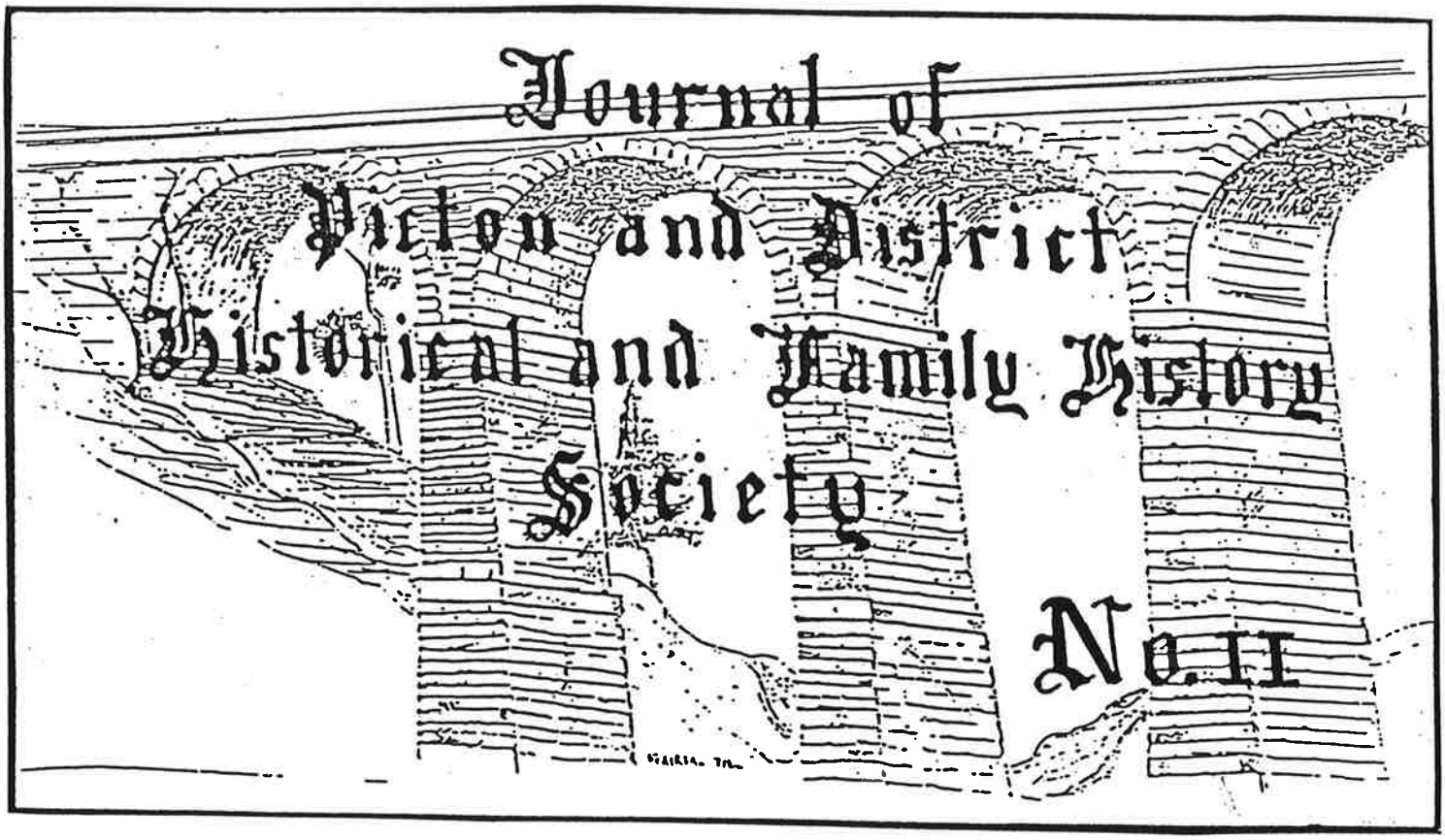
JUNE, 1988

VOLUME 2, NO. 2.

Price...$1.00



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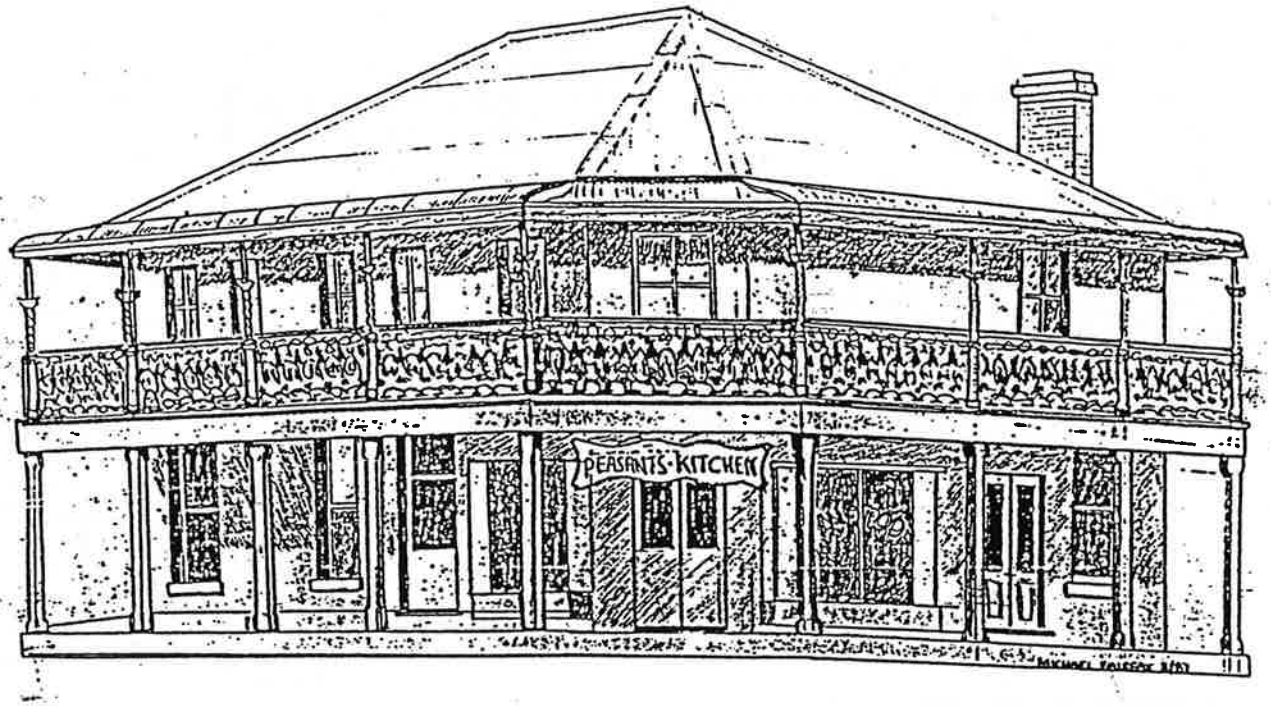
The Railway Hotel was situated on the corner of Oaks Road and Argyle Street, Picton, opposite the George Inn.
In the early days, the trains ran across the road up "Picton Hill" and went through the old tunnel.
As the railway station at Picton was a long way from the centre of the town, it was usual for Picton passengers to alight at the railway gates on Picton Hill and then walk down to the main part of town. The Railway Hotel, later named The Royal, was first licensed in the early 1860's and ceased operation as a hotel in 1913.



