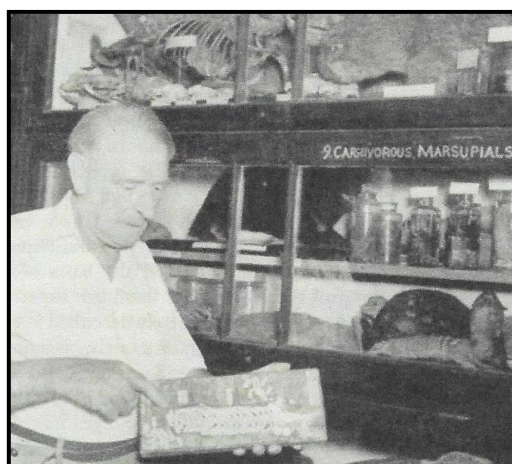


**ROBERT ARTHUR
BUDDICOM/BEDFORD**

BA FGS (1874-1951)



**Born Ticklerton Court, Shropshire
7th November 1874**

**Died Kyancutta, South Australia
14th February 1951**

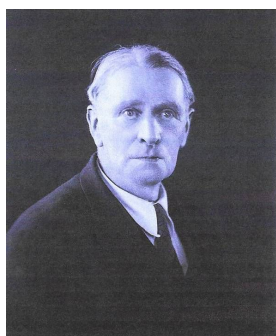
Robert Arthur Buddicom/Bedford BA FGS 1874-1951

I. Introduction

Robert Arthur Buddicom doubled his life. Born in Shropshire he graduated BA at Keble College, Oxford in 1897. He initially became curator at the Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery and later moved on to be a demonstrator at the London School of Medicine. A fossil hunter in Shropshire he was acquainted with Edgar Sterling Cobbold - Buddicom authored the section on molluscs in *Church Stretton* Volume I, a booklet edited by Cobbold.

All changed in 1915. Separated from his Australian wife he left with a new family to live in Kyancutta, a small town on the isolated Eyre Peninsula in Southern Australia – and changed his name to Robert Arthur Bedford. He lived in Kyancutta until his death in 1951 having brought about many improvements to the town; he also built a Museum and edited his own journal. His geological studies in Australia led to him becoming an expert on Lower Cambrian Archaeocyaths.

2. Family and early days in England



Robert Arthur Buddicom was born at Ticklerton Court, Shropshire on the 7th November 1874 to William Squire Buddicom (1846-1922) and Elizabeth Haughton Buddicom, nee Hornby. Ticklerton Court had come into the hands of the Buddicom family through Elizabeth Pinches, a daughter of William Pinches who died unmarried in 1849. Elizabeth Pinches married Robert Arthur's grandfather, the Reverend Robert Joseph Buddicom (1815-1895), at Church Stretton in 1859. Probably the best known of the Buddicom family was Robert Joseph's brother, William Barber Buddicom (1816-1887) of Penbedw Hall, Flintshire. William Barber was a railway engineer who worked with the noted Joseph Locke, laid out Crewe Works and was involved in the development of railways in France - their father, The Reverend Robert Pedder Buddicom (1781-1846) was principal of St Bees College in Cumberland. See Appendix I for the family tree.

Robert Arthur was schooled at Charterhouse and Uppingham. He gained a BA in chemistry and biology at Keble College, Oxford in 1897 having been advised not to take up an engineering degree by his great uncle William Barber. He was an Oxford biological scholar at the marine biological station in Naples in 1897-98. He was curator of the Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery in 1900-1901 where he edited a short lived journal, *Life*. He gave assistance to Charles Callaway in the arrangement of the geological collection at Shrewsbury and was briefly honorary curator at the museum in 1902. Employment followed as a market gardener in Shiplake, Oxfordshire and as a demonstrator at the London Hospital Medical School 1906-1914. He became a Fellow of the Geological Society on the 22nd June 1899.

It is suggested that Buddicom '*became pessimistic about the future of Britain an attitude strengthened by his work as a foundation secretary for the British Legion*' (Brett-Crowther 1979) and, after being involved in a misrepresentation regarding a prospectus for the Stotz Electrophone Co. (1913) Ltd, he migrated to Australia and changed his name to Robert Arthur Bedford.

Buddicom/Bedford married, and was separated from, Australian born Laura Lucie Finlay – they had three children. He was then to married Ethel Hilda Lewis - at least three children were born in England prior to the departure of this second family to Australia and further children were born in Australia (see below).

