CELEBRATIONS, AND BOOKLET

From Jamberoo comes an invitation for members to attend the Centenary celebrations of the Church of the Resurrection in January, 1967. I.H.S. President, Mr. E. Beale, will be guest speaker at a Social Evening on Friday, January 6, at 8 p.m. in the Jamberoo Municipal Hall. Following the speaker there will be a Pageant and Musical Items. (No admission charge).

On Sunday, January 8, there will be two Church Services:— 11 a.m. Centenary Morning Service, at which the Venerable E. A. Pitt, M.A. Archdeacon of Wollongong, will perform the Dedication of the Centenary Plaque. A Basket Lunch in the Church grounds follows Morning Service. 7.30 p.m. Centenary Evening Service when the Special Preacher will be former Rector, the Rev. W. G. A. Tooth.

A Centenary Exhibition will be open Thursday, 5th; Friday, 6th; Saturday, 7th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Sunday, 8th, from 1.30-4.00 p.m.

An illustrated Centenary Booklet will be on sale at all functions. This attractive and well-produced work, whose author is our member and former Secretary Mrs. E. R. Stewart, thoroughly covers the history of the church and its clergy, with some further interesting details on the early history of the district. The price is 5/- (50c). We hope to secure some copies for sale at Society meetings and the Museum.

SESQUICENTENARY BOOKLET: "EARLIEST ILLAWARRA, BY ITS EXPLORERS AND PIONEERS"

We hope to have available at the December meeting the Society's sesquicentenary booklet, "Earliest Illawarra, by its Explorers and Pioneers" (illustrated with contemporary sketches and maps, and annotated). Some of the material, to the best of the editor's knowledge, information and belief, has never previously been published, and should be of interest to students of Australiana outside Illawarra.

The literary and artistic contributors (some of whom are perhaps not strictly either explorers or pioneers, but near enough) include such members of the Nobility and Gentry, Persons of Quality (and the Rest) as Georgiana Viscountess Sherbrooke, His Excellency Major-General Lachlan Macquarie, Captain James Cook, R.N., Captain Matthew Flinders, R.N., Dr. George Bass, Sir Thomas Mitchell, Kt., Chas. Throsby Smith, Esq., J.P., Robert Hoddle, Esq., Mr. Alexander Stewart, Mr. Alexander Harris, and Mr. Disgusted of Paulsgrove. To all of them the Society extends its thanks for their assistance, however posthumous and involuntary. The Editor trusts that their names will be a sufficient recommendation to all Persons of Taste and Learning.

(We are unfortunately unable at this stage to quote a price; production costs are not yet fully determined — Ed.)

OLD ILLAWARRA HOUSES: "HORSLEY"

This house is one of the most interesting and best preserved old homes in the area, and has quite a history.

In 1842 Governor Gipps wave a grant of land at Dapto to Augusta Brooks and Elizabeth Weston, daughters of Captain Weston of "Horsley" Smithfield. This property was called "West Horsley Place".

In 1843 Elizabeth Weston married Andrew Thompson. In 1848 by a deed of partition, Richard and Augusta Brooks took the eastern half, which they called West Horsley, while Elizabeth and Andrew Thompson took the western half, known as Horsley. Here they built and lived in the house "Horsley" that we know today. They had quite a large family.

In 1876, sometime after the deaths of Andrew and Elizabeth, their son F. A. Thompson sold the western farm and house to John Lindsay. In 1881 J. Lindsay bought the eastern farm from Forkington and Brooks, thus uniting again the original grant.

After John Lindsay's death in 1894 the property was divided once again, Thompson's farm and the house "Horsley" going to his son George, and Brooks's farm to his son John.
Both these properties are still owned by Lindseys.

The house is very stoutly built with stone foundations and cement rendered brick walls. The bricks were made and burnt on the property. The roof is slate and all the woodwork including the roof battens, is cedar.

Its front elevation very closely resembles that of the house “Horsley Park”, Smithfield, and is thought to have been modelled on it.

The present owners Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lindsay have spent much time and thought on the house, and have maintained it as far as possible in its original form, even to preserving the separate kitchen building, which of course is not used now. The ceilings, except for one, are all original.

The house is a fine example of an old colonial house which has been lived in and cared for by its owners.

WHERE IT WAS:

The answers to “Where Was It?” in the November Bulletin:
1. Little Bulli was Stanwell Park; Matthew Gibbons’s grant of 1000 acres, afterwards the property of Mr. Justice Hargraves, was so described.
2. and 3. Robbinsville and Newtown were both Thirroul. There is a slide in the Society’s collection which shows the station nameboard “Thirroul late Robbinsville”.
3. Newspapers of the 1880’s referred to Balgownie as Cramsville.
4. According to Benjamin Lindsay, “Early Land Settlement in Illawarra” C. T. Smith tried to have the town on his property, which developed into Wollomombi, called Bustle Town.
5. Fish Town was a settlement of professional fishermen on Lake Illawarra which became the Village of Berkeley.
6. Charcoal, on Charcoal Creek, became Unanderra.
7. According to an old resident of Mount Keira, the Terrace on Mount Keira Road, about half way up the mountain, used to be known as Geordies’ Flat, a number of cottages (now vanished) there being inhabited by “Geordies” from the North of England.

OPENING OF LITHGOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM:

The many former residents of Lithgow in this district will be interested to learn of the opening of old Esk Bank House (latterly known as “The Grange”) as a period of the home of the 1860’s and an historical museum. The opening, which will have taken place by the time this bulletin appears, is scheduled to be carried out by Sir Cecil Hoskins at 11 a.m. on November 21. The connection of the Hoskins family with Lithgow is well-known, and the Lithgow District Historical Society informs us that Esk Bank House has become the property of the City Council for use for historical purposes, mainly because of the generosity of the Hoskins family in selling the property at a nominal price.

Among the guests at the opening will be Mr. Eric Bracey who has been largely responsible for restoring and furnishing the property, and Mr. E. McKenzie, who is well-known to many members of this Society, will speak on the history of the House.

Esk Bank House will be opened for inspection throughout the week of the Festival of the Valley, and at regular periods thereafter. To reach it, turn from Main Street into Bridge Street, cross the railway bridge and turn into Inch Street which runs parallel to the railway. Esk Bank House is a quarter of a mile along Inch Street.

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