

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
May 2005	The Kendall Family of Oatley	Alec Leach

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OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

MEETING DATE: 27th May 2005

TOPIC: Kendall Family of Oatley

PAPER BY:

Alec Leach compiled from
George Kendall's material

History
Of the
Oatley Kendall Family

Presented to the

**OATLEY HERITAGE
GROUP**

Friday 27th May 2005

Compiled by: ALEC LEACH



History of the Oatley Kendall Family

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Compiled by Alec Leach.

This report has been instigated by me. I have been attempting to have George, the youngest of the three generations of Kendall's compile their history. It is like talking to a brick wall; hence I will attempt to pry relevant information out of him. I hope it will be of interest.

In referring to the different generations of Kendall's, I will address them as I knew them over the years. The present day George William as "George" or "Young" George, his wife Valma, Rosetta, "Val". George's Father, George Henry Cecil, "Mr. Kendall", his wife Emma, "Mrs. Kendall" and George's Grandfather, as "Grandpa Kendall".

The report will highlight the male members of the family.

Before I delve into George's records and reminiscences, I must say how I am showing such an interest in this family.

My association dates back to before I was born. The Kendall's lived opposite our family in Rosa Street Oatley. Why do I say before I was born? Mr. Kendall, who owned the only motor vehicle in our area and the only telephone, drove my mother to Nurse Lephherd's Nursing Home in Princes Street, Mortdale, for my birth. Our association and friendship has continued.

My memories of the three generations of Kendall's show three different men. Grandpa, a GENTLEMAN in every sense, Mr. Kendall, a good man, of VERY high moral and religious standards and George a mix of the previous two generations with a larger ego than both put together. It is hoped between George and I, we will be able to create an insight into three interesting generations of the Kendall's.

When the text changes to *Italic*, I will be butting in and adding my own version.

We'll start with Grandpa Kendall and work our way through to young George.

William Henry Kendall

18-11-1870 to 31-3-49. Age 79

William Henry (Grandpa) was born on the 18th November 1870 at Devonport England.

He received the average education for the day, leaving school at the age of eleven. At fourteen he signed on to sail on the "Enrique Calvet" and later in the Barque "Mary Jane" from Portsmouth.

He relates his experience of this "Great Adventure" from a journal he wrote of his life at sea. Young George in his working days at Commonwealth Industrial Gases (CIG), had this eventful adventure published in their monthly house paper. It makes for interesting reading.

I will attempt to condense five episodes into a few lines.

They sailed from Portsmouth, stopped at St. Thomas Island, then to Barbados for provisions and onto Rio Janeiro. Two weeks out from Rio they were caught up in a hurricane and shipwrecked, this was about forty odd miles inside the Straights of Magellan, not far off the tip of Cape Horn. They were able to retrieve provisions and lifeboats and made shore, however they lost a couple of the crew. After recuperating, it was decided to travel up the coast in a lifeboat, stopping for water on the way. At one stop, they had camped for a couple of days then found on the third morning they were surrounded by natives. Later finding out they were Patagonians.

For ^{page 5} eight days they were marched back to their village. On the way they were intercepted by another hostile tribe. With the help of their nine they warded them off. When they arrived at the native's village, they were kept in a hut, fed well and generally treated kindly.

After an eventful stay watching some harassing executions of prisoners who had been captured from the tribe they had encountered, it was decided to make an escape.

Their Captain had died and they were beginning to weaken. The tribesmen left them behind when they went on a hunting excursion six days away. They awaited their opportunity and escaped early one morning. They trekked for four days before reaching the coast. After resting they made their way along the coast for five days before finding wreckage of their ship. All hands found enough material to construct a sturdy raft.

It took them about a week to sail it out of the Magellan Straits.

Food and water were constantly required. There were frequent stops along the coast and then onto Queen Adelaide Island, where a storm washed away the supplies they had gathered. They were glad to reach the Duke of York Island.

