

# Kogarah Historical Society Inc

Carss Cottage Museum – Carss Park  
Postal Address PO Box 367, Kogarah 1485

Patron: The Mayor of Kogarah

President: Beverley Earnshaw (9546 1091)

## *Newsletter*

*July - August 2010*

*Volume 2 No 3*



*They watched the tall ships*, by Colby Kong, aged 8 yrs. Full results of History through Art Competition inside

### Meetings and Speakers

#### **Thursday 8 July 2010**

Speaker: Michael York who received an OAM for his assistance to maritime heritage, on *Restoring Historic Vessels*, particularly the Tall Ship *James Craig*.

#### **Thursday 12 August 2010**

Speaker: Dr Greg de Moore, Psychiatrist by day, Author by night, on the *Rise and Tragic Fall of Tom Wills, Aboriginal Sportsman*

*Meetings are held at the School of Arts, Bowns Road Kogarah, at 2pm. Enjoy the speaker, then the opportunity to chat over afternoon tea. A short business meeting follows. For assistance with transport to meetings please contact Carole Tier (9527 2403)*

# **Mondays at the Museum**

## **Next event -26 July**

**Tom Thompson** has been valuing sporting memorabilia for ABC radio for more than a decade and will tell us how his association with sportsmen in the St George area developed his interest in documenting and valuing sport in the community. He will bring some precious sporting items for display. He is a former literary publisher and created and produced the first four Sydney Writers' Weeks. We start at 10 am with a delicious morning tea in the courtyard and then go inside the Museum to hear the speaker. Cost is \$5 which also gives you the chance to win a door prize. You are of course welcome to stay after the presentation and look around the Museum. Bookings are essential, please make these through **Mavis Ward** on 9546 5704.

## **Museum Roster**

<b>July</b>		<b>August</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Carole Tier & Ken Grieve	1 <sup>st</sup>	Evelyn Buckingham & Adele Ryan
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mavis Ward & Mary Williams	8 <sup>th</sup>	Gill Whan & Deidre Schroeder
18 <sup>th</sup>	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson	15 <sup>th</sup>	Trudy Johns & Elizabeth Emerson
25 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Betty Goodger & Janette Hollebone
		29 <sup>th</sup>	Cath & Leo Sullivan

Hours are 1 pm – 5 pm. Any problems, please contact Elizabeth Emerson on 9579 4118

*Any members who are willing to volunteer for a regular spot at the Museum or to be on the emergency list, please contact the President or any committee member.*

### **Committee 2010 (\* denotes Executive)**

<b>President:*</b>	Beverley Earnshaw	Ph: 9546 1091
<b>Vice President (1):*</b>	Janette Hollebone	Ph: 9529 7117
<b>Vice President(2):*</b>	Betty Goodger	Ph: 9570 1101
<b>Secretary:*</b>	Gill Whan	Ph: 9546 4623
<b>Treasurer:*</b>	Cath Sullivan	Ph: 9579 6149
<b>Museum Custodian</b>	Vacant	
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Beryl Butters, Mavis Ward, Trudy Johns, Carole Tier, Lawrie Corry	

At the May meeting we appointed Jan Williams as our "Caring Officer". If you know of members who are sick/in hospital etc please let Jan know at the meeting or ring 9546 1814

## **Committee meetings**

<b>5 July, 7.00 pm</b>	<b>Beryl Butters, 36 Louisa St., Oatley</b>
<b>2 August, 7.00 pm</b>	<b>Gill Whan, 11 Dewrang St., Carss Park</b>
<b>6 Sept, 7.00 pm</b>	<b>Betty Goodger, Unit 3/2 Nelson St., Penshurst</b>



# LACHLAN MACQUARIE

## GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES 1810-1821

### Macquarie University

When I was a schoolgirl the University of Sydney was the only University in NSW and the ambition of almost every student in my school, was to matriculate and receive a degree from the University.

By the time my son completed his schooling, he had three universities to choose from, the University of Sydney founded in 1850, the University of NSW founded in 1949 and Macquarie University, founded in 1964.

