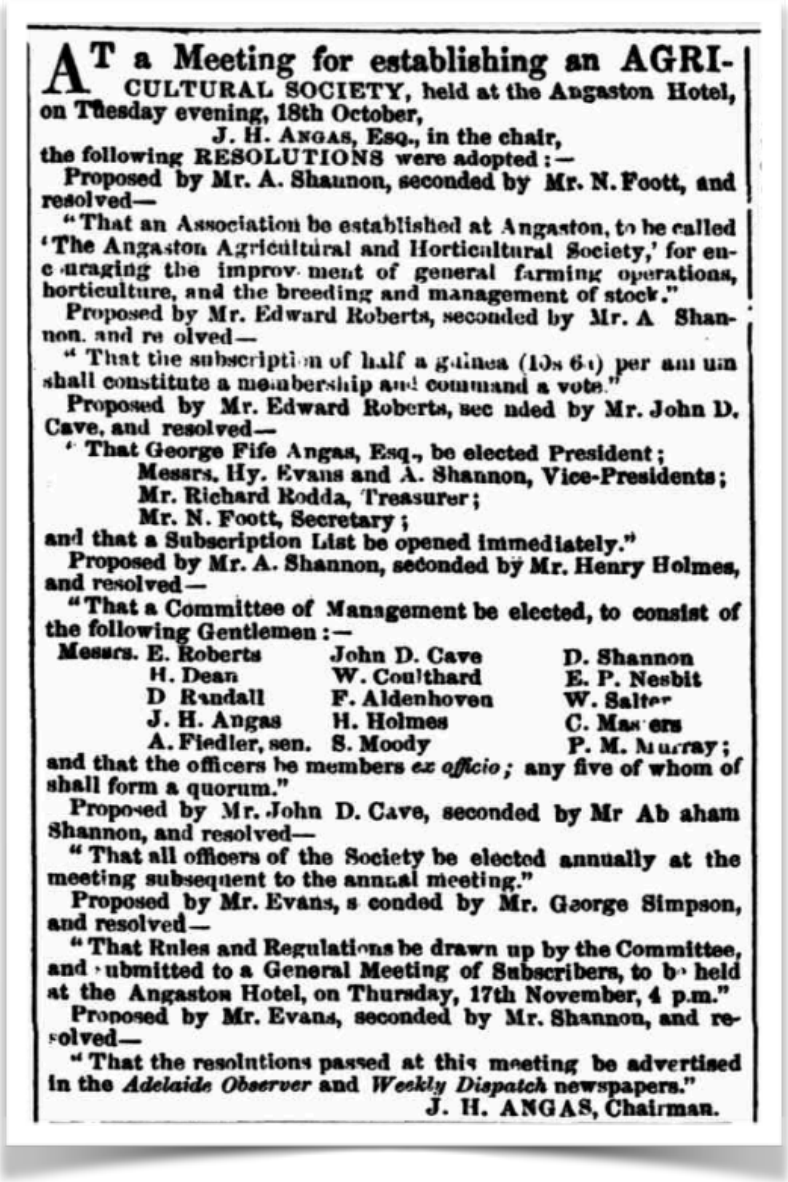
PEACE & PLENTY

On 18 October 1853, at the Angaston Hotel, a meeting of farmers and others interested in the progress of agriculture took place for the purpose of forming an Agricultural and Horticultural Society. With Mr J.H. Angas in the chair, a resolution was passed to establish the society for encouraging the improvement of general farming operations, and the breeding and management of stock. A second resolution to create an annual membership subscription of half a guinea (10s 6d) was also passed. The honorary role of President was given to George Fife Angas. Other office holders and a management committee were elected to organise a constitution.

Secretary Nicolas Foott wrote to the *Adelaide Observer* stating *'farmers in the neighbourhood of Angaston have been roused to a sense of duty… which if fully carried out cannot fail being of the greatest good in facilitating the development of the richest and most fertile districts in the colony.'* The meeting was well attended with nearly £100 being subscribed immediately.



AT a Meeting for establishing an AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, held at the Angaston Hotel, on Tuesday evening, 18th October,
J. H. ANGAS, Esq., in the chair,
the following RESOLUTIONS were adopted:—

Proposed by Mr. A. Shannon, seconded by Mr. N. Foott, and resolved—

"That an Association be established at Angaston, to be called 'The Angaston Agricultural and Horticultural Society,' for encouraging the improvement of general farming operations, horticulture, and the breeding and management of stock."

