

# the Journal

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Picton and District Historical  
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Family History Society

PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sorry to be late again! This time, the blame goes to the photo copier.

The Arts & Craft Festival held at the beginning of August raised nearly \$2,000.00 for the Society, part of which will go towards the insulation and lining of the loft area in the Coach House. Many thanks to those members who supported the Society in the running of the Festival which is our major fundraiser.

This time of the year is 'Fete' time and the Society has already put on a display at Thirlmere School with Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital Fete and St Anthony's Parish Fete yet to come in October.

Several members of the Society recently attended the launch of Liz Vincent's book 'An Index to Entrance Book to the Picton Lock Up 1845-1861' at the Wollondilly Public Library, Picton. The Society has purchased a copy of the Index which gives the name, date and offence for those who found themselves in the lockup. The Society also holds the microfilm of these records.

On the night, Liz launched a fund to raise money to enable the Wollondilly Public Library to purchase a microfilm reader/printer. The Public Library already holds most of the Picton newspapers on microfilm but does not have a reader. While the Society has a microfilm reader, the acquisition of a reader/printer by the Public Library would be of great benefit to all and I am sure donations from our members to the fund would be greatly appreciated.

Our projects mentioned in the last Journal are coming along well. The Index to Births Deaths and Marriages published in the Picton newspapers from 1895 to 1962 has been completed up to 1920 with over 1000 cards. Thanks to Ken Williams who has been writing out the cards and to members Peg Gard, Nicole Hanger and Norma Thornton who have been assisting with sorting and cross referencing.

Pat Shephard's transcript for Wilton will not be ready until early next year. However, Pat has already placed in the Resource Centre her index to burials for Wilton and Appin Anglican graveyards together with copies of her worksheets so the information can be accessed.

My transcript for the Wesleyan Graveyard at Glenmore (near The Oaks) should be right by the end of November and in the meantime a copy of the Index with dates of death can be accessed at the Resource Centre.

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IF A RED DOT APPEARS HERE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AND THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST JOURNAL. THE SOCIETY VALUES YOUR MEMBERSHIP - PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP SOON.

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Name.....

Address.....

Membership: Pensioner \$8      Single \$10      Family \$12

The updating of our other cemetery transcripts will take some time however the transcripts and Undertaker's Registers are available for research.

The Society is planning the publication of a Picton & District Land Register which will combine records from various sources. Jan Ross is compiling the Register which we hope to have available early next year.

The Members Interest Directory has now been printed and most local contributors have received their copy. Members living further afield and other Societies will receive their copy soon.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 14th September with the following people forming the committee:

President	Marlane Fairfax
Vice President	Helen Hanger
Secretary	Gail Hanger
Treasurer	Pat Shephard
Research Officer	Jan Ross, A/Dip.L.A.H.
Librarian	Dianne Irwin
Journal Editors	Nancy & Reg Peisley
Social Secretaries	Peg Gard & Elsa Brayson
Publicity	Peg Gard
Arts & Craft Festival Co-ordinator	Nicole Hanger

Myrtle Leggett had to resign from the position of Treasurer as she had completed her three year term. Many thanks to Myrtle for keeping our books in such good order over the past three years. Ken Williams, while resigning from the position of Research Officer, will continue to actively help the Society with research and indexing.

Members Jan Ross and Patricia Shephard will be attending the NSW Family History Association Conference in Newcastle in October. This is a great opportunity to talk to people from other Societies. While being a very busy and hectic weekend, it could be called a 'Retreat' as members always return inspired, enthusiastic and full of new ideas.

OCTOBER MEETING SPEAKER - Burraborang Heritage Society.

NOVEMBER MEETING SPEAKER - Alex Goodsall, Campbelltown Historical Society.

DECEMBER MEETING - Christmas Party. No formal meeting.

Marlane Fairfax.

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF PICTON METHODISM

1849 — 1964

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COMPILED FOR THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE UPPER PICTON  
METHODIST CHURCH, SEPTEMBER, 1964.

M. H. STACEY.

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## THE DAWN

The rolling hills, the languid valleys, and the lazy stream courses of Picton have earned their place in the history of our country. The early travellers who described this pretty aspect came soon upon the trails of the wild cattle of the Cowpastures. Men such as Wilson and Barracks, Barrallier and Caley, explored the area. But the rich pastures were forbidden territory, without the Governor's permit after Governor King's July, 1803 proclamation - and the penalty for trespassing was six months hard labour. Macquarie exempted the Macarthur and Davidson families in 1812, but the 1803 order was not relaxed until 1822.

Governor Macquarie spent some time at the Government cattle yards at Stonequarry on Tuesday, 17th October, 1820, and recorded in his Journal of a Tour, " I also examined a most eligible situation on the North Bank of this Creek for a Township whenever this desirable part of the country is settled." The earliest land grants were to Major Henry Colden Antill and to Charles Louis Rumker on 9th July, 1822. Runker's grant was in 'the district of Picton' the first recorded use of the name of Picton. Picton was so named by Governor Brisbane after Sir Thomas Picton, with whom he had fought in the Peninsular War, in order that the district could be described accurately in land grants and official correspondence.

