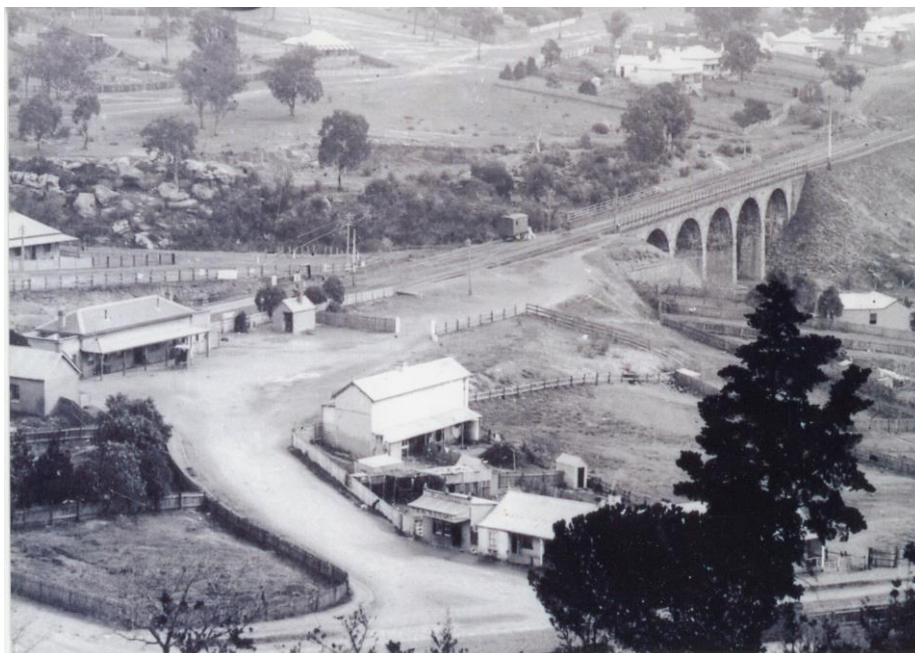


# THE STONEQUARRY JOURNAL



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**Published by The Picton and District Historical and Family History Society Inc.**

# The Picton and District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

## Committee

President	Gail Hanger	02 46842179
Vice President	Kate Holmes	02 46770208
Secretary	Marlane Fairfax	02 46818026
Treasurer	Tony Jagicic	
Librarian	Kate Holmes	02 46770208
Journal Editor	Marlane Fairfax	02 46818026
Public Officer	Peter Meyer	

## Contact the Society

Postal address:	PO Box 64, Picton NSW 2571
Email:	<a href="mailto:secretary@pictonheritage.org.au">secretary@pictonheritage.org.au</a>
Web:	<a href="http://pictonheritage.org.au">pictonheritage.org.au</a>

## Membership

Pensioners and Students	\$15.00
Single	\$20.00
Family (living in same residence)	\$25.00

## Meetings

We meet at 9.30 am on the first Saturday of each month (**except** January) in the View Room, Picton Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton. The Annual General Meeting of the Society is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in September.

## Research

Our Research Room is in the Susan Keohane Local History Room, Picton Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton and is open each Thursday from 9.30 am until 3 pm or by appointment.

## Research Fees

Members	Free – plus photocopying costs
Non-Members	\$20.00 first hour - \$10.00 per hour thereafter plus copying/postage costs

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DUE TO THE COVID LOCKDOWN WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCESS THE LIBRARY AND THEREFORE HAVE HAD TO RESCHEDULE THE AGM MEETING WHICH WAS TO TAKE PLACE ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2021.

WE WILL CONDUCT THE AGM, AT THE WOLLONDILLY LIBRARY AND VIA A ZOOM MEETING ON SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 2021 AT 10 AM

IF WE CANNOT ACCESS THE LIBRARY THE MEETING WILL GO AHEAD USING ZOOM

AN EMAIL WITH A LINK TO THE MEETING WILL BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED AN EMAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU HAVE NOT PROVIDED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND WISH TO ATTEND, PLEASE EMAIL THE SECRETARY: [pictonheritage@outlook.com](mailto:pictonheritage@outlook.com)

The current committee members have indicated a willingness to stand for the same positions they currently hold. Should anyone express interest in standing for a committee position could they please contact the Secretary prior to the meeting.

**OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM 1 JULY TO 30 JUNE – IF YOU ARE YET TO PAY YOUR FEES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR PLEASE DO SO NOW. YOU MAY POST YOUR PAYMENT TO:**

**PO BOX 64 PICTON NSW 2571 OR IF MORE CONVENIENT BY ELECTRONIC TRANSFER DIRECT TO THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNT WITH BENDIGO BANK. BSB 633-000 ACC NO. 156 881 971**

### Current Committee:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Gail Hanger</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Kate Holmes</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Marlane Fairfax</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Tony Jagicic</b>
<b>Public Officer:</b>	<b>Peter Meyer</b>

**The reports of the President, the Librarian and the Treasurer form part of this Journal.**

### ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last year has been quite terrible for many of us. Just as we thought we were returning to “the new normal”, we were plunged into lockdown again and locked out of the library, unable to access our records and continue with our projects. Face to face meetings were once again cancelled. Because of this we need to look at holding meetings and speakers via the Zoom platform as well as face to face – when permitted. Many other Societies have successfully moved to this format of conducting their business and it is working well for them. The major advantage is that members not living locally can participate and interact with other members.

The 2021 Annual Conference and AGM of the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies took place on 11 September. Due to COVID it was a totally virtual conference held via Zoom and utube. Over 400 people participated from the comfort of the own homes, or in areas that were not in lockdown, member societies could gather as a group. The host Society, Port Macquarie is to be congratulated on the success of the Conference. The lesson they learnt from planning and hosting the Conference, which I think applies to all of us during these strange times, is “*Don't panic. Pivot.*”

The speakers were as usual of high quality and interesting with topics on DNA, writing your family history, (which can also be applied to local history), researching at the State Archives, and a very interesting project on a data base of our early convicts – currently being undertaken in Tasmania but soon to be launched for NSW by the University of New England. Picton continues to be on the committee and I have been re-elected as President.

I want to thank everyone for their support, especially Kate and Marlane who are “holding the fort” so to speak in continuing to manage the Society, answer inquiries, produce the journal and administer our FB page in these strange times. Also Ian and Cheryl who are both strong supports to the committee. I look forward to the coming year.

**Gail Hanger**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Interest	0.80	Petty Cash	50.00
Membership fees	700.00	Stationery	10.20
Research fees	180.00	Printing – Journal	235.00
Book Sales	190.00	Stamps	168.00
Ruffels History Prize	100.00	RAHS Membership	108.00
Grant – WSC – Oral History Project	2,450.00	RAHS Public Liability Ins	377.60
Donations	80.00	PO Box Renewal	136.00
		REVS Transcription Service	138.42
		Office 365 annual subscription	129.00
		Web Hosting renewal (2 years)	237.60
		Dept of Fair Trading	47.00
	<b>\$3,700.80</b>		<b>\$1,636.82</b>
<b>Cash Book Balance 1 July 2020</b>	\$1,496.81		
Plus receipts	3,700.80		
	5,197.61		
Less expenditure	-1,636.82		
<b>Cash Book Balance as at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>\$3,560.79</b>		
<b>WSC Oral History Grant</b>	\$2,450.00	Term Deposit (Bendigo Bank)	\$3,607.59
Less expended	-138.42	Interest to 30 June 2021	14.45
Grant Funds not expended	\$2,311.58	Re-invested to 7 Nov2021	<b>\$3,622.04</b>
		@ 0.1% pa	
<b>Cash Book Balance 30 June 2021</b>	\$3,560.79		
Less Grant moneys	-2,311.58		
	1,249.21		
Less unexpended Ruffles History prize**	-200.00		
<b>Net Society funds as at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>\$1,049.21</b>		

**\*\*Due to COVID, Picton High has not held its end of year Awards.**

## ANNUAL LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 2021

Well, twelve months ago we were able to use the Local History Room, but with restrictions on any visitors, and as I write (September 2021) we have no access to the Library at all. We can only hope that the easing of restrictions next month (?) will include access to important public places such as libraries.

