideas and information relating to the Kingston family as well as the Hon. Jane Lomax-Smith who has taken time to provide personal communication concerning Bert Edwards.

Methods

The majority of this project was carried out by researching through archival material. Most of the archival material was easily accessible through the State Library of South Australia. These included letters, speeches, oral histories and newspapers. Most of the information was found from newspapers located in the Family History area of the State Library. Other archival material was located from the State Records of South Australia and National Archives of Australia.

In relation to Bert’s parentage, searches have been made through the Abbott index and the Keain index. The Abbott index is a record of the births, deaths, marriages and obituaries in South Australian newspapers from 1837-1936. The Keain Index contains a record for the births, deaths, marriages and obituaries in Catholic newspapers between 1867 and 1945. Both indexes can be found in the Family History area of the State Library of South Australia.
A search was also conducted through the South Australian Birth Index of Registrations. This index is available from the State Records of South Australia.

Published and unpublished sources were also consulted throughout the project and were available from both the State Library of South Australia and the Flinders University Library. In addition, personal communication with the Hon. Jane Lomax-Smith has been carried out during the research phase of this project.

Kingston Family History

Sir George Strickland Kingston 1807-1880

George Strickland Kingston was born in 1807 in the town of Bandon, Ireland. Around this time, Bandon’s economy, which had previously relied on its woollen cloth industry, was struggling due to the combination of increased competition throughout Britain and the closure of a large proportion of the town’s mills from wage increases (Langmead 1994:4). The demand for rural workers was reduced and unemployment was increased which in turn led to the emigration of a vast number of the Bandon population. The Kingston family drew their income from renting properties but during the economic depression their income would have also suffered from reduced rent rates and lack of tenants (Langmead 1994:5). By the age of 15, upon his completion of schooling, the situation in Bandon may have prompted George to continue his education and pursue a profession rather than a trade. He moved to Birmingham and began studying civil engineering.

In 1829 George married his first wife, Henrietta Ann Stuart McDonough, in London at St Marylebone. The following year Henrietta, also more commonly known as Harriet, gave birth to a son, George Arthur, who lived for only five hours. The couple were to have no other children (Langmead 1994:6).
By the 1830s, the British government decided to found a free colony in Australia by introducing the South Australian Act (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1836:3). The Act proposed that South Australia was to become a colonised British province. Unlike previous penal colonies in Australia, the new colony would consist of voluntary settlers rather than convicts and be placed in a location far from any previous settlements. After studying in Birmingham, Kingston arrived in London and applied for the position of Deputy Surveyor for the new colony. He was appointed instead to the role of Assistant Surveyor with a salary of £100, a position which he fought against as he thought himself better educated for the post of Deputy Surveyor General (Langmead 1994:26). By November 1836, his appeal was successful and he was appointed the position of Deputy Surveyor.

Whilst still in London, George, along with Boyle Travers Finnis, was to produce the strategy for the survey of South Australia (Langmead 1994:31). This survey, carried out by Colonel William Light, was intended to help ascertain a site for the new colony. George also constructed the plan for the city of Adelaide (Langmead 1994:31). He departed London on the 16th of March 1836, aboard the Cygnet. His wife Harriet remained in England. Accounts of the voyage illustrate how George was disliked by many members of the surveying party (Langmead 1994:39). John Hindmarsh would often display annoyance with him and Finniss and Thomas Lipson were very antagonistic towards him and would remark about his leadership skills whilst onboard. He was remarked for his ‘unbecoming and ungentlemanly’ character by the other surveying members (The Southern Australian 1838:4).

Upon arriving in Australia, George played a significant, yet understated role in the early exploration and settlement of Adelaide. On Sunday the 6th of November 1836, George, along with other members of the surveying party, became the first Europeans to discover the River Torrens (Kingston 1877:5). More importantly, George has been attributed as suggesting the original site of Adelaide to Colonel Light (Kingston 1877:5). This discovery came after he subsequently explored both sides of the River Torrens. George suggested the site after reviewing the area and noting the plain of exceedingly fine land, the
abundance of fresh water and the abundance of limestone and brick-earth (Kingston 1877:5). After having viewed the suggested site from two and a half miles away, Light agreed that the site suggested by George would be sufficient for a colony (Kingston 1877:5).

A large proportion of the city surveys can be attributed to George, although he was always under scrutiny from other members of the company and the local media. Light stated that the surveys produced by George were so wretchedly executed that it would take less time to survey again rather than try to correct his blunders (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1838a:3). Letters from Light also illustrate Light’s resentment towards George. A piece of outward correspondence sixteen pages long from Light to Edward Gibbon Wakefield comprises a detailed condemnation of George and his running survey (Light 1838). Langmead (1994:128) states that any South Australian committee would include at least one member who shared animosity towards George. This general hostility towards George may be why the colonial officers chose him to return to England in 1837, when the colony needed reinforcements (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1838c:3). Langmead (1994:87), however, cites the major reason for his visitation was to report on Governor Hindmarsh and the dissent he had brought to the colony.

