

Hassall of Australia

## *The Hassall Family History Group*

Occasional Newsletter Number 12. August, 2006

### **210<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Duff's Departure LMS Sends First Missionaries August 10<sup>th</sup> 1796**

Lucy Marshall, an enthusiastic family historian, has sent us an "Order of Service" that was a "Triple Jubilee Souvenir" produced on the occasion of a special church service held in Wellington, New Zealand, just on sixty years ago on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 1946.

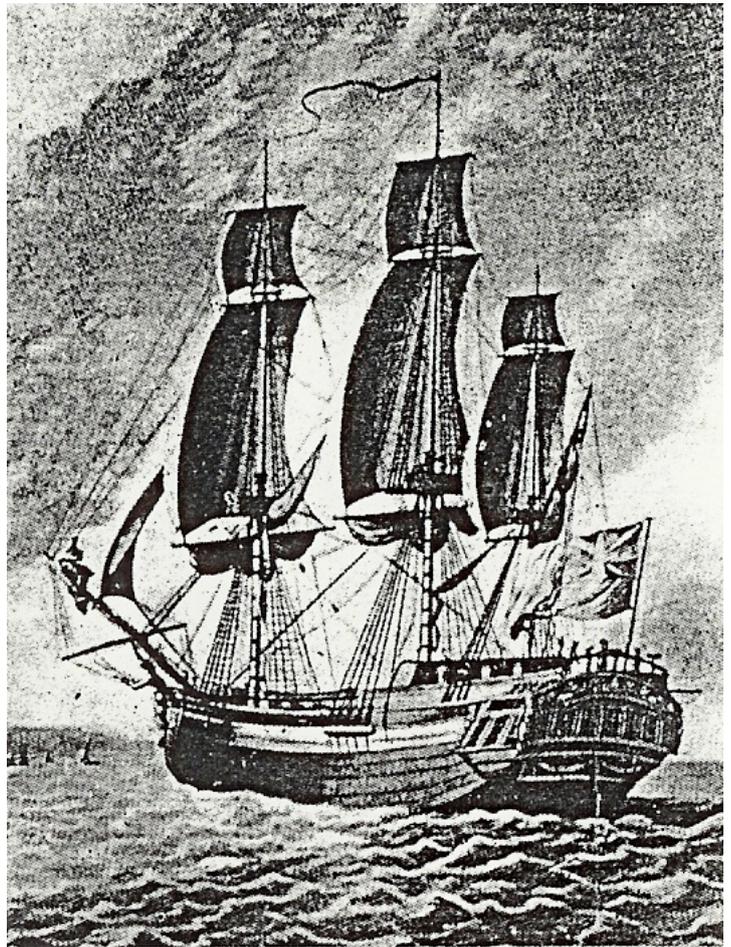
As most family members are aware, Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall embarked on *The Duff* on August 10<sup>th</sup> 1796 bound for Tahiti where they were to be part of a missionary group taking the Christian message to the Pacific Islanders. Their adventures and circumstances of their moving to Sydney are well documented in *The Hassall Family*.

The departure of the missionaries was preceded by a special "*Valedictory*" service in England on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1796 – the word 'valedictory' suggesting a 'farewell after having been prepared'.

An entry in the Journal of the Duff gives details:

"August the 10<sup>th</sup> 1796, at six in the morning we weighed anchor and hoisted our missionary flag ... three doves argent on a purple field bearing olive branches in their bills. The morning was serene, and a gentle breeze blew from the W.N.W.; few vessels were stirring in the river; all was still and quiet. The hymn, '*Jesus at Thy command we launch into the deep*' was sung by upwards of on hundred voices ... the sailors in the ships we passed heard with silent astonishment, and our friends who lined the banks of the river waved their hands and bade us a last adieu ... "

We are not sure if Lucy Marshall was at the commemorative service in 1946 but thank her for sending us the souvenir *Order of Service* that also featured the depiction of the *Duff* featured opposite.