The first six months of this year had returned to normal, though we seemed to have had fewer visitors than usual. We were quite busy in June, before the lockdown and were glad to have Gail helping out – on leave but couldn't travel. She began indexing the 1950s – 1970s Council scrapbooks that the State Archives didn't want. We were also given a photo album from the family of Bob Lindsay covering his working life at Council. We were asked for information about the Ball family in Tahmoor in the 1930s and 1940s and the Samuel family in Buxton in the 1920s. Both took some digging, but we were successful in the end. Member Stephen Chalker brought in some Thirlmere photos, one of the old hall and one of a 1889 plan to have the cemetery in the middle of town. It didn't take long to suggest the present site on Station Street.

We are pleased to have more recollections of the Hempel family from two of our members. So often the information we have tends to be the bare bones of family history, although obituaries can be a help, as can other newspaper reports. We are very happy to receive any personal recollections that add to our picture, not only of the family, but to the times (the 1950s). We are pleased to get journal articles at any time – thanks John Ruffels, one of our life members and a great source of information.

As mentioned in previous journals, in the last few years we have been asked to provide local names for the streets in new developments. Marlane has been busy with names for Tahmoor/Thirlmere area, where her research for the Tahmoor history was a help. More recently Marlane has been busy with names for the various Wilton developments and has been able to use the extensive archive from the late Pat Shephard. The Wilton developer agreed to pay the Society a fee per name and have just received our first, reasonably substantial, payment – which still doesn't really cover the time taken to produce the names.

The two earlier journals have included detailed Librarian Reports which show the wide variety of enquiries and donations that we have received over the year. It is interesting to note the increased interest in 20<sup>th</sup> century history, though family history still shows great interest in the 19<sup>th</sup> century origins of their family. In the last few months, we have received photos of the Antill graves on Vault Hill from one of our members who is an Antill descendant, showing the present sad state of this small cemetery. Jim Whitfield has also generously provided copies of photos he took of the cemetery in 2019. As far as we know, it is still a private cemetery, and difficult to prevent vandalism because of its isolation. This has been a problem from at least the 1950s, and probably the 1940s when there were very few members of the Antill family remaining at Jarvisfeild.

We had a request from Major Robert Broadbere of the Salvation Army for information about the Army in Picton. Marlane was able to send him one photo of the Barracks in Webster Street, and he whipped up a four page history. He was able to establish from the Army records/War Cry journals that the Picton Corps was established in January 1887, with the Barracks completed in 1890. There was a surprisingly high number of captains, both male and female, suggesting rotations of only about six months. Membership dwindled and the Picton Corps closed on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1901. The Picton

Methodist Church bought the old Barracks in 1906, and the old building was demolished in 1928. Major Boradbere's report is also an historical item of Covid ramifications, as he notes that more information will be available from us when the lockdown is lifted.

Another request came in for information about the land grant Melrose at Douglas Park. The present owner of part of this land asked if we had any information on a handsome avenue of trees, and also of a railway siding known as McDonalds Siding. This sent Marlane off on a search of the title information which established that Melrose and the adjacent Rosslyn/Roslyn grants were to James and William Macarthur in 1822, to add to the extensive Macarthur lands around Menangle and Camden/Cawdor areas. Both grants were sold to Lachlan Macalister from Clifton, on the southern boundary of Roslyn, in 1851 – and that is a whole different story. The land was then sold to Francis and Maurice Sheil of Round Hill in 1900, and this sent Marlane to member Paul Harvey, whose mother Pauline was a Sheil, and she was brought up on Melrose. Paul thought that the family may have bought the property because they had inherited money from the estate of James Tyson. By this time it is possible that the original grants had been subdivided and re-aligned. Pauline's maternal grandfather was Hector McInnes, a railway inspector, and the McInnes and Macalister families are connected back to Clifton, but again we need access to our archive to disentangle some of this story. Whatever, Pauline has an excellent local family history back generations, and the Sheil family were early settlers in the Wilton area, and gradually spread out between Wilton and Picton. The Round Hill property was across the Nepean near the present Wilton Park Road. However, this didn't help establish when the avenue of trees was planted, but it seems to be after the Sheil family connection from the 1950s. The railway siding may be related to the Cleary Brothers timber mill at Douglas Park from the 1920s. Again, we have more information in our archive as I remember that the late Wilf Wortley gave us his recollections of Douglas Park, including about the sawmill. So plenty more work to go on with.