While George was in London, his reputation was continually attacked in the local newspapers. He was labelled as ‘ignorant of surveying, theoretically or practically; and that he was appointed Assistant Surveyor merely because he had been an old hanger-on’ (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1838a:2). The papers may have also been biased against George because of the hostility between Light and Kingston and a partiality towards Light. Despite the colonists’ attitudes towards the surveying party, Light’s character was often left un tarnished whereas Kingston’s was often attacked (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1837:4). However, in the following year, the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register (1838d:4) issued a rebuke stating that they acted on erroneous information and that they had denied him the credit that he deserved.
George and his wife Harriet returned to South Australia in June 1838 with surveying instructions from the colonisation commissioners in London. The surveying instructions which made Light answerable to Kingston were unsuitable for the Colonel and he resigned from his position, along with a number of colonial staff, leaving Kingston to take control of the department (The South Australian Register 1838c:3; 1877:4; The Southern Australian 1838:3). After authority was handed to Kingston and upon Light’s resignation, every member of the surveying party with the exception of two individuals from England handed in their resignation (The Southern Australian 1838:3). Around October of 1838, Governor Hindmarsh had been recalled and George Gawler was appointed as the new Governor (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1838b:2). George immediately applied as Surveyor General but was refused and as a result he handed in his resignation (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1838d:2).

In addition to being a surveyor, George wanted to establish himself as an architect and civil engineer (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1838d:2). In the days following George’s resignation, Governor Gawler was approached with the ideas of building a gaol and a Government House. Building contracts for both buildings were given to Kingston (Kingston 1839). Government House was completed by 1840 and Adelaide Gaol was completed by 1842. On the 14th of June 1839, a government order pronounced George as Civil Engineer and Inspector of Public Works (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1839a:1). In addition to Government House, George also designed a range of public buildings including the Adelaide Hospital, the Public Offices in Victoria Square which were constructed from 1839 to 1841, a house for the Emigration Agent, a lock-up house on North Terrace, the Custom House at Glenelg which was completed in 1839 and many others.

During this time, George also had private architectural commissions including the Wesleyan chapel at Gawler Place, the Congregational Chapel at Gawler Place and a prefabricated iron store and cellar in Pirie Street. He also
helped design the Commercial Road to the New Port as well as the markets at Rundle Street and Gawler Place (The Southern Australian 1840:2). In 1839, Governor Gawler commissioned George to design public port facilities which would include a wharf, canal, Custom House and residence for the Harbourmaster. His architectural style is noted as being simplistic, a style that Langmead (1994:179) attributes towards his non-existent architectural training. As an engineer, George worked on the S.A. Company road, the maintenance of a number of Adelaide roads and several bridge designs.

At the purchase of £90 he bought an allotment at Gawler Place and used it as an office until the mid 1840s (General Registry Office Date of Purchase 15 June 1839). Up until then he had been working at Grote Street. George was one of the first purchasers of land in South Australia. He paid £81 for 134 acres of rural land and purchased 322 Grote Street, 401 Gouger Street, 255 Franklin Street and section 1027 on the corner of Lefevre and Kingston Terrace (South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register 1837:3). 322 Grote Street would become his permanent family residence. George later purchased section 244, District B, an area southwest of Adelaide along the coastline which would later be described as the Marino property.

The historian Langmead (1994:120) suggests that by 1839, George was beginning to have an awakening social conscience. This may be seen from his ongoing role in the community. He was a member of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, a founding member of South Australia’s St Patrick’s Society and was elected to a committee promoting a Botanical Garden in Adelaide (The South Australian Register 1839b:1; 1850:3). George also attempted to improve the relationship between local Indigenous Australians and colonial settlers (Langmead 1994:120). He promised £50 towards a non-denominational college for ‘white children and those of higher classes of residents in the East Indies’, although the college was never constructed (Langmead 1994:121).

In 1840, George accepted the position of the Adelaide Corporation’s Town Surveyor. In May 1841, George Grey replaced Gawler as
Governor of South Australia. By this stage expenses for the colony were running low and there was very little need for an architect. The job of Civil Engineer was handed to Frome in order to reduce expenditure (Langmead 1994:132). George continued to work on several commissions in 1844 before commencing work on a number of buildings for the Catholic Church; in 1856 George supervised the construction of St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral, a building of great importance to the Catholic Church (Langmead 1994:143).

On the 12th of August 1839, Harriet died at the age of 32, after only a year in Australia. Two years following the death of Harriet, George married his second wife Ludovina Catherine da Silva Cameron. On the 16th of March 1842, their first child, Ludovina Cameron Kingston was born. The following year, on the 30th of October, Ludovina gave birth to a second child, Hester Holland. On the 11th of September 1845, Ludovina gave birth to a third daughter, Charlotte Julian Kingston.