**The London Missionary Society's ship *Duff* as it may have appeared to those farewelling it from the port of Blackwall on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1796 – from the Triple Jubilee Souvenir of service held in 1946.**

#### **Plaque for Grave of Samuel Otoo Hassall**

It is very pleasing to note that we now have contributions totalling \$856 towards the attaching of a brass plaque that shows the now illegible wording of the original slab. Huon Hassall is finalising details – more next newsletter.

#### **On (or About) This Day**

It is interesting to note some anniversaries that occur about this time. This edition of the newsletter comments on *The Duff's* departure from England 210 years ago in August 1796 and Susanna Marsden Hassall's birthday 100 years ago in July, 1806.

Reprinted from the Sydney Morning Herald,  
Saturday, July 17, 1926:

## AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

### "Our Ancestors"

BY ARCHDEACON OAKES

The pioneer missionaries who came from Otaheiti to Australia one hundred and twenty-eight years ago [written in 1926 - Ed.] deserve more than passing notice. My own ancestry and that of the Fairfaxes both come of the same stock, **Mrs Francis Oakes**, of Parramatta, being our common ancestress. One of her daughters, **Elizabeth**, married a surveyor named Armstrong and her daughter married the late **Sir James Fairfax**. **Mr H.M. Suttor**, in his valuable book, *Australian Milestones*, says "On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1789, the first white girl was born in Australia. The happy mother was **Mrs Small**, wife of **Sergeant Small**, who arrived with the First Fleet. This child, **Rebecca**, married **Francis Oakes**, one of the artisan missionaries sent out by the London Missionary Society, in the ship *Duff*. After he arrived in Sydney he became chief constable at Parramatta, where he died on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1844, aged 74 years. This couple was blessed with 14 children, of whom 12 grew up and married. The wife, Rebecca, lived to the age of 94 years, and died at Parramatta on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1883. This remarkable woman lived through the reigns of 15 governors - **Phillip, Hunter, King, Bligh, Macquarie, Brisbane, Darling, Bourke, Gipps, Fitzroy, Denison, Young, Belmore, Robinson and Loftus**.

I remember "Granny Oakes" she as a kindly old lady, with a certain sense of humour and I believe many of the poor people of Parramatta lost a good friend when she died. One of her "fads" was to give every clergyman, irrespective of creed, a turkey on Christmas Day. I remember telling her of a great drought that we were having in Bathurst, and she gave a funny little grunt and said: "I thought there must be something, I have not heard from them lately, I suppose all the ink has dried up!"

In her old age, when she was not working in her garden, she sat in her armchair with a bell rope on either side of her. She kept two maids, the green rope summoned one, the red rope the other. When Gollidge's store, on the opposite side of the street was on fire, she pulled frantically, first on one side, and then on the other, but without result - the maids had probably gone to help extinguish the flames, but she was very indignant, and told me afterwards, "I might have sizzled to death and there was no one even to throw a bucket of water over me!" Her eldest son, the **Hon. George Oakes, M.L.C.**, represented his native town in Parliament on several occasions. He was the first victim of the old steam trams, being killed at the corner of King and Elizabeth Streets soon after this means of locomotion was introduced to the city.

### WILLIAM SHELLEY

My maternal grandfather was the son of another of the LMS missionaries, **William Shelley**,

**Sen.**, said to have been a cousin of the poet. There were 3 sons and several daughters one of whom was married to the **Rev. Ralph Mansfield** of Parramatta, and another to the **Rev. Thomas Draper**, who was drowned on the ill-fated *London*. **George Oakes**, already mentioned, married a third. **William Shelley, Jun.**, settled at Goulburn and his brother **George Shelley**, was the first settler at Tumut, where the old original homestead still stands [ie as in 1926 - Ed]. They both had numerous descendants