2. The Buddicom Family

Robert Buddicom m. Frances Pedder
1756-1844

|
Rev. Robert Pedder Buddicom m. Ellin Barber 17.05.1814 *West Bromwich*
Principle of St Bees College, Cumberland 1788-1858
1781-1846

|
Rev. Robert Joseph Buddicom William Barber Buddicom
Rector of Smethcote, Salop, Morton Lincs *Railway Engineer of Penbedw Hall, Flint*
1815-1895 1816-1887

m. (i) Sophia Rufford 1839 *Great Alne* d. 1842

|
William Squire Buddicom m. Elizabeth Haughton Hornby *Bayston Hill* 25.08.1866
1840-1922 1842-1914

|
Robert Arthur Buddicom Lilian Holland Buddicom
1874-1951 1878-1964
b. 07.11.1874 *Ticklerton, Salop* b. 08.12.1878 *Ticklerton,*
c. 23.11 1874 *Eaton under Heywood* m. John Alfred le Mesurier Hayward *Eaton-under-Heywood*
18.09.1918 d. *Ticklerton* 15.06.1964
d. *Kyancutta* 14.02.1951

|
m. (i) Laura Lucie Finlay *Paddington* 1900 m. (ii) Ethel Hilda Lewis *Port Adelaide* 25.02.1921
1877-1949 1890-1977
b. 25.07.1877 *Newcastle, New South Wales* b. 05.12.1890
d. *Henley* 1949 d. *Kyancutta* 12.05.1977

|
Jacinta Robert Guinever William Alexander Hilda
Laura May Prosser Gedye Laura Oliva Rudolf
1901-1993 1905-1968 1907-2002 1909-1972 1911-1911 1913-
b. *Plymouth* b. *Shiplake* b. *Shiplake* b. *Wapping* b. *Wapping* b. *Whitechapel*
10.05.1901 - 03.02.1907 09.07.1909

Note Laura Lucie Buddicom married Frederic W Norsworthy (1887-1960) *Henley* 1920

3. The English fossils

Buddicom's fossil collecting in Shropshire was limited in its extent being largely focussed on nearby Soudley Quarry, a small quarry near Marshbrook, and on the Ticklerton Brook – there is one isolated fossil from the Briedden Hills in the collection. Surprisingly there are no fossils from the Comley Quarry which suggests that his contacts with Cobbold were somewhat limited? The eighty plus fossils in the collection are listed below. They were possibly gathered during his student days while at school or college. The identification of the fossils in the Buddicom collection was made by Whittard at a later date.

A listing of Buddicom's fossils was initially made by examining the fossils in place, noting the 'GG' inventory numbers and taking full details from the *Object Identification File*, a file compiled when the fossils were transferred from Shrewsbury to Ludlow. Details of Buddicom's donation are also found in Adlib under the reference shyms: G/1977/0xxx where the last three numbers refer to those handwritten in red ink on the fossil card (an example of a fossil card is given below).

There is not full agreement within the two lists and some of the fossils listed in the Adlib assessment below have yet to be located – some may have been disposed of in the 1980/90s.

A final listing of the fossils held at Ludlow awaits completion of yet another assessment currently being undertaken (October 2018) – this assessment will include the location of the individual fossil specimen in the Hanson Store.

