

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

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NEWSLETTER

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NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. R.W. McKellar, a member of the Committee, has been elected as the Society's second life member.

COMMITTEE 1974-1975

At the Annual General Meeting held on 21 August, the undermentioned persons were elected to the Committee for the ensuing year.

President

K.A.R. Horn, B.A., Mus.B., A.N.Z.L.A.

Vice-President

Sir Edgar Tanner, Kt., C.B.E., E.D.,
M.P.

Secretary

T.J. Hart

Treasurer

R.K. Sims, A.A.S.A.

Committee

Mrs. F.E. Campbell

Miss C.E. Close, M.A. (Hist)

R.W. Green, B.Arch., A.R.A.I.A.

Mrs. R.W. McKellar, B.A., LL.B.

Cr. A.J.G. Sinclair, Dr. A.C. Foley, Mrs. J.O'Donnell, and Mrs. W. Sackville all retired from the outgoing committee and did not offer themselves for re-election. The sincere thanks of the Society are offered to these foundation committee members for the contributions which they have made to the progress of the Society since its commencement.

APOLOGY

An omission from the President's Annual Report for the year 1973-74 was the name of Mrs. W. Sackville from the list of Committee Members. Mrs. Sackville was a member of the committee for the year and had served the Society since the establishment of the steering committee in 1972. The omission is regretted and we should like to record an apology to Mrs. Sackville.

MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING

The second annual meeting of the Society was held on 21 August 1974. Mr. D.W.M. Grant, president of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies was to address the meeting on the subject of Genealogy and Local History. Unfortunately Mr. Grant was unable to be present due to a sudden illness but he was able to arrange for Mrs. Doris Kemp to speak in his place. Mrs. Kemp spoke of the problems and pleasures encountered whilst she was engaged in genealogical research in Ireland. Her subject provided an interesting and entertaining guide to the sources used for the compilation of family histories for Australians descended from Irish families.

OCTOBER MEETING

Members and friends were invited to bring items of historical interest to this meeting held on 16 October 1974.

Several members brought photographs and documents relating to the early days of the City. Subsequently, the Society was presented with a framed photograph of the KOORYONG ARCHERY CLUB taken at the final match in 1904. The photograph, taken on the property of Richard Allen in Gladstone Parade, Elsternwick (where Cato M.L.C. now is) shows six ladies and nine men in various aspects of shooting arrows at targets at the other end of a field.

Members also had the opportunity to examine some of the material from the Society's growing collection and were surprised to see its scope after such a short period of collecting.

ELSTERNWICK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

by J. O'Donnell, B.A., B.Ed.

The first meetings of what was to become the Caulfield Union Church began in July 1856 in the home of Mr. Thomas Watts. These were the first religious meetings of any denominations to be held in Caulfield and were attended by members of various churches.(2)(7)

From 21 September 1856 to 9 January 1859 church services were held in what was called the 'Black Chapel' which was somewhat of a landmark. It was an imported house built in the form of a ship and tarred on the outside, on the corner of Hawthorn and Balaclava Roads.

In 1858 lots 15 and 17 of portions 249 and 250 in Glen Eira Road near the SE. corner of Orrong Road had been purchased for £100. Possibly this land was part of the many holdings of Thomas Fulton, who with G. Rolfe, W.F. Jordan, and Thomas Watts (who were also original grantees of land in Caulfield) was responsible for the erection of a wooden chapel on the new site. Services commenced there on 16 January 1859, the 'chapel with seats and bell' having cost £593.15.2.

On April Fool's Day 1859, a meeting of the congregation decided that the name 'Caulfield Union Church' should be painted on the outside of the building. It is of interest to note that there were only two other Union Churches in the colony in the 1860's - at Malvern and Oakleigh.(7) The chapel was used as a day school from 1860 to 1863.

