

Leichhardt Historical Journal

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"UP THE TIGERS": THE BALMAIN FOOTBALL CLUB'S FIRST 70 YEARS
THE ANNANDALE GATES RE-ERECTED
EARLY DAYS (1877-1900) AT FOREST LODGE: ST JAMES CHURCH

Reprinted 1987



Darling and Beattie Streets, Balmain, in 1907.

Annandale Balmain Glebe Leichhardt Lilyfield Rozelle

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Contents

John Cavill: A Cornish Stonemason by Peter Reynolds	3
The Annandale Gates Re-erected by Alan Roberts	9
St. James' Church Forest Lodge by John Fletcher	11
Leichhardt Post Office by Historical Officer, Australia Post	14
"Up The Tigers": The Balmain Football Club's First Seventy Years by Peter Reynolds	16
Publications For Sale	25
Publications: 1971-1978	25
Index L ^H J: 1971-1978	26
Reviews	27-28

Cover

(Design by Nicholas Back)

The Unity Hall Hotel, on the corner of Darling and Beattie Streets, Balmain, pictured in 1907.

Editorial

LOCAL HISTORY AND PUBLISHING GRANTS

When Alan Roberts founded the L^HJ in the middle of 1971, he was faced with a shortage of historical writers, a lack of voluntary technical assistance and the complete absence of finance. Undeterred by these essentials he went on to produce our first issue by sheer determination and good-natured enthusiasm.

Since its first appearance the L^HJ has gone through a further five issues which are now recognised as a worthwhile contribution to the sparsely published field of local history.

The L^HJ is a product of the three local civic groups, the Annandale Association, the Balmain Association and the Glebe Society. The consolidation of these groups in recent times reflects the interest of the people of Sydney in inner-city living. The trends of the last decade are becoming the customs of the present.

Along with the diminishing abhorrence of the inner-city slums is the growing awareness that there is such a thing as local history. More and more people are asking, "When was my house built and by whom? Who were the important people of my district?"

At the same time, an upsurge of family history research has crowded library reading rooms and registration offices. Ordinary people are learning the skills of historical research and the whereabouts of that "mass of raw historical data" which Max Solling writes about in his L^HJ No. 2 editorial.

The L^HJ, in line with this increasing "grass roots" interest, is anxious to include articles on the history of Leichhardt and Lilyfield and those areas fringing the Municipality.

Editors

Peter Reynolds, Alan Roberts and Max Solling

The L^HJ is published jointly by the Annandale Association, the Balmain Association and the Glebe Society. Owing to editorial difficulties, this is the first issue to appear since No. 6, September 1975. The Editors are not responsible for opinions expressed by contributors to the Journal.

Correspondence should be addressed to Peter Reynolds, 9 The Avenue, Balmain 2041.

Acknowledgements

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A Note On Contributors

John Fletcher is a senior lecturer in the Department of German, University of Sydney; Peter Reynolds is a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture, University of New South Wales and Alan Roberts is a tutor in the School of History, Philosophy and Politics, Macquarie University.

Perusal of the scope of our past articles will reveal that it is not all long boring academic stuff. Margaret Quinn, for example, in L^HJ No. 6 writes of "Annandale Children's Games c 1915". Trivia, certainly not; daily experiences yes; a clear example of historical events recorded by a person who has lived through them.

On the point of publishing local historical studies, the Cultural Grants Division of the NSW Government is offering financial assistance to RESEARCH AND WRITE the social history of the State. What a misplaced emphasis this is! What is needed is PUBLISHING FINANCE. How many notes and sketches lie in drawers and shoeboxes waiting for the chance to become historical texts.

The L^HJ strives to get the words away from the historian's card index and before the eyes of students, other researchers and the interested public.

Let us restate our aim which was so well put by Alan Roberts at the beginning of the L^HJ's life:

We wish to encourage the reading, writing and research of all aspects of the history of this area.

Peter Reynolds

Note

Welcome to the newly formed LEICHHARDT ASSOCIATION. This local civic group meets on the last Monday of every month at 8.15pm in All Souls Church hall, corner Norton and Marion Streets Leichhardt. Entry to the hall is from the lane behind the church. Enquiries to the Honorary Secretary, PO Box 168, Leichhardt 2040

John Cavill (1812~1898): A Cornish Stonemason

by Peter Reynolds

In their book, Balmain in Time, Reynolds and Irving refer to the builder of the "Waterman's Cottage" (No. 12 Darling Street) as being a Balmain stonemason, John Cavill. The authors, at the time of writing, were unable to say more as "obscurity covers his part in the history of the cottage".¹

Out of keen interest in his forbear's history and by diligent research, Henry Norman Cavill II of Bankstown has now lifted the veil of this "obscurity". John Cavill's genealogy, his land speculation and his stonemasonry are now a matter of record.

In the Cornwall parish of St Breock, in 1812, Elizabeth West Cavill presented her husband John, a labourer, with his second son whom they also named John. The younger John spent his youth wisely by mastering the stonemason's skills of the locality. On 29 December 1834 he married "by banns with consent of her parents" a Huntingdonshire girl two years his senior, Mary Anne Carveth.²

In a little less than four years, the young couple sailed for New South Wales. Leaving England on 8 October 1838, in the Scarborough-built ship Andromache, the Cavills endured a 116-day voyage which was to claim the life of their younger son, also called John, an infant in the first year of his life.³ John and Mary Anne's elder son, William Henry, who had been born in Cornwall in 1835, and Jane Carveth (Mary Anne's younger sister) managed to survive the voyage.⁴ William Henry Cavill was later destined to carry on the Cavill name and to become a relatively important tradesman and land speculator in Balmain.

There are no extant details of the Cavill's early life in Sydney other than their arrival which took place on the last day of January 1839.⁵

In the following year, however, John Cavill concluded a transaction which began a fifty-year career of land development and speculative building in Balmain.

THE "WATERMAN'S COTTAGE": Cavill made his first purchase of Balmain land on 30 September 1840, when Mr Stubbs auctioned seven allotments on the southern side of present-day Darling Street (East Balmain, near Darling Street wharf). Mr Stubbs acted for one of Sydney's leading land speculators, Harry Lambert Brabazon, who had purchased these allotments from George William Paul earlier in 1840.⁶ The land in question was the larger portion of Paul's lot 5 purchased from John Borthwick Gilchrist in October 1836. Cavill's block was a 102' 0" strip along the newly-aligned Weston Street with a 38' 9" frontage to Darling Street.⁷



THE WATERMAN'S COTTAGE
12 Darling Street, Balmain

These land dealings occurred during a time of intense financial speculation in property. Land and buildings changed hands many times over and good profits were made for relatively small outlays. It was a time when "speculation was rife in every branch of business, and none more markedly than in land transactions". It was also a time of "unexampled prosperity" which below the surface was nothing more than a credit economy based upon pledges that all too soon proved irredeemable.⁸

When the financial crisis arrived in 1841 with consequent unemployment, the Sydney labour market was well-stocked with newly-arrived English stonemasons. John Cavill had no option but to sell half his allotment and mortgage the remainder to set up a building business thus combining self-employment and Cornish independence.⁹

By selling the rear portion (now Nos. 1 & 3 Weston Street) to William Todd for £120 in October 1841, Cavill was able to build his first speculative building on the Balmain peninsula, a dwelling later to become known as the "Waterman's Cottage".¹⁰

The two-storey dimensioned-stone cottage with cantilevered balcony was constructed by Cavill on the well-known Balmain investment principle of "build one, let one" in which the proceeds from a building's rental would allow its twin to be built. That Cavill had this in mind is attested to by the "toothing" visible on the cottage's front western corner.

Although Cavill took out mortgages on the property in 1842 and 1843, he was financially unable to complete the second one and so the project remains incomplete to this day.¹¹

Cavill's financial position was later considerably strengthened by his sale of the dwelling to William John Wright, Sydney's Inspector of Police, in May 1845, for £220.¹² Taking into consideration the £120 received from Todd for the rear portion and Cavill's original outlay of £155, his profit margin though slight was real enough in those depressed financial times.

Obviously Cavill's income was further bolstered by contracting his building skills to various Balmain landholders. The results can be seen in many similar stone dwellings and shops of the same period.

During this time, Cavill and his young family lived in a small weatherboard dwelling probably located at the rear of the stone cottage. In these unpretentious surroundings, Mary Anne's first Balmain child was born. Elizabeth Cavill, baptised at St James' Church, Sydney, in 1842, later married the Southampton-born, William Thomas Lee, in 1860. During their residence at places as far apart in New South Wales as Maitland, Cassilis, Warialda, Trunkey Creek and Balmain, Elizabeth and William Lee had six sons and four daughters.¹³

CAMPBELL AND WATERVIEW STREETS: Towards the end of 1844, John Cavill acquired two Balmain allotments that were to bring in a substantial return. At Robert Campbell's auction sale of four acres of his Waterview Bay (now Mort Bay) property, Cavill offered the highest bid of £23 for lot 6, a choice elevated portion now the site of the Campbell Street Presbyterian Church Hall.¹⁴ Cavill was to sell this land in two portions in 1873 and 1876 to realize a total return of £130 for his outlay of £23.¹⁵

His other 1844 purchase, however, did not prove to be so rewarding. By purchasing lot 24 of Marsh's Waterview Street estate (then called George Street) again for £23, Cavill gained a battleaxe block adjoining his Campbell Street property giving him a continuous strip between those two parallel streets.¹⁶ Cavill immediately sold the Waterview Street frontage of this land to fellow stonemason, James Beattie, who seven years later purchased the remainder.¹⁷ As the total price for the two portions equalled Cavill's original purchase price, he apparently broke even on the transaction.

A later deal between the two masons on the same block again gave an even result. In this 1859 deal, Cavill bought the Waterview Street lot back from Beattie for £250. At the same time, for the same price, Cavill sold Beattie (a butcher by now) land in the street that was later to bear Beattie's name.¹⁸

The reasons for this wheeling and dealing between these two Balmain pioneers are now lost to us but their attempts to cover possible losses and gains seems to have been successful enough. Perhaps property assessment values and consequent land taxes triggered off these apparently surreptitious transactions.

In 1845, at the time of the first association between the two stonemasons, John

Cavill's second son, Thomas was born. Thomas later lived in Datchett Street where he became a carpenter and joined the family building business. Unfortunately he died at twenty-eight leaving his wife, Maria Louisa (Smart), whom he had married in 1863, and their daughter, Ina Rebecca, born 1865.¹⁹

THE DARLING & DATCHETT STREET CORNER:

As well as his land dealings, John Cavill continued to dot the Balmain landscape with small stone buildings. After buying two lots of land in Darling Street one block away from the corner of Datchett Street for £24, in September 1845, Cavill erected a pair of simple verandahed stone cottages.²⁰ These exhibited the standard recipe for low-cost dwellings; stone walls in twelve-inch courses, set in lime mortar and supporting roofs of sufficient pitch to accommodate an attic storey. This upper living space was expressed externally by the protruding dormer window, the whole composition being of small scale, entirely functional and adequate for a family of limited means.

In June 1855, Cavill purchased land in Datchett Street which adjoined the rear of his Darling Street cottages with a view to later securing the corner block.²¹ This corner represented a prime piece of real estate as it was well sited and contained a bootmaker's shop. Cavill completed the purchase of the shop in 1860 when he paid bootmaker John Cornell £150 for it, which was an exceptionally reasonable price.²²

Cavill's corner shop and the twin cottages are an architecturally interesting group. As well as providing a strong vertical element on the corner, the shop acts as a solid termination to the cottages' horizontal lines. The shop itself is interesting in that it appears to have been built in two stages. The bottom storey is the typical regular stone of the time but its upper living area is encased in sand-stock brick walls.

Despite this change of material, the time period between the building of the two parts appears to have been quite short. There is a definite unity of detail in the construction because the stone quoins (corner stones) have been carried up from foundation to roof level through both storeys. As this apparently continuous stonework has aged at a uniform rate, it is within reason to admit to the addition of the upper portion as having been carried out immediately after the erection of the lower storey.

The stone work of this lower storey reveals the hand of an experienced mason. The slimness of the single stone piers between the shopfront windows, the setting of the stone quoins and the moulding of the stone window sills all aver the loving care of the craftsman. This is also demonstrated in the stone detailing that has been expertly integrated with the brickwork of the upper storey. As well as the upper stone quoins, which project sufficiently beyond the face of the brick walls to emphasise the solidity of the corner, a single band of curved stone work over the upper central recess gives a direct emphasis to this architectural delight. The



CORNER SHOP AND COTTAGES, 90-94 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN
(Drawings in this article by David Logan.)

tapering stones of the straight arches over window openings relate in detail to the quoins, thus combining these separate elements into an integrated whole.

John Cavill's part in the construction of the shop cannot be definitely proven but it is highly likely that he was its builder. Its distinctive and unusual stone detailing mark it as the work of an expert and dedicated mason.

JACOB GARRARD: This valuable property, fronting the corner of Darling Street and Datchett Street, later passed by Cavill's will to his younger daughter, Rebecca. Born in 1850, Rebecca was to join her life to a young man who ultimately became much more significant than her Cornish father. John Cavill's traditional craft of working in stone contrasted markedly with the machine-oriented occupation of engineer Jacob Garrard. Rebecca married the twenty-four year old Garrard in 1870 and gave him five sons and two daughters.²³

Rebecca Cavill Garrard's quiet support of her husband was no doubt an important factor in his becoming a respected auctioneer in Balmain, a zealous trade union leader, Balmain's mayor, its first Member of Parliament and New South Wales' first Minister for Labour and Industry. Ever the champion of better working conditions in the Colony's industries, Garrard was one of the prime movers for arbitration in industrial disputes. He was also influential in the introduction of technical education for apprenticed tradesmen.²⁴

Although the date of Rebecca's birth is recorded, her parents' place of residence at the time remains unknown. The exact location of this residence is made more difficult by the many land dealings carried on at the time by her father. The Cavills could have had any one of the number of addresses of his many land purchases.

