

St George Historical Society Inc.

Bulletin

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

JUNE - JULY 1996 Edition
MEETING PROGRAM

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11 June

'Local history in Bexley'

Hurstville City Council's Local History Librarian, **Margaret Murphy**, will speak on the subject of local history in Bexley - her own research and the research facilities available to users of the 'new' Local History Library at historic, 'Gladwyn'.

16 July ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The St George Historical Society executive invites all members to attend the Annual General Meeting. This is your chance to have a say in the future direction of the Society.

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

BANBURY COTTAGE - NATIONAL TRUST LISTED

Our campaign to save Banbury Cottage is looking very positive at this stage. The latest news is that Banbury Cottage has been granted a National Trust listing. Only about 200 buildings are listed in New South Wales and there is a long list awaiting assessment. Whilst this does not provide legislative protection it is recognition of the building's significance. As well, Rockdale Council is considering a Conservation Study for the site. The battle is not won yet as the house is still not listed as a heritage item on Rockdale's Local Environmental Plan - but things are certainly going in the right direction.

OFFICE HOLDERS

PRESIDENT	Mrs Bettye Ross	589 0229
SECRETARY	Mrs Valda Beehag	546 2819
TREASURER	Mrs Margaret Persen	771 5461
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT	Mr Bernard Sharah	567 8989
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BULLETIN EDITOR	Bernard Sharah	567 8989
LYDHAM HALL COMMITTEE	Mrs B. Ross, Mrs V. Beehag	
PUBLIC OFFICER	Mr Noel Beehag	546 2819
HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE	Bernard Sharah	567 8989
AUDITOR	Mrs L. Thompson	

All correspondence to the Secretary, 7 Lynwood St, Blakehurst 2221.

HERITAGE WEEK OPEN DAYS

- WEATHER DREADFUL, MEMBERS SUPPORT - FANTASTIC!

That about sums it up. Thank you to all the members who gave generously and cheerfully of their time. A few things went wrong regarding the advertising, the National Trust incorrectly announcing in their calendar that we were open on Sunday 28 April as well as May 4 and 5 from 9am to 3pm. We were really stretched to the limit to cover those times but the members responded well. On the 28 April Lydham Hall had to compete with every other event launched for Heritage Week and on the weekend of 4-5 May the weather was appalling. But if nothing else we had lots of members come up to lend a hand and have a chat, some even volunteering for the Lydham Hall roster!

The Secret's Out!

Victoria Barracks is one of Sydney's best kept secrets but you can share its living history and atmosphere. You'll see a performance by the Australian Army band, enjoy a conducted tour of the Barracks and experience the intrigue of the Victoria Barracks Museum

Victoria Barracks Oxford Street Paddington

A Slice of Sydney's History

Thursday 18 July
Meets at the gates, 10am

Contact Dora Lenane 660 2714

Tour is Free but donations gratefully accepted. Refreshment available

The Reverend John Done

The Reverend John Done (1817-77), parson, schoolteacher and farmer, arrived in Australia in 1856 on the *Winnifred* from Worcester, UK, with his wife Jennetta and children Jeanette (17), Marion, Richard, John, Frances, William, Caroline and Alice.

He was sent straight to Ulladulla by the Church of England where he conducted a school and served as a catechist for many years, performing Church of England Services in private homes until the church was built in 1860, from which time he assisted at services for the visiting ministers, and was described as the first incumbent of St Peter and St Paul's, Milton. He owned 100 acres of land at Yatte Yattah and as District Registrar his name appeared on hundreds of local certificates of Births, Deaths and Marriages of the time he was in the district.

He was transferred to St Paul's Church, Kogarah in 1867, ordained as a minister in 1872 and died in 1877.

Done Street, Arncliffe is named in his honour.

A LETTER TO ALL

Before the Executive Elections of St. George Historical Society Inc. in July I would like to let everyone know how much I've appreciated their support during this last 12 months as President, in fact for the past 3 years from July 1993 when I became the first Lady President.

I can honestly say I look with fondness at the faces before me of these supporters each Meeting and think of the kindness extended to me over this time, as I stumbled along with unfamiliar procedures. I particularly thank Arthur Ellis for his assistance when I've looked at him and thought "what do I say or do next" and he always caught the vibes in the air, and came to my assistance.

