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ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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1/46 Oatley Ave.,
OATLEY. 2223.

January 1978.

Dear Friend and Member,

The regular meeting will be as follows:

Date: Friday Evening, January 20th, 1978.

Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: Our President, Mr. Arthur Ellis, will present a Paper entitled: "Oswald Scholes, Pioneer, 1881-1964." This article you will find most interesting and entertaining.

Supper Roster: Mrs. McNamara, Captain, and Misses L. White, G. Frost, F. Lambert.

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. A. Ellis,
President.
Phone 587.1159.

Miss A. Lang,
Secretary.
Phone 57.2608.

Mrs. B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer.
Phone 587.9164

Mrs. E. Wright,
Treas. & Soc. Sec.
Phone 599.4884

Mr. A. Ellis,
Research Officer.
Phone 587.1159.

"One of our biggest economic problems is overprediction."

.... Arnold Glasgow.

Many of our Members are on the sick list. We are sorry to hear this, and trust that you will all be well again soon.

Books numbered 1 to 6 should soon be available again at a reasonable price.

Also available (by Author the late Gifford Eardley)

Book 7. "The Early History/Tempe & The Black Creek Valley".

Contact Asst. Secretary 'Phone 59.8078.

OR Miss Otten 'Phone 59.4259 (after 8 p.m.)

Society Badges are available - \$1.00 each. (See Mrs. Wright).

Miss Otten, Curator of 'Lydham Hall', is in need of Ladies and/or Gentlemen to assist with the weekend roster. Visitors come from far and wide to see this lovely old Home, and your presence would greatly facilitate inspections. Ring Miss Otten, Phone 59.4259, your call will be appreciated.

There is now a large glass display case upstairs in Lydham Hall. At present it contains a few souvenirs from the various wars. Can you help to enlarge this display by exhibiting some of the war relics which you might have? These will be greatly appreciated, and good care taken of any souvenirs which you might care to loan or perhaps donate. Ring Miss Otten 59.4259.

DONATIONS TO LYDHAM HALL.

Miss Heath, Kogarah - Wooden Egg cups on tray.

Mr. Day, Bexley - 1 Gun shell case, World War 1.

Mrs. Maitland - Terra Cotta Bust. More Books.

Mr. Fenton, Bexley - Glass Soda Water Bottle, wire mesh covering, pot plants.
Alderman Lang, Rockdale - 1 book - The Boer War. 1 Bible Readings - both on loan.

Mrs. Morris, Bexley - Baby's Christening Frock & Bonnet.

Note to Members:

Please advise Secretary (phone 57,2608 - after 6 p.m.) of any change of address - this will save disappointment when your Bulletin is posted to you.

**** SPECIAL NOTICE ****

DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER.

SAME TIME AND PLACE -- SUPPER IN ANNEXE OF TOWN HALL. --

(LADIES PROVIDE).

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Syllabus - 1978.

- 20th January, 1978. A Bexley Pioneer. Mr. Oswald Scholes.
Presented by Mr. A. Ellis.
President : St. George Historical Society.
- 17th February, 1978. Collecting Material for Local History.
Presented by Miss Jean Arnot, M.B.E.
- 17th March, 1978. Slide Evening. Subject to be determined.
Presented by Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Day.
Members of St. George Historical Society.
- 21st April, 1978. Historic Paper on "The Rocks" - with Film.
Presented by Miss Candy Tymson.
Public Relations Officer, Sydney Redevelopment Society.
- 19th May, 1978. Slide Evening. Subject to be determined.
Presented by Mr. P. Sage.
- 16th June, 1978. Sydney's Water Systems.
Presented by Mr. Kinnane.
Public Relations Officer, M.W.S. and D. Board.
- 21st July, 1978. Annual Meeting.
Lecture. Subject to be determined.
Presented by Mr. W. Foster.
Member of St. George Historical Society.
- 18th August, 1978. The Preservation of Architectural Works and Related Subjects.
Presented by Dr. P. Briggs.
Architect.
- 15th September, 1978. History in Song - With Banjo.
Presented by Mr. J. McClymont.
Member of Parramatta Historical Society.
- 20th October, 1978. A Study of Annandale.
Presented by Mr. A. Roberts.
- 17th November, 1978. Slide Evening. Subject to be determined.
Presented by Mr. J. Scholer.
- 15th December, 1978. Christmas Function.

