SIMEON LORD ....

A few notes concerning a colourful emancipist of early Sydney -- and one who had trading connections with the Shire

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Simeon Lord arrived in Sydney aboard the transport Atlantic in Aug. 1791, having been sentenced to 7 years at Leeds Assizes for stealing 100 yards each of muslin and calico; and was assigned as a servant to Captain Rowley of the 102nd Regt.. He made his first money by, trading on behalf of his master whilst assigned; and when emancipated in 1798 he owned two houses and was an employer of labour. He became the first merchant venturer of the south and, year by year his interests spread.

He owned land, including 18,000 acres in the Hunter River area and in the Blue Mts.; he was an auctioneer, storekeeper, shipowner, general agent. He interested himself in pearl fishing in northern Australia, iron ore mining in Van Diemen's Land, .sandalwood cutting in the South Seas, flax growing in N.Z.. His speculations went as far afield as India; he manufactured rope with Bengali labour -- at first with N.Z. hemp and then with English hemp, he made soda from seaweed; tannins from wattle bark; hats and cloth from local wool.

His mills at Botany, standing in gardens beside lagoons where black swans rested, were one of Sydney's show places and he became known as the 'Merchant Prince of - Botany Bay". His fortunes rose and fell, but his brain was forever prolific with new schemes.

In 1821 Lord bought a large part of the 1810 grant of Capt. John Townson, which covered most of Hurstville, paying £800; and the area became known as "Lord's Bush". After Lord's death, Michael Gannon purchased the land, and the line of road traversing the property from Cook's River to Woronora then became known as "Gannon's Forest Rd." -- later, Forest Rd. (Gannon also had various interests in the Shire -- as Gannon's Rd, witnesses).

Simeon Lord was in partnership to some extent with John Connell, whose daughter Margaret became the second wife of Thos. Laycock jun., of "Fernleigh", Burraneer Bay. From the waterfront here, Lord and Connell. ran timber boats to Sydney, to market the red cedar from the surrounding hillsides.

Lord was recommended to Gov. Macquarie on the Governor's arrival, and he liked Lord despite his rough manners and his irregular domestic life (at this time Lord had not bothered to marry the lady of his house, but Macquarie soon saw that this was done! He was made a magistrate in May 1810, and duly sat on the Bench of. the Supreme Court --much to the disgust and annoyance of Mr. Justice Field and the Rev. Saml. Marsden, who both believed that emancipists should not hold any offices. Despite his failings, Lord was undoubtedly a man whose various enterprises enriched and adorned the colony, and he proved himself a desirable citizen and a man who showed how, given the opportunities, he could rise from the despised state of a transported convict to a leading and prosperous citizen,

His wife was Mary Hyde-- also known as Sarah Blunn -- who was transported in 1796 for 7 years. She had two children by a sea-captain who was later drowned. Lord's family by her were 6 sons and 2 daughters; and he apparently adopted the two strays. He died at his Botany property 29/1/1840.

DATES TO NOTE: HISTORICAL BROADCASTS:

Xmas Broadcast by Mr. Philip Geeves (R.A.H.S. 2 FC: Dec. 22: 10.15 p.m.:

Mr. P. Geeves is Past President of St. George Historical Society, and co-author of the book "History of Rockdale". The broadcast will tell the little-known story of Napoleon's harpist, the Chevalier Robert Nicholas Charles Boscha, and the concert he gave in Sydney on Thurs. Dec. 22 1855. Boscha died in Sydney 5/1/1856, and is buried in St, Stephen's (Newtown) Camperdown Cemetery.

A.B.C. (2 FC) Historical Broadcasts.: commencing on Thurs. Jan. 6, 1967, the ABC will introduce an historical series "Panel of the Past", in a popular "quiz" form, These will be in the Thursday Talks Section 10.15 to 10,30 p.m.; and those taking part will be mainly members of the R.A.H.S..

MAP OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS & LANDMARKS published by H.E.C.Robinson Pty. Ltd., in association with Tucker & Co. P /L.. Obtainable from booksellers 85 c.; describes the. history and location of over 200 buildings and landmarks bounded by Camden, Springwood, North Richmond, Sackville and Palm Beach.

