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Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

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The society does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed or statements made by authors of papers in this journal.

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Pensioners & school students	\$15.00
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Meetings

Meetings held at 9.30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month except January, on the 1st floor of Wollondilly Public Library, Menangle St., Picton.

Research room

First floor Wollondilly Public Library, above entrance. 10 am to 3 pm each Thursday and 10am to 12 noon, 2nd and 4th Saturday.

Research fees.

Members: Free

Non members: \$10.00 per hour + photocopying. (First hour payable in advance)

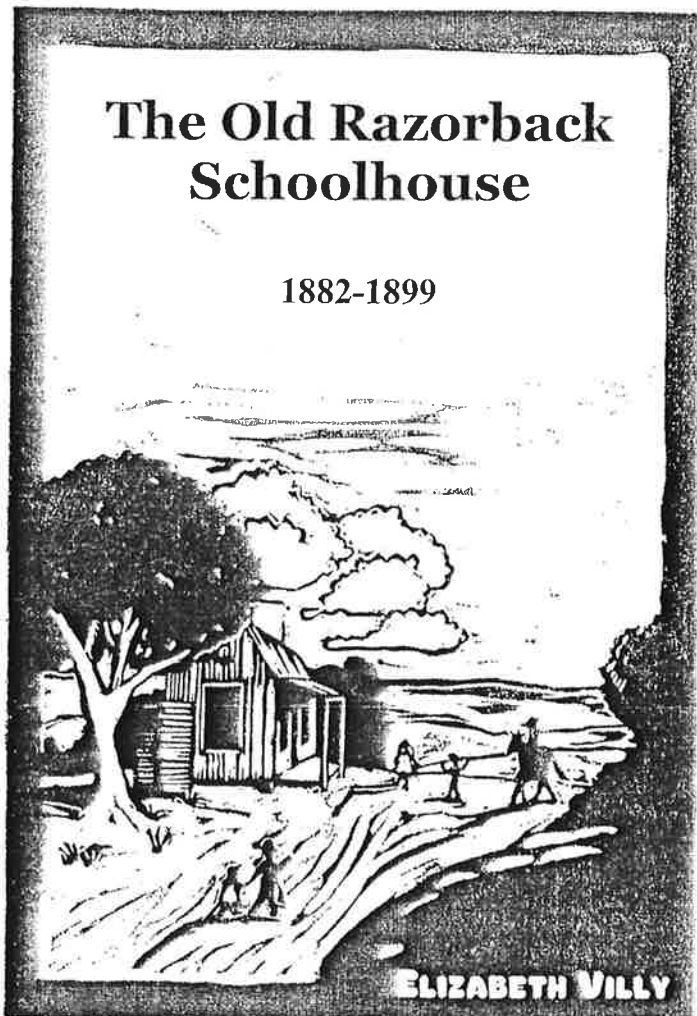
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NEW PUBLICATION

Member Betty Villy has self-published this valuable and interesting history of the Razorback area and particularly of the local school and families living in that area in the late 19th century. In addition it provides information about two other schools, one on Clifton (near Maldon) and another at Williamswood (near Spring Creek, towards The Oaks).

The 45 page book is well illustrated, and the Society is pleased to be a point of sale for it, at \$12 plus \$5 postage & packing.

Betty is working on further aspects of local history.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year has passed, and while we have been unable to accomplish as much as we had hoped for the year, our small band has been able to maintain services. Due to an unexpected illness and complications which has seen me spending six weeks in hospital and then a further five weeks recovering, I have been unable to help much in the last three months.

Our photocopier gave up the ghost after many years of faithful service. This required much investigation and discussion about another one. We were finally able to purchase a reconditioned one, which required learning how to use it, but which can print direct from the computer if required, good for printing our publications. We have applied to several sources for a grant to help pay for it. To this end we also held a successful raffle and I thank all member for their support of it.

The Society has had displays of photos at the Australia Day celebrations and Back to Bargo Day. These days have helped raise our profile and created much interest and discussion among those attending. We also invited the new Mayor, Judy Hannan, to morning tea, so she could see what work the Society does, and how we can help each other.

The decision was made at a recent meeting, to make Mr. John Ruffels a life member for his continuing support of the history prize at Picton High School. This prize has been named in John's honour, and promotes an interest in history among students.