Part of the old hotel is now The Peasants Kitchen Restaurant.
Open 7 days a week - Monday to Saturday: 10:30 to 5:30
Sunday: 10:30 to 4:00
Phone: (046) 772294 - Open evenings to group bookings (minimum 15)

The Picton & District Historical & Family History Society meets at The Peasants Kitchen Restuarant on the second Monday of each month at 7.30 pm.

1988 COMMITTEE

President	Bob Wood	772210
Vice-President	Harry Hoare	771639
Treasurer	Barbara McClafferty	809306
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Special Projects Officer	Jack Pemberton	772276
Social Secretary	Grant McClafferty	809306
Journal Editor	Liz Vincent	771726

Area code 046

Official Correspondence should be addressed to Hon. Secretary P.O. Box 64, Picton N.S.W. 2571.
General Research Enquiries should be addressed to Research Officer P.O. Box 64, Picton N.S.W. 2571.
Family History Enquiries shhould be addressed to Family History Research Officer, P.O. Box 64 Picton N.S.W. 2571. These enquiries should be accompanied by a stamped self addressed envelope and fee of $5-00.
Journal Copy should be addressed to Editor P.O. Box 64 Picton N,S.W. 2571.
Deadlines for copy are the second Monday of the month preceding issue.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by the authors of articles published in this Journal.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well, it's my first reprt as President. I would like to thank the members of the Society for their confidence in electing me to the position.

Our first year was very successful, thanks to the great efforts from Marlane and her team; and the marvellous support of each and every member. I look forward to that same support from the members over the coming year.

Like Marlane, I see our major goal and first priority this year as finding premises for our Society to hold our meetings, use as a research centre, and to store our rapidly growing collection.

This year, with the election of a committee of twelve, and their power to form sub-committees, our jobs should be made easier with more member participation. Please don't be backward in coming forward if you are willing and/or able to help.

I hope to have further interesting speakers this year. If any member knows of someone, or has any suggestions, please let me or one of the executive know. As our "show and tell" at the April meeting was a raging success, I plan to make it a regular thing (members interest willing). Members brought along some of their favourite treasures to share with us all; and some wonderful bits and pieces turned up with some good stories attached.

The Wilton Colonial Day held on the 16th April was a success; $53-00 being raised for the Society. Although I didn't attend, it was reported by those members and their families who attended the corroboree staged by the local Tharawal Land Council on the evening of the 16th April, that an enjoyable and educational time was had by all.

Members and their families who went into the Macquarie Street Fair on 17th April on the Community Bus had a great day. There was a lot to see and do; and heaps of "Freebys" for both the big and little kids.

Well that's all for this issue; I look forward to a great year and thanks again for the support which I know all of you will give the committee and myself.

Bob.

DIARY DATES

June 19th	--	Visit from Parramatta Historical Society.
July 11th	--	Meeting - guest speakers - Greg & Leonie Knapman Authors of "Historic Joadja Creek 1870-1911".
July 8th 9th,10th	--	The Annual NSW State Convention of Family History Societies at Coffs Harbour (details page 17)
Aug. 9th	--	Meeting - guest speaker - Doreen Lyon from The Oaks Historical Society will speak on the newly opened Wollondilly Heritage Centre at The Oaks.
Sept. 12th	--	"Show & Tell" night. Bring along a favourite treasure.
Oct. 19th- 23rd	--	1st International Congress on Family History at The Sydney Convention Centre Darling Harbour.

EDUCATION IN THE PICTON DISTRICT -- PART 3.

CAWDOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

In 1858 application was made for the establishment of a non-vested school at CORDER. The application was successful and the school was opened on 1st June 1858. At the end of the year the number of pupils enrolled totalled 46 and average attendance was 33.

There is no record of a school operating in 1859 under the name of CORDER. However it appears that the spelling may have been changed as a non-vested school at CAWDOR is listed in the National Board's Report. This school was non-vested, had a total enrolment of 50 and average attendance of 33.

It appears that CAWDOR Public School may trace its history back to 1st June 1858 when a non-vested school was opened at CORDER.

A letter to school authorities dated 2nd October 1913 from W. Fenwick Teacher, Cawdor Public School headed "History of School Buildings Circular no 56" appears to be answering a series of questions asked of the Teacher.

It says:

(a) Year in which school opened. The present buildings were opened in the year 1888. Previous to these, school was carried on in the old Meth. church about 1½ mile from the present premises. It was then a Denom. school, and was opened in the year 1854.
(b) Enrolment at time of joining. In 1854, no records to be found, ... but old residents say 50 or 60.
(c) Name of Headmaster. Mr James Humphreys (1854).
(d) Present enrolment. 16 (11 boys, 5 girls).
(e) Name of present Headmaster. W. Fenwick.
(f) Area of School grounds. 2 acres.
(g) Photographs of buildings, grounds. none in posession.
(h) Any further information of interest. nil.

From information kindly supplied by N.S.W. Department of Education and reproduced with their permission. Liz Vincent.

NOTE: Camden Early Historian J.B. Martin in his research republished in "The Town of Camden" states in 1825 a census gives the Cawdor population as 428 and that the school opened in the early forties with Mr Humphreys teaching there for 25 years. Liz Vincent.

GRANT REGISTERS (OLD SYSTEM) - 1-1-1792 to 31-12-1862

The Grant Registers sometimes contain full hand written copies, sometimes typed or written extracts and sometimes partly printed and partly written copies of the original grants. Thus, some grants run to several pages while others, containing extracts only, may be typed six to a page. Grants often contain more than one parcel - one grant was noted as containing 28 parcels (Serial 198, first grant) and encompassed 14 pages. At least two grant registers have pages numbered from the back as well as from the fromt of the register.