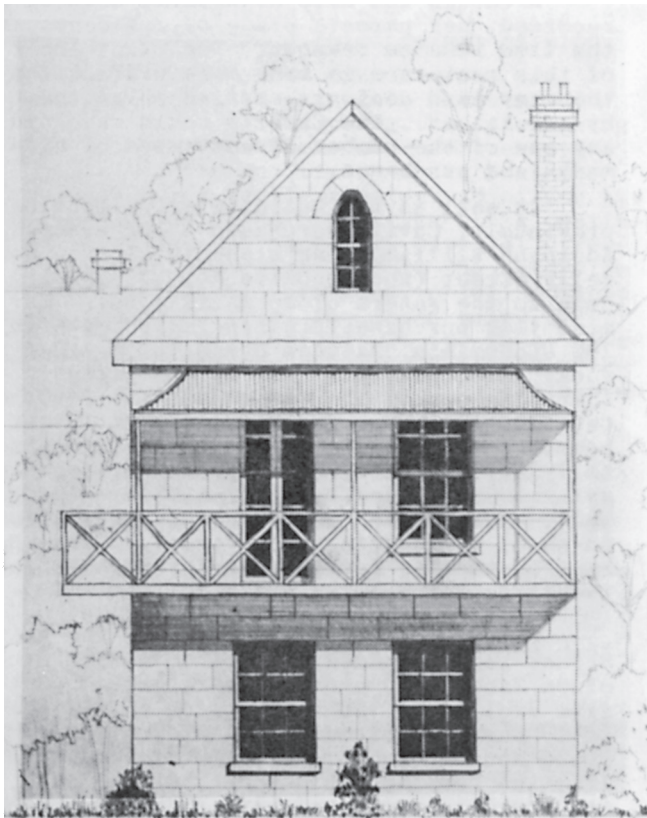
As well as the building sites mentioned previously, Cavill purchased a large block of Adolphus William Young's subdivision in Donnelly Street (now opposite No. 13) leading down to the waters of Johnston's Bay. Cavill made this purchase in partnership with fellow stonemason, Matthew Byrne.²⁵ Whether the rocky waterfront was used by the partners for quarrying purposes or as a homesite for the Cavill's is unrecorded. It is significant, however, that the Donnelly Street land passed to Sydney merchant, John Alexander (for a net gain to Cavill and Byrne of £155) in October 1853, a date which coincided with Cavill's purchase of land in Union Street. This address became his family home for the ensuing twenty years.²⁶

THE CAVILLS IN UNION STREET: The Union Street land extended through to Little Nicholson Street and proved sufficient to contain five dwellings. John built for himself a tall, narrow fronted, two-storey attic-roofed stone house (now No. 17 Union Street) which, like the Darling and Datchett Street shop, was a distinctive structure. Standing above the waters of Johnston's Bay, the house originally had many striking features, some of which have unfortunately been removed. For

example, the now-demolished cantilevered balcony on the house's front sheltered a door and window on that level. The doorway has since been converted to a window. The narrow balcony was roofed by a corrugated iron roof giving just enough protection to the balcony doorway. A similarly constructed side balcony projected to the southward overlooking a panoramic view of the bay and Sydney beyond. The side balcony has also been removed to allow the adjoining cottage (No. 19) to be built. Still in evidence, however, and high up under the peak of the roof is the narrow Gothic-arched window that gives light and air to the attic rooms.

The Union Street house provided three different levels, on an economical floor plan, and was large enough for the senior Cavills as well as son William Henry.

With his family well-housed in Union Street and with the rents coming in from his other holdings, John Cavill by the later 1850's was a man of property and a man of some consequence among the inhabitants of the fast growing hamlet of Balmain. William Henry, the elder son, had joined his father as a stonemason and Thomas, the second son, was soon to join the building business as a carpenter. Cavill's secure financial position led him to speculate still further and upon a scale far beyond his previous small investments.



JOHN CAVILL'S HOUSE
17 Union Street, Balmain

THE CORNER OF DARLING AND BEATTIE STREET

At the beginning of 1857, Cavill laid out the substantial sum of £300 which, over a period of thirteen years, netted him a profit of over £1,000. The land in question proved the soundness of his judgement in property matters for it was the one-acre lot at the junction of Darling and Beattie Streets (now fronting "Loyalty Square") that had caught his eye. This key piece of real estate had been released by the Gilchrist Trust to John Cooper of Sydney and he in turn sold it to William Alfred Noble, a Moreton Bay Grazier, for £230.²⁷ It was to Noble that Cavill paid the £300 in March 1857.²⁸

Cavill immediately divided the one-acre triangular block into fourteen separate lots and it was his subdivision that was the basis of all subsequent development on that corner.²⁹ The lines of Cavill's subdivision are still evident and contain almost all of the present-day buildings.

James Beattie, the butcher, bought the end lots 1 and 14 at the base of the triangle. This gave him a continuous strip, about forty feet wide, from Beattie Street (No. 17) through to Darling Street (No. 316).³⁰ The amount paid (£250) and the date of sale (May 1859) were exactly the same as those for the much smaller Waterview Street land mentioned earlier.

Other sales by Cavill of this subdivision, between 1859 and 1870 were to minor tradesmen and shopkeepers which included a quarryman, fishmonger, carpenter, engineer, coachman, brushmaker and two mariners.³¹ This valuable location was at the junction of two very important transport routes which gave them ample opportunities for trade. Traffic travelling up Darling Street from the ferry wharves at East Balmain met traffic coming overland along Beattie Street which was the major road linking the local bush tracks to the Parramatta Road.

WILLIAM HENRY CAVILL, GROCER: It was on the rounded tip of this junction that son, William Henry, established a grocer's shop after leaving the family building business. By purchasing this corner position from his father for £100 at the end of 1865, William Henry had both Balmain's main street frontages at his disposal.³² Three years later, in August 1868, William Henry bought the adjoining lot at the corner for a mere £50, thus securing a good-sized triangle of choice commercial land.³³

Following in his father's footsteps, William Henry quickly mortgaged his new property to buy more land in Balmain for investment purposes. William Henry had married Elizabeth Silk in May 1862, with the consent of the "guardian of minors" (the Colony's Registrar General) being necessary as Elizabeth was just seventeen. Between the first months of their marriage and 1886, Elizabeth gave birth to the grand total of five sons and eleven daughters. Their eldest son, Henry Norman Cavill I, was born in 1869 at the shop, as was the second son, William Brunswick Cavill, in 1871.³⁴ The Cavill name was carried on by William Brunswick Cavill who



WILLIAM HENRY CAVILL (1835-1911)



ELIZABETH SILK CAVILL (1845-1867)



WILLIAM BRUNSWICK CAVILL (1871-1944)
and his son
HENRY NORMAN CAVILL (b 1902)

married Margaret Mary Lyons in 1895 at Sydney. Their son Henry Norman Cavill II, of Bankstown, was born in 1902 at Surry Hills.³⁵

William Henry's growing prosperity was not only measured by the size of his large family but also by his inherited business acumen. He had the foresight not to develop the corner lot entirely for his grocery business. Instead, he left the tip of the corner free for more intensive development.

THE UNITY HALL HOTEL: A chance for a lucrative investment came in 1874 when William Henry mortgaged the corner lot for £500.³⁶ He used his building knowledge to plan that most desirous of corner establishments, a licensed public-house. In the following year, Mrs Ann Taylor, leased from William Henry Cavill the "New Unity Hall Hotel". This establishment has continued on the same site until the present day.³⁷ Interestingly, her business had been carried on at the north-western corner of Darling and Nicholson Streets where a hotel of the name "Unity Hall" had been in operation since the 1850's, necessitating the word "New" in the title.³⁸

Mrs Taylor passed the Unity Hall's licence to Charles Armit in 1879 and the building underwent a succession of licensees (including William Hamilton from 1905 to 1907, see cover picture).³⁹ After William Henry's death in 1911, the property passed to his family. It was eventually sold by his oldest surviving daughter, Jessica Abbey Cavill, to Tooth & Co for £14,000 in 1922.⁴⁰

After granting Mrs Taylor's lease of the hotel, William Henry continued the grocery business on his adjoining allotment until 1880 when he moved to premises on the north

side of Darling Street between Mort and Ford Streets.⁴¹ At about that time he moved his family to a new home at the corner of Victoria Road and Wellington Streets where his youngest son, Ernest Stanley Cavill, was born in 1878.⁴²

THE MANSFIELD STREET LAND: William Henry's growing importance as a Balmain merchant did not completely eclipse the business career of his father. After helping William Henry set himself up at the Unity Hall corner, John Cavill continued to buy and sell Balmain land. A second large venture secured for him lots 6 and 7 of section 11 (now at Mansfield and Collins Streets, Rozelle) from the Gilchrist Trustees in the middle 1860's. Ten years later he was able to sell the land, at £160 profit, to a Melbourne piano importer, R J Paling, who with W H Paling of Sydney became Rozelle's largest developer.⁴³

THE EVANS STREET LAND: After his wife died in 1867, John Cavill moved away from the old home in Union Street.⁴⁴ He purchased lots 10 and 11 of section 11 in Evans Street in 1868 and began its development.⁴⁵

Although this land, his last important purchase, was twice as large as the Darling and Beattie Streets corner, its location was much less strategic, being almost entirely residential and not commercial. It was an area of land that gently sloped towards the run of water which flowed through Happy Valley, an area between present-day Evans and Mullens Streets.

As before, Cavill drew up plans for an extensive subdivision but this time he planned two new streets as well as building allotments.⁴⁶ His land was located between

Reynolds and Goodsir Streets on the east side of Evans Street. He cut the first new street, Henry Street, through the centre of the property at right angles to Evans Street. The other street was an extension of George Stewart's George Street, at the bottom of, and at right angles to, the new Henry Street. These street layouts enabled Cavill to gain sixteen building lots while retaining the choicest and largest lot for his new house.

Standing at the corner of Evans and Henry Streets (now the site of a Telecom Warehouse), Cavill's new stone house, "Cheltenham Villa", once again reflected the rugged, independent character of its owner. Despite the fact that Evans Street was an important thoroughfare, Cavill turned his back on it and sited the house to face across the Valley towards the East. The back-to-front house had its garden on the downward slope towards George Street and was approached via an extensive curved carriageway drive from the bottom end of Henry Street.

John Cavill moved to the new house in 1871 and continued his building and land developing career while his household was conducted by various housekeepers. One of these ladies, Margaret Falconer, obviously became very important in his declining years. During this time Cavill came to depend upon Mrs Falconer to such an extent that he saw her as a member of his family. "Cheltenham Villa" had become too large a home for him so Cavill decided to sell it to William Henry. In May 1885, John signed the necessary papers and for the sum of £1,400, payable on very easy terms, William Henry Cavill became the house's new owner.⁴⁷

With Mrs Falconer as his housekeeper, John moved to a small weatherboard cottage in Henry Street (now No. 1) opposite his former home, where he lived until his death in 1898. Anticipating his death and recognising her faithful service he made her a gift of the house in 1893.⁴⁸

JOHN CAVILL'S DEATH: Just four years after making this generous gift to his housekeeper, John Cavill made his last will and testament. He left Mrs Falconer the lot (now No. 3 Henry Street) adjoining the small house. By these two gifts Mrs Falconer received valuable real estate and personal effects.⁴⁹

The end came for John Cavill on 9 April 1898 when he died aged eighty-five at "Cheltenham Villa".⁵⁰ At the time of his death John Cavill had retained much of his property preferring to receive an income from rents over the years. Probate was granted on his estate at £4,594.⁵¹

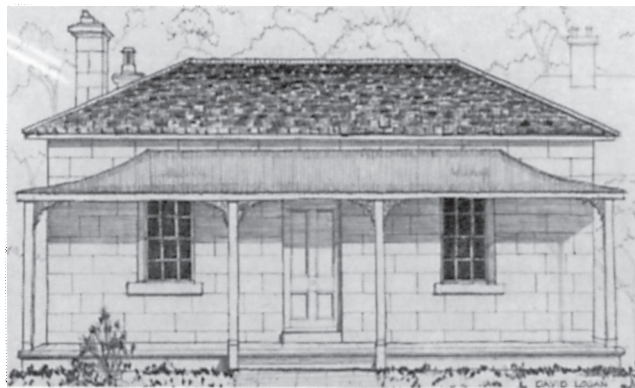
It is a quirk of fate that despite John Cavill's influence in shaping Balmain there is no street or road named after him. Many a man of more political influence but of less significance in the founding of Balmain has engraved his name on the streets of the district. The closest reminder we have of the old stonemason is Henry Street which he had constructed. However, Balmain is all the richer for John Cavill's many stone buildings scattered over its hillsides.

John Cavill is only one of Balmain's unknown pioneers. How many of the other originators of Balmain's man-made landscape will come to light? Their stories have been left with their families but unless descendants research forbears, then little will be known of the contribution made by these pioneers to Balmain's past.

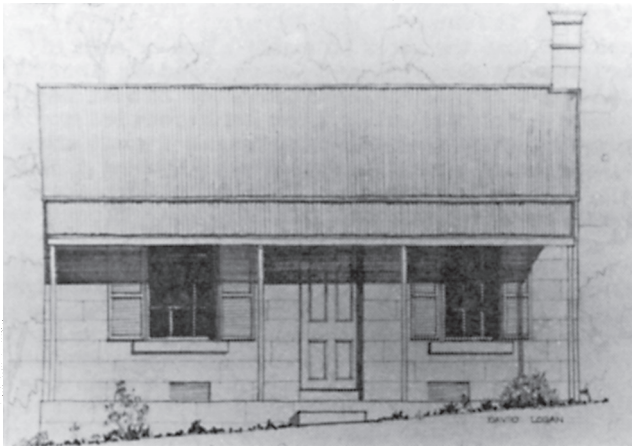
We must be grateful to Henry Norman Cavill II, "Chappie" to his friends, for rescuing the memory of his great-grandfather, stonemason John Cavill, from oblivion.