Macquarie University explain their choice of the name thus:

*The name Macquarie commemorates Major-General Lachlan Macquarie (1762-1824), Governor of the Colony of New South Wales 1810-1821, whose genius for administration and vision of the future of the colony, led to the first considerable developments in organized finance and commerce, inland exploration and settlement, fine architecture and patronage of the arts and literature.*

The University chose as their emblem, the Macquarie Lighthouse. There was a signal post on South Head from the very earliest time, to signal the arrival of a ship into the Harbour and to guide them safely. The first lighthouse, designed by Francis Greenway, was built in 1818. In 1883 it was replaced by a new lighthouse, powered by electricity, but the name was well entrenched.

By the time Macquarie University was founded in 1964, Latin was no longer a prerequisite for matriculation, so the University chose a motto in English, not Latin. They took words from the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, by the 15<sup>th</sup> century English poet, Chaucer, whose works were the first book printed in England in English, not in Latin or Greek. Most appropriately, they are, in Middle English spelling,

*And gladly teche.*

The colours of the University are green and gold.

During Macquarie's time in NSW, two chairs were made for him by convicts. They are made of Australian rosewood and featured a carving of a mailed fist holding a dagger, taken from the Macquarie coat of arms and the back and seat were upholstered in kangaroo hide. One chair was presented to the University in 1967 and is used as the Vice-Chancellor's chair. The other is in the Powerhouse Museum.

The chairs had gone back to Scotland with the Macquaries in 1822 and finally went to Canada when Macquarie's great-nephews emigrated there in the 1890s. Both chairs eventually made their way back to New South Wales.

After his term as Governor, Macquarie returned to his home on the Isle of Mull in Scotland. The small cottage was called Grulina House. Not only was it small, it was also damp and Elizabeth set about enlarging and improving it, for Macquarie was often in London on business, an annoyance caused by Bigge's unfavourable report. They planned to build a mansion next door, but it never eventuated. Macquarie died in 1824, though Elizabeth lived on until 1835. Much later, in the 1850s, a "palace" was built and given the same name,

Grulina House. The owner of Grulina House in the 1960s, Mr E.J.Mather, had the wood panelling of the old house, carefully dismantled and presented it to the University in 1967.

In 1979 the then Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler, officially opened the Lachlan Macquarie Room in the University Library. It is a complete historical reconstruction of the parlour room from Macquarie's house on the Isle of Mull. The room contains the original timber paneling, doors, windows and fireplace. There is a display explaining the history of the original house and estate, and a biographical profile of Lachlan Macquarie and his family.



Also in the display are various items relating to Lachlan Macquarie, including the Vice-Chancellor's chair, a book from Macquarie's personal library, a porcelain serving plate, a 17<sup>th</sup> century map of Mull and a replica of the Regimental Colours of the 73rd Regiment of Foot (the Black Watch) that Macquarie brought to NSW in 1810.

I expect that room will be much visited in the Centenary Year while we celebrate our good fortune in having Lachlan Macquarie as our Governor in those formative years.

***Betty Goodger***

#### REFERENCES

Macquarie University Handbook of Postgraduate Studies 2009  
Elizabeth Macquarie. Her Life and Times, by Lysbeth Cohen 1979