During the 1840s South Australia was being recognised for its mineral advantages with the discovery of silver, lead, copper and ore. George became active in the S.A. Mining Association. The discovery of copper in Burra Creek prompted a ‘special survey’ of the area and George along with a team of others was sent to investigate the area (Prest 2006). Charles Bagot’s party were also aiming to survey the area. Charles’ party was given the title ‘nobs’ whereas the party including George were most commonly known as ‘the snobs’. In 1845, a joint tender for the survey was accepted with the snobs gaining the more profitable north portion of the mines (Langmead 1994:145). George was employed as surveyor and architect of the Mining Association constructing the miner’s cottages and administrative buildings. The Burra Creek mine was given the name ‘Monster Mine’ because of its large success. Being a shareholder in the mines caused George to accumulate a great deal of wealth; the mines paid fifteen dividends of 200% in its first five years (Prest 2006). In 1848 George became firstly director, then Deputy Chairman and eventually Chairman of the Mining Association, a role which he occupied until his death in 1880 (Langmead 1994:149). Although he became wealthy enough to retire, George continued working as an architect and civil engineer.
and was commissioned with constructing a number of buildings in Burra including the hotel and several cottages (Langmead 1994:147). He worked as an architect and civil engineer until 1847.

On the 26th of May 1847 the Kingston’s first son, George John Finnis Kingston, was born. He died the following year on the 20th March at the family’s Grote Street home. In December of 1848, Ludovina gave birth to a second son, Strickland Gough Kingston. He purchased land adjacent to section 244, land that he already occupied along the coastline southwest of Adelaide, and established it as the Marino property using it occasionally as a country home. Locally, George campaigned for the establishment of a District Council of Brighton (Langmead 1994:159). He proposed a railway between Glenelg and Brighton as well as an outer harbour at Marino. The railway lasted for a few years before being abandoned (Branson 1975:36). A third son was born on the 22nd of December 1850. He was named Charles Cameron Kingston after Ludovina’s father. In 1851 Ludovina passed away at the Grote Street home (The South Australian Register 1851b:2).

In 1851 George made two important changes in his life. He firstly made the Marino property his permanent family residence and entered into politics. After being approached by Kooringa electors, George began a campaign for a seat in the South Australian interim legislative council. His election campaign that year had been described as being peculiar and extraordinary, a contest of animosity where the opposition Henry Mildred, displayed the grossest abuse and scurrility (The South Australian Register 1851a:3). Indeed during the campaign, Mildred made several accusations towards his opponent’s character labelling him as dishonest. George won the council seat by a majority of 145 mainly due to the voting working class of the Burra district. He officially became a member of South Australia’s first elected parliament on the 20th of August.

As a politician George was a republican and a strong believer of religious freedom having been one of the founding members of the S.A. League for the Maintenance of Religious Freedom. He challenged the
property qualification for the male adult electorate thereby providing every adult male the right to vote and not just those in the upper class of society. By 1857 the Parliament structure was changed by a new Constitution Bill. Along with Morris Marks and Edward John Peake, George represented the District of Burra and Clare. In the same year, he was elected speaker for the newly constituted House of Assembly, he remained speaker until 1880 (Adelaide Observer 1880:749). His political views were often seen as being radical. Langmead (1994:151) attests that George was always very forthright and tactless and was often seen as a somewhat boorish character. According to Glass (1997:21) George's greatest quality was his eagerness to quarrel. These characteristics probably made themselves more evident after he began a career in politics.

Even after joining politics, George continued to advertise for architectural commissions (Langmead 1994:167). He worked on a number of commissions including the Strangways's Terrace residence, the Murphy's West Terrace residence and the Rymill brothers East Terrace cottage. On December 4 1856 George married Emma Catherine Berry Lipson (The South Australian Register 1856:2). A large reason for George remarrying may be due to his inability of dealing with domestic issues whilst balancing a political position. George had five children from his previous marriage all under the age of fifteen and may have felt that the children would have benefited from having a mother.

In February 1870 he was knighted for his efforts in the political landscape of South Australia. In 1876 Emma, George's third wife passed away. In 1880 George fell ill. He announced his retirement as speaker in October and left South Australia for a trip to India on the *R.M.S. Malwa*. The trip was made to try and improve his health but George died on the 26th November whilst still at sea, his body was buried at sea just near Ceylon.
Ludovina Catherine da Silva Cameron. 1824-1851

Ludovina was born in Georgetown, Tasmania in 1824. She was the youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Cameron and Contessa Ludovina Catherina Rosa Joquina da Silva. Her father died when she was only three and her mother remarried John Finnis in 1832 following relocation to Adelaide (Langmead 1994:136). Ludovina was only seventeen years old when she married the 32 year old George Kingston. A year after their marriage, Finnis granted 80 acres of land near Mt Barker to Ludovina. She had six children with George over there ten year marriage and died at their Grote Street home on the 21st of October 1851 (The South Australian Register 1851b:2).

Strickland Gough Kingston 1848-1897

Strickland Gough, also known as Paddy, was born on the 18th of December 1848 and was the second youngest child of George Strickland Kingston and Ludovina Kingston. He was educated at J.L. Young's Adelaide Educational Institution. After finishing his education Strickland gained employment as a clerk in the Bank of Australasia before studying law under Samuel James Way (The South Australian Register 1897:5). Strickland was viewed as being strong, fair and overbearing in the courtroom and was particularly noted for being a highly reputable criminal lawyer (Branson 1975:38; The South Australian Register 1897:5). At the time of Charles entry into parliament in 1881, the two brothers formed a partnership. This partnership involved Strickland operating general daily tasks in the practice Charles had established whilst allowing Charles more time for any political endeavours (Glass 1997:27). After working with Charles, Strickland opened up a practice in Port Adelaide before finally moving his profession to Port Augusta.
In August of 1884, Strickland was arrested for assaulting a cabman named Patrick Guerrin (The South Australian Register 1884d:3). Strickland had appeared to be drunk by several witnesses and was claimed to have carried a rifle into the cab, without being provoked he then proceeded to shoot a bullet into the cabman’s head. Guerrin testified that Strickland had stated ‘I did it for a lark, drive on’ (The South Australian Register 1884d:3). On the stand, Strickland claimed to have aimed for Guerrin’s head but ‘the cab jolted’. He was found guilty of assault but the jury asked that he be given leniency because of his previous good character. He was sentenced to six months confinement n the Adelaide Gaol (The South Australian Register 1884e:5).

