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PRICE 5 c.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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24 Duff Street,
ARNCLIFFE. 2205.
April 1982.

Dear Friend and Member,

The April Meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, April 16th, 1982, at 8.00 p.m.

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

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: "The Parishes and Mintaville". Mr. Arthur Ellis will present this interesting subject, which he has researched very thoroughly, together with illustrations. This, I'm sure, you will enjoy. Mr. Ellis is one of our very early and most interested Members, who thoroughly enjoys researching the almost unsearchable.

Supper Roster: Mrs. Jones, Captain, and Misses Murphy, Wood, and if able, Miss McDougall.

Mr. R. Lee,
President.
Phone 570.1244.

Mrs. B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer.
Phone 587.9164.

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Sec. & Bulletin Ed.
Phone 59.8078.

Mrs. E. Wright,
Treasurer.
Phone 599.4884.

Miss D. Row,
Social Secretary.
Phone 50.9300.

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

"Concern yourself with but today, woo it and teach it to obey your will and wish. Since time began, today has been the friend of man, but in his blindness and his sorrow, he looks to yesterday and tomorrow."

..... Author Unknown.

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 and 1982 were outstanding successes. Put your thinking caps on -- we need suggestions for Heritage Week 1983.

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 Wolli 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"
- No. 9. "Early Pioneers of the St. George District" -- should be available later this year.

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.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

Social announcements in our May Bulletin.

CHARLES BAMPTON AND FAMILY

*Phyllis Stiskin - Moruya -
8th December 1980.*

After travelling by sailing ship from England to Sydney Town in the year 1849, young Charles Bampton at the age of four found himself at Bathurst 1850, where he grew into manhood, learnt the trade of saddlery, possibly with Rutherfords, (known first as Cobb & Co., then Rutherford, then back to Cobb & Co.). Charles married a Scottish lass at North Bourke where he had his saddlery business from 1879 in partnership with the famed whipmaker, J.B. Spratt, and they were among the first to use kangaroo skins and hides.

In 1883 a son Robert was born, then later William and daughter Marion.

The disastrous flooding of the Darling River at Bourke 1890, wiped out the home and business of the Bamptons along with practically all the township. Charles stayed in Bourke working on several stations. Jean Bampton with her children came to Lauff Street, Rockdale to live, where daughter Ruby was born and the children finished their education at the Rockdale Public School.

Charles joined his family at Lauff Street, and after the death of his wife in 1911, retired to Lymington Street, Bexley, growing a beautiful long white beard, which with his long white hair, rosy cheeks and very blue sparkling eyes, he was the perfect walking image of our 'Santa Claus'.

Robert was a member of the Rockdale Public School Cadet Drum and Fife Band, and one of 'Cope's Hopes' at that school. He was also a member of the St. George Sailing Club and choir member of the Congregational Church. He joined the membership of the Orangemen's Lodge, becoming 'Sir Robert Bampton', a Past Grand Master.

Robert and William learnt trades of carpentry and cabinet making with the furniture firm of Rickets and Thorpe, at Rockdale.

The sons of families, Stones, Toms, Beehags, Booths, Stewart, Fortesque, were some of their friends, nearly all played football. On the field William was nicknamed "Flea", being small of stature and fast, they could never catch him.

In 1907, Robert married Elizabeth Booth in the Congregational Church, Kogarah. They built their home in Spring Street, Alexandria, as it was then called, later known as Park Avenue Banksia, now Gardiners Street (Avenue) Banksia, the house still stands on the north side of the street.

Many a time I have watched sport played on the ground adjacent to our back fence, or from my special perch in our large and beautiful fig tree. One memorable occasion, we watched the passing out parade of the Light Horse Infantry, beautiful horses and their riders with red jackets and feathered hats. Walter Booth was among the riders, It was a glorious

sight as they took the salute, then two abreast, they rode up the incline out of the Park, near the right hand side of Lydham Hall, the only house I can remember being there then, about 1916. We called it the 'big house up the hill'.

The home of Elizabeth and Robert, where Nurse Gannon attended three births of their five children, has had a few renovations and alterations, but from his ledger I can tell the cost of every nail, screw etc., originally put into it. It may be interesting to compare these notes and know some names of those times

. May 1st, 1909	land cost pounds 40.0.0 in Spring Street.
. Williamsons & Sons re transfer	pounds 2.16.0.
. Refund of rates	5/7d. McMillan's insurance ... 13/4d.
. Building permit	5/0d. Opening road permit ... 5/0d.
. Water fees	7/4d. Bricks, per thousand ... 2.8.0.
. Municipal rates	13/4d. Water rates to June 30th, 1910 ... 3/4d.

