

ISSN 1321-1439

The Stonequarry Journal



Published by

Picton and District Historical and Family History Society Inc

Price \$2.00

Volume 20 No.1

March 2006

Picton District Historical and family History Society Inc.

Patrons: Michael Banasik, Peta Seaton, State member for Southern Highlands, Alby Schultz, Federal member for Hume.

Committee:

President	Gail Hanger	02 46842179
Vice President	Elaine Callaway	02 46830464
Secretary	Ron Callaway	02 46830464
Treasurer	Ron Callaway	
Journal Editors	Kate Holmes, Ron Callaway, Ken Williams	
Librarian	Helen Hanger	
Research committee	Helen Hanger, Gail Hanger, Ron Callaway, Elaine Callaway,	

Journal contributions

Contributions should be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or typed or handwritten to:

The Editor
P.O.Box 64
Picton NSW 2571
Email:
Web site:

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 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)

Written or emailed enquiries: \$20.00 + photocopying.

COPYRIGHT: No article, photograph or item from this journal may be reproduced without the written permission of the society.

DISCLAIMER: Although all reasonable care is taken, the Picton and District Historical and Family History Society Inc., accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of information that is printed in good faith from other sources, opinions expressed or authors of articles.

CONTENTS

Plea from the acting Editors	1
2005 Annual General Meeting reports	2
The Night the War Came to Picton	3
The Estonians of Thirlmere	4
Douglas Park revisited	5
Moreton Park Farm, plus some Crawford family history	6
From the Records:	
Extracts from The Sydney Mail, January 12 1938	8
2005 Acquisitions: Books and donations	9

PLEA FROM THE ACTING EDITORS

As you can see, we are back to the simple mode of journal production, due to the unexpected loss of our IT expert/Editor who has now left the district. You are greatly missed, Debbie! This has meant that we missed the last journal for 2005, but may have found another helper familiar with Publisher – but, as always, the more help we can, the better, even in the folding etc. for postage.

We have been trying to produce three or four journals per year, but this may have to be reduced to two, especially as **WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ARTICLES!** Putting together this effort makes one of us realise how hard this can be, but contributions or even ideas and suggestions are very welcome.

Please also remember that we need help on our display days. The next is the Heritage Festival Picnic on Sunday April 9th, at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre at The Oaks. No great local knowledge is required – you can learn on the job! And we're always coming across unusual questions, which we later research, so please do consider helping.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts & Expenditure for year ending 30th June 2005

RECEIPTS

	\$	c	
Membership Fees	825	00	
Research	692	40	
Photocopying	214	15	
Publications	1115	15	
Donations	364	00	
Postage/Handling	85	50	
Merchandise sales	586	00	
Bank Interest	15	24	
Grant	1000	00	
Sale of photographs	36	00	\$4933.44

EXPENDITURE

Postage	360	55	
Stationery	258	49	
Library books	399	27	
Computer	825	51	
Bank Fees	34	25	
Insurance	632	50	
Printing	38	00	
Subscriptions	124	30	
Dept. of Fair Trading	41	00	
Picton High School	100	00	
Book binder	484	00	
Investment No. 2	1000	00	
Refunds	38	50	
Post Box	56	00	\$4292.37

Bank Statement 1 st July 2004	\$ 871.57
Income 1/7/04-30/6/05	<u>4933.44</u>
Total	<u>5805.01</u>
Less Expenditure same period	<u>-4292.37</u>
Balance as Statement 30/6/2005	<u>\$1513.64</u>

Investment No. 2	\$1003.40
Investment No. 1	531.99
Credit Union	5.00
Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>
Total	<u>\$1590.39</u>

President's Report

I wish to thank everyone for their ongoing support as I finish the year as President of the Society, we continue to grow in little ways and members are ever making breakthroughs in their research.

We have had many triumphs over the last 12 months; we have been successful with a couple of grants which have enabled us to publish a couple of new books, the latest is being launched today. We have raised the profile of the Society by attending various functions around the Shire, the Australia Day celebrations and Shire Day to mention a couple. The feed back we have received has been very positive, with lots of interest shown.

I would like to thank everybody who has helped with the continuing running the Society, to which each of us in our own way bring expertise and experience to help each other and visitors who attend our rooms. I believe there is nothing like the excitement on a researchers face, when you are able to confirm some family history information.

While a recent promotion at work means more regular hours and no shift work for me, it means I lose my Thursdays at the rooms, for I will miss the banter as ideas are passed between the different members present. This just means I now pass ideas on from afar.

I wish everyone good luck with their research.

