ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 6/9 Austral Street,
KOGARAH 2217

November, 1988

Dear Friend and Member,

The November Meeting will be held as follows:

<u>Date</u>   Friday, 18th November, 1988 at 8 p.m.

<u>Place</u>   Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale

<u>Business</u> General

<u>Syllabus Item</u>

Alderman Ron Rathbone will share with us the delights of his most recent trip overseas, per medium of slides taken by him, and will entertain us with some of his experiences. You are sure to enjoy this evening. Do come along.

<u>Supper Roster</u>   Can we have two volunteers please ??

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE - AS YOU ALWAYS DO - THANK YOU

Mr. A. Ellis, President and Research Officer	Mrs J. Price, Minute Secretary	Mrs B. Perkins, Secretary
587 1159	587 7407	587 9164
Mrs E. Wright, Treasurer		Mrs E. Eardley, Bulletin Editor
599 4884		59 8078

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE - THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN JANUARY, 1989

Joy can be real only as people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

Leo Tolstoy

Without kindness there can be no true joy.

Carlyle

2NSC .. FM .. 90.1 ..ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1988 .. MONDAY EVENINGS .. 5.15 to 5.30p,m,

TAPE 268 .. 5th September . Scarborough Park . J.Scholer

TAPE 269 ..'12th September . St.George Hospital. J.Scholer

Tape 270 .. 19th September . Frederick Meredith. H. Loring

Tape 271 .. 26th September . St.George County . H. Loring
                           Council

TAPE 272 .. 3rd October . James Cook Part 1 . C. Turner

TAPE 273 .. 10th October . James Cook Part 2 . C. Turner

TAPE 274 .. 17th October . Rosevale Nurseries. C.Wilding

TAPE 275 .. 24th October . Smithson's Wine Bar.J. Price
                           & Goat Island

TAPE 276 .. 31st October . Thomas Birkby's . C.Wilding
                           Letter

TAPE 277 .. 7th November . Arthur Phillip . C. Turner
                           Part 1

TAPE 278 .. 14th November . Arthur Phillip . C. Turner
                           Part 2

TAPE 279 .. 21st November . The Man & The . A.Ellis
                           Collection ..
                           Mitchell Library

TAPE 280 .. 28th November . Brighton.le..Sands . J.Price

TAPE 281 .. 5th December . Parramatta River . A. Ellis
                           Part 1

TAPE 282 .. 12th December . Parramatta River . A. Ellis
                           Part 2.

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This list completes the weekly Historical Sessions broadcast over 2NSC..FM by the St.George Historical Society, since May 1983.

A sincere thank you to all who have participated in preparation and presentation, week by week.

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HENRY KINSELA - GENTLEMAN.

Based on some recollections of Mrs A B Christison.

In the mid 1880's Henry Kinsela took up 27 acres of timbered land
at the junction of Forest & Stoney Creek Roads. Here he built a
gracious two-storied mansion "Kinsel Grove", which faced wast with
a delightful view of Botany Bay. The entrance gates were in Forest
Road & a curved driveway brought one to the front steps. The wide
door opened into a spacious hall, on the left of which was Kinsela's
study. Here he spent most of his time guarded by a huge dog. This
dog was very friendly to friends but always barred the way to strangers.
The grounds were divided into three sections. These surroundings of
the house were laid out in lawns and gardens. Here a lot of entertaining
took place always with a brass band in attendance. From the back of
the house to what is now Highworth Avenue were the coach house (later
to become a bakery), grrom's residence, stables & a paddock for the
horses. A little distance from the front of the house & running to
the junction of the two roads was a park like enclosure where shady
gums and English trees grew & several deer grazed.

Apart from his interest in his father's funeral business, Kinsela
owned huge areas of real estate. He took an intimate interest in
his church giving considerable financial assistance to St. George's
Church at Hurstville, as well as a large & inspiring stained glass
window which he presented in 1889. He was one of the prime movers in
the founding of Christ Church at Bexley which also he richly endowed.

Although he was handicapped with a practically useless right arm, he
was a particularly keen sportsman. As well as deer, he kept at "Kinsel
Grove" kangaroos, wallabies, emus, hares and a string of well-known
racehorses. He was also the owner of a remarkable trotting stallion
"King Harold" and three or four beautiful Hungarian ponies. He was a
frequent exhibitor at the Royal Show & won many prizes.

