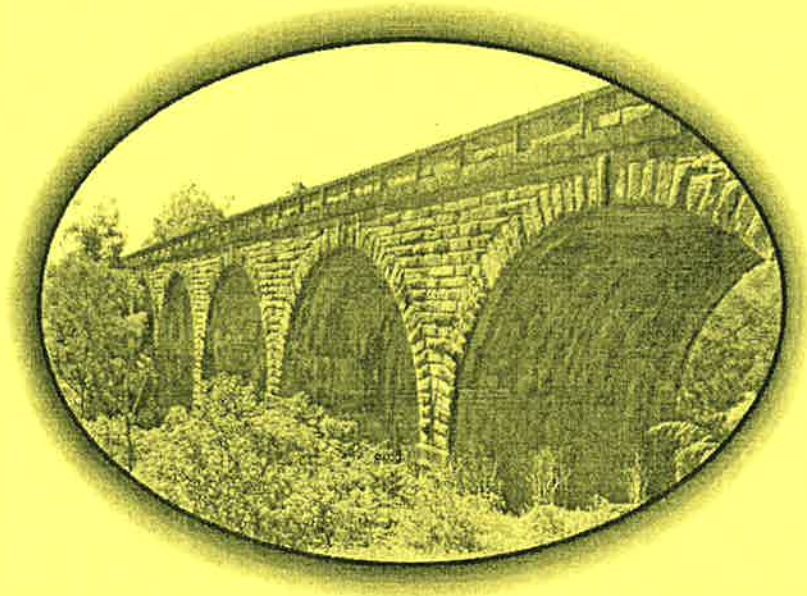


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The Stonequarry Journal



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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.

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 10am to 12 noon, 2nd and 4th Saturday (closed on public holidays).

Research fees.

Members: Free

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

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Recent acquisitions:

Bruce Baxter, now from Grafton, but originally one of the Picton Baxter family, has lent us four score books, to copy. He has also given us some photos of cricket teams that include his grandfather, Edward Baxter. One of these seems to have been taken in Grafton, possibly in the early 1900s, suggesting that a team traveled to northern New South Wales, perhaps for a tournament. One of the others is dated 1924, showing a much more mature Edward. Does anyone have any information about a country cricket tour, or the Picton cricket team(s)?

Have only just started on the photocopying, but in May 1883 the Picton Cricket Club were playing the Independent Cricket Club. The Picton team included G. & T. Bell, H Skellett, D. Ray, H. McInnes, A. Chiddy, I. Waters, W. Campbell, W. Capon, J.M. Antill and H.C. Fowler. It was not a high scoring game, Picton getting 38 and 54 runs, with the Independent getting only 19 and 17. Other teams in the competition were Menangle & Others and Railway; from 1884 they played Camden Park, Minette (?) Camden, Leichhardt and Campbelltown Mechanics; in 1885 Burragorang, Iron Duke, Moss Vale and Colo Vale were added. The books include the Laws of Cricket, which change over time, and it will be interesting to check on all the names recorded. Lots more to come.

Wilf Wortley has given us more Douglas Park photographs, with others from Clare Bell on Pheasant's Nest and her family, while Frank Baker has donated several Tahmoor photos (as well as continuing his schools project).

Coming Events – Picton Primary School will celebrate its centenary in June 2010. More in our next journal.

President's Report 2009 – Gail Hanger

I wish to thank everyone for their ongoing support as we finish this year; we may have only a small group of active members, but we are quiet achievers.

We again had a display at the Australia Day celebrations in the Botanical Gardens, where a good time was had. The display takes time and effort on our small band to put together but the general public certainly enjoys our efforts and we received many comments about the display. The photos and information certainly raised much discussion on the day.

We coordinated with the Library staff to put on a display in the Library for National Family History Week, which was well received and showed us what a good selection of books on family history the Library has, which can be borrowed.

