

CHAPTER 1

The reason for this book

In recent years quite a number of books, innumerable articles, sketches, paintings and photographs have been produced relating to old and present-day Paddington, but this book is being written mainly about a part of Paddington which to date has received very little attention - only a one paragraph mention in a recent book and just one line in a previous publication - I refer to St. George's Anglican Church at 245 Glenmore Road, Paddington, right in the midst of the busy Five Ways shopping centre, with an exclusive frock shop on one side and a very popular French patisserie on the other. Yet it is so unobtrusive that people who have been passing it for years on foot, in cars or in buses are not aware of its presence. This is mainly due to the fact that it is near the corner of a very busy roadway, so that motorists are probably more concerned with the traffic than the surroundings and partly because it is somewhat obscured by trees and a very pleasant garden. The garden, the result of years of loving care by one member of the congregation, is particularly appreciated by some of those who work in the area, as it is the only restful place nearby where they can sit to eat their lunch.

The year 1989 will mark the 100th anniversary of the building of the church, so this seems an appropriate time to tell the history of St. George's.

Of course the book will not be just about the church and the parish attached to it, which is roughly half of the whole of Paddington, but it will concern the men and women who lived in the area and many things of which you have not previously heard.

- - - - -

The area of the parish was originally Rushcutters Bay. There have been several versions as to why Rushcutters Bay was so called, but the most believable one must surely be the one told in the book "The First Settlement" which was written by Dr. Jonathan King. Both Dr. King and the publishers, the MacMillan Co. of Australia, Melbourne, who published the book in 1984 have been kind enough to allow the writer to quote the following excerpts from the diaries of three reliable men of the First Fleet who were actually in Sydney on 30th May, 1788 where and when the happenings recorded took place. These were:

(1) *John Eastey, Private, Marines*: He was the lowest ranking scribe to leave a record. There were no journals by the convicts, so this journal written by a private in the marine is as close as we can get to life "at the bottom". He must have served satisfactorily on the voyage, as soon after arriving he was assigned to various positions of responsibility. On the voyage he kept a very careful diary every day, even recording how he was punished for being drunk on duty.

(2) *George Daly Worgan* surgeon on the "Sirius". The son of Dr. John Worgan, who was organist at Vauxhall Gardens, Lambeth. Dr. John Worgan insisted on all his children learning a musical instrument. George Worgan played the organ and the piano - he even took a piano with him to Australia. Apart from his musical ability, George Worgan was a naval surgeon, author, farmer and agricultural writer and moreover he wrote his diary every day.

(3) *William Bradley*, First Lieutenant H.M.S. "Sirius". Bradley was the intellectual of the colony. He came from a scientific background with ancestors who had served as royal astronomers and at the Royal Naval College at Portsmouth. He had been at sea since the age of fifteen during which time he had served in many capacities in different ships, including the "Ariadne" with his fellow First Fleet Officers Arthur Philip and Philip Gidley King. A quiet retiring man, Bradley made few friends and kept much to himself and his journal.

Here is how they record the happening:-

30th May, 1788: The little settlement was shocked by a double murder put most simply by *Eastey*: "This Day 2 convicts were killed by the natives in a horred manner." *Worgan* continues: "A most Shocking Spectacle was brought to the Hospital this evening. The poor Creatures, Convicts, had been sent a few miles up the Harbour, to cut Rushes for thatching the Huts and this Afternoon a Boat was sent to bring them down again, when, they found them lying among some Brushes and murdered in a most horred Manner by the Natives. Three Points of Spears were taken out of one Man, two of which had transfixed Him in the Back the points sticking some Inches out of his Breast, a large Piece of his Skull, including the Eye seemed to have been cut out with an Axe. In the other Man, no wound was discovered from the Spears, but he appeared to have been struck with some heavy broad weapen over his Face, as that part was black and bloody. The Natives had not stripped them of their Cloaths, nor had they taken their Tents away, but none of their Tools could be found. The Governor means to take a Party of Marines to-morrow Morning, and go to the Place where the Murder was committed, to endeavour to find out the Cause of these Hostilities. For it is his opinion, with many others, that the Natives are not Aggressors."

Bradley continued: "On 31st May the Governor with a party went to the place where the two men had been killed by the Native, the boat returning leaving them in a Natives' path which they meant to follow until they met the Natives. The Officer who was in the boat called at the Lieutenant Governor's farm as he returned and was there informed that a Convict had killed one of the Natives some days before by cutting him across the belly with his knife. I have no doubt but the Native having been murdered occasioned their seeking revenge and which proved fatal to those who were not concerned. They have attacked our people when they met them unarmed but that did not happen until they had been very ill

treated by us in the lower part of the Harbour and fired upon at Botany Bay by the French.

