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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); other times by appointment only.

Research fees.

Members: Free (plus photocopying costs)

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

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President's Report - Gail Hanger

For some time there has been discussion on the redevelopment of the Wollondilly Library, Picton. We have had talks about our role and space in the future – and we have been assured of a room, though reduced in size, when we can move back in.

We have now received a letter to let us know that the redevelopment is going ahead in 2015. To this end we will have to vacate our present area by the end of December.

Further discussion will be needed with members but at this stage, due to our limited finances and lack of anywhere else, our material will need to be stored at members' homes. This will mean that visitors will be unable to do any research, and all enquiries will be dealt with via email or post. We are unable to retain space with the Library next year, because it is being moved out to the old SES building, which is much smaller. It is not known how long the work will take.

The matter of our research fees has been raised recently at our monthly meetings, particularly that we move to an hourly rate, as some enquiries can take several hours.

What do members think? This matter will be discussed and ratified at the Annual General Meeting on September 6th. If you are unable to attend but would like to have a say, please email or write to us, and your ideas will be tabled at the meeting.

Contact details can be found on the inside of the front cover of the journal.

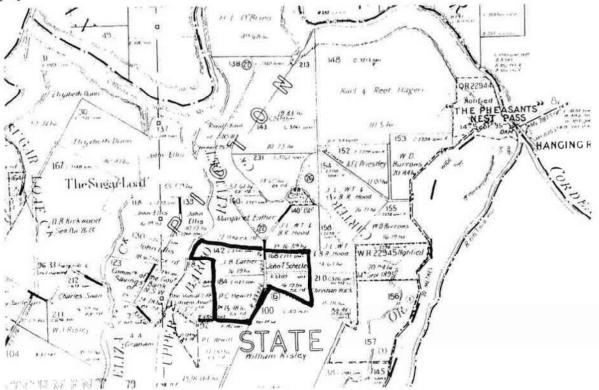
A TRIP TO PHEASANT'S NEST, Picton Advocate, Friday October 2 1896.

(Note that while the Pheasant Nest locality is now known as being close to Tahmoor, that town did not really develop until the 1920s).

Mr. P. Hewitt, with several members of the Bargo Progress Association and their friends, accompanied by our representative, visited this delightful scene of rustic loveliness on the 20th inst. Bargo is generally considered to be a waste and barren country, devoid of scenery, and nothing to entice a visitor there. Persons selecting land in the locality are laughed at and styled "Bargo Scrubbers." These complimentary expressions generally eminate from persons who have never visited Bargo, or if they have, have never gone to the right places to obtain a view of the magnificent scenery and the splendid patches of cultivation, or the luxuriant crops that are exuberant in growth, and in every way denotes that the land is naturally good if properly cared for and cultivated. It undoubtedly seems that the Government have carefully avoided opening out and making roads to such places as these, hence Bargo country is designated unfruitful, barren and a perfect waste, and to use the old adage "It is as well to hang a dog as give him a bad name." Bargo HAS a bad name, but nothing more. We were convinced of this fact on the 20th instant, when we had the pleasure of visiting the "Pheasant's Nest."

From "Dog Trap Creek" to the residence of Mr. Hewitt there is a very fair road, and at this gentleman's farm can be seen everything that indicates the goodness of the soil, green healthy crops, find large grazing paddocks, and the best of all signs, the horses and cattle in splendid condition. In front of Mr. Hewitt's residence is a very prettily laid out flower garden, where the choicest flowers can be obtained, whilst to the right is an orchard which covers about two acres of land, and in which are fine healthy looking trees of various assortments. We pass along and find that there is a fair track as far as the farm owned by Mr. Schecker, which is quite a credit to that gentleman. We unfortunately were so much pressed for time that we very reluctantly had to pass by without even calling on our friend. Right opposite Mr. Schecker's residence is a very pretty little farm owned by Mr. Eather. There appeared to be upwards of 60 hives, which were all nicely built and painted.

