



# ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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1/46 Oatley Ave.,  
OATLEY. 2223.

April 1978.

Dear Friend and Member ,

The regular meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, April 21st, 1978, at 8.00 p.m.  
Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.  
Business: General.  
Syllabus Item: Historic Paper on "The Rocks", Illustrated with Film.  
Presented by Miss Candy Tymson, Public Relations Officer,  
Sydney Redevelopment Society.  
Supper Roster: Captain: Mrs. Day, and Mesdames Waddington, Rootes,  
Havilah, Moffitt, Miss Heath.

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. E. Ellis,  
President,  
Phone: 587 1159

Mrs. E. Wright,  
Treas. & Soc. Sec.  
Phone: 599 4884

Mrs. B. Perkins,  
Publicity Officer.  
Phone: 587 9164

Miss A. Lang,  
Secretary.  
Phone: 57 2608

Mr. A. Ellis,  
Research Officer.  
Phone: 587 1159

Fine - A tax you have to pay for doing wrong.  
Tax - A fine you have to pay for doing well.  
(A.J. Beeney).

Many of our Members have been, and still are, ill. We are sorry to hear this and trust that you will all be well again soon.

It was with regret that we learned of the death of one of our early Members, Mr. Vince Smith, of Carlton. Mr. Smith was actively interested in the Society, often acting as Projectionist for Syllabus Items, both movie and slides. He was also Treasurer for the year 1972/1973. To Mrs. Smith and Family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

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Books numbered 1 to 6 should soon be available again at a reasonable price. Also available (by the same Author) -

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

Contact Asst. Secretary 'Phone 59 8078,

OR Miss Otton 'Phone 59 4259 (after 8 p.m.)

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

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Miss Otton, 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 the inspections. Ring Miss Otton, 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 Otton 59.4259.

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### SOCIAL.

PORT MACQUARIE. For your pleasure, Mrs. Wright (Social Secretary) has arranged a Coach Trip to Fort Macquarie, with a visit to Timber Town at Wauchope, and also to South West Rocks & Trial Bay. This should be most enjoyable. If you are interested, and wish to avoid disappointment, give your name together with a deposit of \$10, to Mrs. Wright at the meeting. This outing is proving very popular.

The Details are as follows:

Time: 7.30 a.m. Sharp.

Place: Town Hall, Rockdale.

Cost: \$65.00 per person (Inclusive - Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)

Date: Saturday September 30th, October 1st and 2nd.

Ring Mrs. Wright for further information - 599 4884.

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Corrigendum to March Bulletin.

"The Tin Lizzie", Page 2, Line 2 ....  
Alter "was" to "were".

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FROM WHENCE THEY CAME.

- D.A & D J Hatton

- Presented at the St. George  
Historical Society  
21st November 1975.

After much research into our family's genealogy, we found out where they originated from in England, so in 1974 we visited the towns and villages "*from whence they came*".

The family name is Newton, and we are descended through Arthur, a boot and shoe manufacturer, who died in 1965 at the age of 93, with five generations living at that time. He told us that his grandfather was Charles Newton, a wine and spirit merchant of Sydney. We have been unable to find out when Charles first came to Australia, but he is recorded in the Post Office Directories for 1833, 1834, 1835 and 1836. He married Mary Ann Wood, a lady born in Sydney in 1819, and Grandfather John Newton was born on 18th May, 1836. Soon after he was born his father, Charles Newton, died, and Mary Ann married a Charles Towner and had ten children and now there are numerous descendants from the Towner family as well as from the Newton family. One of her daughters married Mr. James S.T. McGowen, the first Labour Premier of N.S.W., from 1910-1911.