The Grant Registers were originally grouped in various series such as "Land Purchases", "Town Purchases", "Special Grants" etc., and were allocated a letter or numeral in that series or referred to by the year of the grant e.g. 1861 Land Purchases. In the last case mentioned, the page number would carry on from register to register, the last grant of that year having a four figure number.

In 1896, a new serial number was allocated to each Grant Register, the new number being stamped under the prior allocated letter or number. In the process of re-binding over the years, some of the original markings have disappeared and, in at least one case, appear to have changed.

Fifteen indexes have been compiled to the grant registers. All indexes refer to the name of the grantee and the area of the land. Seven of them are typed in alphabetical order of surname and christian (or given) names, quote the current serial number of the register and, in all except one case, the page. The eight hand-written indexes are in alphabetical order as regards the initials of the surname only, do not quote the current serial number and in at least one index refer to the page of the grants registration in the Office of the Colonial Secretary, not the page number as presently bound.

Fortunately, searchers over the years have made notes in the indexes which help to solve these mysteries.

Even where the current serial and page number is shown in the index, the searcher's troubles are not over. Early grants rarely show portion numbers, often omit parish and/or county names and sometimes refer to a district the name of which has since been changed. It is common to find grants of land with the same area, in the same district, to the same person on the same date with vague land descriptions such as "commencing at a marked tree and bound on the east by the land promised to ....." (who may not have been the eventual grantee). It is often necessary to refer to County and Parish maps to resolve questions of doubt and in some cases to call for the "Lands Originals" (copies of the original portion plans) from the Crown Lands Office in Bridge Street.

Where there was more than one parcel of land included in a grant the index has been found to quote the combined area. Thus a numbered portion of 40 acres was to be part of a grant of four such portions of 10½ acres was found to be indexed as 100 acres being the area as originally granted but later corrected by notation on the grant.

Bob Wood -- Land Titles Office.

DISTRICT LANDHOLDERS

The following lists relating to Douglas Park, Wilton and Bargo, were compiled from information contained in the 1885 N.S.W. Parliamentary Votes & Proceedings. The information was collected at the express wish of a parliamentarian of the Land District of Picton which also included The Oaks, Burragorang, Camden, Elderslie, Werombie, parts of Narellan, Cobbitty and Mittagong as well as the immediate Picton district.

The list notes name of holding, post town of holding, name of occupier, acreage, horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. All told, there are approximately 600 entries for the Land District of Picton. The list for the post town of Picton will appear in the next issue.

WILTON LANDHOLDERS

Ackroyd	Hannah
Badham	J.D.
Best	James
Brashier	John
Burrows	Wm.
Eagles	Hy.
Eagles	John
Farrell	Patrick
Fishlock	Jas.
Graham	Wm.
Hewitt	Wm.
Highland	Thomas
Jeffrey & Byrnes	
Keele	Thomas
Manuel	John
Moore	Patrick
Oxenbridge	Chas.
Oxenbridge	Edwd.
Shiel	Frank
Shiel	Francis M.
Shiel	James M.
Spearing	Bnjm.
Tasker	John
Topham Angus & Co.	
Wonson	Charles
Wonson	Hy. Robert
Wonson	Joseph
Wonson	Thomas
Wonson	Wm.

BARGO LANDHOLDERS

Ashcroft	John
Blatch	Jas. Hy.
Campbell Mrs	Emma
Carter	Richard
Deitrich	Franz Carl
Fowler	Wm.
Fowler Miss	Catherine
Harding	Wm.
Horne	Wm.
Phillips	James
Sell	Geo. Wm.
Shiel	Jas. M.
Vock	Christian
Walsh	George
Walsh	Wm.
Wilkinson	John

DOUGLAS PARK LANDHOLDERS

Bennett	J. & E.
Cahill	Michael
Jenkins	Mary
Maher	Mary
McMullen	E.
McMullen	Ellen
Peel	Richard
Peel	Richard
Rockford	James
Starr	Jennings
Starr	Stephen

My thanks to Research Officer Marlane Fairfax for above.

For $2-00 plus stamped self-addressed envelope, full details of each entry for a particular surname in all of the districts will be supplied on application to: Family History Research Officer, Picton & District Historical & Family History Society, P.O. Box 64 Picton N.S.W. 2571.

IT WAS 75 YEARS AGO THAT A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE CAME TO PICTON

In February 1876, Alexander Graham Bell of Boston, USA filed his telephone patent. It was in the next year that a telephone exchange was opened in Boston, and this was followed in August 1879 with a public telephone exchange in London. Telephone Exchanges were opened in Melbourne and Brisbane during 1880, in Sydney in 1881, in Adelaide and Hobart in 1883, and in Perth in 1887. The first operational line between the Sydney Exchange and the Darling Harbour Wool Sheds was officially opened on 1 November 1880 and it proved to be financially advantageous. (1)

A similar situation occurred as did with the building of railways. The establishment of government instrumentalities quickly followed the construction of private telephone systems. These government organisations had a monopoly of business in the new means of communication. A private company installed the first telephone system in Melbourne in 1879-80 and it was understood that there would be no opposition for at least ten years. Despite this, the government purchased the Victorian Telephone Exchange Co. for the sum of £40,000 as a result of complaints about the company's fees and the inefficiency of their system. The government system was then attached to the Postal Department. Many parliamentarians opposed the proposal believing that private enterprise should be allowed to operate the system. Others thought that the new fangled instrument would do lawyers out of a good deal of business. (2)

Sydney and Melbourne were connected by telephone in 1907. Five years later the first automatic exchange in Australia was installed at Geelong in Victoria. (3)

Telephones were installed in Picton in 1918. Public telephones were not available in Tahmoor and Thirlmere until October 1920. These were located at the post offices.

Apart from being wary of the new fangled instrument this form of communication did have its drawbacks. The technique used required the person to shout into the mouthpiece. Telephone conversations were far from being private.

Little was written in the local newspapers of the new means of communication. The first reference to the telephone that I was able to locate is the following extract from the "Picton Post" 14 May 1913.

TELEPHONE CHARGES

Following are the altered charges for telephone conversations from Picton Post Office via the new Picton-The Oaks trunk line to the undermentioned stations.

	1st 3 minutes or portion thereof	Each additional 3 minutes or portion thereof
The Oaks	2d	2d
Nattai R.	3d	3d
Upper Burragorang	6d	5d
Yerranderie	8d	6d
Camden	3d	3d
Narellan	3d	3d
Cobbitty	3d	3d
Mt. Hunter	3d	3d

The next reference was in the "Picton Post" 17 September 1913.