We have joined with the Library, The Oaks Historical Society as well as the Douglas Park and Appin History Groups, in a project to have our resources linked to the Library Local Studies webpage. This will help people doing research by showing them where to head to, or which of the groups to contact if they are looking in a particular direction. Also, it will show what the different groups are collecting and reduce the duplication of records and allow for a better use of our time and resources.

We have had a problem or two with our webpage and email address, which has proved difficult to fix. But if nothing else the problems have shown us that the page is receiving lots of hits, judging by the number of emails I have received telling me of the problem, and that their email to the Society address has bounced. We still don't quite understand why this is happening.

There seems to have been an upsurge in people doing family history or looking for information in our area, in the last year. Whether it is the new program *Who Do You Think You Are* (on SBS) with the new Australian version due to start soon [it ran in September and October] or that there is more information online now, whatever the reason there have been more research enquiries than ever this year. This has certainly kept us busy at times.

I have represented the Society at several events and seminars, including the NSW & ACT Family History Association State Conference, held in Dubbo last year. This is a wonderful event, not only for the contacts made with other people doing family history but also for the wonderful resources available for other groups. The Berrima Family History Society has been nominated to hold the 2011 conference, which if they win will be a good opportunity for people to see what a good event this is. I will be attending this year's conference at Wyong in a fortnight.

This year has seen the death of several of our members and they will be missed, none more so than local historian Liz Vincent. Her passion for history is one that will always be remembered. We extend our sympathy to all the families.

I would like again to thank everybody who has helped with the continuing running of the Society and wish you well for the coming year.

Treasurer's Report 2009 – Ron Callaway.

For the year ending 30th June

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Membership Fees	\$965.00	Postage	\$197.75
Research	509.00	Stationery	187.73
Photocopying	50.90	Library	158.60
Publications	418.00	Bank Fees	5.25
Postage & Handling	18.00	Computer	133.00
Donations	82.50	IBE	571.76
Tea Towels	100.00	Post Box rent	75.00
Bank Interest	1.28	Micro-Cassette	144.42
		Dept. Fair Trading	45.00
		Conference fees	120.00
		Membership	172.00
		Picton High (prize)	200.00
		To Investment Acc.	1000.00
		Insurance	484.00
 Totals:	 <u>\$2144.68</u>		 <u>\$3509.51</u>

Bank Statement 1 st July 2008	\$1910.47
Income to 30 th June 2009	\$2144.68
Total	<u>\$4055.15</u>
Less Expenditure	\$3509.51
Balance as 30 th June 2009	<u>\$ 545.64</u>

Investment Account	\$2656.95
Credit Union	\$ 5.00
Petty Cash	\$ 60.00
Investment Interest	\$ 111.83

Librarian's Report 2009 – Helen Hanger

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone and we are all another year older. We have had a wonderful year with plenty of research still coming in. We've been able to answer most enquiries, or have been able to point people in the right direction, but sometimes we were unable to help.

We have been rearranging some of our resources thanks to Kate, and Elaine has been kept busy collecting newspaper clippings from our local newspapers, many thanks. We have received some family history donations, and have purchased several books including *The Cemeteries of the Camden Anglican Parish*, and the *Campbelltown Federation Register 1900-1920*.

Our displays this year were for Australia Day and Family History Week in August, with the Wollondilly Library. The Library book sale coincided with very heavy rain, so we did not participate this year, so still have a number of general history books on sale.

Gail and Helen attended the State Family History Conference in Dubbo, with some very interesting speakers, so we enjoyed a very nice weekend. We also attended a Norma Ross Retrospective of Paintings in the Shire Hall held to raise money for sponsorship of an art prize at the Picton Show in the future. We are to be given some photographs and other material belonging to Norma from Tahmoor, which we will be happy to receive.

Please accept my apologies for my non-attendance at this year's meeting, due to family reasons. I will accept the position of Librarian if needed.

Thanks to all who have helped in the last year.

