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The Stonequarry Journal



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Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

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Web site:<http://www.stonequarry.com.au/padhfs/index.html>

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

Membership fees due 1 July each year

Pensioners & school students	\$15.00
Single	\$20.00
Family	\$25.00

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. The December meeting is held at one of the members' homes, at 11 a.m. followed by lunch.

The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Saturday in September, before the monthly meeting.

Research room

First floor Wollondilly Public Library, above entrance. 10 am to 3 pm each Thursday and Saturday mornings (except the first Saturday) **by appointment only**.

Research fees.

Members: Free (plus photocopying costs)

Non members: \$10.00 + photocopying. Written or emailed enquiries: \$20.00 + photocopying.

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Note: Next year will see the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Picton Railway Station, on 1st July. If anyone has any stories or photographs of the railway over those years, we would be very happy to hear from you.

President's Report to the AGM – Gail Hanger

The past 12 months have been very for us, especially the research committee. We have had several requests for research from America as well as a flurry of enquiries from Queensland after the NSW Family History Association State Conference held at Inverell.

I attended that very successful Association conference in September last year. Picton was again elected to the State committee, and we have self-nominated for the committee this year. This year the conference will be run by Botany Bay Family History Society and will be held in Gympie in a fortnight's time. I understand they have a very good response. It is always good to listen to an excellent speaker on interesting topics relevant to our family research. The stalls offer the opportunity to see what books and materials other societies have to offer.

We were delighted to receive a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society to cover the costs of publishing our book by member Ken Williams: *1824 Cawdor Bench of Magistrates Population, Land and Stock Book – A biographical register of the inhabitants residing in the Cowpastures*. Numbers were down at the book launch, and the mayor had to cancel at the last minute, but Federal member Alby Schultz was an able replacement on the day. We of course over-catered on the day, but various helpers and the Library staff enjoyed some wonderful sandwiches, cakes and slices for their afternoon tea.

I attended the Picton High School presentation night in February to present the John Ruffels History Prize. The recipient was Bridget Potts; she received a book on local history along with a cheque. It is pleasing to note that this year's presentation night will be held in December to bring the school back in line with all the other area schools.

I would like to thank all members for their continuing support, we may be few in number but we are big of heart.

Treasurer's Report to the AGM – Ron Callaway

Receipts and Expenditure for year ending 30th June 2012

Receipts		Expenditure	
Membership Fees	\$1046.00	Postage	\$222.88
Research	485.00	Stationery	197.80
Photocopying	40.24	Library	163.00
Publications	1750.90	Computer	481.64
Donations	229.00	Bank fees	7.80
Photographs	65.00	I.B.E	508.95
Bank interest	0.94	Insurance	506.00
Grants	2000.00	Book launch	164.95
Historic signs	75.00	Subscriptions	171.00
Walking tour	50.00	Picton High School (prize)	70.00
From Investment Acc.	518.45	Equipment service	350.00
Postage	128.50	Dept. of Fair Trading	49.00
CDs	50.00	Carriers	450.00
		RAHS conference	160.00
		Graphic artwork	198.00
		Printing	2370.00
Total	\$6,434.03	Total	\$6,146.02
Bank Statement 1 st July 2011		\$ 900.89	
Income 1.7.2011 to 30.6.2012		\$6434.03	
Total		\$7334.92	
Less Expenditure		\$6146.02	
Total		\$1188.90	
	Investment Account	\$2541.13	
	Credit Union	\$ 5.00	
	Petty Cash	\$ 60.00	

Librarian's Report to the AGM – Helen Hanger

I can't believe how fast the last twelve months have gone, and how much work has been achieved.

We had the launch of Ken Williams book, (known in brief as 1824 Cawdor), in November, with a reasonable attendance, though we were hoping for a few more. It was a very hot day, so the morning tea was much appreciated, served by the society ladies with help from Emma and Rebekah Hanger. We called on Mr. Alby Schultz M.P. as a late replacement to launch the book, which he did most enthusiastically. The sales have been a little slow, but steady; it would be well worth a copy for your Library, as an important addition to our knowledge of the local area in the 1820s, at the beginning of European settlement. Many thanks to Caroline Richardson for her role as the new Publications Officer, which saw improved sales in the latter half of the year.

