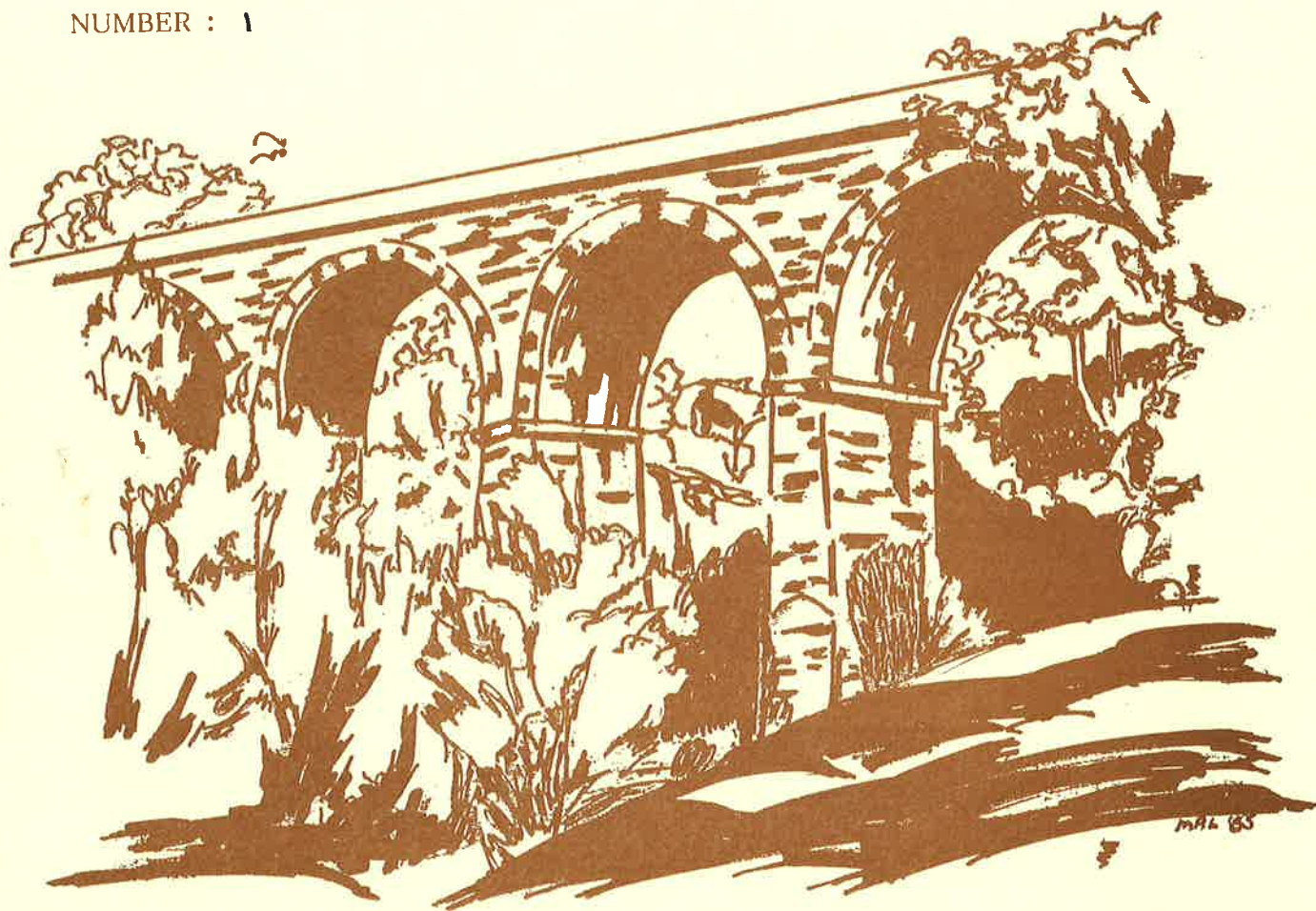


# The Journal

DATE : March 1991

VOLUME : 5

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Picton and District Historical  
and  
Family History Society

PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Argyle Street,  
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HOURS: Thursday: 10 am to 2 pm  
Saturday: 10 am to 3 pm

ENTER by Menangle Street carpark. (behind National Australia Bank)

---

MEETINGS:

---

Second Monday of each month in  
(excluding January)

THE COMMUNITY ROOMS, SHIRE HALL,  
MENANGLE STREET, PICTON.

MEMBERSHIP FEES - FROM 1ST JULY EACH YEAR:

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**President:**

Mr Bob Wood.

**Correspondence**

**Secretary:**

Mrs. Jan Ross  
P.O. Box 64,  
PICTON NSW 2571.

26 February 1991

Dear Sir or Madam,

**'PICTURESQUE PICTON'**

**'150 in 1991'**

Until 1841 the area bordering the Stonequarry Creek, where early white settlement had formed, was known as 'Stonequarry'. When Major Henry Colden Antill subdivided part of his estate in August of that year, he gave it the name of the 'PRIVATE TOWNSHIP OF PICTON'.

This society has assumed responsibility for co-ordinating a community celebration of this event.

It is envisaged that the festivities will include a re-enactment of the Auction Sale of 2 August 1841, the Stonequarry Festival of Arts & Craft (held annually), a ball, the Village Fair (as staged in November 1990), an Open Air Concert in the Rotunda, a fun run plus many other activities. It is planned to finish the week long celebrations with a monster community picnic. This could include family reunions.

It must be stressed that these are merely suggestions and this letter is to invite you to a meeting to discuss your ideas. We are hoping to involve the entire community. WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND EXPERTISE. Please indicate your interest/disinterest by telephoning me at 771430 or 819928.

MONDAY 25 MARCH. COMMUNITY ROOMS (Shire Hall) 7.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

*Jan Ross*

**O F F I C I A L     O P E N I N G  
O F  
T H E     C O A C H     H O U S E  
26 January, 1991**

The official opening of the "Coach House" took place on Australia Day, Saturday, 26 January, 1991.

