

THE BAPTIST RECORDER
Journal of the Baptist Historical Society of N.S.W.

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OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 15th August, 1991, at 8 p.m.

in Lecture Room 1, Morling College.

Subject: Baptist Pioneers on the Northern Rivers.

Speaker: H. Watkin-Smith.

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OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, 17th October, 1991, at 8 p.m.

Speaker: Mrs Roslyn Russell, one of our Canberra members.

Subject: The Church and Our Cultural Heritage.

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, 20TH JUNE, 1991

The Chairman welcomed the seventeen members and friends present including the Principal of Morling College, Rev. Dr. V. Eldridge, after which Rev. B. Powell opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr. B. Burton, Mrs. A. Church, Mr. F. J. Church, Rev. N. Cowling, Mr. B. A. King, Mr. G. Morling, Mrs. J. Morling, Mr. O. Nanelli, Mrs. L. Ollif.

Confirmation of Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting, held 18th April, 1991, as published in The Recorder, were confirmed. The Chairman said there was no business arising to be considered at this meeting.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to bring to the meeting.

Announcements:

1. A conference of the Evangelical History Association is to be held in Morling College on 8th July. Those wishing to attend were invited to check with Mr. Nannelli.
2. The Essay Competition closes 1st October. Members were asked to advise intending entrants.
3. The survey on meeting times is to be discussed at the next Executive meeting and a report will come to the next meeting.
4. The annual report of the Society to the Assembly needs to be endorsed by this meeting. The Secretary proposes to submit the annual report as printed in the April Recorder with one or two possible emendations. This was approved.
5. The date, subject and speaker for the next meeting were announced.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report. Mr. Petras reported that after receiving subscriptions for the current year and sales of our literature for \$121.90, balances in hand were as follows:

	\$
General Fund	1452.19
Publications Fund	3458.29
Essay Competition Fund	209.30

Archivist's Report. Rev. E. Archer advised that there were no items of special interest to report.

Rev. E. R. Rogers drew attention to the fact that in this year of College Celebrations we would reach the centenary of the birth of Rev. G. H. Morling on 21/11/1891.

Chairman's Report. Mr. Watkin-Smith reported on the 90th Anniversary Meeting of the Merrylands Church where he had given an address on the early years and early personalities of the Church. There was a happy and enthusiastic gathering of about 150 people.

Attention was drawn to the autobiography of one of our members, Mr. Phil. Hayward, "There's No Taste to Nothing". Copies may be purchased from the author, 153 Herring Road, Marsfield 2122.

Rev. Seton Arndell advised (a) that the ABMS was requesting Historical Societies to celebrate the centenary of the beginning by William Carey of the modern missionary movement, and had asked Rev. K. Manley to prepare a paper on Carey; (b) Minute Books of the NSW Baptist Missionary Society, 1893 - 1913, had been found among an accumulation of old records. They contained very interesting and valuable information.

The June Lecture. The Chairman introduced Rev. E. R. Rogers as a former Principal of Morling College, a Vice-Chairman of our Society and a most appropriate person to bring to the meeting the story of Morling College in this

year of its 75th Anniversary. Mr. Rogers entitled his lecture: SUMMA SUPREMO. Following the lecture there was a period of animated discussion.

Vote of Thanks. Rev. Dr. V. J. Eldridge, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Rogers, said that it was obvious from his account that through all its existence the hand of God had blessed the College and especially so in its times of difficulty. The vote was carried by acclamation.

Close. Rev. S. Arndell closed the meeting in prayer at 9.45 p.m.

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A SUMMARY OF THE JUNE LECTURE MORLING COLLEGE 1916 - 1966

The story of the first fifty years of the Baptist Theological College of NSW (now known as Morling College) was presented by Rev. E. R. Rogers, a former Principal of the College. He used as a title of his paper the motto of the College:

SUMMA SUPREMO

Introduction. The story of a educational institution, said Mr. Rogers, is unlikely to prove exciting. It may be of absorbing interest to the participants but be unlikely to attract much interest from the onlooker. It demands a deal of sympathetic insight to feel the significance of what is taking place yet it is of great significance to the on-going life of the Church.

Origin. In 1912 a decision was made to set up within three years an Australian Baptist College as a development of the Victorian College. New South Wales had been sending students to the Victorian College on a non-fee-paying basis, but when in 1915 it became clear that the Federal College would not eventuate NSW was informed it would have to pay for the training of its candidates. The Assembly of 1915 resolved to establish its own College and appointed Rev. A. Gordon as Principal.

