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FROM A PAPER FROM MEMBER,  
P.W. BRAIN, BY G.H.CUMMING.

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GEORGE WILLIAM BRAIN, MLA., JP., FCA., FICA.  
(1893 - 1969)

George William Brain was born at Picton, New South Wales on 18 January 1893, the eldest of 9 children.

He attended public schools at Picton and Parramatta, leaving school at age 13. Two years earlier, he had begun delivering newspapers for 3 shillings a week but was docked one penny for each paper said not to have been delivered even though they were frequently stolen by passers-by.

In 1907, George, aged 14, moved with his parents to Scone to work on a dairy farm where, during a drought, the cows were fed on prickly pear, chaff, molasses and oil cake.

Three years later, George went to Mudgee where he worked on Burrundulla Station with 100 milking cows.

At age 20, George decided to try his luck in Sydney but was unable to get employment.

He eventually got a job delivering milk from a dairy at Mascot but, after all his possessions were stolen, he returned home to Mudgee.

He realised that to make progress, he had to become a tradesman or professional man and so he began a correspondence course in double-entry bookkeeping. His studies were done by the light of a slush lamp after he had completed a 4 am to 8 pm working day on the farm.

[A slush lamp was made from a stick wrapped in cloth, to serve as a wick, in a tin of fat].

As a result of his studies, he obtained a job with the *Western Post* at Mudgee.

In 1916, George Brain again came to Sydney and took a position with Starkey and Starkey, a firm of Public Accountants.

On 26 January 1918, George married Paula Agnes Merkle at North Sydney. Paula's father was Bro. Adolph F.E. Merkle, a member of Lodge Edinburgh St. John No. 38 at Mudgee.

The newly-weds lived in Penkival Street, Willoughby and, in 1920, moved into their new home in High Street, Willoughby where they raised their five children.