FOSTERING HISTORICAL INTEREST: within the last 10-15 years there has been an unusual and amazing interest shown by people in local history; and today nearly every NSW locality, and many Sydney suburbs, have their own Historical Society. Some of these Societies have, for some little time past, been employed in collecting specific local material and printing them in the form of duplicated booklets.

St. George Historical Society: their first publication was "The Early History of the Wolli Creek Valley", by Mr. G. Eardley, president of St. George H/S -- illustrated by his own pencil sketches; all copies have now been sold (250 printed 0 60 cents each). The Society is publishing a second booklet shortly, the "Kogarah-Sans Souci Steam Tram", illustrated with both photos. and sketches; it is hoped it will be ready before Xmas; price probably 65 cents; 500 may be printed.

Brisbane Water Historical Society: Mr. Chas. Swancott, member of this H/S, published two years ago the story of "Wiseman's Ferry"; 35 cents, illustrated. This may be had from the W/F grocery store, or on application to Mr, C. Swancott, Booker Bay, NSW (plus postage 5 c).

Illawarra Historical Society: this Society has published (by roneo-duplication) a number of booklets. Of special interest to S'land H/S would be "Early Roads to Wollongong" (K. &.M. Marshall), 38 cents posted; most of these roads passed through the Shire, including the Old Illawarra or "Great South Rd.", later to be Prince's Highway.

Macquarie Regional Council of Historical Societies: Mrs. M. O'Neill, Hon. Sec., has written two most interesting booklets; one, the "Story of Regentville", the -mansion (burnt down in the 1860s) and farm of Sir John Jamieson in the Penrith district; the other, the "Story of Castlereagh", the now forgotten settlement not far from Penrith; I understand Mrs. O'Neill may offer a number of these booklets to our Society to sell (20 c. each), all sales going to us. Mrs. O'Neill very kindly made this offer to St. George H/S when she gave an address there last month (Nov.)-- she is one of the most fluent'speakers and one of the most delightfully uninhibited I have over heard, and she is an authority on her subject.

The Municipality of Windsor: booklet "Historic Hawkesbury", professionally printed, with numerous historical photographs; 35 cents posted; apply Town Clerk, Council Chambers, Windsor. A most interesting booklet.

"The Cathedral of the Hawkesbury" (C/E): Church of St. Matthew, Windsor erected 1822, Informative and photographically illustrated booklet. Apply to the Rev. W.F. Garter, The Rectory, Windsor. Price not stated -- thought to be about 30 cents.

"The Toongabbie Story: published by - The Primary Mothers' Club, Toongabbie Public School, Toongabbie, price $2.20 posted. Excellently produced and illustrated; it is a compact history of the settlement from 1788 to 1964. May be obtained by writing to the above.

SHIRE SETTLEMENT AT LEAST 120 YEARS OLD! We know that there were timber getters in Burraneer Bay before 1825; and that "Fernleigh" was built and lived in from 1821. According to some old NSW Census Returns in the Mitchell Library, Southerland, Wattamolla and Heathcote formed the District or "Hundred" of Woronora. 1846 Census Returns

	Male	Fem.	Families	C/E	Presby.	Other Prots	R/C.	Total Pop..
Southerland	23	18	8	35	4	-	1	41
Wattamolla	7	3	1	5	-	5 *	-	10
Heathcote	9	6	4	4	4	-	4	15

"All the above can Read & Write"   * probably Methodists,

	Trades	Labourers,	Agriculture	Stone/Brick Houses	Wood Houses
Southerland	8	5	1	2	8 .
Wattamolla		3.	1.	-	5
Heathcote	-	-	6	-	4.

Census for 1851: Returns for Wattamolla & Heathcote missing:

Southerland: M. 21   F 12   C/E 24   Presby. 1   R/C 8
Stone Houses 1;   Wood Houses 14 (this would include huts/shanties)
Agriculture   3;   Labourers 2;   Domestic Servant 1 F.

Other occupations (no details) 18 (probably wives/children).

Census for 1856: Returns missing.