The weather was fine and hot and although not a large crowd, it was nevertheless a very enthusiastic group of people who attended the opening, including visitors from the A.C.T., Connells Point, Erskineville, Westmead, Budgewoi, Wentworthville, Kenthurst, Llandilo, Seven Hills, Emnu Plains, Bowral, Homebush West, Camden, Wentworthville, Carlingford, Campbelltown and Harbord.

Representatives from Berrima Historical Society, Campbelltown & Airds District Historical Society, Nepean Family History Society, and The Oaks Historical Society were also present.

Robert Wood, President of the Society, officially welcomed the guests. The Wollondilly Shire President, Mr Frank McKay, M.B.E., then made the presentation of a leather bound photograph album to Harry Hoare in recognition of the splendid job he did as Project Co-ordinator of the refurbishing of the Coach House. Harry in turn thanked the major sponsors and all those fellow members who worked so hard over the past year. Shortly after 2 p.m. the plaque was unveiled and the ceremony came to a close with all present singing the National Anthem.

The plaque reads as follows:

**THE  
COACH HOUSE  
OFFICIAL OPENING  
AUSTRALIA DAY 1991  
Financially assisted by the New South Wales  
Government on the Recommendation of  
The Heritage Council of New South Wales**

Thank you to all those visitors who travelled to Picton for this special occasion. We certainly enjoyed your company and hoped you enjoyed the day.

All those members who worked on the day and in the weeks leading up to the 26th should be very pleased and proud of their contribution to the successful opening day celebrations. I am sure that all who worked on the refurbishment project and on the landscaping of the Coach House would have been especially proud of their efforts.

A very enjoyable day culminated in the fact that Harry Hoare was declared Wollondilly Shire Citizen of the Year (1991) at the Australia Day Celebrations held in the Picton Botanic Gardens later in the afternoon. Harry was nominated for Citizen of the Year by the Picton & District Historical & Family History Society. The research for and compilation of the nomination was prepared by Jan Ross, Correspondence Secretary and Archivist.

The following letter was written by Mr Syd Percival of Campbelltown and sums up his feelings about the Official Opening of the Coach House.

## ANNIVERSARY DAY AT PICTON - 1991.

by Syd Percival.

I feel I must give way to my feelings to express the pleasure I enjoyed on that day, accompanied by my friend Burnie Phillpot, who too expressed his delight on his visit. Our first sample of joy was the little collection of Veteran cars parked just outside the object of the celebration, exhibited by the Berrima Vintage Car Club. We thought they were all great, however we just couldn't take our eyes off the magnificently restored Essex Six and the Silver Anniversary model Buick. Having lived in the times of their hey day, we were carried away with the sight of them.

Moving into the delightfully restored Coach House, I must say we were overjoyed with our impression of it, also we thought the colour scheme topped it off. I am a member of the Picton & District Historical and Family History Society and can only attend meetings on rare occasions, it was indeed a pleasure to meet so many fellow members and to swap stories with them. The tea coffee and sandwiches, cakes etc. so generously supplied for just a donation are surely worthy of mention, I enjoyed mine so much I doubled the money when I took the plate back.

The real reason for writing this article is to give praise to two of the Societies members Jan Ross and Pat Shephard on the excellent accounts of Jan's Railway Precinct Ramble and Pat's marvellous story of Wilton's early history. I have no doubt the other authors deserve equal praise. However having only purchased the ones I was most interested in that's why I'm restricted to them. I was so keen to read them that I did just that before going to bed that night.

Referring to the Ramble I felt I had been in it. The railway history was really good to read. It reminded me when I was a young boy, accompanied by father and uncle Albert Skettlet we walked right through the tunnel one Sunday morning on the new deviation before trains ran through it.

Both ladies deserve great credit for their researching.

Although I lived fourteen years at Wilton during my lifetime and thought I knew quite a lot about the area, I was overjoyed to learn so much more after reading Pat's account of it. I must say my appetite is whetted by her promise to give us more of Wilton history later on.

I thought the opening ceremony by Shire President Frank McKay was quite impressive and interesting to listen to and thought that we were all lucky not to have been drenched by threatening rain during the session.



## COACH HOUSE CHRONICLES

- No.1 Ross, Jan *Railway Precinct Ramble*. (Picton) (\$5)
- No.2 Shephard, Pat. *Milton - East Bargo. A Brief History*. (\$3)
- No.3 Collison, C. *Lieut. General Sir Thomas Picton. K.G.C.B.* (\$2)
- No.4 Ross, Jan *Vault Hill* (Picton) (\$2)
- No.5 Ross, Jan *Harmony Home* (Picton - Thirlmere) (\$4)
- No.6 Fairfax, M. *It Has No Definite Name - A Postal History of Tahmoor. 1892-1916.* (\$2)

Chronicles may be purchased from the Coach House during Library Hours or by writing to the Society, C/- P.O. Box 64, Picton. 2571. Please include \$1 for postage and packaging for single copies or \$2 for the full set (i.e. \$2 postage for two or more copies).

## DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY - DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY, 1991.

DONOR	DESCRIPTION
Peg Gard	Birth, Death & Marriage Announcements in The Sydney Mail, 1860-1861, by George Turnbull Dick. Adman Press. Glenbrook. 1990.
Marlane Fairfax	"Bronzewing" TPS - 1990 Yearbook. Tahmoor Public School.
Fred Pullman	From Jordan's Crossing to Bundanoon. The growth of a Highland Village. Bundanoon Historical Group. 1990.
Carol Whitfield	Historic Buildings. Vol. II Central Area of Sydney. The State Planning Authority of NSW. 1967.
Carol Whitfield	Historic Buildings. Vol. III Liverpool and Campbelltown. Cumberland County Council 1963.
F.B. Knox	Year Book. Australia. 1968. Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia. No.54, 1968. Comm. Bureau of Census & Statistics. Canberra, Aust.
F.B. Knox	Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia. No.47 1961. Comm. Bureau of Census & Statistics.