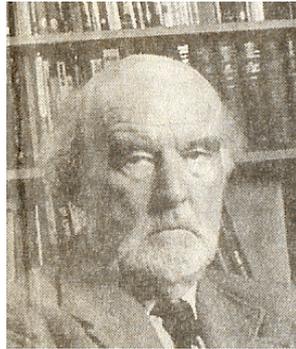
### ROWLAND HASSALL

A third missionary was **Rowland Hassall** .... his diary giving details of various business transactions may be seen in the Mitchell Library. William Shelley, Junior, married one of his daughters, who was consequently, my maternal grandmother. **Mrs Campbell**, an ancestress of the well-known **Antill family**, was another daughter. A son, the **Rev. Thomas Hassall, M.A.**, was the first Australian candidate for the Church of England ministry. He graduated at Cambridge, and married the eldest daughter of the **Rev. Samuel Marsden [Anne - Ed.]**. He was born at Coventry, England and was only two years old when he arrived at Otaheiti with his parents in 1797. Finally, after a few years of trying experience in the islands, the hostility of the natives resulted in an attack on the missionaries. A vessel, the *Nautilus*, was at this time anchored in the harbour, bound for Port Jackson and she took eleven of the missionaries with some women and children on board, Thomas Hassall being one of the party. The vessel was in a leaky and unsound condition and it taxed the efforts of the whole company to keep her afloat for 44 days on her voyage to Sydney where they arrived on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1798. Thomas Hassall, as a lad, was employed in the office of **Mr. Robert Campbell** of Campbells wharf, Sydney, who afterwards founded the settlement of Canberra, the present Federal capital site. When a young man, Thomas Hassall studied for the ministry at Lampeter College, Wales, where he had as a fellow student a son of **Sir Walter Scott**. His written appointment as Colonial Chaplain was signed by George IV. After his ordination in England he returned to Parramatta, where he assisted his father-in-law and founded the first Sunday School in Australia. In 1825 he was appointed as locum tenens at Bathurst, awaiting the arrival of the **Rev. John Epsy Keane, M.A.**, a graduate of Dublin University. He afterwards founded the parish of Cobbitty, near Camden where he worked unremittingly for 41 years until his death on March 29<sup>th</sup> 1968 at the age of 73 years. The celebration of the centenary of St. Pauls Church, Cobbitty, will take place in April next year [ie in 1927 - Ed.]. In those early days of far distances and scattered populations, Mr. Hassall's parish practically embraced the whole colony, with a few exceptions, and he conducted services periodically in centres as far distant as Wollongong and Goulburn. His breed of Arab ponies was well known and it on one of these

- to page 4.

## Baron Charles von Hügel visits New Holland

The German Baron's visit to New South Wales in 1833-34 has been documented in his *New Holland Journal* which was translated from the German and edited by the late **Mrs Dymphna Clark**, widow of the well known historian the late **Professor Manning Clark**. Dymphna Clark was an outstanding scholar who was forced to abandon her doctoral studies in Germany just before WW2 and this excellent translation is said to be possibly her principal achievement.



**Manning Clark \***  
1915 - 1991

Mrs Clark, whose husband was a Hassall descendant, was interested in the 1998 bicentenary and at the time provided several photo-copied pages from her translation of von Hügel's journal. As a visitor, von Hügel's interesting observations are often penetrating and sometimes a little blunt!

For example he mentions a visit to *Denbigh*, "the property of the minister, Mr [Thomas] Hassall". Of the landscape near *Denbigh* he wrote: "From here, ascending a hill from the road, one has a fine view of a tangle of intersecting mountains and hills. These vistas, however prettily they may be decked out with green meadows, luxuriantly forested hills and pretty houses, are **not to my taste**. To me they are like the tricks of a hack landscape painter, seeking to conceal his lack of talent by colour and decorative effects in the foreground."

von Hügel makes fun of the English with his comments about a court case involving a stolen hat! "... the evidence was contradictory and no verdict was reached. Those cases ... are a source of great entertainment for all the English here, and, no matter what they may say, they nearly all enjoy being magistrates. They look on the court proceedings as a right lively comedy, and are monarchs of the moment. **No one loves power more, or is prouder of it, than an Englishman.**" (Several of our ancestors were early magistrates. For example Thomas Hassall was appointed a magistrate in 1815 at the age of twenty-one, but I'm not sure that he enjoyed the job! - Ed.)