Adlib No		Name	Location
shyms: G/1977/0xxx			
0130/131	Br	Leptaena cf rhomboidalis	Ticklerton Brook
0144	Gast.	Lophospira sp.	Ticklerton Brook
0145/146	Coral	Streptelasma sp.	Norbury
0147	Br.	Pentamerus esthonous (Eich)	Norbury
0158/159	Tr	Encrinurus punctatus Brunn	Ticklerton Brook
0160/161	Br.	Pentamerus esthonous (Eich)	Leighton
0165 /166	Br.	Barrandella linguifer (Sow.)	Leighton
0212-214	Tr.	Dalmanites longicaudatus	Ticklerton Brook
0236	Br.	Stropheodonta funiculata (McCoy)	Ironbridge
0369	Conul.	Conularia cf sowerbyi	Onny River section
0375	Tr	Calymene sp.	Onny River section
0397	Ceph.	Cyrtoceras sp.	Ticklerton Brook
0399	Ceph.	Orthoceras subundulatum (Port.)	Ticklerton Brook
0412	Br.	Heterorthis alternata (Sow.)	Soudley Quarry
0423	Coral	Favosites sp.	Ticklerton Brook
0424	Tr	Chasmops macroura	S. of Marshbrook Quarry
0425	Br.	Oniella cf reuschi (Ban.)	Ticklerton Brook
0427	Br.	Hedstroemia fragilis(Ban.)	Ticklerton Brook
0428	Biv.	Modiolopsis orbicularis	Ticklerton Brook
0431	Biv.	Orthonota cf triangulata (Salter)	Ticklerton Brook
0432	Br.	Reuscella cf bilobata (Sow.)	Marshbrook
0434	Tr.	Kjerufina sp.	Marshbrook
0435/436	Biv.	Modiolopsis orbicularis (Sow.)	Ticklerton Brook
0437	Tr.	Chasmops macroura (Sfogr.)	?
0438	Tr.	Chasmops macroura (Sfogr.)	Ticklerton Brook
0439	T.	Modiolopsis orbicularis (Sow.)	Ticklerton Brook
0440	Br.	Strophonema grandis	Marshbrook
0441	Tr.	Kjerufina cf tringonalis (Ban.)	Quarry S. of Marshbrook
0442	Tr.	?	Quarry S. of Marshbrook
0443	?	?	Ticklerton Brook
0444	Gast.	?	Soudley Quarry
0445	Ceph.	Orthoceras sp.	Soudley Quarry
0446	Br.	Scizocrania sp. nov	Soudley Quarry
0449	Br.	?	Soudley Quarry
0451	Tr.	Brongniartella bisculcata	Soudley Quarry
0455	Br.	?	?
0456	?	?	?
0457	?	?	?
0458	Br.	Lingula sp.	Horderley
0459	Gast.	?	Soudley Quarry
0460	Gast.	Cyrtolites nodosus	Soudley Quarry
0461	Tr.	Cryptolithus soudleyensis	Soudley Quarry
0462	Gr.	?	Soudley Quarry
0466	Br.	?	Soudley Quarry
0470	Br.	Kjaerina sp.	Soudley Quarry
0508	Tr	Cryptolithus sp.	Bausley Hill, Breiddens
0566	H yol.	H yolithus reversus (Salter)	Black Dick's Quarry
0571	Br.	Harknessella suquadrata (Ban.)	Shadwell Coppice
1679	Tr	Proetus latifrons	Dudley
1373	Tr.	?	Ticklerton Brook

Fossils included in the Natural History Museum Portal

The fossils illustrated below are those selected by the FISH project for digitisation and inclusion in the Natural History Museum Portal showing SHYMS numbers and the Natural History Museum *Priref* numbers.



Ordoevician Trilobite
Onnia superba
?
Priref 657386
shyms g. 1994.0340



Ordoevician Trilobite
Onnia superba
Onny River section
Priref 657387
shyms g. 1994.0341



Ordoevician Trilobite
Onnia superba
Onny River section
Priref 657385
shyms g. 1994.0339



Ordoevician Trilobite
Onnia superba
Priref 697383
?
shyms g. 1994.0333



Ordoevician Trilobite
Onnia superba
Priref 657384
Onny River Section
shyms g. 1994.0338



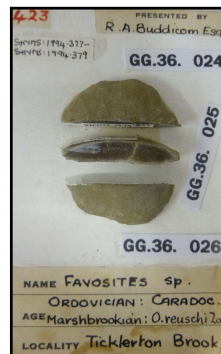
Ordovician Brachiopods
 Rushella hoderlyensis/Dinorthis flabellum
 Priref 657393
 Horderley
 shyms g.1994.0397



Ordovician Brachiopod
 Lingula sp.
 Priref 21633
 Horderley Quarry
 shyms g.1982 027

Example of a Buddicom Fossil held at the Ludlow Museum Resource Centre

Favosites sp.
 Ticklerton Brook
 shyms: G.1977.0423
 shyms: G.1994.0377-379
 GG. 36.024-026



The Buddicom collection also includes a few rock samples:

- | | | | |
|------|---|--|--------------------|
| 0106 | - | sedimentary rock (quartz breccia) | The Ercal |
| 0108 | - | metamorphic rock (quartzite) | Little Caradoc |
| 0119 | - | sedimentary rock (micaceous sandstone) | Longmynd |
| 0120 | - | sedimentary rock (micaceous sandstone) | Sharpstones Quarry |
| 0121 | - | sedimentary rock (micaceous sandstone) | Longmynd |

4. Life in Australia

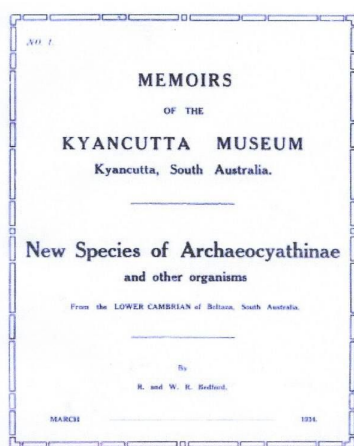


Kyancutta Store Photo: Robert Lang

Robert Arthur Bedford 'was clearly a talented, cultured and widely educated man when he took up wheat farming in the remote district of South Australia where he was to spend the rest of his incredibly active and productive life' (Sorokin 2010). His wide ranging employment history in the United Kingdom, as noted above, certainly backs up this statement but it hardly touches on Buddicom's Australian adventures. The family settled in Kyancutta on the sparsely populated Eyre Peninsula where he acted as doctor and vet and set up a store, post-office, weather station and museum etc.