At sea again, they made for the main shipping lane where they were picked up by a whaling ship. and signed on as crew for the rest of the voyage. After a few months they called at Tristan da Conga and then the Cape of Good Hope where Grandpa was paid off from the whaler. He notified the shipping company of the fate of the "Mary Jane".

Grandpa was paid twenty pounds for his time as a Whaler. The shipping company paid him for the time he was on the Mary Jane until it foundered. He stayed in Africa on dry land for a few months.

As Grandpa wrote "Thus ended an eventful voyage".

His next stint at sea, was with the Royal Navy from 1888 until 1891, sailing on "HMS Curacoa"

During that time a courtship must have brewed for Grandpa found his way to Australia, married Amy Emily Garside in 1890. They had two children, William John, who was missing in action during World War 1 and George Henry Cecil. (Mr. Kendall)



Emily & William Henry Kendall.

In 1898 the Kendall Family, Grandma, Grandpa and William returned to England. Mr. Kendall was born there in 1899. In 1902 they returned to Australia.

During his early days in Australia, Grandpa was a Gold Miner around the Braidwood district. Back in Australia he lived at Newtown and operated a successful Fish Shop at Newtown. Fish shop, meaning that he only sold cooked fish. The bulk of his business was from cooking the fish, packing it in ice and then shipping it out all over the state.

Grandpa was a member of the Loyal Orange Lodge; this is not an order of the Masonic Lodge which his son George and Grandson followed.

Most weekends saw the Kendall's visiting Oatley prior to World War 1, Grandpa was a keen fisherman, Oatley Point his favorite spot.

In 1916 they built a house at 109 (now 127) Rosa St. Oatley. It is still in the Kendall family, it is young George's home today. Grandpa was a Gentleman in the true sense. In his retiring years he still enjoyed fishing from Oatley Point.

He passed away on 31st March 1949.

George Henry Cecil Kendall

16-8-1899 to 11-11-66 Age 67

Mr. Kendall was born on the 16th August 1899 in England and returned to Australia with the family in 1902. .

After completing his education he applied himself to the Boot Trade, serving his Apprenticeship with George Wolf. He became a competent Journeyman Clicker and Patternmaker.

Mr. Kendall joined the Army in World War 1, and was on the sailing list for overseas duty when the war ended. In 1939 when World War 11 was declared he again volunteered but was rejected.

At age twenty one he opened his own shop in Newtown.

Mr. Kendall married Emma Jarvis at St. David's Church of England., Arncliffe on the 7th June 1924.

They had two children. George, born 2-7-1928 and Judith 6-11-33.

Judith is married to Garnet Stevenson They raised their four children in Jannali and have retired to Port Macquarie.

The newly married Kendall's on returning from their honeymoon moved into their new home at the then (92) Rosa Street Oatley now (108) where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Life Insurance began taking hold; Mr. Kendall could see a future in it and so began a lifetime of Insurance. He firstly gained experience with T & G. then when the opportunity arose to branch into Mercantile Insurance he joined South British. There he stayed until his retirement. By then he had signed up half of Oatley.



Emma & George Henry Cecil Kendall


Religion played a major part in Mr. Kendall's life. He showed total commitment to the Church of England (Anglican). At St. Paul's, Oatley, his local Church, he held the position of Minister Warden to the Reverend S.N. Patterson and was a member of the Anglican Synod.

He instigated the establishment of St. Aiden's Church of England in South Hurstville and was a major fundraiser for the new St. Paul's Church, replacing the old timber one. (Now Arndo Pre-School.)

Mr. Kendall was a member of the Oatley Masonic Lodge and was an instigator in establishing Lodge Ashlar, Oatley.

During World War 11, most men who were not Servicemen were involved with a War related effort. Mr. Kendall was no exception. The Oatley Service league was his passion. His chocolate wheel conducted every Friday evening on the vacant allotment where the Fruit Shop and Travel Agents are now situated in Frederick Street raised thousands of pounds. Who could resist his persuasive manner? After all, he was an Insurance Salesman.