"FLORENCE VILLA", PICTON, N.S.W.

(1878 - 1886)

In Menangle Street, Picton, N.S.W., stands a majestic double-storied, Victorian building known today as "The Imperial Hotel"..

It had its beginning as an hotel in 1863 and was known as "The Terminus Hotel" as it was situated near the railway station. At that time, the rail line terminated at Picton. It did not reach the next major town, Mittagong, until 1867.

The "Terminus" closed as an hotel in 1877 and John Hay Goodlet, a Sydney businessman, renowned for his philanthropic and charitable works, took over the premises and opened it as a home for consumptives. He named it "Florence Villa".

Goodlet, a native of Scotland who emigrated to Australia in 1852, had had a sister, Florence, who had been stricken with consumption and her untimely death affected him deeply. He stated that if the opportunity arose he would establish a place for the treatment and cure of the disease.

It is not known how many patients passed through "Florence Villa" during its nine years of operation, but local death records show that eighty inmates died whilst in residence.

Their ages ranged from eighteen to forty-eight years but over half, fifty-four, were in the twenty to thirty age group. (Seventeen were married and fourteen of these had children).

"Florence Villa" soon became too small to cater for the increasing number of consumption sufferers seeking treatment.

In 1886 Goodlet had new premises built just outside the township, in a picturesque rural setting mid-way between Picton and Thirlmere and it was known as "The Goodlet Home for Consumptives" or "The Thirlmere Home".

Goodlet had used his personal wealth in conducting "Florence Villa" and "The Thirlmere Home" but in 1893 he found it difficult to continue and the Home was placed in the hands of a board of management and supported by public subscriptions.

In 1897, the people of New South Wales subscribed to a fund-raising drive instigated by Lady Hampden, wife of the Governor,



to be used to fund a fitting memorial to Queen Victoria honouring her diamond jubilee.

Mr. Samuel Hordern, a well-known local identity, suggested that the fund should take over "The Thirlmere Home" and offered 1,000 pounds if his proposal was accepted.

Dr. Philip Sydney Jones, a physician and son of Sydney businessman, David Jones, worked tirelessly for many years towards procuring improved methods of treatment for tuberculosis and was largely responsible for the proposal being adopted. (He was knighted in 1905 in recognition for his work in combating tuberculosis).

On 1st September, 1898 "The Thirlmere Home" officially became "Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital for Consumptives".

The hospital still operates today but ceased treating tuberculosis in 1956.

"Florence Villa" reverted once again to an hotel and was renamed "The Club Hotel". In 1934 it underwent another name change, this time becoming known as "The Imperial Hotel". It still bears this name today.

- Cynthia Collison.

#### Bibliography.

1. Australian Dictionary of Biography.
2. Australian Encyclopaedia, published by Grolier, 1962 ed.
3. "The Cleaning Standard", Aug., 1985. (Journal)
4. "The Story of Queen Victoria Homes, 1897-1937". (Extracts held at Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital).
5. Notes - Pictures & District Historical and Family History Society,
6. Death Registration Records.

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#### **DONATIONS OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL**

Thank you to all those people who donated archival material (i.e. newspapers, photographs, etc.) to the Society over the past three months.

Due to a lack of space in this issue of the Journal, a full list of donors and a description of the items given will appear in the June Journal.

DEATHS AT  
"FLORENCE VILLA"  
(HOME FOR CONSUMPTIVES)  
MENANGLE STREET, PICTON. N.S.W.

1878 - 1886

- Compiled by C.G. COLLISON.

NAME	WHERE BORN	DATE OF DEATH	AGE
ACKLAND, Matilda Elizabeth	Pymont, N.S.W.	18 Oct., 1883	30 yrs.
AINLEY, Benjamin	Leeds, England	4 May, 1883	31 yrs.
AMBRIDGE, Tracy	London, England	26 June, 1886	22 yrs.
BARCLAY, Francis Thomas	Dumphries, Scot- land.	29 May, 1880	25 yrs.
BASSETT, Prudence Annie	Sydney, N.S.W.	15 May, 1884	24½ yrs.
BATTERSEA, Augustus George	Steven's Green, Dublin, Ireland.	17 Feb., 1886	30 yrs.
BOOTH, Thomas	Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Ireland.	14 Sept., 1883	30 yrs.
BRADLEY, Frederick William	Scarborough, York- shire, England.	19 Nov., 1882	21 yrs.
BRINE, Reuben Harrison	London, England.	25 Sept., 1881	34 yrs.
BROWN, Thomas	Glasgow, Scotland	2 Sept., 1886	20 yrs.
CAMERON, Joan	Lochend, Inverness, Scotland.	12 March, 1882	29 yrs.
CARLSON, Charles	Norway.	2 Aug., 1882	25 yrs.
CASEY, Stephen	Co. Kerry, Ireland.	19 March, 1880	39 yrs.
CHRISTENSEN, Adolph Theodore	Jylland, Denmark	6 Aug., 1880	22 yrs.
CLEARY, Michael	Parsonstown, Kings County, Ireland.	29 March, 1881	22 yrs.
CLEMENT, Richard Henry Roland	Dover, Kent, England.	14 July, 1882	23 yrs.
CONSTABLE Henry	Peckham, Surrey, England.	11 Feb., 1885	43 yrs.
COOPER, Henry	Brighton, England	28 Aug., 1879	21 yrs.
CRAWFORD, Jeanie	Linlithgow, Scot- land.	9 June, 1885	30 yrs.
DANIELS, Moses	Biggleswade, Bed- fordshire, England.	27 March, 1884	26 yrs.