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15. OST. Bk. No. 422, Cavill to Hardman; Bk. 156, No. 568, Cavill to MacDonald.
16. OST Bk. 10 No. 834, Taylor to Cavill.
17. OST Bk. 10 No. 833, Cavill to Beattie; Bk. 22, No. 579, Cavill to Beattie.
18. OST Bk. 61 No. 398, Beattie to Cavill.
19. T. Cavill's Marriage Certificate and Death Certificate; I. Cavill's Birth Certificate.
20. OST Bk.10 No. 835, Austin to Cavill.
21. OST Bk. 39 No. 659, Leach to Cavill.
22. OST Bk. 69 No. 560, Cornell to Cavill.
23. R. Cavill Garrard's Death Certificate.
24. B. Nairn, "Garrard, Jacob" in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol IV, pp 234-235.
25. OST Bk. 29 No. 666, Young to Cavill & Byrne who sold to Alexander under this conveyance.



THE QUARRYMAN'S COTTAGE, 11 Beattie Street
William Brunton, quarryman bought the site
from John Cavill in 1864



A 99-YEAR LEASEHOLD, 1 Carrington Street
John Cavill leased the land from A.W. Reynolds in 1886

26. OST Bk. 29 No. 200, Donohue to Cavill; Bk. 1 No. 972, Brabazon to Johnson, part lot 16, (Cavill later had title to this land by right of adverse possession, no conveyance ever issued in his name).
27. OST Bk. 26 No. 191, Gilchrist Trustees to Cooper; Bk. 43 No. 350, Cooper to Noble.
28. OST Bk. 48 No. 178, Noble to Cavill.
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30. OST Bk. 61 No. 357, Cavill to Beattie.
31. OST Bk. 70 No. 76; Bk. 83 No. 134; Bk. 88 No. 953; Bk. 89 No. 167; Bk. 90 No. 294; Bk. 103 No. 176; Bk. 106 No. 449; Bk. 106 No. 988; Bk. 107 No. 476; Bk. 108 No. 602; Bk. 115 No. 665; Bk. 120 No. 730.
32. OST Bk. 96 No. 756, Cavill to W.H. Cavill.
33. OST Bk. 109 No. 515, Cavill to W.H. Cavill.
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I acknowledge and thank G. Chanter, J. Engle, D. Logan, K.A. Reynolds, S. Wells and H.N. Cavill II, for their assistance and co-operation.

The Annandale Gates Re-Erected

by Alan Roberts

The Johnston family began to sell parts of their Annandale estate in 1876 and completed the process with the demolition of the old homestead in 1905. The Sydney Morning Herald of 8 April 1905 carried the following advertisement:

Demolition of Extensive Block of Buildings on South Annandale Estate. Highly Important Unreserved Auction Sale on Wednesday 12 April 2.30 pm. By order of the Trustees of the late Captain Johnston's estate. James Cowan has been instructed to sell ... the whole of the internal fittings of a 14 roomed cottage comprising 40 cedar doors, jambs, architraves; 40 cedar box frames and sashes; Box shutters and Venetian shutters; 12 marble mantles and superior grates; 500 sheets galvanised tile iron; large cooking range; 6 pairs heavy coach and stable doors; 20 solid louvre frames; Stable and cowshed fittings; 250,000 sandstock bricks.

There was no mention of the entrance gates being for sale, but we can probably assume they were sold about the same time.

The gates originally stood just off Parramatta Road, on the crest of the hill, on the south side, where the cinema now stands. They consisted of six stone piers of Italianate style, rusticated and vermiculated, supporting iron gates with a simple spear pattern. At the centre of each gate hung a cast iron shield featuring the Johnston crest, the flying spur. Just within the gates stood a weatherboard gate house which is still occupied, though now situated behind 96-98 Cornuna Street Stanmore. From the gates an avenue of Norfolk Island pines led south to the house.

Dating the gates and gatehouse is not easy in the absence of documentary evidence. Stylistically the gatehouse, a simple weatherboard "Tudor" gothic structure, could date anytime from the 1840's onward to the 1880's. The gates could date, stylistically, from the 1860's onward though they appear more characteristic of 1875-1880.* There is no reason to suppose the gates and gatehouse were contemporary. Their difference in style and cost of construction suggest they were built at different times. The entrance to the property had long been there, and presumably there was an earlier set of gates. The impression that the gates were erected c 1875-1880 is consistent with the changing situation of the Johnston family at that time. With the sale of North Annandale in 1876-7, the Johnstons had considerable wealth (which would explain the more expensive construction of the gates) while the growing suburbanisation of surrounding areas created a greater need to emphasise boundaries and to discourage trespassers.

The existence of the gates was remembered by an elderly descendent of the Johnston family, Bert Weston. A member of the 1788-1820 Association, he was present when that association was addressed early in 1971 by Robert Irving of the Balmain Association. He told Mr Irving that the gates had been re-erected at the Camden Showground. Realising this would be of interest to the Annandale Association, Mr Irving told me about it when we met in May at a demonstration organised by the Glebe Society to protest against the granting of a development application in Ferry Road, Glebe. A quick trip to Camden, however, revealed that the gates were not at the showground, nor did people there recognise them from old photographs. The quest thus came to a dead end.



Island pine-trees
Australian Town and Country Journal,
 19 April 1905

The next stage occurred at the Royal Australian Historical Society's conference of affiliated societies, held in October. These conferences are often more valuable for the opportunity to talk to people with mutual interests than for the formal papers. I spoke to Mrs Olive Havard about the activities of the Johnston family in the Liverpool area, and she mentioned in passing that she thought the Annandale gates had been re-erected at the Liverpool showground. They had, however, been dismantled a year or two earlier, and she did not know their current location. Nothing further was done till April 1972 when I addressed the Liverpool Historical Society on the history of Annandale, and asked if anyone recognised the gates from photographs I had brought. Several people did recognise them and the secretary, Bill McGregor, thought they were in storage at the council's depot. A phone call the next day to Liverpool Council confirmed this.

The Annandale Association wrote in May to both Leichhardt and Liverpool Councils, asking that the gates be either given or sold to Leichhardt Council and re-erected in Annandale as part of Leichhardt's municipal centenary celebrations. Liverpool decided to present them to Leichhardt, and I went with a couple of council employees to have a look at them in Liverpool. They were in a sorry condition, as several of the stone blocks had split and many corners had been crushed. It was evident that the stone piers had sustained similar damage when they were first moved to Liverpool, for many corners and details had been repaired with modelled cement. This had been quite successful then, and a repetition of the process appeared feasible again. In October the gates were transported to Annandale and placed in storage behind the Council chambers awaiting a favourable opportunity to be re-assembled.

To obtain the gates was one thing; how and where to re-erect them quite another. The Leichhardt Council officer who examined the gates at Liverpool estimated their erection and restoration would cost about \$800, which then seemed a large sum. The Council at that time, under Mayor Origlass, was sympathetic to historic preservation but could not be counted on to underwrite totally the cost of the project. However one never knew what might turn up. In March that year we had obtained the agreement of a developer for 268-270 Johnston Street to restore 'Oybin' and dedicate it to community use. The national economy was buoyant and much redevelopment was taking place in Annandale (mostly projects approved by the Council prior to Mayor Origlass). It seemed possible that another developer might be induced to take a similar interest in the re-erection of the gates. So there the matter rested. It was far from our major preoccupation, and no haste seemed necessary. Not did it become apparent for a couple of years that though 'Oybin' was saved from demolition, the scheme for its restoration had fallen through.

In the meantime, the blocks of stone were being treated none too gently in the Council depot. They were shifted about roughly by a front-end loader, causing further damage, and the Council's Engineer complained they were in the way. He had little sympathy for the project and, having obtained quotes, reported in August 1973 to Council that it would cost \$6,500. This seems to have been an unnecessarily inflated estimate, and as there was no chance of Council's approving it, it is likely the report was intended to quash the whole enterprise.

It may well be doubted (concluded the Engineer) whether an outlay of \$6,500 on the project is justified ... The storage of the gates is causing inconvenience and I don't wish to see Council saddled with responsibility of storage and security for an indefinite period.

The Engineer also advised against siting the gates in Hinsby Reserve (our first thought) as it is small and already somewhat cluttered. No other park was thought suitable, though as some street closures were being canvassed at

the time, it was suggested the gates might be incorporated in the landscaping.

On receiving this perplexing report, the Council hit the ball back into the Association's court by requesting suggestions for siting and re-erection 'at a minimum of cost to the ratepayers'. Owing to no quorum at the November general meeting, it was not till February that the Association could seriously consider Council's request. This meeting will be returned to. I felt depressed at these developments, and pessimistic about the prospects of seeing the gates standing again. Though we did not admit it, this was probably the common feeling in the Association.

We had much else on our plates and were campaigning simultaneously to save 'Greyholme', No. 23 Johnston Street. It was one of the most impressive of the group of wealthy houses in south Johnston Street. It stood in a derelict condition beside Annandale Public School, and the Department of Education intended to resume the land and demolish the house to enable expansion of the School. We urged that 'Greyholme' was an important component of Annandale's historic townscape and could be retained and used as a school building. But the department's Area Director, with whom the decision lay, was not sympathetic to our argument and was concerned about cost. So 'Greyholme' was demolished in February 1973. Subsequently we learned the area was to be landscaped as open space, which was a matter of interest to the Association, especially as open space is so limited in Annandale and as the department's policy at that time was to encourage greater school/community interaction. Following this, representatives of the Association and Council were invited to inspect preliminary sketch plans.

At the Association's general meeting in February, the problem of the gates was extensively discussed. The estimated cost was quite beyond the Association's ability to contribute towards significantly, though we were willing to supply unskilled labour. Suggested sites included Pioneer's Park in Leichhardt and Piper Street at Johnston Street (beside Hinsby Reserve) if Piper Street were closed off. In the course of discussion, another suggestion was made: that the gates be incorporated in the landscaping of the 'Greyholme' site. It was finally resolved to recommend that Leichhardt Council urge this idea on the Department of Education. The Council did so, and at the meeting to consider preliminary plans for landscaping the area Maureen Townsing (then president of the Association) repeated the idea. It was received favourably, especially by the two department architects concerned. The School's new headmaster, Mr P Bracks, was also sympathetic.

No decision appears to have been taken on the matter at this time, nor could the Association even find out what was happening (if anything) for another two years. Nevertheless the idea seemed the only possible solution, especially since a new Leichhardt Council had been elected, a Council with almost no concern with the history of the

area nor sympathy with the planning ideals of the Association. With the able secretaryship of Betty Mason and the Association's dogged persistence, the idea was not lost sight of. Finally, in June 1976, the new Area Director of Education, Mr W Nay, suggested another meeting to consider the proposal, which was held in July. He and the Schools Inspector were very friendly, seemed to regret the decision taken by Nay's predecessor to demolish 'Greyholme', and agreed to the incorporation of the gates in the landscaping providing funds permitted. They did, and the work began in October 1977. The piers were erected and the gates hung by November, and treatment of the stone, painting of the iron gates and repointing some of the spear bars were finally completed about March 1978.

The Annandale Association is very grateful to Mr Nay and his officers and the headmaster of Annandale Public School for their great assistance in bringing the idea to fruition. Leichhardt Council is also to be thanked, especially Bill Hume (alderman 1971-4) and Penny Pike (Forward Planning Officer 1972-4). Liverpool Council deserves praise for donating the gates in the first place.

But what does it all mean in terms of community involvement in the planning process? Apart from the slowness with which wheels can turn, it shows the creative potential of cooperation between government departments and local communities. It is a minor success story for the Association. It is a contribution to the historic townscape of the area and, despite failures such as the 'Greyholme' campaign, it shows the value of persistence even against heavy odds. Some day, persistence with 'Oybin' will be similarly rewarded.

* I am grateful to Dr H G Woffenden, Dept of Architecture, University of Sydney, for this tentative suggestion.

Early Days (1877-1900) at Forest Lodge: St. James' Church

by John Fletcher

Although time was when The Glebe "seemed a sort of enchanted forest with its lofty gums looking as gloomy as the black feathers on a hearse", the wild duck and profusely growing geebung and "Hellfire" berries were not left for long to enjoy their immunity once the Glebe Municipality was proclaimed on 1 August 1859.¹

Weather-board cottages, let at 15/- a week, began to appear on the subdivided glebe

lands at Bishopthorpe and St Philip's. Jonathan Howard's four-horse omnibuses, rattling at 6d a trip from Broadway to the Quay, halved the time and expense of Thomas Woolley's more leisurely and more sedate carriages. More significantly, the population, in less than twenty years, mushroomed from 200 in the late 1840's to more than 4000.

The few stately mansions, initially hidden in the virgin bush, found their expensively bought solitude eroded almost overnight. Roads, shops, small factories, gas lighting, from 1860, drains and sewers from 1876, even steam-trams, from 1882, transformed in erratic leaps and bounds their once sylvan setting.

