

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

16

NEWSLETTER

June 1975

ISSN 0310-1703 20 cents

MEETINGS

APRIL 1975

The guest speaker at this meeting was Mr David Trembath who discussed aspects of Caulfield's history which he encountered when preparing a preliminary study of an history of the city. Mr Trembath suggested several avenues of research which members could explore and provided interesting highlights of the city's history.

JUNE 1975

This meeting will be held at the "Old Post Office", Hawthorn Road, on Wednesday, 18th June.

Lt. Colonel H.C. Lee-Archer, a member of the Council of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria will present a programme of magic lantern slides of early Melbourne.

ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 1975

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20th August at 8-00pm at the "Old Post Office".

The guest speaker will be Miss Cecily Close, M.A., who is Senior Assistant Archivist, University of Melbourne and a member of C.H.S. committee. In her subject, "The ARCHIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE", Miss Close will describe the formation of this important collection of business records and comment on the types of material preserved.

OCTOBER 1975

This meeting will be held in Beaumaris on 15th October and will deal with the history of the Wedgwood potteries in England.

CHRISTMAS MEETING DECEMBER 1975

This meeting will also be held away from our normal venue and will be a programme of films presented by the CAULFIELD FILM SOCIETY.

TOUR OF KILMORE

The C.H.S., in conjunction with Malvern Historical Society, is arranging a tour to Kilmore, the oldest inland town in Victoria, on Sunday 19th October. Full details will be issued later.

NEW MEMBER

Mr J. McLennan, Caulfield

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

The Society's annual subscriptions are:

Ordinary Member	\$3-00
Family Member	5-00
Corporate Member	5-00
Life Member	100-00

Subscriptions are due on 1 July each year

COUNCILLOR P. STJ. HALL

by Doris McKellar

My father, Percival St John Hall was born on 9 February, 1867 at Balaclava Road, East St Kilda, the second son of John and Dora HALL later of "Glendora", Brighton Road, Elsternwick. His father was a government official and onetime paymaster on the goldfields of Beechworth and Ballarat.

He was educated at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School (1) and at Melbourne University becoming a barrister and solicitor. In 1895 he married Harriet Louisa, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Moore of "Glenmoore", Elsternwick, but then of "Noswad" Dandenong Road, Caulfield. They were married at St Mary's Church, Caulfield by the Rev. H.B. Macartney.

He became a partner of Messrs Lamrock, Brown and Hall solicitors, with a practice at 66 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne and the telephone number 55 on the new Melbourne Central Exchange. Mr Brown practised in Benalla. Later, when he and Mr Lamrock died P.StJ. practised alone at 395 Collins Street sharing rooms and some staff with another solicitor, Mr Gerald P. Newman, but their practices were independent.

Having lost his money in the land-boom, Hugh Moore had subdivided the Elsternwick property but later re-occupied the old home "Glenmoore" and this came to my mother as her share of her father's estate. The family moved from Barkly Street, St Kilda to take up residence in August 1903.

In December of that year Hugh Moore died and P.StJ. became one of the executors and the senior trustee of the estate and Trust. At this time he put up his plate at "Glenmoore" and practised in Elsternwick as well as in the City.

Hall was also active in the Elsternwick Progress Association and took considerable part in working with the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust to extend their tramlines down Glen-Huntly Road to the Elsternwick Station which they did in 1913.

He was elected to the Caulfield Town Council in 1908 (2) after a very strenuous election - the only time he was ever opposed, so he represented the West Ward for over twenty years, being still in office when he died in 1929. P.StJ. Hall was Mayor of the Town in 1910-11 (3). He represented the Caulfield Council on the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works as one of its Commissioners for over seventeen years, serving as chairman of several of its committees such as water supply, legislative and sewerage, and was Vice-Chairman of the Trust itself.

As Mayor and Mayoress in 1911, Mr and Mrs Hall gave the first Caulfield Mayoral Ball and both that and the Return Ball were brilliant functions. The citizens presented him with a purse of sovereigns and the Mayoress with a diamond pendant (made to her own design).

He was always interested in establishing public parks and gardens and Hopetoun Gardens (Glen Huntly Road) and Greenmeadows (Lempriere Avenue) and Railway Reserve by Elsternwick station are all owed to him.

The Moore Estate, particularly the shops erected in Glen Huntly Road by Hugh Moore in 1891, and later, involved constant supervision, with A.E. Lillie as estate agent. After the



P.StJ. Hall from the Prahran Telegraph 15 November 1913

first world war the Repatriation Committee had much to do helping to establish returned soldiers such as Dalgarno, Summers and Hiddleston - all businesses still in operation.

Hall belonged to the Elsternwick Club which then had its premises in St George's Road, opposite "Glenmoore" with two tall Norfolk Island pines in front. These trees, with a very tall gum tree beside Colonel Riddell's house over near Elsternwick Station were prominent landmarks that always pinpointed Elsternwick for anyone returning from a Bay trip to Queenscliffe or Sorrento on the steamers "Ozone" or "Hygeia"

They were visible from far down Port Phillip Bay, much more so than any city buildings or even the Red Bluff (Point Ormond). The Elsternwick Clubhouse is now the R.S.S.I.L.A. Club, having been much enlarged, up to two storeys with an unusually attractive tiled roof which did something to alleviate my mother's distress at the erection of such a large building overlooking her front garden.