On a different note, our historic Victoria Bridge, built 1897, has seen extensive repairs in the last year. So, for several months it has been closed to traffic, which saw huge lines of traffic heading from the south in particular. Pedestrian access was possible, which was a boon for people heading for the Picton railway station, but then in early June even this was closed off. At the western end of the bridge, the actual road bed was taken up, and a huge hole dug in the adjacent road, through the underlying sandstone. And then the lockdown! No work has been done since then, but the traffic has been reduced too, but it is a great shame that this major repair will make life a bit more difficult when (if) we return to more traffic will increase. The proposed new road from the southern end of Picton across to Picton Road can't come soon enough.

In August we heard the sad news of the death of Noel Collison. Noel and his wife Cynthia were early members of the Society and made a huge contribution by co-ordinating our members in transcribing the headstones and burials in our local cemeteries. Noel continued with and expanded this work when he and Cynthia joined The Oaks Historical Society. The resulting volumes of death records, compiled from many sources, a lasting tribute to Noel, and Cynthia, and an invaluable resource to local and family historians.

We hope that all is well with all our members, their families and friends, that everyone has been vaccinated and looking forward to some freedoms soon.

**Kate Holmes**

## THE SALVATION ARMY IN PICTON

a time line by Major Robert Broadbere

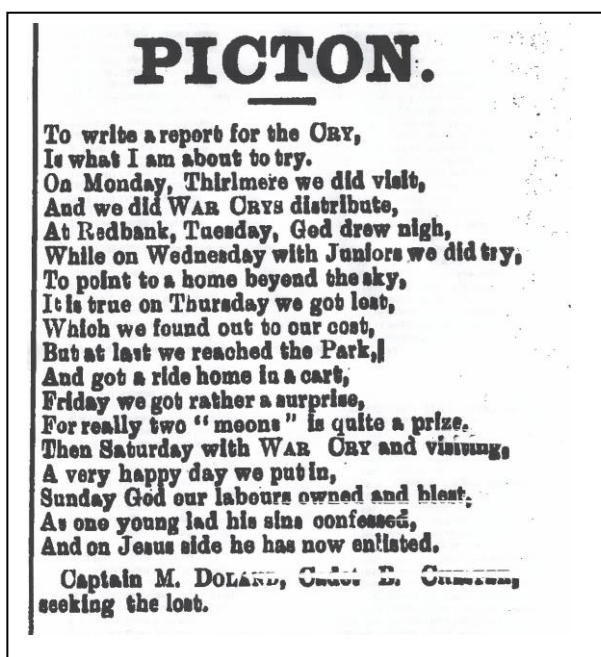
As Picton only operated from 1887 for 14 years very little history is available<sup>1</sup>. In that fourteen year window an outpost operated at Upper Picton during 1888. History doesn't explain why 34 Commanding Officers were stationed at the Corps in such a short period. From January 1887 until February 1888 four Commanding Officers were stationed at the Corps. From January 1894 until April 1895 five Commanding Officers were present.

1888                    A strange story appeared in War Cry. 'On Friday whilst Lieutenant<sup>2</sup> and I were selling War Cry, on coming to a shop Lieutenant passed on and I stopped to go in, when a young man rushed to the door and cried out 'Praise the Lord' but as soon as he saw my bonnet he ran and hid himself'. We don't know the full story but the young man did return on Sunday and was saved.

**War Cry<sup>3</sup> corps report, 'Mothers don't forget, we will look after your children on Saturday evening from 3 o'clock until 5 o'clock while you finish scrubbing'. Now that is practical Christianity.**

War Cry<sup>4</sup> 'Everybody roll up to our love-letter meeting on Wednesday ...'. No explanation on what was a 'love-letter' meeting.