It was a time of improving communications, of clearing stands of tall timber and of forcing back the tidal waters that once lapped Broadway opposite St Benedict's Church and covered the present Harold Park and Jubilee Oval. Glebe's swelling Catholic population began to question the need of their regular peregrinations to Broadway or to Father Therry's old church in Balmain

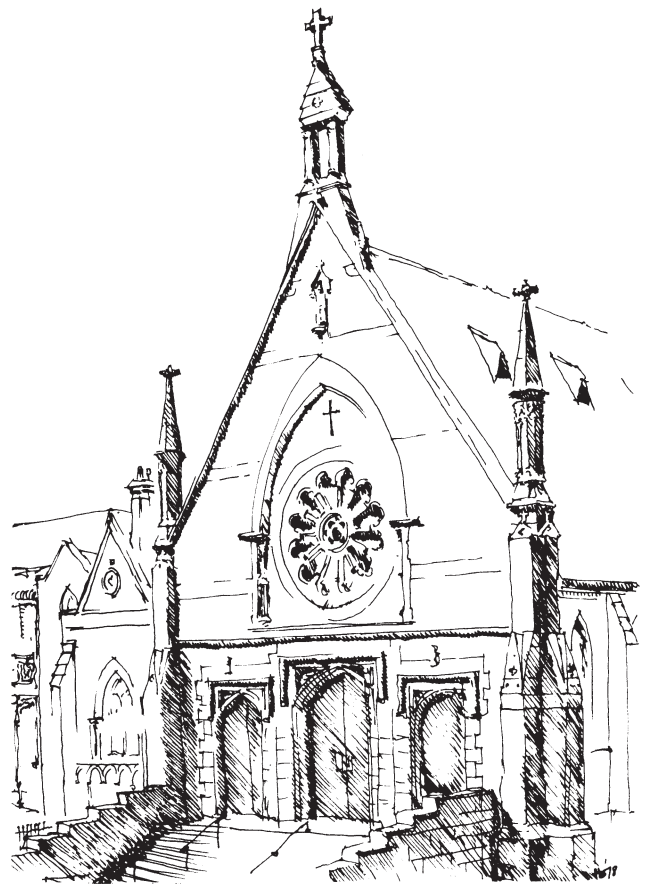
The growing queries were to produce an unambiguous answer in a block of land on the former Hereford House estate, donated late in 1876 by a local resident, Mr Shannassy. A building committee, under the chairmanship of St Benedict's Father John Joseph Pollard, originally of County Tipperary, promptly materialized, held meetings in Mr James McManahan's house and collected £600 before calling tenders.²

By 7 July 1877 the foundation stone was laid and blessed by Archbishop Roger Bede Vaughan in front of a "tasteful assembly of 2000".³ By 1 September 1878, the church of St James, built in the Venetian Gothic style of Pymont stone and New Zealand kaurie pine and glowing with stained glass, marble, majolica painted tiles, was ready and formally opened. Admission was by ticket only. The crowded church throbbed to the music of Weber and Mozart played on a "handsome organ" presented by Miss FitzStubbs. Archbishop Vaughan warmly congratulated the new pastor, Father Pollard (1844-1884) and his committee on their "inspiring energy and zeal".⁴

Music seems in fact to have loomed large in the life of the infant church. The extensive first Christmas celebrations were immediately followed by a presentation to the soloists. Mlle Marie St Clair received a gold chain and the popular basso Mr Rainford an inscribed silver coffee service. The gifts were "of an extremely chaste nature".⁵

Another early milestone fell on Sunday 27 July 1879, when Archbishop Vaughan administered Confirmation to nearly 100 children. The church was again ablaze with colour and sound. The scent of the "gayest and rarest flowers" mingled with the soaring voices of a choir fifty strong and the resonant tones of the organ produced a blending of liturgical Haydn and Weber with the full orchestral thunder of Wagner's majestic march from "Tannhauser".⁶

A short three months later, on 12 October 1879, the Archbishop again appeared at St James' to lay and bless the foundation stone



ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOOLLEY STREET, FOREST LODGE
1877-1888, John Kirkpatrick, architect.
(Drawing by Harry Stephens.)

of an elegant parish school which he declared to be "an ornament even to this ornamental neighbourhood" and which owed its inception alone to Father Pollard, "that zealous and persevering clergyman".⁷ The school, equipped with "desks that had been shown in the Great International Exhibition", opened on 21 March 1880 under Sr Mary Austin and Sr Marie des Anges of the Good Samaritans who walked daily into Glebe from the Pitt Street Convent.⁸ The boys were catered for by Professor Anglin and Mr John Doyle.

Ingenuously, and not a little ingeniously, the move into the new school-buildings was preceded, on 3 November 1879 by the very first Parish Picnic. Mass at 7.00am sharp was followed by an excited crocodile of boys and girls briskly marching, to the accompaniment of "lovely tunes" by the Imperial Band, down to the steamers waiting near Half-Penny Bridge on the old Lyndhurst estate. The picnic itself, at Chowder Bay, was attended during the long hot day by over 1000 people.⁹

Other documents of the same year, as parish life began to fall into a more regular rhythm, tell of the £2000 debt outstanding from a total expenditure since 1877 of £6000, 10 of night-school classes, of a total of 200 children under the Good Samaritans and of three teachers receiving from their classes some £2.10.0 a week.¹¹

More ambitiously, in 1881, a high-school at St James' was launched by M A Cleary, "Professor of elocution and languages", late lecturer in rhetoric to the teachers in training at Fort Street. Advertisements appeared in the Sydney newspapers stressing the school's "latest improved systems of teaching" and that its roll of 180 children were "some of the best families of the neighbourhood". A few places were still available, the advertisement stated, for boarders "with all the comforts of home".¹²

A half-column notice in the Evening News of 25 June 1881, described Mr Cleary as "a gentleman of the very highest attainments" and included no less than eleven testimonials to his sterling qualities. These compliments were submitted amongst others by the headmaster of Sydney Grammar School and the manager of the Haymarket branch of the Australian Joint Stock Bank.

Mr Cleary's educative innovations apparently failed to impress prospective fee-paying parents despite Father Pollard's bold purchase in 1882, of land intended for a new school adjacent to the church in Woolley Street. The same year also saw the transfer of Father Pollard to Moruya where he was to die two years later at the altar rails, a demise that was to make "great consternation seize the large congregation" and induce widespread sorrow on the South Coast.¹³

Forest Lodge's second priest was the Benedictine, Hugh Bernard Callachor (1841-98), a product of and professor at Lyndhurst College. Father Callachor had taught at the College until it closed its doors for the last time in 1877. Curiously, he came to Forest Lodge from Moruya bearing with him both a testimonial to his "untiring labours and sleepless solitude" and a purse of 60 golden sovereigns from his grateful parishioners. A tall and bustling extrovert, Father Callachor enjoyed the considerable advantage of coming from an equally extrovert and devout family who seldom failed to take part in the never-ending flow of concerts and functions that entertained the parish from 1882 to 1891.

In April 1884, an "Olde Englishe Fayre", with pageant and musical items, lasted a full fortnight, open daily from 3.00pm to 10.00pm. It made a profit of £1020.¹⁴ In February 1885, a similar function included more recitations, songs, charades, ventriloquism and a play based on Euripedes.¹⁵ In 1886, the concert was held on St Bernard's Day and included for Father Callachor, from the schoolchildren, "almost countless tokens of affection deftly worked by the skillful little fingers as a loving task".¹⁶ The same year also saw, in the presence of Cardinal Moran, a moving production of Albany Christie S J's Martyrdom of St Cecily.¹⁷ In 1889, it was the turn of the "Grand Australian Fair", another highly profitable fortnight of junketing and merriment when such exclamations as having "struck oil" and simply "coining gold" were made on all sides!¹⁸

There was, however, much more than just socializing and sentimental ballads, brassbands and clog-dances. A spiritual Retreat

was held once weekly each year, the one in 1883 having a daily 5.15 am Mass "offered up specially for the Working Classes".¹⁹ Other missions were held for the children, whilst in 1884 the visiting Carmelite Fathers who had brought spiritual enrichment to the parish, could depart with "a well-filled purse of gold as a gift from the parishioners".²⁰

Further riches for the parish arrived in 1885 on the SS Euphrates, out from London. Heavy packing cases from Birmingham contained a miniature Aladdin's Cave replete with altar ornaments both in solid silver and gilt, all "frosted to snowy whiteness". One case contained Father Callachor's own gift to the parish, a sanctuary lamp "unrivalled in the colony, with an imposing crown of imperial gorgeously burnished to dazzling brightness".²¹ A more subdued innovation by Father Callachor was the setting up in 1888 of a Catholic Total Abstinence Association whose members met monthly in the church to renew The Pledge, hear readings from Ullathorne and Manning, organize sedate recitations and songs whose content, Father Callachor trusted, "would confine themselves as much as possible to Temperance subjects".²² From a parish of some 1400 practising Catholics, the Association's membership was to steady out at an average of 110-120 paid-up members for each meeting.

On 1 September 1891 Father Patrick Lewis Coonan (1856-1935), ordained in 1879 in County Kilkenny by the then Bishop Moran, was appointed as parish priest. On 3 September 1891, a petition containing 283 names was handed in to Cardinal Moran by a deputation headed by George Chapman, Acting Government Printer, urging Father Callachor's retention which "would most certainly lead to the advancement of Holy Religion at Forest Lodge and the speedy liquidation of the local debt".²³ Despite this plea, Father Callachor moved to his new parish, Leichhardt, and his replacement Father Coonan, a solid committee man, began to consolidate what was to become a forty-four year-long stay at St James'.

Planned giving was introduced. On 30 June 1892, at the close of Father Coonan's first financial year, a printed statement records the weekly contribution of 243 parishioners towards a total of £234.12.0.²⁴ In the same year, to cope with the Parish's 110 lively schoolboys, the Patrician Brothers were called in and Brother Bernard Ryan travelled daily from Holy Cross College in Ryde to supervise the reorganized classes.²⁵ To help more effectively with the 360 girls and infants, the Good Samaritan Sisters were encouraged to open a branch Convent, St Gertrude's in Hereford Street in 1896.²⁶ Similarly, in 1896, Father Coonan recorded his paternal supervision of the three local private schools run by the Catholic ladies, Miss Lonergan in St John's Road, Madame French in Hereford Street and the Misses Hosier in Pymont Bridge Road.²⁷

The present, stately, thirteen-room presbytery at St James' was completed in Father Coonan's opening years. In 1897 the last four blocks of the former Benedictine Lyndhurst estate, overlooking the marshy swamps of what is now Wentworth Park, were ceded to the par-

ish by Cardinal Moran for a nominal five shillings.²⁸ This was to be the site of the school-church, St Ita's, to be opened in 1900. Further educational and spiritual impetus was to come from the establishment in the parish, in 1901, of the Mother House of the Good Samaritan Sisters in Toxteth Park House, formerly the mansion of the Allen family.

With church and presbytery completed, with bulging schools and trained and dedicated teachers, with a shrinking debt and a growing parish of 2500 souls, the stage was now well set for a vigorous entry by the whole parish of Forest Lodge into the 20th century.

NOTES: Mr James McManahan's death in 1886 is commemorated in a stained glass window in St James' Church. Father Callachor's testimonial from Moruya was noted in the Moruya Examiner, 9 December 1882.

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Leichhardt Post Office: 1881 ~ 1914

It was not until 3 March 1881 that representatives for a post office at Leichhardt were made by the Municipal Council. The Council Clerk wrote:

"... The area of this Municipality is double that of Balmain viz. about one thousand six hundred acres, and contains a population of upwards of three thousand five hundred, and is daily increasing, as since 15 January 1880, the date (after 1880 the date when a record was first kept) one hundred and seven houses have been erected, or an average of 15 per month, thus adding 1,000 persons as residents."

The postal inspector reported in favour of an office being established. He described Leichhardt as "getting a very large place". It included the sold portion of the Annandale and Elswick Estates. The telegraph inspector, however, did not feel that a telegraph office was warranted as the Petersham Railway Telegraph Office was only between half and three-quarters of a mile from where the Council wanted the new office. The telegraph inspector added that although there were numerous houses in the course of construction they were very scattered, and it was difficult to define a central position.

When it became known that proposals were being made for a post office, John Wetherill offered to rent a house of twelve rooms "and several smaller rooms". The place was known as Elswick House, Petersham, and formerly belonged to the Norton family. A petition from residents advised that the grocer's shop of Mr George Bristowe Purdie, would be the most suitable place, and recommended Purdie for appointment as postmaster. His property fronting Balmain Road was said to be large and substantial, and the best place for the post office.

The Leichhardt Post Office was opened on 20 July 1881 with George B Purdie in charge. He described himself as a grocer and general storekeeper and nominated as sureties Chas C Finch, chemist, and Thomas Slocombe, grocer, both of George Street West. This was a non-official post office and the postmaster received an allowance of £10 a year.

Following the issue of postage stamps in New South Wales in 1850, each post office was issued a numeral obliterator for the cancellation of the stamps. The office date stamp impression showing the date of posting was impressed on the envelope adjacent to the postage stamp. The post office number issued to Leichhardt was 1089.

By October 1882, the Department had decided to open a telegraph office in conjunction with the post office. Arrangements were made to rent one of three two-storied houses which were being built in Short Street, by Mr Thomas Haylan. The rental was to be £1.5.0 a week. The tender of H Dorhauer of Woollahra



LEICHHARDT POST OFFICE: c1910
Letter carriers are seen in white helmets

was accepted to fit up the new office for £33.5.0. This included fitting in the letter posting box and shute, erecting cedar framed and panelled counter and a panelled screen; supplying pigeon holes, a cedar table, a cedar cabinet, a stamping table and office table, two office chairs, one office stool and one notice board. Also included was the writing in gold lettering on the window:

"Money Order Office and Government Savings Bank."

The successful applicant for the position of official postmaster was Mrs Ellen Louisa Cross, who was then post and telegraph mistress of St Marys. Mrs Cross became postmistress at Leichhardt on 3 January 1883, when the official post and telegraph office was opened. Her salary of £104 p.a. was paid jointly by the Postal and Telegraph Departments. Two letter carriers were employed.