The professional partnership formed between Charles and Strickland in 1881 lasted for approximately ten years but their relationship stayed strong (Kingston 1961). With only a two year age gap, Strickland and Charles remained very close throughout their entire adulthood. Strickland married Kathleen Pittar Stanton. Unfortunately there is little information about Kathleen however, she has been identified as being the daughter of a clergyman and it is known that the couple had two children together, Kathleen Molly Kingston and Dorothy Kingston (Bower et al 2006: 60; The South Australian 1897:5). Towards the end of Strickland’s life, Kathleen was living in Glenelg with her sister and her two daughters whilst Strickland remained in Port Augusta (Glass 1997:148).

In Port Augusta Strickland was noted by the locals for his acts of kindness and his sometimes eccentric behaviour. He was often seen walking down Commercial Road towards Spencer Gulf in a bathing suit and a towel, an act which was very rarely seen in the 1800s; occasionally he would be carrying a rifle aimed at shooting birds (Branson 1975:38). If birds were not present he would shoot at decorations on buildings. Like his younger brother, Strickland was viewed as a prankster and sometimes a bully; he was also a fine athlete and was a champion runner for the Adelaide Amateur Athletic Club (The Mail 1922:13).
Throughout most of his life Strickland had a problem with alcohol and he suffered from acute mental depression, both of these factors would eventually lead to his death. Strickland was known to have suffered from periodical attacks of alcoholism (The South Australian Register 1897:5). In October of 1897 Strickland committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart (Glass 1997:148; The South Australian Register 1897:5). Towards the end he was noted as leading a rather solitary life and the week before his suicide Strickland was on the verge of delirium and was arrested for his drunken behaviour. Trying to cope he applied for a postponement of his cases to a later date but failing to do so placed a gun on himself. Strickland was buried in the West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide.

Charles Cameron Kingston 1850-1908

Charles Cameron Kingston was born in 1850 and was the youngest child of George Strickland Kingston and Ludovina Kingston. Having been born with Irish, Scottish and Portuguese ancestry he was once quoted as having ‘the bonhomie of the Irishman, the dour tenacity of the Scot and the vindictiveness of the Portuguese’ (The Register 1927:13). His mother died when Charles was at a very early age and it is assumed that he would have been cared for by the household servants. Glass (1997:4) believes that the aggressiveness displayed in the Kingston children’s personalities may be a result of the early death of their mother. Charles’ attitude and opinions would have also been strongly shaped by his father and his teacher John Lorenzo Young (Glass 1997:6). Both figures were seen as radicals in their days and this characteristic has been evident in many
of Charles’ actions. Even as a child, Charles was fairly strong and well built and was considered both a bully and a prankster (Glass 1997:7).

Charles attended school at J.L. Young’s Adelaide Educational Institution until the age of seventeen where he then turned to law. He was articled in law by Samuel James Way. In 1873 Charles was admitted to the South Australian Bar, for three years he worked for Way before setting up his own practice (Glass 1997:20). In 1884 Charles became President of the South Australian Law Society. In 1887 he received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Oxford University and was also offered a knighthood but unlike his father he refused to have the title bestowed upon him.

Two years after the death of his father in 1880, Charles acquired the Grote Street family property from his sisters Ludovina and Hester Kingston. By 1900 he had acquired the Marino property, now known as Kingston House. The Marino property would remain their family residence. He was sued twice by his two eldest sisters over his inability to pay for his purchase of the Grote Street property which demonstrates that his forceful nature and overbearing attitude was even felt by his family (Kingston 1961). Dorothea Kingston (1961) was the younger daughter of Strickland and Charles’ niece and would recall her mother often commenting on how Uncle Charles was a bully. Although he devoted much time to his public life, Charles devoted very little to his private life. The Marino property was supposed to pass to Strickland’s wife Kathleen Kingston but Charles managed to wrangle the property for his wife (Kingston 1961). It is not clear how close Charles was to his sisters and most certainly the inability to pay his debts would have caused a restrain in their relationship but it was well known that Charles was very close to his brother Strickland. At the time of his death Charles was presiding over a cabinet meeting and upon hearing the news through a telegram, he immediately exited to his office (The South Australian Register 1897:5).