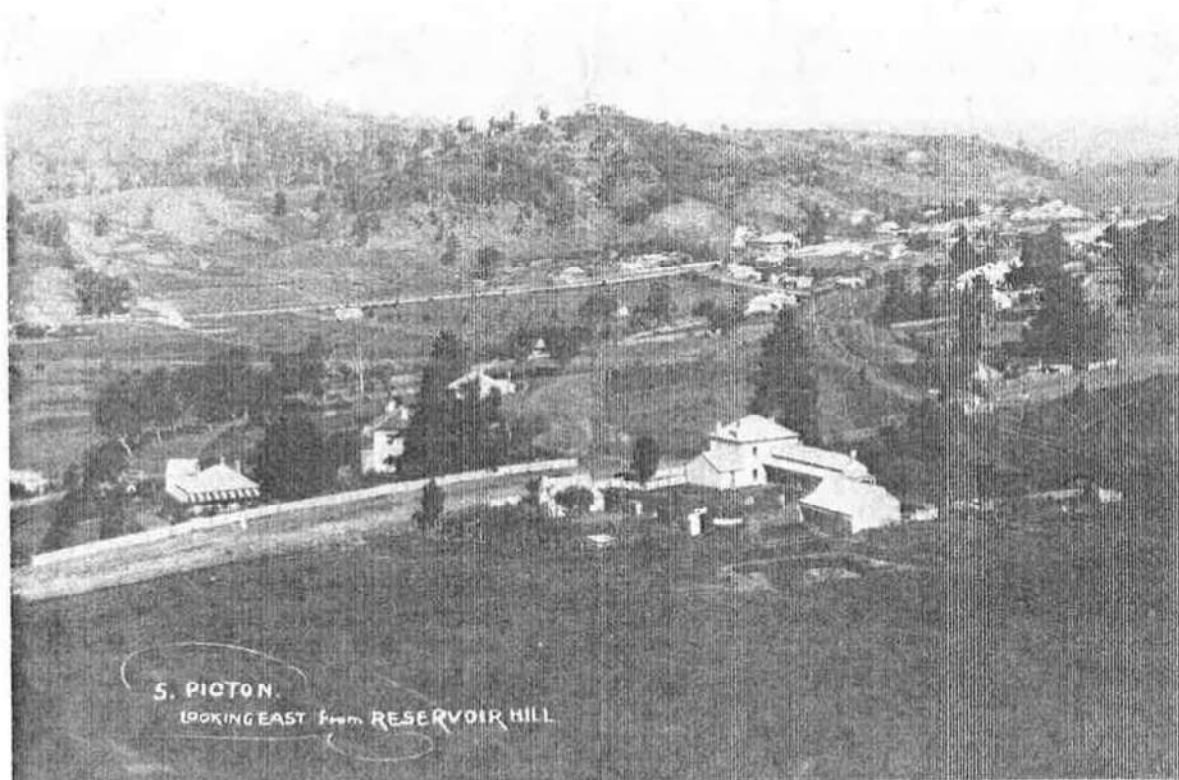
Picton Society did not hold a display this year at the Australia Day celebrations, as exceptionally wet weather saw it moved into the Shire Hall, so there was very little room for the usual displays by the local historical groups.

We have had a very successful year with our research for local and international enquiries, and many interstate requests especially after the State Conference held at Inverell. Our President, Gail Hanger attended as the Picton representative. The conference was very well attended and with very interesting speakers, a lot of them first timers. Picton will again have a presence at this year's conference at Gympie.

Each year we add to our library collection and hope to continue improving our resources, without increasing membership or research fees. Many thanks to our volunteers who spend time at our rooms helping with enquiries and improving our collection.

The Railway, later Royal Hotel

This hotel, on the corner of Argyle Street and The Oaks Road [now Barker's Lodge Road] and opposite the George Inn [most recently re-named as the King George IV Inn] was built during the boom caused by the construction of the railway line, first to Picton [1863] and then on to Mittagong [1867]. While the Picton railway station was some distance away, off Menangle Street, the line crossed Argyle Street just south of the present subway, and trains would stop at the crossing to let passengers off. The photograph below shows the original line of the railway, crossing Argyle Street. The two-storey building, originally a hotel, survives as a private home; the houses on the other side of the street, to the left, were demolished when the line was re-routed around Picton [or Reservoir] Hill.