Arthur Newton was the youngest son of John, and his work took him mostly out of N.S.W. as he followed the trade of boot-maker, but he had four sisters and one brother who settled in the St. George district - Uncle Bill Newton had a horse bus and hansom cab running from Hurstville Station to Dumbleton, and a fruit shop and run in Forest Road, Penshurst; Aunt Phoebe Turner had shops in Rocky Point Road, at Kogarah and lastly the large fruit shop at the corner of Rocky Point Road and Ramsgate Road; Aunt Emily Asham had "The Hospital Shop" at Kogarah - remembered for its choicefruit, chocolates etc.; Aunt Louisa Levy had a tailoring business at Arncliffe; and Aunt Rose Wood had a tailoring business at Brighton and her husband George Wood was a builder, building his last houses in President Avenue. His mother was the sister of Sir Joseph Carruthers, who represented this district in the N.S.W. Parliament from 1887 to 1908, and was Premier of N.S.W. from 1904 to 1907. Both families grew up in Kiama.

Mary Ann Wood's parents, John and Elizabeth, each came to Australia in 1818, as guests of His Majesty, King George III.

Elizabeth arrived first on the ship "Maria" of 427 tons, which sailed from Deal in Kent on May 15, 1818, and sailed direct for Sydney, arriving on September 17, 1818, a journey of 126 days. The passengers were 124 female convicts with 25 children and a free settler, Mr. Wood and his family. John sailed on the ship "Tottenham" of 564 tons, which left Plymouth on April 17, 1818, but

was twice beaten back due to various accidents and heavy gales. On each occasion she suffered damage and had to undergo repairs. The prisoners had to be kept battened down below and suffered acutely from sea-sickness. Because of the presence of scurvy, the ship had to call into Rio de Janiero for fresh stores. The health of prisoners suffered, so that despite good care, ten had died between embarkation and arrival in Sydney on October 14, 1818 a journey of 181 days. The passengers were 190 male prisoners, detachments of 34 soldiers of 46th and 48th Regiments, and free settler, Mr. Hazard and his wife.

Elizabeth was indicted at Bradford Sessions in York on 17 July 1817. With three others, she was charged "with force and arms at the Parish of Wakefield aforesaid in the West Riding of the County of York, twenty yards of Printed Cotton of the value of sixpence and twenty yard of Printed Calico of the value of four pence, of the goods and chattels of one Robert Glassells then and there found, did then and there feloniously steal take and carry away against the Peace of the said Lord and now King, his Crown and Dignity". Each of these four persons was found guilty and sentenced to be transported for seven years.

John tried to make a better job of things. He, with two others, was charged with stealing stamps to the value of pounds 5977.0.0 form the York Stamp Office. Unfortunately for him, "the whole of the stamps, tied up in parcels with handkerchiefs, were discovered under a tombstone in the churchyard of St. Cuthbert, Peaseholm Green". They were sentenced to death and told "to entertain no hope of mercy", but it would appear that "mercy" was given, for he arrived under sentence of transportation for 14 years.

By this time, 1818, Governor Macquarie had provided nearly nine years of wise leadership, but he was concerned about the large influx of people into the colony during that year. On 24 March, 1819, he wrote to Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies:

"Your Lordship will not fail to observe in perusing the foregoing Report, that no less than Sixteen Ships, Conveying Upwards of 2,600 Male and Female Convicts, have arrived in this Country from England and Ireland within the short space of less than Ten Months, thus greatly augmenting the Population and Consequently the Expences of this Colony to the Mother Country; the Settlers being unable to take more than a small Proportion of them off the Store, on Account of their Poverty and the Losses they sustained by the Inundations I reported to Your Lordship in my Dispatches of 1817, thereby leaving a large Body of Convicts on the Hands of Government to be Victualled and clothed at the Expend of the Crown. I trust however it will not be long before the Settlers will have so far recovered from their former and more recent Losses by the Floods, as to be able to take a great part of the Convicts now supported by Government, off the Store, for their Agricultural and Grazing



Purposes. In the Meantime, I have no Alternative but to employ large Gangs of them on the Government Public Works now in progress at Sydney and the other Settlements, and also in Constructing New Roads and Bridges, and repairing of old ones throughout the several parts of the Colony, so as to render the Intercourse and Travelling between the Capital and the Several New Settlements in the Interior, safe, easy and Commodious, as the Expenditure of Constructing New Roads and Bridges, and keeping the old ones in Repair, has hitherto been defrayed from the Colonial Revenue, the Work being done by Contract, the whole of that heavy Expenditure will now be Saved to the Crown by thus employing Strong Gangs of Government Men to execute this important and indispensable Work."