I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support of the Society, without which we would be unable to continue. I would specially like to thank those who covered for me during my recent hospitalization. I wish everyone all the best in their research for the coming year.

Gail Hanger.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Once again we are the end of another year, with our small band of workers. I think we have held together very well and have kept our researchers very happy. We have had a lot of enquiries, both written, via email and in person.

We obtained a reconditioned photocopier and ran a raffle to help cover the cost of it. Many thanks to all who returned their tickets when renewing their membership.

Once again our President, Gail, will represent us as our delegate at the NSW & ACT Family History Conference at Casino on 22nd and 23rd September. We are so pleased to have Gail back with us after her hospital stay, and wish her continued good health.

To Laurie for keeping his eye out for second hand books of interest to us, we offer many thanks.

We had a display at Australia Day and Back to Bargo Day, and will have a History Week display at the Shire Hall next week. We were unable to attend all requested events due to some members with health or family problems.

We invited the new local Mayor Judy Hannan to morning tea to showcase our history collection. With the help of two new ladies, we hope to have lot more information ready for the New Year.

I would like to thank all our members for their support over the last twelve months.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts & Expenditure for Year ending 30th June 2007

Receipts

	\$	c	
Membership Fees	1050	00	
Research	425	00	
Photo/Coping	115	40	
Publications	745	30	
Donations	436	00	
Postage/Handling	24.	43	
Merchandise Sales	184	00	
Bank Interest	102	68	
Grant from RAHS	1000	00	
Raffle	110	00	<u>\$ 4192.81</u>

Expenditure

Postage	215	06	
Stationery	47	20	
Library Books	130	25	
Computer	238	90	
Bank Fees	4	71	
Insurance	532	95	
Printing	568.	33	
Subscriptions	107	00	
Conference Refund	110	00	
Picton High School	200	00	<u>\$ 3452.30</u>
Equipment service	97	90	
Office Equipment	1200	00	

Bank Statement 1st July 2006	\$ 621.42
INCOME 1/7/2006 to 30/6/2007	\$ <u>4192.81</u>
Total	\$ <u>4814.23</u>
Less Expenditure same period	\$ <u>3452.30</u>
Balance as Statement 30/6/2007	\$ <u>1361.93</u>

Investment Account	\$1500 .00
Credit Union	\$ 5. 00
Petty Cash	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1555.00</u>

THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE

After gaining the Intermediate Certificate in 1948, I commenced work in 1949 as a male junior clerk in the Secretariat branch of the New South Wales Government Railways at their head office situated opposite Wynyard Park, in York Street, Sydney. The salary was £2/2/- (two guineas, equivalent to \$4.20 in decimal currency) per week, paid fortnightly. The twenty cents went in tax and superannuation and the \$4.00 went \$2.00 to my mother for board, \$1.00 to a savings account and the last \$ was my pocket money. You had to be very careful with the fortnightly \$2.00, as part of it was required for train fares, though railway employees received a discount. The down side was that the rail pass was on a quarterly basis and had to be prepaid, so immediately I was faced with repaying a loan to my mother. The hours were 9am to 5pm with an hour for lunch, so us highly paid workers had a 35 hour week when the rest of the working population toiled for 44. Annual leave was 2 weeks per annum with 5 sick days that were forfeited if not used.

My first position was in the Central Records Bureau climbing up and down 20' high ladders, retrieving and replacing files as they were required. The files were worked on by about 50 senior male clerks sitting in rows of desks in an extremely large room. The method of requested a file was by any or all of the 50 yelling in a loud voice, a file number that consisted of up to 9 letters and numbers. I should add at this point that there were about 3 of us ferrets doing the climbing and the file had to be retrieved in short order. The noise was incredible and the place used to hum, in more ways than one, as air conditioning was non-existent. On arrival, all clerks had to sign in, in a book placed at the front of the head clerk's desk. At precisely 9 o'clock, the book was ruled across the page that meant anyone under the line was late and therefore had to sign in under the glowering eye of "the boss". The excuse was of course, "the train was late", but all that gained was a cutting, "catch an earlier one". Luckily the excuse was genuine, of which he was well aware, but there was no way I was going to catch an earlier one and arrive a half hour before the official starting time.