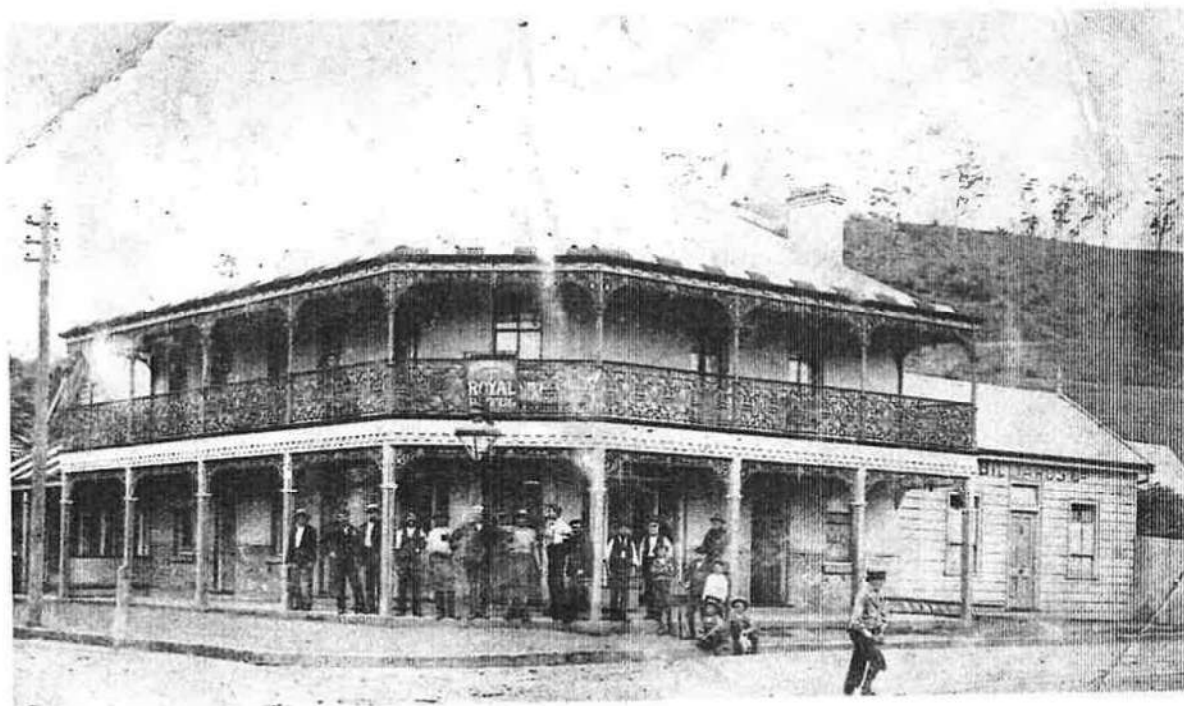


The Railway Hotel may have been built for William Fieldhouse, a member of a well-known Campbelltown family who with his brother also had interests in hotels and stores in Picton. **John Berry** was granted the first licence in September 1862. Although only a young man, he died in June 1865 and was buried at St. Mark's Anglican church, Picton. His wife Mary Ann ran the hotel until **William Gleeson** took over in February or March 1866. William had come to the area as a labourer on the railway, with his wife Mary, and he had some difficulties with his new job. Within a few months he was up before the local Bench for selling liquor and allowing gaming on a Sunday. A year later, in June 1867 he transferred the licence to **William Fieldhouse**.

John Creamer [or Cremer] was the longest serving of the hotel lincensees, from December 1868 until at least 1886 and possibly until his death in 1890. **W.H. Sampson** held the licence at some time, and **M.A. Wonson** was there by 1895. Major changes occurred when **Sam Mitchell** took over in November 1897. He advertised in the *Picton Penny Post* of 3rd February 1897 that he had changed the name from the Railway to the Royal Hotel; this name had been used previously for another hotel in town, which had changed to the Commercial in the 1880s [replaced by the present Picton Hotel in the 1930s]. Mitchell advertised that the now Royal Hotel "has been thoroughly renovated, Re-Furbished and Decorated in First-class style". His timing was excellent, as the *Penny Post* had been writing about several businesses in the Picton area, and the same edition had a more detailed description of the hotel:

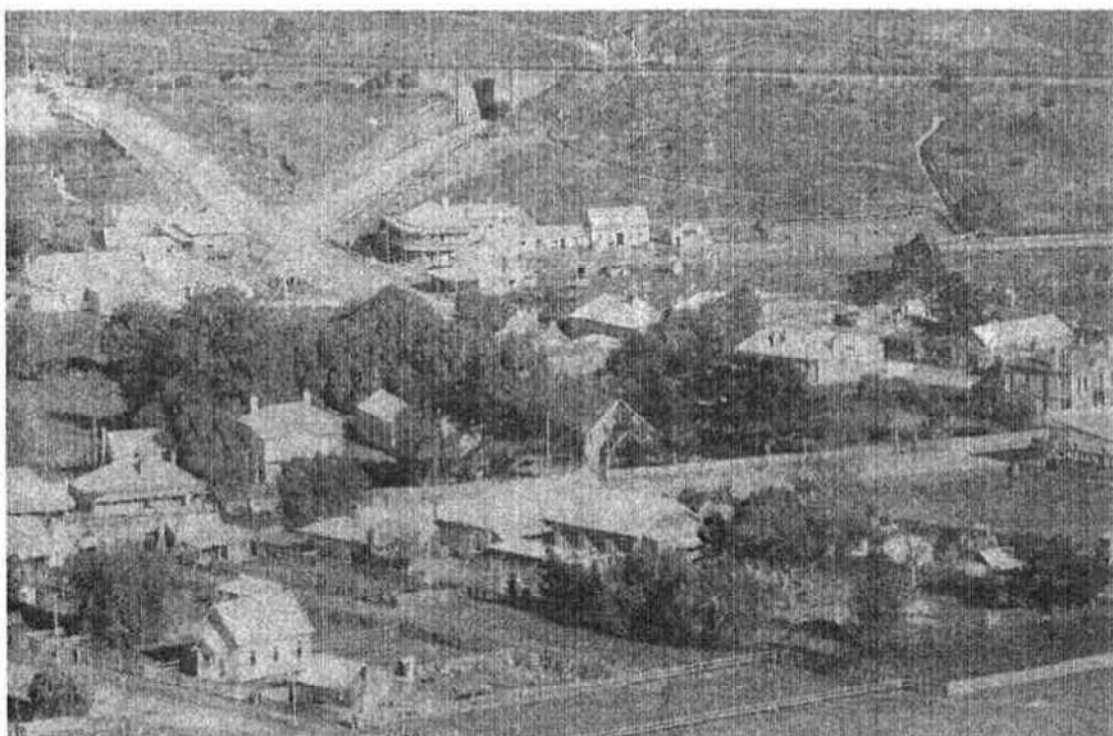
"In passing along Argyle-street in the vicinity of its junction with the Oaks-road, one is struck with the attractive appearance and business situation of the building which formerly did service as an inn, under the name of the Railway Hotel, but which is now changed to the Royal and under the management of Mr. Sam. Mitchell. The old building, in conjunction with the adjoining one which also did duty as a butcher's shop, under the presidency of Mr. W. Fieldhouse, have been completely metamorphosed by the aid of the builder and the decorator's brush. The portion which is now used as a bar is situated at the corner of the street; and the whole front, with the panels of glass in all the doors – richly gilded in the best style, presents a most attractive appearance. In the bar a well-selected stock of liquors is displayed, and the samples tendered us by the proprietor prove conclusively that the best brands only are there. In connection with the house there are five public parlors which are nicely furnished and present a comfortable appearance, are cool and spacious. The public dining-room is one of the largest in town, being 40ft long by 15 feet wide, and every care has been bestowed upon it during its recent erection to study the comfort of patrons, whilst a well laid table, filled with a first-class repast, greets the eye of the visitor. It is Mr. Mitchell's intention to shortly add a first class billiard table to the hotel, and the large room which opens out into the Oaks Road is to be utilized for the purpose of a billiard room. The bedrooms are nicely furnished; study has been given to ensure the comfort of those requiring this accommodation. This department, as well as the cuisine department, is under the personal supervision of Mrs. Mitchell, who has had a large experience in the management of an hotel, and in this she is ably assisted by Miss Paviour. The stabling accommodation is well provided, and patrons can rely upon comfort being meted out to their beasts. Another feature under this heading is the very large paddock attached to the hotel, some 20 acres in extent"

It is hard, looking at the hotel as it has survived, to think that the prime corner position had been taken up by a butcher's shop, but if Mr. Fieldhouse had built the hotel, he was able to take the prime position. Mr. Mitchell transferred the licence to **Daniel Treacy** by May 1898, and within a few years he carried out further work. In February 1902 he was celebrating the completion of the "nearly 100 feet promenade balcony" – possibly the first upstairs verandah, or an extension/replacement of an earlier one. The 1896 article doesn't mention verandahs, but it would be surprising if there wasn't one on the ground floor at the very least. Daniel seems to have taken on other work as in 1905 he was advertising houses and land for sale; by August **Andrew Drummond** was the new licensee. The Licensing Court noted in November that the Royal had improved since the change of hands, and January 1906 Drummond was granted a billiard licence. So the earliest photograph we have of the hotel dates to about this time:



It is not certain when Drummond gave up the licence, but **Mr. C.L. Brown** ran the hotel in early 1911 (and probably earlier), before handing over to **Mr. W.J. Wright** in June. Wright continued the advertisement run by Mr. Brown, with the addition of the hotel being under new management – but the tariff remained at 4 shillings per day, still with a "First Class Billiard Table". He was the second licensee to die young, at 35, in January 1912. Although he lived in Picton for only a few months, an obituary appeared in the *Picton Post* on 14th January, 1912. He was described as a "most worthy citizen" with "a keen interest in all branches of sport", and had made many friends. His wife ran the hotel until **Mr. C.E. Cherry** took over in March. He in turn was replaced by **John Petersohn** by September 1912, who remained until the licence was revoked at the end of 1913. The *Picton Post* advertised the sale of all the furniture and fittings, to be held on January 10th, 1914. Then in May there was a notice that the hotel plus the adjacent store and dwelling were being sold, as part of the estate of William Fieldhouse, who had died in 1910.

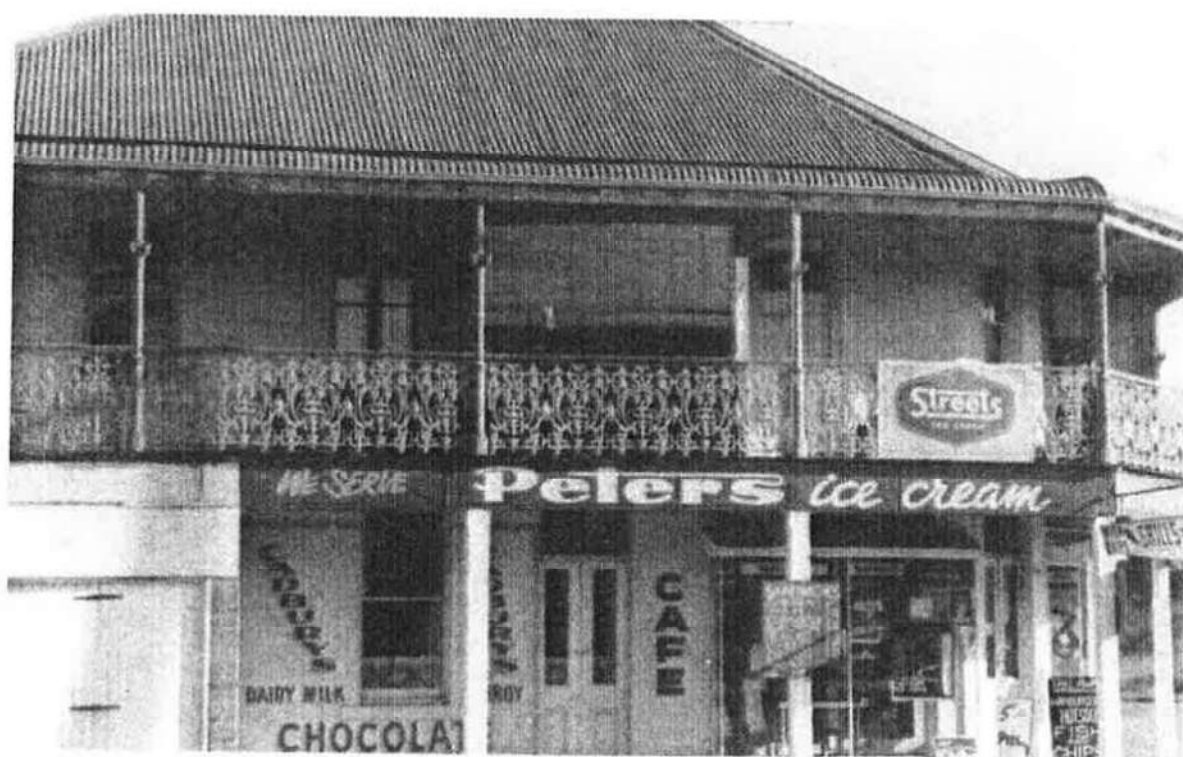
The building has been used for many purposes since then. A Mr. P. Maberly took over the billiard room in 1917, as he had a hairdressing and tobacconist shop in the main part of the old hotel. The adjacent building (along Argyle Street) seems to have been used by a number of blacksmiths/wheelwrights from at least 1896, when H.C. Evans was there, followed by J. Winefield in 1911, H. Heise in 1913 and then by W. Isles in 1917. Mr. Isles advertised himself as an Engineer, and had a Motor Car for hire, and by 1920 the Parry family described it as a garage. It may have been about this time that the weatherboard building just visible in the above photo was replaced by the present brick structure. The photograph below, a detail from a wider view, c. 1919 (the railway alignment opened then looks very new) shows the hotel's outbuildings, but not the garage.



