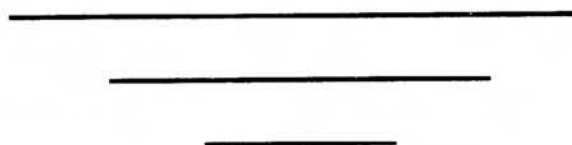




THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 1971



THE KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sponsored by Kogarah Municipal Council

Patron

The Mayor of Kogarah
Alderman K.R. Cavenough J.P.

President

Mrs. D.A. Hatton, J.P.,
15 Annette Avenue,
KOGARAH, 2217.
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Hon. Treasurer

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9 The Mall,
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Hon. Secretary

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Management Committee

Chairwoman
Mrs. D.A. Hatton

Publicity Committee

Convener
Mr. P. Orlovich,
54 Culver Street,
KOGARAH, 2217.
Phone 587 0377

Social Committee

Convener
Miss C. McEwen

Museum Committee

Convener
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
Students: .25¢ per annum

MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 8 p.m. in the Kogarah 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 Convener 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.

JULY MEETING

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

Date: Thursday 8th July, 1971

Address: A short history of Dr. Thomas Arndell, who arrived in the first fleet with Governor Phillip, will be read by Mrs. Hatton. The article has been supplied by kind permission of the noted historian Dr. John Cobley.

Supper Roster: Mrs. B. Butters and Mrs. M. Thompson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members -

Since our last meeting a great deal has been attained in connection with the opening of the Carss Family cottage as a museum. The meeting with the Mayor and Town Clerk reached a very satisfactory conclusion in this regard and we are now waiting approval from Local Government.

The new residence for the Rangers is well under way and should be completed in the allotted time. More details will be supplied at our next meeting. It is going to be a very busy and exciting time for the Society during the next few months, when with the opening of the Museum we hope to reach our goal of over 100 members.

In regard to the Society's stall on Friday 23rd July, if possible jams, pickles and other goods could be brought to our July meeting, otherwise to the stall on the 23rd. Cakes are also very acceptable and are soon sold. We will have two stalls, one opposite the Council Chambers and the other in front of the Commercial Bank.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) D.A. Hatton,
President.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Mr. W. Church, Mrs. M. Grant, Mrs. I. Greenaway,
Mrs. M. McNamara, Mr. & Mrs. C. Newman, Mr. A.S. Taylor

SOCIAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST - Full day to Windsor

Meeting Place: Kogarah Council Chambers

Time: 10 a.m. Sharp

Cost: Adults \$2.00; Children \$1.00

Bring a picnic lunch. Friends are welcome. Please confirm your booking with payment as soon as possible.

FRIDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER - To raise money for the establishment of the Museum a Theatre Party is being arranged to the Pocket Playhouse at 94 Terry Street, Sydenham to see "Dream World". Cost \$2.00 per ticket.

SUNDAY 24TH OCTOBER - Half day to Vacluse House.

LAST GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE, 1971.

During each month the Society receives a number of publications from various organizations and in order that members may read particular items of interest to them it was moved that a Library be established. Any inquiries should be referred to Mrs. Kelly who was appointed Librarian.

In an effort to raise funds for the Museum it was moved that the men attending the meeting contribute 20¢. It is stressed that this is not compulsory and no member must feel obligated to contribute this money. A container will be placed on the supper table for gentlemen wishing to donate.

CARSS PARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Saturday 28th August, has been decided on for the official opening date for the Society's Historical Museum in the Carss family cottage.

As a result of our call last month for historical items to be displayed in the Museum a number of articles were received. However, we still need many more items. If transporting material is a problem arrangements can be made for articles to be picked up.

It is intended that working bees be formed to restore items for display. If anyone is interested in doing such work please contact Mr. Jeff Veness the Convener of the Museum Committee.

WILLIAM CARSS AND THE SCOTCH MECHANICS OF 1831

By Peter Orlovich

Reference was made in an earlier issue of the Newsletter to the fact that William Carss, whose residence is to be converted into a Museum for the Kogarah Historical Society, and after whom the locality, in which it is situated, was named, was originally a native Scotsman and a cabinet maker by trade. He arrived in Sydney with his wife on the 13th October, 1831, by the brig 'Stirling Castle', having been engaged as an 'emigrant mechanic' under the auspices of the Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang.

The circumstances surrounding the origination of Dr. Lang's emigration scheme, under the sponsorship of which William Carss emigrated to New South Wales, are recounted in a small work published sometime after 1877 by Dr. Lang entitled Immigration and the Scotch Mechanics of 1831: Being Chapter V of a Work in Preparation, to be entitled 'Reminiscences of My Life and Times, both in Church and State in Australia, for upwards of Fifty Years Past'. The only copy listed in Ferguson's Bibliography of Australia is in the Mitchell Library.

Dr. Lang recalled that he was induced in 1830 to undertake a voyage to England, "chiefly for certain educational objects in New South Wales". He sailed from Sydney on the 18th August, 1830 in the Australia, and arrived at Dover, in England on the 12th December, 1830. He found, upon his arrival in England, that the condition of the country was one of extreme depression, there was a general stagnation of commerce, and mechanics and other operatives were suffering greatly from want of employment.