On arrival in Sydney, as was the required practice, all prisoners were inspected by His Excellency, Governor Macquarie. John was a tradesman, a boot and shoe maker, so he had special qualifications needed in the growing colony, and by 28 November, 1821, he had received a conditional pardon, the same year as James Oatley. During 1820, John received pounds 4.11.0 from the Colonial Police Funds for making boots for a party of the 48th Regiment, which were used in extra service in search of bushrangers. Elizabeth did not receive her certificate of freedom until July 22, 1824, after she had served her full sentence of seven years.

John & Elizabeth came from York, an ancient city in England dating from Celtic times, with a Cathedral dating from 1154 and city walls from the 14th century, to a town which had been established only for thirty years, and on 11 November, 1818, had a population of 25,000.

There is a well-known Conrad Martens painting of Bridge Street, Sydney in 1836, and we like to think that the two ladies doing their washing in the Tank Stream, are our great great grandmother Elizabeth, and great grandmother Mary Ann.

When Grannie Towner died in 1896, "The Methodist" published this obituary. "She dearly loved the House of God & fellowship with His People & found increasing comfort & hope in reading His Word". She attended a Methodist Cottage service at Chippendale, & was one of the first members of the Circuit, later being active at Glebe & Alexandria.

Grandfather John Newton married Phoebe Wood at Kiama on 31st. December, 1856, at the first Church of England which was constructed in 1843 of timber, with frame visible on the outside and lined with cedar. The present stone church, built on a new site on Church Point was opened in 1859. It contains two memorial windows recording the deaths of Phoebe's nephew and his three children in a boating accident on the Minnamurra River on Boxing Day, 1893.

Phoebe Wood's family came to Australia in 1849 on the "Mary Bannatyne", a barque of 535 tons, from London, via Plymouth, where she left on

8 April and arrived in Sydney on 26 July, 1849, a voyage of 109 days. The Wood family were among the 222 immigrants on board & they came with their seven children, including Phoebe who was then aged 11 and her eldest brother was 23. The children could all read & write. They first lived at Parramatta but soon moved to Jamberoo, having dairy farms at Clover Hill & later at Spring Hill, near the Carruthers farm. The Jamberoo Valley has recently been given classified listing by the National Trust, which has recommended it be given Scenic Preserve Status, with appropriate legislative protection.

John & Phoebe Newton are buried in the Woronora Cemetery at Sutherland, but other members of the Wood family are at the Bombo Cemetery at North Kiama, including Phoebe's mother & her brother. Here we find that in the family grave it was thought important enough to record on the headstone that they were natives of Culmstock, Devonshire, England.

The village of Culmstock, situated on the River Culm, in North Devon, had a population in 1974 of 692, although in 1831, a population of 1,357 is recorded. This English village now has one main street, a National School, a service station, two stores including the Post Office store, and thatched covered whitewashed houses. The most prominent building in the village is the All Saints Church of the Diocese of Exeter, Archdeaconry of Exeter, Rural Deanery of Cullompton, County of Devon. One of the unusual features of this church, which dates from the 1500s is the beech tree growing out of the turret of the tower. We have traced our family in the records of this village church back to the 1600s. Phoebe's parents were married here on 24 March, 1824, and her grandmother Holley was buried in the churchyard on 15 May, 1842.

The Holleys came from a village about three miles away - Burlescombe. These two villages, Culmstock and Burlescombe, are now separated by a major highway, the A38, which runs for several hundred miles from Derby in the Midlands to Cornwall. However, in previous times, dirt roads connected the villages, just wide enough for a horse and cart, and just off the A38, this road is still there with its old crossroads marked.