POSSIBLE LOCATION OF HANNAH LAYCOCK'S FARM HOUSE AT KINGSGROVE.

- B J Madden - 1977.

In 1804, Hannah Laycock was given a grant of land of 500 acres to which she gave the name King's Grove Farm. It was a rectangular block, bounded by Kingsgrove Road; William Street; Bexley Road and a continued line to Preddy's Road; and Stoney Creek Road and a continued line back to Preddy's Road, south of Canonbury Grove.

On Thursday, 13th December 1810, Governor Macquarie and his party visited Mrs Laycock in the course of an inspection of the farms to the south of the Parramatta Road. In his Journal, Macquarie says that the party arrived at 2.30p.m. 'at Mrs Laycock's far near Cooks River.' The Journal continues: *'We found Mrs Laycock and her two daughters at home, in a very neat comfortable well built farm house and well furnished; the good old lady's farm being also in a forward state of improvement in other respects.'*

The title to Hannah Laycock's land at Kingsgrove passed to Simeon Lord in 1829, and Lord died in 1840. In 1841, the executors of the estate of Simeon Lord arranged the sale of his land at Kingsgrove in two parts - on 14 May and 17 August.

The first auction on 14 May 1841, was for that part of the original King's Grove Farm between Wolli Creek and Stoney Creek Road, together with the 250 acres to the west of Kingsgrove Road granted together with the 250 acres to the west of Kingsgrove Road granted to John Townson in 1810, and the 120 acres to the north of William Street granted to Hannah Laycock in 1812. The land is described in an advertisement in 'The Australian' of 11 May 1841, (and earlier dates) and a plan of the lots to be sold, entitled 'Lord's Allotments in the Parish of St George', is held in the Mitchell Library (M2.8111.1853/1841/1). There is no reference to a house or cleared land in the rather fulsome advertisement, and the plan does not show any building or clearing on the lots auctioned on 14 May. However, the plan does show a hut and an orchard on that section of the King's Grove grant not included in the auction on 14 May.

On 17 August, 1841, the land between Wolli Creek and William Street was auctioned. The land is described in an advertisement in 'The Australian' of 7 August 1841, (and other dates) and the Mitchell Library has a surveyor's plan of the lots, entitled 'Field Plan of the Kingsgrove Homestead'. (M2.8111.1851/1841/1). This plan shows an area of cleared land and tracks leading to it from three directions. Within the cleared area is a hut, a small orchard, two

areas of corn, an area described as a paddock, two tents and a well. There are no other improvements on any other area. The advertisement says that lots 56 to 64 are chiefly cleared and that *'on 58 and 59 there is a slabbed hut, with small orchard and garden.'* The advertisement also says that about 60 acres are cleared, although the area marked on the plan seems to be about half of this, that is, about 30 acres. The remainder of the advertisement makes no mention of cleared land or any improvements other than the slabbed hut. Surely cleared land would be of more value than uncleared land, and it is assumed that the cleared area mentioned was the only cleared land on the whole estate. It must be mentioned that advertisements seeking to dispose of King's Grove in the Sydney Gazette of 2 September 1815, and 12 October 1816, claim respectively that 99 acres and 100 acres were cleared. Whether these are exaggerations or whether some of the forest was allowed to regenerate in the next 25 years can only be guessed at.

The advertisement of 7 August 1841, also makes this significant statement: *'This portion of the estate was selected by the former owner as the best situation as a homestead.'* This must be read in association with the title of the plan: *'Field Plan of the Kingsgrove Homestead'*. Earlier in the advertisement, it is stated that the sale was on the instructions of Lord's executors, and the words *'the former owner'* may refer to him. However, Lord owned extensive areas of land and was well established in the city of Sydney. It probably refers to the owner prior to Lord - that is, to Hannah Laycock.

The *'homestead'* was presumably on the cleared area shown on the surveyor's plan. The fact that tracks led to the cleared area from three directions tend to confirm this. However, although the hut was the only structure on the whole estate in 1841, it is not clear whether the hut was, in fact, the *'homestead'*, and without further evidence in support, it is impossible to claim a connection between the hut and the farm house described by Macquarie in 1810. I believe that the advertisements and plans indicate that Mrs Laycock's farm house was in the vicinity of the cleared land existing in 1841. Translated to the present day, the hut was situated at the north-eastern corner of the Rosemeath Avenue and Homer Street intersection, and the cleared area was bounded roughly by Homer Street, Killara Avenue, across to Thomas Street, and along Proctor Avenue.

