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ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



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ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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24 Duff Street,
ARNCLIFFE. 2205.

March 1982.

Dear Friend and Member,

The March Meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, March 26th, 1982, at 8.00 p.m.

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

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: Alderman Ron Rathbone, Mayor of Rockdale Municipality, has kindly consented to be Guest Speaker on this occasion. He will give an illustrated address.

Subject:

"Joseph Davis and Lydham Hall".

Many of our Members are not conversant with the history of Lydham Hall, or the Davis Family, so, in his inimitable way, Alderman Rathbone will make this occasion interesting and entertaining.

Supper Roster: Mrs. Mendoza, Captain, and Mesdames Menser and Turton.

Mr. R. Lee,
President.
Phone 570 1244.

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

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Sec. & Bulletin Edtr.
Phone 59 8078.

Mrs. E. Wright,
Treasurer.
Phone 599 4884.

Miss D. Row,
Social Secretary,
Phone 59 9300.

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

"The ornaments of a house are the friends that frequent it."

..... Emerson.

2.

Many of our Members have been and still are ill. We are sorry to hear this, and hope they will be well again soon.

Heritage Week 1981 was an outstanding success. Put your thinking caps on -- we need suggestions for Heritage Week 1982.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The St. George Historical Society is pleased to announce that the following books, written and illustrated by the late Gifford H. Eardley for the Society, have been reprinted and are now available. No.8 Book was compiled by Mrs. Bronwyn Perkins.

- No.1. "The Wollli Creek Valley"
- No.2. "Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"
- No.3. "Saywells Tramway -- Rockdale to Lady Robinson's Beach"
- No.4. "Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway"
- No.5. "Our Heritage in Stone"
- No.6. "All Stations to Como"
- No.7. "Tempe and the Black Creek Valley"
- No.8. "Early Churches of the St. George District"

All books now available at \$1.25 per copy - plus current rate of postage.
For your copy of the above books, please contact one of the following:-

Mrs. E. Wright - Phone 599 4884, Miss B. Otton - Phone 59 4259 (after 8 p.m.)
Mrs. E. Eardley - Secretary - Phone 59 8078, Mr. A. Ellis - Phone 587 1159.

Also available is a very interesting book - "Tempe - East Hills Railway", by B.J. Madden. Published by Hurstville Historical Society. Price \$1.80 per copy. Postage extra. Phone 599 4884, 59 8078.

The Research Project. "Early Pioneers of the St. George District" -- undertaken by some of our members, is progressing. Much information has been gathered. However, there is still a long way to go. Help from interested members would be greatly appreciated. Can you help towards "Book No.9" in our series of books on history? We would like to thank those members who have contributed. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

HERITAGE WEEKMEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

The March meeting will be held one week later than usual to coincide with Heritage Week. The date of meeting will be 26/3/1982 when Alderman Ron Rathbone will be Guest Speaker.

LYDHAM HALL.

Will be open from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

27/3/82) Will ladies who have volunteered to help on Roster on
)
 28/3/82) either or both of these days please confirm arrangements
 with Mrs. Thompson. Light refreshments will be served.

COACH TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES, CHURCHES, BUILDINGS & POINTS OF INTEREST.

27/3/82. Guide: Mr. Arthur Ellis.

Meet Western side of Rockdale Station - leave 2.00 p.m. - return 5.00 p.m.

Cost - \$2.00 per person.

See Miss D. Row for details. Phone 50 9300.

HERITAGE WEEK 1982
(March 22 - 28)

National Trust Magazine No.12.
November 1981.

"The aim of Heritage Week is to alert the people of N.S.W. to their cultural and environmental heritage and to make them more aware of the things we want to keep for future generations.

This aim is achieved during the week by holding a wide variety of functions focusing attention on different aspects of our heritage.

Exhibitions are being planned at the Art Gallery of N.S.W. and Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Universities and other Museums, and city stores are also planning their participation.

Heritage Week Fair will once again be held as a finale to the Week."

GEORGE PREDDEY.

- Margaret Callister
Jean Preddey
Ron Rathbone.

George Preddey was born in Bath in 1807. He arrived in Sydney aboard the convict transport "Prince Regent" on 27th September 1827, having been sentenced to seven years transportation at the Shrewsbury Assizes on 25th March 1826 for housebreaking.

George Preddey was, by trade, a tallow Chandler, and on his arrival in Sydney, was indentured to Daniel Smallwood, a farmer of Pitt Town near Windsor.