DAVIS, John	Caermarthen, Wales.	1 June, 1879	22 yrs.
DAVIS, Mary Ann	Lewisham, Kent, England.	18 June, 1881	37 yrs.
DUNLOP, James Thomas	Orange, N.S.W.	13 Oct., 1884	20 yrs.
DURRELL, John David	Colchester, Essex, England.	18 Jan., 1883	43 yrs.
EVANS, George Charles	Deptford, Kent, England.	8 April, 1878	24 yrs.
FALLOON, John	Camly Maculla, Co. Armagh, Ireland.	18 June, 1878	20 yrs.
FARRELLY, Thomas	Ireland.	3 Aug., 1879	47 yrs.
FERGUSSON, Norman	Harris, Scotland.	4 July, 1882	28 yrs.
FOSS, Carlos	Oland, Sweden.	29 Jan., 1886	28 yrs.
FULLERTON, Mary June	Manchester, England.	13 July, 1882	25 yrs.
GLYNN, James	Wanstead, Sussex, England.	7 Feb., 1881	25 yrs.
GRADY, Ellen	Westminster, England.	11 Sept., 1883	30 yrs.
GRAY, Thomas	Lanarkshire, Scotland.	4 Feb., 1878	26 yrs.
GREEN, William George	Essex, England.	4 Sept., 1886	28 yrs.
HAINING, Cuthbert	Maxwelltown, Kircudbright, Scotland.	31 March, 1880	35 yrs.
HART, Mary Ann	Melbourne, Victoria.	18 Nov., 1879	28 yrs.
HAYES, William Butler	Ireland.	15 May, 1881	34 yrs.
HIGGS, William	Copenhagen, Denmark.	24 July, 1883	25 yrs.
HILL, James	Sydney, N.S.W.	4 March, 1879	23 yrs.
INGHAM, Samuel	Thornton, York- shire, England.	20 Sept., 1884	39 yrs.
KLEMP, Alexander	Haten, Norway.	8 July, 1878	28 yrs.
LAYCOCK, William Henry	Burnley, England.	4 Dec., 1881	27 yrs.
MacGREGOR, James	Bonhill, Scotland.	20 Nov., 1882	33 yrs.
McINNES, Elizabeth	Liverpool, England.	11 Oct., 1881	25 yrs.

McKAY, Alexander	Aberdeen, Scotland.	9 June, 1882	40 yrs.
MAHONEY, Daniel Gregory	Co. Kerry, Ireland.	27 June, 1883	24 yrs.
MERCER, Elizabeth	Limavady, Derry, Ireland.	3 Sept., 1886	30 yrs.
MILLER, Robert	Dundee, Scotland.	23 Nov., 1880	47 yrs.
MILLIGAN, Thomas	Market Hill, North of Ireland.	29 Dec., 1880	43 yrs.
MILLS, Mary Pris-cilla	Waterloo, N.S.W.	17 Nov., 1881	26 yrs.
MIS-CAMPBELL, Hugh	Carrick Fergus Antrim, Ireland.	29 Oct., 1881	38 yrs.
MOORE, Ann	Liverpool, England.	11 April, 1880	30 yrs.
MORRISON, Nathan Hezekiah	near Brunswick, Ccnada.	12 April, 1881	24 yrs.
MURPHY, John Philip	Edinburgh, Scotland.	16 Jan., 1884	19 yrs.
PIGGOTT, James	London, England.	23 Nov., 1882	31 yrs.
PRENDERGAST, John	Carrick-on-Suer, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.	31 March, 1883	24 yrs.
QUINN, John	Cashel, Co. Tipper- ary, Ireland.	22 May. 1880	38 yrs.
RESCORL, John	Fowey, Cornwall, England.	22 May, 1885	39 yrs.
RICKETTS, William	London, England.	3 March, 1886.	25 yrs.
RICKOMARTZ, Elizabeth Henrietta	Hong Kong, China.	12 March, 1883.	28 yrs.
ROCHFORD, James	Sydney, N.S.W.	4 June, 1882	43 yrs.
ROGERS Harry William	Cleveland, Ohio, America.	18 Dec., 1880	30 yrs.
ROSS, Norman	Dingwall, Ross- shire, Scotland.	18 June, 1883	24 yrs.
SCOTT, George Vernon	Dundalk, Co. Louth Ireland.	17 Oct., 1881	45 yrs.
SMITH, William	Liverpool, England.	13 Feb., 1882	34 yrs.
SMYE, Catherine Elizabeth	Grimstead, Sussex, England.	3 May, 1884	23 yrs.
SPELMAN, George	Manchester, England.	18 Feb ., 1881	41 yrs.
STEER, John Newton	Kentish Town, London, England.	11 Dec., 1878	27 yrs.

TAYLOR, Emily Ann	Sydney, N.S.W.	28 April, 1884	20 yrs.
TAYLOR, Augusta	Bristol, England	2 Feb., 1882	18 yrs.
THOMAS, Aaron	Shipton, York- shire, England.	17 March, 1885	29 yrs 11mths
THOMAS, Fanny Kate	Plymouth, England.	15 Dec., 1878	48 yrs.
THOMPSON, Thomas	Dundee, Scotland.	22 June, 1886	30 yrs.
THUMIN, Samuel	Jerrard St. John's London, England.	2 May, 1886	30 yrs.
TRETHERWAY, Luke	St. Stephen's, Cornwall, England.	9 Oct., 1878	22 yrs.
WALKER, Austin Bennick	Southwark, London, England.	19 March, 1880	28 yrs.
WATSON, Adain	Hawick, Peebles, Scotland.	1 Sept., 1885	20 yrs.
WILSON, John	Eaglesham, near Glasgow, Scotland..	16 April, 1884	23 yrs.
WOLFE, Joseph	Tramore, Waterford, Ireland.	9 Oct., 1878	33 yrs.
WOOSTER, William	Hampton, Surrey, England.	6 Feb., 1883	30 yrs.

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MR J W BOLLARD & FAMILY OF DOWNER ACT - RESEARCHING BOLLARD FAMILY.