In 1950 I was posted to my first real position. This was to the Employment Section, situated in those days in a wedge shape building in Pitt Street, where Pitt meets George Street at Railway Square. There I was to stay for 5 years (in the building) apart from 3 months in 1952 when I was conscripted into the National Service. It did mean was problem was solved, inasmuch that when the train was late, I had an extra 10 minutes. There were 4 junior clerks in a fairly small room watched over by a senior clerk. He was in fact not much older, just that he was over 21 and therefore a graded (7th) Senior Clerk. Our job was to open files as prospective employees made application for a position. If previously employed but had resigned more than 5 years previous, their file was stored in rooms under the steam train platforms at Central Railway. The extent of the rooms, known as "The Dudgeons" covered (covers?) virtually all the present day country train services concourse.

1950 to 1953 was very busy, as it was the period of high European immigration and the waiting room was always full (and noisy) of people of many nationalities along with their different languages. I was also to learn my schooling was far from finished. Twice a week after work, junior clerks were required to attend night school learning shorthand and typing. These were taught at the Railway Institute in Devonshire Street, (the Elizabeth Street end of the pedestrian tunnel connecting Devonshire Street with Railway Square) and a building in Castlereagh Street, about half way between the then Tivoli Theatre and an underground entrance to Museum Railway Station. I had a head start in these subjects, as my 3rd year studies at Sydney Technical College included both and my Intermediate Certificate shows a pass in Shorthand theory. (the actual taking down in shorthand and then transcribing by way of typing were not exam subjects)

In 1954 I was in my final year as a junior clerk and was transferred to the Compensation Section to gain experience before becoming a graded clerk. Same building, just two doors further down the corridor. In keeping with railway policy, salaries increased with each birthday, so as I was now 20 years old, had attained a salary of about £9/10/- (\$19) a week. On this princely sum, I was able to maintain a motor vehicle, travel interstate on holidays and generally spend up big time. Apart from the GMH Holden, the only vehicles available, to those of us who were on low incomes, were either large American petrol guzzlers or small underpowered European, though these were generally of English manufacture. A new Holden was about £900 (\$1800) whereas a vehicle such as I purchased, a 1936 Ford V8 sedan could be had for about £200 (\$400). Petrol cost somewhere between 2/6 and 3/- (25 to 30 cents) a gallon (4.54 litres) so the cost of running such a heavy vehicle was not a drain on my pocket money.

I was the only junior clerk in the section and sat in a large room with about 12 seniors of various grades, but doing exactly the same type of work, i.e. setting up new files opening mail and being the general gopher. This was when the shorthand learnt over the prior 4 years was put into practice, as all memos and letters were written in shorthand, the only words in English were the recipient and the address. These were then sent across the corridor to the typing pool. In those days, female clerks did not exist, and males did not type. The females were all employed as typistes and as such they remained until they either died, retired, resigned or married, in which case it was mandatory they resigned. I know all about typing pools, as towards the end of the year I was placed there for a month typing the correspondence produced by the senior clerks, which of course was all in shorthand. Luckily the head typiste was good enough to give me the inter-departmental memos rather than letters to claimants, but even so my output was low as 60 words per minute was slow compared to the 80 plus they had to produce.

My birthday is in early January, so at the end of 1954 I had to sit for examinations in shorthand and typing, plus they threw in unexpected exams in english and mathematics. All turned out for the better and in 1955 received my first appointment as a senior clerk along with a huge pay rise to £13 (\$26) a week. I was about No. 50 on the 7th grade list and the only way to gain advancement was by way of someone higher on a list, in any grade, either dying or resigning. Ability had nothing to do with advancement; it was merely a matter of waiting your turn. The average length of time in any grade was somewhere around 6 years and that coupled with the most boring placement ever devised was hard to take. I was working in the Railway Refreshment Room section situated in offices over the country train arrival and departure concourse at the end where a staircase led to the electric train platforms and my duties were to log into a many page ledger, by hand, on a daily basis, all the various items that were either placed on trains used for country services or in the refreshment rooms at railway stations. At the end of the month these long columns were totaled and percentages obtained so that someone higher up the chain could decide whether meat pies or pasties, tomato or worcestershire sauce, ad nauseum should be placed on trains or in refreshment rooms. No computers in those days, or calculators as such, just hand cranked adding machines and long hand arithmetic.