It is interesting to note that in spite of his crippled right arm he
was able to drive single-handed a coach & six horses, a feat made
possible only by the unusual influence he had with these animals.

With Charles Lardner he convened the first cricket meeting which
ultimately became the St. George Cricket Club & had a cricket pitch
laid on his back paddock. He became the first secretary of the club &
was the president of the original St. George band to which he made a
munificient gift of pounds 100.0.0 for the purchase of the band's
instruments.

At Burraneer Bay, an arm of the Port Hacking River, Henry Kinsela
built his country residence - a large stone cottage set in grounds

terraced to the water's edge. Here a boatshed was built & also a swimming pool. On the rocks nearby was a plentiful supply of oysters. Kinsela gave the band many enjoyable picnics at his Port Hacking residence & it was no uncommon sight in those days to see the St. George Ban being rowed around the port in Mr Kinsela's clipper whale boat, while the dulcet music wakened echoes across the bays.

This home still stands as does the lovely avenue of gum trees which led down to it.

In March 1915, this patriotic & public spirited gentleman & sportsman passed away, mourned by a widely drawn circle of friends & admirers & lies peacefully in the little old churchyard at St. George's.

THE ST. GEORGE AMBULANCE.

> - reprint from the St. George
> Historical Society Bulletin
> - February 1963.

The St. George Ambulance Brigade was formed in 1902 before motor vehicles had threatened the path of human life. Mr J Ingram was the first Secretary & a hand litter was donated by Mr Donald McCormick of Harrow Road & was housed in the Fire Brigade Station at Rockdale.

Its first superintendent was Mr Charles Royall & its first official duty was to transport 10 men to St. George Hospital who were injured whena bolting horse collided with an overcrowded tram making for Brighton.

Soon after this event the litter was moved to a weatherboard building in Tramway Arcade & instruction in First Aid was commenced under the supervision of Mr J Wood.

In 1910 the Ambulance Brigade was reconstituted with trained men under the superintendency of Mr C Fillingham, Mr S Wenholm being Secretary & Mr P Stell, Treasurer. The same litter which consisted of a two-wheeled stretcher with a detachable canvas hood & a flap screened aperture on top to permit an occasional peep at the patient, was used.

By 1915 the brigade was under the superintendence of Mr P.W.STell & was backed by an enthusiastic ladies' auxiliary under the direction of Mrs A Goode. Regular first aid classes were being held in the School of Arts supervised by Dr Halliday of Rockdale & were numerously attended.

The conveyance by litter was painfully slow & often laborious &

quite frequently by the time the patient had reached the hospital, death had ensued.

It was not until 1918 that a 15 h.p. Minerva automobile was purchased but as no-one could drive it, it was often some time before a volunteer could be found & the roads were so fearfully rough that frequent mechanical repairs were necessary to the vehicle.

In 1918 new brick premises were opened for the Brigade in Bay Street, Rockdale & during the pneumonic 'flu epidemic of 1919 the brigade did yeoman service.

The following year an additional vehicle was purchased & in 1924 a Fiat six cylinder ambulance made its appearance. In November 1927 this equipment was supplemented by two fine Hudson motors.

New & more commodious premises were opened in Princes Highway in 1929 complete with workshops & instruction hall. Additional premises were erected in the Sutherland Shire in the same year.

Since those days the service has grown out of all recognition, but its commencement was due almost entirely to a small band of voluntary workers who spared no effort to provide it with the facilities it needed.

Among those whose labours for the St. George Ambulance Brigade will always be remembered are Mr F Morgan, who was its secretary for many years, Mrs A Goode, who commenced the ladies' auxiliary & Miss Collins, daughter of Captain Collins of the Bexley Fire Brigade who lost her own life whilst ministering to the victims of the pneumonic 'flu epidemic in 1919.

Alice Steinbach -
   traces the effect of the 'snapshot'
   camera on history and art.

This year, 1988, marks the 100th birthday of the first
Kodak 'snapshot' camera, and photographic historians
speculate that during those 100 years, more than 200
billion snapshots have been taken.

When George Eastman put his little rectangular box camera
on the market in 1888 - less than 50 years after photography's
beginnings in 1839 - it revolutionised picture taking. Until
then, photography was practised only by professionals and a
few very committed amateurs. There was good reason for this.