For some time past efforts have been made by the Wollondilly Shire Council to induce the Chief Commissioner for Railways

to connect the Picton Railway Station with the Picton Telephone exchange.

The advantages of this connection were pointed out, but the Council were informed that "owing to the small number of subscribers on the Picton Exchange, the Chief Commissioner does not consider that the desired connection is warranted at the present time". When the Chief Commissioner was at The Oaks on the 5th instant, the matter was brought under his notice again and he stated that the rule was to connect the Railway Station when there were 20 subscribers and not before.

The following subscribers were listed in the official directory as being connected to the Picton Exchange.

SEPTEMBER 1913

5. Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. Picton
8. Curry P.J. Club Hotel Picton
6. Hinton H.O'R. Picton
3. Larkin W. Auctioneer
4. Parry Dr. L.D.
7. Pickard C.H. & Sons Storekeepers and Bakers
1. Waley F.G.

APRIL 1914

2. Railway Station Picton

AUGUST 1914

Balmoral 2 Railway Station Balmoral
2. Railway Station Picton
Balmoral 1 Rutherford G. Agent Balmoral

OCTOBER 1916

9. Prior A. Storekeeper, Railway & Menangle Street
6. Thornley Frederick, Chemist, Argyle Street
1. Waley, Mowbray Park

APRIL 1917

12. Town Hall, (J.J. Cleary, Town Clerk)

OCTOBER 1917

6. Uren, H.C.H. Chemist, Argyle Street

APRIL 1918

10. Graham, Alfred, Motor Garage, Menangle Street
11. Hill, Lancelot, Livery Stables, Menangle Street

OCTOBER 1918

14. Wicks, Glynn A. Argyle Street

APRIL 1919

13. McHugh, Father Rev., Presbytery
14. Dabbs, F.H.W. Dentist, Argyle Street
15. Newman, C.F. George Inn

OCTOBER 1919

1. Waley Red Cross Home
4. Anderson J., Thompson Drive
8. Bywater, Club Hotel
15. Levi Leyshon, George Inn Hotel
16. Kirkley A.H., Commercial Hotel

APRIL 1920

15. Elkington J., George Inn
18. Queen Victoria Sanatorium, Thirlmere

OCTOBER 1920

Public phones were now located at the Post Offices at Tahmoor & Thirlmere.
15. Jones E.A., George Inn Hotel
16. McNulty Jas., Commercial Hotel
17. Howitt M.A., Argyle Street
19. Humphreys K., Storekeeper
20. Hillside Private Hospital, Argyle Street
26. Hennessy Arthur, Plumber
27. Horaghan Thom., Draper, Argyle Street

APRIL 1921

3. Larkin W. Actnr., Argyle Street & Res. Elizabeth Street
15. Read C.L., George Inn
16. Smith G. Commercial Hotel
28. Walton T.E. Butcher
29. Storie J., Coachbuilder
30. Davies H.L. Butcher, Argyle Street
31. Parry J. & Sons, Motor Garage, Argyle Street

Although in the 1922 elections Labour won more seats than the Nationalists, the Country Party benefited. Control of key portfolios for the redress of country grievances provided the tangible evidence of the political effectiveness that a minority needed. Prior to the elections there had been complaints concerning the shortage of telephones. After the elections telephones were more readily available to country subscribers. (4) However between 1930 and 1939, because of the depression, there were 30,000 fewer telephone subscribers. (5) Expenditure on public facilities such as telegraphs and telephone installations and electricity undertakings, ran at levels well below those of the 1920's.

REFERENCES

(1) Frank Crowley, Colonial Australia, vol. 3, West Melbourne, Nelson 1980, pp 106-107.
(2) ibid., pp 240-241.
(3) Frank Crowley (Editor), A New History of Australia, William Heinemann Melbourne, 1974, p. 301.
(4) ibid., p. 379
(5) ibid., p. 419
(6) ibid., p. 434

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CROWLEY F., Colonial Australia, Vol 3, West Melbourne Nelson 1980
CROWLEY F., (Editor), A New History of Australia, William Heinemann Melbourne 1974.

NEWSPAPERS Picton Post: 14 May 1913, 17 September 1913

DIRECTORIES NSW Telephone Directory: Sept. 1913, April 1914, Aug. 1914, Oct. 1916, April 1917, Oct. 1917, April 1918, Oct. 1918, April 1919, Oct. 1919, April 1920, Oct. 1920, April 1921.

Jan Ross.

RESEARCH AUSTRALIA POST

Mr Cremer, Historical Officer at Australia Post has sent me the Following information guide, prepared by him for historians. This information may not be reproduced without the permission of Mr Cremer.

POSTAL HISTORY -- REFERENCE SOURCES AVAILABLE

Post Office Files for most offices in NSW and the A.C.T. are held by the Australian Archives, P.O. Box C328 Clarence Street NSW 2000. The oldest files date back to the late 1850s and are held under accession SP32. These files mainly cover the period c. 1860 - 1960. Files 1915 - 1920 are under different accession numbers. Access to these files are at the discretion of the Australian Archives who have no connection with the NSW Archives in the Rocks area. Some recent material, within the last 25-30 years is restricted.

Staff Records are held for permanent employees of most designations but very little information is available on staff in non-official offices or mail contractors. Permanent staff in the NSW Post Offices before 1900 are generally listed in the NSW Blue Books, copies of which are held in the State Library in Sydney. Permanent staff after 1901 are listed in Commonwealth Public Service staff lists, copies of which are held in the Australian Archives.

Tracing Ancestors is not a function of the Australia Post NSW Historical Section and enquiries should be directed to the Society of Australian Genealogists, 120 Kent St., Sydney 2000. N.B. Postal Directories are also held by the State Library as well as SAG.

Telecom maintains its own Historical Section which can be contacted at GPO Box 5333 Sydney NSW 2001. Australia Post does not undertake research into telephone or telegraph history, and the original copies of early telephone directories are now held in the Australian Archives Sydney.

Visitors to Australia Post's Historical Section are permitted to do their own research where records are readily available. An appointment must be made in advance.

Permission to reproduce any document from an Archives file should be sought from the Australia Post Historical Section.

NOTE Mr Cremer is not employed to answer family history enquiries. However for the usual research fee, (hourly) Mr Cremer will research in his own time as a freelance. Contact him at GPO Box 7001 Sydney NSW 2001.

