A History of Trayning is a timely description of Western Australia’s eastern wheatbelt. Apart from its study of government policy in the area, it also covers the achievements of pioneer farmers who cleared the virgin land and others who worked in the railways, banks and other service industries.

Although drought, war and depression constrained development during its first thirty years, Trayning remained an important producer of grain and wool. Significant technological change in wheat production during the late 1960s saw a decline in the Shire’s population when farmers were forced to increase the size of their properties. This decline in population, despite an increase in wheat production, is typical of other wheatbelt shires.

Reg Appleyard AM is Hon. Senior Research Fellow and Emeritus Professor of Economic History at UWA. Formerly a Fellow in Demography at the Australian National University, he has written and edited many books on migration and settlement. These include British Emigration to Australia (1964), The Beginning (jointly, 1979), Greek Pioneers in Western Australia (jointly, 2002) and International Migration: Challenge for the Nineties (1991).

Walter Donald (Don) Couper grew up in the Trayning region. His father Wally and uncle Bill were partners on a farm at Kununoppin. Their mother Susannah was a keen correspondent and diarist who wrote extensively on the early years at Trayning. Local government service by D. A. Couper, W.D. (Bill) Couper and Walter Donald Couper totalled 70 years. Don Couper has contributed to several books, including The Reconstruction of Fragmented Ecosystems and Legends of the Grain Game.