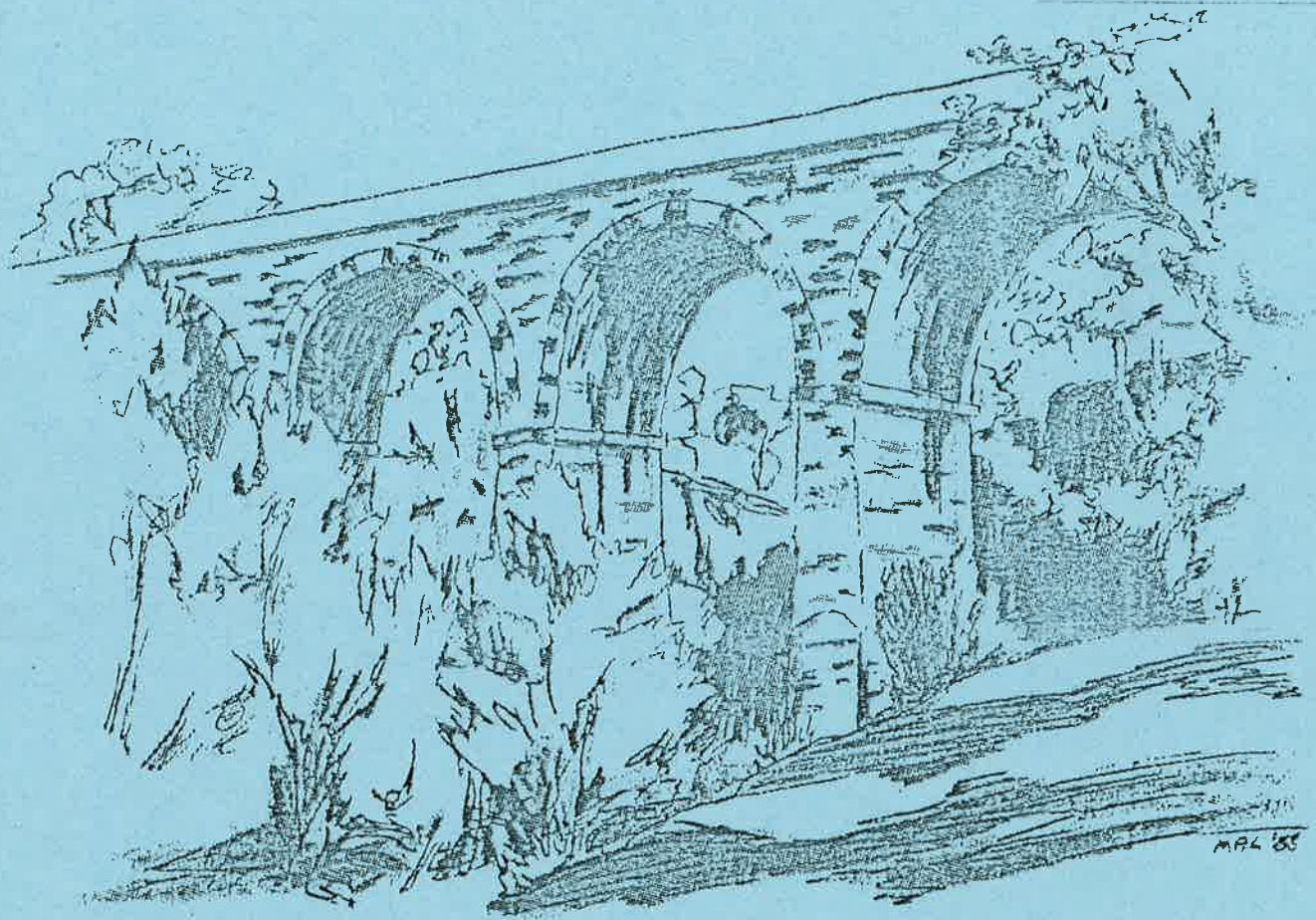


The Journal

SEPTEMBER 1989

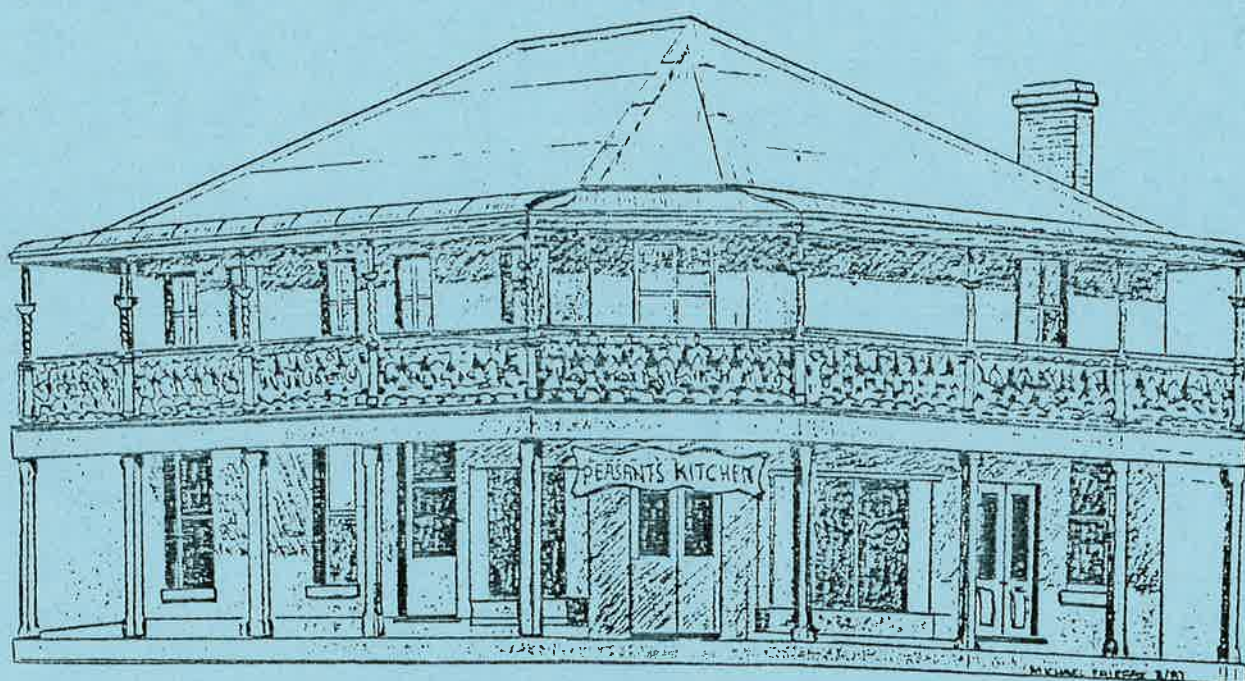
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3



Picton and District Historical
and
Family History Society

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 Restaurant on the second Monday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Picton & District Historical
& Family History Society J.N.C.

SEPTEMBER, 1989

VOLUME 3, NO. 3

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ADDRESS ALL ENQUIRIES TO: The Secretary
P.O. Box 64, Picton, NSW. 2571.

Family History Enquiries to above address.
(Non members - \$ 5.00 + S.A.E.)

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Thank you to Jan Ross, Marlane Fairfax and Cynthia Collison for their contribution to this issue of the Journal. As this is the last Journal before the Annual Elections we (the editors) would like to express our gratitude to the above and to all the other people who contributed articles to the five journals published while we have been co-editors. Without your efforts our job would have been a lot more difficult.

CO-EDITORS: Valarie Malcolm
Patricia Shephard

THE SOCIETY DOES NOT HOLD ITSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR STATEMENTS MADE OR OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHORS OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THIS JOURNAL.

COMMITTEE - APRIL 1988 TO SEPTEMBER 1989

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Well members, its hard to believe that more than twelve months has elapsed since I was elected president of our Society.

It has been a good year. We now have premises and some very needed equipment. Thanks to the hard work of a dedicated research team, our records are increasing daily and we are able to provide more and more information regarding our local history and its early inhabitants.

Socially, things have gone well. We organised a very successful Australiana Ball last year and we have just, this last week-end, had our annual Stonequarry Arts and Crafts Festival. Both events were held in the Picton A.H. & I. Hall which provided us with good facilities and more room than we previously had at our disposal.

The final profit from the Arts and Crafts Festival has not yet been worked out but it would appear to have been a great financial success. It was also a great week-end and a chance for all of our members to participate.