The land auctioned in May 1841, realised pounds 6000. However, the second auction in August appears to have been unsuccessful. There is no mention of the result of the sale in the Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian or the Monitor, and plans and references in subsequent years seem to confirm that the land was not sold in 1841.

THE DISTRICT IN 1848.

- B.J.Madden
Kingsgrove. 2.7.1975.

A fascimile edition of an 1848 publication "A Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies" by W.H.Wells, was published by the Public Library of N.S.W. in 1970. Browsing through the book, it is fascinating to read that Paddington is a village near Sydney, that Brisbane is a town in N.S.W. at Moreton Bay with a population of 960, and that Boyd Town is a flourishing sea port on S.E. coast of N.S.W.

Some 1848 properties have given their names to suburbs and towns, and others have been forgotten. Some old spellings are interesting, such as Nammoy for the present Namoi River and Maneroo for Monaro.

This is a list of entries referring to the Parish of St. George and adjoining areas. Because of their length, some entries have been abbreviated, and some abbreviations have been used:

- p. St. G. = parish of St. George;
- p. Conc. = parish of Concord;
- p. Pet. = parish of Petersham;
- co. C. = county of Cumberland;
- h. Syd. = hundred of Sydney.

ALBERT PARK. In p. Conc., co. C, N.S.W. on the Liverpool Road, seven miles from Sydney.

ASHFIELD. A village of N.S.W., situate in p. Conc., co.C. and h. Syd., about six and a half miles from Sydney.

BELLE OMBRE. In p. St.G., co. C., N.S.W., on Cook's River, seven miles from Sydney, by way of Prout's Bridge; the property of C. Prout.

BEXLEY. In p. St. G., co. C, N.S.W., about three miles from the Canterbury Sugar Works.

BOTANY BAY...... the spot first touched at by Captain Cook....

BOTANY BAY. An old district of co. C., N.S.W., bounded on the S.E. side by Botany Bay; on the N.E. side by Cook's River; N side by the Liverpool Rd; on the W side by a line passing from Hacking's Creek Bridge, to the head of the Salt Creek, in George's River, Old road; and thence by that creek, and on the S. side by the George's river.

BRIDGEWATER. In p. St. G., co. C, N.S.W., on Cup and Saucer Creek, seven miles from Sydney, the property of C. Prout.

BRIGHTON. In p. Conc., h. Syd., and co. C., N.S.W., about eight miles from Sydney, on the Liverpool Road.

- BULLANAMING. One of the old districts of co. C., N.S.W.; bounded on the N by the Sydney and Parramatta Rd. from Iron Cove creek to Blackwattle swamp bridge; on the E. side by a S. line to Botany Bay; on the S. side by Cook's River; and on the W. by Liberty plains district.
- CANTERBURY. A village of N.S.W., situated p. Pet., h. Syd. co. C., about five miles from Sydney, on the banks of Cook's River. It contains 65 houses and 218 inhabitants, viz., 128 males, and 90 females. Here is the establishment of the Australasian Sugar Company.
- CLAIRVILLE. (or PUNCHBOWL). the property of Sir Alfred Stephen, situated in the parishes of St. G. and Banks Town, co. C., N.S.W. about nine miles from Sydney. It is situated in a sort of basin, surrounded by gently rising ground, hence the name of Punchbowl.
- CONCORD. A parish in h. Syd., co. C, NSW bounded....on the S. by Cook's River to the S.E. corner of Simeon Lord's 800 acres, by the eastern boundary of that land to the Liverpool Road... by the centre of that road to Parramatta Rd..... It contains 216 houses, and a population of 1172.
- COOK'S RIVER. In co. C, N.S.W., dividing the parishes of Pet. & St. G. about six miles from Sydney. It falls into Botany Bay.
- CUMBERLAND. A county of NSW.... This is the metropolitan county of NSW....contains 73,538 inhabitants...This county is divided into 13 hundred and 56 parishes....
- CUP AND SAUCER CREEK. In p. St.G., co.C., NSW; it flows into Cook's river opposite the Sugar House.
- FAIRY POINT. In p. Pet. co.C, NSW, on Cook's river, opposite Bell Ombre, 6 miles from Sydney by the Canterbury Road. It is the property of Corneilus Prout.
- GEORGE TOWN. A village of NSW, in p. St. G., h. Syd., co. C; it is the point of land stretching out into Botany Bay at the mouth of Cook's River.
- GEORGE TOWN. A village in the parish of Banks Town, h. of Liverpool, co.C, and situated on the N. bank of George's River, and bounded on the E. by Salt Pan Creek, which joins the George's river at this spot.
- KINGS GROVE. In p. St. G., co. C, NSW, about 9 miles from Sydney.
- LIBERTY PLAINS. A parish... Co. C.....