Charles made his political debut in 1881 campaigning for a seat in the House of Assembly as a representative of West Adelaide (The South Australian Register 1881:5). A large proportion of the West Adelaide
The electorate consisted of the working class which would have been a great advantage for Charles who was branded as a battler for the underdog (The Register 1927:13). Charles fought many cases and was always concerned about the conditions of the working class, an attribute which he sustained throughout both his legal and political career. Charles won the election with a majority of 399 over his opponent. His victory was celebrated through a serenading by friends followed by a succession of brass bands (The South Australian Advertiser 1881:5). He would later be re-elected for the position six times until his eventual retirement (Playford 2006). Kingston continued to practice law whilst undertaking a position as a politician, although the daily running of the practice was maintained by Charles older brother Strickland. In his speeches, Charles was remarked as being a forceful and witty speaker but would often get tongue-tied and displayed very little articulacy (The Mail 1922:13; The Register 1927:13).

Charles displayed a tall, athletic appearance. He weighed 16 stones, stood over six feet high and was once labelled as being ‘as straight as a gun barrel’ (The Mail 1922:13). He was also known to have been very popular with women. In 1873 Charles was accused by Bartholomew Joseph McCarthy of seducing his sister Lucy, he argued his case in court and protested the admission of Charles as practitioner of the Supreme Court (The South Australian Register 1873:3). Three months after the accusation, Lucy McCarthy married Charles on the 25th of June. Throughout his life he was accused of having several affairs with different women whilst still married to Lucy. In 1886 Charles was suspected by Richard Watson of having an affair with his wife Elizabeth Watson, the scandal became public once the accusations appeared in court (The South Australian Register 1886a:5). The jury ruled in favour of Richard Watson and the scandal was reverberated in the papers and in Adelaide society. The South Australian Register (1886a:5) accused him of acting in a ‘doubly disgraceful’ manner and labelled his way of living as being notoriously evil. Lucy and Charles never had any children; however, Dorothy Kingston (1961) recalls that the couple adopted a son, Kevin. Although Dorothy can not recall where Kevin came from, Langdon Bonython states that Kevin is the child of Mrs Watson and Charles (Bonython...
1902). As a result of these affairs, Charles was shunned by respectable society. Within a few weeks of the scandal, a meeting was held by the Vigilance Association of Australia which addressed the issue of ‘How to free Parliament from scandalous offenders against morality’ (The South Australian Register 1886a:4). The response from the public demonstrates the conservative attitudes during the nineteenth century and the value they placed upon morality (The South Australian Register 1886b:6).

Charles like so many other politicians of his day was against Chinese migration (Glass 1997:25). Chinese migrants were attracted to Australia after the findings of gold in places like Ballarat. Sentiments against the Chinese can be seen from newspapers of the time; many articles blamed the Chinese for any problems within Australian society and would have stirred resentment in the colonies. He participated in drafting Bills which limited Chinese migration into Australia and has occasionally made references to a free and white Australia (Kingston 1902?). Charles discriminatory views are a reflection of the attitudes of his time.

In many sources Charles was also praised for his abilities within parliament. Between June 1884 to June 1885 Charles was appointed the position of Attorney-General by the then Premier John Colton. Charles made a huge impact after his appointment as Attorney-General (The South Australian Register 1884b:4). He was best acknowledged for his efforts as a draftsman and as Attorney-General he devoted most of his time to examining the current legislation and adding amendments to badly drafted Acts (The Mail 1922:13). Paris Nesbit stated that Charles would use too many words when speaking but in writing no one could be more perfect and concise (The Register 1927:13). Charles ability to write and amend Bills would be a result of his years of experience in the legal system. He was appointed the position of Attorney-General for a second time in 1887 under the ministry of Thomas Playford. Once again he was praised for his work as Attorney-General. In May 1888 Charles was made a member of the Queen’s Council.
The establishment of Charles as Premier of South Australia was carried out in a much criticised and controversial manner. In 1893 in the first day of parliament under the new Downer Ministry, Frederick Holder leader of the Opposition immediately invited a member to move an adjournment. Charles immediately took up the offer and called an adjournment (The South Australian Register 1893a:4). Downer and his followers reluctantly resigned the following day and Charles was appointed Premier (The South Australian Register 1893b:4). The new cabinet consisted of six men with Charles simultaneously taking the position of both Premier and Attorney-General. During his time as Premier of South Australia Charles introduced many liberal and progressive policies including his Conciliation Bill, the introduction of women’s suffrage in 1895, a protective tariff, progressive land and income taxes and the creation of a state bank and village settlements (Glass 1997:139). South Australia became the first colony in Australia to allow women’s suffrage. During his time as Premier, the first referendum on state education was conducted. This was the first of its kind in South Australia (Glass 1997:140). He remained Premier of South Australia until 1899 when he was ousted by the same tactics that were used against Downer (The South Australian Register 1899:4). Thomas Burgoyne moved that the House adjourn and the motion was put to vote, Charles inevitably offered his resignation. Charles managed to remain Premier for a milestone six years.