1889                    A common report style of this period.



To write a report for the CRY  
Is what I am about to try.  
On Monday, Thirlmere we did visit,  
And we did WAR CRYS distribute  
At Redbank, Tuesday, God drew nigh,  
While on Wednesday with Juniors we did try,  
To point to a home beyond the sky,  
It is true on Thursday we got lost,  
Which we found out to our cost,  
But at last we reached the Park,  
And got a ride home in a cart,  
Friday we got rather a surprise,  
For really two "moons" is quite a prize.  
Then Saturday with WAR CRY and visiting  
A very happy day we put in,  
Sunday God our labours owned and blest  
As one young lad his sins confessed,  
And on Jesus side he has now enlisted.

1890                    A man from a travelling circus was charged with assault on the Picton Officer<sup>5</sup>. The magistrate was so appalled by the injury to the Officer's face that he ordered the man to one month's Jail.

Three years after opening the Picton Corps had its own Barracks. 'The new Salvation Army Barracks are now complete<sup>6</sup> ...'.

<sup>1</sup> Picton Heritage will supply more when COVID allows access to their library (2021)

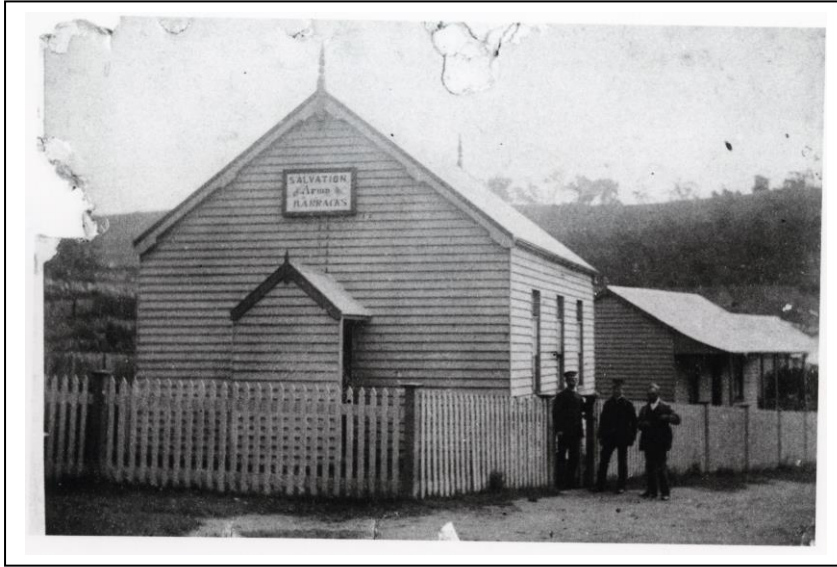
<sup>2</sup> Captain Ada Rien was the Commanding Officer

<sup>3</sup> War Cry August 1888

<sup>4</sup> War Cry October 1888

<sup>5</sup> Australian Town and Country 03.05.1890

<sup>6</sup> Australian Town and Country 25.01.1890



'The Salvation Army Barracks are now complete'<sup>7</sup> located on the corner of Menangle and Webster Streets.

Picton news<sup>8</sup> in what must have been the first wedding at Picton Corps of Miss Pompton<sup>9</sup> and Salmon Crewery was conducted by Major Spratt from Goulburn<sup>10</sup>. The crowd that gathered brought food for the couple's pantry and

waited outside for them to appear. However, the couple could not cope with the crowd and exited via the back of the citadel. The newspaper also noting Mr Salmon Crewery as 'a coloured gentleman'; why was that necessary? The entry fee to attend the wedding being six pence.

1899 War Cry<sup>11</sup> Picton Corps had an outpost at Thirlmere but whoever placed the notice in the local newspaper had not checked as the paper called the Thirlmere meeting as 'ball'. The Officers and one soldier were overwhelmed.

Perhaps the mistake quoted above was the way that Cadet-Lieutenant Jones, who was welcomed to the Thirlmere outpost as her appointment, had presented the advertisement.

1900 Only 8 soldiers remaining on the Picton Corps roll.

1901 Picton Corps closed in May 1901 but James Thiele was still reporting to War Cry<sup>12</sup> in September and October.