The "educational objects" to which he referred consisted in the establishment of a Presbyterian College in Sydney, 'to afford the youth of the Colony a liberal, efficient and economical education', and his object in visiting England was to secure the requisite financial assistance. The Colonial Office at first agreed that £3500 should be advanced to him in instalments as the building progressed, but this arrangement was modified at a later date to permit the use of part of the money to defray the cost of transporting to the Colony the Scotch mechanics whom he selected to assist in the erection of the buildings for the purpose.

Dr. Lang elaborated upon the arrangements, and the results of, his "great experiment in emigration", in the following excerpt from his work abovementioned:-

"It struck me, therefore, on taking all these circumstances into consideration, that a portion of the proposed Government advance might be rendered available for the double purpose of promoting the educational objects in question, and of making a great experiment in emigration to New South Wales, for the general benefit of the colony.

I, therefore, made a second proposal to Lord Goderich, to the effect that, as I had ascertained that a suitable vessel could be chartered in the Port of Greenock to carry out a whole shipload of Scotch mechanics, of the first class, to New South Wales, to erect the buildings we should require for our educational purposes,

provided His Lordship would authorise the sum of £1,500 to be paid for the charter of such vessel from the proposed educational advance, on my arrival with the emigrants in the port of Sydney, His Lordship was pleased to accede to my proposal, and thereby to sanction the introduction and settlement of a numerous body of Scotch mechanics in New South Wales.

The vessel that was chartered for this purpose, with His Lordship the Earl of Ripon's concurrence, was the Stirling Castle, a vessel of 350 tons, belonging to Messrs. Alan Ker, and Co., of Greenock. The corps of Scotch mechanics - all of my own selection - whom she carried out to the colony consisted of fifty-four adults, with their wives and families, being stonemasons and bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, blacksmiths, plasterers, etc., and all members of Christian churches and congregations. The engagement I had made with them was to supply them with employment, at the regular wages of the colony, which were then £2 a week, for twelve months from their arrival in the colony, on condition of their repaying their passage out, at the rate of £25 for each adult member of their respective families, by weekly instalments from their wages.

Besides the mechanics who formed the great bulk of our passengers, we had, occupying the cabin accommodation, the three gentlemen as masters or professors for our Educational Institution, with their wives or sisters, and two ministers for the Presbyterian Church in the colony.

Our arrival in Sydney in these circumstances was hailed by all well-disposed and unprejudiced persons with feelings of astonishment and great gratification, as establishing a new era of the highest promise for the colony; and the scheme it developed, in the importation of the Scotch mechanics, proved eminently successful in the sequel, as far as the carrying out of the mutual engagements was concerned, and was attended, moreover, with the following gratifying and most important results to the colony:-

1. Provisions being remarkably cheap at the time - beef and bread at a penny a pound each - the Scotch mechanics were easily able to fulfil their respective engagements, as most of them did very speedily; and, writing home of their success to their friends in Scotland, as well as in praise of the country and climate generally, many other Scotch mechanics soon came out, with their wives and children, of their own accord, and at their own charges. And as the Imperial Government gave assistance shortly thereafter for the emigration of reputable mechanics from the land fund of the colony, on the discontinuance of the previous system of issuing free grants of land, a large number of such emigrants, following their example, arrived in due time in the colony.

2. The architectural results of the scheme were equally remarkable and gratifying. Till then Sydney had been a more

collection of paltry wooden and brick buildings; but under the superior Scotch mechanics of my importation in 1831, as well as of those who followed them almost immediately thereafter, a great change in this respect took effect forthwith, and that salutary architectural revolution which had thus been initiated through my sacrifices and exertions, then commenced, which has since rendered, Sydney one of the first cities of the empire for its noble buildings of polished stone.

3. But the contemporaneous moral revolution that resulted from this change in the mechanical department of the colony was still more satisfactory; for the drunken ticket-of-leave men or emancipated convicts, who, till then, were the only mechanics obtainable in Sydney - men working in a very inferior style so many days in the week, and drinking the rest - were then gradually self-exiled from the capital from want of employment in Sydney; being succeeded by superior tradesmen, who husbanded their earnings to purchase allotments, and build houses for themselves, insomuch that the change for the better in the moral aspect of the city was very soon evident to all, while the consumption of ardent spirits, in proportion to the population, was greatly diminished. In one word, the importation of the Scotch mechanics of 1831, and their settlement in the colony, proved a remarkable and salutary revolution to the colony of New South Wales."

The sequel to this episode is summarised in The Illustrated Australian Encyclopaedia (ed. by Jose and Carter, Sydney, A.& R., 1925, v.1, p. 717) which remarks that -

"The scheme met with considerable local opposition, partly because Lang was suspected of stealing a march on the two King's Schools which were being planned, and partly because he had roused the anger of the Anglican community by proposing that money for subsidising the migration of poor agricultural families from England to the Colony might be raised by the gradual sale of the lands of the Clergy and School Corporation - which, he alleged, were grossly mismanaged. Consequently, to meet liabilities incurred by the introduction and temporary maintenance of the mechanics (of whom, by the way, Bourke spoke highly), Lang was forced to sell his personal property. Nevertheless, the new College was completed in 1835, and was at once occupied, classes having been opened two years earlier."

The foregoing details and extracts from Dr. Lang's unfinished work provide a useful background against which it is possible to observe the emigration of William Carss to New South Wales in its historical context, and thereby, to add something of significance to the history of the Kogarah district.