Even at an early stage in his political career Charles was an advocate for a unified Australia. In 1881, during a speech made at the beginning of his political career, Charles raised the issue of a united Australia (Glass 1997:162). When Charles became premier his stance for a federated Australia remained stronger than ever. By 1895 the Premiers’ of each colony presided together in a meeting which was to be known as the Hobart conference. Charles and Sir George Turner, the Premier of Victoria was given the task of preparing a Bill addressing federation. Charles was so committed to the cause of federation that he attended more federation conferences than any other delegate (Glass 1997:164). He attended the National Australasian Convention and was placed as a member of the judiciary committee; the aim of the convention was to discuss plans for the running of a federal
constitution. Charles also took part in drafting the federal constitution and at every chance he tried to make federation an issue for the public and for other leading parliamentary figures. After a vote in favour of the Federation Bill had been passed to the Imperial Parliament, the Secretary of State for Colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, invited representatives from each colony to discuss amendments to the Bill. In 1900 Charles travelled to England to act as South Australia’s representative on discussions about the Federation Bill (Glass 1997:157). After long periods of consultation with Chamberlain the Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on the 14th of May, 1900. On the 1st of January 1901 Australia was officially inaugurated as a federated commonwealth and Kingston was invited to be Minister for Trade and Customs for the first federal ministry. In addition to this role Charles also became a representative for Adelaide in the federal parliament.

As Minister for Trade and Customs, Charles largest contribution was the introduction of an Australian Customs and Excise Tariff (Kingston 1901; 1902?). The tariff came into operation on the 8th of October, 1901 and was the first tariff to be applied to Australia on a national scale. The introduction of the tariff caused much protest. After much amendment the tariff was finally passed in September 1902 (Glass 1997:214). Charles also drafted an Arbitration and Conciliation Bill.

The draft of the tariff speech delivered to Parliament was written by Charles in his own illegible handwriting (Kingston 1902?). Most of the records written by Charles are impossible to decipher and apparently many of his contemporaries struggled with reading his documents. This can best be seen from an article in the South Australian Register (1892:4)

and he was absolutely cruel when he compelled his antagonist to read a Kingstonian letter before he could die. The perusal of a missive in Mr Kingston’s handwriting might make death appear a comparatively mild ordeal if it could be undergone as an alternative; but in this case, with a reprehensible refinement of torture, Mr
Kingston determined that the one pain should be cumulative upon the other.

Charles was very fond of cricket and football and was a founding member of the South Adelaide football club as well as a player during the season of 1876 and 1877 (The Mail 1922:13). He continued his involvement with the football club until 1906 where from 1880 he was the club’s president. In 1886 he was inducted as the first life member for the football club (Glass 1997:13).

Charles was viewed as a very aggressive character on the football field, in the courtroom and in the political arena. A newspaper once quoted that he loved to fight and would rather be fighting than not fight (Adelaide Observer 1885:36). After the director of the Bank of Australasia Henry Kent Hughes complained about the constant informal visits between Charles and his employee brother Strickland, Charles became violently angry and upon seeing Hughes on the street wrung his nose, much to the amazement of Hughes (The Register 1927:9). On one occasion in the Adelaide Local Court during a trial in February 1884, Charles insulted the magistrate and further argued with him over an apology for the insult (The South Australian Register 1884a:6).

In many cases Charles was very much disliked. The Register especially was antagonistic towards him. As Premier he was labelled as an autocrat and his government was blamed for retarding national progress (The South Australian Register 1899:4). The resentment towards Charles also resulted in a few public assaults. An exchange of words about Henry York Sparks prompted Sparks to attack Charles in King William Street repeatedly with a riding whip (The South Australian Register 1895:4). Sparks managed to make Charles bleed before he was wrestled to the ground, the whip was confiscated and snapped by Charles. Charles was attacked again two years later by William Jewell who beat him over the head with a thick Malacca cane (The Adelaide Observer 1897:14). Kingston managed to take the stick and...
strike at Jewell. Despite the constant slanderous attacks in the papers and on the streets there were many who admired and loved Charles. Although Charles had a nasty temper his confidential clerk George Sharp recalled that Charles had a very big heart (The Mail 1922:13).

Charles was also seen as a rebel with radical ideals (The South Australian Register 1884c:2). In Parliament he was known to introduce legislation that at the time was seen as radical. One such example can be seen in his Bill that was to facilitate the settlement of industrial disputes (Kingston 1892). When he proposed the new legislation in the House of Assembly he was objected by Richard Baker on the grounds that it was a radical notion. Richard Baker was president of the Legislative Council and on several occasions he argued against Charles’ conduct and character. Charles anger towards Baker resulted in a challenge to a duel (The South Australian Register 1892:4). On the 23rd of December Baker received a package from Charles which contained a revolver, cartridges and a note which challenged Baker in Victoria Square at noon the following day. Instead of accepting the challenge Baker informed the police while his son John Baker remained armed by his father’s office for security reasons (The Register 1927:9). Upon Charles arrival at Victoria Square he was escorted by police and was prosecuted five days after on the charge of having incited Baker to breach the peace. Charles was ordered to maintain peace and pay a fine totalling £1000. The event caused widespread amusement not only throughout the colony but the whole country (The Register 1927:9).