Surveyor George Harper records the survey of 1500 acres for a township at Stonequarry, 4th November, 1821, and in September, 1822, Surveyor McBrien surveyed 1700 acres for a township between Rumker's grant and Redbank Creek, Section of which was later to be used as the site for Upper Picton. The village at Stonequarry was planned in 1840. The Sydney Morning Herald of 21st March, 1840, carried an advertisement for the sale of land for a "township of Stonequarry on Mr. Harper's Estate" on the south side of Stonequarry Creek. Similarly, the Sydney Herald of June, 1841 advertised land for sale from Major Antill's Estate, 'Village of Picton, Late Stonequarry', complete with police establishment, gaol and courthouse, and a steam mill under construction.

In 1844, residents of Picton approached the Government with a request that the land reserved by the Colonial Secretary on 14th June, 1823, for a Government township, be laid out. Accordingly a village design was submitted, which was approved by the Governor on 16th June, 1845. As such the Government Gazette on 10th October, 1845, advertised the site for the village of Picton.

There were now two villages existing almost side by side, both called Picton. On 18th November, 1845, Richard Blackwell of Woodburn, Picton suggested to the Colonial Secretary that the

Government Village be renamed 'Redbank', but he was advised that his suggestion was unsuitable. Again, on 15th March, 1847, he suggested that, to solve confusion, the name "Upper" be attached to the Government Village of Picton. His suggestion was adopted, and the Village of Upper Picton was accordingly gazetted on 19th March, 1847, 'to distinguish it from the Township of Picton, situate on Major Antill's property at the Stonequarry Bridge'. It was into this small village of Upper Picton that Methodism came first in 1847.

#### CAMDEN METHODISM

The Rev. Samuel Leigh, the colony's first Wesleyan Minister, arrived on the "Hebe" on 10th August, 1815 and shortly after setting things right in Sydney, set out on a visit through the Hawkesbury. He preached in the Presbyterian Church at Ebenezer, visited Windsor and Richmond, and went on to John Lee's at Castlereagh. Leigh's letters home, printed in the Methodist Magazine of 1817, and the Rev. Stracham, his biographer, mention no month or year, but on one Wednesday, presumably early in 1816, Samuel Leigh left Castlereagh, the site of the first Wesleyan Chapel in the colony. Travelling through "one unbroken forest, without road or path of any kind, for thirty miles", using his axe and guided by the sun, he arrived at Macquarie Grove, the residence of Mr. Hassal. Here he conducted an evening service, at the time when the village of Camden did not exist, about one mile north of the site of the present Methodist Church.

At the Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Districts of 1842, Camden was constituted as the Cowpastures mission station within the Parramatta Circuit, and Illawarra formed a part of that great labour. A young Assistant Missionary (i.e., a probationer), Francis Glass, was appointed to the Cowpastures. He was followed in 1843 by William Lightbody. These men, together with the Rev. James Watsford, who visited from Parramatta preached at Macquarie Grove, or on the verandah of Matavai House near Cobbitty Paddock, until the first chapel was opened about 1844.

#### METHODISM COMES TO PICTON

Early reports tell us that local preachers from Camden, such as Silas Gill, later the father of Kempsey Methodism, the Brown and Butts Brothers and John Vidler of Campbelltown, father of South Coast Methodism, preached with fire and fervour, and carried the Gospel to many a lonely place. They travelled as far as Mittagong, so it is not unlikely that they paid some attention to Picton even before the first minister visited the village.

It is thought that the first Wesleyan Minister to visit Picton was the Assistant Missionary at Camden, the Rev. J.C. Thrum, who came to Picton it would seem, late in 1847, and preached at the home of James Rogers, builder and storekeeper of Upper Picton, at whose home services were held until the Chapel was built. This house still stands today (1964) on the corner of Hill Street and the Hume highway, a block south of the Church.

Camden reported to the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Australian Districts, August, 1848; "Picton. A township on the Southern Road. Here we have lately commenced preaching. The people appear very desirous to hear the word and several persons manifest a concern for salvation. Steps are being taken for the immediate erection of

a Chapel. About 25 pounds are already subscribed."

#### THE CAUSE ESTABLISHED

Following upon the desire of Picton Wesleyans to build a chapel, the Rev. Binnington Boyce, Chairman of Wesleyans, wrote to the Colonial Secretary on 6th September, 1848, requesting that certain allotments be granted to the Church for use in Picton. The Colonial Secretary replied "that more convenient selection of allotments might be made than those pointed out." After further representations, the Colonial Secretary advised on 4th January, 1849, that certain allotments had been granted to the Wesleyans. The Governor gave his approval on 4th April, 1850. Accordingly, in order to promote religion and education, the deeds for land for the Wesleyan Church were made out to Laurence Kendall of Campbelltown, George Pickering of Camden and Rev. Binnington Boyce of Sydney, the first trustees of the Church, on the 22nd May, 1851. The land, being lots 9 and 10 for a Church, Lot 11 for a school house and Lot 12 for a parsonage, comprised two acres all told of Section 2 of the Village of Upper Picton.

Shortly after the letter from the Colonial Secretary authorising the land grant on 4th April, 1849, James Rogers began to build the chapel. The Chapel before it was extended was 26' by 16'. The stone for the walls was hewn from Stonequarry Creek. The roof was of shingles, which can still be seen under the iron roof, the floor of packed earth.