Names mentioned helping or supplying of materials were:

George Fortescue	Fred Booth (brother-in-law) - painter
D. Cairncross	W. Burns Grace Bros.
T. Grounds	J. McAuliffe Metters
S. Gissing	A. E. Cornish M. J. Conlon
M Hillier	Neaves & Co., John Keep & Co.
George Hudson & Co.	Binns, Wadge and Brown.

Unfortunately no addresses are given, but most are easily recognised.

Robert read the blue prints and supervised the building of the original 'Kingsford Smith Aerodrome' at Mascot, later it was a hanger, 'The Kingsford Smith Aeroplane Hanger'.

William married Bessie Toms, daughter of Caroline and Charles Toms of 'Dunalean', Victoria Street Arncliffe. Two sons of Eva Toms, Archer and Henry (Harry) are on the roll of Honour, at Bexley Public School.

Marion Bampton married George Frederick Parkes and they lived on the west side of Bexley Park.

Ruby Bampton married Frederick Smith, grower of the famous George's River oysters at Tom Ugly's Point, now gone to make way for the reclaimed sub-division of Sylvania.

WILLIAM THOMAS BOOTH ---

- Phyllis Stiskin - Moruya -
8th December 1980.

My Grandfather built and lived in several of the lovely stone houses in Wollongong Road, Arncliffe. I remember the one opposite Arncliffe Park, another on the corner of Station Street and 'Lillyville', named after his youngest daughter.

William Thomas Booth, wife Bessie and son William came from Chester, England on the ship 'Hampshire'. My mother, Elizabeth Hamshire Booth was born in Australian waters on board the 'Hampshire', 21st September 1883.

Having worked for the London Railways, W.T.Booth transferred to Sydney Railways, mainly at Tempe, Rockdale and Arncliffe. He was at Arncliffe as a 'night porter' on a Station Master's Ticket. According to the railway's records, he retired because of ill-health, in 1911. (see attached).

Then W.T.Booth turned to building, under the not unusual circumstances of the times, as having built a home for himself, lived in it for a time, sold it and went on to build another, hence Sands Street Directory has him listed as:

Queen Street,	Arncliffe	1889	King Street	Arncliffe	1901
Hurst Street	Arncliffe	1902-3.	Dennison St	Arncliffe	1904
Farr Street	Rockdale	1907,8,9.	Wollongong Rd		1909-18.
			(Lillyville)		

then at No.8 Hamilton Street, Arncliffe, where William lived until his death in 1937, and Bessie Booth until her death at aged 90 years, in September 1951. Bessie Booth's notification was in the 'Propellor' at Hurstville on Thursday 20th September 1951.

Post & Telegraph Names:

1891	John & Charles Luff	-	Market gardeners	- north side
1891	George A Thorpe	-	Joiner - Luff (or Lauff) St.,	north side.
1892	Charles Bampton	-	Luff Street Arncliffe	- north side
1895-99 & 1901-1910	- Charles Bampton	-	Luff Street Arncliffe	-
1884	Jolloffes	-	Old Wollongong Road	Botany West.
1885	William Beehag	-	Short Street - (Spring Street to	Paddock)
1885	S.A.Jeeves	-	Hannan Street, Botany West off	Arncliffe Street.

COPY OF RAILWAY RECORD: (original details in copperplate handwriting)
Folio 1369 - Traffic Railways Register.

Name in full - BOOTH William. Date of birth 17 Oct.1859. Proof of age..
(iilegible)

Temporary Staff Certificate No Nil

Date commenced on probation for 6 months 17 Feb 1885

Permanent Staff Certificate No. nil.

Date commenced to contribute to Railway Service Superannuation

Fund - 1 Oct.1910.

Board of Examiners' Certificate No. Nil.

For particulars of Insurance Policies transferred to the Railway
Service Superannuation Board, see Insurance Card

Date	Position	Station	Branch	Rate of Pay	
17.Feb.'85	Porter	Sydney Dist.	Traffic	7/-	per day
1 .Jan.'86	"	Arncliffe	"	7/6	" "
25.Feb.'89	Signalman	"	"	7/6	" "
13.May '89	Porter	"	"	7/-	" "
15.July'89	Signalman	"	"	7/6	" "
1. Jan '90	"	"	"	8/-	" "
2. Jan '91	"	"	"	8/6	" "
7. July'91	"	"	"	9/-	" "
7. July'91	"	"	"	10/7	" "
23. March'92	"	"	"	8/6	" " *
22. Nov.'01	"	"	"	9/-	" " Remarks
26. Feb.'04	Ticket Coll.	"	"	8/6	" "
23. July'04	"	"	"	8/6	" "
6. Feb.'05	Barrier Port.	"	"	8/-	" "
24. Feb.'05	Signalman	Tempe	"	8/-	" "
1. May.'06	Night Officer	Erskineville	"	pounds 130	" annum
1. June'06	"	Tempe	"	" 130	" "
1. July'08	"	"	"	" 140	" "
1. Jan'10	"	"	"	" 150	" "
17. Oct.'11	(no entry)				
1909	Night Officer	Tempe			
1903	Signalman	Sydenham			

* Remarks:

.Ca13/246 Granted 6 months leave without pay to visit England from
19.2.'03. Appd.23.1.'03.