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ENQUIRY

Any information re James CONNORS, m. to Joanna WELCH/WALSH arr. on "Aliquis" 16/3/1839. Ellen (9/10) Patrick (7) John (4/5) Margaret (2/3). Contact: Mrs Valarie Thompson P.O. Box 90 Neutral Bay 2019 02-9698717.

"MONTEAGLE" IMMIGRANTS

A meeting is planned of all descendants of those from Limerick who arr. on the "Aliquis" 1839 (or those who followed later) for next October. Contact: Mrs Valarie Thompson P.O. Box 90 Neutral Bay 2089 02-9698717..

BRIDGE AT MALDON WANTED -- PICTON POST & ADVOCATE 30/8/1899

In a leading article in the "Post & Advocate" a fortnight ago we referred to the inconvenience and loss sustained by the people of Wilton owing to the want of a bridge over the river at Maldon, but it would appear as if Pictonites sometimes have very unpleasant experiences from this same cause. About a fortnight ago Mr Cuttriss made his usual trip to Wilton the river being low enough to cross with his horse and cart. Rain fell while he was doing his business at Wilton, and when he returned to the stream he found that it had risen during the day and was too dangerous to cross.

He was obliged to leave his horse, cart and goods at Wilton, cross the river in a boat and walk to Picton, not a pleasant tramp in the then state of the roads and continuous rain. But his troubles were only beginning. Day after day he waited patiently for the weather to clear and the river to go down so that he could get his goods home, but the weather changed not, and the river had an upward rather than a downward tendency.

After his turnout had been at Wilton for over a week and there was no probability of the climatic conditions changing this side of Christmas, Mr Cuttriss decided to get his goods home at all hazards. To attempt to cross the river was madness, so he had to return home via Campbelltown and Camden, a journey that occupied two days, and necessitated his travelling 36 miles. Mr Cuttriss is more than ever convinced of the necessity of a bridge at Maldon.
(My thanks to Pat Shephard for this gem -- Ed.)

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HISTORICAL MALDON SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Constucted in 1903 by Department of Works staff, the Suspension Bridge was designed by Mr E.M. de Burgh, the Engineer responsible for many NSW bridges. It was a unique concept of construction in its time, being a stiffened suspension structure with the main cables, after leaving the towers, carried upwards to an anchorage in the sandstone cliff above the bridge instead of downwards as is usually the case. It was originally designed to support a 16 tonne traction engine.

Taking 11 months and £8,000 to build, the bridge was of largely timber construction in its original form. It was officially opened by the Minister of Works Mr E.W. O'Sullivan on Thursday 12th March 1903 in the company of a festive crowd of local residents.

The site of the Maldon Suspension Bridge was originally known as "Harvey's Crossing" where the road connecting Wilton with the Great Southern Railway traversed the Nepean River at a stone causeway. Due to the deep nature of the river gorge at this location the approaches were steep and difficult and the crossing was constantly being damaged by floods causing delays to traffic and heavy expenditure in maintenance.

The remains of the original road cuttings can be seen below and to the west of the bridge and the old causeway is some 100 metres up stream from the bridge site.

On 14th January 1939, a fire driven along the ravine by strong winds extensively damaged the original bridge. The Maldon end tower was destroyed and the other extensively damaged. Steel towers were used in the reconstructured bridge.

From the Historical Maldon Suspension Bridge Information Leaflet written by Mr Greg. White and produced by the Maldon Suspension Bridge Trust and reproduced in part with the kind permission of the Trust. Detailed information may be obtained from Wollondilly Shire Council.

100 YEARS AGO -- FROM THE PICTON ARGUS of 1888

Dr Egbert Florance, late of Cooma has commenced practice in Picton and may be consulted at his residence, Mr Webster's cottage Argyle St.

Tenders are called by the School Inspector Campbelltown for pulling down and re-erecting a brick chimney at Myrtle Creek Public School.

Public notice: D. Rigelsford, Fruiterer & Co. opposite the Railway Station Picton is selling Botanical lager beer and dandelion ale at 4d per bottle or 3/- per dozen. These drinks are not only invigorating non-intoxicating refreshing and appetising but a splendid assistance to the liver and kidneys. Best biscuits 7½d. per lb., lollies 8½d., fresh fish every Thursday by the mid-day train.

Sergt. Sykes passed through Picton looking as fresh as a two year old.

"Unemployed" men are being sent to Burragorang and are earning 6/6 to 7/- per day. Some left as the money was not enough.

James Dietrich is recovering froma badly crushed foot.

A Magic Lantern entertainment was given at the Church of England schoolroom Thursday evening last. Views shown by Rev. R. Noakes B.A. Songs were rendered by Mrs J. McQuiggan, Messrs. Kearney and Edwards.

The strongest winds for many years blew from Tuesday to Friday. Part of the roof of Mr Dent's house in Smith Street carried away. He is next to the Masonic Hall where last the northern end of which was blown out.

Notice of application for a publican's licence: I Alfred John Skellet of Menangle Street do hereby give notice that I desire to obtain and will at the next licensing court apply for a certificate authorising the issue of a publican's licence for premises situated in Menangle Street with Picton licensing court and to be known by the sign of the "Club Hotel" containing 10 rooms exclusive of those required for the use of the family. 5th June 1888.

Alfred Micheal butcher of Picton has opened a branch shop Thirlmere.

Mr G.M. Webster is manager of the Commercial Bank Picton.

GRANNY BLATTMAN -- Editor's note

Mr Owen Blattman, a man born and bred in the Burragorang Valley was the Society's guest speaker at the March meeting. His memories of a period and a place now gone were extremely interesting. After the meeting, I was fortunate to have a few minutes of his time and I asked him for his grandmother's story which he had written and submitted to "200 Untold Stories". He was kind enough to send me the following for publication in this issue. As a product of a "softer era", of babies born in hospitals with a doctor, our female forbears and their incredible fortitude in their times of childbirth and family illness without benefit of M.D.s have my utmost admiration.

GRANNY BLATTMAN

My grandmother, Catherine Blattman, born in Adolforth, Germany in 1822 arrived in Australia on the good ship "Helene" together with her husband Michael who was born in Germany on the river Rhine. They arrived at Port Jackson to assist with the wine growing industry at Camden Park, having been selected for this purpose by William Macarthur.

After a period of four years at Camden Park, they moved to the property of John Wild, a magistrate of The Oaks near Camden where they followed the same industry for another four years when they moved to the Burragorang Valley and selected some 40 acres on the banks of Lacey's Creek, a semi-permanent stream flowing into the Wollondilly river, now the Burragorang Lake.