The Baron had much to say about the bad roads, the need for bridges, the use of sliprails instead of gates and the curse of the "short" cut!

"... innumerable bridges are urgently needed in all directions in New South Wales. This must surely seem astonishing **when one considers how scarce water is in this country.**"

"... the Government spared no exertions to build all the necessary - and even unnecessary - bridges, absolutely nothing is done to maintain them in good order. The reason for this is that **every new road is the darling of its builder**, for which nothing is too good. But **every old road is the abandoned child** of the departed Governor or Surveyor."

He learned to dislike slip-rails as they were never easy to use and to be very wary of "short-cuts": "... we took a guide, so as to take .... by far the longer route. In general, I had learnt ... **to be wary of the shortest route ('short cut')** in New South Wales. It was almost always the longer route, we often got lost on the way ..."



**Dymphna Clark \***  
1916 - 2000

Baron von Hügel made an interesting comment about the wild cattle in the Cowpastures area (which he wrongly assumed to have been deliberately let run wild):

"... became so wild that it was impossible even to approach them. The breed itself underwent significant

changes, developing long and slender but powerful legs, a thin body and heads carried erect. Their whole attention was concentrated on a possible attack and, when they espied an enemy even at a great distance, the herd would take flight, jumping over logs and ditches like fugitive deer.

"Splendid! thought the Government. What great profit the English (settlers) would reap, and what a benefice to the poor Aboriginal inhabitants if this happened! How excellent! The famished wanderer in the uninhabited woods and desolate regions will **need only his shotgun or a rope** to get hold of a beast which will provide him with a juicy steak or a solid roast of beef! And what different people the skinny-legged Aborigines will soon be when they can eat their fill of beef every day! Not to mention all the other benefits, such as the ever-ready supply of milk in the woods, where tea (*Leptospermum*) grows wild - much better than the juice of the *Galactodendron* there will be real milk, to be had simply by **catching the nearest cow and milking it.**

"But **they refused to be caught**, and - to, kill one of these beasts required several hunters, who often fired off many shots in vain. It was worse still for the Aborigines. Even tame cows and bulls have an insuperable abhorrence of the original inhabitants of New South Wales, so that even the quietest cow will prick her ears, put up her tail and rush at them; and now these poor folk could not venture into the woods at all without **having to shin up a tree ...**"

**It sounds as if the Baron Charles von Hügel was not impressed with the Government of New South Wales the time! Nevertheless his book is very entertaining and his comments sometimes disturbingly accurate. The situation regards roads, bridges, water and probably many other things are the same after the passing of over one hundred and fifty years!**

\* Pictures from Sydney Morning Herald Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2000., Page 4.

**Bicentenary – Susanna Marsden Hassall  
Born 28 July 1806**

Susannah was the seventh of nine children born to “refugee” missionaries Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall. They had fled Tahiti in the *Nautilus* arriving in Sydney in 1798. The Hassalls settled and became “quiet achievers” amongst the turmoil of the settlement and development of early New South Wales.

Susannah was born in Parramatta just over two hundred years ago on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1806 and so it is fitting to remember her at this time. She grew up in Parramatta and as well documented by historian Jean Stewart in *The Hassall Family* (Chapter 10), she had close association with many family members and young friends such as the daughters of Rev. Samuel and Elizabeth Marsden. There must have been many happy times for example when she attended the famous triple wedding of 1919 to see three of her elder siblings married on the same day!

On 7<sup>th</sup> February 1827, at the age of just twenty years Susanna married William Shelley Jnr. He was the son of London Missionary Society missionary parents who had also been on the Pacific Island of Tahiti with the Hassalls – in fact he was born there in 1804. William seems to have been a bit like his adventurous father for he became involved in many and varied pursuits including cave exploring and pastoral development particularly near Goulburn, the first inland city of Australia.