MRS F BLUNDELL OF WEST RYDE.

MR & MRS W POWER OF COOMA - RESEARCHING BROWN & CONNORS FROM BARGO AND RIXON FROM PICTON & CAMPBELLTOWN.

MRS P KOPACZYNSKY OF ROSELANDS.

MRS D KOOB OF EMU PLAINS - RESEARCHING APPS, BENSLEY, BOARDMAN, CLIFTON, DOUST, VENESS, HILDER, HAINES. FUNNELL, SMART, BIFFIN, CHANNELL, DUNK, DOWLE AND BURIALS IN CAWDOR CEMETERY.

# WINKLING OUT THE SECRETS

by JOHN K. RUFFELS

February, 1991.

Everyone loves a mystery: When I came to Australia thirty seven years ago from England, I went as a Barnardo Boy to the Farm School at "Mowbray Park", Picton. I was going to train eventually to become a farm labourer, with the view to one day buying my own farm and blending back into the community as a useful Australian man on the land.

Unfortunately, like most of the other eighty-odd boys at the Farm school, I had a little mystery in my life which I dearly desired to clear up. The mystery was the name and whereabouts of any members of my immediate family who might well be alive back in England .... We knew next to nothing of our own background, and therefore understood very little about our own identities and where we fitted into the scheme of things.

In the absence of answers, as people are wont to do, we talked amongst ourselves and made up imaginery families to fill the void.

After school one day, I was given the chore of clearing a blockage from beneath the grate immediately below the down-pipe of a forty-year-old cottage at "Mowbray Park". The cause of the blockage was a rusty object which turned out to be a pair of CONVICT HANDCUFFS !!

Disregarding the age of the cottage where I had found the handcuffs, I asked myself DID CONVICTS USED TO ROAM ABOUT AT "MOWBRAY PARK"?

In the absence of answers my imagination said "Yes". And with grown-up advice I set out to solve the riddle of the "Mowbray Park" handcuffs. Well, I never did. But in the intervening years I have been able to piece together the 150 year history of "Mowbray Park".

The handcuffs were Fate's pawn which lured me into a life-long interest in mysteries and histories.

(Areas of mystery - the harder the better - which I have since successfully researched, have been "Jack The Ripper's" Australian Connection; D.H. Lawrence - the English novelist - his movements and contacts in Australia in 1922; the history of spies and spy catchers in Australia's past; and, of course, a short

investigation of Barnardo child migration to Australia from 1870 to 1965.)

Oh, I forgot to mention, from some detective work of my own, and much help from Barnardo's I have been happily reunited with members of my immediate family in England and now have all the answers to that mystery.

But back to the hand-cuffs. My first move after cleaning the rust from them was to consult the Superintendent of the Farm school, and his wife (Mr & Mrs Ralph Green), both ex School teachers from Tudor House, Moss Vale. They suggested I talk to neighbours from the surrounding farms. I went to see Frank Gilmour at "Seabright Park", Kathleen Dunn at Spring Creek, Camden, and Linda Walker at "Woodburn Park," Lakesland. They were all useful in pointing me in the right direction towards solving the mysteries of "Mowbray Park".

There is an Australian tradition that because this is a free country, Australia has very few secrets and therefore nothing to hide. From my own researches I can tell you Australia has had its fair share (no more, no less) of secrets in its past history. Remittance men, eminence gris (you know, secretly powerful mystery men), organisers of secret armies to fight the communists in Australia after World War One, and - possibly - even secret explorers who charted the Australian coastline before Captain Cook did.

John Pilger has recently published a bestselling book called THE SECRET COUNTRY (which I haven't read) about Australia.

But are there people in the Wollondilly Shire alive today, clutching some dark secret to their chests ?

Of course, there are secrets and secrets. What is secret and unknown to me may be common knowledge in a certain family circle. "Secret" can mean something not well known, completely unknown, something forgotten or something lost from public view.

First clues to the existence of a previously unknown and interesting incident or person in local history may surface as a legend, rumour, gossip, brief mention in a long-lost letter, or passage in a diary or little-known book.



Three Picton historical mysteries, probably well known to locals, are:-

The location of Moyengully's grave at Rumker's Island; the existence of the allegedly secret cache of gold, supposedly hidden near the road bridge opposite "Jarvisfield" by the Road Gang doctor, early last century; and, more recently, the origin of the gates at the Feather and Fur factory near Picton Station.

Like the French attitude to nudity, a little mystery is a good thing; so perhaps the modern preoccupation with solving every historical mystery takes some of the excitement from our daily lives.

Since local history research has mainly been popular since the second decade of this century, a rule of thumb for the preservation of local history secrets might perhaps, be based upon Westminster government archive policy. Ordinary secrets not affecting living people's reputations, should reasonably remain confidential for about thirty years, and those affecting the "good name" of living families perhaps should be kept secret for one hundred years.

In the Victorian era, family scandals and secrets were rarely written down. Rather they were passed on by word of mouth, down through the years. So it is very important to take note of - but not to take as gospel - oral evidence in the nature of family stories, gossip, and urban legends. These can be indicators, pointers to further clues. And as starting points for further research.

Country towns are great stores of local lore. Some established residents, whose families have lived for several generations in a particular district, may often laugh at the well-intentioned efforts of relative newcomers to understand the history of their town. Say, to prove the exact location of a since-vanished butter factory. The old-timers may well know the exact site because of a family connection with that industry or its mention in a story once told by a relative.

So local history mysteries can sometimes be just half-mysteries, brought about by a lack of trust, respect and communication by one section of the community towards another.

Therefore, quite a few mysteries - but, by no means all - can be solved when local history groups are successful in fostering the trust and respect of long-term residents in their area.

Sometimes previous experiences have resulted in a mistrust of fly-by-night historians by local families. They may well be justified (and sometimes not) and efforts to restore that trust by newly active and honest historians can often take many, many years.