Gail Hanger.

The Night the War came to Picton From Alan Pearce

Recently SBS had a documentary on the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour, in 1942. I remember that night fairly well. My father, Roy Pearce, was Chief Warden under the National Emergency Services (NES) scheme. We had what was known as a yellow alert, the signal for which was given by the whistles of the steam engines at the locomotive depot, as there were no sirens in the town. All the wardens were called out and a strict blackout observed. The wardens were on duty all night but the alert was at an end the next day.

Incidentally, other emergency services in Picton at the time were the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC), the Volunteer Air Observers Corps (VAOC) and Voluntary Aid Detachments (VAD). Mr Reg Baker was Chief Observer of the VAOC but I cannot remember who was in charge of the VDC or VAD. The VDC had the job of guarding the railway viaduct just out of Picton Station, equipped only with a couple of old rifles and pick handles.

Do any other members have memories of the Second World War, or the organisations mentioned by Alan?

The Estonians of Thirlmere

Local members may be aware of the display **From Estonia to Thirlmere**, at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre, which opened on 27th November 2005. This is made up of a permanent display on poultry farming equipment in the big shed, a social/history display in part of the exhibition hall which will remain for two years, and a publication (already sold out). The latter provides a brief history of the Estonians in Thirlmere from the 1920s onwards, but is mostly taken up with the stories by and of many of the families. Most of the Estonians became poultry farmers, and the equipment display has been donated from the Kaljusto farm, worked from 1931 until the 1960s, and left untouched on the farm until recently. Apart from the stories, and surviving equipment, both the book and the background research (which began in 2003) includes an amazing photographic collection of life, work and play throughout these decades.

Our Society holds some information relating to the Estonian community. In 1997 some 256 items, mostly newspaper cuttings (in Estonian and English) dating between 1970 and 1997, and documents were donated, apparently after the death of Mrs Ilse Urm, or possibly Pruul. Ilse was first married to August Arnold Mohlik, who had arrived in Sydney (probably) before World War II, as he left his wife behind. Ilse managed to get to Sydney after the war, but her husband died, and in 1954 she married Ardur Urm. He had been a diplomat before the war, and arrived in Australia in 1950 where he worked for the Post Master General's department (now Australia Post). The Urms lived in Sydney, but Ardur became very involved with the Estonian Relief Committee, formed in 1945 to help Estonians migrate to Australia, and look after those in need. He became President, and so was instrumental in the establishment of the Estonian Retirement Village at Thirlmere.

Some of the newspaper clippings are from the Picton Post and relate to the Village. The foundation stone was laid on Sunday September 17th, 1961, and the celebrations made the front page on September 21st. Much was made of the effort to raise money, first to buy the 15 acres of land in 1959, and then to start building this "unique venture among migrants in Australia, and the first project of its kind yet undertaken by Estonians anywhere in the world".

When Ardur retired in 1969, he and Ilse moved to House No. 4 in the Village. Another clipping mentions the awarding of a British Empire Medal to him in 1970, and there are two photographs of the Urms at Government House. His 75th birthday celebrations at the Estonian Hall were recorded in the Picton Post; the clipping is undated, but other documents show he was born in 1904. Ardur died around 1982. It is possible that Ilse married a Pruul after this date, but this is not certain; she died in 1997.

The collection includes many original documents, including passports, and the sort of travel and identity papers needed during the 1930s and 1940s in and around Estonia. Some of these were for Selma and Harry Weyrick, who were married in 1939 and who also emigrated to Sydney; Ilse was their niece.

Douglas Park revisited.

A number of errors were not picked up in Wilf Wortley's reminiscences of the town, in the May 2005 Stonequarry Journal, p. 10. The correct spelling of BARRY is actually BARRIE, and there was a typo in the spelling of Douglass's middle name, it should be GRATAN. The biggest blooper for which we all apologise is that the date was 1822, not 1882. The 800 acres were actually 916 in 1866, according to the information held by Ken Williams, one of our hardworking members, and also a past resident of Douglas Park (though not as far back as Wilf). Ken also believes that the subdivision occurred in 1884, and that the 1893/4 Electoral Roll indicated that there were 6 freeholders and another 10 residences within the original grant, including dairy farms.

Ken Williams has just published, through the Society, his book on the land grants between Menangle and Picton Road: *Along The Menangle Road*. This has led to a spirited exchange between both Ken and Wilf, which is an interesting example of the differences between one sort of local historian (Wilf), who has collected material because of his long life in the town from the 1940s, and became interested in the history, and another, (Ken) who also became interested as a resident of the town, and then spent some 15 years collecting the 19th century records relating to the wider district. Some of the questions have arisen because Ken has concentrated on the 19th century, and Wilf has information about the 20th ... which may lead to more articles. Speaking for myself, I find the melding of these two make a particularly invigorating picture of our past, with original documents providing a solid framework, and local and/or oral histories adding colour.