Census for 1861: Southerland: M   34   F 31   8 Houses   4 Tents

No other Returns or details

BYEWAYS OF HISTORY:

Christmas 1804: the following General Order (by command of His Excellency Gov. Hunter) appeared in the Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser on Dec. 23: "Tuesday next being Christmas Day, the Commissary is directed to issue an extra Ration to each person on the Civil and Military Establishment, Constables, Watchmen, and Overseers; One Pound of Fresh Beef, Half a Pound of Suet, with the addition of Half a Pound of Raisins to each Soldier's Family victualled from the Stores. To such Prisoners receiving a Ration, One Pound of Salt Pork, and One Pound of our or Wheat equal thereto".

Captain James Cook's Coat of Arms: roughly speaking, Armorial Bearings were the right of the landed gentry and gentlemen of the Crown, dating back for many centuries; the devise at the top of the Armorial Bearing is the Crest - or "family badge". It is not generally known that Capt. Cook's family is entitled to Armorial Bearings; this Grant was made posthumously to the descendants of Cook on 3rd. Sept. 1785, and the original Grant (by Royal Warrant' of George III) is now in the Mitchell Library. The shield consists of two silver Polar stars on a blue background, one above and one below a reproduction of the universe-globe; on this globe are marked in red the tracks of Cook's voyages; two 'lags are draped each side of the shield: the Crest shows a bent arm ("in the uniform of the Captain of the Royal Navy"), holding an Union Jack. The motto under the Crest is "Circa Orbem" ("I circle the globe"), and that beneath the Coat of Arms proper is "Nil Reliquit Intentatem" ("He never gives up"). Cook, not being of "gentle" birth, had of course no ancestral right to a Coat of Arms; but by this Grant to his descendants he was raised to the status of "gentleman". -(Note: I have "translated" the heraldic description -- which is more or less in archaic terms).

Governor Arthur Phillip.: he does not appear to have been entitled to "bear Arms", as there is no record of any Grant in the College of Arms, London. ,The Armorial Bearings in Government House, Sydney, actually belong to an old English family of the same name but not in any way connected with Gov. Arthur Phillip. Incidentally, these Arms in the stained glass window at Government House show the name spelt as "Phillips".

The State of New South Wales was granted Arms in 1906, and the City of Sydney in 1908. Grants of Arms to cities, etc., are entirely different from the ancient family Armorial Bearings, which are hereditary.

(information based on Genealogical Society NSW and RAHS Journal Vol. 16 (1930).

Methodist Church. Sutherland Shire: no authentic records are available before 1902, but is believed that meetings were held towards the end of last century. The. earliest records are for Waterfall in 1902, when the Rev. W.G. Willard is believed to have been active (he came from Wollongong). The Hon. Ebenezer Vickery, in conjunction with the Rev. D.O'Connell, organised and financed a Tent Mission in 1901 in W'gong, and it is believed that Mr. Vickery instituted services in Sutherland in 1903. There was sporadic activity in various parts of the Shire in the early part of this century, but. it was. not until towards the end of World War I that Methodism was firmly established.

October Meeting: MEMBERS' NIGHT:

Early Menai: Messrs. A. & F. Midgley gave a most interesting talk, illustrated by numerous slides, on the early days of Menai. Their grandfather, .Mr. Richard Midgley, settled at Menai in 1896; Mr. Owen Jones, a Welshman, was the first permanent settler in 1895.

Old Silver: in his brief talk Mr. Colin Bennett dealt with sterling silver, and displayed some lovely pieces of silverware, including some from "Fernleigh" (Mrs. Alcock).

Our First Residents: Mr. J. Walker read a paper dealing with the bygone aborigines of the-Shire.

"Stories in Stone": Mrs. M.H.Neve gave a short talk concerning some of the tombstones of historic interest in Woronora Cemetery -- wherein the first burials were 1895, Methodist.

November Meeting:"THE SHIRE, THEN & NOW": . the Midgley brothers again gave us another delightful evening -- this time, an evening of slides (both colour and black and white) of great historical interest, especially those dating back to the end of last century; many of. these when compared with the same area today, show the amazing development of the Shire over half a century.