These events always require a great deal of hard work and, as usual, many of you offered your help; in the kitchen, with all of the book work and in the hanging of paintings and setting up of the display. Everybody worked hard but we all had a good time. Thank you for a great effort.

Our annual Spring Ball will take place on the 14th October this year and the theme will be "Black and White". I will leave it to all of your

imaginations. This year the tickets will be limited to 200. Get in early and organise a table. Tickets are not yet on sale and already over 50 of them are booked, so be early and don't miss out. This year we will be having a chicken and salad supper served at the tables, with afters out in the supper room. These evenings are always a lot of fun.

The Society has held many other functions as well:- Bus trips, bush walks and picnics. We have also had some very interesting and informative speakers at our monthly meetings.

Our street stalls have been a good fund raiser. An average of \$200 profit has been realised from each stall.

Of course, the biggest thing on our forthcoming calendar is our attempt to acquire the Coach House behind the National Australia Bank on the corner of Menangle and Argyle Streets, Picton. If the Society is successful, this will be the biggest commitment we have ever made. It will require a great deal of hard work and commitment from every member of the Society. We will need to do a great deal of fundraising to pay for the necessary restoration of the building and then carry out this restoration ourselves. We will need to use all of the skills of EVERY MEMBER. There will be some way each of us can help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my executive for all their support and assistance during the year; and also all of the members for their confidence in electing me to the position.

Thanks for a great year. I wish the Society every success for the future.

Bob Wood

President. 6/8/1989.

Posted with this Journal is the Agenda for the 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. to be held on the 11 th September, 1989, at 7.30 pm.

For this meeting only, the venue will be the Society's Rooms above Hooker's in Menangle Street West.

Following the Annual Meeting there will be a brief General Meeting and super, after which, our members who have not already done so, may take the opportunity to inspect some of the holdings and records acquired by the Society to date.

LIST OF COMING EVENTS - DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

THURSDAY	7 SEPT	** TRIP TO KINGSWOOD ARCHIVES
MONDAY	11 SEPT	** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - to be held in the Society's Rooms, above Hooker's Real Estate, Menangle St. West, Picton. 7:30pm.
SATURDAY	16 SEPT	(1) Picton Street Stall (2) Thirlmere School Fete
SUNDAY	17 SEPT	Buxton Fair ????
SUNDAY	8 OCT	** Trip to Hawkesbury
MONDAY	9 OCT	General Meeting
SATURDAY	14 OCT	** P.&D.H.&F.H.Soc. Annual Ball
SAT & SUN	14-15 OCT	NSW Assoc. of Family History Societies - Annual Conference at Lithgow.
SATURDAY	28 OCT	Queen Victoria Hospital Fete
SUNDAY	29 OCT	Wirrimbirra Display
SUNDAY	5 NOV	Bargo Colonial Day
MONDAY	13 NOV	General Meeting - Speaker: Mr Syd Percival
MONDAY	11 DEC	Christmas / End of Year Meeting

** More details provided elsewhere in this Journal

** The Society's **ANNUAL BALL** will be held at the A.H.&I Hall in Menangle Street on Saturday, 14 October. The theme will be "Black & White" and the supper will consist of chicken and salad served at the table. Tickets are \$20 each and are available at the annual and general meetings and from Jack Pemberton (77 2276), Bob Wood (A/H 77 2210), and Jan Ross.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS - LIEUT-GENERAL SIR THOMAS PICTON K.G.C.B.

Our picturesque and historic town of Pictou, situated approx. 80 kilometres south west of Sydney, was named in honour of the eminent British soldier, Lieut. General Sir Thomas Pictou K.G.C.B., whose long and distinguished military career ended with his death at Waterloo on 18th June, 1815.

His life as a soldier is well documented but there is a dearth of information regarding his personal life. He never married which may account for the paucity of material concerning his private life. In letters he wrote to his brother, Rev. Edward Pictou, of Iscoed, Carmarthenshire, he seldom spoke of himself, but usually recounted the happenings within 'his Division'. He wrote about the soldiers under his command; their losses, their struggles, their heroism. Because of the absence of personal details in Pictou's correspondence, an early biographer, H. B. Robinson had to rely on information given to him by the men who served with Pictou. In his work Robinson penned a physical description of the General:-

..... tall, well proportioned approaching the athletic; his height about 6ft 1in and his features large but well formed. The natural expression of his face was stern and dignified, and his smile dispelled at once a repulsive expression which sometimes hung upon his brow

In searching for information pertaining to General Pictou, I found three aspects quite interesting.