In 1871 the sum of £625.8.3 was spent on additions to the chapel and on the installation of a small pipe organ.(1) Unfortunately, who was responsible for the design and construction of the building is not known, but, as Thomas Watts was an architect by occupation, it seems probable that he was the contractor for the chapel at least.(9) (10) A two storey parsonage costing £641 was erected on the second block of land in 1865, with substantial additions being made nine years later. A Sunday School building was added in 1883.(1)

A disastrous fire destroyed everything except the parsonage on 19 February 1889. The Rev. H.B. Macartney, Vicar of St. Mary's Church of England, offered the use of the recently built Jubilee Hall and the old school room to the now homeless Union Church. The fire proved disastrous in more than one way for the Caulfield Union Church, as a new building had to be found and the collapse of the 'Land Boom' was shortly to occur.

It was decided to erect the new church closer to the rapidly growing township of Elsternwick, and a site was purchased on the SE. corner of Orrong Road and Korong (now King) Street. The land and building, with furnishings and organ, cost approximately £3,600.(7) The architect for the building was G. De Lacy Evans, the contractors being McMurtie, McNaughton & Stewart who received £2,100 including sub-contracting.(7)(8)



The foundation stone of the new polychrome brick church was laid on 30 November 1889 during a ceremony attended by a large crowd. The church was opened for worship on 11 November 1890 and was an attractive building 'of a Gothic design adapted to the climate' with a turret which shows early hints of the 'art nouveau' style, in which it was hoped to hang a peal of bells.(5) At this stage three bays of the nave were completed and this is how it remains

today. There is a gallery at the rear which is reached by a staircase on either side; the turret stair is circular whilst the other is the more usual angular design. The old immersion font remains, now covered over by the pulpit platform.(11)

Even after realizing on the Glen Eira Road property, £800 had to be borrowed on mortgage on the new property. The congregation appears to have declined with the establishment by the Methodists and Presbyterians of their own churches, and when the 'Land Boom' collapsed in the early 1890's the Union Church found itself in an embarrassing financial situation.(3)(7)

The congregation offered the church to the Baptist and Congregational Churches but the Baptists refused to take over the debts of the Union Church.(7) Finally a satisfactory arrangement was made with Congregational Union 'to finance the formation of a new Congregational Church and to purchase the property from the Trustees of the Union Church.' The original document 'authorising sale of organ ... also land and erections' and 'resolution dissolving church' is still in the possession of the Elsternwick Congregational Church.

What had cost £3,600 four years earlier now passed to the Congregational Union for £600.(7) Thus, whilst it may have been a shrewd business transaction by the Congregational Union, it also gives an idea of the effects of the Depression, when many large houses in Caulfield were vacant for want of a tenant.

The Rev. Osric Copland became the new Congregational Church's first Pastor, with fifty-five foundation members in his care.(1)

The old Caulfield Union Church holds a double association with Caulfield's history. One of its early pastors was the Rev. Edwin Day (1879-1885) (1), who with his wife and daughters moved from the mission field of Castlemaine to Melbourne in 1878. Three of his daughters, Misses Louisa, Annie and Jeanie, were to found 'Cromarty, School for Girls' (1897-1923) whose final home was what is now Presentation Convent in Sandham Street, close to the Congregational Church, where there is a memorial plaque to them.(4)

REFERENCES

1. Elsternwick Congregational Church Jubilee Booklet, 1944
2. St. Mary's Church of England Jubilee Book, 1908
3. Congregational Year Book, 1910
4. B.W. Milne & D.W. McKellar (comp), 'Cromarty School for Girls (1897-1923)' (Melbourne, 1973).
5. 'Pahran Telegraph', November 1890
6. Survey Maps, Henry B. Foot, 1853
7. Elsternwick Congregational Church, Records.
8. 'Australasian Builder and Contractors' News', 1889
9. Alexander Sutherland, 'Victoria and its Metropolis. Past and Present', (Melbourne, 1888)
10. Directories, 1870.
11. Honorary Secretary, Elsternwick Congregational Church.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The retiring Mayor of Caulfield (and Patron of the Society) Cr. G.N. Doolan was defeated at the election for West ward held in August and Mr. Alwyn Samuel elected with a majority of 273 votes. Cr. Doolan was a member of the City council for eleven years.

Mr. Brian Rudzki was elected to fill

the South ward seat vacated through the retirement of Society honorary member Cr. F.A. Arden.

The sitting councillors for East ward (Cr. R. Walters) and North ward (Cr. M. Blair) were re-elected unopposed.