Burlescombe, with 725 population now, and 1073 in 1831, has survived for centuries, but with modern day activities is fast disappearing, as it is being shaken and taken away with the removal of a hill nearby, for the manufacture of tiles, the earth being carried in trucks which seemingly race non-stop through the one main street of the village, scattering dust over the sides of the road & breaking road signs, so the village now looks dilapidated. The Devon fields are disappearing, leaving a red gap in the landscape. In the village proper, there are only about fifty houses & the Church of St. Mary's which dates from 1324. It is a typical village church, small & dark inside, with a bell tower, but beautiful stained glass windows. The churchyard has the usual broken & leaning headstones among the grass & trees.

The Wood family came as assisted immigrants shortly after the resumption of immigration. Following the cessation of transportation in 1840, and the suspension of immigration between 1844 and 1847, there was a shortage of labour, especially of agricultural & pastoral labourers. Immigration was financed by the Colony, & selection was made by representatives of the Land Board in Britain. The immigrants selected were therefore those who would be properly fitted for work in country districts. Two days after the ship arrived, the newspaper listed the number of each calling available from these new adult immigrants, which included 26 agricultural labourers and 3 shepherds, & the times they were available for selection & hire.

My mother's father, Aaron Masters, came to Australia in 1841, at the age of 2 1/2 years, on the barque "Alfred" of 716 tons, sailing from Plymouth on 7 September, 1840 and arriving on 19 January, 1841, a total of 135 days. There were 263 Bounty emigrants on board and "several very respectable passengers, all of whom have arrived in very good health, & from her general cleanly appearance, the ship reflects great credit on Captain Eastmore". There were 22 cabin passengers & 15 intermediate passengers as well as the 263 emigrants in steerage. The Surgeon Superintendent was Dr. R M Cartwright.

The Bounty System was introduced in 1835. Immigrants were selected by agents of the colonists in Britain, carried out in ships engaged privately & examined carefully by an Immigration Board on arrival in the Colony. They had to bring testimonials of character to be signed by clergymen & respectable inhabitants in the districts from which they came. The Board also desired to see certified copies of baptismal registers to satisfy them as to ages of immigrants. If these documents were in order & the Board was satisfied that the immigrants were of "good bodily health & strength & in all other respects likely to be useful members of their class in Society", a certificate to that effect would be granted entitling settlers responsible for their introduction to payment of sums due to them by the N.S.W. Colonial Government. The bounty for married couples was pounds 38.0.0, for single men & women pounds 19.0.0, for women over 15 years accompanying parents 15.0.0, & for children 10.0.0 (7-14 years) & 5.0.0 (1-7 years).

The "Alfred" had a long passage due to the necessity of putting in at the Cape for fresh provisions, otherwise she would probably have made the trip in her usual under 100 days. Only 4 persons died on the voyage, & 1 of them was Aaron's mother who "died in child-bed". As she left a husband & 5 children (the youngest 15 months old) without any means of support, the cabin passengers handsomely subscribed a few pounds for the benefit of the children.

The ship arrived with a general cleanly appearance, which reflected great credit on the Captain. The report of the Surgeon showed that 298 passengers were embarked, there were two births during the voyage & two adults & two infants died, so that 296 passengers disembarked at Sydney, a remarkable achievement for a voyage of 4 1/2 months. Divine Service was performed each Sunday with only two exceptions. There were 46 children on board, but schools were not established because

of want of books, & the Bible was read daily as a substitute. The apartments were daily cleaned out & free ventilation arranged as often as possible, with vinegar & chloride of lime used as a fumigative. These details of information are taken from the Surgeon's report of the voyage, a compulsory part of the regulations to have the ship cleared, & in answer to the question: "What occupations & amusements were recommended & encouraged to prevent idleness & preserve contentment & cheerfulness?" The answer was: "music & dancing, the males occasionally assisting the seamen". When the ship returned to England it took back Australian wool for their spinning mills.