Some of the importance of P.StJ. as a citizen can be gained from the many tributes paid, particularly by his fellow councillors when he died after a short illness in 1929. The Mayor, Cr. Patton, and all the councillors attended his funeral in Cheltenham Cemetery as did the Chairman of the M.M.B.W. The service was conducted by Canon Langley.

Later in November of that year (4) an enlarged photograph of Cr. Hall was unveiled in the Council Chamber by the Mayor (Cr. McCulloch). Cr. Packer explained that to further perpetuate the memory of Cr. Hall the council intended to place a drinking fountain on a prominent position in Elsternwick, the district where Cr. Hall had resided for so many years. At the time it was hoped that this would be placed near the Elsternwick Post Office but it became clear that the little garden reserve there, for the development of which he had been

responsible, was still reserved 'for railway purposes' and although it seemed likely to be a garden for the foreseeable future, it was therefore not available for the memorial. In due course, in 1931, a bronze fountain was designed and executed by Paul Montford. It was a bronze figure of a child kneeling in a bronze dish and holding a bubbling fountain and was cast in Italy. The Memorial was unveiled in the Greermeadows Gardens.

Essentially serious and with an inexhaustible fund of common sense P. StJ. also had a deep and kindly sense of humour. He was always coming home with fascinating examples of the manipulative puzzles of wood or wire, or something that he picked up in some odd shop, or else intriguing riddles. He was described as being a remarkable character made up of strangely winning paradoxes, naturally retiring and restrained in temperament, yet when occasion demanded, conquering his physical nervousness to champion the cause he believed to be right. He suffered from a family failing and sometimes stammered badly, so was never keen to make a speech, yet he faced up to public life.

Greenmeadows Gardens, though in the West ward, and a pleasant place, is some-what of a backwater. The fountain is still there and the legend doing him honour is inscribed around the basin, but the lovely little figure is gone, stolen for its bronze presumably, and the water comes from a tap but is at least supplied by the M.M.B.W.

NOTES

- 1 Admitted 1880, left 1883. His brother Harry Drakeford Hall, b.1860, also attended M.C.E.G.S. from 1870 to 1877.
 - 2 Hall attended his first Council meeting and took the oath of office on 9 September 1908. He was appointed to the Finance and Rates Collection Committee and the Legislative Committee.
 - 3 Elected Mayor at meeting of Council held on 31 August 1910.
 - 4 19 November 1929.
-

CAULFIELD BIBLIOGRAPHY

NEWSPAPERS (contd)

Newsletter 9-10 contained a list of newspapers published in Caulfield. This is continued herein with details of those papers published outside the municipality, and which in the early years at least, were the only papers circulating in Caulfield.

BRIGHTON

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT W
21 Apr 1894 - 24 Aug 1895

BRIGHTON LEADER W
Mar 1887 - 17 June 1902

BRIGHTON NEWS W
20 Jan 1922 - 17 Aug 1923

BRIGHTON NEWS W
3 Oct 1947 - 9 July 1957

BRIGHTON SOUTHERN CROSS W
Feb 1871 -
First entitled Southern Cross;
17 May 1879 to 7 Feb 1936, Brighton
Southern Cross; thereafter to Oct
1950, Southern Cross

THE OBSERVER W
11 May 1933 - 7 June 1934

SOUTHERN WEEKLY
23 Nov 1933 - Apr 1937

SUNSHINE TIMES W
16 Jan 1957 - 8 Mar 1957

MALVERN

MALVERN ADVERTISER W
14 Feb 1946 - 29 Mar 1962
incorporated in The Times (Pahran)

MALVERN & ARMADALE EXPRESS W
Feb 1888 - 11 Jan 1902

MALVERN & ARMADALE RECORDER W
12 July 1899 - 7 June 1902

MALVERN ARGUS W
24 Jan 1892 - 13 Dec 1902 when it
was incorporated in Prahran
Telegraph and continued publication
as a duplicate of that paper.

MALVERN COURIER AND CAULFIELD MIRROR W
July 1905 - 30 Mar 1917

MALVERN NEWS W
10 Jan 1903 - 13 June 1903
4 May 1912 - 2 Dec. 1916

MALVERN PRESS W
18 Mar. 1953 - 22 Dec. 1953

MALVERN SPECTATOR W
13 June 1934 - 11 Aug. 1942

MALVERN STANDARD W
Formerly entitled Malvern & Caulfield
Standard. Incorporates Tooronga, Glen
Iris & Darling News
15 Sep. 1906 - 1920
7 Aug 1930 - 12 Feb 1931

SOUTHERN NEWS W
2 Feb 1960 +

ORMOND

Ormond News W
First published at Cheltenham,
Suspended publication 13 Feb 1948.
Published at Bentleigh from 24 July
1957. Incorporated into City of
Moorabbin News
3 Mar 1965.
9 June 1939 - 13 Feb 1948
24 July 1957 - 24 Feb 1965

To be continued

NATIONAL TRUST CLASSIFICATION

The National Trust has advised the classification of:
"ATHOLE", 18 Poplar Grove, Carnegie,
described as, "A substantial residence
designed by and built about 1889 for
J.T. Kelleher, an architect with the
Public Works Department and which
includes Moresque hall archways,
mosaic encaustic floor tiles, intact
marble, plaster and tiled fireplaces
and numerous stained-glass panels and
plasterwork mouldings depicting
Australian flora and fauna. Timber
rear extensions not included in the
classification."