

St. George Historical Society Inc. Bulletin

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

JULY - AUGUST 2002 EDITION



**A Grave Mystery
Continues**

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AUDITOR	Mrs. L. Thompson	

Meetings are held 8:00 PM the second Tuesday of the month (except January) in the Meeting Room 1st Floor, Rockdale Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale. Members, please bring a plate. Visitors are welcome.

JULY – AUGUST EVENTS AGENDA

MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKERS

August 13th HISTORIC FILM NIGHT

EVENTS

August 26th NO LONGER MYSTERY TOUR \$22.00

This tour will be to Mount Tomah via Richmond and historic Windsor

9:00 am the Community Bus will depart from Ormonde Parade, Hurstville

The price of the tour has increased by \$1 due to the distance to be travelled.

For enquiries ring Mrs Dora Lenane 9181-2121 or Mrs Joan Fairhall 9546-5555



SKERRICKS



- ❖ We are very pleased to warmly welcome Mr John Payne as our societies newest member.
Mr Payne has attended Christina Stead Day on several occasions.
- ❖ On July 14th, 2002, Christina Steads' 100th Birthday was celebrated at Lydham Hall.
Another Garden Bench was placed on the rear veranda with a plaque commemorating the time her family was in residence and her birthday.
- ❖ Rockdale City Council recently had a group of visitors from China and requested the Lydham Hall Committee to show them over our Historic home on July 29th, 2002. They all had some historic affiliation in their own country. It proved to be a very interesting afternoon. We also served them afternoon tea and many photographs were taken on the front steps of Lydham Hall.
- ❖ Our many thoughts and best wishes, go to those who are not feeling well at the moment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Alas, this is my parting Presidents Report, having now become an “Ex” in relation to the position of Society President. Ex is a prefix that recalls in my mind the recently televised series “*Walking With Beasts.*” Readers of this report familiar with the animals portrayed in this series would certainly agree that they were EXciting, EXtremely varied and unfortunately for them EXtinct: What of our societies future ?

My analogy is simple, the St. George Historical Society Inc. requires the input of all members, not just the dedicated few in order to survive and flourish. Passive memberships are now the norm for most regional historical, horticultural and other specialist societies and without doubt the long term survival prospects of these groups is slim. Lack of members’ involvement negatively impacts our Society in a number of ways such as:

- 1) Poor meeting attendance and therefore reluctance of the Committee to invite guest speakers.
- 2) Low attendances at Society excursions.
- 3) Lack of assistance with the manning of Lydham Hall during the museum’s opening hours of 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Sundays and for special events.

I acknowledge that many members are aging and therefore reluctant and or unable to attend night meetings or assist with Lydham Hall duties but PLEASE help by putting pen to paper / typewriter / computer keyboard and jotting down a few memoirs of your experiences and life in times past. More mobile members would be greatly welcomed at our meetings and would enjoy society excursions and meeting new people at Lydham Hall events. In a similar vein, could some members not spare a couple hours on a Sunday afternoon once every few months to help show the General Public through Lydham Hall ? On the job training can be arranged and in my experience visitors have invariably been interested in the house and its contents and left with only positive sentiments.

In summary, please consider what YOU can do to make YOUR historical society stronger and more dynamic.

My appreciation is extended to the hard working few; particularly Bettye Ross, the Henke Family, Dora Lenane, Val Behag and Joan Fairhall for their work on the Executive and efforts at Lydham Hall; sterling efforts without exception. A special thanks is also warranted for Mr. Allan Stahl as his cheery “Gday” and cuppa keep the wheels of industry in motion on meeting nights.

Thank you to all of the members who have assisted me in my efforts as President, to quote form one of my long standing friends “It’s the people who make it great.”

To our unwell members Margaret Persen, Stella Ericsson and any others omitted inadvertently from this report, I extend on behalf of the Society, all good wishes and prayers for your restoration to better health.

Historically yours,
Wesley Fairhall



A GRAVESTONE, NO GRAVE AND A RIDDLE..

(continued)

So there we were Eliza Harris Tompson, was the daughter of Charles Tompson and Jane Armytage (nee Morris) and with a little leeway from the 1828 Census that looked right. The St. George & Sutherland Shire Leader published my results and I received a very nice `phone call and letter from a lady descended from Charles Tompson, but before I move on to my conversation with her I'd still been playing with the research tools!

I had now come up with the fact that Charles Tompson had NOT COME FREE but as a Convict, on the Coromandel I (2) as the Census stated, and he and Jane had only married in 1822. Eliza Harris TOMPSON had been born C1817 (naturally there is no birth or baptism registration) so was she being claimed as a Tompson or was this an adopted surname, perhaps she was really an Armytage?

Further research into Jane showed she had been born in the Colony to James Morris a Private in the New South Wales Corps and his common-law wife Elizabeth Watts and that Jane had a younger sister Hannah (same parents) who also had married a Charles Tompson. Now I was in trouble, two Charles Tompson's.