Camden reported for Picton to the Thirty-First Annual Meeting of the Australian Districts, in July, 1849; "We have during the year gathered a society of about eight members amid many difficulties and discouragements, and we are anticipating a greater measure of prosperity. We have a small stone chapel in the course of erection, which we hope to have ready to open soon." Thus the Chapel was opened soon after July, 1849, Camden's next report in 1850 stating that the Chapel had been opened free of debt. There is no more precise date for the opening. The records for 1849 are incomplete, there are no contemporary reports of the opening. There is no foundation stone, since there were few skilled craftsmen at the time, competent enough to incise a stone. Perhaps a stone was marked out but once in position, it was indistinguishable from the others, and was soon forgotten.

#### AMID MANY DIFFICULTIES AND DISCOURAGEMENTS

The labours of James Rogers saw a small stone chapel erected. Thus 115 years ago, the small Wesleyan Chapel entered into the life of Picton, into a Picton which the traveller on an overland journey described in the Sydney Morning Herald of 10th November, 1853, as having "no pretensions to being called a town beyond the mere fact of a few houses being grouped together in a very irregular manner." It was then, into a small and scattered village of 29 houses and 142 people, according to the Census of 1851, that the Wesleyan ministers and local preachers from Camden came to preach to the small congregations. The first congregations were largely made up of the Rogers, Blatch and Evans families. The Wesleyan population in Picton, according to the October, 1852, Camden Quarterly Meeting Minutes, numbered six persons, but actual congregations were larger than this, and it is recorded that the "Word of Life is listened to with deep attention".



James Rogers was not the only builder of the Church. He was Class Leader, lay preacher, and society steward from the time he erected the chapel until his death in 1872. There were times when membership of the society dwindled away and quarterly collections reached low levels. These must have been times of disappointment and discouragement. It was in the early years that, in Quarterly Meeting Minutes, Picton was variously spelt "Pickton", and while one Camden brother was Circuit Steward, the minister received a "celery of 40 pounds per annum". Among the ministers who laboured in this part of God's vineyard in these early years were George Pickering(1849), J.Bowes (1852), J.Fillingham (1855), C.W.Rigg (1856), W.Clarke (1859), S.Wilkinson (1861), J.Watkins (1864), and Richard Amos (1865).

#### THE EXTENSION OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Picton grew slowly. In 1861, Upper Picton itself had a population of 187, and Picton Village 197. As the Southern Railway neared Picton, the village grew even more so. In November, 1861, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that "on the Menangle Road, approaching the intended site for the terminus, many little cottages are rearing their heads, and from the eagerness for procuring building allotments, Mr.Antill will soon have disposed of all those marked out."

With the completion of the railway line to Picton in 1863 and the arrival of the first train, Picton grew even more, most notably along Menangle Street and in Upper Picton. A visitor to Picton in 1865 said that Picton was so altered and improved after a lapse of over twenty years that he could scarcely identify the locality. From a rough, straggling settlement, Picton had gradually developed into a small but prosperous township, with churches, stores, streets and comfortable cottages.

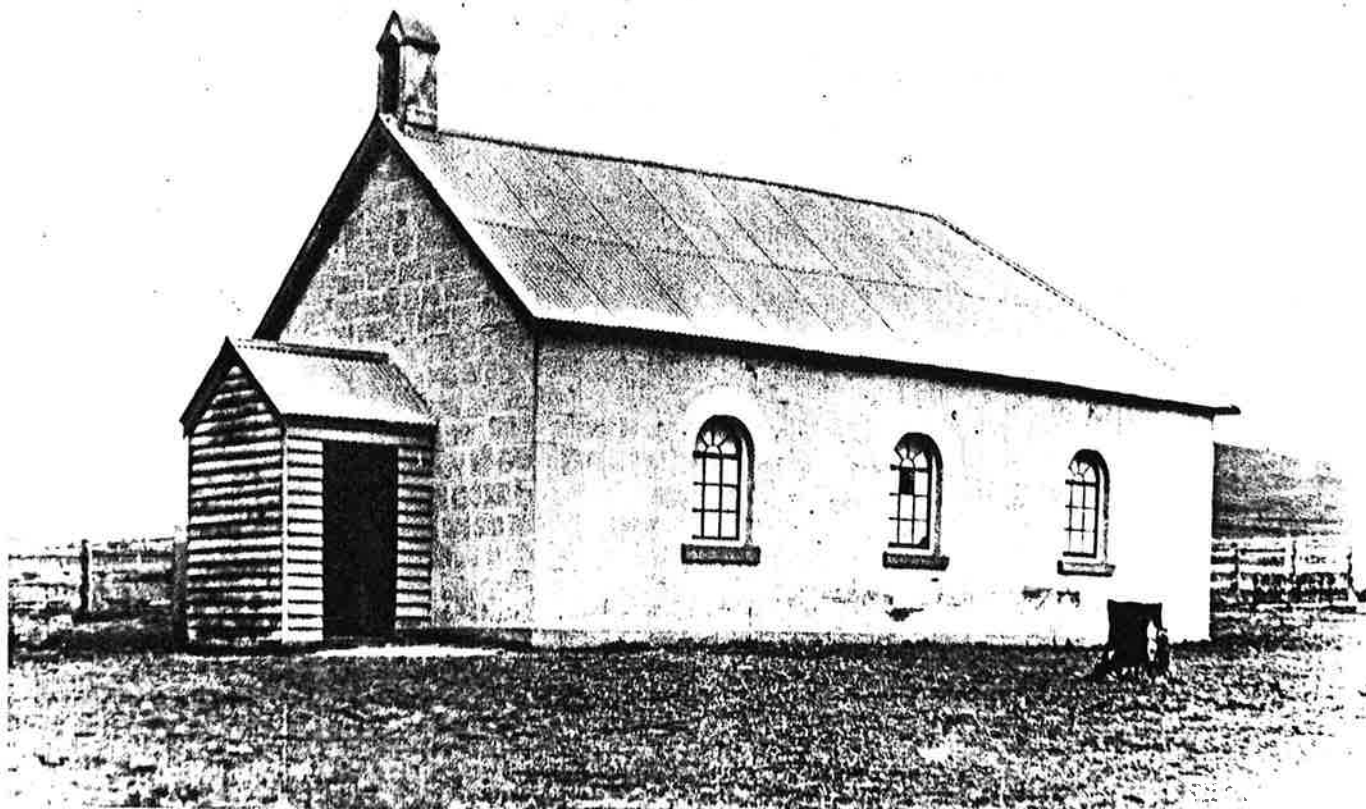
The influx of railway men and men associated with terminal railway activities, brought an increase in the numbers attending the Wesleyan Chapel. James Rogers' Sunday Class grew so large that a new class was necessary and in 1865 Mr. King, a railway man, began to conduct a Wednesday evening class. There were 23 Wesleyans in Picton, and many other adherents, and the little Wesleyan Chapel was virtually bursting at the seams. Quarterly collections rose from one pound per quarter to over 5 pounds. These were the times when many an hour was spent in fellowship with the railway men, singing hymns in true Wesleyan fashion.