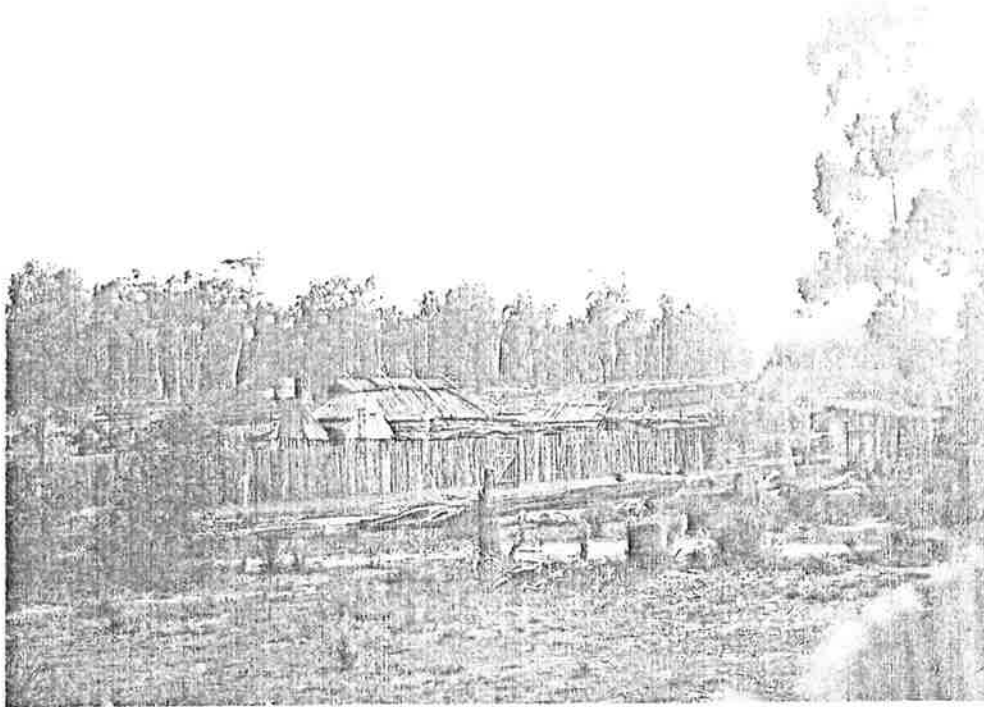
Early Days of Thirlmere – by Mrs. A. Morris (nee Charlotte Davis)

My mother Emma Dyson came to Australia in a sailing ship named the *Melba Bee* with her parents, at the age of twelve years. The Dyson family went to Queensland and my grandfather worked on the railway at Ipswich. They went to Gulgong at the time of the gold rush and my mother there met Henry Davis. They later married, my mother going to her wedding in a Cobb & Co coach.

She had nine children, my sister and three brothers and myself being born at Gulgong, and three girls and a boy were born here at Thirlmere. The family came to what is now Thirlmere when I was 10 years old (I was born on 22nd September 1873).

At this time there was no railway station, and the place was known as Redbank siding. It was really only a loading loop, and the railway business was controlled from Picton.

There were very few houses here at that time. Some were built of slabs with a bark roof, and others were entirely built with bark walls and roof and some lived in tents with a bark roof above the tent.



Bark roofed house with timber fence, near present day Thirlmere Lakes, taken in 1884 by H.A. Lenehan. Note the steam train beyond and to the right of the house complex.

The earliest fettlers were Messrs. W. East, T. Noonan, W. Hanna and J. Mann. Other early residents were W. Allison, J. Kelly, Mr. Landrigan, Con Brooks and Billy Bains. The last two with others were engaged in cutting bundle wood around where the civic centre is now today, and one chap used to load his wood onto the railway trucks with a wheelbarrow. Mr. Shoobridge was another early settler who had a grant of 40 acres, also Pat Kelly who sold out to a private company.