Part of the Parish Map of Couridjah, showing Pheasant's Nest Pass, as well as the Hewitt, Schecker and Eather properties.



2

From this point we find that there is no road at all, and hardly a track. This state of things is continued for some two miles, when after frequently referring to the Government and their idea of where roads should be in not very complimentary terms, we eventually arrive at that beautiful spot that is known as "The Pheasant's Nest", and when we see the delightful scenery that surrounds us, when we gaze above and see the huge rocks between which sweet green ferns peep out from their places of hiding to play softly with the balmy Zephyrs. When we gaze down and see the laughing little rivulets winding in and out amongst the dense foliage below, like so many silver ribbons shining and glistening in the departing sunshine. When we see the beautiful clear dam into which runs both the Cordeaux and Nepean rivers, and which supplies the metropolis with its beautiful clear crystal water. When we see all these amazing sights is it at all to be wondered at that we are surprised that a decent road has not been made, for the sake of about £60, which we are told would be an ample amount for the purpose, people are deprived of seeing some of the most beautiful scenery.

Persons wishing to go to Wilton from Bargo are obliged to come through Picton, and to travel a distance of something like 14 or 15 miles, whereas by crossing the Pheasant's Nest the same journey can be done in about 4 miles. But no, no the Government will spend money on places where it is not required, but where there is any work that is necessary "They can't see their way clear." The Bargo Progress Association should undoubtedly take this matter in hand, and point out to the Government that they require a grant of £60 in order to open up a road to Wilton, as well as one of the best pleasure resorts in the colony. And we maintain that the Government have a perfect right to accede to this request.

Extract from Wilton - East Bargo, A brief history by Patricia Shepherd (Coach House Chronicle No. 2, 1991)

Upper Nepean Water Supply - Nepean Tunnel (page 8)

In the New South Wales Government Gazette of 20th March, 1885, Wilton was declared a town. The reason for Wilton having sufficient population to rate being listed as a "town" in 1885, and not a "village", was because of the influx of people required to work on the construction of the Upper Nepean Scheme which was to supply a drought-ridden city of Sydney with a much needed water supply.

The first stage in this Scheme was the building of the Pheasants Nest and Broughton Pass Weirs, and the connecting of both by means of a tunnel, four and a half miles long. This passed under the town of Wilton. From Broughton Pass water was then conveyed by a canal and aqueduct to the Prospect Dam. Along the length of the Nepean Tunnel at Wilton are seven air vents constructed of sandstone. During its construction a number of people lost their lives, including the following:

1881 Antonio Marento, miner aged 28 years. Died from "shock to the system caused by accidental explosion in blasting." Buried: Appin.

1882 Edward Calaghan, miner aged 34 years. Coroner's verdict: "Accidentally killed by falling down a shaft." Buried: Appin.

1883 James Symes, miner aged 20 years. Finding of Magistrate: "Accidnetally killed by being blown up by a blast." Buried: Wilton

1884 Walter Henderson, miner aged 38 years. Coroner's verdict: "Skull fractured by a blast." Buried: Wilton.

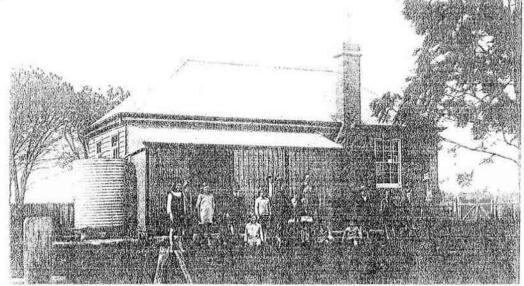
(Note: The canal can be seen at the Mt. Annan Botanical Garden, among other places, still taking water up to Prospect).

Wilton and World War I

Some weeks before Anzac Day, the Wollondilly Library got a phone call from the Victoria Barracks in Sydney, asking if there was any information about men who served from Wilton. As part of the Anzac Day school program, a serving soldier was visiting the new Wilton school, and would be particularly interested if any of the World War I volunteers had a connection to the school. Well, not to the present school which only opened in 2011, in the modern Bingara Gorge development, but possibly to the earlier public school at the village, later town of Wilton which opened in 1871 and closed in 1947.