LIBERTY PLAINS. One of the original districts of co.C, NSW, bounded on the N. side by the Sydney road leading to Parramatta; on the W. side by a south line passing to the Liverpool road; on the S. side by the Liverpool road and Cook's river to Johnstone's farm; on the E. by Johnstone's, Lucas's, and Piper's farm to the head of Iron Cove creek on the Liverpool road, thence by that creek to the Parramatta road.

LIVERPOOL. (An incorporated district, a borough town, and a police district).

LIVERPOOL. A hundred of NSW, situated in co.C..... It is bounded on the N by Cook's River from the centre of the road at the E. corner of J. Alford's 60 acres, to the centre of Moore's bridge on the Liverpool road, by the centre of the Liverpool road to the centre of Bowler's bridge over Prospect creek ...; on the E by Woronora river to its confluence with George's river, by George's river to Saltpan Creek, by Saltpan creek to the centre of the road which forms the S. eastern boundary of Harriet Carr's 30 acres, and by the centre of that road to Cook's river, comprising the parishes of Bank's Town, St. Luke, Minto and Holsworthy.

MAYFIELD. In p. St. G. co.C, NSW, about 8 miles from Sydney; the property of Thomas May.

PETERSHAM. A village of NSW, near the city of Sydney.....

PETERSHAM. An original district of co.C, NSW, bounded on the south side by the Sydney and Parramatta road from Iron cove creek to Blackwattle swamp bridge; and on all other sides by the harbour of Port Jackson.

PETERSHAM. A parish in the kindred of Sydney, and co.C, NSW, is bounded...by the centre of part of the Liverpool road (from its junction with Parramatta road), by a line from the centre of that road bearing S.6 degrees E. to the north-eastern corner of Simeon Lord's 800 acres, by part of the eastern boundary of that land by the western boundaries of John Piper's 100 acres, J.H.Lucas's 100 acres, by a line thence to the north-west corner of Richard Johnson's 260 acres to Cook's river; on the south side by Cook's river to the branch of that river forming the eastern boundary of Thomas Smith's 470 acres....It includes three islands on that part of Cook's river bounding this parish. It contains 1284 houses and 5433 inhabitants, viz, 2935 males, and 2498 females.

PUNCHBOWL. See CLAIRVILLE.

ROCKY POINT. In p. St.G., co.C, NSW, on George's river, about 12 miles from Sydney.

SAINT GEORGE. A parish in the hundred of Sydney, in the co.C NSW; it contains 132 houses with a population of 611; and is bounded on the N. by Cook's river from Botany Bay to the centre of the road to the N.corner of Joseph Broadbent's 40 acres; on the W. by the centre of the above mentioned road which forms the north-west boundaries of Joseph Broadbent's 40 acres, William Goodwin's 50 acres, and John Nichols's 100 acres to the head of Saltpan creek at the W.corner of John Nichols's 100 acres, and by that creek to its confluence with George's river; on the S by George's river to Botany Bay; and on the E by Botany Bay to Cook's river.

SNUGBOROUGH. The property of Mr. Oatley, in p. St.G., co.C,NSW, on the George's river road, about 11 miles from Sydney.

WANSTEAD. In p. St. G., co.C, NSW, about 7 miles from Sydney, on Cook's river.

WINCANTON. The estate of Reuben Hannam, in p. St.G., co.C, NSW, about 7 miles from Sydney via Cook's river Dam.
