

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

December 1972  
20 cents

## FOUNDATION

On Wednesday 12th July 1972 a meeting was convened at the Town Hall by the then Mayor, Cr.F.A.Arden, to consider the formation of a CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Mrs.E.W. Tipping, outlined the work of a local historical society and described the foundation of the R.H.S.V. in 1909. Mr. K.A.Austin, author and historian, then delivered an informative account of Caulfield's early days. Following the addresses, nominations were called for a committee to draw up a constitution and consider membership subscriptions and other matters. The Constitution prepared by the preliminary committee was presented and accepted at a further meeting convened by Cr. Arden on 13th September 1972. At this meeting, on the motion of His Worship the Mayor of Caulfield, Cr. W.R.Walters, M.B.E., J.P., seconded by Mr. K.A.R.Horn, it was unanimously resolved, "That a Caulfield Historical Society be formed." A committee of eleven was elected with Mr. Horn as President. Mayor Walters graciously agreeing to become the Society's first Patron. Mr. Weston Bate, well known as an historian, was then invited to address the meeting on "The Role of a Local Historical Society". Mr. Bate is a lively and informative speaker and provided suggestions for many avenues of activity for the Society.

## TRUST SURVEY

In recent months, a street by street survey of Caulfield has been carried out under the auspices of the National Trust of Victoria by Trust and Caulfield High School members and other interested people. The aim of the survey has been to discover, photograph and record details of buildings of architectural and historical merit. The information is then submitted to the Trust for preliminary perusal to select buildings which are of interest for possible classification. The properties are then indicated for which further research is required so that full information can be supplied to the Survey and Identification Committee which considers submissions for National Trust classification.

There are only seven classified buildings in Caulfield at present, but this may be increased soon, as several buildings are already before the Committee. A number of homes are also waiting on further research.

As a result of the Trust survey, the Caulfield Historical Society has been able to compile a valuable photographic record of Caulfield buildings, and obtain historical and descriptive information on many of them. It is hoped that Society members will also gain experience in researching the background of those buildings for which more details are needed by the Trust.



## HISTORIC CAULFIELD

### "CRAIGELLACHIE"

by J. McClure, B.A., B.Ed.

"Craigellachie", one of the early mansion houses in Caulfield, was built in the 1860's, probably about 1864(1) for William Pearson. It was set in an extensive estate which covered much of the street block and beyond.(9)(11)

Pearson had arrived in 1841 on the "John Cooper" in Adelaide, overlanded to Port Phillip and quickly established a twelve thousand acre cattle run at the junction of the La Trobe and Thomson Rivers. He called it "Kilmany Park" after the parish of his birth, Kilmany in Fife, and it became one of the best known pastoral estates in Victoria.(1)

In 1864, in November, he became one of four partners in a gold mining lease in Walhalla. The next year they formed a company to mine what became the famous and rich Long Tunnel Mine. Pearson became chairman and took 900 of the 2,400 £5 shares, giving him the largest interest in the Company. By 1870 dividends totalled double the value of the original shares.(3)(2)

Also in 1864, he became an elected member for North Gippsland of the Legislative Assembly, an office which he held for twelve years before resigning over the principle of payment for members. From 1881, until his death in 1893, he was again in Parliament, this time as a member of the Legislative Council. Most of his later years were spent at "Craigellachie" where he died.(2)(6)

Apart from owning property in Caulfield, William Pearson was also involved in local affairs to some extent by his membership of the Victorian Racing Club. A keen owner and breeder of race horses since 1841 (the second blood stallion to arrive in Victoria, "Gustavus" in 1841, going to Pearson's Kilmany Park property) he was the owner of the champion race horse "Commotion", which raced in the Caulfield Cup, and of a number of other horses which raced at Caulfield. (5)

"Craigellachie", the town house built for Pearson in Caulfield, was originally approached from Inkerman Road by a sweeping circular drive and on the east side of the building, at least by 1897, was a tennis court. The large stables and the out-buildings which stood at the rear of the house on the south side of what is now Lynedoch Avenue have long been demolished.(10)