It was in 1865 that Picton people considered enlarging their Chapel. The conference of 1865 gave Picton permission to enlarge, and once more James Rogers set to work. The additions amounted to a further ten feet on the back of the Chapel, and a small porch, which considerably increased the seating capacity. This brought the total cost of the erection and enlargement to 250 pounds. Thus we have Chapel as it is today (1964), wrought by the hand of James Rogers. By 1868, the railway men had moved on as the next section of line was laid to Mittagong. Picton, the boom town as the railway terminal, lost ground. But the town was still more populous than before the railway came, and Wesleyan services, though smaller than while the railway men were in Picton, were well attended and the society was continually witnessing in the small Picton community.

The Rev. George Pickering returned to Camden in 1866, following him

were William Bennet (1869), W.S. Pincombe (1871), Edward Rodd (1874), Charles Wiles (1877), and then in 1880, the Rev. Walter James Davis. Rev. Davis came to Camden soon after John Gibson and his wife arrived in Picton. These two men worked together and built the society up to a peak comparable to that when the railway first came to Picton. Some years later after Brother Gibson, Society Steward, Circuit Steward, local preacher and Sunday School superintendent, had passed on, the Rev. Gibson returned to live in Picton. This was in 1893 and in close liaison with H.S. Clifton who had shifted business from Camden. Rev. Davis consolidated the cause in Picton. Picton, once again the centre of railway activity with the laying of a double track on the Southern line, supported a stronger Methodist cause. It was in Rev. Davis' time, on 10th June 1894, that the church was reopened after having an iron roof placed over the shingles, a new ceiling and a floor put in and a new pulpit to replace the former high box pulpit.

The Rev. Davis' departure in 1896 meant that once again Picton was visited from Camden. The church sorely felt the loss of the closer relationship, but the society was maintained by folk such as the Clifton family, the Apps, the Ridgeways, the Byrnes and Mrs. Gibson. The turn of the century saw a strong core of Picton people supporting the Methodist cause. But the older Methodists such as H.S. Clifton, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Mann (formerly Mrs. Rogers), were becoming older and new names like Dowse, Smith, Whiteman, Apps, Grant and Ottaway appeared to strengthen the society.



WESLEYAN CHAPEL  
REDBANK, PICTON

The second part of the history of Picton Methodism will appear in the December Journal.

## DID YOU KNOW

The first postage stamp designed for use in the Commonwealth, was released to the public on the second of January, 1913. It was scarlet with a kangaroo in a map of Australia.

At the beginning of World War II in 1939 "Radio Australia" began its overseas broadcasts. The programmes were from Melbourne and were broadcast by transmitters at Shepparton, Victoria.

Banjo Paterson never played the banjo, he only wrote beautiful poems and stories. He used the name Banjo as his nom de plume rather than his full name, which was Andrew Barton Paterson.

St.Marks Church of England, Picton was designed by Edmund Blackett in 1848. The church foundation stone was laid on the 16th. July, 1850 and completed in 1857. This is a place well worth visiting because of its historic graveyard.

In 1814 Captain William Cox was appointed by Governor Macquarie as Superintendent of Works for a new road over the Blue Mountains. Six months later he had completed a hundred and one miles (about one hundred and sixty kilometres) of road. Just think, when William Charles Wentworth, Gregory Blaxland and William Lawson crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813 they had to hack their way through dense bush lands, climb treacherous rock formations, brave the deadly snakes and spiders and combat the warlike aborigines.

A picture is hung and a person is hanged. A funny language this English.