Firstly, during his term as Governor of Trinidad, 1797 - 1803, he came under criticism for his harsh administration, which led to demands in England for his removal. He was charged with permitting the torture under Spanish law, of a young girl. He resigned his position as Governor and returned to England in December, 1803 where he was arrested by order of the privy council.

The case had its beginnings, in December, 1801 when an eleven-year old Mulatta girl, Luisa Calderon, lived with a man named Pedro Ruiz as his mistress. At the same time she was engaged in an intrigue with another man, Carlos Gonzales, who robbed Ruiz of money; for this offence he was arrested. Luisa was taken into custody as she was also suspected of being involved in the crime.

When brought before the Magistrate she denied having anything to do with the matter, and the Magistrate, feeling his powers were at an end, applied to General Picton, the Governor of the island for advice. The General sent him a note with these words:-

'Inflict the torture upon Luisa Calderon'.

This order was carried out. The punishment (which had wrongly been called 'picketing', after the military punishment of the same name) was administered, because Luisa wouldn't confess and persisted in the claim she was innocent.

The torture entailed Luisa's left hand being tied up to the ceiling by a rope with a pulley; her right hand and foot were bound together behind her, while the end of her left foot rested on a wooden spike for three quarters of an hour the first day, and over twenty minutes the next day. When she fainted she was taken down, put into irons which were long pieces of iron with two rings for her feet and fastened to the wall. After 8 months of imprisonment she was discharged.

Evidence given stated that torture had never been administered on the island before and had only been introduced after the conquest of the island when Picton was made Governor.

Council for Sir Thomas based his defence mainly on the point that the Governor was bound to administer the law of Spain on the island and this allowed torture to be carried out for certain crimes.

The jury found that there was no such law as torture on the island of Trinidad at the time of the surrender of the island to the British and they found General Picton guilty.

A new trial was called for and granted and a special verdict was drawn up on the jury's findings but the judgement was delayed.

Because of his great services to his country and the fact that his conduct in Trinidad was not seen to be serious by the authorities, proceedings against him were allowed to lapse.

The second aspect I find interesting was Sir Thomas's Will, a photo-copy of which the Picton District Historical and Family History Society has in its library.

Trinidad once again is mentioned. Picton did not marry but during his term as Governor of the island he had a mistress. The lady was known as Rosette Smith, or Madame Sophie Rose, and she had four children by him.

He mentions them by name in his Will: ' Thomas Rose; Richard Rose; Augusta Rose and Rose ' It appears that he did not know the Christian name of the last mentioned child, but they were all left 1000 pounds each in his Will.

The eldest child, Thomas Rose Picton, came to England and became a doctor. He died 13 May, 1824 of fever en route to Africa where he was going to take up the position of surgeon with the Royal Colonial African Corps.

Picton began his military career as a 13 year-old ensign, in 1771, but it is interesting to note that he only made his Will nine days before his death. After leading a life of semi-retirement for some years he received and accepted a commission to lead the Anglo-Dutch forces against Napoleon in the Netherlands. Before he left he put his affairs in order. Did he have a premonition about the approaching campaign?

The third aspect I found interesting was the overwhelming reaction of the British people to the announcement of his death. It is evident he was held in very high esteem throughout the land and his gallant exploits appreciated by a grateful nation.

On the 29th June, 1815, in the House of Commons, General Gascoyne informed members of the heroic actions of the General on that fatal day.

When the Duke of Wellington was asked what was to be done with the body, he said 'I regret most deeply the loss we have suffered in our General; you will take him to England by all means; they will bury him in Westminster Abbey '

Picton's Aide-de-Camp, Captain Tyler, who was with the General when he was killed, accompanied the remains back to England. On reaching England the entourage travelled by road via Canterbury to London, the route being lined with people paying a silent tribute as the procession passed by. The body was taken to Picton's London home, No 21 Edward Street, Portman Square, where members of his family had gathered. The funeral took place on 3rd July, 1815. At 12 o'clock the procession travelled along Oxford Street to the burial ground of St George's, Hanover Square, where, according to the family's wishes, the body was interred in the family vault. 'The Times' newspaper reported that, 'a great concourse of people assembled to witness the impressive scene.'

