

22.



**Sutherland Shire Historical Society**

**Quarterly Bulletin**

*January 1972*

*Price: 5 cents*

Registered for posting as a newspaper (or periodical)  
Category B.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL- SOCIETY

QUARTERLY BULLETIN JANUARY 1972

C/-- 9 Animbo Street,  
MIRANDA 2228.  
1st January, 1972.

Dear Member:

As our financial year begins from 1st January, all subscriptions will become due for 1972, and members are requested to renew their membership as soon as possible.

The Society has contributed \$25.00 to the Parramatta Historic Graves Committee, to be applied towards the restoration of the grave of Henry Edward Dodd. Dodd was an experienced farmer who arrived as the personal servant to Governor Phillip, and was responsible for clearing the ground and growing the first corn at Farm Cove (now the Botanical Gardens). Dodd was sent to Parramatta in 1789 and with a group of convicts, soon had a flourishing garden established. In 1791 Dodd died and was buried in what is now the cemetery of St. John's Church, Parramatta.

Our next all day excursion will be held on Saturday, 15th April, 1972, to Parramatta and District, which has been such an important place in the history of Australia.

N. Horwood

Hon Secretary.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN  
JANUARY 1972

Programme of Activities for First Quarter 1972

MEETINGS are held on second Friday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium of Sydney County Council Showrooms, Eton Street, Sutherland

Friday January 14: J.M. Antill - Vice-President of the R.A.H.S. will speak on "The Antill Family of Picton".

Friday., February 11; Judge Coleman Wall will give an address to the Society.

Friday, March 10; Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.

-----

EXCURSIONS:

January.; There will be no half day excursion in January.

Sunday.; February 6; 3 P.M. St. Philips, Church Hill --Commemorative service to mark the anniversary of the first church service held in Australia.

Saturday March 11; Half day visit to Annandale.

Saturday April 15; Full day excursion to Parramatta and District.

-----p

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN.January, 1972.FROM THE PRESIDENT

Contributions to recent Quarterly Bulletins have raised a question which has often been a subject of discussion in organisations such as this Society. Indeed, it has often been a cause of much controversy.

The contributor to the Journal of July last maintained that the Society and its Bulletin should give much greater attention to matters and items pertaining to local history. In support of this contention a survey of members' opinions was quoted as strongly in favour of such a policy. Several well known figures prominent in past affairs of Sutherland Shire and district were mentioned as being eminently suitable subjects for study research, and writing in the Society's Journal, Quite some few readers might well have regarded the submission as a contention even that the Bulletin should be devoted exclusively to items pertaining to local history. .

The article and its subject matter evoked a reply submitted to the October issue of our Journal. Herein it was stated that a Society of this nature is meant to promote and cultivate an interest in and an appreciation of all Australian history. The Constitution of this Society was aptly pointed to by the writer. Its statement that a prime object is the study of Australian history in general and local history in particular was repeated. Further, the contributor seemed to imply that local history alone would hardly provide the widest scope and means necessary to sustain the continuous work of an enduring historical society.

As a foundation member of Sutherland Shire Historical Society, one must hasten to mention that he has always regarded it as a body formed to study Australian History in the broadest possible way. Let me stress that this concept includes local history, its importance and significance, in the deepest sense. It may surely be added that the Society commends this subject to members full consideration. Accordingly, they are invited to use the Quarterly Bulletin as a medium for further discussion of this very pertinent subject.

C. LAW.

---

LUCAS HEIGHTS

Lucas Heights, the site of the Australia Atomic Energy Commission's Research Establishment and centre for atomic energy research in Australia, has close links with the early history of New South Wales.

Lucas Heights was named after John Lucas, born in the Colony in 1796, the son of Nathaniel Lucas, one of Australia's earliest free settlers. Like his father, John Lucas became a carpenter and millwright. Lucas senior and his family lived in Liverpool, where he built and successfully operated a windmill for flour-making. Nathaniel died in 1818 and the mill passed out of the family's hands.