**The Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary Commemorations**  
*Australian History through Art*

**Kogarah Historical Society congratulates all participants. Winners are:**

**Section 1: Years 5 & 6**

**First Prize**

**Jaydan Prior, Peakhurst West Public School**

*Governor Lachlan Macquarie surveying plans for Windsor 1810.*

**Highly Commended**

**Louise Lin**, Blakehurst Primary School  
*Captain Arthur Phillip being speared by  
Aborigines*

**Phillip Huang**, Blakehurst  
*Gallipoli*

**Katya Karan Filovski**, Blakehurst  
*New Years Eve*

**Morgan Widdowson**, Danebank Anglican  
School for Girls  
*Olympic Games*

**Angelica Tsouglis**, Danebank  
*The First Fleet in Port Jackson*

**Kathy Stavrakas**, Sans Souci Public School  
*Ned Kelly*

**Eleni Dimarchos**, Sans Souci  
*Ned Kelly*

**Samuel Yau**, Hurstville Sth Public School  
*Northey's Store Hill End*

**Phillip Xu**, Hurstville South  
*Presbyterian Church Hill End*

**Jenny Tao**, Hurstville South  
*Northside Gardens, North Sydney*

**Section 2: Years 3 & 4**

**First Prize**

**Elise Wong, St.Raphael's Primary School, South Hurstville**

*They Watched the Tall Ships Come.*

**Highly Commended**

**Courtney Higgins**, St.Thomas More's,  
Brighton-le-Sands  
*Welcome to our Country*

**Joaquin Catalan-Taber**, St.Thomas  
More's  
*Sydney Olympics*

**Andie Lin**, Hurstville South  
*Captain Cook landing on Australia*

**Grace Liong**, Hurstville South  
*Building the Harbour Bridge*

**Christine Wang**, Hurstville South  
*Aboriginal Art*

**Colby Kong**, St Raphaels  
*They Watched the Tall Ships*

**Matea Abramovic**, Hurstville South  
*Captain Cook*

**Rosalie Jacovou**, Danebank  
*Captain Cook discovers Australia*

**Stephanie Susanto**, Danebank  
*The First Fleet*

**Anna Melas**, Sans Souci  
*Ned Kelly*

**Ellie Sotiri**, Sans Souci  
*Ned Kelly*

## Section 3: Years 1 & 2

### First Prize

**Claudia Ceballos, St.Patrick's, Kogarah**  
*Construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge*

### Highly Commended

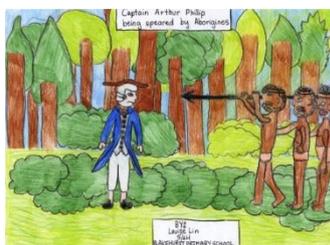
**Annalise Tuck, St.George Christian  
Infants School**  
*Flags and the Harbour Bridge*

**Emma Lean, St.George C.I.S.**  
*National War Memorial, Canberra*

**Ruth Jessop-Smith, St.George C.I.S.**  
*Arrival of Captain Cook*

**Jaden Lam, St.George C.I.S.**  
*St.James Church Hyde Park*

**Alexander Hamilton, Oatley Public  
School**  
*Aborigine*



## Section 4: Kindergarten

### First Prize

**Victor Lu, St George Christian Infants School**

### Highly Commended

**Emerald Ritchie, Oatley Public School**

**Michael Chen (KD), Hurstville South  
Public School**

**Michael Chen (KM) Hurstville South  
Public School**

**Hassibe Hussein, Hurstville South Public  
School**

**Cathy Li, Danebank Anglican School for  
Girls**

**Lyric McDoughall, St George Christian  
Infants School**

**Sam Hunt, Sans Souci Public School**

**Alpha Kevic, Sans Souci Public School**

**Ali Hammoud, Blakehurst Public School**

**Antonius Yasintus, Blakehurst Public  
School**

*Kogarah Historical Society would like to express appreciation to the three judges who so willingly contributed their expertise, to the many teachers who enthused their students and to the students themselves who helped us commemorate this important year.*



## THOMAS EARNSHAW 1749 - 1829

### Father of the Marine Chronometer

For thousands of years, men have put to sea in ships. They often sailed great distances, navigating only by the stars. This depended on clear skies to keep them on course and at times being a sailor was a difficult and dangerous occupation. For centuries there had been no way of judging longitude to calculate the distance they had travelled east or west.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the British Government was desperate to devise some means of determining navigation at sea and offered a reward of £20,000 for someone who could invent such an apparatus. Thomas Harrison achieved the break through by inventing a practical marine timekeeper, but his machine was complicated, delicate and costly.

The person generally credited with being 'the father of the marine chronometer' is Thomas Earnshaw. Thomas was born at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1749 and served his apprenticeship as a watchmaker. Having no money to open his own business he remained as an employee and by 1780 had invented several outstanding improvements to the marine chronometer. Unable to afford to take out a patent he divulged his invention in secret to his employer, Mr Brockbank whose colleague was John Arnold. Arnold immediately patented the inventions under his own name and Thomas lost credit for them.

He next turned to a watchmaker named Wright and once again had his ideas stolen when Wright took out patents in his own name. When Thomas protested, Wright offered the young clockmaker a chance to buy back the cost of the patent (100 guineas) by charging a royalty (payable to Wright) of one guinea on every watch he sold. It took a long time for Thomas to buy back his patent and start his own business.

