

## HAMILTON CHURCH

### Centenary Celebration

#### Interesting History

Special celebrations at Hamilton to-day will mark the centenary of St. Peter's Church of England, the foundation stone of which was laid on June 26, 1834. The fine old stone church, which stands on a hill overlooking the peaceful township of Hamilton, provides a monument to the spiritual outlook of the early pioneers of one of the best-known pastoral districts of Tasmania, and at the celebrations to-day many descendants of those who first guaranteed the necessary financial support for the erection of the church will be present. The church has an interesting history, and was consecrated by the first Bishop of Australia.

The foundation stone of St. Peter's, Hamilton, was laid by the Lieutenant-Governor of Tasmania, Colonel George Arthur, on Thursday, June 26, 1834. Prior to that date meetings of residents of the surrounding district interested in the erection of the church had been held, and subscriptions invited and generously responded to by leading residents. The treasurer for the fund was Lieutenant H. B. Torless (ex-R.N.), the District Stipendiary Magistrate (Rathmore), and the honorary secretary, Mr. David Burn (Rotherwood, Ouse). The first meeting was held on September 26, 1831, and at that meeting, and, by the end of that month, £322 was promised. On January 16, 1832, Messrs. W. A. Bethune (Dunrobin), Thomas Marzetti (Cawood), William Roadknight (Hamilton), and David Burn (Rotherwood) made themselves responsible to the Government for the amount to be raised in the district, and in 1833 the members of the Church Building Committee were Lieutenant Torless (honorary secretary), Alexander Macpherson (Cluny), Thomas Marzetti (Cawood), Wm. Roadknight, D. Burn, T. M. Fenton (Allanvale), Wm. Dermer (colonial surgeon), Wm. S. Sharland, C. O. Parsons (Bloomfield), David Jamieson (Shawfield), and Edward Lord, jun. (Lawrenny). They met weekly at the police office, Hamilton, and on August 19, 1833, a list of subscribers to that date was handed in by Lieutenant Torless as treasurer for the fund.

The plans for the church were designed by the Government architect, John Lee Archer. The erection of the walls of the building was in progress in October, 1834, and when on November 17 of that year a committee agreed to be responsible for the sum of £340, the Governor in Council passed a vote of £360. The contractor for the building was William Sibley, a resident of Hollow Tree. In August, 1836, it was stated that the church would be completed within two months, but that did not mean all interior fittings and furnishings, because a further reference states that the building was completed and inspected in June, 1837.

#### CONSECRATION OF CHURCH.

Bishop Broughton, who was consecrated as the first Bishop of Australia

Bishop Broughton, who was consecrated as the first Bishop of Australia in 1836, appointed the Rev. M. J. Mayers to the chaplaincy of Hamilton. He arrived at Hobart with Lieut.-Governor Franklin by the barque Fairlie on January 6, 1837, with a wife and seven children, and took up his duties shortly afterwards. Bishop Broughton visited Tasmania in 1838, and stayed at Government House as guest of Sir John and Lady Franklin. During May he consecrated seven churches, St. Peter's, Hamilton, which was consecrated on May 8, being the first. Later in the month he consecrated churches at Jericho, Ross, Perth, Richmond, St. George's, Battery Point, Hobart, and St. John's, New Town. He returned to Sydney on June 6.

#### EARLY RECTORS.

The Rev. Mayers appeared to find his stipend of £200 per annum insufficient, and, as the Secretary for State would not agree to an increase, he resigned on February 17, 1840, and returned to England. The Rev. T. B. Naylor took charge of the parish in 1841, when the Rev. E. J. Pogson was appointed to the chaplaincy, which he held until 1844. He obtained leave of absence owing to ill-health, and died on the voyage to England. The Rev. Geo. Wright succeeded him and held office for 30 years. Falling eyesight compelled him to retire from active work in 1875. The present rectory house was built during his term as rector, and the money was raised by parishioners. The Rev. Charles Andrews was rector of the parish from 1875 to 1877, and the Rev. H. W. Adams succeeded him. He held office until 1882, and was followed by the Rev. Joseph Wren, B.A., who remained in charge until the following year. The Rev. Leigh Tarlton had charge of the parish for a short period, and in 1884 the Rev. Robert Earl was appointed. He was followed in 1885 by the Rev. J. Gray, who remained in the parish for four years. The next appointment was the Rev. C. W. H. Dicker in 1889, who resigned following the death of his wife in 1896, and left with his infant son for England. The Rev. J. L. Clougher, B.A., from Wales, was appointed rector in 1897, and after holding the position until 1901 he resigned and returned to his native land. He was succeeded by the Rev. S. H. Hughes, B.A., who remained in the parish until 1906, when he was appointed rector of New Town. The Rev. A. E. Hutchinson, the present Warden of Bothwell, and president of the Municipal Association of Tasmania, was rector of Hamilton from 1907 to 1920, and was followed by the Rev. A. T. Hope, who remained until 1925, when the present rector, the Rev. W. F. Henslowe, was appointed.

#### DAUGHTER CHURCHES.

St. Peter's Church, with its fine position overlooking the town of Hamilton, has been much admired for its solid stone construction, and for its proportions. The east window is a handsome "in memoriam" window erected by the parishioners and friends in memory of the wife of the Rev. Geo. Wright. Since the consecration of the Hamilton Church four daughter churches have been built within the parish. One at Ouse was built entirely at the cost of the parishioners during the incumbency of the Rev. E. J. Pogson. The land for the church was given by W. A. Bethune, and

of the Rev. E. J. Pogson. The land for the church was given by W. A. Bethune, and the church was consecrated on May 9, 1867. St. Andrew's Church at Ellendale, which is 14 miles from Hamilton, was consecrated in December, 1882. St. James the Less, an iron church at Osterley, 21 miles from Hamilton, was consecrated on October 5, 1888, and St. Paul's, an iron church at Strickland, 19 miles from the mother church, was dedicated on May 9, 1929.

Hamilton township allotments were advertised in the middle thirties and a list of some of the purchasers appears in the "Hobart Gazette" of July 20, 1835. The Hamilton parish is regarded as one of the best pastoral districts in Tasmania, and owing to the long distances between the churches and the scattered population it has proved a very hard parish to work successfully. Fortunately during the 100 years of the church history it has had a series of energetic and conscientious ministers, who have never failed to carry out their duties, extending to the most outlying portions.

#### CELEBRATIONS TO-DAY.

The celebrations will take the form of special services, at which the Bishop of Tasmania (Rt. Rev. Dr. R. S. Hay) will preach, a sports meeting, and a social in the evening. There will be Holy Communion at the church at 8 a.m., and at the 11 a.m. service the Bishop will dedicate a new window in the church to mark the important occasion. The gymkhana will commence at 2.30 p.m., and the social gathering in the Hamilton Hall will follow an evening service. Arrangements have been made for persons who travel a distance to take part in the celebrations to be supplied with meals, and it is expected that a large number of people will attend. Mr. W. G. Brown, who was council clerk of Hamilton for many years, and who resides in Hobart, has prepared an interesting centenary booklet which contains a history of the church.

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Queen of Human Ostriches is Miss Mabel L. Wolf, aged forty. Operating on her, a New York surgeon recovered 584 fine upholstery tacks, 144 carpet tacks, forty-six small screws, six medium-sized screws, eighty large screws, three small bolts, four large bolts, three picture frame hooks, three nuts, three safety pins, fifty-six assorted beads, three brass nails, and a collection of pins and needles.

Two babies of contrasting weights—one weighing 2lb. 5oz. and another 10lb. 2oz.—have been born in Gravesend Hospital. Both are doing well.