There are so many to thank through this time such as Dora Lenane and Joan Fairhall for social activities etc. planned, to Vai Bechag for her gentle and practical nudge when I'd forget to ask for the correspondence to be read, to Alan Stahl who always sees I get a "cuppa" after the Meeting, to Bernard Sharub who supports me in his role as Senior Vice President and so many others, but last but not least to our dear Late Noel Bechag (who along with Wesley Fairhall was one of our Junior Vice Presidents) who in his quiet and stable way helped each and everyone of us steer the Society's Executive Committee along a steady, practical course, with such decorum.

Since 1st July last we've had our Xmas Party which encompassed Bet Otton's Farewell, 2 Open Days in February celebrating Lydham Hall's 25th Anniversary of purchase by Rockdale City Council and opening as an historic Home and Museum with a Display of 19th and early 20th Century Clothing and Linen. We also held a Stall at Bexley Village Fair in November last and the same day had a Wedding followed by a booking for photo's when 43 of the guests made donations as they toured Lydham Hall. We have since had two more Groups for Wedding photo's.

This is all besides 3 School Groups, 3 Family History Societies, 3 Historical Societies, an Art Group visiting along with on two other occasions, a W.E.A. Group.

We finished this envelope with 3 Open Days during Heritage Week from 9 am to 3 pm when 21 wonderful volunteers rallied to help show visitors through though we did not have the expected numbers due to the dreadful weather. During these Open Days, Groups and other Visitors we have sold approximately 65 Society Books and had 957 adults and children through Lydham Hall.

Speaking of Volunteers my thanks also goes to those who have helped on the Lydham Hall Roster, some at short notice. This is a very necessary requirement of the Society and many are now finding themselves becoming more familiar with the building and its contents as they read the explanatory sheets in each room.

On the subject of Lydham Hall there will be a June Bridal Attire Display from 2-4 pm. on Saturday and Sunday, 22nd and 23rd June. The years covered are from the turn of the century or possibly earlier to the present. Definitely only for these two days.

We will also be having a History Walk to celebrate the Society's 35th Anniversary Sunday the 14th July culminating in afternoon tea at Lydham Hall. Do join in the walk or we'll see you at Lydham Hall for a "cuppa" afterwards. A plate from the ladies attending would be appreciated.

Every good wish to all Members and their families as we step into another year of life and all its wonderful promises not only for the St. George Historical Society but also for each of us.

Betty Ross
President - 28.5.96

A STORY OF EMIGRATION IN 1881

EDWARD HENRY RAWLINSON AND FAMILY

Edward Henry Rawlinson was born in Liverpool in England and on 5th June, 1876 he married Harriet Roberts of Cheshire. They settled in Stockport where his business card read:- Edward H. Rawlinson, Joiner, Cabinet Maker, and General Repairer of Property, 13 George Street, Hall Street, Stockport".

In 1881 he and Harriet decided to apply for Assisted Emigration to Australia with their young family. Edward was then 27, Harriet 24, and their children were Florence 4, Alice 3 and John Henry 1. Application was made to N.S.W. Government Emigration Department in London and he received copies of the regulations and requirements relating to assisted passages.

It is interesting to note who was considered eligible or ineligible.

"Approval of adult Immigrants from the United Kingdom shall be limited to persons between the ages of twelve years and thirty-five years.

"The persons to be introduced shall be of sound mental and bodily health, and of good moral character, and shall consist of mechanics, miners, domestic servants, farmers, and any other descriptions of labourers suitable for country pursuits, and to be chosen with a special view to the promotion of the industrial pursuits of the Colony.

"INELIGIBLE CANDIDATES - to whom assisted passaged cannot be granted are - persons who have not arranged with their creditors - persons in the habitual receipt of parish relief - widowers and widows with young children - parents without all their children under seventeen - children under seventeen without their parents - husbands without their wives - wives without their husbands - single women who have had illegitimate children - single women under 17 (except with parents) or over 30.