On 29th June, 1815, Lord Castlereagh moved in the House of Commons that an address be presented to the Prince Regent requesting that a national monument be erected in honour of the victory at Waterloo, and to

commemorate the officers and men who fell, especially Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Picton and Major General The Hon. Sir William Ponsonby. A Mr Wynne remarked that a distinct monument should be erected to these two General Officers and it was decided that these would be erected in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

As a result, in the north-west transept of the Cathedral, there is a bust of Picton, the base bearing the following inscription.

Erected at the public expense,
TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR THOMAS PICTON K.G.C.B.
Who after distinguishing himself in the victories of
Busacos, Fuentes de Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz
Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Orthes and Toulouse
Terminated his long and glorious military services
In the ever-memorable battle of Waterloo,
To the splendid success of which
His GENIUS and VALOUR eminently contributed.
On the XVIII. of June M.DCCC.XV.

Afterwards, from a public subscription, a large sum of money was raised, including 100 guineas from King George IV, for an impressive memorial to be erected in Carmarthen, Wales, in commemoration of the brilliant services of the Welsh-born soldier. It was completed in August, 1828. At the official opening a procession consisting of the nobility and gentry of the surrounding country proceeded from Guildhall to the site of the monument.

Also in the procession were 60 Waterloo veterans carrying silk banners bearing in gold letters the names of the different battles in which Picton fought.

Today, the name of Picton lives on. As well as our town of Picton, towns in England, New Zealand, Canada and in Belgium (near where he fell), bear his name, as well as Mt. Picton in Tasmania.

..... by Cynthia Collison.

REFERENCES:

1. ROBINSON, H.B. 'Memories of Lieut. General Sir Thomas Picton' Vols 1 & 2. Pub. by R. Bentley. Lond., 1835.
2. PARRY, L.A. 'History of Torture' Chapt. 26: Trial of Sir Thomas Picton.
3. Last Will and Testament of Sir Thomas Picton.
4. CYMEITHAS HANES TEULGOEDD, DYFED. Gwanwyn, 1984, Cyfrol 1, No 6. P. 173,174.
5. 'The Times' - London July 1st and 4th, 1815. (Newspaper)
6. WOLLONDILLY SHIRE: Pub. by Wollondilly Shire Council, Picton. 1965.



LIEUT - GENERAL SIR THOMAS PICTON K.G.C.B.



Picton Post Office

PICTON POST OFFICE

CORNER OF ARGYLE & MENANGLE STREET
PICTON.

by Jan Ross

'The house is quite uninhabitable from the weather we have had; as all the walls of the rooms are quite wet - I have just buried one of my children, who, would have had a chance of recovery; if the house were not in such a bad state, I have another child dangerously ill and have been forced to have it removed to a friend's place; so as to give it a better chance to recover - I suffer myself from severe cold when ever we have any wet weather through the dampness of house - Six feet of water has leaked out of my under ground tank in the space of a few days and I am afraid it has all soaked under the house.' (1)

This letter in which permission was being sought to 'sleep away' from the post office because of the poor conditions was written by the postmaster F. Burgess on 1 June 1889 and refers to the same building as Mr G. M. Webster in his letter of 6/9/1886.

'I beg to offer my land in Argyle Street next to the Commercial Bank with a 100 feet frontage to that Street with a depth of 171 feet (the back frontage being 131 feet) with brick building on with 14 inch wall containing 10 rooms Kitchen and Wash house Stable and Buggy House large yard and piece of land.....' (2)

In support of the postmaster's plea, a letter dated June 1889, addressed Courthouse Picton and signed by J. M. Antill J.P., W. R. Antill J.P., A. Bradbury J.P., H. Fletcher J.P., J. Hooke J.P., C. Dunn J.P., and I. Douglas Watt M.B., J.P.