Meanwhile back to the `phone call and letter from the Tompson descendant, she verified that she was the great granddaughter of Eliza Harris Tompson's brother and that Eliza had been given the second name of Harris after the Surgeon John Harris who obviously had delivered her, and that Eliza Harris Johnson's maiden name had definitely been Tompson and that she was not the daughter of Charles Tompson's marriage to Jane Armytage (nee Morris) but that her mother had been Elizabeth Boggis, the first wife of Charles Tompson and that Elizabeth had died in 1822 when Eliza H. (Harris) was almost five years of age. Charles Tompson had then remarried to Jane Armytage (nee Morris) who was widowed the same year as Charles and she brought three children to join his seven motherless children. They then went on to have another eight children and the third one was named Eliza H. in the 1828 Census but was actually baptized Elizabeth Henrietta.

Incidentally Eliza's brother Alfred had the second name of Fulton (after Rev. Henry Fulton) and her half-brother Ferdinand's (mother Jane Armytage nee Morris) second name was Macquarie, and her half-brother Theodore's second name was Lachlan. All very relevant to the new Colony!

Eliza Harris Tompson married William Jonathan Johnson in 1838 at Clydesdale, Windsor which was the home of the Tompson family. Her adoptive mother Jane Tompson (was Armytage nee Morris) had a younger sister Hannah Morris who as I said above married Charles Tompson and he was the brother of Eliza Harris Johnson (nee Tompson) and like his father he was Charles Tompson but he was born 1807 of the first Tompson wife, Elizabeth nee Boggis.

William was the son of Richard Johnson a Watchmaker and Elizabeth Phillips and he and Eliza Harris Tompson had eight children - three boys and five girls living and one boy and three daughters dead when William died at Newtown after an illness of Dropsy 3.10,1866 aged 55 years. He had been born at Islington, London 1811. He built the first Organ in the Colony "of two manuals and nine stops which today stills stands in its original place in St. Matthew's at Windsor and had major restoration in 1986 but still has most of its original parts. The one other surviving piece of Johnson's organ building - an 1844 chamber organ is now in the Powerhouse Museum." (*)

He also built 12 other organs, gave singing and music lessons, edited books of psalms, was a founder of the Sydney Vocal Harmonic Society and when forced through bankruptcy sold English organs to churches in Bathurst, Mudgee and Darling Point. (*)

By the time Eliza died her stepmother had been dead two years but Eliza's death seems to have been an extremely lonely one and not even a note of it in the newspapers with no word from any of her children of sorrow, nor did any of them witness her burial, so who arranged for the inscription, on William Jonathan Johnson's headstone, to her. To the eye of those standing by a sad indictment to family life.

Some Notes: *All this led to other avenues of research, for Charles Tompson Snr. turned out to be the second owner of the "Bexley" Estate on which Lydham Hall stands for he bought it from James Chandler who had run into financial difficulty. Charles Tompson could have lived there (for the home of Chandler's "Bexley" had been built) though it's thought he didn't, for his home Clydesdale was in use at Windsor however Charles also ran into financial trouble and it was sold in lots.*

Charles Tompson Jr. (educated by the Rev. Henry Fulton) the son of Charles Tompson Snr, and Elizabeth Boggis became a famous Australian Poet and like Henry Kendal came from the Hawkesbury area. He is supposed by some to have been the first Australian poet. So now we find a link to St. George area in the Tompson name by the purchase of the "Bexley" Estate, just as in the last issue of the Society's Bulletin we found a link with it through Henry Kendal's poem Woolli Creek and Henry Kendal's sister's employment as a music teacher at Caroline Chisholm's new School Green Bank formerly known as Tempe House.

William Boggis (sometimes spelt Bogus, Boge, Boggie or Biggis) was a fisherman 18 years old when charged at Surrey with theft for which he was to be `whipt for two hours at the back of a cart traveling between the County Gaol and St. Thomas' Hospital'. However he must have offended again for he was sentenced to seven years transportation to America, which actually brought him to Port Jackson instead. He arrived on the Scarborough in the First Fleet and within six months received 50 lashes for gambling and the next month received 100 lashes `on the bare back with a cat o'nine tails' for throwing a female to the ground and trying to assault her. The following year he received another 200 lashes and was to have an iron on his leg and the words `THIEF printed on and made fast to his clothes'. Early 1790 he was sent to Norfolk Island and had a common law marriage to Elizabeth Smith who as a convict had arrived in the Colony on the Lady Juliana in 1789. They had a child Elizabeth Boggis in 1792 and it was this child who married Charles Tompson (ex-convict) and died in 1822 and her mother Elizabeth Smith had died two years earlier in Sydney.

Charles Armytage the first husband of Jane Morris (natural daughter of Private James wife Elizabeth Watts who arrived Free) arrived here as a convict on the Fortune in 1806 and he died in April 1822. He received a Spirits Licence for his dwelling in Pitt St early 1811 and was a Publican by 1816.