The Joiner family have held their property since 1886 and would be probably the residents of longest standing. The present representative of the family is Mrs. Threlfall. The oldest house would be that now occupied by Mr. J.T. Davis in Carlton Road. This house was built by Mr. Shaine.

In due course the railway station was built and the name changed to that of Thirlmere. The first station master was Mr. Teddy Evans, followed by W.A. Cuneo, who was a keen geologist and naturalist.

The first store was a lock-up shop opened by a Mr. Corry at the present entrance to Malone's shop. Mr. Charles Henry Pickard later occupied this store, then moved further along the Oaks road, and eventually in 1886 he built on the present site. He

later added the brick building now occupied and extended by Middleton Bros., the present shop being now the largest in Wollondilly Shire.

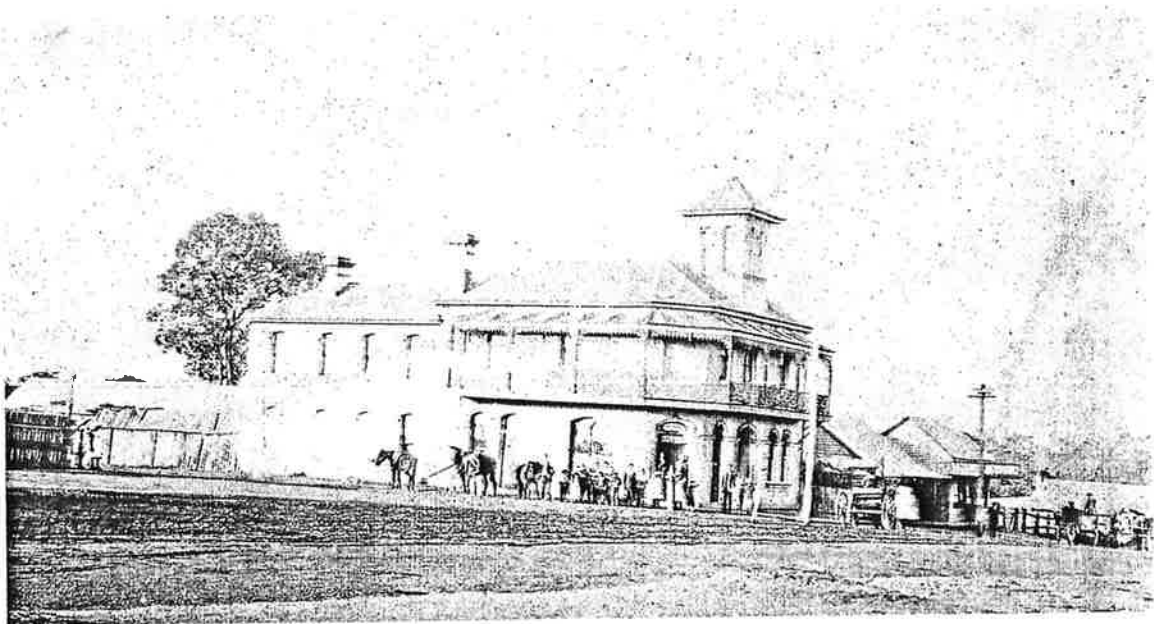
There was no school closer than Myrtle Creek [Tahmoor], but later a Miss MacDonald opened a school where Armelik's property is now situated. The present school was built in 1888 and the first teacher was Mr. J. Kennedy.

The first butcher, Charlie Smith, came from Picton with a cutting cart, and the first butcher's shop was occupied by H. Bailey followed by G. Hayes, C.H. Pickard, J. Scott, Turner & Denny then Flavell & Parker.

The first bakery was at the rear of Malone's shop and it was occupied by Mr. Maillard. Mr. E. Wright later built the old double storied bakery behind Hayes' butchery. When these closed C.H. Pickard added the bakery to his business, a new bakery later being built by Mr. W.E. Middleton which until recently was occupied by Mr. John Thornton.