'the building at present used as a Post Office, in this Town (Picton) is under offer to the Government as a permanent Post and Telegraph Office.....Altogether the building is paltry looking, and very far below what a rising town like Picton, is entitled to, and the residents have a right to, compared with Towns of less importance.' (3)

When tenders were called for the 'Site for Post and Telegraph Office, Picton' on 22 July 1886, five offers were submitted. The Post Inspector, W. J. Davies recommended that all offers be declined and that the idea of building be abandoned while the present premises were available for

rental. He suggested that all endeavours should be made to extend the existing lease to five years. A lease agreement for two years had been drawn up on 1 July 1886. (4)

Relations between the postmaster and the landlord in August 1886 were questionable as a letter of complaint indicates. The Post Office Yard was to be fenced off, leaving 'no right away to the W.C. for the Postmaster's family'. (5) The landlord agreed to erect a W.C. in a more suitable place after an officer of the department intervened. (6)

It was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 31 October 1887 that the Hon. John Sutherland (Minister for Public Works) accompanied by the Hon. Thomas Garrett (Minister for Lands) and Mr McCourt (member for the district) had visited Picton for the purpose of:

'ascertaining what could be done by the Government towards carrying out a number of local improvements which had been brought their notice by the Progress Committee.....'

Mr Hooke (Chairman) read a statement listing the Town's requirements. A Post and Telegraph office was included in this list. (7)

On 2 February 1891, the Works Department announced that the tender of Mr Peter Graham, for the erection of a Post and Telegraph Office in Picton, had been accepted. It was to be completed within twelve months. £1500 had been allocated and despite being the lowest tender, Mr Graham was asked to revise his quote. The second quote was for £2379 and the additional amount was provided for, from a supplementary vote. Mr R. B. Smith's tender of £135 for the supply and installation of a Turret Clock was accepted on 11 October 1892. Work was to be completed within 3 months. (8)

The eventual site settled upon had been the location of one of the oldest shops in Picton. Moses Barnes, although he later moved closer to the Stonequarry Creek, had operated a store there as early as 1838. (9) It had also been the site of Mr C. Smith's Butcher Shop. (10) A writer of local histories, W. A. Bayley, described the building as 'conspicuous as a piece of architecture is the Picton Post Office.' (11)

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- (1) F. Burgess, letter 1/6/1889, Australian Archives (NSW), Australian Postmaster Generals, SP 32, Picton.
- (2) G. M. Webster, letter 6/9/1886, Australian Archives (NSW), Australian Postmaster Generals, SP 32, Picton.

- (3) J. M. Antill J.P., W. R. Antill J.P., A. Bradbury J.P., H. Fletcher J.P., J. Hooke J.P., C. Dunn J.P., and I. Douglas Watt M.B., J.P. letter June 1889, Australian Archives (NSW), Australian Postmaster Generals, SP 32, Picton.
- (4) W. J. Davies, letter 12/7/86, Australian Archives (NSW), Australian Postmaster Generals, SP 32, Picton.
- (5) F. Burgess, letter 26/8/1886, Australian Archives (NSW), Australian Postmaster Generals, SP 32, Picton.
- (6) Loc.cit., (notation).
- (7) Sydney Morning Herald, 31/10/1887.
- (8) Department of Public Works, Communication, Australian Archives (NSW), Australian Postmaster Generals, SP 32, Picton.
- (9) James Steele, EARLY DAYS OF PICTON, Picton. 1903, Rev. Edit. 1928.
- (10) Loc. cit.
- (11) William A. Bayley, WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL, PICTON, Wollondilly Shire Council, Picton, 1981, pages not numbered.

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NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURING SOCIETIES:

The OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY is conducting a local history programme for primary school children within the Wollondilly Shire. The programme is to be extended to cover local military history and the Society is currently researching personnel from the Shire who served in the South African (Boer) War. Information is required regarding the following members of the N.S.W. Mounted Rifles who came from the Shire. They are: William Anderson, Amos Albert Bateup, James Blackwood, Albert John Bollard, William Frederick Bridges, Edward Thomas Cleary, George Clifford, Edward Farrell, John Field, George Brooke Forster, Alfred Adolphus Graham, Frederick St. Ledger Hayes, William Hill, Joseph Jessop, J. or W. H. King, Alfred Maxwell, John Maxwell, Patrick Thomas Moore, James Bernard Murray, Edmund Osborne, Wellington Henry Pearce, Henry Sharpe, Robert Sharpe, Carl William Smith, Rex Smith, Samuel Smith, Benjamin Charles Spearing, Caleb F. Vachini, John Wardrobe, Richard Weekes, William Wonson. The Society is also interested in researching other Boer War names from the Wollondilly Shire. If you can assist please contact Colin Sproule on (046) 571439 or at Lot 1 Picton Road, The Oaks. 2570.

