



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Registered by Australia Post
NBH 0335 KOGARAH 2217

6/9 Austral Street,

April, 1988

Dear Friend and Member,

The April Meeting will be held as follows:

Date Friday, 15th April, 1988 at 8.00 p.m.

Place Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale

Business General

Syllabus Item

Peter Orlovich, well known to all of us will be Guest Speaker. Peter has been doing further research and will tell us more concerning the origin of the name of "Rockdale". This we will be very interested to learn.

Supper Roster

Mrs Preddy and Miss Callister

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE

Mr. A. Ellis,
President and Research
Officer

587 1159

Mrs E. Wright,
Treasurer

599 4884

Mrs J. Price,
Minute Secretary

587 7407

Miss D. Row,
Asst. Treasurer

Mrs B. Perkins,
Secretary and
Publicity Officer

587 9164

Mrs E. Eardley,
Bulletin Editor

59 8078

What is a Grandmother? this was the pre Christmas English Test question and one eight year old boy replied:
A grandmother has no children of her own, so she likes other people's boys and girls. Grandmothers don't have anything to do only be there. They never say "hurry up". They are usually fat, but not fat to tie up your shoelaces. They can answer questions why God never got married, and why dogs hate cats. Everyone should have a grandmother, especially if you don't have a T.V. set, because grandmothers are the only ones who have time.

Cherish all your happy memories, they make a good cushion for old age

Booth Tarkington

E.W.W.

31/10/89

St. George Historical Society Activities

1. WEDNESDAY - 20TH APRIL 10.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M.

Guided bus tour - St. George area in part - Viewing a wide range of historic homes and sites. Bring own lunch and flask.

Meet at Rockdale Station, Walz Street, Bexley side

Cost \$3.40 per head. Bookings necessary

**Telephone: Mr. A. Ellis - 587 1159
Mrs J. Price - 587 7407**

2. SATURDAY 23RD AND SUNDAY, 24TH APRIL 12 NOON TO 4 P.M.

Take a guided tour of the furnished home (c.1860) - Lydham Hall, once the home of Christina Stead - authoress. It is the second oldest home in the Rockdale Municipality. Well worth a visit. Provides panoramic view of Botany Bay.

Location: Lydham Hall - Lydham Avenue, Bexley

**Entry Fee: 0.50c Afternoon tea - Adults 0.50c
Child 0.50c**

Telephone: Miss B. Otton - 59 4259

A cheerio to our friends who are not so well. Our best wishes to all for a speedy recovery.

SPECIAL NOTICE

ALL BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

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. Book Nos. 8, 9 and 10 have been 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 Robinsons 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 Settlers of the St. George District Volume 1"
- No. 10 "Early Settlers of the St. George District Volume 2"

Book Nos. 1-8
\$2.50 each
plus postage

Book Nos. 9-10
\$4.00 each
plus postage

ALL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR MEETING, ALSO MEMBERS BADGES

For your copy of the above books, please contact one of the following:

Miss B. Otton

59 4259 (after 8 p.m.)

Mrs E. Eardley

59 8078

Mr. A. Ellis

587 1159

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME

Have you volunteered for the Supper Roster? More help is needed!!!

2NBC-FM - 90.1 - ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1988 - MONDAY EVENINGS - 5.15 - 5.30p.m.

TAPE 246	-	4th April	-	Currency Lass 1	-	C.Wilding
TAPE 247	-	11th April	-	Currency Lass 2	-	C.Wilding
TAPE 248	-	18th April	-	Currency Lass 3	-	C.Wilding
TAPE 249	-	25th April	-	Vintage Years, G.P.O.Tower.	-	A.Ellis
TAPE 250	-	2nd May	-	200 years ago sailed up Pitt Street.	-	A.Ellis
TAPE 251	-	9th May	-	Embroidered History	-	J. Price
TAPE 252	-	16th May	-	Fort Street School.	-	J.Price
TAPE 253	-	23rd May	-	Golden Grain Mineral Resources Inland Transport Town Halls and The Overlanders.	-	J.Scholer
TAPE 254	-	30th May	-	First Theatres, Fire Brigade & Steam Navigation.	-	J.Scholer

.....