It is my experience, and you will doubtless have had the same experience yourselves, that factors which can speed up this process are:-

- (a) Being a good and patient listener.
- (b) Keeping ones word about undertaking to find out information for them, returning borrowed items promptly and returning phonecalls.
- (c) Not voicing half-formed opinions before hearing the other persons information.
- (d) Making sure adequate acknowledgement is made in writing for donated items.
- (e) Abstaining from getting involved in local fueds and parish pump politics.

Everyone loves a mystery - except historians when it refuses to be solved ....

John Ruffels.

## R E U N I O N S

### H U T C H I S O N   R E U N I O N

All descendants of JOSEPH & ELLEN (ROSS) are invited to attend a family reunion to be held on 31st March 1991, at the Lions Park, Hillston. N.S.W.

JOSEPH & ELLEN's family were

- |             |    |               |                 |    |                 |
|-------------|----|---------------|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1. George   | m. | Maryan Sutton | 7. Joseph       | m. | Mary Cooper     |
| 2. Margaret | m. | George Hyde   | 8. Lachlan      | m. | Mary Deuis      |
| 3. William  | m. | Mary Dalzell  | 9. Charles      | m. | Elizabeth Foy   |
| 4. Ellen    |    |               | 10. Edward      | m. | Agnes Forrest   |
| 5. Isabella | m. | John McCarthy | 11. James       |    |                 |
| 6. John     | m. | Maud Bush     | 12. Sarah Ellen | m. | Alfred Cashmere |

For further information contact:- Gail Hanger. 6 Hawthorn Road. Bargo. N.S.W.  
Phone: (046) 842179

### MUGGLETON REUNION:

John and Mary Anne arrived on ship "Boanerges", 1857, from Cambridgeshire and settled in Carcoar area. CHILDREN: Anne m. W. Shipp, 1859 Bullock Flat. Susan m. J. Dain, 1866 Kelso. Joseph m. E. Henry, 1877 Millamalong Creek. William m. R. Baker 1878 Lyndhurst. Alfred m. A. Ritmeester, 1885 Carcoar.

Descendants are invited to attend ON: 30-31 March 1991, Easter Saturday & Sunday.  
AT: Carcoar. NSW. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs Shirley Cox. P.O. Box 251,  
Richmond. NSW. 2753.

## MAPS AND PLANS USED IN THE LAND TITLES OFFICE

The following is a brief explanation of the evolution and composition of the Land Titles Office plan file with its basic history and the often peculiar terminology applied to it over the years.

Whilst confusion over the terms "map" and "plan" is of no great consequence, it can be broadly said that whilst a plan shows dimensions, a map does not. The maps and plans in the Land Titles Office serve to locate land for the purpose of establishing title and dimension.

Whilst I will attempt to cover all major plan categories, those referred to should not be regarded as exclusive.

### County, Parish and Town Maps

The State of New South Wales is divided into 141 counties, the boundaries of which have changed little since 1848 by which time they were in existence. These, together with the parishes they were subsequently divided into, form the basis of land administration in the State.

Parish maps are prepared by the Crown Lands Office from original survey plans of portions, roads etc. and show the relationship of portion boundaries to such features as roads, rivers, railways, seashores. The portion's number and area are shown but not its dimensions. These can be obtained from the original plan of survey compiled for each portion by the Crown Lands Office. As well as showing distances, bearings and other survey data, they usually contain a condensed history of the particular parcel of land. A film copy of these is available from the Plan Room at the Land Titles Office.

The parish maps also show Volume and Folio references to Crown Grants issued from the commencement of the Real Property Act on 1st January, 1863 to 1st October, 1981 when the last "Crown Grant" was issued, and to "First Titles" issued since that date. The grantee's name and date of Crown Grants made prior to 1863, as well as the portion survey plan catalogue numbers are also shown. It must be remembered that only the original grantees name and title particulars are noted on parish maps.

In areas of low subdivisional activity, separate parish maps have not been prepared and the county map remains as the base plan. This is the case in the vast majority of the Western Division of New South Wales.

Larger scale maps of Towns, Villages and their environs as well as sections

of the City of Sydney known as "City Sections" and "New Grants" are also published by the Crown Lands Office and these show land subdivided into sections and allotments.

### Reference Sheets

Other cadastral maps generally referred to as reference sheets and being of a larger scale have been prepared by Government Departments and Public Authorities such as local councils. These have been placed into use in the plan room as basic reference maps and are charted on parish and town maps, indicating that they should be referred to as the next step in a search of land within their boundaries.

Maps of this nature (up until the introduction of Central Mapping Authority Sheets), covered most of the Sydney Metropolitan area as well as other more thickly populated areas and were prepared by the Valuer Generals Department. Other reference sheets of similar scale were prepared by the Old Cumberland County Council, (Styled CCC Sheets) and by various local councils.

### Central Mapping Authority Sheets

These maps show the most recent subdivisional patterns. This is accomplished by a system of constant updating by charting each new deposited plan (after registration) in the area of the plan it replaces. The superceded plans of survey are recorded for historical purposes by way of a note.

C.M.A. maps were introduced in two series -

1. Urban cadastral series based on the Integrated Survey Grid (at 1:4000, 1:2000 etc.) are comprehensively compiled and are being used to replace the existing charting maps.
2. Rural cadastral series based on the Australian National Grid (at 1:1000 to 1:25000) are not comprehensively charted and for search purposes must be used in conjunction with existing parish and county maps.

Ultimately most county, parish and town maps in urban areas will become index maps only to the new reference map system. The urban cadastral map provides a comprehensive index to survey definition records including reference to superceded plans.

### The Pyramidal System ( not covered by CMA maps)

In this the original charting system, successive plans lodged in the Land Titles Office may in turn become current charting maps for the area they cover. This occurs in the following manner.