Letters were cleared twice daily from Leichhardt and conveyed to the Annandale Post Office. Those cleared at 8.00am reached Sydney in time for the afternoon delivery. Letters posted at Leichhardt at 1.00pm were delivered the following morning. Mails from Sydney for Leichhardt were sent to Petersham where they were sorted by the letter carriers for delivery at Leichhardt. It was reported in

October 1883 that when the tramway was extended to Norton Street, Leichhardt, the mails could be exchanged direct with the G.P.O.

In November 1883, Ellen Cross asked for an increase in salary. She pointed out that during the month of June, 4629 letters were posted, not including 218 foreign letters, packets, etc.

A return prepared during 1883 showed:

Letters posted weekly	669
Mails sent and received weekly	12
Telegrams sent per annum approx.	610
Money Orders issued and paid per annum approximately	154
Savings Bank transactions per annum approximately	36
Postmasters salary per annum (not including commission)	£104
Letter Carrier Farquharson per annum	£120
plus forage per annum	£ 36.10.0
Letter Carrier White per annum	£108
plus forage per annum	£ 36.10.0

Statistics in 1884 showed that the revenue amounted to just over £160 a year, and the cost of salaries, etc., was £486. One of the letter carriers, Mr Farquharson, delivered letters exclusively to North Annandale. Because of increasing business, approval was given for the employment of Miss Agnes Pegus as assistant at Leichhardt from 1 February 1885. In May 1888, an official Minute showed that Mrs Cross was 34 years of age, and in receipt of £160 a year.

In 1885 the Postal Department tried to rent more suitable premises. In October the Municipal Council suggested that the post office might rent accommodation in the new Council Chambers which were to be erected at the corner of Norton and Marion Street, Leichhardt. But by 1886, when efforts to rent suitable premises for the post and telegraph office proved unsuccessful, the Department decided to acquire a site and erect a building. The best allotment available for the purpose was situated at the corner of Norton and Wetherill Streets. It was owned by Mr S Fleming who agreed to sell it for £14 a foot. It was 61 feet 6 inches by 120 feet deep and adjoined land on which the Municipal Council intended to build the Council Chambers.

However the Postmaster-General ruled that tenders should be called for a site on 4 March 1886. Eventually the Department purchased Fleming's land for £14 a foot, the purchase being finalized in December 1886. The site was described as Allotment 10 of Section 4, being a part of the subdivision of Part of Section 3 of the Elswick Estate Petersham, and part of the Grant of 270 acres originally granted to H Piper in October 1811.

Tenders were called for the erection of a post office and residence, and that of Messrs. Innes and Winchester was accepted for £2465, the building to be completed in eight months. The Municipal Council wrote on 26 July 1888, requesting that the Department pay half of the cost of the erection of "A substantial brick wall between the post office and the

Town Hall". On 21 December 1888, the Department of Works advised of the completion of the building, and the new premises were occupied on 9 January 1889.

Arrangements were made for painting a sign on the window to show the hours of business, etc. This read:

"Post Office
Open from 9.00am to 6.00pm
Telegraph Office
9.00am to 8.00pm
Money Order Office &
Government Savings Bank
10.00am to 5.00pm
Saturdays 10.00am to 1.00pm and
from 7.00pm to 9.00pm
for the receipt of Savings Deposits only.
Mails close for Sydney
4.45, 10.45am; 1.15 and 4.45pm."

The sign was painted in gold lettering (vermillion shaded) on the glass, at a cost of £5.10.0.

In September 1890, the Municipal Council and other interested people were pressing for the installation of a clock in the post office tower. The postal inspector reported that a clock on the office tower would be blocked from the view of the public on two sides by the Municipal Council buildings, as the land was higher on that side. He suggested that the best place for a clock to be seen from all directions would be on the Municipal Council Chambers building. This suggestion was approved by the Postmaster-General, and the matter was referred back to the Council. Thus the post office tower remained unadorned.

Following the introduction of the telephone in Sydney in 1880, the system began to spread to the suburbs. About 1893 a telephone exchange was opened at Petersham, largely as a result of representations made by W O Harman, editor and manager of the Leichhardt-Petersham Guardian. At that time several telephone subscribers whose services were connected to the Newtown Exchange (opened in 1888) wished to transfer to the Petersham Exchange. The first available list of subscribers' services connected to the Petersham Exchange (January 1894), showed that the following Leichhardt addresses were included:

King & Co., Centennial Brewery, Short St,
Leichhardt - Petersham 8
Thurgar, J., Butter and Egg Salesman,
Mudgee. Cold Storage Butter Depot,
271 Parramatta Road, Leichhardt -
Petersham 11.

A public telephone was installed at the post office on 26 July 1907.

Mr Allan T McMillan succeeded Mrs Cross, and became post and telegraph master on 1 August 1896. His salary was £220 per annum. F J Barnett, the next postmaster, was appointed on 18 July 1906, but did not take up duty until 31 January 1907. He was followed by R Fetherston in 1909 and by R B Humphreys in 1914.

NOTE: The above article was compiled by the Historical Officer, Australia Post, Sydney, who supplied the Leichhardt Post Office photograph.

"Up the Tigers": The First 70 Years of the Balmain Football Club

by Peter Reynolds

Rugby Union was well established in Balmain in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The Sydney competition was founded in 1874 and Balmain were premiers the following year.¹

As an organised code, Union held sway until the early 1900's when players, particularly those on tour, became aware of the paucity of their playing fees which did not even cover expenses. Tourists in England received a niggardly three shillings a day and members of the Union in 1907 began a move to have players paid along the lines of the English Northern Union, a professional football association which had for similar reasons broken away from the English Rugby Union in 1895.²

Allied to the monetary dissatisfaction among players was the rising working-class movement. Union had been the "gentleman's game" with its roots in the British Great Public Schools system and the Universities. The manners and customs of the Mother country were the norm in New South Wales and Union became the sophisticated game to play.

Athletic skills have never been confined to any particular social order and men of the working classes began to be in demand for club and representative matches. Much time was lost from work in touring, not to mention injury in those non-existent health insurance days. It became financially very difficult to play a game which could not only put the player out of pocket but off work for many months at a time.

In this climate, in 1907, the breakaway New South Wales Rugby League was born.³

FOUNDATION: The intensity of the breakaway movement was amply illustrated on 23 January 1908 when 600 Balmain citizens packed into their Town Hall to form the new Balmain Rugby League Football Club. Cecil Turner was declared President to be supported by Vice-Presidents J Gibb, T J McCabe, E McLaren, B McClymont, W Stewart, F Napier, P Murphy, G Holmes and D Duff. Horace Davis and Robert Hutcheson were to be Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer respectively with W Laidlaw, R Graves, J O'Donnell, F Napier and J Apoloney as committeemen.⁴

Preparations for the coming season were put in hand when the meeting was informed that sixteen prominent Rugby Union players had agreed to join the Balmain Club and that Birchgrove Oval had been secured as their home-ground.⁵



THE BALMAIN CLUB IN 1908

Back row (1 to r): H Davis, T Ryan, R Hutcheson, J Riley, G Atkinson, F Hulme, G Fitzpatrick, W Stewart. 2nd row: C Sullivan, I Franklin, P McQuade, C Wilson, T Davidson, S Young. 3rd row: T McCabe, B McClymont, H Jones, W Taylor, J Thomson, A Brand, W Singleton, W Davis, H Franklin. 4th row: E McClaren, H Myers, A Fitzpatrick, J Smeelie, C Levot, H Chidgey, C Newman, A Wilson, L Williams. 5th row: G Fisher, F Ward, W Laidlaw, G Holmes, R Graves, C Turner, A Walker, T O'Donnell, J Apoloney. 6th row: C Moore, O Singleton, W McCulloch, C Walsh, J Farrell, C Higgins, J Black. Front row: G Taffe, A Adams, P Curie

The Rugby Union took a jaundiced view of the new "baby" code and later voted substantial increases in their own players' allowances. More importantly and as a manifestation of their desire to preserve the gentleman-amateur image of their code, they resolved to regard any one of their members holding office in the new League as performing an act of professionalism. Defaulting players were to be removed from membership of the Union.⁶

Despite this curmudgeonly attitude, the Rugby League season got away to a good start. The Balmain Club first gave their players a run on Saturday 4 April 1908, at Birchgrove Oval, when teams of Possibles v Probables faced each other to decide a first grade team.⁷

On the following Saturday, Balmain played their first trial match in Sydney Rugby League with a game against Eastern Suburbs at Birchgrove. Easts beat Balmain in this historic match 18-11, Brackenber, Rosenfeldt, Flegg and Stuntz scoring tries and Fry converting twice for Easts. For Balmain, Graves scored three tries and Sponberg kicked the only goal.⁸

Other teams playing on that occasion were North Sydney v South Sydney at Botany, Newtown Possibles v Probables at Rosebery Park and Western Suburbs v Glebe at Ashfield Recreation Ground.

Balmain played their first competition match on 18 April 1908 against Newtown, again at "the Grove", before a crowd of 1800. In a game made difficult by continuous rain, Balmain drew 6-6 with their opponents, Bob Graves and Bill Fisher scoring tries for the home team. On that day, the other competition matches were Easts v Norths also at Birchgrove, Glebe v Wests at Wentworth Park as was the game between Souths and the Newcastle club.⁹

Apart from a few minor successes, the years 1908-1910 were not kind to Balmain and their plight was amply expressed in a news item of 5 July 1911 headed "At last Balmain have had a win". This heartening result came from their defeat of Wests 18-10.¹⁰

Although the Club's lack of success in those years had an air of despondency about it, the individual players were keen and included some real talent. In the Kangaroo

team of 1911, Balmain supplied fullback "Chook" Fraser, halfback Arthur Halloway and their rugged forwards Bob Craig and Charlie McMurtrie. "Pony" Halloway had previous Kangaroo experience as he had toured England with the 1908-9 team. McMurtrie and Craig toured England in the same year with the Wallabies and were consequently no strangers to representative football.¹¹

Balmain were also unsuccessful in the period 1912-1914 but they did earn recognition as "lusty, fast rushing and excellent tacklers".¹² Even so, the competitive spirit of the other clubs made their task hard. In the match against Souths in May 1912 4500 people at Birchgrove saw Souths, who "played daintily" overcome "the more commonplace triers of Balmain".¹³

The 1912 season however was not all bad. In August Balmain beat Glebe 12-9 in "one of the most stirring games ever seen at Birchgrove".¹⁴ It was a game of fast, keen, open play, devoid of unpleasant incidents and injury and one that was judged the best game ever seen at Birchgrove. At the end of the season however, Balmain saw themselves fourth from the bottom with Easts as the Premiers.¹⁵

Balmain managed to retrieve lost prestige in the 1912 post-premiership City Cup competition. After defeating Annandale 17-5 at Birchgrove and despite loss of Charlie McMurtrie, George Cummins, Paddy McCue (Captain) and "Chook" Fraser (all in the team to tour New Zealand), Balmain entered the semi-finals. Although defeated by Glebe in the semi-final 11-3, "the braves of Birchgrove" were declared to have been the better team.¹⁶

WORLD WAR I: The outbreak of the Great War in August 1914 brought the animosity of the rival Rugby codes out into the open. For the duration of the War, the sporting press made much of Rugby Union officers at the Front by featuring photographs in uniform and patriotic newsstories. In a letter of complaint about the neglect of League players, "I W" thundered that "those not in the know will think that Union had a monopoly of Rugby Union football soldiers from NSW".¹⁷ He went on to quote the name of many League players who had given their lives for King and Country.

This bad feeling on both sides was probably exacerbated by the fact that during the War years, the Union game almost ceased to exist in Sydney. Outside the Great Public Schools and schoolboy competitions, not much Rugby Union was played and the Union authorities suspended competition matches for the duration of hostilities.¹⁸

Disastrous as the War years may have been for Union, it was a time of unprecedented popularity for Rugby League. The League could afford to postpone its pre-season matches in April 1915 to allow fans to see the Australian Expeditionary Forces march through the city for embarkation to the fighting front, as it well knew that those same fans would turn up the following week to see the League "stars" in action.¹⁹

FIRST PREMIERSHIP: For the Balmain Club the War years were a time of great prosperity. The first grade team began the 1915 season with a hard fought 11-11 draw against Newtown at Wentworth Park before a crowd of 8000. Its seasoned players were very prominent in this match, particularly the former "Wallaby quartet" of Paddy McCue, "Towser" Barnett, "Boxer" Russell and Bob Craig. Halloway worked the scrum with the former halfback Arthur "Ricketty" Johnson at five eighth. Cricketer Lyle Wall, who kicked 'ably with the left foot" was at full back while New Zealander Bill Kelly and "Chook" Fraser were the three-quarters.²⁰

In the next match against Wests at Birchgrove Balmain made it known that its time had come. Running out winners with the cricket score of 34-0, the game revealed Balmain as "an aspirant to the premiership".²¹ Balmain's forward play had always been the touchstone of its game but in these early 1915 matches the backline had become a highly efficient machine that could sweep the ball from end to end.

