

THE BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1980 VOL.1 NO.1

CHAIRMAN: DR. K.R. MANLEY

EDITORS : R. CARDWELL
M. PETRAS

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

24 NEW STREET,
BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS
N.S.W. 2093

EDITORIAL:

This issue marks the first issue of the Baptist Historical Newsletter which will be issued three times a year to keep members and friends informed of what is happening in respect to the Society. Each issue will give a brief resume of the previous meeting of the Society together with brief notes on different aspects of the Society's activities.

The Society will also continue to publish annually the journal of the Society - "The Recorder". People wishing to contribute material and/or ideas in respect to either "The Recorder" or "The Newsletter" are asked to contact the editors.

The Society was formed on 18th April, 1974 and set down a number of objectives which were adopted. We should keep in mind that those objectives were:

1. To encourage research into the history of Baptists, especially those in N.S.W.
2. To seek and obtain custody of important Baptist records, and to provide for their careful preservation.
3. To encourage the collating and recording of Baptist history.
4. To foster interest in Baptist history at the local Church level.
5. To assist research students at schools, colleges and universities.
6. To publish articles and historical information.
7. To be alert to Church jubilees, centenaries and other significant anniversaries for Baptists, and where possible, to assist in the provision of relevant historical details.
8. To promote care of buildings and sites of historical interest to Baptists.

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*Copied from Master Set
(no original found)*

closed with the Newsletter is an application for membership, either for your own use or for you to give to a friend who may be interested in joining. You are encouraged to hand out this Newsletter to people who you may think are interested in the Society and its activities.

MEETINGS FOR 1980:

Meetings of the Society are held at the "BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE", 120 Herring Road, Eastwood and commence at 8.00pm. The following meetings are to be held this year:-

WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE:

Mr. Michael Petras B.A. - A researcher student at Macquarie University will speak on "Church Growth amongst Baptists in N.S.W. 1919-1939: Myths and Facts".

THURSDAY 8TH JULY:

A meeting has been arranged in order that members and friends may meet Rev. Craig Skirrow & discuss with him the influence of C.H. Spurgeon on the life and times of Australian Baptists.

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER:

Mr. Peter Young M.A. - will speak on "A Study of Rev. Joshua Robertson M.A."

MEETINGS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 1979

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER R.K. ROBB

Most informative address was given based on the Canberra Church's Mile Book "Fifty Capital Years" and how it was produced. It was disappointing that there was only a few members in attendance, however this did not detract from the time and effort which was put into the preparation of the speech.

THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 1980

MRS L. OLIFF

The secretary of the Society read a paper on "Womens place in the Baptist Church". We were informed that women form at least half of Baptist congregations and in the past there have been some outstanding women in our denomination, and in this time of rapidly changing times, said Mrs. Oliff that women should be interested enough to know where their place is - and where it should be - in the church of their future.

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL, 1980

SIXTH ANNUAL LECTURE DR. K.R. MANLEY

The annual lecture of the Society was delivered by the Chairman who spoke on "Australia's First Two Baptist Ministers: A Study in Contrasts".

Dr. Manley drew a revealing contrast between the "poorly educated, strident, impulsive, gambling, drunken McKaeg and the well-educated, quietly persuasive, systematic, tolerant, upright, leading temperance spokesman, Saunders".

More information has come to light on the British background of McKaeg and his public ministry in Sydney. During his sabbatical leave last year Dr. Manley was able to carry out further research in England. Since his return he has continued this research on him and Saunders. At this stage, however, it has not been possible to ascertain conclusively what happened to McKaeg after the unsuccessful attempt he made on his life while in Carter's Barracks, the debtors' prison.

In Saunders' ministry, Dr. Manley enlarged on the public issues in which he was engaged. He was scandalised by the barbarity of the convict system and pressed for the abolition of transportation. In education he was a consistent advocate of the British and Foreign school system and proposed Bishop William Broughton's plans for an exclusively Anglican school. The most significant community activity of the man, according to Dr. Manley, was his involvement in temperance. He served as Secretary of the S.W. Temperance Society and edited The Australian Temperance Magazine, 1838-40. With Saunders "the life and soul" of the Committee, Temperance became a respectable and fashionable movement.

Dr. Manley, concluded Dr. Manley, sought to be true to their calling. The benefits and opportunities varied. Together they form the foundation on which the denomination was built. We can but be grateful for them even if we appreciate their strengths and failings.

THE SOCIETIES FIRST PUBLICATION:

The first venture by the Society into the publication of a book will be the story of Rev. John G. Ridley M.C. which will be titled "Soldier and Angelist". At the present time it is being edited by its author Rev. E. Evans. It is hoped that the book will be well illustrated and will be a worthy addition to every bookshelf throughout the Baptist Denomination. The book will be available towards the end of this year.

THE FRIENDS OF GORE HILL:

The Friends of Gore Hill recently wrote to the Secretary of the Society giving details of those Baptists buried in the cemetery. The Society has trustees and as recently as 1974 it would appear that Baptists were serving in this capacity. At the present time the Minister for Lands is looking into the submission made regarding the graves and headstones which should be preserved.

BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year, 1st April, 1979 to 31st March, 1980

INCOME:

Balance brought forward, 1st April, 1979 \$419.25
 Subscriptions: Full membership (14) ... \$42
 Pensioner " (5) ... \$ 5
 Student " (1) ... \$ 1
 Arrears (1) ... \$ 3
 Advance (Pens.) (1) ... \$ 1
 Donations \$ 2.00
 Grants. Royal Australian Historical Society 23.00
 Interest, received from Commonwealth Bank June 1979 100.00
 14.64

EXPENDITURE:

Royal Australian Historical Society.
 Annual Subscription \$17.50
 Gratuity to retiring Secretary 5.00
 Advertising Stationary, Postages
 Balance carried down 547.80
 \$ 608.90
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REV. JAMES GREENWOOD M.A.
 BAPTIST MINISTER-EDUCATIONALIST-POLITICIAN
 by K.A. Palmer

For the interest of members and friends the following are some of the Baptists buried in the cemetery:
 George E. Selwood (and wife) - Foundation member of Pymble Baptist Church.
 Ernest F. Campton (and wife) - Builder of Willoughby
 William Huntington - Organist of Wilson's Point - known as Blind Bill - no headstone.
 Mrs. Hermine B. Leeder - wife of Rev. A.L. Leeder and widow of Rev. Black.
 Rev. W.C. Black - Padre in World War 1.
 Rev. D. Steed (and wife) - President of Baptist Union and of Crow's Church.
 Rev. Albert J. Whale (and wife).

At the Annual meeting held on the 17th April, 1980 the following persons were elected to fill the offices of the society for the forthcoming year:

THE CHAIRMAN:
 Dr. K.R. Manley,
 Baptist Theological College of N.S.W.
 120 Herring Road,
 EASTWOOD 2122 (88.0201)

SECRETARY:
 Mrs. L. Oliff,
 41 Gelston Road,
 HORNSBY 2027 (477.3496)

TREASURER:
 Mr. M. Petras,
 c/- Baptist Theological College,
 120 Herring Road,
 EASTWOOD 2122 (848.0157)

ARCHIVIST:
 Rev. F. Coan, B.A.,
 Jamieson Street,
 FAIRLIGHT 2094 (94.5268)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

The Society acquired recently some of the sermon notes of the Rev. Stephen Sharp a minister of the union in the early years of this century. They, along with other material is being kept in the collection library. Please, those who have material of interest concerning Baptist work and are interested in donating it to the Society are asked to contact the Archivist.

Rev. James Greenwood, a graduate of the University of London, was based from Nottingham, England, to the pastorate of the Bathurst

Street Baptist Church, Sydney, and inducted as minister on August, 1871.

The Sydney Press of that period speaks in glowing terms of James Greenwood as an orator of outstanding merit who had acquired such a reputation for eloquence and scholarship that his congregations at Bathurst and Sydney had been blocked mainly by the same and eloquent championship of the Free Baptist pastor to whom much of the credit of the Public Education Act of 1880 is due.

The Rev. James Greenwood had a passion for an educated Baptist ministry in the Australian Colonies. During the early years of his pastoral ministry he proposed a scheme to educate young men for the ministry. Mr. Greenwood took a leading part in the cultural and educational life of the colony and was always in demand as a speaker for the various societies which existed for the social and religious betterment of the community. He gathered around him some of the finest minds of New South Wales, for his own mind was a veritable storehouse of the best literature, his writings were read by men everywhere, so talented was he as a litterateur that later he became the leader-writer for the "Sydney Morning Herald".

During his ministry he extended the Baptist witness in suburbs and towns; he was continually urging for the establishment of Baptist churches in young towns and suburbs that were then struggling for existence. In 1871 he was elected President of the Baptist Union of New South Wales.

In 1874 the Public Schools League waited on him, requesting that he be their candidate for Parliament. In placing the matter before the community it was thought that the duties of a politician were inconsistent with the high calling of the Christian ministry.

After a ministry of six years, Mr. Greenwood resigned in 1876 to become the champion, and indeed the initiator and moving spirit of the Public Schools League, a body formed for Free and Secular and Compulsory Education of education which was fast becoming the ideal of the major portion of the community.

In 1877 he stood for Parliament, representing the Public Schools League and was elected a member for East Sydney. Mr. Greenwood was closely associated with Henry Parkes in all stages of the latter's work upon the Education Bill of 1880. This Public Education Bill was largely framed by Greenwood, with his Baptist convictions of a Free Church in a Free State was wise enough to exclude Denominationalism as a factor in Public Education in New South Wales, which was not only doomed, but dead.

He has no Government recognition and no Government aid.

His aggressive and powerful Roman Catholic, Archbishop Vaughan, who was a leading figure in the Roman Catholic Church in Public Education, has been blocked mainly by the same and eloquent championship of the Free Baptist pastor to whom much of the credit of the Public Education Act of 1880 is due. Some of the amendments, is still in force to-day, is due to him which, with certain amendments, is still in force to-day, is due to him.

A greater tribute to James Greenwood's talents could be made than that which appears in the official records of the "Sydney Morning Herald"; "He was a leader-writer on the staff of the 'Herald'; while occupying that position he had shown in particular, such a grasp of educational matters that his articles were universally regarded as of the very greatest value. They were, indeed, and still remain, masterly expositions of the whole subject."

Edited by: Sven Productions, 1 Jamieson Street, Sydney 2000
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Published by: O'Connell Street Secretarial Service, 26 O'Connell Street, (3rd Floor), Sydney, 2000.
Telephone: 2311719

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (W) _____
(H) _____

Please find enclosed my membership fee for the Baptist Historical Society of New South Wales.

FULL MEMBERSHIP \$5.00
PENSIONER & STUDENTS \$2.00

PLEASE RETURN TO: The Hon. Treasurer
 Baptist Historical Society
 c/- Baptist Theological College
 120 Herring Road,
 EASTWOOD 2122 N.S.W.