1st June: The search for the murdering Aborigines continued. Between this and the Harbour's mouth we found 49 canoes hauled upon the beach, but not a native to be seen. After we passed them (the canoes) we fell in with an Indian path, and, as it took a turn towards the camp, we followed it about 2 miles, when, on a sudden, in a valley or little bay northward of Botany Bay we were surprised by the sound of voices, which we instantly found to proceed from a great number of Natives sitting behind a rock, who appeared to be equally astonished at ourselves, as from the silence, we observed, they had not perceived us till we were within 20 yards of them.

Everyone of them, as they got up, armed himself with a long spear, the short stick before described used in throwing it, a shield made of bark and either a large club, pointed at one end, or a stone hatchet.

At first they seemed hostilely inclined, and made signs, with apparent tokens of anger, for us to return, but when they saw the Governor advance towards them, unarmed and with his hands opened wide (a signal we had observed among them of amity and peace), they, with great confidence, came up to him and received from him some trifles which he had in his pocket, such as fish-hooks, beads and a looking-glass."

The names of the two men killed were William Okey and Samuel Davis.

Various reasons have been given in other books as to why the men were killed, but in all the killings it was said to have been in retaliation for the killing of natives, stealing from them or the molesting of aboriginal women.

Very early stories referred to the bay as Rushcutting Bay for obvious reasons, but later it was called Rushcutters Bay, no doubt in remembrance of the two convicts who were killed by the aborigines there.

Rushes were very important in the early days - they were used for thatching roofs, for making mats, for hats to protect the wearer from the fierce sun, to which they had not been accustomed and perhaps most importantly, they were used as wicks for the oil lamps.

The Aborigines who had been living in the area no doubt for centuries were members of the Kogarah tribe, but they all disappeared from the area shortly after the killing of the two convicts.

During Governor Darling's term of office (1825-1831) some land in the Hyde Park area (then called the Race Course) was cleared and the land laid out in 4 acre allotments and he promised some of the land to (Reference a):-

John Gurner	Registrar of the Supreme Court
William Lithgow	Attorney-General
F.N. Rossi	Superintendent of Police
William Timothy Cape	Schoolteacher

and some others who do not come within the bounds of this story. However, Governor Darling returned to England before he confirmed these grants and when Governor Bourke succeeded him in 1831, he refused to allow Hyde Park land to be so distributed, saying the area must be kept as a parkland for the people of Sydney for all time. (We should all feel very grateful to Governor Bourke.)

Subsequently most of the Rushcutters Bay area was divided into roughly four acre allotments and those which are in the area in which we are interested are shown on a following page.

Try to imagine what Rushcutters Bay looked like in those days. The water of the bay came right up to where Lawson Street is now. Then there was quite a large area of marshy swamps. Several streams flowed down to the bay, the main ones being the Rushcutter Spring on the west side and Cascade Spring on the east and between the two was the Valley of Lacroza. There are several different spellings of Lacroza. Most old maps spell it Lacrozia and there was even a street in Darlinghurst by that name, but in 1866 N.S.W. Ballière's Gazetteer includes: "Vale of Lacroza (County Cumberland)

is a deep hollow lying on the east side of the city of Sydney between Darlinghurst and Paddington. The north part of the valley borders New South Head Road and has several small patches of good alluvial soil under cultivation as market gardens".

No doubt the plentiful supply of fresh water, also the ideal situation of the bay within walking distance of the town, with an ideal aspect climatewise, a pleasant view of the Harbour and the hills on the other side, induced people of some importance in the early days to decide to build their spacious homes on the slope facing the Bay where they hoped to live for the rest of their lives.

The following list shows all the original grants made in the area which now comprises the parish of St. George's Church

- - - - -

- A. Plinton
 - B. Elfred
 - C. Engehurst
 - D. Juniper Hall
 - E. Underwood's First House
 - F. Olive Bank Villa
 - G. Bradley Hall
 - H. Duxford
- Below Glenmore Road
- I. The Terraces
 - J. Glen Ayr
 - K. Deep Dene
 - L. Lohort
 - M. Underwood's Second Home



CHAPTER 2

The land grants

<u>LOT NO</u>	<u>GRANTED TO</u>	<u>STATUS OF GRANTEE</u>
4	Lieutenant William Lawson (Land bought later by Judge Kinchela)	Officer of NSW Corps
5 & 6	John Eyde Manning (Land bought later by Barton Bradley)	First Registrar of the Supreme Court
7	Judge Kinchela	Attorney General & Judge
8 & 9	Robert Hoddle	Surveyor
10 & 27	John Gurner	Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court
20c	Frederick Augustus Hely	Principal Superintendent of Convicts
21 & 22	William Lithgow (Later sold land to Thomas Broughton)	Attorney General
28c	G.T. Savage	Owner of ironmongery and hardware business
*172	Francis Forbes Robert Cooper James Underwood	Partners in Glenmore Gin Distillery
246	Captain Rossi (Land later sold to F.A. Hely)	Superintendent of Police
247	Sir Roger Therry	Commissioner of the Court of Requests
249	William Timothy Cape	Schoolmaster