In the third competition match it was Easts turn to succumb to the mighty "men from Birchgrove". Fulfilling all expectations of their supporters, Balmain won the match before a large crowd at the Sydney Cricket Ground 14-7 in a game remarkable for Balmain's "fierce rallies, great tackling and fast changeful play", in which the backs excelled.²²

All through the season, Balmain managed to draw record crowds and remain unbeaten. In mid-season, 27,000 fans packed into the Showground to see Balmain draw 10-10 with Souths, a result which gave Balmain equal first place with them in the premiership table.²³ These two teams fought out the remainder of the season to decide premiership honours on a "first past the post" basis. Souths were powerful adversaries. They had won the first League premiership in 1908 and repeated that achievement in 1909 and 1914.²⁴ Balmain on the other hand had managed little more than the honour of being the 1909 runner-up.²⁵

Interestingly, Balmain were to have faced Souths in that 1909 final but forfeited the game for a very unusual reason. The game was to be played as a "curtain-raiser" to the fourth ever Wallabies (Union) v Kangaroos (League) match. Balmain felt denigrated by this "preliminary" role and refused to play, thereby forfeiting any chance of winning the competition that year.²⁶

On a clear spring day, at the Showground, on 21 August 1915, the black and gold Club set out to show the Rugby League world that it was to be "now or never".²⁷

In the "curtain-raising" matches, Balmain secured the Second and Third Grade premierships. The Club Championship, needing a win in all three grades, was within its grasp. Beating Souths would not only clinch the premiership but would also give the "braves from Birchgrove" the record of being the first club to win in all three grades since the inception of the League. Added to the burden of this weighty responsibility was the fact



BALMAIN - PREMIERS FOR THE FIRST TIME: 1915

Back row: W Stewart, R Craig, W Noble, L Wall, D Cranston, J Stone, G Cummins, E Burnicle, G Brennan, W Schultz, T Davidson. Middle row: W Green, A Holloway, C Turner, W Kelly (C), J Atkins, H Baulkwell, A Johnston. Front row: A Latta, J Craig, J Robinson, C Fraser, T Fitzgerald

that the Balmain team took to the field with many injured players.

Although the fixture was set down for a Saturday, the crowd was a disappointing 12,000. Souths rushed to a lead of 4-0 through goals by the brilliant Harold Horder, who in the two decisive matches against Queensland had scored sixty points "off his own bat". The game proceeded with keen tackling and tight defence on both sides - "fast and hard with the Balmain machine the more dependable". The machine faltered, however, when "Junker" Robinson shot over the South Sydney line but, in turning to provide a better angle for his goal-kicker, was bundled into touch-in-goal and a try went begging. Souths gave away a penalty close to their line and Fraser kicked a goal to make the score 4-2 at half time.

Early in the second half, Cummins kicked Balmain's second goal from a penalty thus levelling the score 4-4.

Despite the tension of the grim struggle, humour reigned supreme when "Junker" Robinson exposed himself to physical danger and the delight of the crowd. From a scrum in front of their own posts, the Balmain boys worked the ball to Souths 25 by a blinding run down the wing by Robinson. His knickers were torn

off along the way and "lay on the half-way mark watching the play". As this was before the present fashion of wearing well-designed underpants of riotous colour and design, it was an embarrassing time for the de-bagged Robinson. Honour and glory were at stake, however, and his unselfish action in rushing knickerless for Souths line won the applause of the crowd.

Although Robinson's "stark" dash did not end in a try, it put Balmain into a position to receive a penalty and a shot at goal. "Chook" Fraser's kick failed and the score of 4-4 remained unaltered.

Robinson soon had the chance to atone for his first-half fumbling when, in the second half, the burly Balmain centres charged through the Souths defence with a passing burst and rushed the ball down field. The crowd held its breath when Fraser's last pass was smothered by Souths ten yards from their line. From a blind-side ruck "Robinson emerged with the ball and diving, scored in the corner". Cummins failed to convert and the score remained 7-4.

Souths fought back but the Balmain defence never wavered. Horder's runs into Balmain territory became devastating and only an illegal tackle by fullback Jimmy Craig saved

a certain try. Retribution came immediately for Souths when Craig was sent off for an infringement. Shortly after, Fraser went off with a back injury leaving Balmain with only eleven men. The South Sydney thirteen went for the depleted Balmain side but they replied with a blistering attack which just failed to alter the score. The last few minutes seemed endless for the tottering black and golds but when the whistle blew it was a jubilant Balmain side who swapped jerseys with the defeated South Sydney team.

Continuity and teamwork in both defence and attack made Balmain supreme. The backs, who were more systematic in defending from the scrums than Souths, were inspired by captain Bill Kelly. Fraser, Halloway and Johnson were great players on the day although the latter "made hard work of it by preferring to run into the thick of the defence instead of short kicking or grubber kicking oftener". Although the teams were evenly matched in forward play, the Souths pack were starting to get on top and only a superlative effort by the reduced Balmain team prevented Souths from turning defeat into victory.

After only a week's rest, Balmain entered the City Cup competition. Their tough undefeated season had evidently drained the Club's strength, for after being defeated in the match against Glebe the press was able to declare them "Whipped at last, Balmain retire for 1915 whipped in all three grades".²⁸ Temporarily "whipped" Balmain may have been, but in the following season they again reigned supreme.

1916 PREMIERSHIP: Once again Balmain and Souths fought out the 1916 final but this time Souths were hotly favoured to win.²⁹ They had beaten Balmain decisively in the previous match and Balmain's fans were worried. Balmain, like the Germans, "advanced in battalions, but it never led to anything against stonewall defence" until half-back Halloway bored through after getting the ball from the heel-out and scored in the corner.

In a match rated "as dull as a firecracker in the hands of a small boy trying to ignite its unpowdered fuse", Balmain defeated Souths narrowly 5-3. "Chook" Fraser converted "Pony" Halloway's try with a kick made difficult by the surging wind.

For the second year in succession Balmain took the three grade premierships, indicating that "the spirit of Rucker must be well fostered among the crags and bays of the suburb". Once again Balmain failed in the City Cup. Beaten 19-3 by Easts, "Balmain as a team looked as though they had shot their bolt in the battles for the premiership".³⁰

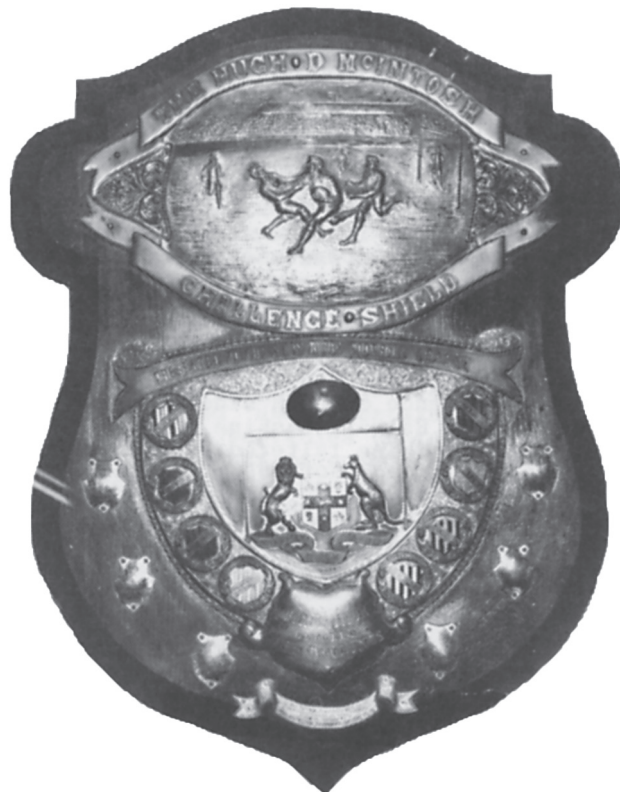
1917 PREMIERSHIP: In 1917, Balmain again reached an almost unassailable position after losing only one match during the season. They eventually took the premiership by defeating Souths 12-10. The result was made even closer by a Souths try being disallowed from a double movement which probably would have won the game and the premiership for them.³¹ Balmain went on to win the City Cup, by defeating South Sydney for the third time that season.³²

1917 League football was apparently well below the level of the three previous seasons because "so many of the finest players have gone into the khaki".³³ Also youngsters who would have developed and taken the place of older players were "wearing the plumage of the fighter".

Balmain's impressive feat of winning three premierships in a row equalled Easts record in the years 1911, 1912 and 1913.³⁴ Souths, however, broke Balmain's winning run by taking the 1918 premiership.³⁵ It had been eight years since Souths had beaten Balmain but "time brings its changes, the victors of today being the vanquished tomorrow".³⁶

1919 PREMIERSHIP: In the 1919 season the "vanquished" became the "victors" when Balmain again secured the premiership by beating Easts 13-4 with the superb goal kicking of Wall whose "deft left foot won the day".³⁷ The Club could not repeat the 1917 double and were knocked out of the City Cup despite scoring more tries than either the winners, Wests, and the runners-up, Glebe.³⁸

1920 PREMIERSHIP: In 1920, it was the waterside Club which again ran away with the premiership honours, giving the Balmain boys five wins in six years. A phenomenal record for a team which "in the early days of Rugby League and prior to that in the Rugby Union generally managed to finish its matches at the losing end".³⁹ Balmain had had sixty-six wins and only twelve defeats while "prior



THE HUGH D MCINTOSH CHALLENGE SHIELD
Permanently held by Balmain after first grade wins in 1915, 1916 and 1917

to the rosy path being entered upon" in 1915, its record had been a lowly 40 wins and 46 defeats. The rise of Balmain was seen as a striking incentive to other clubs to persevere week after week, to build up teamwork and gradually evolve a powerful combination.

Credit was due to the team's captain, the "lathy New Zealander" Bill Kelly, whose leadership in the 1914-1915 seasons was the first to inspire the team to such great heights. He "infected the Balmain backs with the desire to combine effectively". Balmain had always had fine forwards but the backs on approaching their opponent's line were often "hurled back as the waves on a rocky shore". With Kelly as leader they were able to penetrate with devastating effect. The efficiency of Balmain's system of attack and defence must have been substantial for it had been carried on with success from season to season.

The combination of two old stagers, Hal-loway (who received his last season testimonial) and Bob Craig, was a match winner and demonstrated the stirring play that earned Balmain the reputation of being "the most scientific all-round team year in and year out for some seasons". Their 1908-1920 points score was 106 wins, 58 losses, 11 draws, 2,321 for and 1,736 against.

Following the heady delights of these years of constant success, Balmain entered the doldrums for the ensuing three years. During that time the intense contempt that the Union authorities had for the break-away League reared its ugly head again. At the end of the 1920 season it became common knowledge that Sydney University intended to field a Rugby League team and join the Sydney competition. It also became known that those students playing League and in receipt of a Rhodes scholarship would be barred from playing Union at Oxford or Cambridge for the duration of their scholarship.⁴⁰

This dastardly action was made all the more discriminatory when it was realised that Melbourne University Australian Rules players were under no such ban.⁴¹

The NSWRL could afford to disregard such piddling, spiteful proposals for it had at its disposal the means to promote its code, pull in the crowds and, not least of all, reimburse its players with good money - something the Union was unable to do.

1924 PREMIERSHIP: After disastrous seasons in the early 1920's Balmain managed to pull itself out of its decline in 1924 with a determined and successful drive to the premiership. In that year a new Balmain player caught the eye of the selectors. George Rob-inson the first grade half-back had lost form and he felt the challenge of the young reserve half, Norman "Latchem" Robinson whose "all-round abilities and play makes that of his supports".⁴² The First's half-back had become "a plodding rucker" and this gave the younger Robinson even more chance of clinching the spot. Consequently, the selectors chose "Latchem" to play his initial first grade game in the 1924 final.

Once again, Balmain and Souths were matched for the final after a season which the experts dubbed drab and uninteresting and one sports writer wrote, "now and then in the early stages things promised to develop on improving lines but the lull soon came and today it must be admitted that the football is much inferior to that usually seen ten years ago".⁴³

In defeating Souths 3-0 Balmain exhibited solidarity rather than brilliance.⁴⁴ The City Cup that year saw Balmain crushingly defeated by the inexperienced University team 26-7.⁴⁵

DOWNTURN: Despite the 1924 win, Balmain's poor form foreshadowed a blight that was to last for fourteen years. All through the prosperity of the late 1920's, through the Wall Street crash of 1928 and through the great depression of the 1930's, Balmain was relegated to the "also-rans".⁴⁶

Reasons for Balmain's fall from grace are many and varied, but a major factor must have caused so long an absence from competition wins. This factor could have been the actual make-up of Balmain society. During the 1920's the suburb's industrialisation had become complete and its population was almost entirely working class. Consequently, when the depression struck, unemployment was so great that many families were reduced to starvation. Young single men could not find employment in the district and left to find work elsewhere. Malnutrition and a transient youth group very likely contributed greatly towards reducing the availability of potential players.⁴⁷

In these depression years, falling attendances at Birchgrove Oval forced the Club to seek a more central venue at Drummoyne Oval in 1932.⁴⁸ After 1932 both Drummoyne and Leichhardt Ovals were used for games, but it was not until 1936 that the Club signed a lease for Leichhardt Oval for the following five years.⁴⁹

Not all the depression years were bad. The Club underwent a revival in 1935 when it had its best year financially since 1924.⁵⁰

Their hopes were almost answered in 1936 when the first graders reached the final for the first time since 1924.⁵¹ In 1937, however, the Club slipped backwards towards their worst times, and their fortunes were reflected in poor crowd attendances. Club officials were most vocal in calling for the supporters to "put their shoulder to the wheel" in an effort to bring the fans back to the matches.⁵²

UPSWING: Balmain's prospects took an upswing at the beginning of the 1939 season when in a pre-season trial they beat Souths 12-5. New blood had begun to flow into the team and many vied for its leadership but it was Sid Goodwin who was chosen over Frank Hyde as the Club's captain.⁵³

In that dark year of the twentieth century, it appears most poignant to present-day eyes that the NSWRL chose to open the season in a carnival atmosphere. While war clouds gathered over Europe, eight Sydney first grade



THE W T HUNTER CHALLENGE SHIELD
 Permanently held by Balmain after third grade wins in
 1915, 1916 and 1919

teams met at the SCG, before 6000 people amid scenes of festivity. Each team was to play a thirty minute match and Balmain and St George were first to kick off. Before the first match, however, there was a Gala opening and to the tune of "Advance Australia Fair", all teams marched to the centre of the field where they took up a formation closely resembling a huge and "colourful flower bed". Seven members from the original 1908 teams led the procession. One of these original members was Jim Giltinan who took the first Kangaroo team to England thirty-one years before and has been credited with the actual founding of the game. Members of the Referees Association followed the veterans, then the eight clubs' officials and then the players. Thirty-odd new footballs were kicked into the air simultaneously and 1000 pigeons were liberated from boxes on the baselines of the field.⁵⁴

1939 PREMIERSHIP: Such gay scenes augured well for Balmain, the first club to play that day. They were later to go into the finals leading the table. Their final match with Souths was fought on 2 September 1939. On the next day England declared war on Germany.⁵⁵

Balmain had their usual toll of injuries and had been beaten at Wollongong, unlike Souths who were "as fit as Cup horses and flushed with confidence".⁵⁶

Souths' "confidence", however, waned when the Tigers came from the field at half-time with a 7-2 lead. In the second half, the 26,972 crowd saw Balmain rush to a score

of 33 points. The Rabbitohs only answer to this "mad scramble" was a second goal giving them the lowly total of 4 points. Balmain supporters felt that their team deserved the "full credit of rising to heights of greatness" thus making this final "one of the most convincing wins in the history of the code".⁵⁷

WORLD WAR II: The early War years again brought a decline in the Club's premiership fortunes. Dismal defeats in the 1940 season negated the previous year's performance with the team not even making the semi-final.⁵⁸ Enlistment and call-up for military and support services were to have an even more serious effect on Club players.