Cr. Blair was elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

THE CAULFIELD CUP

The first plan available showing the name "Caulfield Racecourse Reserve" is dated March 1857, although an area of 140 acres is shown as reserved for a racecourse in a plan of survey dated 1856 by H.B. Foot.(1) But, had the Caulfield Road Board proceeded with its plan to extend Glen Eira Road in 1859, the racecourse might well have been re-sited in another district.

The proposal to extend the road to the east was resisted by one of the Road Board members as it "would interfere so much with the size and position of the course --- it would be impossible to use the Reserve for racing purposes."(2) Opposition must have been well organised for a deputation requesting the reservation of the area as a racecourse (3) resulted in the abandonment of the extension of the Board on 16.3.1859, and 19 days later on 4 April in the appointment of a Board of Trustees to administer the area

The Caulfield Race Club held its first meeting on 23.4.1859 but it was the Victoria Amateur Turf Club which was to establish the course as the venue for one of the most important races in the Australian racing calendar. The V.A.T.C. was founded at Ballarat in 1876 and held its first race meeting at Dowling Forest on 24 March of that year. The next meeting of the Club was at Caulfield on 5.8.1876, where they have remained.

Several years later, in the autumn of 1879, the first Caulfield Cup was run. The early meetings were held each autumn but were changed to spring in 1881 when two meetings were held.

The races from 1940 to 1943 were held at Flemington as Caulfield racecourse was in use by the Armed Forces.

References:

1. Secretary for Lands, Victoria. Letter of 4.7.1958
2. Caulfield Road Board Minutes 1.3.1859
3. Argus, 8.3.1859, p.3.
4. V.A.T.C., Letter 25.6.1958.

The following list of winners of the Caulfield Cup is taken from "The Australian Turf Register", 1973, published by The Australian Jockey Club, Sydney.

Year	Winner	Owner
1879	Newminster	A.Chirnside
1880	Tom Kirk	T.Jones
1881	Blue Ribbon	H.Yeend
1881	Master Avenel	T.Ivory
1882	Little Jack	W.Branch
1883	Calma	D.S.Wallace
1884	Blink Bonny	R.G.Talbot
1885	Grace Darling	J.G.Reid
1886	Ben Holt	W.Strickland
1887	Oakleigh	M.Loughlin
1888	Chicago	M.O'Shannassy
1889	Boz	J.Cripps
1890	Vengeance	J.Blackwood
1891	G'Naroo	G.Woodforde
1892	Paris	J.Monaghan
1893	Sainfoin	I.T.Carslake
1894	Paris	Mrs.H.C.White
1895	Waterfall	H.Oxenham
1896	Cremorne	J.Mitchell
1897	Amberite	W.Duggan
1898	Hymettus	J.Paterson
1899	Dewey	T.Payten
1900	Ingliston	J.Leek
1901	Hymettus	J.Paterson
1902	Lieut. Bill	Christison
1903	Sweet Nell	Sir R.Clarke
1904	Murmur	J.Wren
1905	Marvel Loch	J.McMasters
1906	Poseidon	Sir H.Denison
1907	Poseidon	Sir H.Denison
1908	Maranui	D.O'Brien
1909	(Aborigine (Blue Book	G'rdn Khatau J.C.Williamson
1910	Flavinus	F.Merton
1911	L'y Medallist	E.J.Craven
1912	Uncle Sam	W.Reid
1913	Aurifer	F.Merton
1914	Uncle Same	W.Reid
1915	Lavendo	A. & G. Tye
1916	Shepherd King	J.Widdis & J.Mills
1917	Bronzetti	P.Morton & S.Osborne
1918	King Offa	Robinson & Clark
1919	Lucknow	Robinson & Clark
1920	Eurythmic	E.Lee Steere
1921	Violoncello	Sir S.Hordern
1922	Whittier	B.Chaffey
1923	Wynette	S.Torr
1924	Purser	Tye & Corteen
1925	Whittier	B.Chaffey
1926	Manfred	B.Chaffey
1927	Textile	C.G.Brown & K.McLean
1928	Maple	E.Lee Steere

(to be continued)