Having completed his sentence, Preddey became first a mineral surveyor, then a dairyman and later a dray proprietor operating from premises in Castlereagh Street. By 1851 he was a corn Chandler and sail maker. Finally he extended his interests to that of a timber merchant, and with two partners acquired the business of John Booth and Co., of Kent Street in addition to owning the Summerhill sawmill on the North Coast. During 1840 and 1841 he bought land at Macdonald River, Mulgoa, Ulladulla and Mudgee.

His interest in timber no doubt influenced his decision to buy two parcels of land at Bexley in 1850 comprising 65 acres which to-day would be bounded by Forest Road, Stoney Creek Road and Preddeys Road - it is hard to believe that at that time that whole area was heavily timbered. Mrs Annie Preddey, wife of George Preddey, Junior, made available in 1907 to Bexley Council, part of the Preddey Estate for 1,000.0.0 pounds, the land on which Bexley Park is now situated.

In April 1836 George Preddey married Margaret Carey at St. Phillip's Church, Sydney. Margaret had migrated to Australia as a free settler some 18 months before. There were 13 children of the marriage, 4 dying in infancy. There is a stained glass window in Christ Church, Bexley, given by George Preddey, the eldest son, and other windows in the church commemorate other members of the family.

In 1860 he erected on the smaller of the two sites he had purchased a commodious two-storey residence which he named "Besborough" and he lived there in considerable comfort and style until the death of his wife in October 1876.

The property was completely self-supporting with his own cattle and poultry, extensive vegetable gardens and a fine orchard. George Preddey took two of his sons, George Junior and William, into partnership in his business and acquired the business of

John Booth and Co., Wholesale Fuel, Timber and Produce Merchants, which at one time was one of the largest suppliers of timber and corn meal in the colony.

George Preddey had not only become a man of wealth and considerable enterprise but a man of great religious faith. He was one of the first churchwardens of St. George's Anglican Church at Hurstville - a church he was later to richly endow and in which there is a stained glass window in memory of him. He was Chairman of the Gannon's Forest Road Trust which had responsibility for keeping the Illawarra Road in repair. He was also a member of the Board of the first government school built at Hurstville.

In April 1872 George Preddey added to his holdings at Bexley by purchasing the triangular piece of land adjoining "Besborough" which extended to the junction of today's Stoney Creek and Forest Roads. He is buried in the family grave at Woronora.

It is interesting to note the various streets in Bexley which have been named after members of the family, namely, Preddeys Road. Henderson Road is named after Anne Stobey Henderson who married George Junior and Besborough Avenue is from "Besborough", the family home. Halley Avenue refers to another member of the family through marriage. Alice, one of George's daughters, married Edward Milsop, hence Milsop Street, Carlton and Lewis, the eighth child married a Miss Hannam, no doubt related to David Hannam of Arncliffe. Hector Wearne, first Town Clerk of Bexley, married Minnie, George's fourth child.

Walter Preddey, a grandson of George, married Emily Sussanah Kinsela, thus uniting two prominent Bexley families and Miss Anne Preddey, another granddaughter, was a well-known Bexley identity.

Mrs Jean Preddey, still living on the Preddey Estate, is the widow of George Preddey, a fourth generation descendant, and Mrs Preddey's daughter, Gloria Williamson, and her two children remind us that the pioneers of Bexley are very relevant to our present day.

GOVERNOR MACQUARIE'S VISIT TO KINGSGROVE AND CANTERBURY.

- B.J.Madden
Kingsgrove
October 1977.

Lachlan Macquarie arrived in Sydney on 31 December 1809, to succeed William Bligh as Governor, after the Rum Rebellion. During the next 12 years, he made a number of extensive tours through N.S.W. and Van Dieman's Land. He kept a Journal during his tours, and this was published by the Trustees of the Public Library of N.S.W. (now the State Library) in 1956.

The first tour commenced on Tuesday, 6 November 1810, and, during the next five weeks, Macquarie visited and named Liverpool, Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt-Town and Wilberforce. Using Parramatta as his main base and covering up to 40 miles in a day, he inspected farms in the area bounded by Menangle, Baulkham Hills and the Nepean at the foot of the Blue Mountains. This covered the full extent of settlement at the time.

On the last day of this first tour, Thursday, 13 December 1810, he set out from Parramatta to visit the farms to the south of the Parramatta Road, before returning to Sydney. On this day's journey, he visited Kogarah Bay, Kingsgrove and Canterbury, by way of what is now Campsie, Kingsgrove and Hurstville, and returning the same way.