Robert "The Prof" Bedford was therefore the bastion of the small town of Kyancutta – a town winning the prize for "the most boring town in your state" for South Australia in the early 1980s. But by this time Kyancutta had become a much reduced entity where today a grandson is trying to return the Buddicom Museum back to its original condition. Bedford's lifestyle was not without some reasons for concern – not helped by the recent finding of aboriginal remains in the museum basement, remains now returned to an appropriate resting place. The details of his Australian adventures are elaborated in Michael Sorokin's 2010 article (see attached) and in the Australian Dictionary of Biography (Brett-Crowther 1979). The Barr-Smith Library at the University of Adelaide has a large collection of Bedford's manuscripts, notes and other records relating to his interests in natural history, meteorites, palaeontology and Egyptian antiquities.

The Archaeocyatha



Bedford continued his interest in fossils – by chance he was located in a rich Cambrian locality, or was it chosen? This interest extended also to the investigation of meteorite craters. Bedford 'gained an international reputation through exchanging collections with foreign museums' (Cooper and Jago 2007) but he fell out with 'Establishment' geologists and academics in particular with his contemporary Sir Douglas Mawson (1882-1958) who helped to block Bedford's attempt to gain an *ad eundem* degree at the University of Adelaide. Bedford was also rejected for membership of the Royal Society of South Australia and was unable to publish in the established scientific journals. He therefore built his own museum in 1929 and published a journal the *Memoirs of the Kyancutta Museum* in order to provide a home for his papers on the Archeocyatha:

Kyancutta has South Australia's only country museum - a flourishing institution housed in its own building. The little township has only a school, a hostel and store combined, a boarding house and the District Hall on one side of the railway line, the Catholic Church on the other with an odd house or two, the Post Office- general store and the Museum Institute – all in two narrow rows, facing a little siding on a lowering background of thick scrub. The museum owes its origin to the enthusiasm of its curator-founder, Mr R. Bedford who is in charge of the district postal branch. We learnt that Mr Bedford, an Oxford man, settled in the district 22 years ago.

Place names of South Australia State Library www.sla.sa.gov.au

Bedford became the 'pre-eminent expert' on the Cambrian Archaeocyatha publishing jointly with family members in the Kyancutta Memoirs. Specimens were obtained primarily from a Lower Cambrian exposure in a limestone hill behind the Ajax Mine located near Beltrana in the Flinders Range – now listed as designated place of palaeontological and geological significance (SA Heritage Register).



Bedford established 'communication with professional colleagues worldwide; including then isolated Russian archaeocyath researchers. He also demonstrated the uniquely rich and diverse character of the Ajax Mine archaeocyath fauna. In distributing copies of his memoirs on archaeocyaths Bedford offered his collections for sale. In May 1934, practically all the type specimens from Bedford and Bedford (1934) were lodged with the British Museum of Natural History. Type specimens from Bedford and Bedford (1936a) were lodged with the South Australian Museum. In 1948-1950, the types of all of the Bedford Archaeocyath collection that remained at Kyancutta were lodged at Princeton University, New Jersey, U.S.A. Pierre Kruse (pers. comm. 2007) confirms that Bedford undertook high quality archaeocyath taxonomic work during the 1930s, despite his professional and geographic isolation, with careful descriptions including those of the ontogenetic stages. Francis Debrenne (pers. comm. 2007) also noted that Bedford cut some of the holotypes into several pieces and sold them to separate museums' (Cooper and Jago 2007).