Harris Street. Classes met in the school rooms of the Harris Street Church, considered very suitable for their central situation and their proximity to Sydney University. Principal Gordon was a graduate of Glasgow University and after ministry in England and New Zealand came in 1902 to the Armadale Church in Melbourne. He became a lecturer at the Victorian College and was President of the Victorian Baptist Union in 1910 and 1914. The first student body consisted of ten men including G. H. Morling as a second year student, P. L. Lanyon as a missionary candidate and Victor White. In his first report Principal Gordon said:

"We are out to train preachers - those whom God has called, and to whom He has granted gifts - preachers with visions of the greatness and glory and power of the everlasting Gospel ..."

The College Council in its Report advised of the adoption of a shield and a motto. The motto expressed its hopes and aspirations for the future - "Summa Supremo" - "The Best for the Highest". The report also expressed its appreciation of the Principal and its complete confidence in him, stating that his passion for Christ and his enthusiastic advocacy of "the best for the Highest" was contagious. Alexander Gordon's ideal was that candidates for the ministry, before proceeding to theological studies, should do a B.A. course or at least courses in English literature, logic and philosophy.

The first woman student, Miss Effie Steed, a missionary candidate, entered the College in 1918. G. H. Morling became a visiting lecturer in 1919. At the 1920

Assembly Principal Gordon resigned. There were a variety of reasons but an important factor was a conflict over views on the Second Coming. In 1921 the College carried on with a panel of visiting lecturers, much of the organising and a share of the lecturing falling to the Secretary of the College Council, G. H. Morling, then pastor at Pymble. The 1921 Assembly appointed Rev. G. H. Morling as Acting Principal on a full-time basis for the year 1922.

Petersham. The appointment of G. H. Morling coincided with a move to the superior facilities at Petersham and the hope was expressed by Rev. R. Pickup, the Secretary of the College Council, that a residential college might be the aim of the denomination. The 1922 Assembly appointed Mr. Morling as Principal and in his first report in that office he said:

"it has been our aim to make the lecturer's desk a pulpit, the classroom a sanctuary, and the college life a holy fellowship It has been and will be increasingly our purpose to provide a course of study and to create an atmosphere that will ensure, as far as lies in our power, the production of men who will proclaim our Baptist principles with intelligent and earnest conviction. For myself I regard the College more as a splendid possibility than as an accomplished fact. We have no apology to make for our present achievements, but much remains to be done before there can be entire satisfaction. A residential college, an extensive library, better facilities for training in evangelistic and pastoral work must be among our objectives for the future. But we are strong in hope and in courage. We shall see the day when the Baptist Union of NSW will have a college of which it can be proud."

In 1925 the study of Hebrew was introduced, the lecturer being the Principal.

Granville - the first residential college. Early in 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Luke Bullock offered the Union a large house in Granville for use as a secondary school or a residential college, and on 10th July there was an official opening of a residential theological college. At the following Assembly the Principal commented:

The elevation to residential status has quite changed the College life and my own position as Principal. The common life in the College makes for efficiency in several ways. The atmosphere necessarily encourages more concentrated study; but beyond that there is much more opportunity for the impact of personality on personality, and for the cultivation of a worthy ministerial character. College discipline, too, is a great aid in the formation of proper regular and punctual habits. The added esprit de corps is also of incalculable benefit.

It was now impracticable for students to attend university and it was decided that those wishing to take a university course should do so before College studies, and that logic and psychology be added to the College course. An arrangement was made for Mr. J. H. Deane, B.A., as pastor of Granville Church, to assist the Principal as a tutor while studying for ordination. In return the Principal would assist him in the Church. In 1928 the Principal began to encourage students to prepare for the Diploma of Theology at the Melbourne College of Divinity, and Mr. and Mrs. Bullock gave the Granville property to the College unconditionally.

The Depression years, 1930 to 1934, were difficult. The increasing number of students could not be accommodated at the College, the financial situation was desperate and the building was in need of drastic repairs. Applicants were turned away because the Home Mission lacked funds to place them in Churches. However, in 1933 the Assembly confirmed the appointment of

Rev. J. H. Deane, B.A., B. D., as lecturer and assistant Principal (the latter appointment because of leave of absence to the Principal).

Ashfield - the College Comes of Age. A new property was secured in 1934 at Charlotte Street, Ashfield, for 4,400 pounds, and opened on 29th September, 1934. To permit necessary additions Mr. G. W. Ruggles was appointed Commissioner for the Building Fund. In March 1935 the Principal used the Lecture Hall to commence the College Bible School, open to all on Thursday evenings and usually crowded.