In 1791 his reputation was enhanced when he won a semi official trial at Greenwich in competition with other chronometer makers. That year William Bligh was preparing to set out in the ship *Providence* on his second breadfruit voyage and was instructed by the Admiralty to purchase a timekeeper. He invited various makers to send samples to Greenwich for trial. Thomas entered five pocket chronometers and Governor Bligh reported -

*This is to certify ... that Mr.Tho.Earnshaw has delivered into my possession a Metal Case Chronometer, No.1503 at the price of forty guineas. I further certify that this Chronometer was compared ... with watches of much higher prices and that its rate was preferable, and on that reason taken by me on Government Account. (Signed) Wm.Bligh*

Thomas's skill eventually came to the attention of the Admiralty. Much of the prize money had not been allocated and chronometers from various makers were being trialled at sea. Thomas was very successful and the Admiralty voted him £500 to defray his expenses.

Fierce opposition to the payment came from Sir Joseph Banks who was the patron of John Arnold, the clockmaker who had stolen Thomas's invention 23 years before. Sir Joseph fought tooth and nail to have the Board's decision reversed so that Thomas's reputation

would not surpass that of Arnold. After an acrimonious and malicious debate, the Board decided to reward both Thomas and John Arnold with £3000 each.

As soon as Thomas received his money he inserted a long advertisement in the press, outlining his struggle for recognition and pouring abuse on Sir Joseph Banks. Banks threatened to sue, but withdrew the complaint.

In 1803 Matthew Flinders sailed around Australia in the *Investigator*. He took five chronometers with him but by the end of the three year voyage the Earnshaw chronometer was the only one still working. This chronometer was in Flinders' possession when he was taken prisoner-of-war by the French in Mauritius. When the French released Captain Akin, Master of the *Investigator*, Flinders managed to send the chronometer back to England with him where it was delivered to the Greenwich Observatory.

No more was heard of this Earnshaw chronometer, No.520, from 1805 until 1937 when it was purchased by an Australian collector of clocks and watches. No one knew this had been the Flinders chronometer until 1976. At this time it had found its way into Sydney's Power House Museum and there it was identified by two sets of serial numbers as the chronometer Flinders had taken with him.

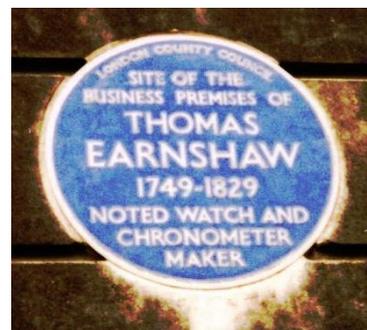
Thomas Earnshaw died in London in 1829, the last of the great pioneer chronometer makers, and a blue plaque on a London Street marks the site of his house.

*Beverley Earnshaw*

References:

The Marine Chronometer by Commander R.T.Gould RN  
Encyclopaedia Britannica 1961 Ed. Vol.5 p.663a

*Note: Thomas Earnshaw is no relation to the writer.*



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## Historical Teasers

- 1 Who wrote the words of 'Advance Australia Fair'?
- 2 Name the winner of our first Melbourne Cup and the year it was run.
- 3 Name the famous Aussie food product invented in 1923.
- 4 Who won Australia's first Victoria Cross?
- 5 Name the Australian ships involved in a collision on 10 February 1964.
- 6 Who were 'the tennis twins' of Australian tennis in the 1950s?
- 7 Who were "The Invincibles"?

Answers:

(1) Peter Dodds McCormick around 1878. (2) Archer 1861. (3) Vegemite. (4) Leint Neville Howse, 24 July 1900. (5) HMAS Melbourne & HMAS Voyager. (6) Lew Hoad and Ken Rosewall. (7) The Australian Cricket Team.

## SYDNEY'S GARDEN PALACE SCANDAL

## Presented by Lesley Muir at the April 2010 meeting



Lesley started her presentation by telling us how Great Exhibitions, designed to showcase their countries, had become the fashion after Prince Albert organised the successful Great Exhibition of 1851 in London. The London Exhibition was in essence a Victorian celebration of Empire and its achievements, and was followed by one in Paris and then one in Philadelphia.