And so James Masters, late lodging-housekeeper of Frome in Somerset, arrived with his children, Elizabeth 11, William 9, James 7, Aaron 2 & Francis 15 months. They settled down at South Creek, St. Mary's.

Frome, the name derived from a Saxon word "FRAU", in Somerset, now has a population of 13,000 & has the typical old English small town centre of narrow streets. In 1831, with 12,000 inhabitants, it was described as consisting "chiefly of a great number of streets, irregularly built & inconveniently narrow, but from their situation tolerably clean. A new opening through the town has recently been made, forming a very handsome street, with well-built houses on each side. The buildings in general are constructed of small rough stone, & roofed with stone dug in the neighbourhood, the inhabitants are well supplied with water & the town has been recently improved by the erection of a commodious market house & other buildings".

The appearance of the centre of the town is not much different from the above description of 140 years ago. There is Bridge Street, Market Street, East Street, West Street, but we could not find Cross Street, where Aaron was born.

My mother's mother, Elizabeth Mizen, arrived from Saffron Walden in Essex on 13 April, 1885, in the ship "Rose of Sharon" of 890 tons, having left Southampton on January 10. "She had made a very fair passage of 93 days from Southampton. She would, no doubt have made it in much quicker time, but for the dreadful weather she experienced. On the 19th March in latitude 44.17S., longitude 118.35E, she encountered a fearful hurricane from the N.E. in which the mainmast head, maintop-mast, fore top-mast, cross trees, main & mizin top-gallant masts were carried away, & also the rudder very badly sprung!"

She brought 365 Government immigrants, who paid pounds 1.0.0 towards the cost of the father's passage, but nothing for his wife & children under 14 years, & in addition a total of pounds 12.0.0 by quarterly payments over two years. The colony was just over the sudden expansion due to the gold rushes, & there was a shortage of labour again. In this week of April, 1855, a total of 1446 immigrants arrived. The Sydney Morning Herald commented - "It is no small gratification to know that these accessions to our community, in so far as they consist of sober, industrious & healthy persons, willing to undertake whatever employment may offer, provided it be within the compass of their ability, are in effect so many



accessions to our wealth. Money-capital without labour is more powerless by far than labour without money-capital. The one must needs lie dormant till the labour comes; the other may at least do something towards fulfilling the primeval law of subduing & replenishing the earth. The trying position of this colony is, that with an abundance of capital we have a deficiency, & a great deficiency of the right kind of labour. The immigration of labour therefore, is the grand desideration to which we look for the profitable employment of our capital, & the active development of the resources of our country".

There were 3 deaths on the "Rose of Sharon", & 1 of them was Elizabeth's mother, who died from consumption. The Mizen family settled at South Creek, St. Mary's.

Saffron Walden, in Essex, now has a population of 10,000, but in 1831 was only 4,500. This is Saxon country & Walden is said to be derived from two Saxon words meaning "woody hill". The culture of Saffron flowers for making dye is said to have been introduced in the 14th century, when it became the town's leading industry. This lasted until the 18th century, when other methods of dyeing wool were developed, but the saffron crocus is still the emblem of the town.

Flemish traders came to the town, & some of the buildings have plaster decorations of these with the date 1676. The church which is a spacious & elegant structure, dates from the 1400's during the reigns of Henry VI & VII. It has an embattled tower & cleristery windows, & two octagonal crocheted turrets at the east end of the nave. The stone spire was erected in the 1830's to replace a wooden spire which was much decayed. Now the stone spire needs restoration, so a Building Appeal was in progress when we were there, with the August flower festival being held in the church to raise funds.

Bus loads of people were arriving from neighbouring parishes so the church was rather full, although it is a very large one. The flowers were magnificent, done out in all kinds of designs, including a peacock, & were all around the altar & sides of the church.