Mr. J.H. Blackburn took over in 1926, and much later it was known as Picton Motors, and much later it was the NRMA garage.

In 1929 the complex was up for sale again, described as a brick shop and residence, on two acres, plus a residence and garage run by J. Blackburn, and a billiard saloon operated by T. Randall. The latter had moved from his Upper Picton store to this site in February 1927 and advertised his "Famous Ice Cream" along with fruit and vegetable, confectionery and novelties, with fish and seafood available on Fridays. He and his wife may have been using the upstairs as a boarding house, as Mrs. Richardson took over the "commodious boarding house" in 1930. She had moved from Stratford House, Tahmoor and had some renovations done to provide "Clean & Airy bedrooms, Electric Lights..." as well as morning and afternoon tea, fruit, confectionery and small goods. The upstairs area seems to have remained as a boarding house for some years, though it may have been divided into flats as early as the 1940s. By the 1950s there were definitely three flats upstairs, which had been renovated by the Rofe family.

Various uses were found for the downstairs shops, including a chicken hatchery business in 1944 when "Mr. H.R. Fooks, founder of the old-established and well known Cambridge Hatchery, Carlingford" set up in Picton. The *Picton Post* of June 1st noted that two incubators had already been installed, and that "The raising of quality chicks from Leghorns and Australorps of the highest merit will be the outstanding feature of the hatchery ..." The Fooks soon moved their operations to the corner of Argyle Street and Prince Street. After World War II it was suggested that Picton should have its own ambulance station, but it was not until the 1950s that the town got organized. By February 1952 over £1,000 had been raised for the Ambulance Appeal, and by March Mr. R. Osmond had arrived to start the service. He and his wife took one of the upstairs flats, and until a proper Ambulance Station was built, the southern part of the downstairs area was altered to allow the ambulance to be housed there. The necessary alterations are shown (on the left) in this c.1956 photograph, from the Norma Ross collection:



The Highway Café took up most of the downstairs area, continuing the long history of some sort of eating place here; the Peasant's Kitchen of the 1980s was the last. It was replaced by the Stonequarry Gallery in the 1990s, followed by Birch Hall which provided clothing, gifts, and sewing/craft materials. Another renovation including the repainting of the outside dates to 2005, and one of the latest tenants is the tattoo parlor. The present Ambulance Station, further north on Argyle Street was opened in 1955 and enlarged in the 1980s, but the wide double doors remained in place until after 1976, when the Shire Council carried out a photographic record of Picton.

Sources:

Society archives – F.B. Knox notes; Picton newspapers from the 1890s to 1950s

Ross, Jan: Fact or Fiction article, *Picton News* 13 July 1994

Vincent, Liz: *NSW Courts Records Index – Picton Bench Books*, vols. 4-7

The Tahmoor general store/supermarket

The town of Tahmoor really developed in the 1920s, though the first land grant in what was then known as Myrtle Creek, was taken up in 1822. First a track, and then the Great South Road formed in the 1830s saw travelers moving between Sydney and the south, meant increased activity in the area. However, with the single railway line built from Picton via Thirlmere and Buxton to Mittagong and opened in 1867, came stagnation. When the decision to duplicate the line, and route it through Tahmoor and Bargo was made in 1914, the name Tahmoor became official in 1915 and the town developed after the deviation was opened in 1919.

The store, on the north-west corner of Larkin Street and what was then the Hume Highway, and now Remembrance Drive was here from 1930; it may have been moved from the Nepean Dam site by Sam Emmett, who was so involved with the development of Tahmoor from 1915 onwards, or built by Sam. The *Picton Post* noted on 16 July 1930:

"If there is any depression, it is certainly not discernable at Tahmoor where Mr. S.J. Mills has just removed into modern and commodious premises for the post office and store, with a most comfortable residence attached. We are quite safe in saying that the new post office, which was erected by Mr. S. Emmett, is the finest allowance post office building in the Southern District, and is a credit to Tahmoor. Mr. Emmett has also had erected a motor garage which has been let to Mr. Taylor, and this should fill a long felt want there."

Sylvester Mills had come to Tahmoor in 1928, when he bought, or rented, another general store built by Sam Emmett a little further south. After his move to the new one in 1930, he was followed by Messrs. Dodd and Benson in 1935, and Mr. E Powell in 1936. The latter built another store, and moved the post office business to it, around 1939, and this one may have been empty until 1941 when Cec and Jessie Tickle took over. It really was a general store, with everything from motor cars to building supplies to fruit and vegetables. They sold to H.J. Grant & Sons in 1947, and the family carried on until 1974; Mr. Grant died in 1955, but his son Alan and family continued "the Anthony Horderns store of Tahmoor" as it was known – still supplying just about everything. A Sydney company bought the store, which was now known as the Tahmoor Supermarket, and was managed first by Mr. and Mrs. D.G. Stafford who moved from Douglas Park, and from 1980 by Ray Kadwell. When he decided to sell in 1999, it was bought by Town and Country Real Estate for re-development, and the old store was demolished.