The ILLAWARRA FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. last year released a publication entitled 'Illawarra Pioneer's Pre-1900' - a compilation of biographical information of the people who resided within the Illawarra area prior to 1900. The society is now going to compile another volume entitled 'Illawarra Pioneer's Pre-1920' which will also include residents prior to 1900 who were not included in the first volume. For further information contact: Illawarra Family History Group Inc., P.O. Box 1652, Wollongong. NSW. 2500.

NEWS ITEMS :

All financial members are reminded of the Annual Meeting on the 11 th September. It is important that as many members as possible attend not only the Annual General Meeting, but the general meetings as well. These meetings are your opportunity to express your opinions on the organisation and future planning of the Society.

One project which will be discussed over the next few meetings will be the attempt by the Society to acquire the Coach House, behind the National Australia Bank, for permanent premises.

Our Society is fortunate to have the skills of Harry Hoare who has volunteered to take on the job of Project Officer in this instance.

Members who attended the August Meeting were shown sketches of the proposal and told of the progress in negotiations to date.

HAWKESBURY TRIP

Arrangements are at present being made for a trip to the Hawkesbury on Sunday, 8 th October. All those interested in attending, could you please give name and numbers to Jack Pemberton, at the September meeting, or phone him on 77 2276.

TRIP TO KINGSWOOD ARCHIVES

Jan, Marlane, Val and Pat attended our last trip to the Kingswood Archives which proved to be a great success. Our main interest was in the early bankruptcy files and the Picton Bench Books.

Another trip is planned for Thursday, 7 th September. We will meet in front of the Picton Newsagency at 9 a.m. and return by approx. 3 p.m. If you wish to attend please contact Pat Shephard 309 380, or Marlane Fairfax 81 8026.

The Stonequarry Festival of Arts and Crafts was a great financial success with a profit of over \$3,500. The winner of the Patchwork Quilt was Mrs Hearn of Camden.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR JULY 1989 - JUNE 1990, THEN THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL POSTED TO YOU!

LIBRARY & RESEARCH REPORT

The library continues to be open on Thursdays 10am-2pm and Saturdays 2pm-4pm. To remain open on both days we do require more members to put their name on the roster.

Cythnia Collison, our acting librarian, has been busy recording new acquisitions, cataloguing and indexing. Cythnia also gave an interesting lesson on how to perform these necessary tasks to some of our members. Organising of the library and its holdings is a very important and time consuming job and the more of our members able to help with this task, the better.

We have had the occasional visitor to the rooms and in most cases those on duty have been able to assist these people with information.

Two of our members have donated copies of their recent research: Marlane Fairfax - A Postal History of Lahmoor; & information on Myrtle Creek School and Bargo School.

Jan Ross - 'Architecture of Argyle Street, Picton'.

The number of index cards in the catalogue draws has increased dramatically in the past few months and, apart from telling us about the material on the library shelves, includes names taken from information such as the typed notes and newspaper clippings donated by Mr Knox of Pheasants Nest.

RECENT DONATIONS:

1. THE CENTENARY OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH, PICTON (NSW)
Donated by Sr Rita King
2. CAMPSIE'S PAST by B. Madden. L. Muir
CEMETERIES IN AUSTRALIA by Faye Young (ED)
THEY'RE RACING AT CANTERBURY by L. Muir
STYLE MANUAL FOR LOCAL HISTORY MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION
Donated by Nancy Peisley
3. REMINISCENCES OF A DISTRICT VETERAN: MR MICHAEL LONG by
W. Freame.
Donated by Di Davidson
4. MAPS OF APPIN DISTRICT (6)
Donated by A. Meeks
5. PHOTO ALBUM - CONTAINING 12 PHOTOS OF PICTON, 1910
Donated by A.B. & I.A. Hogde
6. RESEARCH MATERIAL (RUMKER, CONSTABLES OF PICTON DISTRICT)
Donated by Edna Townsend
7. RECORDS OF PICTON VILLAGE SQUARE
Donated by Harry Hoare on behalf
of the Village Square Committee.
9. MAGAZINES, 'DAILY MAIL', NEWSPAPER
Donated by Kath Sheedy

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