There had been efforts made to provide a school in the 1840s, on Sir Thomas Mitchell's grant Park Hall (later Nepean Towers, and now St. Mary's Towers) but this seems to have been short-lived. A report on the laying of the foundation stone for the school appeared in the *Town & Country Journal* on 22nd July, 1871. On 10th July, Mr. R.H. Woodhouse, J.P. was invited to lunch at the Wonson's together with several other men, before the official ceremony. This "commenced by placing in a cavity in the foundation a bottle, containing the date, and by whom the stone was laid; also some coins of the latest date. The stone was then lowered into the proper place, and after a few touches with the mallet, was declared to be well and truly laid." Mr. Woodhouse was presented with an inscribed trowel, and he gave a speech on the value of public education, finally thanking the local school board for asking him to lay the stone. A ball and supper was held that evening in honour of the occasion.

Wilton Public School, c. 1930 (courtesy of Mrs. Marie Wonson, several generations of her husband's family attended)



Back to any World War I connection - the Society was asked if we could help. As it happened, most of the files collated by Ken Williams were out being checked against the biographies written by Gail Hanger and Caroline Richardson – but we did have the list of about 700 who had served from the Wollondilly Shire, 16 of whom were listed on the Wilton Honour Roll. We were able to provide the names of the five who had died, and left the Victoria Barracks to check their service records.

As it happened, the master list did not include the fact that one **Edgar Woodward** had died during the War, but was not on the Honour Roll despite being born in Wilton. Further research revealed that his father Alfred was a schoolteacher, and had had been teacher-in-charge at Wilton from 1886 to 1895, following Patrick Kennif (1871-1883) and then Michael Myers.

Alfred Woodward had married Elizabeth Ann Reynolds in 1879 at Gunning, and their first four children were born in the Burrawang/Robertson area: Edith Evangeline (1879), Mabel Alice, (1881) Constance Evelyn (1882) and Harold Mossman R. (1884). The family had moved to Wilton by the time Percival Robert Distill was born in 1889, followed by Edgar Hubert in 1891 and Leonard C. in 1893. Sadly in that same year, 1893, their eldest daughter Edith died, after suffering a perforated appendix, and was buried in the Wesleyan Church graveyard, Upper Picton.

From Wilton the family may have moved to the Camden area and then Rossmore, where another child Percival was buried in 1904. Elizabeth Woodward died in 1910, and was also buried with her son at Rossmore; Alfred was living in Croydon at the time of Edgar's enlistment in 1915, but he died not long before Edgar, and was also buried at Rossmore. The third daughter, Constance, died in 1957 and she was buried next to her older sister, Edith, in the Wesleyan Church graveyard, Upper Picton.

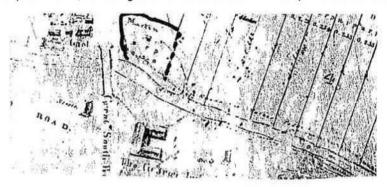
Edgar Hubert Woodward, Service No. 4914 enlisted on the 13th August 1915 and served with the 3rd Battalion before moving to the 55th Battalion. He died as a result of influenza on the 27th November 1918 in hospital at Harfleur and was buried in the Le Havre Cemetery.