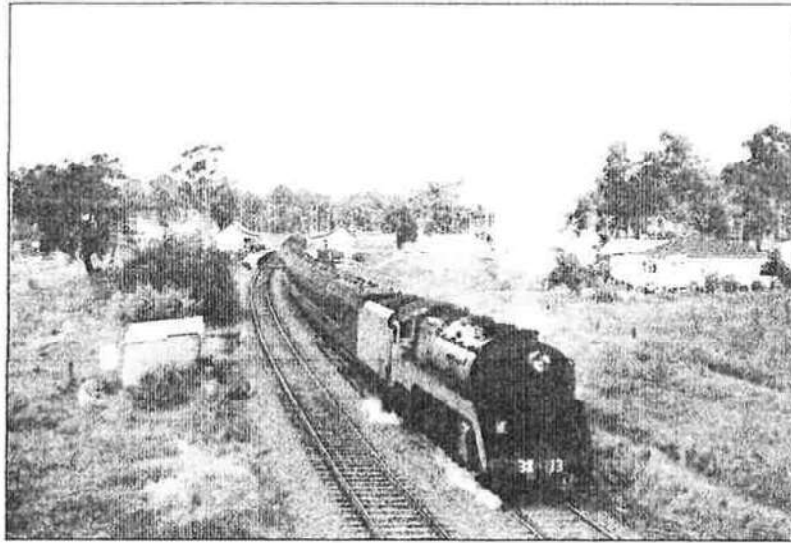
Sources: Frank Baker, Tahmoor Time Line; FB Knox notes; newspapers and society archives; James Whitfield photographs & newspaper articles.

Left, Mr. & Mrs. Grant and their daughter Joy, in 1974; Right 1987 photo by J. Whitfield

Tahmoor business changes hands



Remember When.....



Steam Locomotive No. 3813 Departing Tahmoor Station with the Sydney bound Southern Highlands Express train from Goulburn. (September 1969)



**The same location forty two years later as a two car Diesel Train leaves Tahmoor with the morning service from Moss Vale to Sydney. (17.10.2011)
The Station area has changed significantly with the platforms being extended to accommodate the four car Diesel trains and missing is the wooden building on the Sydney side platform severely damaged by fire on 3rd April 1977.
Photographs and text by James Whitfield.**

Jim has given us several Remember When photos, but I have chosen this because he has also promised us an article on Picton Railway Station– which celebrates the 150th anniversary of its opening next June. If anyone has stories or photographs about the station, we'd love to include them in the journal (either March or June editions) next year.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Cemetery Transcripts

Bargo Cemetery Memorials (2010). A4, 121pp, illustrated, s/c. Photographs of all headstones.

\$25.00 + \$5.00 p&h.

Burial records of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton. A4, 23p, s/c, Lists 849 people known to have been buried in the church graveyard, with locations, date of death, age and remarks.

\$12.00 + \$5.00 p&h..

Redbank Uniting Church (Formerly Wesleyan Chapel) - a Pictorial View. A4, 132pp, s/c. Cemetery transcriptions with photographs. Burials up to 2004.

\$20.00 + \$5.00 p&h.

Marriage transcriptions

St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton - Vol. 1 1839 to 1897. A4, 57p, s/c. Full transcriptions of all marriages conducted by ministers throughout the parish. Includes map of parish showing old location/place names. Indices for parties, parents and witnesses for each register.

\$15.00 + \$5.00 p&p.

St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton - Vol. 2 1898 to 1929. A4, 62p, s/c. Transcriptions as per Vol. 1. Includes a register for marriages conducted at Yerranderie from 1911 to 1923, plus list of Rectors for the parish from 1826 to 1963.

\$15.00 + \$5.00 p&h.

St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton - Vol. 3 1924 to 1963. A4, 99p, s/c. Transcriptions as per Vol. 1. Includes a register for St. Alban's at Douglas Park from 1924 to 1957 and a master index for all marriages showing groom and bride with date of marriage for all the marriages contained in the three volumes.

\$20.00 + \$10.00 p&h.

Set of three volumes \$50.00 + \$15.00 p&h.