Before 1888, cameras were expensive, heavy, cumbersome objects
that often required the use of a tripod. Glass printing plates
had to be carted around, and until 1880, the plate, or negative,
had to be developed immediately after the photograph was taken.

Producing a photograph in those days required special skills
and hours of delicate and often frustrating work.

Eastman's development in 1885 of paper-based film to replace
the heavy, fragile glass plates paved the way for his simple,
hand-held, mobile box camera.

In 1888 he patented the first of his "Kodak" cameras - a name
chosen because it was believed to be pronounceable in any
language - and launched it with a brilliant advertising
slogan: "You press the button; we do the rest."

The original Kodak camera sold for $25 and was pre-loaded with
enough film for 100 exposures. Eastman's fixed-aperture
camera reduced picture taking to three simple movements:
   . a key was turned to forward the film
   . the shutter was set by pulling a string
   . pressing a button exposed the film.

To help the photographer keep track of his pictures, a little
notebook was packed with each camera. After finishing the
roll, the whole camera was sent back to Eastman's factory in
Rochester, New York, where the film was processed and printed.

The camera was reloaded with a new batch of film and returned
to the owner for $10.

It was an instant hit. The word 'snapshot', originally a
hunting term, was introduced by British chemist and amateur
photographer Sir John Herschel to describe the new technology.

The first snapshots from the 1888 Kodak were circular images
6 centimetres in diameter, and soon these small, round images
began popping up in family albums all around the country.

With the introduction of his snapshot camera, Eastman democrat-
ised photography. "Anybody can use it", he wrote. "Everybody
will use it: travellers, tourists, cyslists, boating men,
engineers, architects, artists, parents, surgeons, sportsmen,
ocean travellers, and even lovers of fine animals."

The snapshot revolution changed the visual boundaries of
American society, removing picture making from the
exclusive province of the rich and aristocratic.

Because of the expense and difficulties of picture
taking, the subject matter of early photographers usually
had centred on recording momentous events such as the
Civil War or the exploration of the West, and on portrait-
ure of the wealthy.

The snapshot camera changed all that and offered the
average family a way to preserve their personal and
collective memories.

Now families separated by the great migration to the West
could exchange snapshots, could see the new grandchild
and dwell on a loved one's familar face. Travel snapshots
opened up the world for the average citizen who might never
travel beyond the boundaries of his town or farm.

Even famous explorers used the Kodak camera: Arctic
explorer, Robert Peary took one to the North Pole.

But for all its success, Eastman dreamed of producing an
even cheaper camera, one so simple that even children would
be able to operate it.

In 1900 he ahcieved his goal when he introduced what would
become one of the most famous cameras in the history of
photography: The Brownie camera, which sold for $1 and took
excellent pictures. It had a simple lens and took six
pictures, each 5-1/2 centimetres square, using film on a
cartridge roll.

The camera was named Brownie after the then popular pixie-
like characters created by Palmer Cox, a Canadian writer and
illustrator. The message was that the camera was as
available to children as were fairy tales. It was another
brilliant bit of advertising by Eastman. In its first year
on the market, 100,000 Brownies were sold.

The camera and the act of photographing had been demystified.

By the early 1900s almost every family owned one and used it
to record the small, personal transactions that, taken as a
whole, constitute a particular family's personal history.
Someone once called the subject matter of snapshots moments
without proper names.

The family on a vacation trip, the daughter performing
in a Christmas pageant, a Cub Scout meeting, opening the
presents on Christmas morning, seeing the son or grandson
off to war in his neatly pressed uniform - those are just
some of the commonplace events validated by the snapshot.

But the snapshot was also used to record personal views of momentous world events: The Boer War (1899-1902) produced the first photographs of what a soldier's life was like, as it happened.

It was a radical departure. Although the US Civil War had been photographed by Matthew Brady and the group of photographers he managed, the film technology available to them - wet plate exposures - was not fast enough to capture movement and had to be developed in the field under rather laborious circumstances.

The snapshot paved the way for war photography, the immediacy of the battle, the terror of the individual soldier and civilian.

But ultimately, the snapshot is, more than anything else, a private, informative document. Think of what you wouldn't know if there were no snapshots.

Snapshots lengthen our lives by extending them back into the past and projecting them forward into the future - to a time when our children and grandchildren will look at old photographs of us and, for a moment, allow us exist again.

