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ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



PRICE 5 c .

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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24 Duff Street,
ARNCLIFFE. 2205.

August 1983.

Dear Friend and Member:

The August Meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, August 19th, 1983, at 8.00 p.m.

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

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: Mr. Vaughan Evans will present the following:

"Man is Not Lost". How the early Navigators found their way
across the Pacific Ocean, from very early Spanish to Captain Cook.
Working Models of instruments used will be shown.

Supper Roster: Captain: Miss Callister, with Mesdames Preddy and Teychenne.

Ladies please bring a plate.

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

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

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Sec. & Bulletin Editor.
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.

"The wealth of a man is the number of things he loves
and blesses, which he is loved and blessed by."

.... Thomas Carlyle.

A cheerio for Members who are not so well -- we hope to see you at the meetings soon.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The St. George Historical Society is pleased to announce that the following books, Nos. 1 - 7 written and illustrated by the late Gifford H. Eardley for the Society, have been reprinted and are now available. Books Nos. 8 and 9 have been compiled by Mrs. Bronwyn Perkins.

No. 1.	"The Wollie Creek Valley" - (presently out of print))	
No. 2.	"Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway")	Price
No. 3.	"Saywells Tramway - Rockdale to Lady Robinson's Beach")	\$2.50
No. 4.	"Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway")	plus
No. 5.	"Our Heritage in Stone")	postage.
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 Settlers of the St. George District" now available.)	
	Price \$4.00 plus 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 - Sec., Phone 59 8078, Mr. A. Ellis - Phone 587 1159.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

Annual Subscription due in July 1983. Single Sub. - \$5.00.
 Family Sub. - \$7.00.

HAVE YOU OVERLOOKED THIS?

2NBC-FM STEREO 90.1 - ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEGMENT.
 Tuesday Evenings 6.30 p.m. - 6.45 p.m.

16th August - Primrose House - Arthur Ellis.
 23rd August - The Man and the Collection - B. Perkins.
 (The Mitchell Library)
 30th August - A Brief History of the Carss Family & of
 Carss Bush Estate - Arthur Ellis.
 6th September - The Sans Souci Tramway - Frank Moag.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR MEETINGS.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1982-1983.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

15th July 1983

Once again I am privileged to submit this report to the 1983 Annual General Meeting of the St. George Historical Society. The Society has again had an active and successful year. Membership has been maintained. The monthly meetings have been enthusiastically and well attended. The friendliness which has become somewhat of a tradition, continues to flourish.

A number of new members have joined the Society during the past 12 months. They are warmly welcomed. Visitors are welcome at all times and I invite members to bring interested friends to our meetings.

During the year a number of our members have died. Their passing is a sad loss to the Society. Also, some members have been ill. To those still not well, the hope of an early recovery is tendered.

On behalf of members of the Society, I extend thanks and appreciation to the Vice Presidents and other Officers, including all members of the Management Committee, for their support and assistance throughout the year. Once again, the untiring efforts of our Hon. Secretary - Mrs Eardley and our Hon. Treasurer - Mrs Wright, are acknowledged with special thanks. The contribution of other members, who willingly assist in many ways, also is acknowledged and appreciated.

Rockdale Municipal Council: The Society continues to benefit from the support of its sponsor - Rockdale Municipal Council. The courtesy and generous assistance given to the Society by the Council, its Officers and Staff, is once again gratefully acknowledged. The support of our Patrons, The Mayor, Alderman R W Rathbone and the Town Clerk, Mr R Fuller, is highly regarded.

Management Committee: The Committee has met at intervals throughout the year. The meetings have been well attended. Various matters of importance, have been the subject of discussions, to which all members have contributed. Recommendations resolved at meetings, were duly submitted to the Society for its consideration.

Activities of the Society: The Society has continued to be successfully involved in various activities associated with its aims, these include:

. Research Projects: Directed by Mr Ellis - Research Officer, and supported by Mrs Perkins - Publicity Officer, research work by members of the Society has progressed steadily during the year. Book No.9 "Early Settlers of the St. George District" Vol.1, was published and released for sale. The efforts of all who contributed to the research and to the publication is acknowledged. Whilst the publishing of Book No.9 has been more difficult and much more costly, than for earlier books, its success is confidently anticipated.

It is recommended that planning soon commence, toward the publishing of the supporting Vol.2 - Book No.10. Much of the material for this, has been prepared and recent experience gained, should stand in good stead.