The entrepreneur in him came to the fore shortly after World War 11, when he purchased two Hairdresser Salons in Penshurst.

To me his *  * (Em -an - I Production) called "What's doing in Oatley" and for another seven suburbs as far a field as Parramatta showed initiative. Advertising was well featured. It gave the Picture Theatre (Radio Oatley) programme, train and bus timetables and other bits of useful information. It ceased in 1949.

In 1950 Mr. Kendall and young George became partners in a Milk Bar at Carlton. Ill health of Mr. Kendall made them sell in 1956.

Two commodities the Kendall's possessed in the thirties and for a few years after World War 11 that not many people had and that were a telephone and a car. Mr. Kendall was generous in his use of both to others Imagine no telephone from their house in Rosa Street north of Herbert Street to the peninsular of Oatley Point, along Algernon and to the dead end of Letitia Streets. His car transported many an expectant mother to Nurse Stevens or Lepherd's.

To people who did not know him, they spoke of a talkative man keen to sell insurance, narrow minded in his religious and political views. Some of it may have been true, however, he was a man of firm convictions. He was not a bigot and was of the old school when a mate was a mate forever.

A footnote to another aspect of the man that only a few of us knew. I became involved soon after I received my drivers licence. Throughout the year, he would buy specials at the grocery shops and store them at Mr. Lawson's (Unkie) Post Office. Every year as a SURPRISE to Mrs. Kendall we would arrive just before Christmas with sometimes three or four boxes laden with everything imaginable. Mrs. Kendall always kept the pretext up of being surprised.

Mr. Kendall passed away on 11th November 1966 at the age of sixty seven.

And now to young George

George William Kendall.

I hope George will still be my friend at the end of his history.

George was born on the 2nd July 1928 at Arncliffe.

He was educated at Oatley Public School, attaining excellent marks before going to Sutherland High School.

Sadly for us during those educational years, he was taught, I won't say to play the violin. Whatever it was, the neighbourhood was pleased when it was put to rest.

A chance remark from a friend one day led to a lifelong friendship with the Fidden family. This person was the projectionist at the Oatley Radio Theatre and was about to leave. George convinced his father that was the direction he wished to make his career. We, the young folk attending the Saturday afternoon pictures wished he hadn't, whenever there was a breakdown. We didn't know that the film he received already had breaks in it or was old film about to break. It was fun calling names such as "Mug Kendall Boo" George was the Assistant Projectionist when he joined the Fidden family in 1944 and by the time he left in 1950 was Projectionist.

The partnership from 1950 until 1956 with Mr. Kendall in the Milk Bar at Carlton was mainly George being responsible for the day to day operations and Mr. Kendall relieving George to give him social time..

Every Sunday at 1.00pm we would hear the toot of the Taxi for Mr. Kendall to go to the shop. Yes on the Sabbath. What sacrifices one will make for your loved one!

George began his industrial career after selling the Milk Bar, firstly by gaining employment at Hume Engineering as a Stock Controller and then to Frigrite as a Stock Clerk and Purchasing Officer. He progressed onto Email before being with Commonwealth Industrial Gases (CIG) for twenty eight years. During that time he progressed from Senior Purchasing Officer to Administrative Officer in the Engineering Department working directly for the Engineering Manager.

Although he makes out not to really know when he was married, George was married to Valma Rosetta Ward, on the same date as his mother and father, the 7th June 1952 at St. Paul's Church of England, now Anglican Church, Oatley, by the Rev Patterson.



Val & George William Kendall

They have two children, Howard born in 1954 and Danielle in 1960

Danielle is married to Ian Sherer, they live in Wellard, near Perth, Western Australia.

