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Fifty Years History of the Town of Kensington and Norwood

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FIFTY YEARS' HISTORY

... OF THE ...

TOWN OF

KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD.

JULY, 1853, to JULY, 1903.

Adelaide:

WEBB & SON, PRINTERS, GREENFELL STREET.

1903.

To My old Friend
F. Melville Rogers
from
G. W. Gooden

PREFACE. For old times sake

—:0:—

1904

On December 26th, 1902, the Council of the Town of Kensington and Norwood decided at its ordinary meeting to publish a sketch of the rise and progress of the town from the inauguration of Municipal Government in 1853 to the year 1903—the date of the jubilee of the town. This little work to which these lines form the introduction is the outcome of the Council's resolution. In its compilation much time has been spent and much care taken to make it as complete and as accurate as possible. Our desire has been to present to our readers a work which will give a fair idea of the chief events in the town's history for its first half-century. Much information as to very early events has been kindly supplied by Sir E. T. Smith, K.C.M.G., Messrs. D. Packham, T. Pugh, T. Pitman, T. Rhodes, S. Heanes, and T. Ward, and Mrs. Thorpe, to whom our cordial and sincere thanks are due. We have been much assisted in other parts of the work by Aldermen Phillips and Binks, Messrs. T. Jones (A. & S. T. Co.), R. K. Threlfall, L. H. Sholl, F. W. Mankey, J. E. Gooden, F. R. Steed, Sergeants Burchell and Bennett, Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc., W. O. Whitridge, H. C. Burnett, E. J. Woods, D. W. Hendrickson, the representatives of most of the Churches and Friendly Societies, Mrs. Drew Williams, and most of the past Mayors of the town, or their surviving relations, and to all these we tender our respectful and hearty thanks. The town's official records since 1853 have, fortunately, all been preserved, and a mass of facts has been gleaned from these. This documentary aid, coupled with the help afforded by our many friends, has enabled us to present a compendium of information which will, we trust, prove satisfactory to the majority of the burgesses of the town. As time rolls on, and those living links connecting the present with the past enter into their rest and new generations arise, we fancy the work will be enhanced in value as a record of past events. At any rate, we trust it may prove acceptable to those who take some amount of interest in the town and its progress.

GEO. W. GOODEN.
THOS. L. MOORE.

NORWOOD, JULY, 1903.

Fifty Years' History of Kensington and Norwood.

CHAPTER I.—THEN AND NOW.

Early Kensington—Early Norwood—Early Kent Town—
Communication with the City—Newspapers.

Historical research is at all times pleasurable and fascinating. It is, indeed, more than interesting to peruse the records of our forefathers, to make research into the past, dim with the mist of years. We are, however, not engaged in nearly so ambitious a task. Our duty is not to trace the history of a country through all its vicissitudes, but just to lay bare to the light a few of the early records of the municipality in which we reside, and to show the process of evolution which has transformed the virgin forest into a modern suburb, with its public and private buildings, streets, and footpaths, and all the other adjuncts which go to comprise a well-ordered town.

In the execution of this task we are especially fortunate in the fact that there are still among us living links between the present and the past—good and revered old colonists able to afford us from out the richness of their former experience some truths respecting the past of interest to us to-day, and which will perhaps be of greater interest to generations yet to come. A few years more and the older generation will have passed away, leaving only the memory of their good deeds for the emulation and example of posterity.

For the purposes of comparison our history may conveniently be carried back to a period anterior to 1853; in fact to the days when the colony was in its infancy, when no suburban mansions or ornate villas rose to grace the landscape, and when even the Queen's representative in Adelaide had to be content with an official residence constructed with reeds. In those far-back days a few of the early colonists searching for a place to reside at a little distance from the embryo city turned their faces eastward, towards the rising sun, and after betaking themselves through a rich forest of eucalyptus and golden wattle for about three miles, eventually decided to locate themselves at what is now known as Kensington. Both Kensington and Norwood received their appellations from towns of similar nomenclature near London. This appears to have been the case with many of the suburbs of Adelaide, and it seems evident that those responsible for their names were desirous as far as possible of preserving the associations of the old home. If the suburbs

CHAPTER XVI.—SOME PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

The Hotels—The Chief Residences—Building Societies—The Cemeteries.

THE HOTELS.