The session set down for Monday 2nd May begins yet another year of historical segments, on a weekly basis from The St. George Historical Society, broadcast over Community Access Radio - 2NBC-FM.

Any members wishing to join the list of voluntary readers please contact: Bronwyn Perkins - Ph:5879164.

An interesting experience in this the Bicentennial Year.

.....

FREDERICK MEREDITH - Who Came out to Australia
in the "Scarborough".....

- Mrs W.C.Havilah
as presented to the
St.George Historical
Society - 19-11-1987

This is a family story - Mr Havilah's
grandmother was a Meredith - descendant
from Frederick Meredith.

The surname "Havilah" has an interesting background.
A distant relative came from Portugal. He was a
sea-faring man and wandered the South Seas for three
years without sighting land. Eventually he landed
in Tasmania and made his way to the mainland. He
was given four grants of land. Together with a
clergyman for his companion, at the time, he wondered
how to name the property. The clergyman suggested:
"Havilah" meaning "the land of gold" taken from
the Bible. Gen.2:10-12. And the ancestor did just
that and the name has been the surname ever since.

Now for the Meredith story:

On Monday, 11th February, 1788 - this entry was made in the
logbook of HMS "Sirius" - "Sent an officer and party of men
to the Garden Island to clear it for a garden for the ship's
company." Accordingly, Garden Island will celebrate its
Bicentenary on Saturday 14 February, 1988 - this being the
weekend closest to the date on which Europeans first made
their mark on the Island.

Frederick Meredith arrived in Australia with the First Fleet
in 1788, at the age of 25 years.

He was a steward to the Captain - John Marshall - on the
convict transport "Scarborough". One family member has him
listed as a "drummer to the Marines", which he may have been
but in view of his subsequent occupations, it is more likely
that he was a steward.

Soon after their arrival at Port Jackson, he was in trouble
for disobeying an instruction of Governor Phillip, not to give
rum to a convict. This was a rather intriguing little incident
in which a convict was attempting to barter a possum for some
rum. Fred and others traded some rum for the possum, whose
whereabouts on the ship was discovered. It would appear that
whilst others may have been involved, Fred was the scapegoat.
He was charged and sentenced to 100 lashes. This was reduced
and he eventually received 50 lashes.

Following this incident, he left, or was transferred to the
"Sirius" as a baker.

In their spare time, some of the crew of the "Sirius" were
assigned to preparing a garden on Garden Island. At Garden
Island, a glass cover protects a sandstone slab inscribed
with the date 1788 and the initials F.M.

Frederick was sent to Norfolk Island on 6th March 1790. The "Sirius" was wrecked there on 19th March 1790. All were saved and the "Supply" was sent across to bring Captain Hunter and the crew of the "Sirius" back to Sydney, returning on 26th February 1791.

On 9th May 1790, a daughter Charlotte, was born to a convict girl, Mary Allen, with Frederick Meredith named as the father. Frederick would have seen very little of Charlotte, because for most of her first year, he was on Norfolk Island. The infant mortality was high in the colony and Charlotte died just after her second birthday. By this time Frederick was back in England, and probably would not have known of her death....

On 28th March, 1791, Frederick - under Captain Hunter - sailed for England in the Dutch ship "Waak-Sam-Heyd", arriving in England on 25th April 1792, where he was discharged from the Navy.

He decided his future lay in Australia.

Governor Phillip wrote to Under-Secretary, Nepean, on 9th July 1788 stating "If 50 farmers were sent out with their families, they would do more in one year, in rendering this colony independent of the mother country, as to provisions, than a thousand convicts."

In response to Governor Phillip's request, he was advised per store ship "Bellona" on 14th July 1792, as follows: "It was judged necessary..to send by the "Bellona", transport, which conveys this letter...ll settlers, with a list of the settlers with their particular occupations annexed to their names".

Amongst that list appeared the name of Frederick Meredith, who had decided to return to the Colony as a free settler.