The Society archives have some further information on the first teacher at the school, **Patrick Kennif**. In 1882 he was the subject of two petitions, one for his removal, and one in his favour as "our highly esteemed Teacher and Postmaster." By this time the small town had grown, with the influx of families due to the construction work for the Upper Nepean Canal. The petition asking for Mr. Kennif's removal was signed by 15 people, half being miners, presumably working on the tunnel section of the canal. An amendment to the main petition said they wanted a female teacher for the youngest children, the present mistress (Mrs. Kennif?) being incompetent. After several reports, Mr. Kennif was moved to The Oaks, and Mr. Myers came to Wilton in June 1883. Teachers after Alfred Woodward were John Jackson from December 1895, John Charlton for September 1903, Benjamin White from October 1910, A. Gifford from July 1912, Augustine Maloney from June 1913, Anne Naughton from September 1922, Lillian Bingley from June 1930, Mabel Gambell from February 1933, Elizabeth Smith from December 1933, Warrick Wright from January 1946, Mary E. Byrne and Conan P. Ennis from June 1947 and Norman M. Bautovitch from July 1947; the school closed in August 1947.

Alfred Adolphus Graham - storekeeper, auctioneer, alderman

Alfred Adolphus Doran GRAHAM (usually known as Adolphus) was born in Liverpool, NSW in 1847 and married Julia Derriman in Camden in 1869. They were living in Picton by June 1870 when the first of their thirteen children was born. At this time Mr. Graham was a storekeeper, possibly first living and working in Menangle Street, but by 1874 he had bought John Martin's store in Argyle Street, on the banks of the Stonequarry Creek. He had been granted an auctioneers licence by 1880. He held weekly sales of produce and animals, as well as sales of house contents, and probably the house as well, on site as required. He was elected to the Picton Municipal Council from 1901 to 1914, and again from 1917 to 1920 and was Deputy Mayor from 1917 to 1919.

Part of the 1841 map of Picton, showing the extent of John Martin's (later Graham's) land



From the Picton Penny Post, January 11, 1898 (one of many descriptions of the weekly sales)

Local and General

Mr. Graham's sale yard was the place of attraction last Saturday, and it presented a perfect show in itself, prime fresh vegetables in splendid order, being in abundance from Buxton, Balmoral, and Wingello, also a choice collection of apples, peaches and nectarines from Cox's River and Bargo. These caused excited bidding, and there was keen competition throughout the sale of a large assortment of groceries, furniture, buggy horse, etc. There was also an unusually heavy supply of butter, eggs, honey, etc. The auctioneer, Mr. Graham, had to wield his hammer pretty smartly to clear before midnight. Everything went off very satisfactorily.

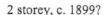
The Grahams celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in August 1919, by which time they were living in their new brick house in Picton Avenue – Mr. Graham had bought land there between 1897 and 1915, stretching from Picton Avenue down to Coull Street. The house seems to have been built some time after 1915, and was named "Petherton" after the English village that Mrs. Graham's family came from. She died in December; but the 1919 newspapers did not survive for microfilming, so we only have the brief mentions in Bruce Knox's notes. However, when Adolphus died in 1921, his obituary appeared in the *Picton Post* of 27th July:

One of the oldest and most respected residents of Picton and surrounding district in the person of Mr. Adolphus Graham, passed away at his residence "Petherton" on the 19th July 1921. Mr. Graham had been a resident of Picton for fifty-four years. He commenced business as a Chemist and Storekeeper prior to the Railway passing through Picton when all goods and traffic were drawn from Sydney via Camden and Razorback by bullock wagons. He had a clear recollection of all the early pioneering and bushranger days in the Picton and Berrima districts, and the old tollbar days, marks of which are still to be seen at Bargo. During the past thirty years, Mr. Graham has been a land valuer and alderman of Picton Municipality and church warden of St. Mark's church of England for the past fifty years. Deceased's wife predeceased him two years ago and he leaves a grown-up family of thirteen children, seven boys and six girls all of whom are alive, with grandchildren numbering forty-two.

The funeral on Wednesday was one of the largest seen here for many years. The chief mourners were Arthur, Edwin, Alfred, Ernest, William, Stanley and Claude Graham, sons – Thomas Laidman, Ernest Hyles, William Hyles, A. Croker, F. Vernon, A Irvine, sons-in-law.