Elizabeth & Aaron were married at the Church of St. Stephen the Martyr, at Penrith, on 24th August, 1868. This church is an early one in the colony with the Foundation Stone laid by Bishop Broughton on 22 November, 1837, & the first church opened in 1839. Grandfather Aaron used to spell his name out to the children as "Big A, little a, RON". Now there is another little Aaron in the family - my niece's daughter has a baby of that name, & so history goes on.

Our journey by Qantas Jumbo Jet took only 24 1/2 hours from Sydney to London, a considerably less time than the months which our ancestors spent on the seas when they first came to Australia.

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April 16, 1855, (p.4c).
- The Methodist: June 6, 1896, (p.8c).
- The Kiama Independent: March, 5, 1907. (p.2d).
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HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE -

Sydney Morning Herald - 25.2.1976.

It is fifteen years to the day since the last tram ran in Sydney.  
It left Hunter Street in the city at 2.48p.m. and terminated at  
La Perouse ... on time.

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WHERE HISTORY IS THE INTRUDER -

Sydney Morning Herald - 25.2.1976

- Joseph Glascott.

Sydney will lose a valued link with its port history, as well as with one of its most colourful early traders, if the Maritime Services Board goes ahead with plans to demolish Towns' Store at Miller's Point.

The two-storey, sandstone building featuring a curved street facade on the corner of Towns Place and Dalgety Terrace, is believed to be the second oldest quayside warehouse in Australia. The oldest is Campbell's Store, now known as Metcalf Bond, in George Street north, but that building has been much altered over the years.

Towns' Store, built in the 1830's by Robert Towns from stone quarried on the site, remains substantially as it was originally designed. The historical background of Robert Town and his warehouse has been researched by Mr D Sheedy, a research officer for the National Trust.

Towns, who was born at Langhoseley, Northumberland, in 1794, had command of a ship by the age of 18. Soon after, he bought his own vessel, The Brothers, and engaged in the immigrant trade to Australia in 1820s.

The Brothers was regarded as the fastest ship in the business at that time. It was the first vessel to carry a full cargo of Australian wool to England.

After several voyages between England and Australia, Robert Towns married a sister of W.C. Wentworth in 1833, and settled in Sydney. He built a stone warehouse on its present site, then known as Jones Wharf, and by 1842 the firm of Robert Towns and Company was a leading business house at Miller's Point.

Towns then lived opposite in Victoria Terrace, now known as Dalgety Terrace. (Later he bought Cranbrook at Bellevue Hill and died there in 1873).

By 1844 Towns had built up a fleet of small vessels, including the Wave, Cecilia and Woodlark, with which he traded far and wide to the Pacific Islands, Hong Kong, Mauritius, India and China. He was also involved in the whaling business off Australia.

In 1854 he went into partnership with Mr (later Sir) Alexander Stuart and was involved in pastoral, finance and commercial ventures in North Queensland. The city of Townsville commemorates his efforts in opening up North Queensland.

In 1856 Robert Towns was appointed to the Legislative Council of N.S.W. He was one of the leaders in the successful agitation to end the transfer of convicts from England to N.S.W.

After his death his firm remained in business under other management and became one of the largest import firms in Australia, importing the first steam locomotives from the United States.

Towns' Store at West Rocks therefore has a direct and most important connection with early Australian history.

I would like to see Towns' Store and other early Sydney buildings around the Circular Quay, George Street North and the Rocks, preserved to form a first settlement trail. The trail could be modelled on Boston's Freedom Trail - a line of red bricks set into the pavements leading visitors through Boston's historical areas.

I have walked Boston's trail several times. From Boston, it runs past the Beacon Hill cemetery containing the graves of Paul Revere and many other American revolutionary patriots, past the Revolutionary Meeting Hall, the Colonial Governor's House, historic Faneuil Hall and the Old North End Quarter where Paul Revere's timber house and the old North Church still stand.

Why not have a similar trail marking Australia's first settlement history leading from Sydney Cove?

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