Each settler was to receive a grant of land, agricultural implements, 2 years provisions, the use of convict labour and for each convict employed, sufficient food for 2 years and clothing for 1 year..... So in 3 months he was once again sailing for Australia, as a passenger on the store ship and convict transport "Bellona", accompanied by a small group of other free settlers. These were the first migrants to come to Australia of their own free will and arrived in Sydney on 16th January 1793. Among the convicts was a convict girl, Anne Case, and another, Sarah Mason.

Lt.Col Collins, in his "Complete Account of the Colony of NSW", fixed on a situation at the upper end of the harbour, above the flat and on the south side, their different allotments were surveyed and marked out and early in the month they took possession of their grounds, being all free people - one convict excepted - who was allowed to settle with them. They gave the appellation "Liberty Plains" to the district in which their farms were situated.

Frederick Meredith received Grant No.13 - "Charlotte Farm" of 60 acres, situated between what is now Strathfield and Homebush Railway Stations.

Unfortunately, the land was unsuitable for farming and of

the new settlers only one, Thomas Rose, was an experienced farmer. Meredith sold his grant to Rose and was given a second grant of 60 acres at Concord, where the Rhodes Railway Station is today. This grant was made on 11th November 1794.

On 10th May, 1793, a daughter - Amelia - was born to Anne Case, the convict girl who had travelled to Australia on the "Bellona". It is not known what happened to Amelia, but on 26th April 1794, another daughter was born, this time to Mary Kirk. This daughter's name was Charlotte Kirk, who eventually lived in and died at Port Macquarie on 5th March, 1852.

The fact that Frederick's second venture into land also proved unsuccessful, and it is said that "he sold the land for a keg of rum", indicates a period of uncertainty and irresponsibility.....

At this stage Frederick is unmarried. There is no evidence to suggest that he is living with Anne Case or Mary Kirk. It does show that he is always quite prepared to declare himself as father to children born to convict women. Probably, with so few free settlers, and many of these married, the youthful Frederick Meredith would have seemed an attractive proposition to convict women....

In September 1800, following reports of proposed rebellions amongst the Irish convicts, Governor Hunter issued an order commanding "all civil officers and such housekeepers, who are free men, possessing property, and good characters in the town of Sydney - to assemble and from amongst them, 50 men were to be chosen to be used as an armed police under the command of the Civil Officers."

Frederick's old association with Hunter on the "Sirius", probably helped in him being selected as one of the fifty, and he became a member of the Loyal Sydney Association, under the command of William Balmain.

They were enrolled on the condition that "they are not to expect pay for the voluntary offer of their services." The existence of this "militia force", was not continuous, but for varying periods over the next 10 years.

Frederick's name appears in the Loyal Association list in 1802 and in 1810, he was a member of the Sydney Constabulary Force.

On 6th November 1809, Frederick Meredith received a grant of 120 acres at the head of Salt Pan Creek, near Bankstown.

One report suggests he received 60 acres in 1814, on the Parramatta River, fronting Homebush Bay. This corresponds with his second grant which he was supposed to have "sold for a keg of rum".....

Extracts from a letter written by George R Nicholls, and now in the Mitchell Library, is as follows: "F.M. - a search at the Land Titles Office disclosed the fact that the lands granted to him are now under Real Property or Torrens Title, and this also shows that he must have parted with the lands before he died."

Another fact that tends to show that at the time of his death, he must have been a poor man, is the position held from 1826-30, or thereabouts.

He was the constable at Liverpool in 1833, the Bailliff at the Court of Requests at Liverpool - and was then 70 years of age holding a position which only carried a salary of £25 a year and fees. As the Court was only a small one and only held 4 times a year, the fees would be very small, and the position would not be held by a man of property and means.

The Bankstown grant to Fred, has had Meredith's on it since 1831, and a section - approximately 5 building blocks - is still rather proudly in the Meredith family...

On 1st January 1811, Governor Macquarie formed a regular police force and among those appointed constables, was Frederick. He was finally married on 26th February 1811, by Banns. One suggestion is that Macquarie was determined that more people living together, be married. Hence the marriage of the constable.

The marriage certificate shows that Frederick Meredith - listed as a Baker - married Sarah Mason - the convict girl from the "Bellona" - who registered her mark "X".