In searching for a current charting map it is often found that the congested area of a village or parish map has been divided into larger scale plans prepared by the Valuer General's Department. These are used for charting purposes in the Land Titles Office and are named according to the Local Government Area in which they are situated e.g. Hornsby Sheet 3, Sydney Sheet 103 etc.

Inspection of the V.G. Sheet may reveal a subdivision represented in say an early Litho or Roll Plan which may be further subdivided by a Deposited Plan in the 200000 series. At the time of each subdivision, the plan representing it may have become the current charting map.

### Deposited Plans

Series Used - 1 to 32399, 40000 series, 100000 series, 200001 to 254000, 255001 to 256000, 258001 to 259955, 259958 onwards and 500001 onwards.

Date Accepted in the Office - 1st January, 1863 to date.

Title System - The series comprises both Old System and Real Property land.

From the inception of the Real Property Act on 1st January, 1863 to the commencement of the Conveyancing Act and Part XII of the Local Government Act on 1st July, 1920 proprietors were required to lodge a plan prepared by a certified surveyor when subdividing Real Property land or when lodging a primary application. This led to the establishment of the Deposited Plan series which, in various forms, has continued to date.

The deposited plan series and other plan series introduced thereafter ran concurrently until 23rd January, 1961 when the existing Conveyancing Act regulations were repealed and replaced. From that date all plans lodged for registration in the Land Titles Office, irrespective of Title System, purpose or number of lots, have been lodged as Deposited Plans, commencing initially at D.P.200001.

It was soon realised that this series alone could not practically contain all plans lodged and it has been subsequently maintained for plans having 5 or more lots whilst those containing less than 5 lots have been numbered in a series commencing at 500001.

The 200000 and 5/600000 plan series continued until 31st October, 1983, when upon introduction of the computer based Automated Land Titles System (ALTS) a new plan series was commenced starting at D.P.700001 for all plans lodged for registration, other than those lodged for easement purposes. Easement plans are still numbered in the 600000 series.

Many of the plans in the 1 to 32399 and 200000 series are used for general charting purposes.

#### Primary Application Plans

Series Used - 1 to 41948. These plans have been recatalogued as Filed Plans, now styled Deposited Plans, by the addition of 50000 to each number and are now available from the microfilm records as D.P.50001 to D.P.91948.

Date Accepted in the Office - 1st January 1863 to 23rd January, 1961. Note that plans lodged for the purpose of a Primary Application since 1961 have been numbered in the 200000, 500000, 600000 and now 700000 Deposited Plan series.

This series resulted from a requirement of the Real Property Act, effective from 1st January, 1863 to deposit "a map or plan" certified by a surveyor depicting the land the subject of a primary application with the Registrar General - (It should be noted that as an exception to this general rule, some early applications were lodged without plans of survey, a plan being compiled in the office using available adjoining information.)

From its inception to 1961, plans in this series adopted the same number as the Primary Application they accompanies. Since 1961, Primary Application plans have been numbered in the current deposited plan series. Plans in this series lodged prior to 1961 were not used for general charting purposes.

#### Registered Plans

Series Used - Regd. Plan 1 to Regd. Plan 2454. Registered Plans numbered from 239 onwards have been recatalogued by the addition of 37000 to each number and are now available as D.P.37239 to D.P.39454. The plan cross reference index in the plan room of the Land Titles Office should be consulted for other recatalogued numbers.

Date accepted in the Office - 1920 to 1961.

Registered Plans comprising 5 or more lots formed the Old System counterpart to deposited plans prior to 1961 and all basic conditions applying were identical. However, although these plans were investigated and registered, no guarantee as to title was implied. The office merely carried out its function of "keeping the register of plans" as required by the Conveyancing Act, 1919. Many plans in this series have been used for general charting purposes.

#### Housing Commission Plans and Crown Authority Plans

Series Used - Housing commission plans were originally numbered as HCP 1 to HCP 1874. These have been recatalogued by the addition of 35000 to each number becoming D.P. 35001 to D.P. 36874.

Crown Authority Plans, originally numbered as CAP 1 to CAP 46 have also been recatalogued and the new plan numbers are available from the plan cross reference index.

Date accepted in the Office - 1943 to 1958.

Title System - Real Property and Old System.

As these plans did not require council approval, it was thought that they were not eligible for registration in the plan series provided by the Conveyancing Act regulations of 1930.. These plans have also been used for general charting purposes.

#### Miscellaneous Plans Of Subdivision - Real Property and Old System

Series Used - Real property plans were originally numbered as MPS(RP) 1 to MPS(RP) 121742 and recatalogued by the addition of 300000 to each, becoming D.P. 300001 to D.P. 421742.

Old System plans extended from MPS(OS) 1 to MPS(OS) 15018 and recatalogued by the addition of 150000 to each, becoming D.P. 150001 to D.P. 165018.

Date accepted in the Office - 1930 to 1961.

Title System - Either Real Property or Old System.

In 1931, a substituted section 196 of the Conveyancing Act, 1919 provided for lodgement of plans restricted to smaller subdivisions comprising not more than 4 lots and to plans of proposed road.



The MPS(RP) and (OS) series ran concurrently with the Deposited Plan and Registered Plan series (which provided for larger subdivisions) and were registered under the provisions of Section 196 of the Conveyancing Act. Plans lodged with dealings could only be registered in this series if they portrayed a subdivision within the meaning of the Local Government Act. The plans were charted on the relevant charting map but were not used themselves as charting mediums.

Roll Plans, Lithos, Wells, Nortons, and Armstrongs.

Series Used \_ Roll Plans : RP 1 to RP 942  
Lithos : 1 (L) to 80665 (L)  
Wells : 1 (W) to 440 (W)  
Nortons : 1 (N) to 160 (N)  
Armstrongs : 1 (A) to 445 (A)

These plans have been recatalogued as Deposited Plans and new plan numbers are available from the plan cross reference index.