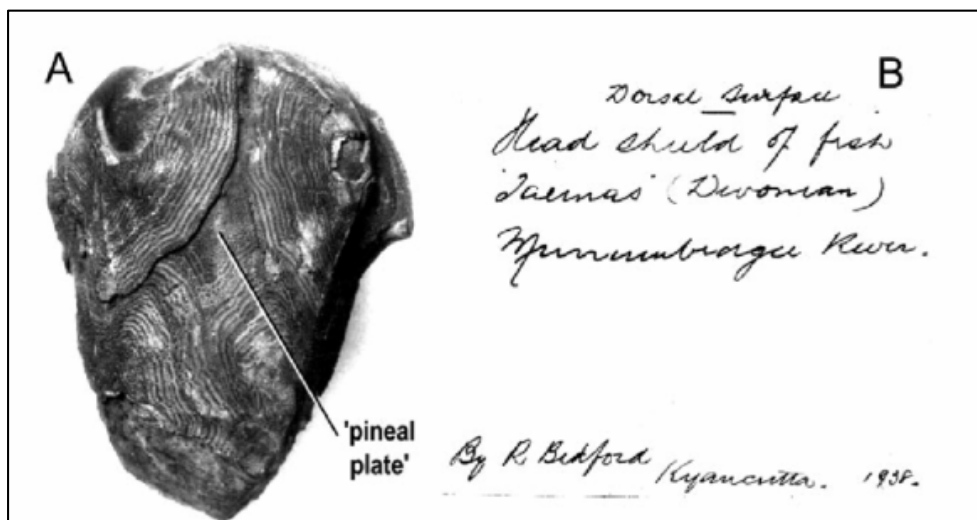
Holotype S4169 *Pinacocyathus spicularis* R & W R Bedford

Francois Debrenne was tasked in the 1960s with a revision of the Bedford and Bedford specimens held at the Natural History Museum (Debrenne 1969).

Archaeocyath is a taxon of extinct reef-building marine organisms of warm, tropical and sub-tropical waters that lived in the (lower) Cambrian Period. It is believed that the centre of the Archaeocyath origin are now located in East Siberia, where they are first known from the beginning of the Tommotian Age of the Cambrian, 525 million years ago. In other regions of the world, they appeared much later, during the Atdabanian, and quickly diversified into over a hundred families. (Wikipedia)... they are an index fossil for the Lower Cambrian worldwide.

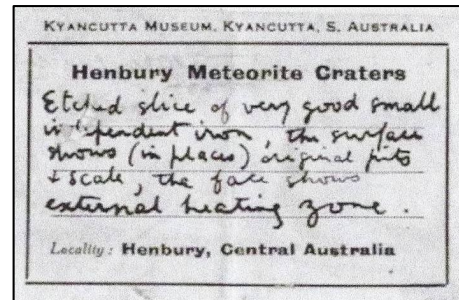
Williamsaspis bedfordi and Meteorites

In 1939 Bedford sent five specimens of fossil fish to the Natural History Museum. These had been collected by W E Williams of Cootamundra from early Devonian limestones at Burrinjuck, New South Wales. These proved to be a rare preservation type showing ossification of internal cartilage, one of the specimens was named *Williamsaspis bedfordi* (White). The specimens were not studied by Errol White until after the war and their examination persuaded the Natural History Museum to mount two collecting expeditions to Burrinjuck in 1955 and 1963.). White noted that 'Burrinjuck produced five key fossil fish specimens used in the 1940s in London to develop the acetic technique for extracting bone from calcareous rock (now standard in laboratories throughout the world)' – Bedford's actions had again reached a wide audience (see White 1952 and Young 2011).



Bedford also sent a 'slice and small fragments' of meteoric iron to the British Museum in August 1932. The mass of iron weighing some 72 lbs had been found just below the surface by a farmer when cultivating a paddock to the south east of Kyancutta. It was examined by L J Spencer of the Museum staff.

The main mass of iron is held in the Kyancutta Museum



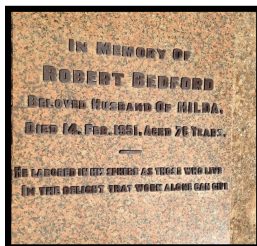
5. Family and Death



Robert Arthur and Laura Lucie Buddicom had three children. Jacintha Laura May (1901-1993) was born in Plymouth, Robert Prosser Gedy (1905-1968) and Guinever Laura Oliva (1907-2002) were both born in Shiplake, Oxfordshire. The three gained some fame as childhood friends of George Orwell. Jacintha, a poet, published a memoir, *Eric and Us*, in 1974, she regained contact with Orwell near the end of his life although they never met. D. J. Taylor's biography of Orwell notes that "In addition to Quarry House, Shiplake, where they lived with their mother (there was an increasingly absentee father, a former curator of Plymouth Museum)".

Jacintha and Guinever Buddicom died unmarried. Robert Prosper was living in the family home, Meadowbank in Ludlow, at the time of the 1939 Register together with his aunt, Robert Buddicom/Bedford's sister Lilian Hayward. He died in Shrewsbury in 1968.

Laura Lucie Buddicom remarried 1920. Buddicom in turn married Ethel Hilda Lewis. Three children were born in East London, William Rudolph in 1910, Alexander in 1911 (he died in infancy) and Hilda. The Robert Buddicom family was living together with Buddicom's sister Lilian Holland at 12 Pier Head, Wapping by 1911, one of a row of imposing Georgian buildings at the riverside in the heart of Wapping's London Docklands. Buddicom was listed as a landed proprietor. Laura Lucie Buddicom was then living in Shiplake, Oxfordshire with Jacintha, Robert Prosper and Guinever.