In 1823, Governor Brisbane, hearing of the Lucas family's success in flour-milling, commissioned John Lucas to build a water-driven mill at Liverpool. It began operation in 1824 and, in the same year, John Lucas was rewarded with a land grant of 150 acres on the upper reaches of the Woronora River. The grant was close to the present site of the Research Establishment. John Lucas then built a watermill on the Woronora River, at the head of the tidal waters, but Major T.L. Mitchell (later Sir Thomas), the Surveyor-General, recorded that it was abandoned; before he arrived in the area in 1843. Mitchell was surveying a crossing of the river for the "New" Illawarra Road to Wollongong to replace the roundabout Campbelltown-Appin-Bulli route.

John Lucas had six children. His son John, born in 1818 became p, Member of the New South Wales Parliament and was Minister for Mines from 1875 to 1877. He was largely instrumental in having the Jenolan limestone caves area declared a Reserve in 1866. In 1878 his efforts were commemorated by naming one of the largest of the Jenolan caves the "Lucas Cave".

(Extract from an information booklet issued by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission Research Establishment.)

-----

The foregoing records the bald facts -of history but omits those personal touches which make history a vibrant living subject.

The Lucas Water Powered Mill was established on the watercourse we now know as the Woronora River because that stream provided the best source of running water to turn a mill wheel. Other-wise the site was highly unsuitable, or rather inconvenient, as it was surrounded by impenetrable forests and had no road connections whatsoever. Furthermore, no wheat or corn was then grown in the region we now know as Sutherland Shire and the next settlement to the South, called Five Islands (now Wollongong), because of the unsuitability of its terrain and climate was never a cereal growing district.

Grain to provide grist for the Lucas Hill was brought from the farms of the Liverpool-Campbelltown-Appin region down the George's River and up the Woronora in flat bottomed boats which sometimes towed crude barges.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

January, 1972.

By the year 1825, although not to-day utilized as a wheat producing area, because of its unsuitability, the Appin-Campbelltown-Liverpool district had replaced Rosehill (Parramatta) and even the Hawkesbury as the granary of the Colony and west of the mountains the wheat industry was only in its infancy.

The golden grain was transported from the farms to the navigable stretches of the river by bullock drays or wagons or on sleigh drawn by bullocks or horses. Some farmers utilized pack animals (horses or bullocks) and the very poor ones even made beasts of burden of themselves and members of their families. Many in this latter category not having acquired farm animals tilled their small farms with spade and hoe or man drawn, hone-made ploughs.

Cash was scarce so many of the wheat growers bartered part of the flour yielded in payment for the privilege of having their wheat milled. The remainder was taken back to the homestead for home consumption. A poor crop spelled H--U-N-G-E-R.

Four not returned to the grower was sent by John Lucas, in small ketches of shallow draft and light burden to ready markets in Sydney and other centres.

One well kept family secret is the fact that beside his milling activities, John Lucas also did some malting and brewing at Woronora. (I am privileged to reveal this secret as I am practically one of the family since my grandfather and the sons of John Lucas were half-brothers. More of that anon.)

There is no record of the redoubtable John ever profiting from this illegal enterprise as he apparently produced his brew solely for his own use and to share with his friends. Far from yielding a profit alas, it proved his downfall

Ever the proverbial, plump, jolly miller John grew fatter and fatter, until he reached the abnormal weight of twenty-two (22) stone and was claimed to be the heaviest man in the Colony. This obesity, doubtless the result of over indulgence in his own home brew, was named by his wife as the cause of his death, in middle age, leaving her with a family of six children.

John Lucas had married Mary, only child, by his first wife of Captain (later Major) Rowley of the N.S.W. Corps, who had been granted Burwood Estate by Governor King. The said Burwood Estate stretched from Homebush to Birchgrove and its palatial homestead was situated on the site today occupied by Burwood Park.