The un-named daughters were Victoria Laidman, Adelaide Hyles, Muriel Hyles, Ethel Croker, Mary Vernon and Maud Irvine. In fact there was another daughter, Sarah Eveline who died when almost two, in 1887.

For most of their lives the Grahams had lived as well as worked at the Argyle Street premises, as seen below in a c.1910 photograph. This shows the house, and several buildings associated with the store and sales business. The site is now a carpark, but the two-storey building next door still survives.



Martin/Graham home

Shop?

Sales shed?

Storage/stable?



Requests for Information:

Paul Wheeldon is asking for information about the St. Matthias' church and cemetery at Currawang, which will be 140 in February 2015. Paul is compiling a book to be launched at that anniversary. So if anyone has any information on the church and/or those who are interred there, please get in touch as soon as possible on abbys2@bigpond.com.au or (02) 47312303. He is also doing a local history of the area between Collector, Komungla (formerly Bangalore) to the Braidwood Road and is looking for photographs of people and places.

Bargo Football team, 1920s/30s.

Bronwyn James has sent us two photos of some or all of the Bargo team; her father David George James is in both. She would like to know if anyone can identify other members of the team, or the onlookers, and where the photographs were taken. Please let us know if you can help.

The team - David James standing, second from left, right hand on hip.



Some team members with onlookers. David James in the white shorts, second from right in the main group of seven adults.



Coming Events:

Hollands Family Annual Reunion and Picnic

For the Descendants of John and Mary (nee Grigsby) Hollands will be held on the 18th October 2014, at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Berrima. 10am - 4pm.

Bring your own lunch. Morning tea will be provided.

Some associated families are: Brady, Bainbridge, Breshahan, Davis, Donnelly, Donaldson, Fisher, Flynn, Henry, Hannaford, Ison, Jennings, Menzies, Ritchie.

For further details contact Allan Shephard, Secretary/Treasurer, 53 Nineteenth Street, Warragamba NSW 2752 (02) 4774 0405 or alshep@pnc.com.au

A reminder that the annual conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies is to be held by the Illawarra Family History Group Inc. at The Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow on Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September 2014. For more information and bookings, go to the web site at www.conference2014.org.au. The theme for this year is *Illawarra Remembers:* 1914-2014.

A recreation of the **Kangaroo March** from the Wagga Wagga area to Sydney is planned (see over). We have very little local information, the first reference in the *Picton Post* being on November 17th, 1915, when the local Recruiting Association "decided to co-operate with Yass and other centres to organise a route march... The march will probably start in January after harvesting operations are finished". Unfortunately the first newspaper to survive from January 1916 is dated the 19th when there was a short paragraph under the title **The Kangaroos**:

A meeting of the Committee formed for the entertainment of the Kangaroos was held at the Court House on the 12th inst. The Treasurer presented a statement which after allowing for payment of all accounts showed an amount of £28/14/6 in hand. After a deal of discussion a motion was carried that the amount in hand be paid over to the local Red Cross & Patriotic Society. A vote of thanks was accorded the local business people and others for their generous contributions.

The discussion must have been vigorous, as just above this is quite a long letter from the said Treasurer, J.J. Cleary (also the Town Clerk) who was very unhappy that the profits hadn't been split with the local Recruiting Association, especially as the March was for recruiting purposes.



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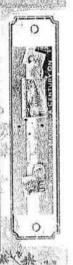
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"Igo out to return by Courage and Faith" Motto of the 1915 Kangaroos

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What lies ahead."