. Royal Australian Historical Society: The St. George Historical Society continued to be affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society. This connection is most necessary for us and is highly valued.

. Heritage Week 1983: The Society again contributed toward this State wide celebration, held in April. Notwithstanding some inclement weather, the various functions were successfully accomplished. Thanks and appreciation are due to the many members who contributed so much to the success of this period.

An interesting innovation this year, was the student essay competition, organised as a Heritage Week event. Congratulations to Vincent Araullo of Bexley, Peter Douroudis of Bexley and Richard Tuckwell of Banksia, for their successful entries. Richard's essay reveals a very early link - back to 1792 - which he must value.

. Community Access Radio - Local History Talks. The offer, graciously extended by Mr Ian Ryan, Manager of the new F.M. Radio Station, 2NBC, for programme participation by the Society, was accepted with enthusiasm. Weekly talks, given by members, are now well established and have proven very successful. Members who have organised and participated in this new venture are to be congratulated.

The Society was represented at various community and other related functions during the year.

. Lydham Hall: Continues to flourish under the direction of the Lydham Hall Local Committee and the administration of the Curator, Miss Otton. The high standard of presentation, to which the property has been restored and maintained, attracts a constant flow of interested visitors.

During the year a number of groups, by arrangement, have inspected Lydham. The most recent of these was by the Illawarra Historical Society. On this occasion, the

visitors were guests of our Society at morning tea. This was a happy and rewarding event, much appreciated by the visitors. Thanks are due to all of those ladies who assist on such occasions.

Lydham Hall is an important activity of the Society, and must be supported to the full. Volunteers to assist in conducting visitors through the building are still required. Members who are able and who are not already involved in this role, are invited to see Miss Otton.

.Tours and Outings: Separate coach tours to the Gosford District and to the Blue Mountains, held in August and November 1982, were very successful. Lately, however, rising costs have caused difficulties with organised trips.

Nevertheless, tentative suggestions for the introduction of alternative type excursions have been made and hopefully will be further developed in the near future. Thanks and appreciation to Miss Row, our Social Secretary, for her efforts on our behalf.

May I pay tribute to the guest speakers, who so willingly contribute to the success of our monthly meetings.

Similarly, to the ladies who afterwards provide and prepare supper. I express appreciation on behalf of all members.

In conclusion, I acknowledge with sincere thanks the kindness and assistance, which members have extended to me throughout the year.

May the Society continue to prosper and achieve further success.

R.Lee President.

St. George Historical Society - Year Ending 30th June 1983

INCOME
 Members' Subs..... 579.20
 R.A.H.S.Cultural
 Grant..... 100.00
 Members' Donations.. 101.40
 Badge Sales..... 6.00
 Sale Scy.Books..... 627.75
 Tempe-East Hills Book. 9.85
 Bus Trips..... 604.00
 Raffles..... 68.95
 Refund Xmas Party.... 23.00
 Loans by members.... 1100.00
 State Bank Interest. .38
 Commonwealth Bank Int. 40.22

EXPENDITURE
 Nu Print-Book 9 2270.00
 Mrs Eardley
 Postage..... 266.29
 Mrs Eardley
 Petty Cash..... 69.47
 Mrs Wright
 Petty Cash..... 60.00
 Mrs Wright Stamp.... 8.90
 Miss Row Xmas Party. 120.00
 R.A.H.S. fees -
 2 delegates..... 80.00
 R.A.H.S. Annual Sub. 40.00
 Australia Post-fee.. 20.00
 National Trust Sub.. 24.00
 Blytheways Bus Co... 630.00
 Mrs Perkins Stationery.51.24
 Mr Lee-2 books &
 receipt books..... 17.12
 Cheque book..... 5.00
 F.I.D.40c & F.D.T.1.25. 1.65
 State Bank Transfer
 fee..... 1.00
 Balance in bank \$3664.67
 30.6.83.. 773.46
 Less unpres-
 ented cheque. 21.62 751.84
 \$4416. 51

I certify that I have examined the books of account, vouchers, cheque butts and bank statements presented by Mrs E Wright, as treasurer of the above society and in my opinion this represents a true statement of its financial affairs as at 30th June 1983.

(sgd.) M.Dunsmore Auditor. 8.7.83.

LYDHAM HALL FUND RAISING COMMITTEE
for year ending 30th June 1983.