Proposed by Mr. Edward Roberts, seconded by Mr. A. Shannon, and resolved—

"That the subscription of half a guinea (10s 6d) per annum shall constitute a membership and command a vote."

Proposed by Mr. Edward Roberts, seconded by Mr. John D. Cave, and resolved—

"That George Fife Angas, Esq., be elected President;
Messrs. Hy. Evans and A. Shannon, Vice-Presidents;
Mr. Richard Rodda, Treasurer;
Mr. N. Foott, Secretary;
and that a Subscription List be opened immediately."

Proposed by Mr. A. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Henry Holmes, and resolved—

"That a Committee of Management be elected, to consist of the following Gentlemen:—

Messrs. E. Roberts	John D. Cave	D. Shannon
H. Dean	W. Coulthard	E. P. Nesbit
D Randall	F. Aldenhoven	W. Salter
J. H. Angas	H. Holmes	C. Masters
A. Fiedler, sen.	S. Moody	P. M. Murray;

and that the officers be members *ex officio;* any five of whom of shall form a quorum."

Proposed by Mr. John D. Cave, seconded by Mr Abraham Shannon, and resolved—

"That all officers of the Society be elected annually at the meeting subsequent to the annual meeting."

Proposed by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. George Simpson, and resolved—

"That Rules and Regulations be drawn up by the Committee, and submitted to a General Meeting of Subscribers, to be held at the Angaston Hotel, on Thursday, 17th November, 4 p.m."

Proposed by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Shannon, and resolved—

"That the resolutions passed at this meeting be advertised in the *Adelaide Observer* and *Weekly Dispatch* newspapers."

J. H. ANGAS, Chairman.

Notice of the first meeting of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, *Adelaide Observer*, 29 Oct 1853, p 8.

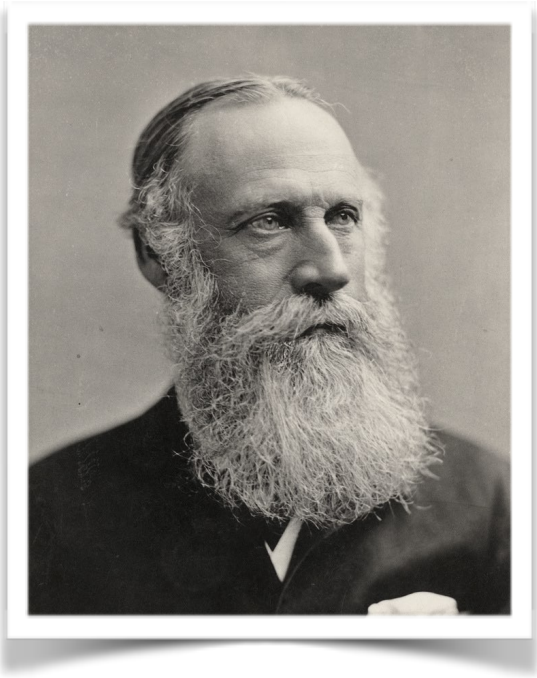
The first annual exhibition occurred on Tuesday 7 March 1854. A pavilion was erected on 'The Green', a small piece of land where the Town Hall now stands. The grapes were a feature of the displays, with several grape vine branches suspended from the ceiling as decoration eliciting admiration from spectators. Some farming implements were exhibited as well as a large prize wagon recently imported from England.

Exhibition categories included wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, cheese, ham, flour, hay butter, vegetables, wine, grapes, fruits, apples, pears, and dried fruits. Prominent names featured as prize winners including Evans, Rodda, Sawle, Foott and Smith.

The *South Australian Register* reported a favourable day, with the whole population of Angaston in attendance, and many visitors from Truro, Kapunda, Mt Crawford and Nuriootpa.

Following a successful exhibition, a dinner was held at the Angaston Hotel for about 100 gentlemen. Amongst the speeches of the evening, William Salter proposed a toast 'to the Agriculturalists'. His foresighted sentiments were received with cheers and reported in the *Register,*

'The meeting that day was the first of the kind that had been held in Angaston, and stood amongst the most important meetings that ever had been held there…He hoped for something lasting, and of subsequent benefit. The motto erected on their booth was 'Peace and Plenty,' two blessings unequalled…He would venture to remark that farmers were not conducting their farming operations as they ought to do. He referred to their not manuring the land. The evil might not be felt immediately by the present farmers but it certainly would be by their children and grandchildren…He contended for the old adage 'Give and Take.'



L: John Howard Angas, chairman of the inaugural meeting.

R: William Salter, a speaker at the first show dinner.