Along the Menangle Road – A concise history of the Land Grants on Menangle Road between Menangle Bridge and the junction with Picton Road. A4, 44pp plus index, illustrated. Contains a record of the land owners of the various grants from the time of the grant till the land was transferred from the Old System to the Real Property Act of Victoria (Torrens Title). Family histories with lists of employees and tenant farmers. Owners include Walter Davidson, John, William and James Macarthur, J. B. L. De Arrieta, Samuel Terry and descendants, Arthur Douglass and Dr. Henry Grattan Douglass, William and Thomas Cowper, Lachlan Macalister and descendants, Phillip Cavenagh, Hillas and Pearce families.

\$15.00 + \$5.00 p&h.

Chronicles of the Early Cowpastures and Stonequarry - 1820 to 1850 Vol.1. A4, 74pp, s/c, illustrated. 12 chapters on people and subjects. J. B. L. De Arrieta, A Bushranger Hunt, Frances Macnamara, The Village Shopkeeper - John Martin, Francis Little, Early Burials in the Cowpastures, Park Hall - The Mitchell Connection, The Woolpack Inn, Fairy Hill, Robert Crawford, Andonis Manolis – The Greek Pirate, Vault Hill.

\$20.00 + \$5.00 p&h.

Ken Williams:

1824 Cawdor Bench of Magistrates Population, Land and Stock Book. A biographical register of the inhabitants residing in the Cowpastures (includes absentee landlords). The earliest known muster of the district now a major part of the Wollondilly Shire. Biographies of the 530 persons living in the Camden/Picton/Bargo areas in 1824, with introductory explanations, and appendices. Individual biographies vary from several lines to a page or more. Of those who arrived free, or as convicts still under sentence or freed, less than a quarter remained in the area. Most moved to other districts: Bathurst district (24), Botany (4), Brisbane Waters (Gosford) (3), Campbelltown (19), Cooke (4), Goulburn district (34), Liverpool (18), Maitland district (11), Parramatta (16) Penrith (5), Port Stephens (3), Richmond/Windsor (15) Singleton district including Francis Little and his uncle Dr. William Bell Carlyle (12) Southern Highlands (8), St. Vincent (Nowra) (10), Sydney (64). Some 98 were not identified in the 1828 Muster. A4, 176pp, sources and index.

\$40.00 + \$10.00 p&h

Other publications for sale through us

Elizabeth Villy:

The Old Razorback Schoolhouse 1882-1899 provides a history of this school and one at Clifton Hill or Innescliff; the latter was a half-time school, sharing a teacher with Williamwood, and later Razorback schools. Razorback pupils came from the Arnold, Apps, Boardman, Brookes, Campbell, Clarke, Dengate, Masters, Moore, Oxenbridge, Rofe, Rootes and York families; at Innescliff the Baxter, another Boardman, Harvey and Hilder families, plus the teachers. The Williamwood families are listed as Butchers, Dobson, Cranfield, Dunn, Franklin and Hanger. 45 pp, A4 with maps, illustrations, photographs, footnotes, sources and index; published in 2007

\$12.50 + \$300 p&h

The Old Razorback Road Life on the Great South Road between Camden and Picton 1830-1930. A comprehensive history of the Great South Road (later the Hume Highway) and its importance in the development of the two towns and the surrounding district, it tells the stories of those who built, traveled on or lived along this major highway. 280 pp, well illustrated, endnotes, bibliography and index, published 2011

\$30.00 + \$800 p&h

Jan Ross (author) & Jan Wilton (researcher):

The History of the Picton District Agricultural and Industrial Society Inc., or The Spirit of a Show Town Called Picton. With a brief introduction to Show Societies in the 1880s and early 1900s, it concentrates on the A.H.&I. Society formed in 1934, with the first show held in 1935. Lavishly illustrated, and with major contributions and stories from members of the Society; 66 pp, A5, index. Published in 2006

\$15.00 + \$3.00 p&h

If undelivered please return to

POSTAGE
PAID

PDHFHS
PO Box 64
PICTON NSW 2571

Mr. C. Brooks,

BEGS to Inform the Residents of Picton, that he has moved into his **NEW PREMISES** in Menangle-street, and for the Convenience of the public, his Vehicle will be **AT THE POST OFFICE** Without Fail at the Following Hours Daily :— 7.30, and 11. am.; 2. and 7. pm.

MESSAGES may be left with the Postmaster.

The Lion Bakery.

T. RUDDIMAN

BEGS to inform the residents of Picton and surrounding district that he has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr. H. Lang, and trusts strict attention to business, and supplying a first-class article, to receive a fair share of patronage.

**Wedding and Birthday
Cakes a Speciality.**