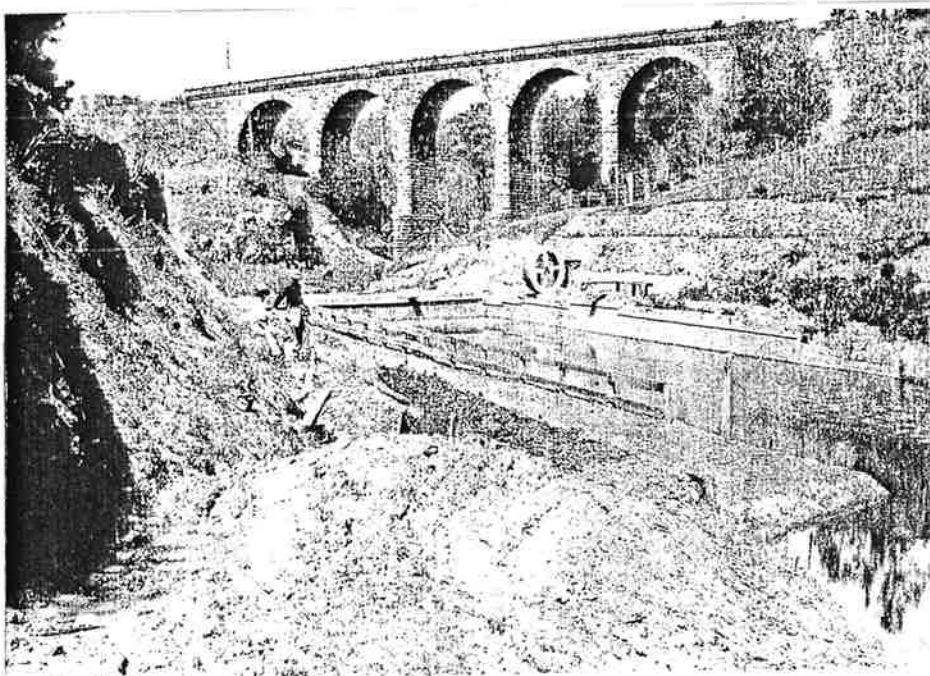
Well, that's one version of how things used to be. Maybe I could have written about: the iceman coming at 5 in the morning through an unlocked back door; meat safes swinging in the breeze on the back verandah; sitting around a bakelite valve radio on Sunday night listening to the Lux Radio Theatre; the propman, the rabbitto, the milk and bread men, all in their horse drawn carts'; a dairy in every 6th street; going to school during WWII in bare feet; air raid sirens, black out blinds and curtains', food, clothing and petrol coupons; gas meters under the kitchen sink that were fed by pennies; outdoor pan toilets and what happened when the "dunnyman" wasn't left his bottle of beer at Xmas. Maybe I'll leave that to someone else, then again may write a serial, who knows. .

Recent Acquisitions: Photographs from Keith Small, now in the Blue Mountains

Keith and his wife visited us in May 2007, with a collection of family photos. His mother was **Mabel Harvey**, and her mother was **Sarah Wilkinson** (born in 1870, and one of twelve children). The Harveys had a dairy farm at Maldon (see photo below) and the collection includes several photos of Mabel and Sarah, but also a lot of unidentified 19th century portraits. Keith does not know of any family still living here, so is there anyone else who might know something of the Wilkinson/Harvey families (who arrived in the district in the 1860s), and might be able to help identify these photographs? We may be able to show some of them in the next Journal.



There was one other Picton photograph, taken during the construction of the first swimming pool, in Stonequarry Creek near the Viaduct. This work was done by the local Progress Association in January and February, 1934, in time for the official opening on February 17th. The Society has a photo of the opening, and there are some other photographs of the pool, this is very interesting addition to our files.



From the Records

James Baxter obituary from the Picton Post, 12 October 1943

LATE MR. JAS. BAXTER

The late Mr. James Baxter, whose death was briefly recorded in our last issue, was a descendant of one of the early pioneer families of the Camden and Picton districts. He was born under a tree at The Oaks virtually 94 years ago, and he passed to the realms beyond just four days before the anniversary of his 94th birthday. The tree, it is believed, is still standing, but some uncertainty exists as to its exact situation.