The continent of Australia is about three million square miles stretching from the sub tropical north to the temperate south, from the Indian Ocean on the west through the deserts of Central Australia to the mountainous eastern shores of the Pacific Ocean. There are many beautiful and wondrous things to see and to learn about our country. In recent years many tourists have come to discover our land and so we have become quite a tourist attraction.

Ayers Rock is a monolith, situated in the south western part of the Northern Territory, about 280 miles from Alice Springs. It covers some 1,200 acres and rises to a dome approximately 1,143 ft. high. The Rock is roughly kite-shaped, has a perimeter of about 5 miles and is approx 1.6 miles long and one mile wide.

Ayers Rock was first sighted by Ernest Giles in 1872 but was later examined by W.C.Gasse in 1873, who named it Ayers Rock after the then Premier of S.A. Sir Harry Ayers.

The native name for the Rock, held sacred by the Aborigines, is Ul-u-ru or Oolra. At the foot of the Rock are numerous caves decorated with Aborigine paintings, many differing values of religious philosophy of the Aboriginal tribe of the area, Loritdjas. The Rock is closely associated with their legends of the Dreamtime. Ayers Rock is composed of a coarse felspathic grit of late pre-Cambria age scarred and weathered by age. It is an awe inspiring sight to see the colours of the Rock constantly changing when the light changes. It changes from orange to red, to molten yellow, then to purple with the last rays of the dying sun. The Rock then becomes a vivid glowing orange and in the twilight a blue silhouette is all that remains.

## C . H. PICKARD

by Stephen Chalker

Charles Henry Pickard went from strength to strength. His emporium in the late 1880's expanded from haberdashery into general store keeping, corn and chaff supplies, a bakery (the largest outside of Sydney) and even housed one of his two Thirlmere butcher shops. His slaughter house was down the Oaks Road behind the present Lyn Gordon Reserve.

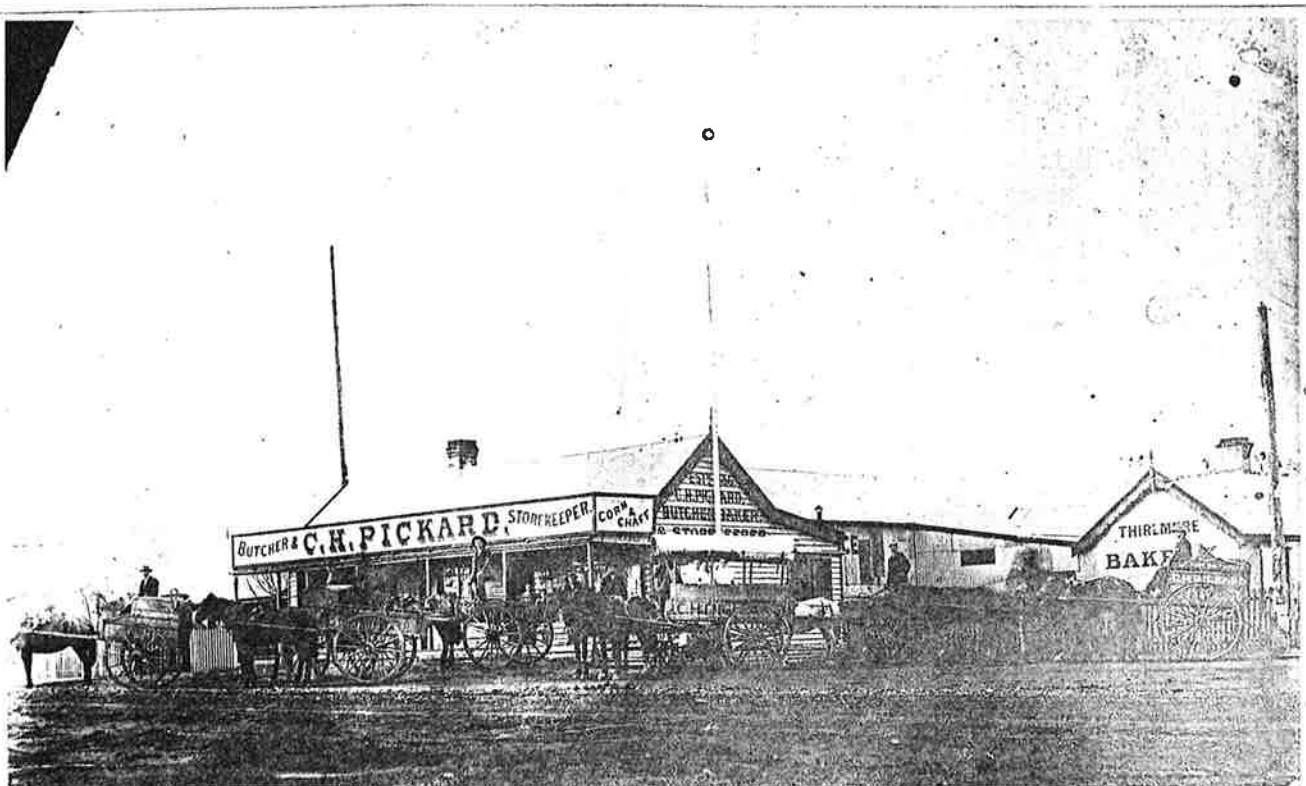
During early expansion, a partnership with Mr F. Cabrera was later dissolved. A chain of stores, a modern brick building next to the Picton Post Office and others at the Oaks, Kangaloon, Bowral, Bargo, Thirlmere and Colo Vale were established. Thirlmere was now the main store with eight horse delivery waggons, servicing a business area extending from Bowral to Wallacia.