The idea for a similar event to be held in Sydney in 1879 was strongly supported by the then Governor Sir Hercules Robinson who had a history of encouraging enterprise. The Agricultural Society had sponsored buildings for showing animals and exhibitions in Prince Alfred Park in 1870 but did not support the idea as the building was not large and the then Premier, James Farnell, was reluctant to commit funding. The idea created division as it was supported in the City and opposed in the Bush. At the time there were two opposition leaders, John Robertson, who was popular with Australian born people – he had a cleft palate and was admired for the way in which he coped; and Henry Parkes, the consummate politician who loved power, was a great talker and a very poor investor, being rescued from bankruptcy at least twice during his long career. At the end of 1878 Farnell lost power over a shonky land deal and a Coalition government was formed with Parkes as Premier and Robinson as Leader of the Legislative Assembly. The Great Exhibition was immediately given the go ahead.

The Government Architect had the plans in two weeks and contracts were awarded without going to tender. The site was to be the Botanical Gardens and the Foundation Stone was laid in 1879. Lesley's description of the gossip of the time sounded all too familiar, there was talk about the relationship between the politicians and the contractors, talk of 'commissions' being paid and corruption. Despite this, the building continued by day and night, helped by the **new** electric lighting. Logistic difficulties were overcome – at the time there was no harbour bridge and the railway ended in Cleveland Street, the only other means of transport was the horse bus and hansom cabs. A temporary tramway was built from the train terminus up Elizabeth Street to Hunter Street. Hudson Brothers got the contract for everything. There were huge cost over-runs but nevertheless the grand opening took place in September 1879 with a choir of 3000, an organ and eight pianos. Inclement weather meant that the official party had to squelch through the mud and Hercules Robinson was not there although a bust of him was placed on the stage. The Exhibition Building, the Garden Palace, was an amazing building occupying a huge area between the conservatorium of Music and the State Library. It had an ornately decorated interior with a huge dome under which was a statue of Queen Victoria. Numerous galleries housed the exhibits from the colonies and other countries, who sent their finest produce. It featured the first hydraulic lift by Otis Bros from the USA and over one million people visited out of an Australian population of 2.2 million. It closed in 1880.

The question then arose of what to do with the building. A number of very important collections were housed there, a Tudor Fair was set up and it was used for government storage of census statistics, working documents and archives. As the discussion was going on various scandals were coming to light and some Ministers were forced to resign. Parkes went overseas on a long holiday, closing Parliament and leaving Robinson to cope. Parkes was roundly criticised and some of his own party crossed sides to the Opposition. Accusations increased and Parkes took to his bed and refused to see anyone while the litany of scandals and dodgy deals continued to be publicised and discussed.



Then the Exhibition building, which had cost ¼ million pounds, caught fire early on the morning of 22 September 1882. No cause of the fire was ever established but arson was suspected. The only thing rescued was the watchman's dog and the losses were huge. Completely destroyed were the Census statistics for 1861 and 1881, the records of land occupation, the railway trial surveys, the Linnean Society Museum, a mining and geological collection, art and sculpture collection, ethnographic collection, particularly Aboriginal artefacts, all irreplaceable.

Henry Parkes now emerged and announced that the National Gallery and the National Library would be built but in the next election in 1882 there was a landslide against his government and most Ministers and Parkes himself lost their seats. As we know, Parkes lived to fight another day and was Premier five times, but the scandals of the Garden Palace took their toll.

Lesley reminded us of some of the positive consequences of embarking on this huge enterprise. It helped Sydney to develop, with slums being cleared, streets paved, a real estate boom, improvements in the public transport network of trams and of course the eventual construction of the National Gallery and Library.

Some original sculptures from the period remain and there is a plaque in the Botanic Gardens marking where the central dome of the building was. The magnificently carved gates at the Macquarie Street entrance to the Botanic Gardens designed by James Barnet serve as a reminder of this significant event in Australia's history. A fascinating story, well told and much appreciated by the audience present.