The first Post-office was at the railway station, and it later was transferred to where Malone's shop is now, the post-mistress being Miss Smith, who later became Mrs. Fred Wherritt. The post office was later transferred to its present site, Mr. J.J. O'Hare being the post-master.

The "Family Hotel" was built about 1888 by a Mr. Parker, the first publican being Mrs. Paviour.



An early photo of the Family Hotel, with the small building on the right (behind the post, next to the railway line) was the Corry/Pickard/Cash shop, referred to as Malone's and still in use.

Thirlmere House was built for Mr. Harlock and it was later sold to Mr. R.J. Ellis who opened a shop on the eastern side of the railway crossing where Mr. Denny now resides.

The first sawmill was owned by Mr. Corry and it was on the site where the railway station now stands. Later Mr. MacDonald, J.J. Davis, Fowler, Whitfield, John Ryle, Edwards and H. Heise all had sawmills. At one time some 90 wood-drays, 18 horse teams and several bullock teams were all engaged in the timber business here.

The earliest farmers and orchardists I can recall are the Kellys, Moore, John Mann, Knight, Winley and Burns. Mr. Winley was employed on the Wongawilli coal mine on the South Coast and he used to walk from there to work on his property at weekends. Bert and Sid Knight used to walk to Sydney to see the test matches and later walking home.

Mr. Fludder built the first hall, now the Thirlmere Cinema, and he supplied the music on a very old concertina.

