



TRIBUTE

MARCH, 2020

FREE PUBLICATION

St Marys & District Historical Society Inc. - Quarterly Newsletter

PO Box 640, ST MARYS NSW 1790 – Street Address - St Marys Corner,
Mamre Rd, St Marys – Parking via 29 Swanston Street.

Email: info@stmaryshistoricalsociety.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC THE CHAMBERS BUILDING HAS BEEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE CORONA VIRUS AND THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVITY ON WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. OUR MEMBERS HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. KEEP SAFE.

‘Recording & Preserving the Heritage of St Marys’



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***‘St Marys Changing Skyline’
Coming Soon!***

From the Editor

Each year the Society creates a major display highlighting important events that occurred in St Marys and surrounding areas. This year we are looking toward the future and exhibiting photographs of proposed new buildings and industries.

We are hopeful that when we are through this challenging period, we will be able to open the Society's doors and once again invite you in. In the mean-time here are some articles of yesteryear.

A short history of St Marys Municipal Council

Ref. Penrith City Local History.com

In 1889, one hundred and thirty eight citizens of St. Marys area petitioned the government asking for incorporation as a municipality. (Population not less than 500, and the area thereof about 28 square miles). The Government, with Sir Henry Parkes as Premier, agreed to this request and in a proclamation dated 3 March, 1890 the Municipality of St Marys was constituted. The first municipal election was announced in the Government Gazette on Thursday 3 April 1890, to be held on 5 May. The following citizens were elected:-

William Garner, Mayor; George Turner, James Hope, William Carberry, Charles Gilbert, William Becroft, Henry Wake was appointed the first Town Clerk.

Meetings were initially held monthly in the Protestant Hall, Great Western Road, St Marys.

In 1894, there was a further proclamation with new boundaries to the south, thus, enlarging the municipality. In 1906, there was a further addition in the southern section.

St Marys Municipal Council Aldermen/Councillors

Town Clerks - H Wake 1890 -1906, J S Paskin 1907, W H Wrench 1908-1928,
James Heel 1929 -1931, Henry Joseph Charles 1932 -1933
Albert Victor Sutton 1934-1942, Evan Forrester Ross 1943 – 1948

In November 1907, St Marys Municipal Council was divided into wards:

WEST WARD

County Of Cumberland, parishes of Londonderry and Claremont, commencing at the intersection of South Creek with the Orphan School or Mulgoa Road and bounded by the centre of that road from Camden to Richmond northerly to the intersection of the westerly prolongation of the northern boundary of portion 112, parish of Londonderry; hence by a line, part of which forms the northern of that position and positions of 113 and 116 Easterly to the centre of South Creek, and by the centre of that creek upwards to the point of commencement.

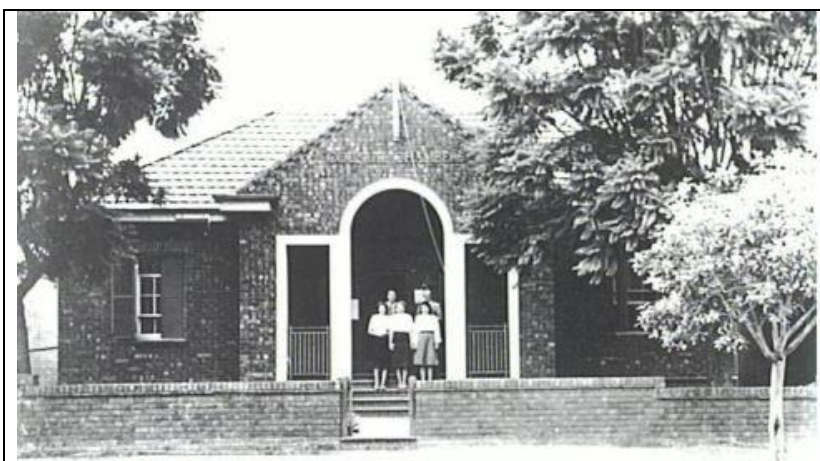
CENTRAL WARD

County of Cumberland, Parishes of Melville and Rooty Hill, commencing at the intersection of Rope's creek and the road from Windsor to St. Marys and bounded by the lines along the centre of that road, Mamre Road and the road to Luddenham southerly to South Creek, by the centre of that creek downwards to its intersection with the westerly prolongation of the northern boundary position 112, parish of Rooty Hill, hence by a line and the northern boundary of that position easterly to the centre of Rope's Creek, and by the centre of that Creek to the point of commencement.