1906 South Coast Times<sup>13</sup> reported that the Methodist Church at Picton had purchased the Barracks.

1912 The Picton Post<sup>14</sup> reporting 'a meeting of the Political Labour League will be held in the Old Salvation Army Barracks'. No doubt the locals still acknowledged it was a Salvation Army .

1928 Demolition of the Barracks in January<sup>15</sup>.

The old Salvation Army Barracks was the scene of great activity on Wednesday night last, the occasion being a dance organised by Mr. J. Gillard. The floor space of the little hall was severely taxed, about 27 couples being present. Notwithstanding the crowded state of the hall dancing was pleasantly indulged in till shortly after midnight. The music was supplied by Mr. J. Farrell and Mr. J. Gillard carried out the duties of M.C.

<sup>7</sup> Town & Country Journal 25.01.1890

<sup>8</sup> Bowral Free Press 21.06.1890

<sup>9</sup> No Christian name as per the custom of that period

<sup>10</sup> Spratt would have been on DHQ staff

<sup>11</sup> War Cry November 1899

<sup>12</sup> War Cry September 1901

<sup>13</sup> South Coast Times 10.02.1906

<sup>14</sup> Picton Post 04.09.1912

<sup>15</sup> Picton Heritage



## THE CABRERA FAMILY

Margaret Schmidt



*The old St Stephen's Church*

Francis Charles Cabrera was born in London in 1859.

Leaving England as a youth he spent several years in Canada before coming to Australia with a couple of friends. His mates returned to Canada, but Francis decided to make his home in Australia.

He visited various parts of New South Wales and took a liking to the timber industry so decided to put down his roots in the Thirlmere area.

After meeting Miss Elizabeth Bath Shelley he eventually married her at Balmain in 1896 and brought her to Thirlmere.

Elizabeth was known as 'Lily' and was a daughter of William and Margaret Shelley.

His next move was to become a farmer and to this end he brought a small property just outside the township on the Oaks Road, planting a variety of fruit trees he named it 'Varleigh Orchard', selling apples and pears to locals and anyone who passed by.

Charles Henry Pickard came to town and bought a shop from a Mr Corry. In need of assistance, he approached Francis Cabrera and the two became partners for a while.

Francis and Lily Cabrera were religious people but there was no church at Thirlmere at this time so with some of the other residents Francis set about establishing a mission church for their needs.

They built a small church of weatherboard which was eventually consecrated as St Stephen's Church of England. It stood in Westbourne Avenue for over 100 years and was replaced by a more modern building, erected in front of the old one, which opened on 30th June 1991.

Francis Cabrera was very devout in his beliefs. He became a lay-preacher and frequently stood in for the minister whenever necessary, he was also a trustee of the Church of England section of Thirlmere cemetery for many years.

Outside of the church he took a great interest in all matters concerning the township and its people and as such was involved in the Progress Association.

Francis and Lily Cabrera had two children, a son Francis William Vere, called 'Frank', (b.1898), and a daughter Margaret Elizabeth Bath (b.1899), known as 'Rita'.

Frank served in WW1 and came home safely. He married his cousin Maude Jean Shelley in 1929 at Drummoyne and the couple lived in Sydney they had two sons, Kenneth and Allan and a daughter, Lesley. Both of the boys were good scholars, they attended the Fort St Boys School and both excelled at music.



Kenneth became a doctor and married Myra Eleanor Andrews in Sydney in 1958. They had daughters Judith and Ruth.

Allan passed his Intermediate Certificate in 1948, winning the Raymond Sly memorial award and a bursar. By then he had been the organist at St Barnabas Church at Waverly for 11 months, he resigned from this to take an appointment as organist and choirmaster at Holy Trinity in Dulwich Hill and was also playing for the school radio broadcast of 'Music Through Song' programme just days after his 15th birthday.

Lesley Gwendoline Cabrera married William Neville Smith in 1955.

Rita never married but remained with her parents until they passed away.

Lily Cabrera (nee Shelley) died at Camden District Hospital on 7th Sept 1932, at the age of 74 years.