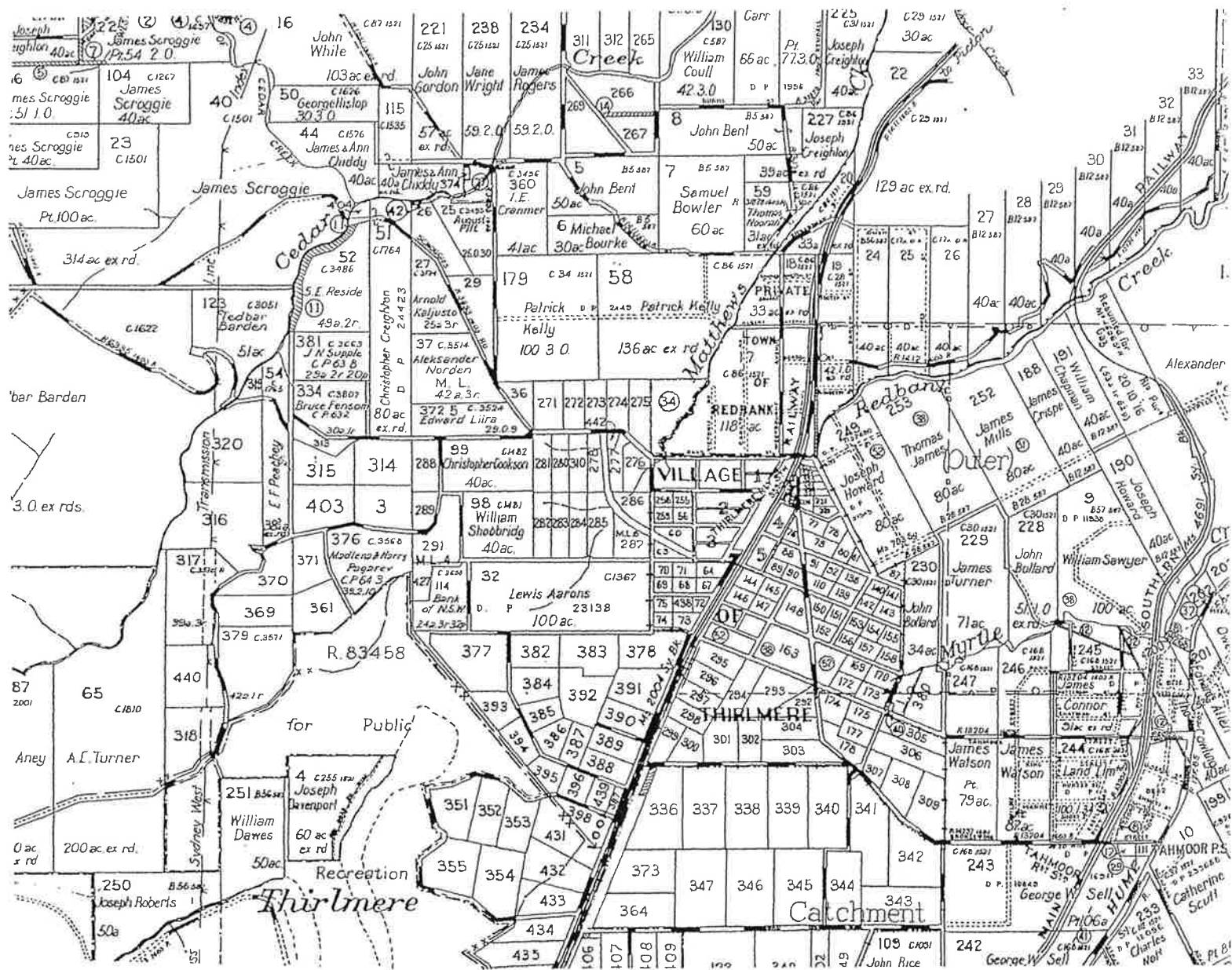


Westbourne Avenue, Thirlmere – possibly the earliest photo of the street. The hotel can be seen in the background, while the building on the left is the hall, later enlarged and used to show films. The group, left foreground may be the Joyner family, the boy being Ralph, and the seated girl Dorothy, who became Mrs. Threlfull as mentioned in this article. On the right, the horse and cart are close to North Street; the cart belonged to Mr. A Turner who had land near Thirlmere Lakes (see Parish Map below)

The first photographer was Mr. Arthur Cash who had a very small shop at the entrance to Malone's store. It was later carried on by Mrs. Cash and family as a store. The Cash family eventually purchased the entire building block.

The first Anglican service was held in Thirlmere at the residence of the station-master Mr. Evans in 1886, the service being conducted by the Rector of St. Mark's the Rev. Mr. Elder. Services were later held at Mr. Pickard's house.

Other old residents were Messrs. Bradford, Collins, Blatch, Alex. Morris, Walter Sheather, Ryder – the last two named being early bakers for Mr. Pickard.



Part of the Parish of Couridjah map, showing the Private Town of Redbank, the Village of Thirlmere, and the surrounding landowners. Patrick Kelly, William Shoobridg (sic), A.E. Turner are among the people mentioned.

This completes the recollections of Mrs. Morris. She married Alfred Ernest Morris at Buxton in 1896 and they had eight children. When she died in 1968, aged 94, it was noted that she had been the oldest resident of the town; she had 17 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Her father, Henry Davis, died in 1920 aged 68, and her mother Emma died in 1951 aged 100; most of her siblings remained in the Thirlmere area, as do some of her descendents.

Editor's Note: the caption on the photograph on page 6 is incorrect –the Malone (Maloney?) shop is next to the hotel. It was later used as a newsagency, before being burnt down; there is a fish and chip shop there now. Mrs. Moira Doosey of Thirlmere, one of Mrs. Morris' granddaughters was able to clarify this, but as we spread the photocopying over some weeks, page 6 had already been copied when I thought to check my assumption.

The Society does not seem to hold very much information on the **Joyner family**, apart from noting the death of Mrs. Mary Ann Joyner in 1938, aged 77, and that her husband T.H. Joyner died in 1937. Their daughter Dorothy Threlfall died in 1991 at the age of 97, leaving a daughter, 5 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Charles Henry Pickard may have started his shop in Thirlmere as early as 1885. By 1898 he had added the butcher's shop to his farm produce store and later in the year added the bakery and grocery. From 1899 he had shops in Picton, the main one being built in 1901, now Digger's Furniture & Carpet store next to the Old Post Office in Menangle Street. He opened a branch in The Oaks in 1903, Bowral in 1911, and finally in Bargo. He retired in 1919, and moved to Sydney where he died in 1934.