The house itself is a single storey building with massive 18 inch thick stone walls throughout. The front door is sheltered by an impressive pillared portico which is crowned by a square tower of another two storeys. Small double, arched windows pierce the walls of the tower on each side, and above these, full length arched windows give onto the star-patterned cast iron cantilevered balcony. The same style of windows is found in the rest of the house, the front ones being fitted with shutters. At what is now the side and back garden area runs a triple pillared, tiled floor verandah with a simple cast iron frieze.

The interior echoes the impressiveness of the portico. Immediately inside the double front doors is an etched glass panelled door with a nautical motif reflecting Pearson's seafaring life before he emigrated. It is actually the crest of the Young family; why it should be in "Craigellachie" remains unknown at the present.(12)

Flanking it are etched glass panels of a kangaroo on one side and an emu on the other. The staircase to the tower leads from the small hall formed between the two sets of doors, and crosses over above the front door. The large 'T' shaped hall is entirely floored with an intricate tile design. The walls are lined with three massive triple pillared and corniced archways on each side; some hold doorways to the "public" rooms, one leads into the other arm of the hall, and some are blind arches. At the end of the hallway, opposite the front doors, is another set of double doors, these ones decorated with half panels of small floral stained glass medallions. Over the doors is a striking fanlight containing a coat of arms, with Scottish motifs.



The "public" rooms all have pure-coloured marble fireplaces and mantels; the drawing room one being crowned by a large gilt mirror almost to ceiling height. The windows of these rooms face out onto the verandah, accessible through the full length windows. The "private" family rooms are reached at the end of the hallway through etched glass panelled doors with complementing side and fan lights. Beyond these rooms again lie the servants' quarters.

Mrs. Eliza Laura Pearson died at "Craigellachie" in 1896, three years after her husband. The property then was sold to Robert Crawford who had arrived in Victoria in 1863 on board the "Royal Dane". Since about 1883 he had been a partner in the wine and spirit firm of Spier and Crawford, which took over completely in 1895.(7) He too was a horse racing man, being on the Committee of the Victorian Racing Club and the owner of "Flavian" who came second in the 1911 Caulfield Cup. (5) By 1914 his retirement was forced by ill-health, and he died at "Craigellachie" in 1919.(7)

After this, the story of "Craigellachie" becomes blurred, though it is possible that for a short while it may

have been a boys' school.(9) In the early 1930's it was owned by a French family by the name of Saint (8) before being bought in 1935 by Mr. Newton Francis, a solicitor, who built the Tudor style flats which face on to Orrong Road and protect "Craigellachie" from the public eye.(8)(9)

The well-proportioned mansion, built to endure, remains the property of the Francis family. It was classified "C" by the National Trust in 1968.

#### References:

1. Henderson's Australian Families, Vol.1
2. Old Walhalla - Portrait of a Gold Town, Raymond Paull.
3. Walhalla Heyday, James & Lee
4. Burke's Colonial Gentry.
5. Victorian Turf Cavalcade 1836-1936, D.Clonard.
6. The Dictionary of Australasian Biography, P.Mennell.
7. "Ancestor" March 1972.
8. Directories 1919-36.
9. Mrs. Francis
10. M.M.B.W. map 1897.
11. Parish of Prahran map 1880's.
12. Fairbairn's Crests.

"Craigellachie" is at the south-west corner of Orrong and Inkerman Roads.

## MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have been elected as members of the Society

F.ALLEN	R.W. GREEN	Mrs. D.N. RICHARDS
Cr. & Mrs. F.A. ARDEN	Miss Dorothea HANCOCK	A. ROSENTHAL
Hillary BULLOCK	T.J. HART	Mrs. W. SACKVILLE
Marion CAFFREY	Mrs. M. HARVEY	Mrs. L. SIMEK-HOHENFELS
Mrs. F.E. CAMPBELL	Mr. & Mrs. K.A.R. HORN	Mr. & Mrs. R.K. SIMS
Dr. M. CHENNELS	Mr. & Mrs. J. McCLURE	Cr. & Mrs. A.J.G. SINCLAIR
Miss C. EDGERTON	Mrs. R.W. McKELLAR	A. THOMAS
W. EVERETT	J. MAIDMENT	Limley WALLIS
Dr. A.C. FOLEY	Cr. Nancy NEEDHAM	G. WRATTEN

## SURVEY MAPS

The Society's thanks are offered to the Headmaster, Caulfield Grammar School, who has kindly made available on loan, photostat copies of M.M.B.W. survey maps made at the turn of the century, and copies of maps from the surveys by Henry Foot in the 1850's. The maps cover the north-western sections of the City.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society's annual subscriptions are:-

Ordinary Member	\$3.00
Student Member	.50c
Family Member	\$5.00
Corporate Member	\$5.00
Life Member	\$100.00

Subscriptions are due on 1 July each year.



## MEETINGS

13 December 1972 -  
Town Hall 8.00p.m.

### EARLY MELBOURNE TRAMWAYS

Mr. Keith Kings has made an extensive study of his subject and will speak of the trams and their development. Special mention will be made of Caulfield's tramways including the Horse Tram and the subject should prove to be one of great interest.

February Meeting will take the form of a tour of LA TROBE Library. Further details will be given later.

## AT HOME

### CROMARTY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The School was opened by the Misses Day in Orrong Road South in 1897 and closed by them in Sandham Street, Elsternwick in 1923. The CROMARTY OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION, founded in 1921, recently concluded its Jubilee year and celebrated it by compiling and launching a short 'History'.

On Saturday 18th November, this year's 'At Home' was held at the home of one of the Vice-Presidents, Dorothy Jacob. There was no formal programme but the 30 or so members present had an enjoyable re-union.

The members were pleased to have Miss Stephenson (House Mistress) with them. Until she became ill she had never missed a general meeting nor one of the monthly knitting circles, which are still held regularly, as are the reading circles.

The Hon. Secretary, Barbara Milne, reported that there are still over 90 financial members and apologies for being unable to attend the 'At Home' were received from many interstate and overseas members as well as two former teachers and some local members.

## COMMITTEE 1972-73

### PATRON

His Worship the Mayor of Caulfield  
Cr. W.R. Walters, M.B.E., J.P.

### PRESIDENT

K.A.R. HORN, B.A., Mus.B., A.N.Z.L.A.  
State Librarian of Victoria.  
Councillor, Royal Historical Society  
of Victoria.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Cr. A.J.G. Sinclair, O.B.E., J.P.,  
Councillor, City of Caulfield.  
Senior Vice-President, M.M.B.W.

Dr. A.C. FOLEY, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.O.G.

### SECRETARY

T. J. HART, Bank Officer.  
Councillor, Royal Historical Soc.  
of Victoria and Genealogical Soc.  
of Victoria.

### TREASURER

R.K. SIMS, A.A.S.A., Accountant,  
Commissioner, Australian Scouts  
Association.

Mrs. F.E. Campbell  
Old Collegians Representative,  
Elsternwick M.L.C. School Council

R.W. GREEN, B.Arch., A.R.A.I.A.,  
Architect. Director, The Tramway  
Museum Society of Victoria Ltd.

Mrs. J. McCLURE, B.A., B.Ed.,  
Co-ordinator, National Trust  
Survey of Caulfield.

Mrs. R.W. McKELLAR, B.A., LL.B.,  
Life Member, National Trust,  
Life Governor, Southern Memorial  
Hospital and University Women's  
College.

A. ROSENTHAL, Publisher

Mrs. W. SACKVILLE  
Committee Member, Melbourne  
Jewish Womens Guild.

### SECRETARY

14 Filbert Street, Caulfield South, 3162.