INCOME

Lydham Hall
Admittances..... 436.80
Cake sales..... 4.20
Raffles..... 97.80
Donations.....54.85
Century of Progress
Sales..... 48.00
Sale Society Books... 227.00
Lydham Hall Teaspoons.180.00
H'ville Hist.Scy.
books sold..... 12.80
Bank Interest.....22.01
Cash in bank & on hand
at 30.6.82.....491.33

EXPENDITURE

Petty Cash..... 30.00
Purchase St.G.H.Scy
books..... 205.00
Mobile Carpet Cleaning. 40.00
Xmas Raffle.1982..prize. 30.00
Purchase -Rockdale
Council -Century of
Progress books..... 40.00
Fee to Australia Post
re circulars..... 27.00
Petty Cash..... 15.00
Cheque Book..... 5.00
Transfer Fee -State Bank. 1.00
F.D.T & F.I.D. .26
Cash in bank.....1207.63
1601.79
Less unrepresented cheque. 27.00
Grand total: \$1574.79

I certify that I have examined the books of account, vouchers, cheque butts, bank statements and building society passbook presented by Miss B Otton, as treasurer of the above committee, and in my opinion this represents a true statement of its financial affairs as at 30th June 1983.

(Sgd.) M Dunsmore Auditor 8.7.83.

HISTORY OF THE SARGENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

- Warren Duff
Granville 1981

On 21st December, 1858 John Sargent (sometimes spelt Sargeant) and his wife Elizabeth, with their 8 children arrived in Sydney on the ship "Forest Monarch". John's brother Robert, who was living at Surry Hills met them on arrival.

Two weeks later, on 4th January 1859, their youngest son, William aged 2 years, died in St. John's Lane, Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Death was caused by debility after measles, an illness which had lasted for three months. The doctor of the "Forest Monarch", had attended him the day before. According to the death certificate William had only been in N.S.W. for two days so perhaps he had stayed on board with his mother up until 3rd January. The informant of the death was his father John (occupation - labourer) who signed his name with an "X". William was buried at Camperdown Cemetery on 6th January. John and his brother, Robert were witnesses to the burial.

On 25th April 1860 at Gannon's Forest (now Hurstville), Elizabeth had her final child, William John Sargent. The informant of the birth was Elizabeth Sargent who signed her name with an "X". John was at the time, still working as a labourer, his usual profession.

John's brother Robert, remains a mystery. In the directory for the year 1866, he is listed as a porter at 27 Clarence Street, and in 1867 a storeman of the same address. He is next heard of in 1881 in a newspaper notice which stated "The friends of Mr Robert Sargent are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of his late beloved brother, John." Perhaps it is Robert who is listed on the 1886 electoral rolls as living at the Criterion Hotel, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney. The rest is not clear.

John Sarge(a)nt and Elizabeth Adams were married on 11th February 1839 in the parish of Winterbourne in the county of Gloucester, England, according to the rites of the established church (Church of England). Their ages are not given, probably 25 and 19 years respectively, as per the death certificates. John (a labourer) was the son of Joseph Sarge(a)nt (carpenter) and Mary Sowers. Elizabeth(a minor) was the daughter of George Adams (labourer) and Mary?. John and Elizabeth were residing in Winterbourne at the time. Both signed their names with an "X", as did the witnesses.

On their arrival in N.S.W. the parents of John were both dead, and the parents of Elizabeth were living in Taunton, Somersetshire. Both John and Elizabeth were born in Somersetshire. Winterbourne is several miles from Bristol and about 50 miles north of Taunton.

The following Sydney addresses are known:-

1859 St. John's Lane, Elizabeth Street
1860 Gannon's Forest (Hurstville)
1863 4 Little Albion Street
1864-65 313 Sussex Street
1866 115 Woolloomoolo Street
1873 Hereford Street Glebe
1879 Cook's River.

His occupation is as follows:-

1839, 1858, 1860, 1861, 1875 - labourer
1864-5 dealer. Dealers were generally included with
furniture brokers.

Elizabeth Sargent died aged 58 years on 3rd November 1879, of disease of the liver (duration of illness not known), at Cook's River. She was buried on 5th November. A funeral notice stated "The friends of Mr John Sargent are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of his late beloved wife, Elizabeth; to move from his residence, Cook's River, this (Wednesday) afternoon, at half past 1 o'clock for Newtown Station, thence per train to the Necropolis."