Charles was known to have suffered from rheumatism for most of his adult life. By the early 1900s Charles physical strength started to diminish (Glass 1997:212). In 1902 Charles son Kevin passed away, he was only eighteen years old and had suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis (The Register 1902:2). In July 1903 Charles resigned from his duties as a federal minister, most possibly due to exhaustion but he continued to run for the seat of Adelaide in the federal elections (The Register 1903:6). On the 5th of May 1908, Charles sister Ludovina died. A few days after, Charles passed away. Charles’ funeral was one of the largest ever witnessed in Adelaide, he was
buried in the West Terrace cemetery at the family vault (The Register 1908:6). After his death a memorial statue of Charles was placed in Victoria Square, it still stands today and is a testament to his achievements for Australia.

**Lucy May McCarthy  1853?-1919**

Lucy was the youngest of seven children and was born in South Australia, the year of her birth is not known for sure but historians have suggested that she was born in 1853 (Glass 1997:16). Lucy was brought up as a Roman Catholic however she married Charles at St George's Church of England in Woodforde in 1873. The scandal of seduction between Lucy and Charles, the accusation by Lucy’s older brother Bartholomew and her marriage outside of the Roman Catholic faith suggests that Lucy may have been ostracised by her relatives as these were all themes that would not have reflected well on the family (Glass 1997:16). This may partially account for Lucy’s withdrawal from society, as time went on she became a recluse (Kingston 1961).

Another reason for her reclusive behaviour may have stemmed from Charles’ adulterous lifestyle. The publicised scandals excluded Charles from many societal circles and would have also excluded Lucy from many society functions (Glass 1997:18). The proven adultery displayed by Charles would have given Lucy enough grounds to divorce him but the marriage continued which indicates how devoted she was to her husband.

Lucy was known to have been very much devoted to Charles (Dorothy Kingston *pers comm.* 5/7/61). He also would have cared a great deal for Lucy. The Certificate of Title for Kingston House bears the name of Lucy rather than Charles (Glass 1997:158). The property was handed over to them during their time of financial struggle and would have been one of the few properties of value that they possessed. The transfer of title from the trustees to Lucy
rather than to Charles illustrates the trust and devotion between Charles and Lucy.

Dorothy Kingston (1961) described her Aunt Lucy as being a very sweet and gentle person. She was also remarked as being rather attractive and very short, especially in relation to Charles. Lucy was also known to be eccentric at times, especially towards the end of her life. She began to suffer from psychiatric problems and would often become very quarrelsome when people visited the Marino property (Kingston 1961). She refused to sell the Marino property even going against Charles’ wishes who requested that it be left to the State as a memorial to both him and his father’s work (Glass 1997:226). In 1912 she was accused of assaulting her doctor with a bludgeon and a trespasser with a stick. When she failed to appear at the Brighton Magistrates Court a warrant was issued for her arrest, she appeared in court later to face charges (The Advertiser 1912:15). Lucy remained at the Marino property until her death in August 1919.

Albert Augustine Edwards 1888-1963

Albert, more commonly known as Bert, was born in a back lane in the West End of Adelaide on 6 November 1888. His mother was Mrs Miller yet there is no clear indication of who his father may have been. Several different sources site the possibility that Bert was the illegitimate child of Charles Cameron Kingston (Hilliard 1993; Playford 2006). There is a strong possibility that this may be true, Charles was known to be very popular with the opposite sex and was often accused of having several affairs with different
Several other factors illustrate that the claim may be probable. According to Glass (1997:18) Charles's affair with the married Elizabeth Watson produced a son, Kevin Keith Kingston; therefore the possibility that Charles fathered more children should not be overlooked. In addition, the historian Hilliard (2001:142) states that Bert himself believed that he was Charles’s son and there are indeed many similarities in their physique, interests and personalities which strongly suggest that they may be related.

Bert attended the Sisters of St Joseph’s primary school in Russell Street. Unlike Charles he was brought up as a Catholic and frequently attended church services in several different churches (Hilliard 2001:142). After leaving school, Bert worked on stalls in the Adelaide markets and around racecourses. In 1912 he opened up a tea room in Compton Street. In 1916 Bert acquired his first hotel, in Gilbert Street. The hotel was known as the Duke of Brunswick; he would later open a club opposite the Duke of Brunswick for the local footballers and fans and sneak in kegs of beer (Hilliard 1993). Later in the 1920s Bert bought a hotel at the Second Valley as well as the Newmarket Hotel in the city and the Hotel Victor at Victor Harbor (Jane Lomax-Smith 15/4/08). Bert sold the Hotel Victor and the Newmarket Hotel in 1931.

Bert also displayed a fondness for football, an interest which was common between both Bert and Charles; he was a proud supporter of the West Adelaide football club the Sturt Street football club and eventually became president of the West Adelaide club (Jane Lomax-Smith 15/4/08). His hotels were often used by the footballers whom he had a strong association with. In 1930 his status in the West Adelaide Football Club earned him the title of Patron (The Advertiser 1963:3).