EAST WARD

County of Cumberland, parishes of Melville and Rooty Hill, commencing at the intersection of Rope's Creek and the road from Windsor to St. Marys, and bounded by lines along the centre of that road, Mamre Road and the road to Luddenham southerly to South Creek, by the centre of that creek upwards, the centre of Orphan School (Elizabeth Drive) or Mulgoa Road easterly, to the eastern boundary.

St Marys had been a Municipality for 40 years before an official home for council was built in Mamre Road. Finally, in December 1933 the new building was opened. Designed by Sydney architect Mr Carfree it was of semi-colonial style with a spacious council room with polished maple joinery and polished tallow wood floors. After the amalgamation of the local councils in 1949 the building became the St Marys Branch Library. In 1979 when the library moved to new premises, this building became the home of the St Marys Community Arts. "New Council Chambers Official Opening at St. Marys: A fine structure", *Nepean Times*, 9 December 1933 p. 3.



St Marys Council Chambers
1940s
(Now the Society's Headquarters)

On 1 January 1949, St Marys Municipal Council amalgamated with Penrith Municipal Council.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Nepean Times, Thursday 25th September 1926 Pg.1.

Historical St. Marys
"OFTEN when we are driving through to the Mountains," said Mr Aubrey Halloran, president of the Historical Society of N.S.W., on the occasion of a recent visit to St. Marys, "we halt our car at Church Hill, sneak through the fence, and study the inscriptions on the tombstones. To anyone who knows the names of our pioneers who played an important part in the colony there is much of interest to be found in that churchyard. Even Governor King's wife is buried there. Then, at the little Methodist Church there is a bell that belonged to Rev. Samuel Marsden, who was second to none among the early ministers of the colony."

Transcription:

Historical St. Marys

"OFTEN when we are driving through to the Mountains," said Mr. Aubrey Halloran, president of the Historical Society of NS.W. on the occasion of a recent visit to St. Marys, "we halt our car at Church Hill, sneak through the fence, and study the inscriptions on the tombstones. To anyone who knows the names of our pioneers who played an important part in the colony there is much of interest to be found in that churchyard. Even Governor King's wife is buried there. Then, at the little Methodist Church there is a bell that belonged to Rev. Samuel Marsden, who was second to none among the early ministers of the colony."

Cont'd...

Methodist Church, Queen Street circa
1920s

Note: Bell Tower present at this time
(Photo: Penrith in Pictures)

Now the site of “Marigold on
Queen” Apartments



The St Marys & District Historical Society meets every 4th Saturday of the month at 1
pm – at the St Marys Precinct “Chambers” Building – Mamre Road, St Marys.

No meetings in January or December
ALL WELCOME

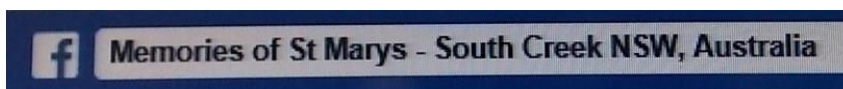
Open to the Public on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm
(meeting days till 1.00pm) and by appointment for Groups

Please contact: Lyn Forde: 8840 8771 / Groups/Bus Trips - Norma Thorburn: 9623 2307

Patron of our Society is Jackie Greenow, OAM.

Back issues of the “Tribute” can be found on our website at
www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.org

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permission is given by the Society.



(While care is taken to ensure that all articles are accurate, the opinions expressed in
this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society.) **Any comments on this
Newsletter are encouraged.**

**PLEASE, DON'T THROW OUT AUSTRALIAN HISTORY. OLD PHOTOGRAPHS,
BOOKS, LETTERS, RECEIPTS, DOCKETS, NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES. IF
YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT PLEASE CONTACT
YOUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**