Granny Blattman as she now became known, was to become the "local doctor". She left no records and it is not known how she obtained these skills. She was on call to rich and poor, and the only way not to get her services was to offer payment. Despite the fact that after settling in Burragorang, her husband died leaving her with 8 offspring, the youngest, my father Peter aged 10 years, the number of broken limbs and various complaints she attended were numerous.

Her masterpiece, however was delivering her nextdoor neighbour's twin sons, kept alive for weeks under her supervision with the assistance of her female neighbours and friends in home made "humicribs" fashioned from wooden boxes lined with calico bags containing coarse salt from the butcher and heated in the woodburning stove. The twins survived to make two typical 6ft. 12 stone Australians, one still surviving aged 86 years. He enlisted in the first world war giving his age above the legal age. He still lives locally and capable of doing a fair days work.

Granny Blattman swam the Cox's river, one of Australia's fastest flowing rivers during flood riding side saddle. In her saddle she carried her "tools of trade" which she kept day by day. They were a length of string, which was sterilised and a pair of scissors to cut and tie the umbilical cord. Two specially trained horses were always kept in the stables for any emergency. My father always accompanied his mother. If called out at night he would cover his shoulders with a white linen tablecloth to lead his mother across the river.

Owen Blattman.

FAMILY HISTORY ENQUIRIES

Our Society has been going for just over 12 months and in that time we have received a number of letters rquesting information from people whose ancestors once lived in the Picton district.

Understandably, our resources for answering these letters were fairly limited at first. However, I believe we can now say with confidence that this is no longer the case and that the number of records available for checking is growing with each passing month.

When a family history enquiry is received the following are checked:

(1) Cemetery Transcripts :- Upper Picton, St Mark's Anglican Church Picton, Redbank Uniting Church, Thirlmere, (Bargo plus others to come).

(2) List of names from tombstones in St Luke's Church Wilton (east Bargo) and list of burials from St Mark the Evangalist Anglican Appin.

(3) Index of names from monuments, memorials and inscriptions in the Wollondilly Shire.

(4) Parish maps for names of early land holders.

(5) Published histories and articles on Picton and the surrounding villages e.g. "Picton Past and Present", "Early Days of Picton", "Histories of Tahmoor, Bargo, Wilton, School Histories of Appin and Douglas Park.

We also have access to a number of local newspapers (1880 +). However these still rquire indexing. Nethertheless, if rquested, specific dates can be checked e.g. if an exact date of death is known, then a check can be made to see if there was a death notice or an obituary.

The Society charges a fee of $5-00 for each enquiry and a stamped self addressed envelope should be enclosed. Address all family history enquiries to: Family History Research Officer
Picton & District Historical & Family History Soc.
P.O. Box 64, Picton NSW 2571.

Pat Shephard -- Family History Research Officer.

FAMILY HISTORY ENQUIRY

McGEE/RYAN - According to the 1828 census, Johanna McGEE, a widow, arrived as a convict in 1818 on the "Maria". She had 3 daughters, Mary, Johanna and Julia and resided in the Cowpasture district of Appin. Mary McGEE m. Michael RYAN. Their daughter Johanna b. 19/11/44 m. George BELL at Baan Baa near Boggabri. If you have any information on the above please contact Mrs A. Bell, P.O. Box 457, Moree NSW 2400.

MEMBERS INTEREST

BRYANT/BRIANT/BRIAN/BRIEN Ambrose. Convict arr. NSW 1811 m. Ann LANTAFF in 1816. Issue: Charles, John, Harriett, Mary Ann. Last record of Ambrose in P.O. Directory of 1834 at Bong Bong. Can't find record of his death. Any information please contact:
Mrs M. Fairfax, 45 Market Street, Tahmoor NSW 2573.

HALLIFAX -- Any reference to this fairly unusual surname would be appreciated -- anywhere, anytime. Contact:
Mrs E. Vincent, P.O. Box 111, Picton NSW 2571.

FINDING THE DAY OF THE WEEK

If you know the exact date of the birth of your great-great-grandmother would you like to know what day of the week she was born on?

Say it was 29 April 1770

1. Take the last two digits of the year she was born — 70

2. Add a quarter of this number and neglect any remainder — 17

3. Add the date of the month — 29

4. Add according to the month

January	1 (or in leap year 0)		
February	4 (or in leap year 3)		
March	4		
April	0		
May	2	September	6
June	5	October	1
July	0	November	4
August	3	December	6

— 0

5. Add for 18th century 4
19th 2
20th 0

— 4

6. Divide the total by 7 — 7)120

add the remainder — 17+1

gives the day of the week your great-great-grandmother was born as follows:

1 = Sunday	5 = Thursday
2 = Monday	6 = Friday
3 = Tuesday	0 = Saturday
4 = Wednesday	

Thus, your great-great-grandmother was born on Sunday 29 April 1770, the same day Captain Cook arrived at Botany Bay, Sydney.

(Reproduced with permission from The Scots Link P.O. Box 135, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205).

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MEMBERS INTEREST

EVANS Edmond and Betsey nee KNIFE m. 1870 Chalford Glouc. immig. 1875 settled Paddington, Sydney. Issue: Ernest, Eliza, Emily, Edwin, Ersey, Edith, Estrella, Ettie and Edward.

TRUSSEL John Jnr. b. 1839 Lambeth London immig. 1857 to NSW to join half-brother George JONES, settled Maryborough Qld. m. Annie DAVID.

STRACHAN Mary Mitchell m. 1st William WILLIAMS immig. & w. 1860 then m. 2nd Henry PALMER Melbourne 1862, known issue William S. WILLIAMS, Harry, Mary Isabella and Elizabeth PALMER. d. 1905 Sydney.

CATESBY/KATESBY Mary, convict arr. 1801 m. 1st John JOHNSON, 1 d'ter Mary, m. 2nd Thomas BATES. D'ter Mary m. 1st John THOMPSON & 2nd George Augustus Frederick LENTZ; lived Parramatta, Bathurst and Sydney.

CONTACT: Mrs E. Vincent P.O. Box 111 Picton NSW 2571.

THE ANNUAL N.S.W. CONVENTION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

will be held at Coffs Harbour on the 8th, 9th & 10th July 1988.

8th - Pre registration at Coffs Harbour City Library. Coffs Harbour Group's resources will be available for your benefit.

9th - Registration for those unable to attend on Friday night. The convention will start at 9 a.m. Four excellent speakers have been arranged including Nick Vine Hall.
Topics include: 1841 & 1851 English census, Computers, Irish research, Aust. War Memorial & Aust. Joint Copying Project.

10th - The Annual General Meeting of the N.S.W. Association of Family History Societies.