Members -- Please Note: if you have any paragraphs of historical interest, especially relating to the Shire, they will be welcomed for the Bulletin; but please be sure your information is correct, and supply source of advice if possible. Kindly forward to: Mrs. M. Hutton. Neve, "Weavering", 26 First Av., Loftus.

Editorial Memo: if members wish to .keep these. Bulletins, .it is suggested that a manila foolscap folder be purchased from the local newsagent. These Bulletins will be published each quarter.

BOOKS ON AUSTRALIAN HISTORY: Recommended by Mr. B. Sargeant, Archives Officer.

This List is selected from books available at the Central Library, S'land. Some are duplicated at Branch Libraries; those which are in stock only at C/L may be borrowed through your B/L, so enquire at your nearest Council Library.

Recent Publication

QUEST FOR AUTHORITY IN EASTERN AUSTRALIA,   Roe, M   **994.02** ROE
1835-1851. Melb., M.U.P., .P., 1965

SIR JOSEPH BANKS, Syd. A & R 1952 (reprint)   Cameron,   H.B/BAN

THE SQUATTING AGE IN AUSTRALIA, 1835-1847 Iv Melb., Roberts, S.H.   904.02 ROB
M.U.P. 1935 (reprint)

Reprints

MEMORANDUM of the Transactions of a Voyage from   Easty, J.   4994.02 EAS
England to Botany Bay, 1787-1793: a 1st Fleet Journal. Syd., Pub, Lib. NSW 1965

THE SYDNEY GAZETTE & NSW ADVERTISER, Vols. 1 & 2,   (994.02 SYD
3 March 1803 to 24 Fob, 1805. Syd., Pub, Lib. NSW 1963, 2 vols.. Facsimile reprints

THE VOYAGE OF GOV. PHILLIP TO BOTANY BAY, with an   4994.02 VOY
account of the establ. of Colonies of Port Jackson & Norfolk I,. Melb., Georgian House 1950.

Facsimile reprint of 1st, ed. of 1789.

JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE TO NSW. Syd, A & R 1962, Reference Books

VOYAGE TO TERRA AUSTRALIA... in 1801, 1802, 1803, in   Flinders Flinders, M, R994 FLI
HM Ship The Investigator, Porpoise, Cumberland. Adelaide, Libraries   J,White., **994.02 WHI**

Board of S.A. 1966. 2 vols. & portfolio of naps. Facsimile reprint 1814 ed..

(Vol. 1 pp. xcxlll-clll, cover the 2 explorations by the author and Geo, Bass in 1795 up the George's River and in 1796 up Port Hacking).

MORE BYEWAYS OF HISTORY: Shire Names:

Miranda: the district was named after a local farm, which drew its name from a town in Spain;, and is said to be the oldest settled district in the Shire, but no known dates are available. The district formed part of the grant of land promised to Gregory Blaxland by Gov, Macquarie in 1816 in recognition of his discovery of a route over the Blue Mts., in 1813; Blaxland did not want to settle in this area, so sold the "promise" to John Connell. However, it remained in Blaxland' s name until the Title Deeds were granted to Connell in 1835,

Loftus: (strictly, "the Village of Loftus"); named after Lord Augustus Loftus, Governor of NSW 1879-1885. This suggests that the Loftus area was an early settlement -- a large dairy farm, at least, was in existence when the Woronora Cemetery was opened in 1895 --the Cemetery is said to have been part of the dairy farm.

Port Hacking: named after Henry Hacking, a pilot with Matthew Flinders, but it is doubtful if Hacking ever explored the river, probably describing it from information received from the aborigines,

Sutherland is said to have been named after Forby Sutherland, a sailor aboard Cook's Endeavour; hot died in Botany Bay and is buried at Kurnell. It is possible, however, that this may be a corruption of "Souther(n)land" -- see page 1, concerning Returns for Census of 1846, 1851, 1861.

Jannali, aboriginal meaning "moon": Kirrawee, "lengthy"

Woolooware, "a muddy flat":

Woronora (originally Wooloonora), "black rock".

A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous Now Year to all Members.