

CHURCH CENTENARY

St. Luke's, Campbell Town

Interesting History

(By Our Travelling Correspondent.)

Celebrations are to be held at Campbell Town to mark the centenary of St. Luke's Church of England. The Bishop of Tasmania (the Right Rev. R. Snowdon Hay) will take part in the services at the church next Sunday, and the Governor (Sir Ernest Clark) will pay his first official visit to the district on Saturday, December 9, on the occasion of a grand sports carnival and fair in aid of the church fund.

The history of St. Luke's Church is almost as old as the township, for the first services of the English Church at Campbell Town were held in the old Police Court (since burnt down) in Bridge Street, early in December, 1833, whilst the township was founded by Governor Macquarie, of New South Wales, in 1821, during one of his visits, Tasmania then being a dependency of that State. The first baptism took place on December 11, 1833, that of Charles George Henry Care Clarke, son of George Care and Hannah Maria Clarke, of Ellenthorpe Hall, who was born on May 25, 1832, the Rev. William Bedford, jun., being the officiating minister. In all, there have been 2,370 baptisms in the church. The first recorded burial was that of John Paine, farmer, of Bendemere, on June 14, 1834.

In 1835 plans for the proposed church were prepared, and on October 20 of the same year the Lieut-Governor, Sir George Arthur, laid the foundation stone. Archdeacon Hutchins opened St. Luke's Church for service on January 20, 1839, and on June 11, 1850, the building was consecrated. On the blackwood notice-board in the porch, on the right as one enters the church, the following information appears over the list of rectors: "Erected into a Parish, 1833; foundation stone laid by Governor Arthur, 1835; restored, and new vestry, 1920." Besides the names of the rectors, those of the benefactors of the church also appear on the same board, and will be given later.

IMPOSING STRUCTURE.

St. Luke's Church is an imposing bright-red brick structure, with tiled roof, and is nicely situated amid pine and insigne trees at the north-eastern end of the township, on the east side of the Hobart-Launceston main road. Excepting that two bad cracks developed in the southern side of the building a few years ago (one at each end), the church is in a good state of preservation, and stands in the north-western corner of the cemetery, which contains many striking monuments, those outstanding being to the families of Leake, Foster, Jones, Towns, Palmer, Harrison, Crow, Curtis, Powell, Flanagan, Bush, and Valentine.

The monument shown in our illustration is that to the Valentine family, of whom William Valentine, surgeon, is worthy of special mention. He was born at Martock, Somerset, England, and died at Campbell Town in 1876, at the

age of 68 years. "Earnest in the faith of a Christian, a life of practical goodness was the result. With acquirements entitling him to a high position in the scientific world, he was content to pass nearly 40 years of his life in this district, where his unbounded charity and zealous work in the sanitary, moral, and intellectual interests of the place will long be remembered." So runs the inscription on the tombstone, which "friends, who knew him well, have erected . . . that his worth may be kept in remembrance." Captain H. Butler Stoncy (93rd Regiment), in "A Residence in Tasmania," published in 1856, said: "Returning to Campbell Town, one cannot fail to admire the elegant cottage of Dr. Valentine, built in the Elizabethan style. His upright character and steady perseverance in disinterested exertions for the welfare of his adopted country have gained for the worthy doctor a name far better than riches." He was one of the promoters of the Campbell Town Hospital, which was established in November, 1855.

The late Mr. John Leake is another whose great work is deserving of record here. Born at Ramsgate, he emigrated with a young family from Hamburg, where he had been a British resident for seven years, being a merchant by profession. He arrived in this colony

on May 5, 1823, and settled at Campbell Town, being very successful. He built, Rosedale, a beautiful villa in the Italian style, the gardens and grounds of which he laid out most effectively. He was a magistrate of the territory for upwards of 30 years, and for some time a member of the Legislative Council. One of the first who imported fine-wooled Saxon sheep from Germany, and a staunch supporter of St. Luke's Church, his death on January 6, 1865, at the age of 85 years, evoked expressions of genuine regret.

HONOUR ROLL.