In Australia the Bedfords had five children in total and 19 grand children - Robert Bedford died in Kyancutta on the 14th February 1951, Ethel Hilda Bedford died on the 12th May 1977. Both are buried in the cemetery in Kyancutta.

As noted above, Buddicom's grandson Ned Luscombe, born in 1951, is currently restoring the Kyancutta Museum (www.abc.net.au). Both the weather station (in a reduced form) and the post office remain in the charge of Bedford relatives. Kyancutta's population has, however, reduced to 29 in total. The school closed 1945, the store closed in November 2017.

A copy of Sorokin's article in the Medical Journal of Australia is attached as Appendix 1 and a 'Timeline' of Robert Buddicom/Bedford's life is also attached as Appendix 2, a history that probably needs further expansion.

Dr J. A. Gosling
October 2018

Publications

Bedford R, Bedford J (1936) *Further notes on the Cyathospongia (Archaeocyathi) and other organisms from the Lower Cambrian of Beltana, South Australia* Kyancutta Museum Memoirs **3** 21-26.

Bedford R, Bedford J (1937) *Further notes on Archaeos (pleospongia cyathospongia (Archaeocyathi) and other organisms from the Lower Cambrian of Beltana, South Australia* Kyancutta Museum Memoirs **4** 27-38.

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Bedford R, Bedford W R (1934) *Anatomy and Classification of the Cyathospongia (Archaeos) from the Lower Cambrian of Beltana, South Australia* Kyancutta Museum Memoirs **1** 1-7.

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Laube S (1990) *Robert Bedford of Kyancutta*.

McCarthy G J (1993) *Buddicom Robert Arthur (1874-1951)* Encyclopedia of Australian Science.

Natural History Museum *Buddicom Robert Arthur (1874-1951)*.

Sorokin M (2010) *The delight that work alone can give* Medical Journal Australia **193** 11-12.

Spencer L J (1932) *A new meteoric iron found near Kyancutta, South Australia* British Museum of Natural History.

White E (1952) *Australian Arthrodiros* Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Geology I No. 9 249-304.

Young G (2011) *Wee Jasper-Lake Burrinjuick fossil fish sites: Scientific background to national heritage nomination* Proceedings Linnean Society of New South Wales.

Portrait of Robert Arthur Buddicombe GSL/POR/49/03-01 Records of the Geological Society of London.

archives.samuseum.sa.gov.au/aa26/provlist 2004 AA26 Robert Arthur Bedford Home Provenance Series, South Australian Museum Archives.

maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch Ajax Mine Fossil Reef (designated place of palaeontological and geological significance).

Wikipedia *Kyancutta, South Australia*.

Shropshire Archives *Buddicom of Ticklerton* D3651/B/15 etc.

Appendix I: The delight that work alone can give

Michael Sorokin *The Medical Journal of Australia* 193 (11/12) December 2010

In the early 1980s, a national newspaper ran a feature soliciting nominations for “the most boring town in your state”. The winner for South Australia was the Eyre Peninsula township of Kyancutta. This generated the expected reaction from parochial inhabitants, who came up with a long list of interesting aspects of the district, including the notable and exciting fact that the township straddles the Eyre Highway, that great semi-trailer-populated road connecting the west of the Australian continent with the east. Doubtless much of this was facetious, but Kyancutta does in fact have a fascinating history, however dull it might seem by the end of the 20th century. It was the home of one of the earliest inland meteorological reporting stations; it had Australia’s fifth officially recognised aerodrome; and it housed an outstanding and unique natural history museum. All this and much more, was the work of one man, Robert Bedford, who was known to three or more generations of farming families as “Beddie” and “The Prof”.

Thirty or so years ago, when the boring town award arrived, there were still many older people in the central Eyre Peninsula who could recount stories of treatment, operations and consultations by the “Prof”. Once it was known that he had medical skills and was prepared to use them to assist his farming neighbours, he dealt with a never-ending stream of broken bones, dislocations, gunshot wounds, boils, carbuncles, scalds and burns, snakebites and fevers. He is even recorded as having treated burns with skin grafts. So many medical problems came his way that, with aid of his wife Hilda, he eventually set up a cottage hospital. The tyranny of distance ensured that he remained the first choice for local medical problems and emergencies, but Bedford was conscious of his limitations, and communicated frequently with nearby practitioners and metropolitan specialists. He referred patients whenever it was practicable; this being a term to be interpreted with regard to the sometimes vast distances involved, the vagaries of the weather, the primitive vehicles traversing equally primitive roads, and a ratty train service whose main function was to transfer wheat and barley, with passengers being of secondary importance. Such conditions meant that the transfer of patients did not occur very frequently in the earlier years.