Susannah lived to the age of 84 years and was buried at St Saviour’s Cemetery, Goulburn in 1890. By this time cameras were well in vogue but regrettably we know of no pictures of her. Perhaps some family members can help.

If any pictures of Susanna Marsden Hassall exist we would very much like to publish them. ◀

**Archdeacon Oakes continues – from P2:**

that I first learnt to ride. His son, the **Rev. James Samuel Hassall**, was at that time the clergyman at Berrima. He wrote and published an interesting book about the early days, entitled “*In Old Australia*”.

Two daughters of the **Rev. Samuel Marsden [Mary and Martha – Ed.]** married **John and Josiah Betts**, of Parramatta, and two daughters of **Rev. Thomas Hassall [Marianne and Catherine – Ed.]** married **George and Robert Hope**, well-known Victorian colonists. At least a dozen of these early Australian Pioneer Families, like the people of Norfolk Island are all more or less connected by marriage, though it hardly would be correct to say of them, as it is said of the islanders, that they “have all things in common”. Some of them are blessed or otherwise with material possessions, but the majority, like myself, are only moderately endowed. Still we have much to be thankful for, and on the whole are proud of our ancestors. (See biographical note next column.) ◀

**Do you know these people?**



If you can identify these two we would be grateful. At present they are labelled as Rev James Hassall (left) and Rev Thomas Hassall (right). However these identifications are in doubt – the man on the right certainly does not look like the Thomas Hassall shown in *The Hassall Family*. ◀

**Biographical Note: Archdeacon Oakes**

**GEORGE SPENCER OAKES** (1855-1932), Anglican clergyman, was born at Crookwell, New South Wales, son of **John Leigh Oakes**, grazier, and his wife **Elizabeth Mary, née Shelley**, both Parramatta born. His father was a son of **Francis Oakes** and his mother a granddaughter of **William Shelley**. In 1864 his family moved to Mittagong but George often stayed with his cousin the **Rev. James Hassall**, gaol chaplain and minister at Berrima. Oakes attended Berrima Public School and in due course became a teacher. He married **Helen Nina Colquhoun** in Melbourne in 1885. Oakes was a superb bushman. He drove, furiously, anything in tandem and after 1918, a motor car. He could break a horse, camp out overnight or swim a flooded river and was generally acknowledged to be the parson in **A. B. Paterson's** poem, ‘*The Bush Christening*’. He was popular on outback stations for his recitations of **A. L. Gordon's** poetry.

In 1894 Oakes became rector of Holy Trinity, Kelso, and in 1902 sub-dean of the pro-cathedral there. That year he went to South Africa as a chaplain with the 1st Australian Commonwealth Horse and was awarded the Queen’s Medal. On his return, he became rural dean of Bathurst, archdeacon in 1903 and in 1905 chaplain to the Commonwealth Military Forces and Bathurst gaol. (Extracted, with grateful acknowledgment, from the *Dictionary of Biography* as shown on the internet.) ◀

<b>Financial Report: May 15 to August 23, 2006</b>	
<b>Funds carried as per Newsletter 11:</b>	
General Funds	1,700.51
Earmarked SO Hassall pla	826.00
	<b>2,526.51</b>
<b>Income since last report</b>	
Bank Interest (Bendigo Bnt)	nil
Subscription renewals	150.00
Book & CD sales	240.00
Extra Contrib.Plaque SO H	30.00
	420.00
<b>Expenditure since last report</b>	
Bank Charges	nil
Photocopying	175.32
Postage	92.25
Stationery	4.80
	- 272.37
<b>Total Current Funds (general + plaque):</b>	<b>\$ 2,674.14</b>
Funds total accords with Bendigo Bank Stmt of 23/8/06	

Please address all correspondence to:  
**David N.H. Hassall**

**The Hassall Family History Group**  
14 Vera Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450  
email: [hassalld@smartchat.net.au](mailto:hassalld@smartchat.net.au) Telephone 02 6651 4339