



# THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1970.

THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

Patron  
The Mayor of Kogarah  
Alderman K.R. Cavanough

President  
Mrs. D.A. Hatton,  
15 Annette Avenue,  
KOGARAH, 2217.  
Phone 587 9970

Hon. Secretary  
Miss C. McEwen,  
84 Carlton Parade,  
CARLTON, 2218.  
Phone 587 2090

Management Committee  
Chairwoman  
Mrs. D.A. Hatton

Publicity Committee  
Convenor  
Mr. P. Orlovich  
54 Culver Street,  
KOGARAH, 2217.  
Phone 587 0377

Museum Committee  
Convenor  
Mr. J.E. Veness,  
6 Lance Avenue,  
BLAKEHURST, 2221.  
Phone 54 3932

OBJECTIVES

To promote interest in the history of the Kogarah Municipality and Australia in general.

To give support to the preservation of historic buildings and other objects considered to be of historic value.

MEMBERSHIP

Any inquiries regarding membership should be directed to the Honorary Secretary. Visitors are especially welcome.

Subscription: \$1.00 per annum  
Senior Citizens: 25¢ per annum  
School Students: 25¢ per annum

MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 8 p.m. in the Kogarah Municipal Council Chambers, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

DONATIONS

Donations of items of historical interest suitable for inclusion in the Society's proposed Museum will be gratefully accepted by the Convenor of the Museum Committee.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions of articles and information of local historical interest for publication in this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor, Mr. P. Orlovich.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held as follows:-

Date: 12th November, 1970

Guest Speaker: Mr. N.J. Thorpe, a member of the Society, will give an illustrated talk on "The Opening of the Illawarra Line".

---

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The following report of the Publicity Committee was submitted to the October General Meeting recommending that:-

A Museum Committee be established to prepare and maintain the Society's proposed Museum.

A press release together with a photo of old Kogarah School be submitted to all local newspapers inviting people to lend or donate items of historical interest for display in the Museum.

Steps be taken to erect a plaque at the Carss' Grave sight. A number of estimates of cost for erecting the plaque were obtained and submitted to the General Meeting. It was decided that a plaque made in gun metal and set in a sandstone block, after the style of one recently erected by the Rockdale Municipal Council in Cook Park, would be the most suitable. It was resolved that the matter be left in the hands of the Publicity Committee. An inspection of the grave by the Publicity Committee and the Museum Committee was arranged for the 18th October.

A personal approach followed by a letter be made to the Hurstville Historical Society and the St. George Historical Society concerning the formation of a District Council. The objectives of the Council would include the promotion of a wider interest amongst the members of each Society in the history of the district as a whole. A bi-monthly Bulletin could be produced to publicize the activities of each Society. Joint activities could be arranged such as the mounting of historical exhibitions and displays and the organization of historical celebrations and commemorative events. A list of lecturers could be prepared to address each Society on subjects of historical interest.

The Committee reported that Kogarah Municipal Council had been approached for permission to erect a notice board in the Kogarah Municipal Library, and the Kogarah Lions Club had been asked for permission to place a notice at the Kogarah Information Centre. It was resolved that any action concerning the notice on Kogarah Railway Station be deferred until more suitable space is available.

The recommendations were accepted.

## MEMBERSHIP

The following new members have joined the Society since October:-

Mr. J. Fletcher, Mrs. M. Grieve, Mr. R. Mitchell  
Mrs. M. Thompson, Mrs. J. Zimeris

---

## LAST GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER, 1970.

A Museum Committee was appointed consisting of the following members:-

Mr. J.E. Veness (Convenor)  
Mr. J. Fletcher  
Mrs. S. Kelly  
Mr. J.A. Lean  
Mr. P. Orlovich  
Mr. V. Smith  
Mr. W. Wright  
Mr. S.L. Zimeris

The Mayor, Alderman K.R. Cavanough, addressed the Meeting concerning the proposed Museum at Carss' Park. He stated that the sum of \$14,000 had been allocated by Council for the erection of a new residence for the Park Ranger.

