

## 90th Anniversar of St. Mark's Church

(BY ZERO).

On Sunday, July 14, the 90th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of St. Mark's, Picton, was celebrated. In the year 1849 Major Henry Golden Antill commenced collecting funds for the erection of an Anglican Church at Picton. Among the subscribers appeared the name of the Bishop of Sydney, William Grant Broughton, who subscribed the sum of £7/10/. Other subscribers were the Rev. R. Forrest, M.A., headmaster of The King's School, Parramatta, who was then living at Campbelltown, Rev. Edward Rogers, of Camden, Rev. Thos. Hassal, Dr. Redfern, of Minto, Messrs. James and William Macarthur, and Miss Macarthur, of Camden Park.

From 1823-1924, approximately, services were conducted in a private house at Jarvisfield, Picton, the home of Major Antill, and in the thirties at the court house, Picton, on the property now owned by Major Larkin.

The Rev. Edward Rogers rode from Camden to conduct these services. A parishioner took his position on one of the hills to watch for the approach of the clergyman, who rode a white horse. As soon as he was seen the watcher struck a kerosene tin to call those who lived close by to church.

### FOUNDATION STONE LAID.

On July 16, 1850, the Rev. Edward Rogers paid a visit to Picton, and in the presence of a large gathering laid the foundation stone of St. Mark's Church. The building committee were Messrs. J. M. Antill, J. Templeton, T. Larkin, and J. Crispe. Owing to the rush to the gold fields in February and following months of 1851 (possibly at Ophir, near Bathurst), and the exit of stone masons and builders from Picton, a long delay occurred in the erection of the building.

In 1855, according to scanty records available, the windows were put in place, and in October 1856 pew rents were being collected. So, in all probability the first services were conducted in this Bishop Broughton Church about six years after the laying of the foundation stone.

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Amongst those who have ministered to the needs of St. Mark's Parish, during the past 90 years, and whose names have been recorded, were—The Revs. Edward Rogers, James Carter, Samuel Fox, Frank Elder, B.A., Samuel Booth, Reginald Noake, B.A., D. H. Dillon, H. S. Begbie (now Archdeacon Begbie), W. J. Roberts, A. St. John Chase, Ed. Hargrave, A. Booth, H. N. Powys, F. C. Hall, R. Tacon, J. P. Owen, and the present rector (Rev. F. A. S. Shaw, B.A., Th.L.).

### WINDOWS AND TABLETS.

The building is of freestone and is of cruciform shape. A pipe organ has been in use for a number of years, Miss S. J. Antill, of Jarvisfield, being the first organist. A silver tablet on the organ testifies to that fact; also, two stained glass windows of St. Peter and St. Paul are erected to the memory of the same lady. The east window (Jesus as the Good Shepherd with St. Mark and St. John) was erected to the memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Antill, of Jarvisfield, a number of wall tablets are memories of by gone worshippers in St. Mark's, amongst them being one to L. Rowe, a student of Moore College, who enlisted during the Great War, and died from wounds received.

In the cemetery surrounding the church, which the later Archbishop Wright likened to many an old country church, appear the names of many old families, whose relatives still live in this district. What appears to be the oldest stone erected is that of John Walton, who died in 1853; also, John W. McQuiggin first Mayor of Picton, died 1922, and Lachlan Nicolson, also Mayor, died 1931.

Dr. F. G. Dalton, M.R.C.S., who died in 1916, was a surgeon on the H. M. Drake in the Crimean War. Dr. Geo. Cheetham, F.R.C.S., died 1868, and his tombstone was erected by the Picton Choral Society. Rev. St. John Chase died 1916, and the Rev. William Murray, of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, in 1888.

Last to be noted are those of Messrs. William Hanham, Thomas Gillingham, and John Cracie, who were killed in the erection of the railway viaduct.

St. Mark's Church has stood for 90 years as a living witness to the value and unselfish labour of Australia's first

and unselfish labour of Australia's first and only bishop, William Grant Broughton.

The writer desires to acknowledge notes on "Early Picton" by the Rev. James Steele (Presbyterian) and the Rev. F. A. S. Shaw, B.A.).