There are fifteen hotels doing business in the corporate town, and two others just across the road from its boundary, and whose trade is probably very largely drawn from this municipality.

The Globe Inn, Kensington (present landlord, Mr. J. Hardegan) easily takes chief place as the oldest hostelry in the eastern suburbs. The first inn was merely a mud hut, built by Dr. Scott in 1840. In 1841 it was in the occupation of Mr. and Mrs. Ball, and was the scene of a sensational robbery in that year on the part of Mr. Joseph Storey and his gang, who were accustomed to leave their fastnesses in the heavily-timbered ranges east of Kensington and prey on the little community just settled below. Mr. ex-Commissioner Tolmer in his autobiography gives an interesting account of this occurrence.

After a few years the mud hotel was pulled down, and replaced by a two-story building, owned by Mr. Pepperell. This would be before 1850. Mr. Beck became the landlord, and subsequently Mr. Tasker. About twenty years ago a very large number of old hotels in the eastern suburbs were pulled down, and rebuilt on more modern lines. This was in response to the directions of the Licensing Bench, which in these days of progress required that houses should be provided more in accordance with latter day needs than could be given by some of the ramshackle old structures which had done duty for a quarter of a century and more. The Globe was, therefore, for a third time rebuilt. The Rising Sun Inn was put up in Bridge Street in 1850. Mr. Beck had the Globe at the time, and left to take charge of the new hotel, and from here started the historic cart which used to take the public to the city at 1s. a trip. The new hotel was built in the early eighties at the corner of Bridge and High Streets. The present landlady is Mrs. G. Garie. Early Kensington had an hotel in Wellington Street, yeleft the Freemasons' Arms, owned by a Mr. Stephens. Later on the Robin Hood was built of brick by Mr. Tasker on Kensington Terrace, and the Freemasons' Arms was closed. The old place at present forms the residence of Mr. M. Burman. Mrs. Augusta Stolte is now the licencee of the Robin Hood. Both this Hotel and the Globe were great political centres in the days before the Ballot Act was passed. In the fifties came to Kensington a Mr. Canton, and he

CHAPTER XVIII.—SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

CRICKET.

The history of cricket in the Town of Kensington and Norwood is practically the history of three clubs—the Eastern Suburban, the Norwood, and the present East Torrens. I have not been able to obtain any trustworthy information as to the strength of clubs or the state of the game prior to 1861, but from 1862 until 1897 the Eastern Suburban and Norwood Clubs were undoubtedly the strongest in South Australia. So far the East Torrens has not followed the good example set by its predecessors.

The Eastern Suburban Club appears to have been established in 1861, and the rules were passed on August 14, 1862. The headquarters during that and the succeeding year were at the Maid and Magpie Hotel, but afterwards were removed to the Kent Town Hotel. According to the records, C. C. Gooden was the first Secretary, and J. Scandrett Captain, but in 1864 S. Toms was elected Secretary, and carried out the duties for some considerable time. In those far-away days matches were played in Kent Town, close to where the Kent Town Church now stands, and College Town was also a favourite convincing ground, where the players would assemble and play in the orthodox tall hat. There was no gate money about at that time, and members played entirely for the love of the game. Indeed, we find that they frequently presented cricket requisites to a club, or willingly paid a levy of 1s. each for the purpose of buying a bat. All-day games were of frequent occurrence, starting at 9 o'clock, the losing side having to pay for the luncheon or a dinner in the evening. At other times a bat or a ball would be played for. Members who did not pay were not allowed to play. Think of that, ye present day cricketers!

In 1863 the club deemed it desirable to appoint a President, and Mr. Justice Gwynne was selected. Honorary members were Messrs. Neville Blyth, W. B. T. Andrews, G. W. Hawkes, and S. Goode. The strongest opponents of the Eastern Suburbans were the West Norwood, the East Torrens, Alliance (local teams), and the United Tradesmen, South Australian, Hindmarsh, Gawler, and Barossa clubs. Some hard-fought and stubborn games were contested, and as party feeling at times ran high, much interest and enthusiasm were aroused.

It will be as well to place on record the scores made in the first match with West Norwood, which, after two innings a side, was won by West Norwood by 16 runs:—Eastern Suburban—First innings, 48; second, 21; J. E. Schlinke and C. Paxton divided the bowling, J. Dechert being highest scorer with 12, and J. E.

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