THIRLMERE AND PICTON.
C. H. PICKARD,
Butcher, Baker, and General Storekeeper.
GROCERY, DRAPERY, BOOTS & SHOES, IRONMONGERY
ALL KINDS OF PRODUCE BOUGHT & SOLD
Mèat, Bread&c, delivered daily at lowest prices, in Thirlmere
Picton, Bargo, Balmoral and Lakesland.

1900 ad. from
Picton Post.

Does anyone else have more information on Thirlmere, the people or the places mentioned in this article? Please let us know if you have.

We have been saddened to hear of the death of Agnes Chalker, who lived in Thirlmere for many years before retiring to Casula. The family organised a back to Thirlmere weekend, including photographic displays, just a little over a month ago. We extend our sympathy to her sons Stephen and Michael and their families.

VALE

Laurence James (Laurie) Taylor

5.5.1942 – 15.10.2009

The Society was saddened to hear of the death of one of its valued members, Laurie Taylor. He was one of our quiet workers, always on hand to assist when needed.

Laurie was born in Sydney, the only child of Bertie and Isabella Taylor. His father died when he was just two years of age, so there remained a small family, just Laurie and his mother. He started work with the Water Board (now Sydney Water) on 7th January 1958, at 15 years of age. His long time friend Terry started the same day, though Laurie, being older, was classed as the senior.

Laurie met his future wife Tina in 1967 on a blind date; love bloomed and they were married at St. Andrew's, San Souci on 7th September 1968 (Terry was his best man). They lived first in Blakehurst, and after 8 years moved to Rossmore. Their children Mathew and Phillippa were born during this time.

Tina was heavily involved with horses, and many weekends were spent traveling around the countryside attending events. Laurie would drive Tina and the horse to the event, and then he and the kids would go off exploring the area. He would also help set up camp and was always ready to lend a hand to anyone who needed it.

In 1999 Sydney Water was offering redundancy packages, and after 40 years with them, Laurie decided to accept, and retired at 58. He and Tina moved to Lakesland, with more room for Tina's horses. But a quiet retirement wasn't in Laurie's plans: both he and Tina became heavily involved in Riding for the Disabled, and Laurie started volunteering at Lifeline, Narellan. He then started researching his family history, which led him to join the Picton Historical & Family History Society in 2002. He and sometimes Tina, attended our monthly meetings, where Laurie's major contribution was bringing any appropriate book donations to Lifeline that he thought would interest the Society or members. Occasionally there could be some competition for a book, with suggestions that the price could go up from \$2 to \$3, or even \$4! Laurie's books were a highlight of our meetings. He didn't feel confident of his knowledge of local history to attend any of the days we attended, but his calming cheerfulness were obvious at meetings, and when we put the journal together.

Laurie was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year, but managed to attend several of our meetings, with a few books from his store at home. We were very pleased that he agreed to run the elections at the Annual General Meeting in September.

We will miss him very much, and extend our heartfelt sympathy to Tina, Mathew, Phillippa, Tammy, Hayden and Lachlan.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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 (2 nd Illustrated edition)	15.00
A stroll through St. Mark's Churchyard	8.00
The Antills of Jarvisfield Picton	10.00
Post Cards	5 for 1.00
Fact sheets	0.50

Tea Towel	10.00
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Our illustrated edition of *Along the Menangle Road* has just been reprinted, which is good news. Work on the new collection of the old Coach House Chronicles, plus new articles is almost completed and should be out in the New Year. The Bargo Cemetery update is also progressing well and should be out next year.

Meanwhile, we still have copies of *The History of the Picton District Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc* from Jan Wilton & Jan Ross, as well as *The Old Razorback Schoolhouse 1882-1899* by Betty Villy.

If undelivered please return to
PDHFHS
PO Box 64
PICTON NSW 2571

POSTAGE
PAID