- The Baltimore Sun.

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A note from the Bulletin editor:

How many readers have actually sorted out old photographs and labelled and dated them?

If we don't do that for our generation, who is going to know who and what the snapshots are all about?

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THE VILLAGE OF ARNCLIFFE ...

Supplied by Mrs E Eardley - 1987.

In order to describe the focal point of Arncliffe's early
settlement, it is necessary to be aware of an historic Plan
of Sub-Division for most of the area covered by the present
day Turrella and Arncliffe which was executed in the year
1861 and was only recovered for historical inquiry after
lying in obscurity for about 90 years.

This comparatively large area was described in the Plan as
the "Town of Wincanton-Parish of St.George"and covered the
original grant of 100 acres to Mr Reuben Hannam (indicated
on the Plan as the village of Arncliffe - now most Turella)
and the 66 acres to his son, David (now the region radiating
from about Arncliffe railway station.

This blue-print for the future town of Wincanton was surveyed
for David Hannam who was not only the leading landowner in
the area about this time, but was widely regarded as its
leading citizen. Mr Hannam died in 1872.

But the plans of Mr Hannam, Governmentally approved, for his
vast domain to find a place in local history as the Town of
Wincanton did not come to pass. Whilst the area covered by
his own original grant was known in the district as Wincanton
for over a decade, by a curious turn of events, the whole of
his two estates later came to be called after the village
portion of his scheme - ARNCLIFFE.

At this distance in time, although the exact details have yet
to be fully established, it is probable that the failure
of Hannam's venture to have been handed down to posterity as
the Town of Wincanton, was attributable to the passing of the
Municipalities Act in 1858.

At all events, towards the end of 1870, a Committee of
prominent district identities, had been charged with the
task of establishing boundaries in connection with the
formation of the new Municipality of West Botany, and, after
consulting the wishes of the majority of the residents, the
Arncliffe Ward and West Botany Ward were named and defined.

The first election in the new Municipality was held in 1871
and from that time onwards, it wouldappear, that the name
of Arncliffe became popularly established. And so apparently
the political strength of the villgers of Arncliffe (and
Tempe, their Arncliffe Street neighbours) won the day in
deciding the future name of their domain.

Why this area developed ahead of Wincanton (proper) until
the advent of the Illawarra railway, we shall see.

The early settlement developed mainly adjacent to the
water-courses of Wolli Creek and to a lesser extent, to
the creek which once flowed through Kelsey Street.
These provided an adequate water supply so necessary to
the early settlers engaged in such rural pursuits as

market gardening, fruit growing and dairy farming.

In an age when churches were the focal point of community life, it was indicative of the trend of the early development that the first local church came to be erected at Arncliffe village (about 1865) on a site now indicated as the corner of Hirst and Edward Streets, and thus in close proximity to the early settlement.

There is evidence that the building was also used as a public-school about this time and was the forerunner of the present Arncliffe Public School, the original building of which was opened in 1880.

The present church on the site (old St.David's Church of England) was built in 1879 and, following the population trends, the new St.David's was built on Forest Road in 1914.

The main roadway of this early settlement was Arncliffe Street, which was developed adjacent to Wolli Creek and ran from immediately at the rear of "Tempe House". Avoiding the rocky prominences it found its way to the Favell property (about 1842) "Hillside" at the foot of Hannam Street.

Parts of the original Arncliffe Street have disappeared over the years, mainly through the construction of the Illawarra and East Hills railways and the sewer-carrier, but in its heyday acted as a thoroughfare for the horse drawn vehicles which carried the produce of the rural industries to the markets of Sydney Town. It was augmented as an alternative "way out of the valley" when Dowling and Loftus Streets were opened up about the 1880's.

Several historic homes were built adjacent to the old Arncliffe Street (now divided into Turrella and Lusty St.), such as "Avondale", "Wolliville", "Valencia" and "Kirnbank".

Fronting Hannam St., several hisotric homes are still extant including Nos.57 and 67, the former having been built by one of the pioneers of the area, a Mr Sam Jeeves, whilst the latter was the homestead associated with a Woolwash which stood adjacent to the creek nearby, decades before the turn of the century.

Another early industry in the area was McNamara's boiling-down works which also provided employment for the local populace and once stood adjacent to the junction of the original Hannam and Arncliffe Streets.

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