Sarah had been convicted at the Old Bailey of receiving stolen goods to the value of 19/-, and sentenced as a girl of 16 years of age to 14 years, transportation. By 1811, Sarah would have served her time and been emancipated.

Frederick at this stage can be seen to be a respected married member of the Liverpool Police Force, owning land, but perhaps not all that good at working it, and having links with the very first day of the Colony. Sarah too, had earned her respectability.

This having been said, it is important to note that Frederick and Sarah had been living together and producing children since at least 1799.

Frederick Jnr, was born 17th March 1801.

Sophia was born 3rd June 1803.

Elizabeth was born 8th July 1805.

William " " 1st March 1807

Anne " " 21st June 1811 - 4 months after the wedding.

Eleanor " " 17th November 1813.

Eleanor, incidentally, lived the longest of all the children...

Frederick Meredith Jnr, followed in his father's footsteps.

Eleanor married John Burrows when she was 15 years of age.

Impounding Notice to the effect that John Burrows, and Frederick Meredith (Jnr) had impounded cattle on the Cowpasture Road. Again on 26th December 1831.

It would appear that both Frederick Snr and Jnr., were busy impounding cattle, and one or both were involved in apprehending two bushrangers in December 1831. This incident is listed in the book "Australian Bushranging", and the account given is quite fascinating.

Frederick Snr., had become Chief Constable at Liverpool in 1822 and in March 1828, the first Postmaster of that town. In his later years he was Bailiff at the Liverpool Court.

-5-

His wife, Sarah - died on 30th July 1832.

Frederick Snr., re-married on 19th February 1833 to Mary Ann Day. They had no children.

Sarah and Frederick had spent their final years living at Bankstown and presumably Mary and Frederick did likewise for the last 3 years of his life. When Frederick Snr., died on 23rd June, 1836, he was buried with Sarah at Liverpool. Their graves are located in the Liverpool Pioneers Memorial Park.

Frederick Jnr., had married Sarah Morgan on 30th September 1822. They had 11 children.

Anne born on 7th November 1823
 Frederick William born on 19th March 1826
 Lucy Sophia born on 29th October 1828
 John Richard born on 26th February 1831
 Mary Jane " " 30th August 1833
 Charles Henry " " 22nd November 1835
 George Augustus " " 13th April 1838
 Sarah Ellen " " 6th November 1839
 Charlotte Elizabeth " 27th January 1842
 Alfred James " 5th September 1844
 Edward born on 22nd July 1848.

The 9th child - Charlotte Elizabeth - married David Thompson on 27th May 1861 at St Thomas' Church, Enfield. The marriage certificate shows David Thompson as a Blacksmith (aged 22) son of James Thompson (a Wheelwright) and Margaret Chapman of Bankstown. Charlotte Elizabeth, being 19 years of age, was given consent to marry by Sarah Meredith. Her father's occupation is listed as "Farmer of Bankstown"....

Charlotte and David had 9 children -

Sarah J born 1861; Lucy E born 1863; Margaret A born 1868;
 George Edward born 1871; Charlotte Emily born 1873;
 Clara M.E. born 1875; Olive Elizabeth born 1879;
 David T born 1881 and Frederick J born 1883.

Sarah, the eldest, married John Amesbury, and were the parents of Gladys (Chick) Annesbury, who was the mother of Bertha Violet HAVILAH etc. And that is where we came in!

Charlotte Meredith, Chick's grandmother, would have been 47 when Chick was born.

Charlotte would not have had any contact with her grandparents, Frederick Snr. or Sarah Mason, as both had died before she was born. Frederick Snr. had died 6 years before Charlotte was born. Those 6 years are the only barrier to forming an unbroken link from Frederick Meredith Snr, to Gladys (Chick) Amesbury, by grandparents having known grandparents.

The chain of Australian history, so as to speak!!

Incidentally Frederick Meredith Snr. has the 3rd largest group of descendants in the First Fleets Association - is it any wonder!! There are a great number claiming descendency from his earlier convict daughter to Mary Kirk, Charlotte.