Mrs. Hatton graciously offered to hold the Society's first Christmas Party in her home at 15 Annette Avenue, Kogarah. The Party will be held on the 10th December. She extended the invitation to include the families of members and suggested that slides or films could be shown. Ladies were requested to provide sandwiches and cakes and gentlemen were asked to donate 20¢ at the November Meeting for the purchase of soft drinks. The President requested that the Party not extend beyond 11 p.m. If anyone not having transport could advise the Secretary arrangements will be made.

A paper prepared by the Honorary Research Officers and read by Mr. H. Mortel on "The History of Carss' Park" was enjoyed by the members who attended the meeting. A vote of thanks was extended followed by a round of applause by those present.



AN OLD VET

EBENEZER ADDIS OF BLAKEHURST

BY MRS. M. GRIEVE

(The following personal recollection of Ebenezer Addis is kindly furnished by Mrs. Grieve of South Hurstville, a member of The Kogarah Historical Society who has resided at Blakehurst since 1909. Mrs. Grieve was born in Ramsgate, and upon moving to Blakehurst, attended the Blakehurst Public School when Mr. Morris was Headmaster, and Miss Garlick his assistant. Mrs. Grieve was personally acquainted with Ebenezer Addis from about 1910 until his death about 1920, he then being upwards of eighty years of age. His two residences, according to Mrs. Grieve were situated on his property adjoining Hatfield Street, and were demolished during the 1950's. He was the owner and proprietor of the Woniara Pleasure Ground.)

One of the most interesting characters in the Blakehurst district was an old soldier named Ebenezer Addis who owned a beautiful stretch of land along the shores of Shipwright Bay. This area was originally granted to Robert Townson on 1st January, 1810 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. The estate about 75 acres was bought for £120. It was known as Woniara Pleasure Ground and admission to the picnic grounds was sixpence per horse.

Ebenezer, a patriarchal old figure had a very colourful past. He had four huge silver medals for service in the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War. Once a year he polished the medals, renewed the ribbons and set forth resplendent for the War Veterans' Annual Dinner.

We children collected his mail and did other sundry jobs. He had a winter residence and a summer residence at the extremes of his property. In the winter he moved to the house with the easterly aspect. This was a four roomed structure which he had built himself from stone quarried from the land. The back door was always open. The second bedroom was occupied by his big black horse; his white leghorns had free passage from room to room. One of the latter, blind in one eye was named Florence in honour of Florence Nightingale. Then he had another pet, a fat goanna, which used to emerge from under cupboards or down the rafters at the most unexpected moments.

Like most old soldiers he had a great repertoire of stories. At times he would be laid low with a bad leg, the result of an injury in the Battle of Sebastapol. He was quite proud of the large scar as Florence Nightingale herself had dressed the wound.

In return for services rendered we always demanded payment, not monetary payment but the telling of a story. That's what we clamored for, although we had heard them over and over again they never lost their savour. "Tell us about when you were shipwrecked in the Bay of Biscay on your way home from India!" "Tell us when you disobeyed an order and was put in a pit and the rattlesnake crawled over you!" "What about the time when you were ambushed by the Sepoys and saw some of your dead comrades hanging head

downwards from the trees in the forest".

After we had had our quota of anecdotes we bargained for another treat. For an armful of sticks for the fire we demanded a tune on the old violin, one of his most treasured possessions. Taking the instrument from the old battered case, he turned it with great precision, and sang in a sweet tenor voice "Good Old Jeff" with violin accompaniment. By the time he had reached the last sad lines,

"For good old Jeff  
Has gone to rest  
We know that he is free  
Disturb him not  
But let him rest  
Way down in Tennessee"

we were almost in tears. Invariably this was followed by something even more distressing, namely "A Sailor's Grave". The third number was "The Mistletoe Bough" that poignant story of the beautiful young bride,

"Oh sad was her fate  
She hid from her lord  
In the old oak chest  
It closed with a spring  
And the dreadful doom  
The Bride lay clasped in her bridal tomb".

"Three of a kind was good measure", our old friend would exclaim, "Why is everyone so sad?" Then he would sing "Fanny the Village Queen", and "Never Buy Tripe on a Friday".

It is a great pity that such a fine character who did so much for King and Country had not been remembered by the naming of just one street in the estate to perpetuate his name.

---