Francis and daughter Rita sold the orchard to Mr Ralph Clark and moved into Thirlmere on 25th October 1935, having purchased a house on the Picton Road (now known as 357 Thirlmere Way) near the township.

Francis Charles Cabrera had not been a well man for the previous year and had spent most of it in his bed. He died just 13 months after moving into town, on 13th March 1936.

Rita remained in her house alone, but was never lonely. A qualified music teacher, her pupils came to the house for their lessons.

People passing by would often stop to chat if she was outside, or called in to check on her and share a cuppa.

Rita continued to be active in the church, which her father had helped to become a reality, and played the organ there for many years. She taught Sunday School to the children of the town and accompanied them on inter-church concerts and gatherings to celebrate various occasions as well as attending church rallies and conventions both in and out of the district.

She was the organist at St Stephens for over 40 years, playing at all the local services, christenings, funerals and weddings.

Though Rita did not look very big or terribly strong, many people were amazed to see her chopping wood to feed her combustion stove until well into her seventies when ill health forced her to accept assistance from others. Her eyesight had also deteriorated, and she could hardly see.

Rita never got used to electricity and although she conceded to have a refrigerator and electric lights, and to sometimes use an electric jug, it terrified her and she much preferred to chop wood for her stove.

Some of the local ladies held a party at Rita's house, bringing food and gifts with them to celebrate her 80th birthday on 18th December 1979.

Thirlmere mourned this gentle lady when she passed away on 12th March 1981. Rita was buried in the family grave with her parents.

The organist at her funeral was her nephew, Allan Cabrera. Allan's father, Rita's brother Frank Cabrera, passed away just one month after Rita, on 17th April 1981.

## 59 LUMSDAINE STREET PICTON

A recent Inquiry was from Mark Daly who wrote:

*My grandparents (Thomas Patrick Daly & Daphne May Daly) lived at 59 Lumsdaine Street, Picton. They moved to Picton about 1944 living initially at another address in Lumsdaine street before moving to #59 in 1949.*

*My grandmother told me on a number of occasions over the years that the house (59 Lumsdaine) was used as a convalescent hospital or hospice at some time prior to them moving in.*

*Can you shed any light on this? The house was just a basic 3 bedroom place that wasn't big by any means.*

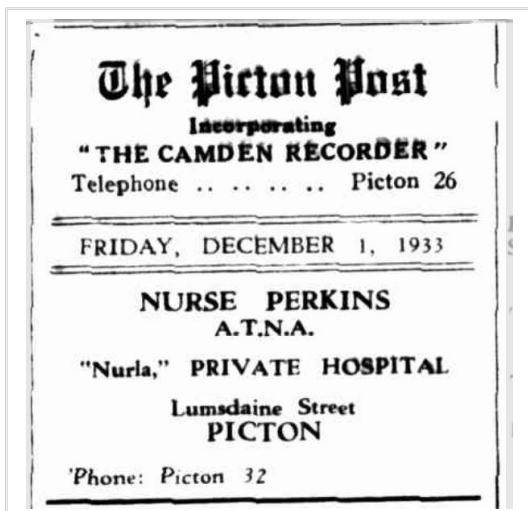
*A search on Trove mentions a Wyoming Private Hospital in Picton but no reference to where this was located.*



Mark provided a photograph which he believes was taken by his father in the late 1940s early 1950s showing a view from the hill behind Argyle Street, looking across to Lumsdaine Street and Victoria bridge and the hills beyond.

I had not come across a hospital in Lumsdaine Street but I knew from other research that it was not uncommon for nurses to set up small hospitals in homes or to

advertise in the local paper that they were available for home visits.



A search on Trove quickly solved the mystery in the form of an advertisement by Nurse E Perkins of "Nurla" Lumsdaine Street which confirmed the story Mark's grandmother had told him – his grandparents' house was called "Nurla".

If undelivered please return to:

PDHFHS  
PO Box 64  
PICTON NSW 2571

**Nurse E. Perkins**  
A.T.N.A.  
**"Nurla"**  
Lumsdaine Street — PICTON  
OPEN FOR ENGAGEMENTS  
Moderate Fee.

d  
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