Like other rural medicos then and now, he had a veterinary practice as well. It might be assumed that he was medically qualified, even if not of professional status, but simple enquiries reveal that, though widely consulted for injuries, illnesses and even obstetrics (he is recorded as having successfully delivered 99 infants from 98 confinements), Robert Bedford was not a doctor. Nor was his name Bedford; he was born Robert Arthur Buddicom and changed his name to Bedford when he left England for Australia in 1914. In some accounts, his departure is described as “hasty”, implying a scandal, but all that could be found to support a scandal was a court case for alleged misrepresentation on a prospectus for a proposed telephone company. It is just as likely that his widely expressed pessimism about the future of England motivated his move.

Bedford was born in Shropshire, in 1874, to a landowner family. He was educated at Charterhouse School and was a science scholar at Oxford University, where he qualified with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1897. After this he worked in marine biology in Naples, Italy, and then served as a curator of the Plymouth City Museum and Art gallery, where he founded and edited a journal, *Life*. From 1906 to the time of his migration, he worked as a demonstrator and lecturer at the London Hospital Medical College (now Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry). He was clearly a talented, cultured and widely educated man when he took up wheat farming in the remote district of South Australia where he was to spend the rest of his incredibly active and productive life.

In 1919, he attempted to enrol as a medical student at the University of Adelaide, but wanted to attend course at the Royal Adelaide Hospital on his own terms and according to his own timetable. Not surprisingly this was unacceptable to the medical faculty, and Bedford returned home disappointed, but with as good a collection of up-to-date textbooks purchased in Adelaide as would have graced the shelves of any practitioner of the time. As long as anyone needed him, he was prepared to help, even when a full-time doctor set up in practice in the nearby town of Wudinna. In fact he remained on good terms with that doctor, and they frequently assisted each other and enjoyed games of bridge and musical evenings together with their wives.

Farming, operating a flour mill, running general store and acting as the local doctor and vet should have been enough to occupy any one, but not so for this restless renaissance man. Radio station 5RB took to the airwaves in 1924, a railway refreshment room was opened in 1925. In 1928 the Bedford store also became the official post office. In 1929, he decided it was important to set up an inland weather reporting station as an aid for the airlines, which were by then flying across the country from east to west. He bought his own barometers and wind gauges, but his observations were so accurate that the Bureau of Meteorology supplied further instruments and set up Kyancutta as an official weather station. His inspiring personality drew in neighbours to help build an all-weather aerodrome, which became an essential refuelling point for east-west flights across the country. In the 1930s, Robert's interest in aviation was continued by his son, Bill Bedford, who continued to evacuate medical patients from areas as distant as Coober Pedy in the north of South Australia and Cook on the trans-Australia railway line, until an ambulance plane was stationed in Whyalla in 1965.

In 1929, among his many interests and occupations, Bedford opened the Kyancutta Museum and Library to house his personal geological and palaeontological specimens, which he had collected locally and interstate on numerous self-funded trips, as well as specimens sent from collectors elsewhere in Australia. He examined and excavated meteorite craters in southern and central Australia, and published descriptions of these meteorites and tektites, mainly in his own *Memoirs of the Kyancutta Museum*. In 1939, he sent five specimens of fossil fish collected from early Devonian limestones in New South Wales to the Natural History Museum in London. These specimens formed the basis of an article published by Dr Errol White, then the fossil fish expert at the British Museum, who named one of the newly described fossils *Williamsaspis bedfordi* in Robert's honour. Unfortunately, because of wartime disruptions at the museum, the article was not published until after Bedford's death. Other fossils on which Bedford worked included the ancient Cambrian archaeocyathid sponges from the Flinders Ranges.