A note on spelling: the original grant to J.B.L. De Arrietta was **Morton Park** (and his name can also be seen written as D'Arrietta). However, it has become common to use the spelling **Moreton**. The first use may have been as early as 1858, and is certainly the spelling in the 20th century. The following discussion and article use Moreton .

It may also be appropriate to point out that Ken's research included getting copies of numerous Statutory Declarations dating from the 1890s, when the system of land tenure was changing. Such information is available for Moreton Park, Fairy Hill and Clifton, which provides information from locals about the occupants of the land grants as they recall it. The Moreton Park copies include one from Edward Fahey, who had lived in the Appin area since 1844, and several others who lived on Moreton Park since the 1850s.

The references to Moreton Park have brought forth more information. A visitor to our Rooms, who came on a family history quest, remembered that her mother had a connection there, as follows.

Moreton Park Farm, Douglas Park

from Beatrice Ashton

My mother, Mary Elizabeth Crawford, was born on 25th December 1897, at Warrie Flat near Dubbo. Her parents were Samuel John Crawford and Esther Crawford nee Birch.

When Mum was 7 years old her parents separated and Mum was placed in four different homes. The families were paid £3.12.6 a quarter, but she also had to work for her keep and education. The last home was Moreton Park Farm, Douglas Park. She lived there until she was 18 years of age. The people that had Moreton Park Farm wanted her to stay, but Mum wanted to try and find her family, so they found her family and reunited Mum with her brother, and her Dad. Mum always told us her happiest time was on the farm, and every second Sunday she would be allowed to take one of the horses and ride all over the property, but she had to be back in time to get the dinner on the table for the workers.



My Mother died on 3rd September 1967 at my home, surrounded by all the people who loved her most. I will always be grateful that she was my mother, loving and caring for my Dad and all her 10 children, and heaps of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

(This would place the young Mary at Moreton Park some time between 1905 and 1915)

Left: Mary Crawford aged 18

Mrs Ashton has now sent us her family tree, starting with James Crawford and his wife Sarah Dunn in Scotland. Their fifth child, fourth son William Crawford, born c. 1806, married Elizabeth Willis in Barnstaple in 1827, and emigrated with three children in 1838, arriving in January 1839. William was a Baptist minister, shopkeeper and shingle splitter; he was minister at chapel on the corner of Pitt and Bathurst Streets by 1842. However, from 1843 he lived in Dungog, until his death in 1859. He was accidentally shot at his Samuel son's farm in Pittwater.

Samuel, born c. 1835, married Harriet Williams (born 1838) in 1861 and they had thirteen children, their second child being Samuel John, born 1863, and he married first, Ellen Constance Chippindale in 1886, and then Hester (Esther) Birch in 1897; He and Ellen were remarried in 1928, after Esther's death, although the latter had left Samuel c. 1904. Samuel John worked as a labourer, police constable and contractor; he and Esther had three children, Mary Elizabeth in 1897, George Henry

in 1899 who died four days later, and Charles William, in 1901; all registered in Dubbo. When Esther left, the two children were handed over to the State Welfare.

Mary Elizabeth had one child in 1916, married Herbert O'Donohue, farmer, in 1919 and had another 4 children; then met Edward Stone c. 1929 and they had two children. Betty Ashton was the second daughter, christened Beatrice, of Mary and Edward Stone.

Interestingly, the family have another connection to this area. Hannah Crawford was the third daughter, fourth child of William and Elizabeth Crawford, and the first to be born (1842) after their arrival in Sydney. She married John L. Martin in 1863, who had been born in Picton in 1835, the son of John and Margaret (nee Fennessy) Martin. John L. was recorded as a squatter, grazier and yeoman, and lived at Bimlow in the Burragorang Valley.

Hannah and John L. Martin had 11 children: Margaret Elizabeth born 1864, registered at Picton; John, born 1865, ditto; Vincent born 1867, ditto; Hannah Crawford born 1869, ditto. The next five children were born in the Burragorang Valley – May in 1871, Roy Willis in 1872, Silas in 1874, Grace Marion in 1876, and Victor Gabriel in 1878. Hannah died in 1929 and her husband John in 1917, both in Penrith; both were buried in Rookwood Cemetery.