As a politician Bert was known to have been a bully and a battler for the underdog, titles which have been shared by both Bert and Charles. His oratory style was very similar to Charles and was considered at times a great
charismatic speaker (Jane Lomax-Smith *pers. comm.* 15/4/08). He originally worked as the secretary of the West Adelaide branch of the United Labor Party (ALP) before becoming a member of the Adelaide City Council for Grey ward. By 1917 Bert was also a member of the House of Assembly for Adelaide. Bert is known for having established the first probation system for South Australia. He also abolished the State Children’s Council in 1926 because of its inefficiency; a more efficient board was set up to replace the ineffective one. In addition, Bert drew the parliament’s attention to the deplorable situation in the West End city slums. He was known for having radical ideas, one such example is his opposition to capital punishment, a notion which was considered radical in the 1920s (Hilliard 1993). His radical and liberal views are parallel to the views that Charles expressed in parliament. Bert remained in State Parliament and in the Adelaide City Council until 1931 (The Advertiser 1963:3). He became a member of the Adelaide City Council again in 1948 and remained there until the end of his days.

Like Charles, Bert’s strong personality caused dissension between him and other political figures. Bert would often dispute with the Labor politician W.J. Denny. On the 13\textsuperscript{th} of December 1930, Bert was arrested for having committed an unnatural offence at the Newmarket Hotel and for committing an act of gross indecency at the Hotel Victor (The Advertiser 1931a:8). Homosexual acts in South Australia after 1925 could result in up to ten years of imprisonment (Hilliard 1993). On the 13\textsuperscript{th} of February he was found guilty of having committed sodomy but was acquitted on the charge of gross indecency (The Advertiser 1931b:16). Some people claimed that Bert was framed by Denny and that the witness Mundy was concocting his testimony. He was sentenced to five years hard labour at the Yatala Labour Prison, upon hearing the sentence Bert shocked the Chief Justice by announcing his innocence and stating that his ‘enemies had succeeded, someday they will receive the punishment they deserve’ (The Advertiser 1931c:7). Bert was released from Yatala after only two and a half years.
Bert was known to have been very charitable. Hilliard (1993) states that at Christmas time he would deliver Christmas puddings to residents in the West end of Adelaide, he would also pay the rent for tenants who were about to be evicted from their homes. These acts of benevolence earned him the title of ‘the King’ and he called the residents of the West End ‘my people’ (The Advertiser 1963:3). His generosity to those most in need is reminiscent to Charles’ own sympathies for the downtrodden. Bert also handed over a Whitmore Square property to St Vincent de Paul to be used as a homeless shelter and he donated another property to the state government for the purposes of rehabilitating former prisoners (The Advertiser 1963:3). It was noted that whilst Charles was in London, he spent a great deal of his time in the East End of London, an area where the majority of London’s poor resided. Bert died following a heart attack on the 24th of August 1963; the majority of his estate was divided between causes that assisted the caring of children (The Advertiser 1963:3).

Unfortunately solid evidence linking Bert to Charles was not found. Searches have been made through the Abbott Index and the Keain Index of the Family History area of the State Library of South Australia and there is no record of Bert Edwards. A search was also made through the South Australian Birth Index of Registrations in the State Records of South Australia as well as published sources which all state that no birth records for Bert Edwards have been found. Charles would have been 38 years old when Bert was born on the 6th of November 1888. At the time of 1888 Charles was attorney-general under the Playford ministry and would have spent most of his time, away from parliament at the Grote Street property. Mrs Miller was known to have been a servant in the Kingston’s household which proves that Mrs Miller was already associated with Charles. The possibility that Charles is Bert’s father can therefore not be overruled however further research is required in order to make a definite claim.
Conclusion

The Kingstons contribution to Australia can be seen from both a local and a national scale. Both George and Charles were seen as champions and political friends of the working class. They both fought for religious and civil liberty and both men made considerable achievements to the foundation of the country. George achieved much for the birth and development of the colony of Adelaide, while Charles devoted most of his life in the interests of politics and a united Australia. In addition to their achievements, the outrageous nature of their characters has made the Kingston family one of the most compelling families in Australia’s history. As was stated by Nesbit, to have the ability to cause such outrage yet hold such high positions is by itself an attribute to their abilities (Register 1927:9).

Even today there are claims concerning Charles and possible lineages. In March 2008 Charles body was exhumed as part of a paternal case. The identities who are not known at present believe they may be related to an illegitimate child of Charles (The Advertiser 2008:1). The bodies of two other identities also believed to be Charles’ children were exhumed as part of the ongoing investigation. The bodies are those of Genevieve Grey and Bert Edwards. The bodies are undergoing DNA testing which will prove whether Bert is of relation to Charles.

All evidence for Bert’s proposed relation to Charles is based on observations rather than factual proof. Although there is much evidence under general observations which demonstrates the similarities between Charles and Bert, factual evidence which can prove Bert’s parentage is very limited. It may be limited because of the implicating effect it would have had. If Charles were Bert’s birth father, any information would have definitely incriminated Charles who was a married man at the time. The affair Charles later had with Elizabeth Watson was only brought out into the public arena because of
Elizabeth’s husband. If Charles was having an affair with Mrs Miller, the known birth of a child would have been the only proof of the affair. Therefore knowledge pertaining to the birth and the child’s parentage may be impossible to locate because of the ramifications it would have had at the time. In spite of the lack of evidential proof, the life of Bert Edwards has been as inspirational and controversial as that of any Kingston.
# Appendices

## Appendix 1 Table of Available Historical Resources

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Form</th>
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<td>Magazine article</td>
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<td>C.C. Kingston</td>
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Photos