Described by his daughter as quietly spoken and peaceable, but capable of flying into a sudden rage, Bedford must have been a difficult man to argue with. The "establishment" certainly did not like him. He engaged in an acrimonious debate on geological matters with Sir Douglas Mawson (Newton Luscombe, personal communication), and the South Australian Museum opposed his admission to the Museum Association of Australia and New Zealand. His action in sending meteorite and fossil specimens to the British Museum may have been a reaction to the ill feeling that existed towards him among local geologists, and it certainly did nothing to ameliorate that antipathy. He was a prolific correspondent with dignitaries, scientists and institutions in Australia and abroad. His mind was constantly active and he involved himself wholeheartedly in local politics and as a member of the Australian Wheatgrowers Federation, for whom he drafted a constitution. He had visions of his little town of Kyancutta becoming a major regional centre, but this was not to be. The weather reporting station continued to function and, now operated by his grandson, is still an official Bureau of Meteorology observation and reporting station. The cottage hospital has long gone, its function now being taken over by a hospital in Wudinna, established by the Bush Nursing Society, and which later became the Central Eyre Peninsula Hospital. The museum was closed shortly after World War II and its contents were dispersed. A series of models of his ingenious mechanical inventions ended up as toys for his grandchildren. Some of his medical books have been donated to a project for a museum at the University of Adelaide Medical School which has still to see the light of the day.

Robert Arthur Bedford died on the 14 February 1951. His contributions to geology and palaeontology have now been recognised by the scientific world, and his museum is named in historical studies. He was well aware of his limitations and did not publish any medical articles, so his legend as a medical practitioner remains only in the memories of those he helped. Such memories are mostly now extinct but they are still, no doubt, associated with the inherited possessions of his descendants and with the folklore of the region. There is talk of a biography to expand the memoir published by his daughter, Sylvia Laube, but, until then, this note may serve as a tribute to an amazing man, scientist, inventor, entrepreneur and original thinker, and a well loved bush doctor.

He is buried in the Kyancutta cemetery. And his epitaph reads; "He laboured in his sphere as those who live in the delight that work alone can give".

Appendix 2: Robert Arthur Buddicom/Bedford: Timeline

1874	7 Nov.	Birth Ticklerton Court
1874		Baptism, Eaton under Heywod School Charterhouse New College, Oxford Science scholar at Keble College, Oxford
1897		BA Keble College, Oxford
1897-98		Oxford biological scholar at the marine biological station, Naples
1899	2 June	Fellow of the Geological Society
1900	17 Jan.	Married Laura Lucie Finlay, Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, London
1900-01		Curator Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery
1901	10 May	Birth Jacintha Laura May Buddicom. Plymouth
1902		Curator Shrewsbury Museum
1904		Publication 'Church Stretton Vol I
1905		Birth Robert Prosper Gedye Buddicom, Shiplake
1907	3 Feb.	Birth Guinever Laura Oliva Buddicom, Shiplake
1906-14		Demonstrator, London School of Medicine
1909	9 July	Birth William Rudolf Buddicom, Wapping
1911		Birth Alexander Buddicom, Wapping (died 1911)
1913		Birth Hilda Buddicom, Whitechapel
1915		Migrated to Australia, took up 2000 acres at Kyancutta to grow wheat
1917		Kyancutta established
1919		Failed in an attempt to enrol at University of Adelaide as a medical student
1920		Founded the Adelaide Rationalist Society
1920		Kyancutta School opened
1920		Laura Lucie Buddicom remarried
1921		Married Ethel Hilda Lewis
1922		Opened Kyancutta cottage hospital
1924		Opened Radio Station 5RB
1925		Opened the Railway Refreshment Room
1927		Trips to Nildottie and Swan Reach for Aboriginal fossils, and to Ardrossan for Archaeocyathinae
1928		Trip to Lake Callabonna for Diproton bones and rock-carvings
1928		Opened the Official Weather Station
1928		Founder Kyancutta branch of the South Australia Wheat-growers Association
1929		Opened the Kyancutta Museum and Library
1931-38		Examined the meteorite craters at Henbury, Central Australia, discovered associated black silica glass and iron shale balls. Responsible for the location of the Lake Labyrinth stone, the preservation of the Kyancutta and Silverton meteorites and gathered irons from Boxhole, Central Australia
1933		Drafted a constitution for the Wheat-growers Association
1933		Described 32 new species and 8 new genera of archaerocyath and related fossils
1934-35		Represented Kyancutta Ward on the district council of Le Hunte – Advocated secession of the Eyre Peninsula as Eyrulia
1934-1939		Published 6 editions of the Memoirs of the Kyancutta Museum
1935		Airport closed
1936		Paper on meteorite iron from Lake Labyrinth (L J Spencer British Museum)
1939		Specimens of fossil fish sent to the British Museum
1939-1945		WWII served as a volunteer air-observer
1945		Kyancutta School closed
1951	14 Feb.	Death Kyancutta
1952		<i>Williamsaspis bedfordi</i> (White) 1952, Type specimen
1972		Specimens acquired by the South Australian Museum
1977	12 May	Death Ethel Hilda Buddicom
1986		Memorial Park opened
1969		Debrenne paper on Bedford and Bedford <i>Archaeocyaths</i> held in the British Museum
2017		Kyancutta store closed