Elizabeth Watts aged 18 years arrived Free in the Colony from Dorset on the Bellona as a dairymaid to the Rose family. This ship left Deptford 28th July, 1792 carrying only Settlers and 17 female convicts, one of whom was Sarah Mason. Also on board was Frederick Meredith who had come here earlier on the Scarborough, the same ship as William Boggis, but Frederick had come as a steward to the Captain and he stayed two years before returning to England on the Waaksamheid and then sailed back to New South Wales on the Bellona as a Baker. He married Sarah Mason the young convict girl he'd met on the voyage out here and it was their daughter Ann Meredith who married John Gibbins and one of their children was Frederick Gibbins of "Dappetto" - another St. George note of interest!

Notes marked * taken from information supplied, to the St. George & Sutherland Shire Leader shortly after the news of the find of the Tombstone which commenced this search, by Graeme Rushworth, the author of a history of colonial organmakers.

Sources:

- *Australian Dictionary of Biography 1788-1850. P. 533*
- *Carol J Baxter (Ed.) Musters & Lists N.S.W. & Norfolk Island 1800-1802. ABGR in Assoc. Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney (1988)*
- *Carol J Baxter (Ed.), Musters of N.S.W. & Norfolk Island 1805-1806. ABGR in Assoc. Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney (1989)*
- *Carol J Baxter (Ed.), General Muster of N.S.W. Norfolk Island & Van Diemen's Land 1811 ABGR in Assoc. Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney (1987)*
- *Carol J Baxter (Ed.), General Musters of N.S.W. 1814 ABGR in Assoc. Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney (1987)*
- *Carol J Baxter (Ed.), General Muster & Land & Stock Muster of N.S.W. 1822 ABGR in Assoc. Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney (1988)*
- *Mollie Gillen, The Founders of Australia – A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet, Library of Australian History (1989)*
- *Megan Martin, Compiler, Settlers & Convicts of Bellona 1793, Bellona Muster Committee 1793-1993 (1992)*
- *Malcolm R. Sainty & Keith A. Johnson (Ed's) Census of NSW, November 1828, Library of Australian History, Sydney 1985*
- *Registry of Births, Deaths, Marriages. N.S.W. Burial Certificate: Elizabeth H. Johnson (2.1.1879)*
- *St. George & Sutherland Shire Leader 13th April 2000, P. 18, 13th July 2000, P. 20, August 2000*
- *John T. Spurway (Ed.), Allison Allen (Ass. Ed.). Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record Series 1, 1788-1841. P. 255 ABGR in Assoc. Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney (1992)*
- *Sydney Morning Herald 5.10.1866, P. 2*
- *Tompson, C. Jnr. Wild notes from the Lyre of a Native Minstrel*
- *Phillip Geeves & James Jervis "Rockdale - Its beginning and development" P. 21 Revised 1986. Ald. R. W. Rathbone*

Article in this Bulletin and the previous one compiled and written by Bettye Ross

Many thanks go to Bettye Ross for her dedication and in depth research.

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING June 30th, 2002

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

<i>Membership subscriptions</i>	412.00	<i>Bulk Postage</i>	259.94
<i>Donations</i>	15.50	<i>Public Liability Insurance</i>	566.50
<i>Sale of Publications</i>	339.50	<i>St. George Transport</i>	287.98
<i>Sale of Badges</i>	15.00	<i>RAHS Conference</i>	99.00
<i>Raffles</i>	173.00	<i>RAHS Fees (50)</i>	80.30
<i>Profit from Donated Goods</i>	29.00	<i>Purchase of St George Banner</i>	100.00
<i>Income from Tours</i>	552.00	<i>Purchase of Address Stamp</i>	24.00
<i>Refund from Filing Cabinet</i>	50.00	<i>Purchase of Computer Ink Cartridge</i>	68.78
		<i>Purchase of Filing Cabinet</i>	312.00
<i>Balance in Bank (30/6/2001)</i>	1310.56	<i>Petty Cash Expenses</i>	71.90
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	2896.56		1870.40
<i>Interest</i>	0.89	<i>Cancelled Cheque</i>	(54.00)
			<hr/>
			1816.40
		<i>Balance in Bank (30/6/2002)</i>	1076.85
		<i>GDT</i>	4.20
			<hr/>
Total	<hr/> \$ 2897.45 <hr/>	Total	<hr/> \$ 2897.45 <hr/>

Audited and found to be correct 3/8/2002 by L. Thompson.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NEXT SECTION

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Membership dues for the period from July 1st, 2002 to June 31st, 2003

PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITALS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____ Telephone Number: () _____

Annual Individual Membership \$ 8.00

Annual Household Membership \$ 11.00

TOTAL: \$ _____

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Please make your cheque or money order out to St. George Historical Society Inc. & Mail it to

Mrs. Dora Lenane 5/19 Collingwood Street, Drummoyne, NSW 2047

Or bring it with you to the next meeting.

Members are reminded that our financial year commences July 1st 2002