By the time Howard was in Kindergarten, he was not coping and could not keep up with the other children. After years of frustration, Howard was eventually placed in the Woniara Road Hurstville School for Specific Purposes. The School catered for children having an IQ of fewer than eighty five. George became involved in the School, firstly joining the P&C and then becoming President. This he worked in conjunction with the Slow Learners Advancement Society (SLAS). Where he became President and held the position for nineteen years.

The aim of the Society was to further the education of the slow learner, to provide ongoing work experience through sheltered employment and to establish facilities to provide accommodation under supervised care of both the hostel and independent group living under supervised care of both the hostel and independent group living styles so necessary as the Slow Learner became older.

George kept these criteria uppermost in his years with the Society and was a prime instigator in obtaining new premises for the Society's sheltered workshop. The establishment of three hostels and two houses for mildly intellectually handicapped people.. Today the Society has accommodation for approximately fifty clients in independent housing cared for by in excess of fifty staff in Sydney residences.

Another initiative was to seek donations from leading companies to finance the sending of Workshop Trainees to a special Outward Bound course. This was a world first. One could go on.

George was honored for his forty four years of dedicated service to the Society in November 2004 with a Testimonial Luncheon. *June and I were privileged to attend it.*

George is proud of his garden and swimming pool. His collection of Cacti, Orchids & bromeliads keeps him busy in the outdoors. George is a keen reader and researcher of many aspects of World War 11. He has a marvelous library relating to the War, Restored Cars & Science Fiction. He has albums of interesting items of family history and other topics. Some trivia, yet interesting to view. George loves art, has been active in the production of live theatre in years gone by and photography. Not yet into the digital arena.

Photographs accumulated by our group are categorised by him and meticulously kept in an album.

From my concept of Oatley having celebrations for its 150th Anniversary in 1983, George was totally behind the idea and was to the fore in helping. He was responsible for organising the numerous letters to be typed. Gave advice, if needed or not, was a Committee member and again a friend to be relied on throughout the two years of preparatory work as well as my right hand man during the celebrations.

George's Community work has carried on being district coordinator for the Salvation Army annual collection for about three years and he assisted with the Mural in the bus shelter in Oatley Parade.

Today George's health is not as good as he would hope. Howard is approaching fifty and suffers from chronic arthritis. Val and George have to provide constant care for him.

Although George has not been shipwrecked or sold Insurance, his achievement of advancing the SLAS and living a good moral life and being a good husband and father. I'm sure would make his Grandfather and Father proud of him.



Val



Howard



*Slow
Advancement Society's
Luncheon*

*Learners
Testimonial*

*For
George.*

November 2004

*four years
of
the*

*In recognition of his forty
of dedicated service to
Society.*



*The President, Peter Lewis
& the Directors of SLAS Limited
cordially invite*

*Mr & Mrs George Kendall
&
Howard*

*To attend a Testimonial Luncheon
In recognition of the efforts of*

*Yourself
Mr. George Kendall*

*On
Wednesday 17th November 2004*

Past President and Board Member





*A pictorial look
At the
Kendall Families.*



William Henry Kendall standing at bow.

Taken on the 28th January 1887



William Henry in Regalia



*Sailing ship similar to one sailed
By William Henry.*

Painted by a family member.



George Henry Cecil. 19 years.



"What's Doing in Oatley" Trade Mark



George Henry Cecil's calling card.



*Ernest (Ernie) Lawson
George Henry Cecil
&
Rev. S. N. Patterson.*



*George Henry Cecil
Approx. 1950*



Emma & Georges, 108 Rosa Street Oatley



Emily & William's 127 Rosa Street,



George ,H. Cecil's 1938 Vauxhaul

*A picture says
a thousand words
about
The Kendall's*



*George. H. C. & George William
at the Carlton Milk Bar.*



*George, W., Emma, George, H., C., & Judith.
1954*



Emma & George, Henry, Cecil.

*Judith & Garnet Stevenson
2004.*