At this time the Club's lease of Leichhardt Oval had expired and the black and golds returned to Birchgrove Oval in 1942 where the Club carried out improvements to the "historic arena".⁵⁹ The old ground did not see many battles however, for within a year the first graders were back at Leichhardt Oval.⁶⁰

This change of venue evidently brought them a change of fortune for the 1943 season served as a "lead-up" to the following year when premiership honours returned once more to the "smoky suburb". After a difficult year in which many players could only appear for their club while on military leave, Balmain fought their way to the finals.

1944 PREMIERSHIP: On a wet and windy September day in 1944, on a pitch ankle deep in mud, the Tigers faced the all-blue jerseys of the 1943 premiers, Newtown.⁶¹ The Referee's starting whistle had no effect on the deluge which continued in torrents and a slippery ball made dashing play impossible. This did not prevent "Bumper" Farrell from barging over to score the first try. Balmain retaliated with a try by Pat Devery which Joe Jorgenson converted to make the half-time score 5-3.

Heavy rain accompanied the teams out for the second half and Keith Parkinson soon added three points to make Balmain's lead 8-3. Newtown levelled the score when a dropped ball in Balmain's in-goal area allowed McLean to force a try which Tommy Kirk converted. A scrum penalty near Newtown's posts put Balmain ahead 10-8 but a foolish penalty given away by them almost evened the score when Kirk's kick hit the uprights and bounced into the field of play, 10-8 still. Jorgenson eventually put the ball over the bar from a Newtown scrum penalty to give the Tigers a winning lead of 12-8.

As the teams left the field, their mud-died jerseys and black faces made recognition well-nigh impossible when time came for the traditional jersey exchange. Not all the rain and mud, however, could dampen Balmain's jubilation at beating Newtown, a crack team who had wrested the title from Norths in the previous year before a record 60,992.⁶²

1946 PREMIERSHIP: Balmain had to wait two years before regaining the premiership when they defeated St George with a hotly disputed try 13-12 before 32,000 spectators in the 1946 Grand Final.⁶³



BALMAIN - PREMIERS IN 1947

Back row: R Dunn, D Cooksey, H Matthews, W Masters, L Rue, N Robinson, A Toby, F Savage. Middle row: H Bath, M Wallace, H Gilbert, A Patton, J Spencer, F de Belin, G Williams, S Ryan. Front row: J Branighan, R Lulham, P Devery, T Bourke (C), J Jorgenson, J McCullough, D Bryan

1946 was the year of the first post-war test series when Gus Risman's Englishmen swamped the Australians on their home grounds.⁶⁴ Australia's performance was so dismal that sports writer and ex-footballer, Frank Burge, was moved to declaim that in his day the players were "tough, supermen, relentless stayers" but that they retired when they knew themselves to be "over the hill".⁶⁵ Today's players, he contended, kept going by Club subsidies and often past their prime, prevented younger players from coming to the fore. Worst of all he thundered "to-day's men think more of hair-oil than boot-oil". Pandering by the coaches and "lavish Jeeves-like attention" had sapped their morale and had produced a "breed of cream puffs", whose dressing-rooms were "more like beauty salons".

Burge's criticism turned more serious when he discoursed on the state of the Code itself; "Rugby League must always be greater than the individual or the Club". He saw too many thirty-year-olds hanging on to their positions purely for monetary gain. He pleaded for a return to his own days when competition was keen and players were judged on their skill and dedication and not on their reputations. Lastly, he lamented that "the game has ceased to be a sport, it is now a business".

Burge's criticism must have struck home to those to whom it was pitched but what of the many players who did not fit the bill? What of Joe Jorgenson's effort in winning the 1947 premiership for his Club virtually single-handed?

1947 PREMIERSHIP: Great sporting feats live in memory but few have ever equalled Jorgenson's heroic performance. There was nothing "cream puff" or "over the hill" about a player who came out on to the field in his only first grade match of the season and brought the fans to their feet by lifting Balmain from a 7-4 half-time deficit to win the match 13-9.⁶⁶

In the opening minutes of the game Canterbury-Bankstown raced away to a 7-0 lead when Jorgenson succeeded with a penalty kick from 45 yards out. His second goal from three attempts made the score 7-4 but Balmain received a severe set back when second-rower Harry Bath was carried off the field with a deep cut over his eye. The Tigers suffered from lack of possession as Canterbury's Kirkaldy had a scrum margin of 14-8 which was offset however, by penalties being in favour of Balmain 14-4.

During the break, Bath's eye had been stitched and he resumed play in the second

half with his head heavily bandaged. The Berries went ahead 9-4 relentlessly pursued by Jorgenson's boot which brought the score to 9-6.

Then Balmain cut loose. After a brilliant sweep towards Canterbury's line, Devery cut through and sent Jorgenson over under the posts. As Jorgenson turned back to take the kick he collapsed, clutching his stomach, with the score tied at 9-9. Fortunately for Balmain, ministering aids got him to his feet and he converted his own try, giving Balmain an 11-9 lead.

Jorgenson's next deed was to land a penalty goal from a mere five yards inside Canterbury's half - 13-9. With time ticking away Canterbury surged against Balmain's line and the rugged defenders could not avoid giving away a penalty as the full-time bell sounded. The Balmain fans held their breath as Canterbury's Johnson placed the ball, then roared their approval as his kick went astray. Jorgenson, the day's hero, was carried from the field by the excited mob that surged on to the pitch. No "cream puff" he.

There was something cogent in Burge's criticism which may have applied to Balmain. Perhaps it was the age of the players after all, for Balmain went into a decline with few rises for the ensuing twenty-one years; their longest period without a premiership win.⁶⁷

1969 PREMIERSHIP: It was not until the 1969 Grand Final that Balmain could retrieve the crown.⁶⁸ After battling their way through "the St George era", Balmain managed to reach the finals with only Souths between them and the premiership. Souths went into the match as hot favourites but the defensive tactics of the Tigers had the Rabbitohs down 6-0 at half-time. Fifteen minutes into the second half, Sid Williams went over for a try and their lead increased to 9-0. Simms for Souths replied with a goal to give a 9-2 score. Dave Bolton, Balmain's five-eighth, snapped his second field goal to bring Balmain into an unbeatable position 11-2.

The 58,825 crowd saw "the mighty Souths" deprived of their greatest asset, speed. Balmain's gamble in fielding the inexperienced Peter Boulton who gained a 40% share of the ball paid off well. Also Len Killeen's driving punts were highly successful in keeping Souths down in their own territory. This tactic kept Souths brilliant Eric Simms out of goal-kicking range.

Another ploy by the "Tiger Cubs" against the Souths team, which included the "greats" Denis Pittard, Ron Coote, John Sattler and Mike Cleary, was their exploitation of the injury rule. Balmain players required so much treatment for a wide range of injuries that an incensed Sattler, Souths' captain, complained to referee Page. Souths complaints were dismissed and whether these injury tactics were significant in Souths defeat or not is still a matter of contention among League pundits.

Great tributes were paid to the Tigers' coach, Leo Nosworthy, and captain, Peter Provan, who retired after nine seasons of serv-

ice. His retirement was a possible reason for the Club again declining.

* * * * *

There were some impressive games in later years with the 1976 Wills Cup and the devastating win the 1976 Amco Cup.⁶⁹

Premiership achievements have not been so outstanding. In recent years, Souths, Easts, Manly and St George have flown the premier-ship colours at the expense of the black and gold.

Seventy years have seen the Balmain first graders champions eleven times; the first Club to win all three grades; the first First Grade team to be undefeated in a season and the first team to win the premiership and City Cup in one year. This proud record undoubtedly gives the present-day Tigers something to emulate.

Predictions for the future are made in the heat of the moment or arise out of blind Club loyalty. To quote Balmain's old motto which was a source of comfort in those premiership-less days of the great depression:

"And what of 1979 - - It rests with you! - - Smile and Stick!"⁷⁰

NOTE: The first Balmain team to play Newtown on 18th April, 1908 comprised Joe Regent (full back), Albert Fitzpatrick, Alec Walker, Alf Latta, C. Wilson (three-quarters), Ted O'Donnell (five eighth), "Tutt" Bryant (half back), Ted McFadden (hooker), Frank Ward, (?) Sponberg, W. Fisher, Alex Dobbs and Bob Graves (C) (forwards). SMH, p 10e, 20th April 1908.

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19. Ref, p 12c, 28 April 1915.
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24. Ibid, p 12c, 1 August 1917.
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26. Ref, p 1a, 2 August 1916.

27. Ibid, p 12 abc, 25 August 1915 and all references following.
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70. Ibid, 1930. The motto appeared annually to the end of 1944 and then sporadically afterwards.

I acknowledge with sincere thanks the co-operation and assistance of Mr. Keith Gittoes (Secretary, Balmain District Rugby Football Club), "Chook" Fraser (Balmain First Grade Player, 1910-1935), Dr. C. Cuneen (A.N.U.), M.J. Reynolds and J. Bates. Hal Wise photographed the 1915 and 1947 premierships photographs and the McIntosh and Hunter Shield. The 1908 team picture appeared in the Daily Telegraph, 25 August 1977 in an article "A humble start for the super Tigers ..." by Peter Muszkat.

For Sale

Back issues of Leichhardt Historical Journal, Nos. 1 to 6 are still available at 50¢ plus 40¢ postage from Peter Reynolds, 9 the Avenue, Balmain, 2041

Publications For Sale

THE ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

c/- 289 Annandale Street, Annandale 2038

An Introduction to Annandale - 50¢ plus 20¢ postage.

A brief history with notes on the more interesting buildings and a map; short article on the Association and another on planning problems as they were seen in 1973. Illustrated.

Alan Roberts and Elizabeth Malcolm, Hunter Baillie \$1.20 - proceeds to the restoration of the Church. A history of the Presbyterian Church in Annandale. Illustrated.

Alan Roberts, Burrawong and John Young. 50¢ plus 20¢ postage.

Set of 6 prints of drawings by Andrew Foy of Annandale buildings. Black and white. \$2.00 for set of 6 plus 20¢ postage.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

PO Box 57, Balmain 2041

P. Reynolds and R. Irving, Balmain in Time, The Balmain Association, 1971, \$3.00.

P.L. Reynolds and P.V. Flottmann, Half a Thousand Acres: Balmain, a history of the land grant, The Balmain Association, 1976, \$9.95 (members \$8.95).

P.L. Reynolds, Balmain: 1800-1882, the Gilchrist settlement - a basic search plan, The Balmain Association, 1978, with guide booklet, \$5.00 (sepia), \$7.50 (black and white).

THE GLEBE SOCIETY

c/- 17 Avona Avenue, Glebe 2037

M Solling, "Source Materials for Local History", 20¢ plus 20¢ postage.

Bernard Smith and M Solling, "Bishopthorpe and St Phillip's: A Case for Restoration and Preservation", price on application.

ROZELLE PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

c/- Rozelle Public School, Darling Street, Rozelle 2039

P.L. Reynolds, Rozelle Public School: 1878-1978, A Centenary Celebration, The Rozelle P & C Association 1978, \$2.00.

Publications: 1971 ~ 1978

ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

November 1972	"Register of Historic Buildings"
January 1973	"Greyholme"
October 1973	"Annandale House Gates"
March 1974	"Historic Area Declared by Leichhardt Council"
December 1975	"Annandale Council Chambers"
December 1976	"Oybin"
October 1977	"Annandale House Gates"
December 1977	"Annandale's Waterfront"
March 1978	"Waterfront Land"

ENCLOSURES WITH NEWSLETTER

May 1977	"Precis of events from 1969 to 1977 relating to 'Oybin' "
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BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

NEWS SHEET ITEMS

November 1971	"The Second Presbyterian Church"
January 1972	"Demolition of ES&A Bank"
November 1972	"Vacant Land next to Watch House"
April 1973	"Old Presbyterian Church, Balmain"
June 1973	"Glendenning" "Watch House Park"
August 1973	"Loyalty Square Proposal"
October 1973	"Forth & Clyde"
December 1973	"The Watch House"
April 1974	"St. Andrew's Congregational Church Balmain"
June 1974	"Expressways"
October 1974	"Darling St. Extension - Counter-weight Scheme"
May 1976	"Clontarf", Wallace St., Balmain
July 1976	"Clontarf"
September 1976	"Loyalty Square at the turn of the Century"
October 1976	"Working Men's Institute, Darling Street, Balmain"
December 1976	"Congregational Church, Balmain"
January/February 1977	"Post Office, Rozelle"
July 1977	"How old is your house?"
May 1978	"The Watch House"
June 1978	"Current History Group Activities"
July/August 1978	"Street Name Study"

BOOK

P.L. Reynolds and P.V. Flottmann, Half a Thousand Acres: BALMAIN, a history of the land grant, 1976.