By 1919 Mr. Pickard had developed hearing difficulties and ill health. Henry Jasper Pickard, his son, now became general manager. By 1924 the wooden emporium had been outgrown and a new brick building was erected next door to extend into a hardware store. New business strategy saw the commercial operation leased to Mr. Smith, who managed Pickard's Picton premises. Smith and Co. sold his lease to a Mr. Baskin about 1926. Mr. Baskin suffered a football injury and was seriously disabled and the store changed again in 1928.

Thirlmere history took another significant turn when Walter Middleton purchased the commercial operation of both stores in 1928.

Pickard's experimental farm was located behind what is now Lyn Gordon Passive Reserve. He introduced to Australia the Jerusalem Artichoke. On a trip to England he brought back with him a new fodder crop called Helianti.

The following photos are of the Thirlmere store (opened in 1887 in Oaks Road) and the Picton store (now John Diggers) opened in 1901.





PICKARD'S STORE, PICTON, 1906  
(now Digger's Furnishings)

**THIRLMERE AND PICTON.**

**C. H. PICKARD,**

**Butcher, Baker, and General Storekeeper.**

**GROCERY. DRAPERY. BOOTS & SHOES. IRONMONGERY  
ALL KINDS OF PRODUCE BOUGHT & SOLD**

**Meat, Bread &c, delivered daily at lowest prices. in Thirlmere  
Picton, Bargo, Balmoral and Lakesland.**

From Picton Post & Advocate, August 29th 1900

## SHOPPING

Gee Whiz! Didn't those last three months get by in a hurry. Well, I have been giving things a bit of thought, or cogitating as Crocodile Dundee would say and it becomes important to tell you all about this shopping bit.

Usually, over the years I have left this to the little woman (Hi Pres) but just lately I felt it was about time I sort of indulged and helped myself to a little of what seemed to me to be a pretty happy way of passing the time. What a rude shock was in store for me and I can assure you it was my passing thought, what fools we were to allow the days to pass when you rang the grocer and he told you what you needed, then he delivered them and gave you a week's tick. For you young un's that means you didn't pay until the next week. I tell you, it was a lot better than Bankcard because he didn't charge you any interest and everything was done with a smile and a happy word.

There I go again, carried away thinking of the good old days (who's kidding who) you know, before the days when you had to handle all the groceries at least three times. First, take them off the shelf into the trolley, that's usually a fight trying to guide the so and so thing, then take them out of the trolley at the checkout, put them in a plastic bag and back into the trolley and wheel them to the car. Take them out of the trolley, put 'em in the boot and off you go home. Take them out of the boot and put 'em on the kitchen table. Nearly finished, you can put them back on the shelf in the cupboard and VOILA, you're all done. Did I say three times, that's five times, amazing those tins of soup aren't ready to pour out hot with all that handling.

If you watch these advertisements on TV, you have never had it so good, everything you buy is so cheap and so it ought to be, you have just worked for the Supermarket for an hour or two for nothing. Talk about cheap labour and you still haven't got everything because you don't have a grocer who knows you better than you know yourself. Also, you got a bag of boiled lollies for nix. See if you can get that at Woolworth's, Coles, Franklins or Bilo. You don't even get that smile I mentioned earlier.

Well, enough of the groceries, it was surely time to get into the real thing, y'know, getting the wool for somebody's jumper and buying socks and shirts and unmentionables. These unmentionables, have you noticed how they have fiddled around with the numbers. Once upon a time I could get a shirt with a 17 collar. Now you get a size which is about 95 or 100 and the person behind the counter says, "be careful, some of these are small fittings". Eventually you finish up with something, you take it home, try it on then take it back and change it for the right size. This, naturally is progress and that is a word if you think about it, can be used both ways. It is possible to go forward or you can go backwards and do the things we were doing twenty years ago but someone decided a change was necessary whether it would be for good or evil really didn't matter.

Have you been into a bank lately. Don't say which bank, it doesn't matter. They all think the same way. They only want to lend you money at exorbitant rates but if you want to invest your money you



will be fortunate indeed if you get enough interest to cover the payment for Sundays paper. Once upon a time when you lodged a cheque you could get payment almost immediately. Now with the advent of computers which are extremely fast it only takes twice as long. Now that is what I call progress.

Went down to the big smoke recently. Shopping down there is different altogether. Nobody takes any notice of you and if you want any information you need to write a letter to the manager to get any help. Have you noticed up here in the bush how different it is. The people behind the counters actually smile and in a lot of cases even mention the weather. Awesome isn't it. Notice how I am getting onto this new lingo. Can't always be sure what is meant but it's real cool to sound so mod and with it.

In a true shoppers style I can tell you Christmas is only a few months away and won't we have some fun then. Sales of all the things the shops can't sell and they will all be discounted anywhere from 15 to 50 per cent. It would be absolutely fab if now and again we could get to know what the original price was.