On 17th April, 1881, John Sargent died, aged 69 years (?) of apoplexy (stroke) lasting 20 minutes, according to the doctor who saw him that day. He was staying with his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Azarias Cook, at the Blue Lion Hotel, Elizabeth and Foveaux Street, Sydney. He was buried on 18th April at Rookwood cemetery, Church of England, Section E, Nos. 1664-5, joining his wife, son Samuel and grand-daughter Virtue Ellen Cook. A funeral notice dated 18.4.1881 read as follows: "The friends of Joseph, George, Robert and William Sargent, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of their late beloved father John, to move from his late residence, Blue Lion Hotel, this day, Monday at 2. o'clock, for the Necropolis."

The children of John and Elizabeth were:-

1. Mary Ann - born 27th October 1842 at Taunton. Mary married Henry cope on 1st May 1861, in the Christ Church (of England) Sydney in the presence of her uncle Robert Sargent, and her sister Elizabeth. Henry was a mariner, born in England, aged 27 years, his parents being William Henry Cope, organ builder, and Esther Elizabeth Fleet. Mary was only 18 years old so the consent of her father had to be given. On 27th December 1874, at home, 224 Clarence Street, Mary died of puerperal (child-birth) fever aged 32 years. On 17th December 1874 she had given birth to her only child, Marian Elizabeth who died on 9th January 1875, aged 23 days, of convulsions. The place of death was Cook's River, so she was being cared for by her maternal grandmother

or aunt. Both are buried together at Rookwood Cemetery, Church of England, Section D, No.921. Years later Henry was buried next to his wife and child in an unmarked grave.

2. Anne (also called Anna and Annie) - born 1855 at Winterbourne. In July 1874 she was still in Sydney. On February 6th 1875, at St Paul's Church (of England) Melbourne, Annie, aged 19 years, married William Henry Cassidy, aged 29 years, born Sydney, occupation - overseer of circus. His parents were John Cassidy, carpenter and Margaret Madden. His usual address was given as Sandhurst, Victoria. In May 1882, William and Annie were witnesses to her brother's wedding, William John Sargent. This is the last known about them.
3. Elizabeth - born 1845 at Winterbourne. On 4th July 1864, aged 19 years, Elizabeth married Azarias Cook, aged 25 years, born Wiltshire England, occupation - drayman, son of Azarias Cook, manufacturer (?), and Mary Cliff. The place of marriage was Elizabeth Street, Sydney according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church (although both remained Church of England). On 16th April 1866, Virtue Ellen Cook was born in Forbes Street. A female child was already deceased. Virtue died at the age of 14 years of pneumonia in 1880. Roland was born 1872, Elizabeth 1874 and Isabella 1876. Deceased children were 3 females and 1 male. By 1880, Azarias was a victualler or hotel-licensee. On 14th March 1905 he died of mitral heart disease at Tom Ugly's Point, Kogarah. His occupation is given as a hotel-keeper. He is buried in the Church of England Cemetery, Waverley, near the sea. On 31st August, 1929, Elizabeth Cook died at 116 Mowbray Road, Willoughby, aged 84 years, of myocarditis and senility (one month). She was succeeded by 3 children, and buried with her husband.
4. Joseph - born 1847 at Winterbourne. On 15th August 1871, Joseph, a dealer by occupation, married Sarah Ann Canham, aged 21(?) at Elizabeth Street, Sydney according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. Azarias Cook("X" his mark) and his wife Elizabeth (Sargent) were witnesses. Sarah was the daughter of Charles Canham, Labourer, and Mary Anne High, and was born in Leicestershire. Children of the marriage were -
Mary Ann 1872, Charolotte 1876, William 1878,
Grace 1880, Joseph 1882.

On 8th November, 1885, Joseph aged 38 years died at Prince Alfred Hospital Camperdown of phthisis (T.B.). He was buried the next day in St. Peter's Church of England cemetery.

On 8th April, 1896 Sarah Ann Sargent died at Cook's River Road, Tempe of alcoholism (7 months) and gastro-enteritis (13 days) and heart failure aged 43 years. The informant of her death was her brother Charles Canham of Tempe. She was buried on 10th April in St. Peter's cemetery with her mother and stepfather.

5. George - born 1849 at Winterbourne. On 23rd October 1872, he married Rosanna Selmon aged 17 years at Elizabeth Street, Sydney, according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. Henry Cope and Amos Selmon were witnesses. Rosanna was born at Cook's River.