For further information and registration form please contact:
C.H.D.F.H.S. P.O. Box J42, Coffs Harbour Jetty. 2450.

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COPYRIGHT AND HISTORIANS

The Royal Australian Historical Society Technical Information Service has published a paper by Michael Spence of the Australian Copyright Council. This 16 page booklet briefly outlines the law of copyright and answers the most common questions asked by historians.
It covers: types of material copyright protects, ownership of copyright, the rights of owners, duration of copyright, infringement, historical research, fair dealing and assignments & licences.
For your own protection the Australian Copyright Council advise that if you intend to publish, that you contact them for free legal advice on 02-9572941 or write to them at 22 Alfred Street Milsons Pt. 2061.

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N.S.W. ARCHIVES CONTACT REGISTER

The N.S.W. Archives Office at Kingswood has begun a Contact Register for Family Historians. Enquirers can now fill in cards available at the Reference Desk stating person being researched. The cards filed alphabetically can be searched by anyone and if another researcher finds they are researching the same name, the Archives staff will then provide the person with the original researcher's name and address. It is hoped by sharing research in this way, people will not be constantly treading the same path without meeting.

****

NEW MEMBERS -- welcome to -

Mr Alan Napier	"Jarvisfield", Quandialla 2721
Beverley Whitehead	14 Webster Street Picton
Mrs Edna Townsend	124 Queens Rd. Connels Pt. 221
G. Hanger	
B. Morris	
Lyndel McCorkel	Thirlmere Way, Picton.

****

MEMBERS INTEREST DIRECTORY

The closing date for entries for the Members Interest Directory has been put back to 30th September. Please forward your entries as soon as possible, leave either with a Committee member at a meeting or post directly to "Members Interest Directory", Picton & District H. &.F. H.S. P.O. Box 64, Picton NSW 2571. For full details of proposed directory please see March issue.

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BURRAGORANG VALLEY PIONEER REGISTER

Society member Val. Malcolm is compiling a register of families who have resided in the Burragorang Valley. When completed, this register will be included in the Society's collection and will be a valuable resource for family historians. If you can assist with names and dates of families who lived for any period of time in the areas surrounding the Cox's, Warragamba, Wollondilly and Nattai Rivers and also Yerranderie, their occupations and any other relevant information, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact: Val Malcolm, Rockbarton Road, Picton NSW 2571. Phone 046-809358.

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PICTON PARISH REGISTERS

The parish registers of St Marks Anglican Church Picton (covers The Oaks, Wilton etc.) are now on film and copies are held at The Society of Australian Genealogists. Reels are numbered 0195 - 0196.

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PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

11th March, 1987 to 14th March, 1988

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Insurance	$ 220-00	Subscriptions/Joining fees	$ 713-00
Affiliation fees	111-00	Donations	606-00
Postages	51-93	Raffles	245-95
John Kooyman	387-00	Magazine Sales	47-50
Stationery	283-94	Post card sales	94-65
Subscriptions	27-00	Note Book sales	28-00
Spring Ball	1,511-00	Spring Ball	2,134-25
Registration Of Publication	40-00	Transcripts	25-00
Patterns	24-00	Bicentenary weekend	364 -00
Christmas Party	94-00	Guided Tours	25-00
Post cards	216-00	Bank Interest	8-88
Costumes	55-80		
Site Printouts	25-00		
State & Federal Taxes	4-44		
Stamp Duty (cheque books)	5-00		
Legal Deposit	8-55		
	$3,064-66		$4,293-21

BANK RECONCILLIATION

Balance as per Bank Statement		$1,495-05
Less Unpresented cheques	$ 25-00	
	241-50	266-50
Balance as at 14/3/1988		$1,228-55

Total Income	$4,293-21
Total Expenditure	3,064-66
Balance as at 14/3/1988	$1,228-55

Audited by L.J. Moon 14/3/1988.

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Picton. NSW 2571.

POSTAGE
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AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well, it's my first report as President. I would like to thank the members of the Society for their confidence in electing me to the position.

Our first year was very successful, thanks to the great efforts from Marlane and her team; and the marvellous support of each and every member. I look forward to that same support from the members over the coming year.

Like Marlane, I see our major goal and first priority this year as finding premises for our Society to hold our meetings, use as a research centre, and to store our rapidly growing collection.

This year, with the election of a committee of twelve, and their power to form sub-committees, our jobs should be made easier with more member participation. Please don't be backward in coming forward if you are willing and/or able to help.

I hope to have further interesting speakers this year. If any member knows of someone, or has any suggestions, please let me or one of the executive know. As our "show and tell" at the April meeting was a raging success, I plan to make it a regular thing (members interest willing). Members brought along some of their favourite treasures to share with us all; and some wonderful bits and pieces turned up with some good stories attached.

The Wilton Colonial Day held on the 16th April was a success; $53 being raised for the Society. Although I didn't attend, it was reported by those members and their families who attended the corroboree staged by the Local Tharawal Land Council on the evening of the 16th April, that an enjoyable and educational time was had by all.

Members and their families who went into the Macquarie Street Fair on 17th April on the Community Bus had a great day. There was a lot to see and do; and heaps of "freebys" for both the big and little kids.

Well thats all for this issue; I look forward to a great year and thanks again for the support which I know all of you will give the committee and myself.

BOB.

IT WAS 75 YEARS AGO THAT A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE CAME TO PICTON .....

In February 1876, Alexander Graham Bell of Boston, U.S.A. filed his telephone patent. It was in the next year that a telephone exchange was opened in Boston, and this was followed in August 1879 with a public telephone exchange in London. Telephone exchanges were opened in Melbourne and Brisbane during 1880, in Sydney in 1881, in Adelaide and Hobart in 1883, and in Perth in 1887. The first operational line between the Sydney Exchange and the Darling Harbour Wool Sheds was officially opened on 1 November 1880 and it proved to be financially advantageous.(1)

A similar situation occurred as did with the building of railways. The establishment of government instrumentalities quickly followed the construction of private telephone systems. These government organisations had a monopoly of business in the new means of communication. A private company installed the first telephone system in Melbourne in 1879-80 and it was understood that there would be no opposition for at least ten years. Despite this, the government purchased the Victorian Telephone Exchange Co. for the sum of £40,000 as a result of complaints about the company's fees and the inefficiency of their system. The government system was then attached to the Postal Department. Many parliamentarians opposed the proposal, believing that private enterprise should be allowed to operate the system. Others thought that the new-fangled instrument would do lawyers out of a good deal of business. (2).