Christened at The Oaks, the late Mr. Baxter spent his boyhood there, and as a young man came over to the Picton district, where he engaged in farming pursuits until advancing years brought about his retirement. For many years he occupied the farm at Maldon known as "Clifton", being there at the time the railway line from North Menangle to Picton and Mittagong was constructed. Seizing the opportunity offering for business by the influx of labour occasioned by the construction of the railway, Mr. Baxter established a butchery and store which he carried on for some time in conjunction with his farming activities, and eventually relinquished. In his young days he was a keen cricketer and billiard player. He did not take any part in public life, but was a staunch supporter of St. Mark's Church, for the eastern wing of which he drew the foundation stone from the quarry to the site on which the church stands.

Deceased is survived by two brothers (Jack and Robert) and one sister, Mrs. Butchers (Campsie), and seven sons and two daughters. The sons are Stanley (deceased), William (Fairfield), Edward (Picton), Harry (Picton), Arthur (Murwillumbah), Percy (Campbelltown) and Gilbert (Picton). The daughters are Annie (Mrs. E.A. Eagles, Picton) and Emily (Mrs. Walter Eagles, Mount Hunter). In addition, there are 31 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

The remains were interred in St. Mark's Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon of last week in the presence of relatives and friends of the family. The Rector officiated.

Amongst those who sent floral tributes were: The family, railway officials (Picton), Mrs. J. Nolan, Mr. and Mrs. A. Apps, E. Apps, Mr. Kennedy (Sydney), and Messrs Wing Bros. (Sydney).

According to our records, and publications such as Stroll through St Mark's Churchyard, [plus Betty Villy's new book has references to the Baxters] and Along the Menangle Road James was born in 1851, [or possibly 1849] at Spring Creek where his parents Thomas and Mary had settled; he married Margaret Kennedy, also from Spring Creek, in 1878. He must have been a very young storekeeper/butcher – the Picton railway station opened in 1862, and Mittagong in 1867. The dairy farm at Maldon (on Clifton) was leased but his name only appears in the 1880s. It is possible that the railway work was the 1890s duplication of the line from Campbelltown to Picton, as he was still at Clifton in 1897 and possibly later. At some time James bought the farm along the Vault Hill ridge, in Picton which passed to his son Edward, and where the family remains. His wife Margaret died in 1938, aged 81.

VALE

The Society has been saddened to learn of the recent death of Clare Bassett, the daughter of Clare Bell, a long time member and contributor to this Journal. Clare Bell was born and grew up in the Tahmoor area, now lives in Bargo and has become an enthusiastic member of the local writing group.

Last year two of our more recent members lost their fathers: co-editor Kate Holmes (which partly explains the slow appearance of the Journal), and Yvonne Kelly. Yvonne has just started helping by re-typing some of our publications; the Chronicles in particular were found to have a number of errors. She came in response to an item in the Bush Telegraph, put in by the Mayor, Judy Hannan, after our morning tea with Judy back in June, 2007.

Our sympathies have been extended to all three members

Publications:

As well as working on our smaller publications, Gail Hanger has almost finished the updated version of the Bargo Cemetery, we're just waiting on a map from Council. The possible booklet on storekeepers has rather fallen by the wayside at the moment, but we do want to start on a Pioneer Register of the Picton district. So if anyone has information on the 19th century inhabitants of the area, which would add to the records held by the Society **please get in touch!**

RAFFLE WINNERS

First Prize:	Alan Pierce
Second Prize:	Frances Blundell
Third Prize:	M. Harvey

Congratulations to the winners, and we hope they enjoy their prizes. Many thanks to all our members who contributed to the raffle, and thus helped to pay for the new photocopier. We hope to hold other raffles in the future.

Evidence given by John Bollard to the Bigge Commission in 1820.

Society member, the present John Bollard, provided several pages of notes from the Bigge Commission. In 1819 John Bigge was sent out from England to enquire into the state of the colony, which took some 18 months; he produced several voluminous reports. John Bollard's evidence relates to a time before the Bollard family settled in Picton in the 1840s.

John was transported in 1813, and was employed as a stockman from 1814. It is not certain where the land was that is mentioned below, but by 1822 he had received a conditional pardon, been re-united with his wife and children, and may have been living at Windsor –or perhaps in Sydney. By 1827 he was leasing land at Cobbitty, and by 1841 the family had moved to Redbank, or Upper Picton [from The Bollards of Bedfordshire The Descendants of John & Hannah Bollard, by Brian Robert Bollard, 1993].