Their children were - Esther 1875 - May 1877 -
John 1878 - Anne 1882 - Percival 1887 -
Walter 1890 - William 1892 - Francis 1897.
There were also four deceased females.

Addresses were as follows:-

1874 - Dealer, Foster St. 1875 - Dealer, Albion St.
1876 - Labourer, Cook's River 1878 - Labourer,
1883-4 - 108 Sandringham St, Botany West. Sandringham.
1885 - Fisherman, 108 Sandringham.
1886 - Fisherman, Rocky Pt. Rd., Botany West.
1887-8 - Sandringham.
1889-90 - Sandringham, Rockdale.
1902 - Rocky Pt. Rd. Rockdale. 1903 - Rocky Pt. Rd.
Sans Souci.

On 3rd May 1904, George Sargent died of Bright's Disease and Uraemia (6 months) at St. George's Cottage Hospital. He was then a gardener in his mid-fifties, late of Carroll's Hill, Kogarah. He was buried at Woronora Church of England, Section J, No. 18.

Rosanna died on 23rd November 1939 aged 85 years, and was buried alongside her husband. With them are two sons, Walter (died 1921) and William (died 1945), also Rosanna's brother John, who died in 1948, aged 89 years.

6. William - born 1856 at Winterbourne. Died 1859, in Sydney.

7. William John - born 25th April 1860 - at Gannon's Forest, St. George. On 1st May 1882, he married Virtue Ellen Cook (no relation to other Cook's mentioned) at her mother's residence in Union Street, Brunswick, Victoria. They were married according to the rites of the Primitive Methodist Church and witnessed by his sister Annie and her husband William Henry Cassidy. At the time William's occupation was dealer, and address Queen Street, Melbourne. Virtue Ellen Cook, aged 19 years, born at Brunswick and living at home, was the daughter of George Cook, brick-maker, and Mary Lucy Newbury.

William John Sargent came back to Sydney, lived at 9 Louis Street, Redfern during 1885-6 and a child was born (name unknown). However, he returned to Melbourne and during 1890-3 was living in Ivy Street, BK(?). No trace can be found after this time.

8. Robert - born 12th November 1851 at Winterbourne. Later to marry Agnes Maria Peare.
9. Samuel - born 1839, at Winterbourne. He remained a bachelor. He was a labourer by occupation. On 1st April 1879, he died of a rupture of the intestines accelerated by intemperance. He was buried on 4th April at Rookwood Church of England Cemetery, Section E, No.1664-5, the first member of the family to be buried there.

The last day's of Samuel's life are recorded in the Sydney Morning Herald of Friday April 4, 1879 -

"An inquest was held yesterday morning at the Pulteney Hotel, Cook's River, on the body of Samuel Sargeant, who died on Tuesday evening at the residence of his father at Cook's River. John Sargeant identified the body as that of his son, aged 40 years, a native of Gloucestershire, in England, he was a labourer, and had been living with witness for three weeks, the week before his death deceased was unwell, and suffered from diarrhoea, but appeared to be better on Monday morning, he came home on May evening, complaining of a pain in his stomach, which became worse until Tuesday evening when he died.

John Brennan, a stonecutter, residing at Cook's River, knew the deceased, on Monday evening he was present at a fight which took place between the deceased the Jeremiah Phillip, between 10 and 11 o'clock on Monday night.

Senior Constable John Garland saw part of the fight that took place between the deceased and Phillip; he was passing the place and was attracted by the sound of shouts

Henry Lee, a blacksmith, was present at the fight, and gave evidence corroborative of Brennan's.

David Cairncross, a limeburner, stated that the deceased was in his employ; some weeks ago the deceased had to knock off work for three or four days, complaining of pains in his stomach and sickness; on Monday last he complained to witness of cramps in his stomach; and said that he did not think he would be able to work that day; of late the deceased had been looking pale and sickly.

Dr Sedgwick deposed that he had attended the deceased on Tuesday morning.

The Coroner stated that though he accepted the verdict, he thought there was sufficient evidence against Phillip to have him committed for trial, on a charge of manslaughter. He would not, therefore, make an order for his discharge from custody, but would leave him in the charge of the police until he had communicated on the subject with the Attorney-General."

On Friday May 16th, 1879, Jeremiah Phillips, a Fijian, about 23 years of age was charged with killing and slaying Samuel Sargeant, but recommended him to mercy on account of the provocation received from the deceased.
