

Kimberley Society

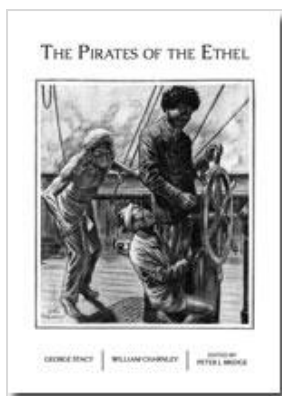
Book Notes

These notes pick up on some recent [Hesperian Press](#) books in which various parts of the Kimberley, while not the sole focus of each book, receive good coverage.

***Pompey's Story : A Man for His Time* by Nerina Coopes. 2015, A4, 126 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-611-3, RRP \$35.**

Written by his daughter, this biography of Arthur Wilfred (Pompey) Gull includes two four-page chapters about his time as a Broome pearler in 1909–1915 and 1920–1921. Several documents in the appendices relate to those chapters, offering details of, firstly, pearling lugger registrations in 1913 and 1920, and secondly, the racial riots in the summer of 1920–1921. A report written by Gull, who was made a Sub Inspector, Special Police, during the riots, is among those documents. The majority of the book is devoted to Gull's First World War service with the 10th Light Horse and the Imperial Camel Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross and held the rank of captain at the time of his discharge. His life was privileged and interesting but not without its share of grief.

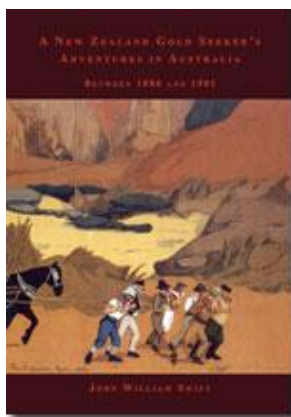
***The Pirates of the Ethel* by George Stacy & William Charnley with editing by Peter J. Bridge. 2016, A4, 31 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-627-4, RRP \$16.50.**



This book, which deals with a crew killing Captain J A Reddell, his son, and a ship's carpenter on the Broome pearling grounds in 1899, before stealing the brig *Ethel*, presents both history and opinion. Stacy, originally writing in *Wide World* magazine in 1900, tells the story, which ends with the execution that year of two murderers at Fremantle Prison. Charnley, writing in 1929, elaborates, focussing on the crew and the role of the Chinese cook in the arrest and conviction of the murderers.

Extracts from archival documents and newspaper articles add details to those accounts, sometimes supporting, and at other times contradicting, the writers' portrayal of the murderers and their victims. The book ends with Rudyard Kipling's verse titled 'The Stranger'.

***A New Zealand Gold Seeker's Adventure in Australia 1886-1901* by John William Swift. 2015, A5, 53 pages, ISBN 978-0-85905-429-4, RRP \$15.00.**



The first third of this valuable little book tells of the author and his mates taking part in Western Australia's first big gold rush. They were among thousands of prospectors who went to Halls Creek in the year 1886. Like many others, they left poorer. The author later worked on other Australian goldfields that included Forrest Range (SA), Broken Hill, Coolgardie and Yalgoo. Work that involved livestock sometimes took the place of prospecting. Hardship and danger were also part of his life.

Reading this book, decades after first seeing Hesperian's copy of the typescript, prompted me to try again to place the author. His real name turned out to be Humphrey Francis James Stack. He was known as Frank. His mates, called Arny Delane and Bolton in the book, were A Delamaine and William J Blake.

Cathie Clement