Fifteen new students were expected in 1936 and all could not be accommodated. The extensions were urgently needed. Unfortunately Mr. Ruggles died in April, so Rev. J. H. Deane undertook the promotion of the building programme. It was decided to name the new wing the Ruggles Memorial Wing and it was officially opened on 6th March, 1937. In 1938 the College Chronicle was launched as a means of stimulating support for the College. The Principal and J. H. Deane were a splendid team. Mr. Deane, although a deeply spiritual man, dealt with all the mundane matters. He was strongly self-disciplined and expected much from himself and also expected much from those preparing for the ministry. In 1939 the Bible School was extended into the Australian Baptist Bible School conducted by the Principal through the pages of The Australian Baptist. Also in that year Hebrew was made optional which relieved struggling students from sitting for the L.Th. for which Hebrew was a compulsory subject. As a result of the death of Rev. W. Cleugh Black, at the 1940 Assembly the W. Cleugh Black Memorial Prize was established. Rev. J. H. Deane's responsibilities as President of the Union from May 1943 to September 1944 brought special difficulties, and disappointment was great in 1945 when the Union, having decided to invite him to a full-time position on the College staff, found that he had accepted an invitation to become Principal of the New Zealand Bible Training Institute.

The War of 1939-45 had its effect on the College. Students and accepted students enrolled in the forces and the exigencies of the wartime period led to the acceptance of married men, a most unusual happening before 1939. After the war we find that in 1947 of the thirty-two students in College, nineteen were married men. The student enrolment for 1949 was forty-six and this placed considerable strain on finances, staff and accommodation. A large part of the teaching was being done in an honorary capacity by men in busy pastorates. Some help came from the part-time appointment of Miss I. Wright to assist the Principal in secretarial and administrative details and in 1950 Rev. B. G. Wright took up duties as Vice-Principal. A residence for the Principal, built on the tennis court, was opened in March 1951 but there was still no room for eight men and the local Council rejected a proposal for an extra wing. Some relief came when it became possible to purchase an adjoining property for 6,000 pounds.

An overseas visit by the Principal in 1951 convinced him that there should be a greater emphasis on practical preparation for the ministry and the Faith & Life Commission recommended in 1954 that: "the curriculum give greater emphasis to courses in practical evangelism, pastoral training, social studies that concern the relationship of the minister to the community, and Baptist history, doctrine and polity." The Principal initiated some changes in 1955 and suggested it was time to review the whole College life. He was undoubtedly influenced by information about trends in theological education in Baptist seminaries in USA, given by Rev. A. H. Orr following the latter's visit to the USA. As a result Mr. J. A. Thompson was appointed a third full-time lecturer in 1957 with special responsibilities for the Old Testament and the College Library. A Development Committee recommended extension of the educational function of the College and a search for a new and larger site. This led to the appointment, August 1958, of Rev. A. H. Orr as Administrator and also Secretary of the College Council, on a

part-time basis. He organised and carried through a gathering at the Trocadero Ballroom in Sydney aimed at raising 25,000 pounds. The result was 22,000 pounds and the present property at Eastwood was purchased in February 1959. The Ashfield property was sold for 40,000 pounds and plans were drawn for developing the Eastwood property.

In 1959 the new courses were established for deaconesses, missionary students and Religious Education workers. Dr. E. G. Gibson was invited to join the staff with special responsibility for these courses and for Church History. Late in the year the NSW Stewards Company, operating the Sydney Bible Training Institute, asked the Baptist Union to take control of the Institute and its College at Strathfield. The College was willing to operate the S.B.T.I. but to give evening lectures only and to arrange for women students to live in at the S.B.T.I. property.

Throughout 1960 plans for the development of the Eastwood site were being hammered out with the architect, Mr. L. C. Booker, and the Building Planning Committee. In April 1960, Rev. J. A. Thompson was granted leave of absence for research studies at Cambridge leading to a doctorate. This was a landmark decision for it led to a recommendation that the College recognise the principle of encouraging staff to undertake overseas study, and to make annual provision for it. Mr. Orr advised his inability to continue as Administrator and the College Council recorded that his two years in the post had been momentous ones and that it was his drive which had helped to bring the great project of the new College to an advanced stage in its development. It was decided that his successor was to be a Dean who would act as Registrar for the College, do part-time lecturing and carry the business administration of the College. The Finance Board of the Union deleted from the College Budget the Dean's salary. Despite the financial stringency the Council invited Rev. N. P. Andersen to be the Honorary Secretary of the College Council from the 1960 Assembly and Dean from the beginning of 1961 as a member of the College staff. It was resolved that his salary would be met from the College Budget.