Macquarie travelled with ceremony and state. On this tour, in addition to the carriage conveying the Governor and Mrs Macquarie, there were his staff (usually five or six), and sometimes there is mention of servants with two carts for tents, food and other gear. One day there is mention of four troopers. There is no reference to troopers on the day of his visit to this district, but they may have been present. There would certainly be the servants to prepare the 'breakfast (which we had carried along with us)' and presumably a cart to carry it.

The most interesting point to be gained from Macquarie's entry in his Journal is that there was a track through the 'thick forest' which was good enough for a carriage and a cart to use. The track ran from Parramatta Road, Homebush, to Kogarah Bay, by way of Campsie, Kingsgrove and Hurstville, and this was only six years after Hannah Laycock was given her grant at Kingsgrove, and two years after the Townson brothers were given their initial grants in the area between Bexley and Peakhurst. The track was sufficiently good for the journey (13 miles as the crow flies) to take only two hours from Homebush to Kogarah.

The entry for Thursday, 13 December 1810, in Macquarie's Journal

is quoted in full. Some notes follow:

"Thursday 13 Decr. 1810. The farms lying on the shores of Botany Bay, on Cook's River and in the small District of Petersham between Sydney and Botany Bay, being the only ones in the Colony now remaining unexplored in my present tour of inspection. I set out this morning at 7 o'clock from Parramatta with Mrs Macquarie in the carriage, and accompanied by the gentlemen of our family and the Surveyor, to visit those farms on my return home to Sydney. We struck off at Powell's Half-Way-House (1) through the woods and after a very pleasant drive through a thick forest, arrived at Capt. Townson's farm house on Botany Bay (2) at half past 9 o'clock.

We found the Captain at home in his very pretty neat clean little cottage, where he received us with hospitality and in a gentlemanlike manner; and whilst our breakfast (which we had carried along with us) was getting ready, he walked with us to shew us his garden, and all the other little improvements of his farm. His garden we found in excellent order and producing the largest and best strawberries I have yet seen or eaten in this Colony. After breakfast we embarked on the water in Capt. Townson's boat, in order to see his own and his brother Doctor Townson's farm (3), which join each other at this place. The Doctor's farm we found in miserable bad order, with only the solitary hut on it, occupied by two of his indented servants, a man and his wife, the latter being very sickly and to all appearance half starved; there were no appearance whatever of any improvements on this farm which is as yet in a state of nature.

Having viewed these farms we proceeded for five or six miles down Botany Bay until we opened the Heads and entrance of it and then returned to Capt. Townson's cottage after a two hours very pleasant water excursion. At 1.00p.m. we set out again from Capt. Townson's for Mrs Laycock's farm near Cook's River (4) and arrived there at half past 2 o'clock. 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. After resting for half an hour at Mrs Laycock's we pursued our journey on to Canterbury; thus crossing Cook's River (5) twice over a very slender bad bridge within two miles of Mrs Laycock's farm, and is rather dangerous for a carriage. At 4.p.m. we arrived at Canterbury (6) a farm belonging to Mr Robt. Campbell Senr. mercht. at Sydney. It is an extensive farm and a good deal of the wood has been cleared, but the soil is bad and neither good for tillage or pasturage.

I quitted the carriage and mounted my horse at Canterbury in order to inspect the few remaining small farms between this and Sydney; Mrs Macquarie proceeding in the carriage by the

main road, to meet and wait for me at Grose Farm. I called at Mr Moore's, Mr Blaxcell's, Mr Blaxland's, Capt. Rowley's and several other smaller farms in the District of Petersham (7), all of which are poor and of little value; the farm houses, however, are tolerably good and considerable pains have been taken to clear, enclose and improve the lands.

At half past 5 p.m. I joined Mrs Macquarie, whom I found in the carriage near Grose Farm (8), and there getting in to the carriage again, we drove in to Sydney, arriving at the Government House at six o'clock in the evening, having been absent on this very pleasant tour of inspection 5 weeks and 2 days."