.July '04 - Retired. Ca04/1842 To be retired with a gratuity of
237.04 pounds 38.0.0. Booth speaks of
accident in his letter,13504,but
there is no record of his having met
with one. Voucher passed 23.7.'04 for...

.Feb.'05 - Re-employed - Ca04/1842 - appealed to be re-employed and
for further compensation. May be re-employed
when a vacancy occurs 8/- per day, but no
further compensation to be allowed.

-3-

.Feb.'05 (contd.) .. The pounds 38.0.0. gratuity to be refunded
in instalments. Refunded.

.June '06 suspended 5 days in May - deducted from June '06
salaries.(not ... for). This time should have been
4 1/2 days. Paid 1/2 day in July sals.

.Sick from 17.2.'11 to 14.3.'11 and paid at pounds 75.0.0. p.a. -
half rates pounds 4.17.0 - pounds 10.1.7, 3/- sup.paid 13 days
leave and to ... amt 26.5.'11.

.Oct.'11 - Retired - approved to be retired on Medical Officer's
recommendation. Ca/11/57935 .. 5.9.'11.
Decided by Superannuation Board 'to be retired' 14.12.'11.
Only one month's leave on retirement approved owing to
large ... of sick leave granted

THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE IN 1874.

-B J Maden
Kingsgrove - November 1976.

There are some interesting comments about the Church of England parish of St. George as it was in 1874, in the "Australian Churchman" of that year.

An item referring to the erection of a parsonage for the Minister appeared on 14 March 1874 (p 185) and 18 April 1874 (p 232). Land had been given by William Wolfen, Esq., adjoining the church at the present-day Kogarah and there was an appeal for funds. The reports stated "the inhabitants of these districts are all poor and unable to subscribe much for this purpose".

On 19 September 1874, (p 408) there is a further appeal and the Minister states: "The people of this district are very poor - many of them get their living by cutting wood and carting it to Sydney for sale. The district is very sparsely inhabited and on this account it is necessary to hold four services on each Sunday. These services are held at Arncliffe, Lord's Forest, Rocky Point Road and Belmore. The average aggregate attendance is about 175".

The localities referred are now known as Arncliffe, Hurstville, (Lord's Forest), Kogarah (Rocky Point Road) and Punchbowl (Belmore).

THE WOOD-CARTERS OF EARLY ST. GEORGE ...

- B J Madden
Kingsgrove
11th December 1978.

In "Notes on the Early Life in Peakhurst", written in the 1930's by Mr George Peake, son of Issac Peake and grandson of John Peake, it is stated that during the Gold Rush in the 1850's, firewood was carted from the present St. George district to a place in Darlinghurst where there was a water pump, and sold there at good prices.

However, he says that, after the gold rush, there was a slump, money was scarce, and firewood nearly had to be given away. The wood-carters no longer went to the pump, but the wood was cut into small pieces almost ready for use, hawked around the streets, and sold by one shilling's worth instead of by the load.

In an article about old residents of Newtown in 1922 (Smith S.D., 'Municipality of Newtown Diamond Jubilee Souvenir', 1922 - Mitchell Library: 352.911/1A 1), is this story of Mr T Deaman, (who was 73 years of age at that time and so was born between 1848-1850) and his connection with the wood-carters, perhaps from as early as the mid-1850's:

I claim that Mr Tom Deaman, of Alice Street, Newtown is Newtown's longest resident.

'Tom' Deaman was born in the district 73 years ago, and has lived in it ever since. He started work as a nipper in the fuel business, and stayed in that business, and was never in any other, to the end, and now resides in Alice Street.

Actually it was outside the municipal boundaries of Newtown as we know them today that Mr Deaman was born; but he was brought within the boundary shortly after his birth, and has never gone outside. The family home is in Alice Street.

Mr Deaman's first job was among the 'Bushmen' as they were then known. Fuel for practically all purposes was wood-logs from gum trees, felled, stripped, dried, and split. And a hardy breed they were who engaged in the work.

The logs prepared, you took your dray in the early morning out Gannon's Forest (Hurstville and Bexley these days), loaded up and started for town. You did your best to sell it at some works, or to some householder, on the way, of course. If you didn't, you went up Oxford Street, and took

your place in the line by the 'old pump' (from which the householders around drew each day's supply of water).