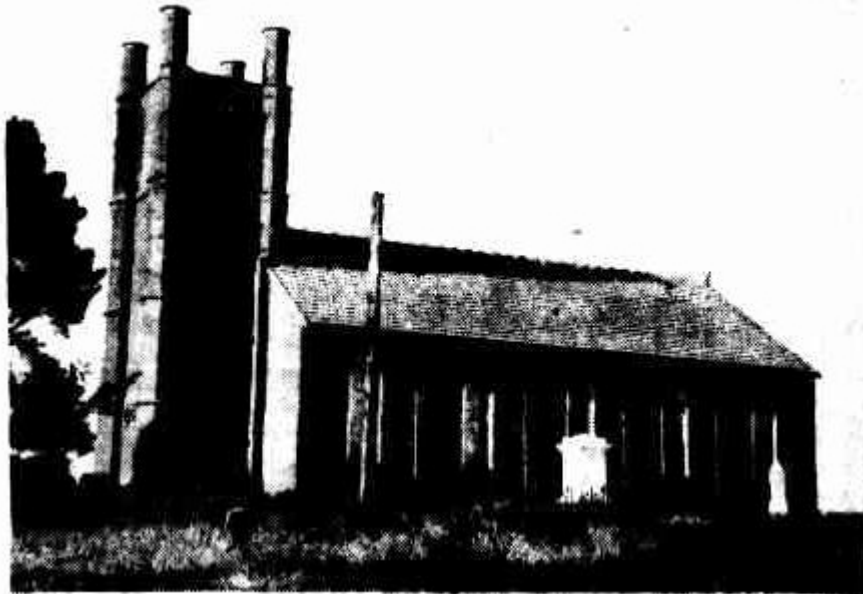
Just after passing through the entrance gate to the church, on the left, a marble monument, with granite base, stands to the memory of Private James William Victor Bush, 12th Battalion, who was killed in action in France on May 17, 1918, and of his comrades of St. Luke's, who fell in the Great War—Major John Foster, and Privates Luke Wilson, Ben Morris, Newton Lane, Lewis Rapley, Allan Whitney, Joseph Oakley, Albert Phillips, and Clarence Newton, with Signaller E. Richardson. Inside the church building there is a blackwood honour roll, "in honour of those who obeyed their country's call and safely returned to their homeland," while a Tasmanian oak honour board, inscribed "For God, King, and Country; greater love hath no man than this; the Heroic Dead," may be seen on the left wall after entering the building.

Other interior memorials include those to Herman Frederick George Woolrabe, D.A.C.G., Imperial Service, and Euphemia Jane Davidson, of Riccarton, his wife; Marian Valentine, died January 17, 1910; and Mary Anne Valentine, wife of Wm. Valentine, surgeon; John Leake, and Elizabeth, his wife; Mary Rosa Alice Hudspeth, wife of Wilfred Hugh Hudspeth, and daughter of Charles Henry Leake; Charles Henry Leake, "beloved and respected by all who knew him," and

Leake: Charles Henry Leake, "beloved and respected by all who knew him," and Clara Jane Leake, his wife, "for 50 years a worshipper in this church"; whilst stained-glass windows have been erected to the memory of Major John Askin Foster, of Merton Vale, 12th Battalion, A.I.F., who was killed in action in France whilst leading his men to victory on August 23, 1918; Rev. Thomas McDowell, rector of this parish; and Helen V. A. Bell "for her good works."

The beautiful decorative work on the inside walls was executed by the Rev. C. Vaughan, the whole of the interior fit-

ANGLICAN CHURCH CENTENARY AT CAMPBELL TOWN



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, the foundation stone of which was laid by Lieut.-Governor Arthur on October 20, 1835, and the building opened for service by Archdeacon Hutchins on January 20, 1839. Centenary celebrations concerning the work of the church in the district will be held on December 3 and 9.

W. J. Rowlands, photo.

tings being of true ecclesiastical design. The handsome English pipe organ was manufactured by J. W. Walker, London, in 1862.

Pathetic features surround the life of the Rev. Kenneth William Kirkland, a rector of St. Luke's, whose humble tombstone in the local cemetery discloses that he died on October 2, 1866, at the age of 27 years, two days after his only child, Susan Annie Kenneth, who died on September 30, 1866, at the age of five months. Another tombstone informs us that the Rev. G. M. Wilson, another rector, married Miss Caroline Harrison, of Merton Vale, daughter of Hezekiah and Caroline Harrison, who died on February 8, 1869, at the age of 28 years.

RECTORS OF ST. LUKE'S.

The list of rectors of St. Luke's is as follows: W. Bedford, 1833-54; W. Brickwood, 1854-60; R. O. Thorpe, 1861-62; K. W. Kirkland, 1865-66; G. M. Wilson,

wood, 1864-69; R. O. Thorpe, 1861-62; K. W. Kirkland, 1865-66; G. M. Wilson, 1867-69; B. Craig, D.D., 1869-75; C. Vaughan, 1875-88; T. McDowell, 1888-1903; E. Gordon, M.A., 1903-29; and W. J. Dodson, M.A., 1929. The church's benefactors comprise John and C. H. Leake, Clara Leake, G. and C. Gatenby, Caroline Harrison, T. B. and T. W. H. Clarke, R. Headlam, and Lieut.-Colonel Foster. The present churchwardens are Messrs. von Stieglitz, Lester Foster, and James Lockett.

St. Luke's School was erected in 1845, by "voluntary contributions," when, and up till 1860, primary education was under the jurisdiction of the Church of England, and subsidised by the Government, after which a Board of Education assumed control. This ancient brick structure is now used as a Sunday school, and stands in the church grounds, on the opposite side of the Main Road to Launceston to that of the Campbell Town Hospital.

There are many ancient and modern stone, brick, and wooden buildings in

There are many ancient and modern stone, brick, and wooden buildings in Campbell Town of considerable interest, and its fine old brick bridge over the Elizabeth River, erected in 1838, is another of the many local attractions awaiting visitors to the township during St. Luke's Church centenary celebrations.