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GLEBE SOCIETY

BULLETIN ARTICLES

No. 8	1971	"Glebe Public School"
9	1971	"Lyndhurst"
10	1972	"Bishopthorpe & St Phillip's"
6	1972	"Robert Cooper"
1	1973	"Church Rescue Homes"
6	1973	"Les Tanner's Glebe"
9	1973	"The Streets of Glebe"
1	1975	"Glebe Rowing Club"
3	1975	"Tom Glasscock"
5	1975	"The Schools of Glebe"
8	1975	"Glebe Bowling Club"
3	1976	"Ferries"
5	1976	"A Cotter and W Bardsley"
8	1976	"Sydney Youth Hostel"
9	1976	"David Elphinstone"
n.d.		"When we were Young"
10	1977/1978	"Wentworth Park"

Index: LHJ Nos. 1 ~ 6

LHJ No. 1 1971

	Page
Editorial: The foundation of this Journal, A. Roberts	2
"Remains of Birchgrove House", R. Irving	3
"William and Annie Miller", D. Kernohan	3
"Robert James Stuart-Robertson", R. Stuart-Robertson	5
"Responses of the Balmain People to the Depression", N. Wheatley	7
"Bishopsgate Estate, 1841-1861", M. Solling	11
"Lot 48 Darling St., Balmain", J. Engle, P. Reynolds, R. Wise	13
Reviews:	18
A. Roberts, <u>Balmain in Time, a Record of an Historic Suburb and Some of its Buildings</u> , by P. Reynolds, R. Irving	
A. Roberts, <u>Setting For A Campus, A pen Sketch commentary on the environs of the University of Sydney</u> , by A. Gamble	
Previously Published Articles	19
Notes and Queries:	20
History of Glebe, F. Stamper	
Other Relics of Birchgrove House, R. Irving	
Balmain Miscellany, P. Reynolds	
A Plan for Annandale, B. Mason	
Annandale Miscellany, A. Roberts	

LHJ No. 2 1972

Editorial: Local Historical Studies, M. Solling	2
"Lyndhurst 1: Its History", F. MacDonnell	3
"Lyndhurst 2: Its Architecture", C. Lucas	7
"Lyndhurst 3: Its Furniture", K. Fahy	8
"Annandale's Johnston Era". A. Roberts	11
Notes and Queries:	16
Naked in Rozelle, M. Greene	
Lilyfield, M.G. Horsley	

LHJ No. 3 1972

"The Balmain Cemetery", M. Solling	2
"Callan Park Hospital for the Insane", D.I. McDonald	4
"The Balmain Watch House", W. Pearson and P. Reynolds	8
"Edward Hunt, Cabinetmaker", K. Fahy	13
"Harold Park Race Track", M. Quinn	15
"Ferdinand Hamilton Reuss Senior", R. Wilson & N. Patrick	16
Review:	20
M. Kelly, <u>Burrawong and John Young</u> , by Alan Roberts	

LHJ No. 4 1973

"Remains of the Second Balmain Presbyterian Church", P. Reynolds	2
"John Lamb Lyon and Francis Ernest Stowe", M.C. Dobson	5
"My Granny, the Abbess", M. Quinn	8
"The Architecture of the Glebe Presbyterian Church", J. Jackson	9
"The History of the Glebe Presbyterian Church", M. Solling	10
"Relics of John Young", A. Roberts	16
Review:	19
R. Irving, <u>Colonial Heritage - Historic Buildings of New South Wales</u> , by F. and J. Leary	

LHJ No. 5 1975

"A Theatre of Suburbs", M. Solling	2
"The Barquentine <u>Alexa</u> in Rozelle Bay", M. Quinn	8
"Excavating the Second Balmain Presbyterian Church", J. Wade	10
"Annandale's Cinemas", M. Quinn	11
"The Glebe Congregational Church", M. Solling	16
Reviews:	19
P. Reynolds, <u>St. Andrews Congregational Church, Balmain - A Short History</u> , by E. Bladon Letts	
A. Roberts, <u>Victorian Ceramic Tiles</u> , by J. Barnard	

LHJ No. 6 1975

"The Residents' Perception of Annandale", L. Kwong	2
"Rowntree's Warehouses, Balmain", M. Baldwin, et al	5
"The Pubs of Glebe", M. Solling	8
"Annandale Children's Games c 1915", M. Quinn	14
Reviews:	18
A. Roberts, <u>Who Murdered Doctor Wardell of Petersham? An Historical Tragedy</u> , by T. Kenny	
A. Roberts, <u>The Architectural Character of Glebe, Sydney</u> , by B. and K. Smith	

Notes and Queries

ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

Major V M Lingard, Salvation Army, William Booth Institute, 56 Albion Street, Surry Hills 2010 (phone 212 2322) seeks background information and documents relating to the 50 year service of the Misses E and F Olsen and Miss M Padroth who conducted a Sunday School in the Young Street Scout Hall, Annandale.

The Association is currently compiling a Register of Historic Buildings for submission to the Heritage Council of New South Wales for inclusion in a list of protected buildings.

BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

The Association's History Group is researching the following subjects for publication:

- 1 The Balmain Waterfront; a study of its changing shoreline, industrial development and effect upon the suburb's residential amenity.
- 2 Street Name Index; derivations, dates and changes of street names and their relationship to original subdivisions.

GLEBE SOCIETY

Max Solling is researching two major projects for publication:

- 1 "The Dirty Reds": The Making of Sporting Traditions in Glebe; a study of relationships between society and sporting activities, the formation and development of the Glebe's different sporting clubs. This work is to commemorate the centenary of the Glebe Rowing Club.
- 2 Biographical Index of Aldermen of the following now defunct municipalities; Glebe: 1859-1948, Balmain: 1860-1948, Leichhardt: 1871-1948, Annandale: 1894-1949, showing their occupations, religion, years of office and other relevant details.

Reviews

A NOTE ON REVIEWERS

Max Solling is a Solicitor and author of an MA thesis on Glebe; Betty Mason is the Hon Secretary of the Annandale Association and Lesley Lynch, a tutor in Australian History at Sydney University, is writing a PhD thesis on Balmain: 1860-1894.

Alan Roberts and Elizabeth Malcolm, Hunter Baillie: A History of the Presbyterian Church in Annandale, Annandale Presbyterian Church Management Committee, Sydney, 1973; pp 44, illustrated.

Any visitor to Annandale cannot fail to be impressed by the Hunter Baillie Memorial Church, with its 182 foot spire, which has dominated the landscape of Annandale for the last eighty-nine years. Little has been previously written about this church but in a well researched and illustrated and most readable history, Alan Roberts and Elizabeth Malcolm have remedied that situation.

There is a very human story behind the erection of "the last elaborately detailed stone church in NSW". In 1885 Helen Mackie Baillie commissioned Cyril and Arthur Blacket to design this spectacular memorial to her banker husband, John Hunter Baillie, who had died in 1854 and when completed in 1889, the Gothic building cost her about £35,000. Mrs Baillie gave herself wide powers over the church property under a Deed of Trust and she exercised this control until her death. John Dunmore Lang married Mrs Baillie's sister and the book unearths considerable intermarriage between Scottish Presbyterians connected with the church's early years. Lang's daughter married the Reverend P F McKenzie and Mrs Baillie had a hand in arranging for McKenzie to be installed as the church's first minister.

The remainder of the book is devoted to the study of the congregation and the contribution made by Presbyterians to the social life of Annandale. Altogether the book is a valuable addition to the growing number of local church histories.

Max Solling

Freda MacDonnell, The Glebe: Portraits and places, National Trust of Australia (NSW) in association with Ure Smith, Sydney, 1975; pp. 136, illustrated. \$8.95 (\$7.95 to Trust members).

The Glebe is one of Sydney's oldest and most interesting suburbs therefore it is good to see it attracting the interest of writers and historians. Here we have a further study of its history starting with the land grant to the Anglican Church and concluding with a chapter on twentieth century Glebe. The story of its grand houses is related, its leading citizens and its architects, industry, health and learning. It is illustrated in black and white and includes a map, which could be clearer.

This is a work of considerable detail and the reader is reminded continually of the great contrasts between past and present day Glebe, and indeed between past and present day Sydney. We read of the "fearful distance" from Neutral Bay to Toxteth Park (now St Scholastica's College), so described by a lady who made an afternoon call. Also of the Allen family, who lived at Toxteth Park, and who could see the Sydney Observatory to keep a watch on the flags flown there announcing the arrival of ships in the harbour. The Allen family would in their turn fly flags to pass on the information to others.

Living and working conditions for those not of the great houses were at times frightful. There is a revolting contemporary description of Bay Street in the 1850's written by William Stanley Jevons, an assayer. The blood and waste from the slaughter houses bordering the creek ran into the water and the stench was terrible, particularly at low tide. He also thought Sydney "intolerably bare and unpicturesque" because in many parts trees had been cut down for fire wood; a situation which remains uncorrected today.

Of the great houses discussed - Forest Lodge, Hereford House, Lyndhurst, Toxteth Park and Strathmore, only Toxteth Park and Lyndhurst remain and only the former is secure for the foreseeable future. Lyndhurst is the property of the Department of Main Roads and the site is required for the out-dated North Western Expressway. The route of the Expressway was altered some years ago in order to miss a grandstand at Wentworth Park Dog Track. Lyndhurst consequently became affected. Miss MacDonnell may not have been aware of this as she has omitted it from the chapter about the building.

The architects who designed the buildings of The Glebe are mentioned along with notable people who lived there. Edmund Blacket was "a leading citizen" for many years, as was the Colonial Architect, James Barnet. He was employed by Blacket to carry out that architect's work at Sydney University. Barnet was also responsible for Sydney's GPO. The carvings on that building, executed by a Signor Sani, were intended to represent telegraphy, literature, the professions, commerce and mining, agriculture, science and art, banking and the post office. When completed they seem to have caused an outcry comparable to that which followed William Dobell's winning the Archibald Prize with his portrait of Joshua Smith.

Residents of present day Glebe must disagree with some of Miss MacDonnell's statements, particularly in the final chapter. There is no mention of the politics of any period at either local, state or federal level. Certainly this is not a political history but the exclusion of political content is damaging to the whole.

The most recent and far-reaching event in the history of The Glebe this century is also omitted, though this may have occurred after the completion of the manuscript. In 1974 the Federal Government acquired the Church lands for retention and renovation as low rental housing. The Church was contemplating selling for redevelopment and had indeed begun to sell up individual properties. Had the Federal Government not stepped in the destruction of Glebe would have followed.

In spite of these shortcomings there is much to interest and to entertain, and a great deal to commend the book to those interested in The Glebe.

Betty Mason

Peter L Reynolds, Rozelle Public School: 1878-1978, A Centenary Celebration, Rozelle P & C Association, Sydney, 1978; pp 22, illustrated. \$2.00.

Peter Reynolds is by now well known for his interest in the history of Balmain. He has been involved in several publications about the area prior to this one.

This small publication is one of those typical, valuable offshoots from a centenary celebration - on this occasion that of the Rozelle Public School. What Peter Reynolds has done is outline in a few thousand words the progress of the school from its opening in 1878 as the Balmain West Public School with seating for 266 pupils through its changes in function (from primary to superior to junior secondary and back to primary) to the present. He provides interesting detail as for example the various architects - most notably John Horbury Hunt - associated with its construction.

The rate of population growth in West Balmain from about 1870 to 1900 was such that the available pupil space always lagged well behind demand. Reynolds points out that soon after the original building was completed there were one hundred pupils in excess of those planned for on the school's rolls. In 1884 an additional wing was opened boosting the school's accommodation to 600, an inadequate response by the authorities as the enrolled school population was by then 1200. This is a familiar pattern for government schools, especially in working class areas. The inclusion of Rozelle Public School in the Australian Government's Disadvantaged Schools Programme from 1974 was probably the first significant intervention to break this pattern for the School. One can only hope that this Programme does not suffer too severely from current attempts to prune government spending.

On a lighter note, Reynolds outlines the confusions and tensions relating to a name for the School. At the time of its construction the development of Balmain West was in its early stages. By the late eighties the west end rivalled East Balmain as a centre of population and commercial area. This led to various moves for separation from the older part of Balmain and consequently the name of the developing area became a matter of some contention. Those who wanted autonomy pushed for the abandonment of Balmain West in favour of Rozelle as the name for the suburb. Within the context of this local struggle the Public School found itself variously named "Balmain West", "Darling Road", and finally "Rozelle" Public.

In the space available, Peter Reynolds does attempt to sketch out the major phases in the development of the Rozelle area as a suburb distinct from the older Balmain. That he attempts to place the School's history in this context is commendable. However if I have any dissatisfaction with this - and similar productions - it is that too little is said about pupils and teachers who made the buildings places of "education". As interesting as the physical details of the suburb and the school are, they are in my mind, subsidiary to the people.

This booklet is handsomely produced - although presumably restricted in its choice of paper by cost factors. The layout and design are fine and make for easy reading - something not always achieved in such publications.

Lesley Lynch