At the 1960 Assembly Rev. E. Roberts-Thomson, M.A., D.D., was elected Principal. From a Tasmanian Brethren family he had graduated from the Victorian Baptist College, the Bristol Baptist College and Bristol University. He had gained a Doctor of Divinity at the Melbourne College of Divinity. His principalship was to be one of the unhappiest episodes in the history of the Union. His strong ecumenical convictions did not fit well with the NSW Baptist ethos. If he chafed under the constraints of a strong Council to which he was answerable the situation was exacerbated by divided control within the College itself. His principalship almost from the beginning was marked by criticism and tension. Rev. N. P. Andersen had accepted Council's invitation and it was laid down that in duties within the College he would be answerable to the Principal, but as Secretary of the College Council and as Executive Officer of the Eastwood development he would be answerable to Council. This situation was to be a recipe for friction and misunderstanding. Before the year ended the forty years of service that Rev. G. H. Morling had given to the College was climaxed at the 1960 Graduation Service when he was the speaker, and especially at the Denominational Testimonial Service on 2nd December, 1960, when the President unveiled the portrait in oils of the retiring Principal by Joshua Smith.

Early in 1961 Rev. Dr. E. G. Gibson resigned to become Principal of the Adelaide Bible College and in June Rev. Dr. E. Roberts-Thomson was inducted as Principal. The main buildings on the new site moved towards completion and were opened on 10th March, 1962, by Rev. F. A. Marsh, President-General of the Baptist Union of Australia. Financial considerations made it necessary to use student labour for much of the upkeep of the grounds and buildings and the Council placed the

REV. GEORGE ALBERT CRAIKE

Born Hobart 1879 - Died Sydney 1929.

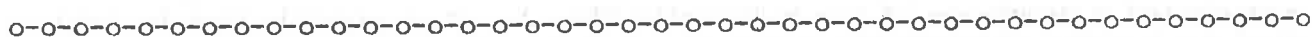
FOUNDER OF THE MEN'S MORNING MEETING

Growing up in the Hobart Baptist Tabernacle, George Craike manifested notable preaching gifts and was known as the "boy preacher". He co-pastored the Reed Memorial Baptist Church in Launceston for two years before going to Spurgeon's College, London, for training, 1905-09. In 1909 he returned to Hobart, married Ruby Morgan, also from a Hobart Baptist family, and returned to England to minister to the Zion Baptist Chapel, Chesham, Buckinghamshire. There followed three ministries in Australia, at Devonport, Tasmania, 1912-15, at Clifton Hill, Victoria, 1915-19, and at Petersham, NSW, 1919-29.

From Hobart days Craike's preaching had a remarkable impact. The "attractive, original and practical" style of the boy-preacher was deepened by his London experience which included Dr. Campbell Morgan's School of Bible Study, where attendances are said to have reached 2,000. Craike's Clifton Hill ministry included a similar, but smaller, enterprise.

George Craike was more than a preacher. At Petersham he initiated the Men's Morning Meeting, which brought many men into the life of the Church. At the same time Canon W. G. Hilliard was ministering, with similar success, to the men of the same municipality at St. Clement's Anglican Church, Marrickville. Craike believed strongly in sporting clubs for the young. At an early stage he saw the vast possibilities of the "wireless". During the epidemic of 1919 he introduced individual communion cups. He kept people involved in the life of the Church by finding jobs, small and large, for them in accordance with his maxim "use or lose". A series of sermons, preached in 1928, became a book called People at Wit's End Corner. Unhappily he himself was overcome by inordinate anxiety and died tragically. His widow outlived him by seven years.

P. G. YOUNG



USING HISTORY IN A CHURCH CELEBRATION.

MERRYLANDS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Having read in Baptists in the Cradle City of Merrylands' beginnings as a branch of the Parramatta Church, the Merrylands Church invited members of the Parramatta Church to feature in its Saturday night Anniversary gathering on 1st June. A congregation of about 150 enjoyed vocal and instrumental items from the College family and Mr. R. Winter. Mr. Watkin-Smith was asked to outline the early days of the Church and to give biographical details of three personalities associated with its establishment, namely, the Parramatta pastor, Rev. James Worboys who promoted the cause, Mr. William Littlefield, for many years Superintendent of the cause, and Mr. George Hollier who donated the site on which the Church was built. On page 10 is a summary of the work of William Littlefield.