A check of the Society's records does not add a great deal of information. John Martin the elder was a storekeeper by 1855, when he said he had lived in Picton for twenty years [Jan Ross article, Picton News 8/9/1993]. This places him in the area very early in the European settlement of what was then known as Stonequarry – the first land grants were in 1822. The Index to the Picton Bench Books, compiled by Liz Vincent has several references to a John Martin: in 1833 and 1834 he was described as an overseer, and gave evidence on many cases up before the Bench – perhaps he was a road construction overseer. By 1841 he was described as a storekeeper when giving evidence. It will be necessary to look at the original records to see if this is the same John Martin, which may take some time.

Other records indicate that Hannah Crawford Martin's birth in Picton was assisted by Nurse Caroline Whitfield, while the later Burragorang births were attended by Catherine Blattman.

Extracts from The Sydney Mail, January 12th 1938
(Accession no. 181-50, collection of newspapers, cuttings, etc.)

This collection includes The Sydney Mail, for Wednesday, January 12th, 1938. As it was the sesquicentenary year, this edition was full of historical articles, including one on **JOHN MACARTHUR – OUR FIRST MERINO STUDMASTER**.

This includes much praise for Macarthur, “the son of an ardent Jacobite who had to flee from Scotland for his part in the rising of 1745”, and suggests his Scottish background may have encouraged his interest in sheep. However in Sydney in the 1790s, sheep were required for meat, rather than wool, and it is interesting that Macarthur concentrated on wool, first at Elizabeth Farm in Parramatta, and then with more success at Camden Park from 1820. The latter grant was made in 1805, while Macarthur was in England; at that time he was also fighting to export “several highly bred merinos from the Royal Stud at Kew ... Negrettes of the purest Spanish descent.” At the time it was illegal to export the merinos under penalty of “cutting off of the right hand and the branding of the forehead with a felon’s mark”, but he persevered. The Camden Park grant was taken up in 1806, and that bicentenary is being celebrated throughout the Macarthur region this year.

Also topical this year, the same paper had a two page spread on the **EMPIRE GAMES** being held in Sydney between February 5th to 12th, as part of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations. This particular article concerned the English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland teams, and was largely made up of drawings of the various competitors: 24 athletes (only one woman) and three (male) officials.

A large photograph showed the Hoisting of the Canadian Flag at the Empire Games Headquarters in Sydney; the Games Village was at the (old) Showground. Organisers were expecting 500 competitors from 14 countries.

A quick check of the Internet led to a little more information about the 1938 Empire Games, via the National Archives Fact Sheet 188: 15 countries participated in 7 sports (athletics, boxing, cycling, lawn bowls, rowing, swimming and wrestling). The Sydney Cricket Ground was the main stadium, along with the Sydney Sports Ground, with the North Sydney Pool for the aquatic events.

The same source provides a short history of the Games. A Festival of Empire sports meeting was held in London as part of the celebrations for the coronation of King George V in 1911. This led to many discussions on having further such competitions, though the first Empire Games were not held until 1930, in Canada. The 1934 Games were held in London, and then these in Sydney.

The Commonwealth Games to be held in Melbourne this year will be held from March 15th to 26th with 72 countries participating – 4,500 athletes – in 16 sports. Quite a difference from almost 70 years ago.

Acquisitions in 2005

Books:

Baker, Dorothy M. *The Marsh Family Tree*

Burnett, Brian, Richard Nixon & John Wrigley:
*They Worked at Camden Park. A listing of the Employees,
Leaseholders & Tenant Farmers known to have worked on the
Camden Park Estate. (2005 update of 1993 booklet)*

Gilroy, Deborah: *St Michael's, Mittagong*

Goulburn District Family History Society Inc:
Descendants of Goulburn & District Pioneers.

Liverpool & District Family History Society:
Pioneers of Liverpool.

Liverpool Genealogy Society:
*Index to local newspapers 1993-2003, Campbelltown –
Fairfield – Liverpool. 3 vols.*

McGuik, Mavis: *The Battle of Vinegar Hill Our Pioneers.*

McLelland, James (his) Recording the Past for the Future Reference Books:
*A History of the Silverdale-Warragamba-Werombi-Wallacia-
Greendale Districts of NSW. (1st published 1986, this ed. by
Pinewood Publications, 1997)*

Floods of the Nepean/Hawkesbury Valley – Warragamba Dam

Piggin, Stuart: *Faith of Steel History of the Christian Church in Illawarra*

Sims, Edith, for Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery:
Gore Hill Cemetery.