Date Accepted in the Office - 1863 to 1965.

Title System - Old System and Real Property as regards some lithos lodged after 1947.

Prior to 1st July, 1929 there was no provision for public recording of plans comprising land under Common Law (Old System) title other than as a plan annexed to a registered deed. However, many Old System plans have been acquired by the Land Titles Office since 1863 to be used as a basis for surveying, searching and investigating of matters related particularly to Old System land.

Many of the plans in these series have been used for charting purposes and these are usually distinguished on their relevant reference map by a brown line appearing above and below the plan number.

Roll Plans

These were usually large plans of survey of Old System subdivisions and were originally filed in roll form, hence their name. Later these plans were cut and mounted flat in the same size as a deposited plan. Some Roll Plans of large subdivisions were catalogued by their name instead of by number. These include the Petersham, Riley and Ultimo Estates.

Wells, Norton and Armstrong Plans.

These were named after surveyors who, upon thier retirement, donated the stock of 19th century plans prepared by them to the Registrar Generals Office. The name of these plans are the only feature distinguishing them from the original lithos and roll plans.

### Lithos

These were smaller old system plans having a low value in regard to title information and boundary definition. Initially these plans were comprised mainly of sale lithographs put out by auctioneers and upon lodgement at the Registrar Generals Office were filed in manilla envelopes of about a quarter of the size of a deposited plan. The value of these plans was greatly enhanced by their use as a charting medium and by the great deal of grant, title and plan information added to them Over the years.

After 1920 plans filed in this series (as well as those filed as roll plans), gradually lost their uniqueness. In 1947 however, use of the litho category was revived and exytended to include copies of all plans of survey annexed to dealings and also to copies of plans lodged in the MPS(RP) and MPS(OS) series with a view to making all such plans available to the public via the plan room.

Shortly afterwards, lithos, with the exception of large plans were bound in books of 50 which were the same size as dealing books. Larger plans were still filed in envelopes or mounted as large flats. Although these books are gone, plans originally filed in them are available as print outs through their recatalogued filed plan numbers.

### Australian Agricultural Co. Plans

Series Used - General series : AA 1-651 incl. and 653 to 664 incl.

Newcastle series : AA(N) 1-337 incl.

Platts Estate : Platt 1-39 incl.

Gloucester series : GL. 1-33 incl.,.

The above plans have been recatalogued in the series D.P. 95001 to D.P. 96075.

Date accepted in the Office - 1950

Title System - Old System

The Australian Agricultural Company's grant dated 20-11-1847 (Serial 197 Page 359) comprised 464,460 acres and extended northerly from Newcastle to

the Manning River. Practically no government records were held regarding this area which consisted mainly of Old System land, until 1950 when an opportunity arose for the Registrar General's Office to obtain the considerable number of survey plans held by the Company.

The plans were initially catalogued in the series detailed previously but have since been recatalogued as Deposited Plans, the originals then being forwarded to the Mitchell Library to be kept for historical purposes. These plans have not been utilized as a charting medium.

### Recataloguing of Plans

With the need to simplify the cumbersome procedures applying to plans lodged in the office prior to 1961 and to facilitate microfilming and introduction of a speedy print out service, the majority of plans other than Deposited Plans and Strata Plans have been renumbered and classified as Filed Plans

The objective of this was to provide a unique number for all filed/deposited plans in a set running from 1 to 999999. As most pre 1961 plans could be identified through several numbers, a computer based cross reference system was prepared to directly obtain the filed plan number.

### Symbols and Notations

R.P. Act land boundaries - green line

Portion boundaries - red line (portion number in red)

Primary Application boundaries - blue line (P.A. number in blue)

Extent of new charting D.P.'s as shown on charting maps - pink wash

Boundaries of a D.P. - blue wash

Shire names - blue bar below

Municipality and city names - pink bar below

Note : Green edging is also used on some deposited plans (in the series 1 to 32339) Valuer General's sheets and lithos to define the extent of each Torrens Title transfer in the plan and are defined with a dealing number shown in red.

No colour is used on C.M.A. reference sheets. The symbols used on C.M.A. sheets are self explanatory and are always shown in the map key area on the right hand side (urban C.M.A. sheets) or the bottom (rural C.M.A. sheets) of these reference maps.

As I stated in the beginning of this article, the foregoing is by no means exhaustive but it may be of assistance to you when attempting to use the Plan Room in the Land Titles Office.

Bob Wood.

#### **LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORIANS - Please Note**

The above article is the second by Bob Wood on Land Title Research. A previous article entitled, *Land Titles Office Records*, is printed in the December, 1990, issue of the Journal. (Vol.4, No.3 - pp.5-13)

#### **CONGRATULATIONS - Congratulations - CONGRATULATIONS**

Why won't Jan Ross be doing her usual 3rd Saturday in the month Roster Duty at the Library Rooms this March ?

Why! Because she will be at Armidale receiving her Associate Diploma in Local and Applied History from the University of New England.

Jan, we hope you have a wonderful week-end. Those of us who are aware of the effort you have put into your studies over the past four years know that you will be justly proud of your achievement.

Our Society has received the benefits of Jan's knowledge of Local History in the past and we can only benefit from Jan's professionalism in the years ahead.

The Associate Diploma in Local & Applied History offered by the University of New England is a specialist course popular with people interested in Local History Research. Many of those who graduate use their skills working, either in a voluntary or professional capacity, for Museums, Archive Repositories or Libraries.

Subjects studied over the four year course include:-

Nature of Local History	Sources of Local History
Communications Skills	Sources & Repositories
The Historical Environment	Architectural Studies
History through Monuments	Heritage Conservation in Australia
Writing Local History	Exhibition Techniques
Historical Societies & Museums	Publication & Media Skills
Conservation and Retrieval	
Australian History to 1850; 1851 to 1900; 1900 to 1939; & 1940 to 1980.	
Oral History - Interview and Writing Techniques	



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