"All emigrants, after having received 'Embarkation Orders', shall present themselves on a specified day at the Depot at Plymouth, from which port vessels specially chartered by the Agent-General sail for Sydney.

"Married couples and children will be allowed to remain on board seven clear days after the ships drop anchor in Sydney Harbour.

"Unmarried women, upon arrival, will be received into an Emigrants' Home in Sydney, and allowed to remain therein, should they desire to do so, for twenty-one clear days, to enable them to obtain suitable employment.

"Emigrants desiring to proceed to the country districts of the Colony, within three clear days of their arrival, will be allowed free travelling passes by railway for that purpose.

"Contribution towards passage, inclusive of bedding and mess utensils:- each person of 12 years and not exceeding 35 years of age, seven pounds; each person of 3 years and under 12 years of age, three pounds ten shillings; children under 3 years of age, free.

N.B. The bedding and mess outfit become the property of the migrant.

"PERSONAL OUTFIT AND LUGGAGE. Migrants must provide their own

outfit which will be inspected before embarkation by an officer of the Agent-General. Each person must possess not less than the following:-
For Male Adults: 2 complete suits of strong external clothing, 8 shirts, 6 pairs stockings, 2 pairs new shoes, and 2 flannel or guernsey shirts. For Female Adults: 6 shifts, 2 flannel petticoats, 6 pairs stockings, 2 pairs strong shoes, and 2 strong gowns; one of which should be of a warm material. For each child: 9 shirts or shifts, 4 flannel waistcoats, and 1 warm cloak or outside coat; 6 pairs stockings, 2 pairs strong shoes, and 2 complete suits of external clothing. Each person must also have 2 lbs. best yellow soap, 2 lbs. marine soap, and not less than 4 towels and 3 sheets, together with the necessary brushes and combs for cleanliness. New bedding (except sheets) and mess utensils will be provided by the Agent-General. Two or three coloured shirts for men, and an extra supply of flannel for women and children, are very desirable.

"The quantity of luggage for each person over 12 years must not exceed 20 cubic feet, or half a ton in weight. It must be closely packed in one or more strong boxes, not exceeding 10 cubic feet each. Larger packages, and extra luggage, if taken, must be paid for. Mattresses, feather-beds, or pillows, firearms and offensive weapons, wines, spirits, beer, gunpowder, percussion caps, lucifer matches, articles of food of a perishable nature, or that require cooking, and any dangerous or noxious articles, cannot be taken. Emigrants must look carefully after their luggage, both in travelling to the port of embarkation, and after arrival there, as neither the Agent-General, his officers, nor the Colonial Government, can be responsible in any way for loss thereof, or damage, thereto, on land or at sea.

"The Emigrants are victualled on board in messes of about eight adults in number. Each person of 12 years and upwards receives weekly 3½ lbs. meat, 6 ozs. suet, 9 ozs. butter, 3 ozs. cheese, 28 ozs. biscuit, 90 ozs. flour, 20 ozs. oatmeal or rice, 3 lbs. potatoes or 12 ozs. preserved ditto, ½ pint split peas, 12 ozs. vegetables, 8 ozs. raisins, 1½ ozs. tea, 2 ozs. coffee, 1 lb. sugar, and ½ lb. molasses, with mustard, salt, pepper and pickles; also 3 quarts water daily. Children between 1 and 12 years receive half rations in addition to an allowance of jam or marmalade, preserved soup, egg and milk. A special dietary scale is provided for children above 4 months and under 1 year. There is also an abundant supply of medical comforts, such as arrowroot, wine, preserved soups, broths, &c. for use in cases of sickness. Emigrants receive fresh baked bread daily, made from a portion of their flour.

"Mattresses, bolsters, blankets and counterpanes, canvas-bags to contain clothing, &c. knives and forks, spoons, plates, drinking mugs, and other small articles, are provided by the Agent-General.

"The ships are fitted with proper regard to the health and comfort of the Emigrants, as well as for the preservation of good order amongst them. The single women have a distinct compartment set apart from them, and are placed under the care of a Matron. A Surgeon is also carried in each ship.

"On reaching the Colony, the emigrants are at perfect liberty to choose their own employment, and to make their own bargains for wages. No employer is admitted into the Depot to hire female servants who is not known to be of good character, or who does not bring a certificate of respectability from a Clergyman or Magistrate."