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coing when the Nevenaginera March passes through? What would are people of your rown like to do or be Several falk func asked as for some moughts,

- On the gardeners want to grow Hertuge Vegetables in time for judging as the March Course through town?
 - DUCESTURE COMMENSATION PORT TRANSPORTED FOR Would you like to welcome the hunger whiteness with a pig on a spit"

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Want to be part of a special piece of History?
Become a Member of the KMCRA.
Visit pupp kangaroomarch org and complete the Expression of Interest form:

"I go out to return, by Courage and Faith"

Motto of the 1915 Kangaroos

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Cemetery Transcripts

Bargo Cemetery Memorials (2010) A4, 121p, illustrated, s/c; photographs of all headstones \$25.00 + \$5 p&p

Burial records of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton (2001) 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 p&p

Redbank Uniting Church (formerly Wesleyan Chapel)— A Pictorial view (2004) A4, 132p, s/c; cemetery transcriptions with photographs. \$20.00 + \$5 p&p

Marriage Transcripts

St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.1, 1839-1897. A4, 57p, s/c; full transcriptions of all marriages conducted by ministers throughout the parish (which covered much of southern Wollondilly Shire at times. Includes map of parish showing old place names/locations, indices for parties, parents and witnesses for each register. \$15.00 + \$5 p&p

St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.2, 1898-1929. A4, 62p, s/c. Includes a register for marriages conducted at Yerranderie from 1911 to 1923, plus list of rectors of the parish from 1826 to 1963. \$15.00 + \$5 p&p

St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.3, 1924-1963. A4, 99p, s/c. Includes a register for St. Alban's at Douglas Park from 1924 to 1957 and master index for all marriages showing groom and bride with date of marriage for the 3 volumes. \$20.00 + \$10 p&p\$

Set of three volumes

\$50.00 + \$15 p&p

Along the Menangle Road – A concise history of the Land Grants on Menangle Road between Menangle Bridge and Picton Road by Ken Williams 2nd ed. 2009. A4, 44p, illustrated, index, s/c. Contains a record of the landowners of the various grants from time of grant until the land was transferred from the Old System to the Real Property Act (Torrens Title). Family histories, lists of employees and tenant farmers. Owners include Walter Davidson; John, William & James Macarthur; J.B.L. De Arrietta, Samuel Terry & descendants; Arthur Douglass & Dr. Henry Grattan Douglass; William & Thomas Cowper, Lachlan Macalister & descendants; Phillip Cavenagh, Hillas & Pearce families.

15.00 + p

Chronicles of the Early Cowpastures and Stonequarry – 1820 to 1850, Vol. 1 (2010). A4, 74p,s/c, illustrated, index, s/c. 12 chapters o people and subject: J.B.L. De Arrietta, 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 p&p

1824 Cawdor Bench of Magistrates Population, Land and Stock Book. A biographical register of the inhabitants residing in the Cowpastures by Ken Williams (2011). A4, 176p, sources, index, s/c. The earliest known muster of the district now a major part of Wollondilly Shire (includes absentee landlords). Biographies of the 530 persons recorded, with introductory explanations and appendices. Individual biographies vary from several lines to a page or more. Less than a quarter remained in the area, the rest moved to: Bathurst district (24), Botany (4), Brisbane Waters (Gosford) (3), Campbelltown (19), Cooke (4), Goulburn district (24), Liverpool (18), Maitland district (11), Parramatta (16), Penrith (5), Port Stephens (3), Richmond/Windsor (15), Singleton district (12), Southern Highlands (8), St. Vincent (Nowra) (10), Sydney (64). Some 98 were not identified in the 1828 Muster.

\$40.00 + \$10 p&p

If undelivered please return to

POSTAGE PAID

PDHFHS PO Box 64 PICTON NSW 2571

Butchery Notice. S. McKinnon

W ISHES to notify the residents of Picton and District that he may started business as a Family Butcher in Argyle Street, Picton, (Edfa's old shop), and trusts by civility dearnness, and street attention to business to receive a fair share of supeport.

Blacksmithing Notice.

W. CRACKNELL

wishes to notify the residents of Picton.

GENERAL BLACKSMITH,

in Memingle-street, Platon,

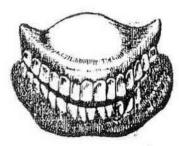
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F. H. Thearle, Dentist.

. L. Parente

Photostic Argyle street, Picton, me deer from the Commercial Hotel.

The Picton Post, Wednesday, May 27, 1914.