*Report by Gill Whan*

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### **Did somebody say scandal?**

This seems an appropriate place to tell you about the latest Historic Houses Trust Exhibition which is called SIN CITY – Crime and Corruption in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sydney! It is on at the Justice and Policy Museum, Cnr Philip & Albert Streets, Circular Quay and is open daily from 10 am – 5 pm. We are told *that it uncovers decades of crime and vice in Sydney's sordid underbelly.*

# Historic Hurstville Explored

## Report by Janette Hollebhone

What a lovely day Thursday, 20 May turned out to be. First we were very lucky with the weather as it was such a fine day following heavy rains the days before and after.

Bruce Brown was our driver for the Mortdale RSL Club minibus which was almost full. We had 6 visitors and 12 members for a tour of Hurstville Municipality, with Betty Goodger as our guide. Betty showed us a great variety of houses and other buildings along the way, and some beautiful and interesting parks.

We visited 'Torino', an attractive Victorian cottage which was built for Thomas McKee c1893. Louis Albert Musso, a chemist of Penshurst, purchased the house in 1916, and the Musso family were the last residents. Dr Louis Albert Musso sold the house c1980. The house is now used for offices for the Spastic Centre. The house and garden are in very good condition and is classified by the National Trust.



We stopped at Grannie MacMahon's Tree in Binder Reserve, Hurstville Historical Society Marker No 7. To quote the plaque: "This is a Port Jackson Fig planted about 1890 in memory of a younger member of the MacMahon family. Mrs MacMahon used to conduct Sunday School under its shade. At one time it was totally enclosed by a metal railing with a plaque on the tree, but these have disappeared."

Then there was Ryan's Dairy in Botany Street—with a simple stone cottage—the only stone building in Hurstville. 'Ithiel' is a large two-storey Victorian mansion easily seen and 'Rostrov' another Victorian two-storey building which is mostly hidden from view. Most of the Victorian mansions have been demolished.

Morning tea at the Hurstville Hotel took much longer than expected. Service at Mortdale RSL Club could not be faulted when we were served an excellent lunch.

Thank you, Betty, for a lovely and informative day.

If you thought that sounded good fun, then think about joining the next mini bus tour being organized by the Society. It will be on Thursday 16 September leaving from the Mortdale RSL at 9.30 am and going to Camperdown Cemetery, then to La Perouse for lunch at Danny's and to the Sir Joseph Banks Pleasure Grounds. Back by 3.30 pm. To book your place please ring Janette Hollebhone on 95297117.



**Norm Clapham** is a very fit looking 85 year old and has lived all his life in the area - indeed in the very same house in Paris Street, Carlton. The association of the Clapham family with St George goes back to 1857 when Norm's grandfather Henry left Wiltshire in England to come to Australia as a migrant, arriving on the Gulconda in May 1857. Henry was a bricklayer and two of his best known works are the St Georges Church in Hurstville and the large house in King Georges Road, now a Revivalist Centre but built for the Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School. Henry and had children – Frederic, Norms father was first?

Frederic and Irene his wife, set up home in Paris Street and had three children two boys and a girl. Norm went to school at Carlton South Public and then to Kogarah where he obtained his intermediate certificate and left school. As he explained, it was post-depression and times were hard. He became a junior office boy for an electronics firm at Mascot and developed an interest in radio construction, attending a course and then building them as a hobby. From Thomas Smith at Mascot he went to Tooth and Co, Brewers, on Broadway, where he progressed from a lowly clerk to Manager of Corporate Affairs over the course of his career. He says it was a great Company and he has many happy memories of his time there.

Norm never married and looked after his parents until their death. He has been involved in many community activities, first with Apex, then Rotary, taking on many positions and duties and receiving the Paul Harris Certificate for service from Rotary. He worked as a volunteer for many years with the Community Mobile Nursing Service and was made a Life Member and in 1985 received a community service award and medal from Kogarah Council for his work on the Committee for the Centenary Celebrations. His interests include tennis and cricket which he used to play and music, particularly classical. A major interest up until a few years ago was playing the piano and organ, something he learned from his father who was a very good pianist. He has travelled extensively all over the world and now enjoys programs such as Global Village on SBS. A major heart operation three years ago slowed him down for a while but he is fit again and still likes to cook for himself. He has been a member of the Historical Society since 2004 and it is good to see him at meetings.