Probably the ultimate in shopping is to go along with the little woman, (did it again Pres) I find that invariably the wife is buying buttons or lace or some sort of frilly bits to make things for someone who she will say really needs them. For me I somehow get down to the hardware store or computer shop and look at all the goodies which would be lovely to own if only one had the energy to make use of them.

My pet shopping is to go into the butchers and try to look intelligent and then you get around to saying "how about that steak? looks pretty tender to me." Put yourself in the butchers position. Should he tell you you're a lousy judge of meat as you have chosen the toughest cut in the shop, or will he say "yes its on special too." Makes it awkward for him doesn't it, but the bit I like is the way they make you feel as if you know what your talking about. The way we go now is to say, "what do you suggest" and we seem to get meat which is possible to eat.

Oh. No! She who must be obeyed as spoken by Rumpole has told me to shoot down to the supermarket and get a packet of tea bags, which we forgot. See what I mean about the good old grocer. He never forgot. Well I've got the tea bags now all I have to do is to wait in line while the people in front of me with enough food to feed the 6th Division of the Australian Army, go through the check out. Shouldn't take more than half an hour or so. Oh well had nothing else to do anyway. That's real progress. Please oh please bring back the corner shop.

Is your spouse one of those who likes to window shop. Mine is, we could spend hours just looking when it would be so easy to be home giving the old spine a spell and the inside of your glasses a rest. That's about all for now except if you think I have missed something don't write to me. Tell the President.

The Happy Old Male

NEW ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY

WHERE DID THEY DIE 1856 - 1889. Compiled by John H Tilton  
WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL 1991 -1992. Annual Report  
DIRECTORY OF ARCHIVES IN AUSTRALIA  
M.L.C.SCHOOL BURWOOD CENTENARY PROGRAMME. 1886 - 1986  
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CEMETERIES; Burragorang Roman Catholic Church.  
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GOULBURN MEMBERS INTEREST DIRECTORY - 1992.  
THE TRAIL BOSS. The Fairley Family & Picton History. By John Brown  
INDEX OF ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS INTO TASMANIA. 1841 - 1889 .Fiche

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THE FOLLOWING ITEM HAVE BEEN DONATED BY THE GARD FAMILY

LIFE OF SIR HENRY PARKES. by Charles E.Lyne  
THE REAL MATILDA. WOMAN & IDENTITY IN AUSTRALIA 1788-1975  
by Miriam Dixon  
YEAR BOOK 1968  
YEAR BOOK AUSTRALIAN 1972  
AUSTRALIAN ALMANAC 1974-1975 by John Slee  
SOLDIERING ON, THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY AT HOME & OVERSEAS - 1942  
JUNGLE WARFARE WITH AUSTRALIAN ARMY South West Pacific 1944

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## BOOK REVIEW

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### CHRONICLES OF APPIN. NSW.

By Syd Percival

On 31 July 1992 the Campbelltown and Airds District Historical Society launched their latest publication "Chronicles of Appin", by Syd Percival.

According to the English Dictionary, a "chronicle" is a "record of events", and who better to record the historical events of the Appin District than a man who has lived and worked in the area for more than eighty years.

"Chronicles of Appin" is a local history with a difference, for not only has the author relied on the historical records of the past for his story, but most effectively on his own memories of life as it was in this small farming community.

Locally, Syd Percival is well known for his ability to tell a good story. He has an excellent memory for detail and that rare quality of being able to see the wonder in the everyday happenings around him. Possibly a quality which comes from having worked so closely with the land all his life.

The following quote from the chapter entitled, "Dairy Farming in the Area", is just one example of the many little stories Syd recounts in his book.

The afternoon milking.....was mostly taken by a T model Ford ton truck painted red and was nicknamed the "Red Devil". This little truck had a bosom friend in a fox terrier dog which rode on the top of the canvas roof and he never let that truck go anywhere without him. When the truck was sold in later years, the dog went with it, as had happened in the first place when the firm bought it second hand.

Perhaps the best way to describe "Chronicles of Appin" is to quote from John K. Leary's foreword to the book in which he states that "It is a human story of the people who settled in Appin, it has all of the comedy, trauma and love that so typifies the Australian farmer and those around the man on the land."

Copies of the "Chronicles of Appin" can be purchased for \$8.00 from the Coach House during library hours or from the Picton Newsagency.

Alternatively you can write to the Campbelltown and Airds District Historical Society Inc. P.O. Box 257, Campbelltown 2560 or purchase a copy from Ron Moore at Minto Hardware (02) 603 3471.

Pat Shephard

## BOOK REVIEW

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### THE TRAIL BOSS THE FAIRLEY FAMILY AND PICTON HISTORY By JOAN BROWN (nee FAIRLEY)

It is refreshing to read a family history that does not rely on a great number of family trees nor long lists of strategical data for the bulk of its content. Furthermore the impact of the story is on its narration of contemporary events.

The author, Mrs Joan Brown, has managed to successfully blend historical detail with the story of a family's involvement in a community. Colourful characters such as the 'Trail Boss' provide a wealth of fascinating stories. For those who never knew him, he has been brought to life by his daughter's words. For those who were privileged to be his friend, it will bring back lots of wonderful memories of 'days gone by'.

Anyone who is interested in the history of Picton will find that although this book is basically a tribute to two generations in one family, it is easy to read and will hold your attention from beginning to end. A bonus for the reader is its index, which lists 151 family names.