Having agreed to all the Regulations and Conditions, and supplied written Certificates as to present and past occupation with periods of employment, and certificate of marriage, Edward Rawlinson received an Approval Circular dated 18th July, 1881 requesting payment, and advising "the next ship sails from Plymouth 8th August."

The Passengers' Contract Ticket duly arrived and Edward, Harriet and their children proceeded to Plymouth where they boarded the ship Northampton No. 4 of 1161 tons Register and sailed on 8th August 1881, arriving in Sydney in November, 1881.

They subsequently settled at "Rosleigh" in Rose Street, Annandale, where other children were born.

The above information was supplied by Society members, Marian and Rex Rawlinson. Edward Henry Rawlinson was Rex's grandfather, and Rex's father, Robert Rawlinson, was born at Annandale in 1888.

The original documents referred to above are in the possession of Rex's sister.

When Marian and Rex were in England in 1976 they travelled by train to Stockport to see if "13 George Street, Hall Street, Stockport" was still standing. A taxi driver said he did not know Hall Street, and that George Street was now divided into two sections. However, he took them to George Street to a house No. 13. It was a free-standing, single fronted, 2-storey house of the right era but all the windows were boarded up and it looked as if it was ready for demolition. Photos were taken.

Ed. Our thanks to Marian Rawlinson for this very interesting piece of family history. Contributions to the Bulletin are most welcome. Accompanying this article was a letter from Marian which was topical enough to be included here. It reads... *I was very interested in the article "Arncliffe Remembers" in the last issue of the Bulletin, as my attendance at Arncliffe Public School overlapped part of the period covered.*

I started at Arncliffe Public School in May 1929 and Miss Allen was my teacher too. When we attended a farewell to Miss Allen in Rockdale Town Hall on her retirement, she said she taught three generations (my mother was taught by Miss Allen too).

Reference is made to a "brown reader". We graduated through four readers - red, blue, brown and green (I can't recall the exact order).

We graduated to 1st and 2nd Class in the large brick building on the corner of Princes Highway and Avenal Street. The infants Headmistress had her office in that building.

Mr Monaghan was the Headmaster and lived in a cottage in the grounds. A subsequent Headmaster was Mr Whitbread.

After 3rd Class we graduated to a weatherboard building near the Headmaster's Cottage, and from 4th Class when the boys and girls were segregated, we moved for 4th, 5th and 6th Classes to the 2-storey building near Segenhoe Street. The girls were always intrigued by the boys with their separate buildings and playgrounds on the other side of the fence.

After passing the Q.C. in 6th Class, we moved to the 2-storey home (I think it was called 'Teluba') on the corner of Segenhoe and Avenal Streets. It was known as Arncliffe Domestic Science School. In first year we learned the usual basic subjects plus cooking and dietetics. Before going on to 2nd year we had to make a choice of Home Economics or a Commercial Course. I chose a Commercial Course and learned shorthand, typing and business principles and practice. 3rd Year saw the conclusion of our schooling with the Intermediate Certificate Examination. A year later 3rd Year was discontinued at Arncliffe, and girls desiring to go on to the Intermediate or Leaving Certificate had to go to Kogarah Home Science School.

Neville Cooper mentioned the tragic death of a pupil, Patrick O'Hara, during his crossing of the Princes Highway between the school and Forest Road corner. There was another tragedy when a boy named Smith was crushed by a petrol tanker in the same area.

Gordon Knowles, who was mentioned in the article, lived in West Botany Street near us and was a childhood playmate. The Bravery Medal which he was awarded was, I understand, the George Cross. He died in the dentist's chair while undergoing treatment.

The other matters in the article are in line with my experience and brought back many memories.

Yours sincerely,

*Marian Rawlinson.
23 April 1996*

Ed. The intersection of Forest Road and the Princes Highway was and remains a very dangerous section of road. My own vivid recollection was my grandfather's announcement to our family that his son, my uncle, Peter Jarvis, had been killed crossing the highway at that point. He was in his early twenties. It was the day the traffic lights were installed.