Vincent, Liz: *The Forgotten Village of Picton Introducing Upper Picton
(Redbank). (2004 reprint)*

Welsh, Ian F. *Valley of Wealth – a Burratorang Coal Story.*

Kershaw, Ken: *Henry Alfred James (1850-1936) A Biography* was donated by
the author.

We are grateful to our member Laurie Taylor, who through his work at Lifeline, checks out the books that might be of interest to the Society, or its members. These include local histories relevant to the Wollondilly Shire, as well as publications on the surrounding areas. The prices are very good, but the numbers are rather much to include here.

Donations

We were very pleased to receive two major donations in 2005.

Acc. No. 482 is an old family bible from Mrs. Evans, but with no family to inherit, she has kindly given it to the Society. It was probably given to John and Caroline Evans on the occasion of their marriage in 1855, according to the four pages for family records found between the Old and the New Testaments. A quick check of our records show that John died in 1890 at Upper Picton, and Caroline at Jarvisfield in 1889. It is interesting, or possibly challenging, that the bible records may have confused the birth dates of these two – recording John's birth as 1828, and Caroline's as 1816 (which did seem unusual), but the court records reverse those dates. They had a son Edward, born 1860 (bible) or 1862 (our records) at Picton, who married Priscilla Seavor Millard in Sydney in 1885. Their son Harold John was born in 1886, (at Laurel Cottage, Upper Picton, our records), with a second son, Edward Robert Patrick born in 1887. Various births, deaths and marriages of following generations are recorded. At this stage, it is not clear what the family were doing in Picton.

The bible is large, approximately 335 x 255 mm, and almost 90mm thick, of heavy wooden ? covers with embossed and gilded decoration, brass corners and two rectangular clasps that held front and back covers together. There is a simplified title page, beautifully engraved, coloured and decorated; the main title page: The Practical and Devotional Family Bible Old and New Testaments ... Commentaries of Henry and Scott, condensed, compact Biblical Dictionary ... Scriptures Atlas, and a Series of Illustrations of the Lands of the Bible. Published by William Collins, Sons & Co., Glasgow & London. Apart from the family history, the bible's maps are interesting, given the great changes in the Middle East since the 1850s.

The donation includes quite a collection of family photographs, very few of which are identified. Most are from the 19th century, and have photographer's names on the back, so it may be possible to provide some dates, combined with the style of the photos. Anyone interested in a small research job ? A listing, and dates of Sydney photographers could be useful for the Society.

Acc. No. 481 (which actually arrived later) came from Bob Randall, now living in Queensland. It includes memorabilia mostly from his grandparents, James William John (Bill) and his wife Elsie Millian (nee Prosser) Randall, and includes an obituary for Elsie, who died in 1962. This provides such useful information: date of arrival in Picton – 1913, and that Bill was the first boiler maker attached to the Picton Railway Locomotive Depot. The Randalls had come from Tasmania via Sydney, and remained in Picton. Their son William John Sydney (Bill) was born in 1908, so came with his parents to the town when young; he also became a boilermaker and was living in Auburn at the time of his mother's death.

The items include tennis trophies won by Elsie Randall, (in 1929 and 1930) and cycling prizes for Bill (in 1921, 1922-23, and 1924). Bill also won a waltzing competition in 1919. In fact, the various items may provide the basis for a future article!

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

	\$
Coach House Chronicles	
Lieut. General Sir Thomas Picton	3.00
Harmony Homes	5.00
Vault Hill Picton	3.00
Tahmoor Post Office	3.00
St. Mary's Towers	5.00
Antonio Manolis	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

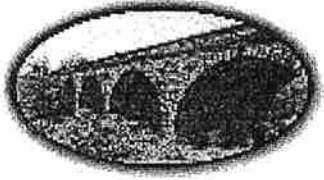
Other Publications	
Along the Menangle Road	15.00
A stroll through St. Mark's Churchyard	8.00
Thirlmere Public School	6.00
The Antills of Jarvisfield Picton	10.00
Picton	5.00
Calendars – 2003 12 wonderful photographs	5.00
Post Cards	5 for 1.00
Fact sheets	0.50

ARROW OFFICE PRODUCTS

Stationery & Office Supplies
For the Home, School & Office
Printer Cartridges/Toners/Ribbons/Fax film
Office Furniture & Equipment
Photocopying & Plan Printing

10% Discount on Adult & Student
Educational supplies

109-111 Argyle Street, Picton
Phone 4677 1600



If undelivered please return to:
PDFHHS
PO Box 64
PICTON NSW 2571

**POSTAGE
PAID**