The following is a slightly simplified version of the material provided by John, and held in the Society's collection; another extract will appear in the next journal.

John Bollard, No. 71 reference 60980, folios 3747-3750.

Bollard on Stock

I have been overseer of the Government Sheep. Time I have been in the country seven years.

Mr. Redfern

The place where we most are is called Mr. Redfern's Yard. He had his stockyard there. Sell the overseer ordered them way on account of the depredation committed on the wild cattle. Mr. Redfern's cattle also grazed in the Cow Pastures. There are two constables there, Higgins and John Thompson. Their business is to prevent people from coming to roll the wild cattle and to apprehend bushrangers. Several have been taken since we were placed here.

*Rations: 7 lbs. Flour
3 ½ pints rum, 4lbs pork

There are seven shepherds under me. They get stockmen's rations*. We have four flocks of sheep. I have no pay.

Has lands, grows wheat

Bourke and myself are in partnership in the land we hold. I can't tell the quantity of the wheat we supplied Mr. Thoresby. The men fetched it from the settlement in bushels, when it was measured. We gave the men potatoes and a little wheat for their trouble. There were five men employed. The Head keeper named Hall and the man who drove the cart. We got nine shillings per bushed for the wheat.

Sheep in Cowpastures

We have now 1667 sheep and lambs in the Cowpastures. The sheep that we sent to Sydney always fall off there. A few are killed for Government use when they are good. I made a proposal when I first came, to take down ten sheep at a time in good condition for the Governor's use but Mrs. Macquarie wanted sheep for folding in the Government Domain and would not allow me.

Lambs for the Derwent

I took in charge the lambs that were sent to the Derwent, on Friday at Parramatta and brought them from there to Sydney. We kept them in the Domain there and gave them a little bran and hay. The hay was not good. It was the hay from the Government Domain. On the Tuesday following at two o'clock we got the lambs on board the "Eliza".... We did not weigh anchor from the cove till the Sunday night following. ... Five lambs died in the harbour. We had so many of them, and the heat was so great that they were overcome by it. 91 lambs died during the passage 209 were landed at Hobart town – 24 of these died afterwards, and 4 were worried by dogs.

Dr. William Redfern was a naval surgeon who was implicated in a mutiny, and thus transported to Sydney in 1801 where he was able to pursue his medical work, and was soon pardoned. By 1818 he had been granted land in the Airs district; this may have been the site of the Yard mentioned by Bollard.

Mr. Thoresby would be **Charles Throsby** who came out as a naval surgeon in 1802, and was granted land first at Cabramatta, and later at Minto (in 1809 and 1810) where he built Glenfield as his home. He became popular with Governor Macquarie as an explorer, first in the Illawarra (1816) and then to the Moss Vale area in 1817, with other expeditions to Bathurst, and further south to the Goulburn area. By 1820 Macquarie had put Throsby in charge of building the road from the Cowpastures to these new southern districts. Macquarie visited the work party later in the year, when it had reached Moss Vale, and granted the land in that area, Throsby Park.

Information from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2.*

The **sheep** mentioned would have been the Government holdings. Those sent on the "Eliza" were merinos bought from John Macarthur, and were sent down to Hobart to assist the landowners there. Bollard and four other convicts were in charge of the flock (Bollard, op. Cit.)

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

	\$
Coach House Chronicles	
Lieut. General Sir Thomas Picton	~
Harmony Homes	
Vault Hill Picton	3.00
Tahmooan	3.00
ANTONIO Manolis	5.00
	3.00
 Cemetery Transcripts	
Bargo General Cemetery	10.50
Burial records of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton	12.00
Redbank Uniting Church – A Pictorial view	20.00
St. Mark's Anglican Picton	15.50
Upper Picton General Cemetery	20.00
Thirlmere	20.00
 Marriage Transcripts	
St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.1	15.00
St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.2	15.00
St. Mark's Anglican Church – Vol.3	20.00
 Other Publications	
Along the Menangle Road	15.00
A stroll through St. Mark's Churchyard	8.00
The Antills of Jarvisfield Picton	10.00
Picton	5.00
Post Cards	5 for 1.00
Fact sheets	0.50
 Tea Towel	 10.00

The Chronicles are being re-formatted, out of stock at the moment

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