Sydney and Melbourne were connected by telephone in 1907. Five years later the first automatic telephone exchange in Australia was installed at Geelong in Victoria. (3).

Telephones were installed in Picton in 1913. Public telephones were not available in Tahmoor and Thirlmere until October 1920. These were located at the post offices.

Apart from being wary of the new-fangled instrument this form of communication did have its drawbacks. The technique used required the person to shout into the mouth piece. Telephone conversations were far from being private.

Little was written in the local newspapers of the new means of communication. The first reference to the telephone that I was able to locate is the following extract from the 'Picton Post, 14 May 1913'.

IT WAS 75 YEARS AGO THAT A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE CAME TO

Tiverton .....

In February 1876, Alexander Graham Bell of Boston, U.S.A. filed his telephone patent. It was in the next year that a telephone exchange was opened in Boston, and this was followed in August 1879 with a public telephone exchange in London. Telephone exchanges were opened in Melbourne and Brisbane during 1880, in Sydney in 1881, in Adelaide and Hobart in 1882, and in Perth in 1887. The first operational line between the Sydney Exchange and the Darling Harbour Wool Sheds was officially opened on 1 November 1880 and it proved to be financially advantageous.(1)

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TELEPHONE CHARGES

Following are the altered charges for telephone conversations from Picton Post Office via the new Picton-The Oaks trunk line to the undermentioned stations.

	1st 3 minutes or portion thereof	*Each additional 3 minutes or portion thereof*
The Oaks	*2d*	*2d*
Nattai R.	*3d*	*3d*
Upper Burragorang	*6d*	*5d*
Yerranderie	*8d*	*6d*
Camden	*3d*	*3d*
Narellan	*3d*	*3d*
Cobbity	*3d*	*3d*
Mt Hunter	*3d*	*3d*

The next reference was in the 'Picton Post, 17 September 1913'.

For some time past efforts have been made by the Wollondilly Shire Council to induce the Chief Commissioner for Railways to connect the Picton Railway Station with the Picton telephone exchange.

The advantages of this connection were pointed out, but the Council were informed that 'owing to the small number of subscribers on the Picton Exchange, the Chief Commissioner does not consider that the desired connection is warranted at the present time'. When the Chief Commissioner was at The Oaks on the 5th instant, the matter was brought under his notice again and he stated that the rule was to connect the Railway Station when there were 20 subscribers and not before.

The following subscribers were listed in the official directory as being connected to the Picton Exchange.

SEPTEMBER 1913.

5. Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. Picton.
8. Curry, P.J. 'Club Hotel', Picton.
6. Hinton, H.O'R., Picton.
3. Larkin, W., Auctioneer.
4. Parry, Dr L.D.
7. Pickard, C.H. & Sons, Storekeepers and Bakers.
1. Waley, F.G.

APRIL 1914.

2. Railway Station. Picton.

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APRIL 1914.

2. Railway Station. Picton.

AUGUST 1914.

Balmoral 2 Railway Station, Balmoral.
2. Railway Station, Picton.
Balmoral 1 Rutherford, G., Agent, Balmoral.

OCTOBER 1916.

9. Prior, A. Storekeeper, Railway & Menangle Street.
6. Thornley, Frederick, Chemist, Argyle Street.
1. Waley, Mowbray Park.

APRIL 1917.

12. Town Hall, (J.J. Cleary, Town Clerk).

OCTOBER 1917.

6. Uren, H.C.H. Chemist, Argyle Street.

APRIL 1918.

10. Graham, Alfred. Motor Garage, Menangle Street.
11. Hill, Lancelot. Livery Stables, Menangle Street.

OCTOBER 1918.

14. Wicks, Glynn A. Argyle Street.

APRIL 1919.

13. McHugh, Father Rev., Presbytery.
14. Dabbs, F.H.W., Dentist, Argyle Street.
15. Newman, C.F. George Inn.

OCTOBER 1919.

1. Waley Red Cross Home.
4. Anderson, J. Thompson Drive.
8. Bywater, 'Club Hotel'.
15. Levi, Leyshon. 'George Inn Hotel'.
16. Kirkley, A.H. Commercial Hotel.

APRIL 1920.

15. Elkington, J. George Inn.
18. Queen Victoria Sanatorium, Thirlmere.

AUGUST 1914.

Balmoral 2 Railway Station, Balmoral.
2. Railway Station, Picton.
Balmoral 1 Rutherford, G., Agent, Balmoral.

OCTOBER 1915.

9. Picton, A. Storekeeper, Railway & Monanglo Street.
6. Thornley, Frederick. Chemist, Argyle Street.
1. Waley, Newbury Park.

APRIL 1917.

12. Town Hall, (J.J. Cleary, Town Clerk).

OCTOBER 1917.

5. Uren, H.C.H. Chemist, Argyle Street.

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OCTOBER 1920.

Public phones were now located at the Post Offices at Tahmoor and Thirlmere.

15. Jones, E.A. George Inn Hotel.
16. McNulty, Jas. Commercial Hotel.
17. Hewitt, M.A. Argyle Street.
19. Humphreys, K. Storekeeper.
20. Hillside Private Hospital, Argyle Street.
26. Hennessy, Arthur. Plumber.
27. Moraghan, Thom. Draper, Argyle Street.

APRIL 1921.

3. Larkin, W. Actnr. Argyle Street & Res. Elizabeth Street.
15. Read, C.L. George Inn.
16. Smith, G. Commercial Hotel.
28. Walton, T.E. Butcher.
29. Storie, J. Coachbuilder.
30. Davies, H.L. Butcher, Argyle Street.
31. Parry, J. & Sons. Motor Garage, Argyle Street.

Although in the 1922 elections Labour won more seats than the Nationalists, the Country party benefited. Control of key portfolios for the redress of country grievances provided the tangible evidence of the political effectiveness that a minority needed. Prior to the elections there had been complaints concerning the shortage of telephones. After the elections telephones were more readily available to country subscribers. (4). However between 1930 and 1939, because of the depression, there were 30,000 fewer telephone subscribers. (5). Expenditure on public facilities such as telegraphs and telephone installations and electricity undertakings, ran at levels well below those of the 1920's. (6).

References:

(1). Frank Crowley, Colonial Australia, Vol 3, West Melbourne, Nelson, 1980, pp.106-107.
(2). ibid., pp.240-241.
(3). Frank Crowley (Editor), A New History of Australia, William Heinemann Melbourne, 1974, p.301.
(4). ibid., p.379.
(5). ibid., p.419.
(6). ibid., p.434.

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Picton Post, 17 September 1913.

Directories:

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