Notes:

- (1) This was at Homebush, near the present railway station.
 - (2) Captain John Townson's house was called the Retreat on Kogarah Bay, north of Carss Park. It took half an hour from Parramatta to Homebush, so it took two hours from Homebush to Kogarah with a carriage and a cart through thick forest - so the track must have been in reasonable condition.
 - (3) In actual fact, they didn't adjoin, being separated by the present Carss Park. Dr Robert Townson's grant of 75 acres comprised the whole of Tom Uglys Point.
 - (4) Hannah Laycock's 500 acres extended from Stoney Creek Road to William Street, between Kingsgrove Road and Bexley Road. I believe that her cottage was situated near the present corner of Homer Street and Rosemeath Avenue.
 - (5) The crossing was probably at the northern end of the present Beamish Street. Beamish Street was the road leading to Laycock's and Townson's.
 - (6) Canterbury Vale was originally granted to Reverent Richard Johnson in 1793.
 - (7) This refers to a much larger district than the present suburb of Petersham.
 - (8) Grose Farm became the site of the University of Sydney.
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MUNICIPAL JOTTINGS.

- *The Propeller*, 13.4.1937.

The Oatley School of Arts has asked Kogarah Council for a subsidy equal to the year's rates of pounds 6.13.9. Council decided to grant half this amount as a subsidy.

Permission has been granted by Kogarah Council for an animated electric sign to be placed on the Carlton Stadium, to depict two moving figures boxing, together with lettering.

Permission was given at the last meeting of Sutherland Shire Council to the holding of boxing contests at Cronulla, in Thornton Hall, on condition that the contests were in aid of church funds.

The Australian Gas Light Company has informed Kogarah Council that it will lay gas mains in the new Kogarah Bay residential area, as it would be to the mutual advantage of both authorities.

The Kogarah Inspector (Mr Bardsley) has reported to Kogarah Council that the house numbers in Greenbank Street were all out of order, and he recommended that the street be renumbered. This will be done.

The Cronulla Parents and Citizens' Association suggested at the last meeting of Sutherland Shire Council that a medal be presented by the Council to school children to commemorate the coronation. Council decided to reject the proposal, as it was now too late.

Residents of Kogarah Municipality are complaining of the manner in which the council allows heaps of soil and rubbish to remain in the streets for weeks and months before being removed. They contend that such attention is not only dangerous but is not in the best interests of civic pride.

The Main Roads Department has notified Sutherland Shire Council that, owing to the stress of other work, it has been impossible to carry out the work of planting trees on main roads in the Shire. Designs will be prepared shortly for planting trees along various roads in the area.

The Gynea Bay School of Arts asked Sutherland Shire Council for a remission of the annual rates, viz., 19/10. Council refused the request, as where an annual subsidy was given to these institutions the rates were expected to be paid. Council recently voted a ten pounds subsidy to this institution.

Kogarah Council decided at the last meeting to send a letter of congratulation to a member of its staff, Mr Mitchell, who gained first prize for his dray turnout in the recent Royal Show. This was the third time in succession that Kogarah Council has won first prize at the Show.

The Hurstville Building Inspector (Mr H. Doig) reported at the last council meeting that he had found a galvanised iron motor garage erected in Victoria Avenue, Penshurst, at the rear of a house. As it had been built without council's permission, it was decided to order that it be demolished.

Sutherland Shire Council has decided to extend the existing foreshore protection construction at Kurnell another two chains south of its present termination. Council also decided to instruct its engineer to report on the cost of extending the jetty at Kurnell, so that it could be used at low tide. Repairs will also be made.

Alderman Poulton complained at the last meeting of Kogarah Council that Hurstville railway station was understaffed on Saturday afternoons. He had seen long queues of people waiting to be served with tickets, there not being sufficient men at work to meet requirements. The Railway Department will be asked to make improvements.

A resident of Oyster Bay has informed Sutherland Shire Council, the reserve between Oyster Bay and Coronation Bay Roads was being destroyed by the removal of timber. He said trees were being cut down and carted away in lorries. He wanted immediate action taken to prevent the place being made an eye-sore. Council will investigate.

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THIRD ANNUAL WALDRON-McCARTHY MEMORIAL LECTURE.

"A cordial invitation is extended to the members of your Society to be present at the above lecture to be held on Saturday, 1 May, 1982, at 2.30 p.m. in the Amaroo Room, Civic Centre, MacMahon Street, Hurstville.

The guest speaker will be Alderman Ron Rathbone, and his subject will be "Some Early Politicians of the St. George District".

Mr. Rathbone has done a great amount of historical research, and this talk is based on one of the subjects he has studied. His published works include histories of Carlton and of Bexley. He was the Foundation Secretary of the St. George Historical Society in 1961 until 1969, and is the present Mayor of Rockdale Municipality.

We do hope as many as possible will be able to attend what should be a very interesting afternoon, and we look forward to a pleasant social occasion following the lecture. "

D.J. Hatton. Phone 587 9970 by 23/4/82.