When a buyer came along and bought it (6/- per load was about the usual price), you took it home and packed it into his wood-house for him. Then you went out Gannon's for another load. If (as sometimes happened) you didn't sell out, you very rarely took the load home, but 'dumped it' on one of the paddocks, down near where Grace Bros' is now, say.

They don't go into the bush at Bexley (!) these days, and sell loads of logs up Oxford Street (!) these days; but Mr Deaman is still in the fuel business - or, rather, the boys still carry on the same old biz (that is probably almost 60 years old) with never a break. Dad sits back and takes it easy these days.

LOOK'. Decorative arts in the heart of the City....

- Leslie Walford
The Sydney Morning Herald
1st August 1980.

Up on Macquarie Street, in the heart of Sydney, are two of the most important buildings of early colonial Australia - the Hyde Park Barracks and the Mint.

These indispensable relics of our past are now being carefully restored and by mid-1981 they will once more embellish the City which has, for a long time overlooked their presence. Both buildings will become museums, housing part of the State's collection of decorative arts. They will be under the umbrella of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences which is undergoing a long awaited expansion. Over the next few years it will be moving into the magnificently restored Ultimo Power House and should become one of the world's great museums of the sciences.

In a separate new building - also on the Ultimo site - the bulk of the State's decorative arts will be exhibited allowing the museums at the Mint and the Barracks to be shop windows for the rest of the collection. They will also house loan and special temporary exhibitions.

Decorative arts embrace a multitude of items: furniture, porcelain, silver, glass, musical instruments, clocks, tapestries, textiles, furnishings and fashions. The basis of the State's collection is there but many more items will have to be added by purchase, bequests and gifts.

The Mint and the Barracks buildings, in the heart of the City, are in good company with the Art Gallery, the Library, the Museum, the Opera House and the Conservatorium all close by.

The Mint building was once part of the Rum Hospital. Later it became an infirmary for soldiers, then quarters for surgeons and later still a dispensary. After the gold rushes when there was a severe shortage of currency which always had been imported from Britain a branch of the Royal Mint was set up, and this building earned its present name. In the 1870s a furnace room to smelt gold was added, and a steel-lined bullion room. After 1926, the Mint was converted into district courts, government offices, and the parliamentary library. In recent years it became empty, ready for a new chapter in its history.

The Barracks building was commissioned by Governor Macquarie who felt that for better moral order the convicts not billeted with free settlers should have their own suitable lodgings. The convict architect Francis Greenway was commissioned to design the quarters. Work began in 1817 and the Barracks were opened on the King's birthday, June 4, 1819.

Early relics have been found under the Barracks' floors- a convict's

calico nightshirt, stamped with an arrow and a leather wrist guard to protect the skin under an iron handcuff.

Architecturally, the Barracks is undeniably Greenway's finest work - an elegant structure, lending an aura of grace to its surroundings. (Greenway, however, described the Mint as a gimcrack building; but the external effect is also elegant, especially the later addition of the fretted wooden balustrade.)

Soon the Premier, Mr Wran, who has taken a personal interest in the new museum, will announce the series of exhibitions planned for them in their first year of operation. But the buildings themselves are also "museum pieces" and restoration will be based on the idea of preservation rather than renewal.

Restoration is in the hands of the Government architects. The curator of the new museums is Margaret Bettridge formerly Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. An advisory panel under the chairmanship of Leo Schofield (a trustee of the M.A.A.S.) includes Dr Lindsay Sharp, Director of the M.A.A.S., the State Librarian, Russell Doust, the historian Donald Horne, the Head of the Sydney College of the Arts, John Bailey, myself, Andrew Andersons and David Turner, both government architects, and Dick Guyot from the Cultural Activities section of the Premier's Department. The buildings will be opened to the public after the middle of next year.

The Mint will be used to display smaller articles and exhibitions of a semi-permanent nature. Coins, medallions, stamps, glass, ceramics, textiles, clocks, clothing, jewellery, trinkets and some paintings of early Sydney will be housed here.

The ground floor of the Barracks will have an information centre and a bookshop, a small permanent exhibition will illustrate the history of the Barracks and there will be space for exhibitions on loan. The middle floor will have a semi-permanent display of social history, with vignettes of decorating and furnishing, decade by decade, from 1800 to 1960.

The past will be recalled in style through the use of fabrics, finishes, furniture and ornaments. The top floor of the barracks will retain its great beamwork. Indeed part of this floor will be kept in the way it was, when convicts slept there. An austere quality must prevail but this floor could in part be used for exhibitions concerned with our beginnings and the convict era.

Soon these two buildings will come to life after a long sleep. They will add a new lustre to central Sydney, providing many people who enjoy history and the scope of the decorative arts, with a focal point for their interests.