The widowed Mrs. Lucas married Thomas Walker, who arrived in Sydney in 1823. Thomas was one of the Walker family of ship-builders and ship-owners of Whitby and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and a grandson of the Captain John Walker, who trained James Cook in seamanship and navigation.

Despite his Quaker background Thomas, before migrating to Australia had indulged in two very un-Quaker like activities. As a soldier he fought under Wellington at Waterloo and at the conclusion-of the Napoleonic Wars went with his brother Johnnie to Scotland, where they established the well-known Whiskey distillery at Kilmarnock.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

January, 1972.

The issue of the Thomas Walker-Mary Lucas (nee Rowley) marriage was two children, Margaret and Thomas Walker, who grew up with their half brothers and sisters, the six children of the jovial miller, John Lucas, one time of Woronora River.

The whole family both Lucas and Walker proved remarkably prolific and today their descendants may be found scattered, far and wide, throughout Australia.

Perhaps the most notable was John, eldest son of Mary and John Lucas born at Kingston (Newtown) in 1818 (before his father's milling ventures at Liverpool and Woronora).

Educated at the C. of E. School at Liverpool John became a successful building contractor. Entering politics he was elected M.L.A. for Canterbury in 1860-64; Hartley 1864-1269 and Canterbury again 1871-1880. In 1880 he was appointed an M.L.C. and retained that status until his death in 1902.

He was Secretary for Mines (today's equivalent of Minister) in the Robertson Ministry 1875-1877. Besides his parliamentary duties he also officiated as a magistrate.

The Hon. John Lucas, M.L.A. (later M.L.C.) was a colourful character. Derisively called "Sir John" by his brothers and sisters, he had a town home at Camperdown and a country house, like many other politicians of his day, (including Sir Henry Parkes), in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. John's abode beside the Lapstone-Glenbrook Zig Zag was served by a railway siding named Lucasville.

In his youth, together with W.F. Buchanan, he discovered the Rocky River Goldfields (in the Armidale District) and his work of exploration in the Jenolan Caves is commemorated by the name Lucas Cave.

-- JOHN WALKER.

DEATH OF THE HON. JOHN LUCAS M.L.A.

We regret to record the death of the Hon. John Lucas, -M.L.C. which took place on Saturday evening at his residence, Bridge Road, Camperdown, at the age of 84 years. Mr. Lucas was a native Of Sydney, as his birth took place at Kingston (Newtown) on June 24, 1018. He was a grandson of the late Captain Rowley, one of the first to enter New South Wales with Imperial troops. The late Mr. Lucas received his education in the Church of England School at Liverpool. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to the trade of carpentry, and subsequently became a builder and contractor in this city. He erected among many buildings the Roman Catholic School at Burwood and other works of a public character. In February 1860, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly as one of the members for Canterbury, and again he was returned later in the same year. In 1864 he was returned both for Canterbury and Hartley, and he elected to sit for the latter constituency. In 1871 he was re-elected for Canterbury, for which he continued to sit until 1880. In 1875 he accepted office as Minister for Mines in the Robertson Government and

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

January, 1972.

retained the position for two years and 10 months. Upon the resignation of that Government, finding his health failing, and that he could not stand the-strain of the late hours of the Assembly, he determined to retire, but was offered o, seat in the Council, which he accepted, and retained till his death. During the 20 years that he held a seat in the Legislative Assembly he took a very active part in its proceedings, and amongst other things moved for select committees to inquire into the disorganised state of the Works Department, the state of the Benevolent Society, and the agriculturists and manufacturers of the colony, and he secured the carrying of a resolution - "That all rolling stock and other railway requirements, as well as everything required for Government store keepers and public departments, should be tendered for in the colony".