Copies of the book are available at \$12.00 each from the Society's Resource Centre, located in the Coach House, at the rear of the National Bank. A percentage of all sales will be donated to The Picton and District Historical and Family History Society. Those ordering by mail should include an extra \$3.00 for postage and packaging.

Jan Ross A/Dip.L.A.H.

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### RACK YOUR BRAIN

1. What do the Aborigines call Ayers Rock?
2. Who was once a little Pearl?
3. Who was Mr. Pickard? Was he an old identity in what area?
4. The late Sister Rita King wrote a book. What was its title?
5. In what year was the first Commonwealth Stamp released?
6. When was Ayers Rock first sighted?

The answers to the above questions and also those published in last quarters Journal will all be found in various journals. Be sure to read them.

The President definitely refutes the suggestion that a ROLLS ROYCE will be offered as a prize. Sorry, there are no prizes just the satisfaction of having the necessary knowledge to answer the riddles.

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## PEG THE MERMAID

About 1922, when I was six years old, my father, G.D. Hellmrich was acting as promotion and advertising manager for Annette Kellerman whenever she was on a visit back home from her roles of "The Mermaid" in films at Hollywood.

On this occasion she was staging a tableau at the Sydney Town Hall. She was a magnificent Sea Horse. Others in the tableau were seaweed, oysters etc. My sister Monica and I were pearls.

I had asked 'Aunty' Annette to take me to the toilet quite a few times but she told me to wait, there was "no time before our turn on stage".

So, trying to be good and 'wait', I was certainly not prepared for the photographers flashlight and so alas! Peg is pictured standing in 'salt water'.

By Peg Gard.



GERTRUDE W  
WILLIAMS

PEG  
S

ANNETTE  
KELLERMAN

MIL  
R

JYMP  
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APPROX 1920-21

The answers to five of the six questions under the heading 'Rack Your Brain' in the last Journal appear in this Journal. The sixth question, 'Who founded the Picton & District Historical & Family History Society' has been left to me to answer.

This is HOW IT ALL BEGAN for me:

While working as a volunteer at the Wollondilly Community Library (later to become the Wollondilly Public Library), I became aware through people coming into the Library searching for family history, that what was available on the shelves was insufficient to answer general inquiries on the history of much of the area. This did not mean that the area was a desert as far as publications and researches were concerned. I quickly found out that many people and groups had been quietly researching and producing historical publications for years.

Although I had been researching my own family for many years, I had not at that time become interested in the local history of this area. As all addicts to family history feel, I had to help others get their 'fix'. With the support of the committee of the Community Library, I typed up histories of Tahmoor and Picton written by our Hon. Member, Mr Bruce Knox of Pheasants Nest and 'Early Days of Picton' by Jas. Steele which I borrowed from a friend, and placed them in the Library.

While chasing up earlier publications, I contacted Joan Brown, Librarian at Picton Public School and author of the recently published 'Trail Boss'. Joan's almost immediate response was 'why don't you form a historical society?' Who - me? Thanks but no thanks! Joan was persistent however and in January 1987 she asked (or told) me to contact Jan Ross who also had an addiction to family history research and had become interested in our local area. By this time, I too was hooked on local history.

The phone call to Jan resulted in an informal meeting comprised of Joan Brown, Doss & Jack Pemberton, John Stringfellow, Val Malcolm, Liz Vincent, Sonja den Hertog (from The Oaks Historical Society), Jan and myself. Subsequently, a public meeting was held in the Peasants Kitchen Restaurant in Picton in March, 1987 when the Picton & District Historical & Family History Society was formed with our inaugural meeting in April, 1987.

Who founded the Society? To Joan Brown must go the credit of giving the initial push while Jan and I took the first steps. Who founded the Society doesn't really matter. Anyone can start an organisation, group or society. Keeping the Society going is more important and the credit for this goes to all members who have continued to work for and support the Society over the past five and a half years.

Marlane Fairfax.

PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

COACH HOUSE CHRONICLES

- No. 1. RAILWAY PRECINCT RAMBLE (Picton) by Jan Ross (\$5).  
No. 2. WILTON - EAST BARGO A Brief History. By Pat Shephard (\$3).  
No. 3. LIEUT. GENERAL SIR THOMAS PICTON K.G.C.B. By C.Collison(\$2).  
No. 4. VAULT HILL (Picton) by Jan Ross (\$2).  
No. 5. HARMONY HOME (Picton - Thirlmere) by Jan Ross (\$4).  
No. 6. IT HAS NO DEFINITE NAME  
A POSTAL HISTORY OF TAHMOOR. (1892-1916) By M.Fairfax (\$2).  
No. 7. ANTONIO MANOLIS, THE FIRST GREEK  
& ATHENIAN BORN SETTLER IN NSW by Jan Ross (\$2).  
No. 8. PICTON COURT HOUSE & LOCK UP by Jan Ross (\$2).

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- PEEPS AT PICTONS PAST by F. B. Knox (\$5).  
THIRLMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL 1888 - 1988 (\$5).  
HISTORY OF THE FORBIDDEN LAND - Wollondilly Shire Council (\$5).  
THE TRAIL BOSS  
THE FAIRLEY FAMILY AND PICTON HISTORY - Joan Brown (\$12)  
CHRONICLES OF APPIN NSW  
by Syd Percival (\$8).

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