Mr. Lucas was one of the first to visit the Jenolan Caves. It was during the period when he was a member for Canterbury. He was so impressed with the importance of the caves that he induced the Government to proclaim a reserve and thus open out the caves for the use of the people. He wrote articles on them which were published in the "Sydney Morning Herald" in June, 1863. He was also one of the first to have certain lands set apart for public parks and recreation reserves which to-day prove such a benefit to the public. On one occasion, when it was proposed to sell Belmore Park, and when even the land had been subdivided, he carried a resolution in the Legislative Assembly preventing the sale of the park and making it a reserve for the people. He was the first to have a Chinese Restriction Act passed through Parliament, but this was afterwards repealed on a motion by the late Rev. Dr. Lang. Subsequently, however, as Act was passed imposing a poll tax of £100.

On the question of education the late Mr. Lucas took a prominent part in advocating a free and secular system. He wrote many articles on the subject which were published in the "Empire". He assisted in framing the different measures which were passed to reform the then existing system of national and denominational education, and he believed in making education free to all classes, without distinction creed or class. The question of water supply also was one in which he took a great interest, and when the preset water supply scheme was being advocated, he wrote drawing attention to the expense and the likelihood of its falling short of the people's requirements. He foresaw the difficulty in which the Water and Sewerage Board at present finds itself with reference to the supply of water, and in his writings on this subject he said: "It is very questionable whether the Pheasant's Nest or Upper Nepean is to be depended upon for a supply sufficient for the city and suburbs to supply the increased population, the increased manufactories, during the next 20 years, particularly if we should have two or three droughts such as the colony has suffered from upon several occasions, during which not a drop of water ran over the Menangle ford for months at a time." Mr. Lucas strongly advocated what was known as the George's River scheme. He was a staunch protectionist all through life. He was one of the first to advocate a protective tariff. As far back as 1858 he wrote a series of letters to the



SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN.January, 1972.

"Empire" newspaper urging the adoption of such a tariff, and he ever since, in season and out of season, advocated protection as the best policy for New South Wales. The deceased gentleman was appointed a magistrate of the territory in 1858, and for a number of years occupied a seat on the Bench at the Central Police Court.

Mr. Lucas was a widower, his wife having died five years ago. He has left four sons and one daughter. Mr. Percy Charles Lucas is a member of the firm of Lucas, Lock and Co., wine and spirit merchants, of Sydney; Mr. J.H. Lucas is a surveyor; Mr. W.W. Lucas is a resident of Manly; and Mr. Edgar Lucas is a Solicitor of this city.

The funeral will take place this afternoon, the interment being made in the family vault in Rookwood.

(The foregoing extract from The Sydney Morning Herald of 3rd March, 1902, refers to the death of John Lucas, son of John Lucas who established a water powered flour mill on the Woronora River in 1825. )

JOHN WALKER.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH --

Perhaps some of our members would like to do some more research centred around the name Lucas; I suggest a "follow-up" based on the following queries.

Was Penelope Lucas, Governess to the three Macarthur girls and later loyal companion to Elizabeth Macarthur at "Elizabeth Farm" during the belligerent John's enforced exile from the Colony, in any way related to Nathaniel Lucas, miller of Liverpool, the father of John Lucas of Woronora?

We know that, in recognition of twenty-two years faithful service, the MacArthur's built the historic sandstone-brick "Hambleton Cottage" as a home for her in 1824 and that she moved in in 1827 and resided there until her death in 1836.

The name "Hambleton" was bestowed by Penelope in memory of her birthplace in Hampshire, England.

Furthermore, was there any relationship between Nathaniel Lucas and the seafaring Captain Lucas mentioned by Cumpston as a visitor to Port Jackson as commander of trading ships, between 1788 and 1825?

JOHN WALKER

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN.January, 1972.From The Cronulla Observer dated 21st October, 1971"Death of Authority on Captain Cook".

Professor John Cawte Beaglehole, a leading authority on the voyages of Captain James Cook, died suddenly at his home in Wellington (N.Z) last week, aged 70.

Professor Beaglehole, holder of honorary doctorates from Oxford University and the University of Sydney, was a senior professor at Victoria University in Wellington and served as a historical adviser to the Government, (N. Z.) .

He was a guest of the NSW Government during the Bi-Centenary Celebrations and attended a seminar on Cook's Voyages.

The papers from this seminar have just been published.

-----

His major work "The Journals of James Cook", was published in the 1950s.

As many of my readers, who availed themselves of the opportunity of attending, know, the Seminar referred to in the foregoing obituary notice was held at Sutherland, and that Professor Beagle-hole was the guest of the Sutherland Shire Council 1st-3rd May, 1970.

Needless for me to say that amidst the galaxy of brilliant scholars attracted to our centre by this, from a historian's point of view, the most important of the Bicentenary Year, the late Professor, our chief guest speaker, was the brightest star.

During the course of the symposium I had an opportunity to discuss with Professor Beaglehole, amongst other topics, the source of his assertion that the Kurnell Peninsula was originally named Kundel by the Aborigines. The scholarly gentleman informed me that he had gleaned that fact from the late James Bonwick. However, since then with meticulous readings of the copious writings of that prolific author, on the early history of our continent, I have failed to locate any section referring to Kundel or even Kurnell.

Undoubtedly, Professor J.C. Beaglehole will always hold his place on the scroll of fame as the historian who bequeathed to posterity the most comprehensive accounts of the voyages of that doyen of navigators -- Captain Janes Cook.

JOHN WALKER.

\*\*\*\*\*

This Bulletin has been compiled by an Editorial Board consisting of Messrs. J. Walker and N. Horwood.

Members are specially invited to submit items of historical interest for inclusion in future Bulletins.

Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the contributors, and not necessarily of the Society.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN January, 1972.BOOK REVIEW“Employ’d as a Discoverer” – Edited by J.V.S.MegawPublishers A.H. & A.W. Reed Pty Ltd.,

With pleasure I acknowledge receipt of my bound copy of the papers presented at the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Commemorative Symposium, organised by Mr. N.F. Horwood, A.A.S.A. (Senior) and A.C.I.S., Honorary Secretary of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society and Convener of the Bi-Centenary Historical Sub-Committee of the Sutherland Shire's Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Commemoration and held in the Council Chambers at Sutherland, 1-3 May, 1970, to coincide with the re-enactment of Cook's landing at Kurnell.

Bound attractively this medium sized volume contains not only Professor Beaglehole's two excellent addresses but also supplementary papers read by Messrs, N. Horwood; W.H. Robertson; J.V.S. Megaw; L. Knutzelius; Professor H. Newton Barber; Associate Professor R.C. Carolin and Vice-Admiral Sir John Collins, K.B.E., C.B., (R.A.N. Retired).

Each speaker was a recognised authority in the field which he selected and the resultant book is a complete coverage of the times, background, character, work, environment and achievements of Captain James Cook, and will serve both for intensive study by the student or pleasant reading for the person with an interest in history. A small tome which provides both profit and pleasure either when read in its entirety or browsed through casually whenever time affords a few spare moments.

Obviously, a few changes have been made in some of the papers by either the composer or the editor but both the person who did the editing and the publisher are to be commended for refraining from following the modern trend of making so many alterations and adding such weird innovations that present day authors frequently fail to recognise their own brain-children.

Without wishing to appear as a carping critic, I say that it is regrettable that nowhere in the book was mention made of The Sutherland Shire Historical Society, whose members not only did much of the behind the scenes spadework to make the Symposium a success but also provided a large proportion of the listening participants.

The choice of a name for the otherwise highly praiseworthy publication also appears to me to be most unfortunate. Why! oh why! did not the person responsible give the matter a second thought? He could hardly have come up with anything less acceptable. I can visualize at least one hundred far more suitable titles than "Employ'd as a Discoverer".

Although I know full well that in one section in his Journal Cook described himself as a man "employ'd as a Discoverer" I still maintain that the magnitude of his discoveries and the ultimate influence of his memorable voyages upon the course of the history of our civilization warrant a more apt title to describe the contents of a collection of papers which sum up such a comprehensive survey of the famous navigator's adventures and achievements.

JOHN WALKER.

-----