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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. **During 2015 meetings will not be at the Library while the refurbishment is done – dates not yet known.** 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**. Unavailable during refurbishment

Research fees.

Members: Free (plus photocopying costs)

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President's Report - Gail Hanger

We have been busy in the last few months. Our World War I book *Wollondilly's Fallen – The men of Wollondilly Shire who gave their lives in the Great War* was printed in time for the Wollondilly Remembers day at Thirlmere. The Picton Bargo Thirlmere RSL branch put on a wonderful display of photographs – and had what seems to be the old Picton Town Hall Honor Roll, which is mentioned in the book as being missing. There was quite a military presence, with old and new equipment, and there was a good attendance at the memorial service. Our display was admired and we managed to sell a few books.

Two of our members have set up a Facebook page which has become very popular, and garnered some new members, which has been greatly appreciated as our membership numbers were a bit down. Thank you, Lynette and Debbie.

We were very sorry to hear that our Treasurer Ron Callaway was in hospital, and we hope that he makes a full recovery soon. In the meantime we will have a temporary treasurer until the AGM in September.

The Library is definitely moving out in August or September this year, which means we will also be moving out while the refurbishment of the building is done. Not sure how long it will take, somewhere between six and twelve months is possible before we all move back in. We will be in a different and smaller room, without the wonderful view we now have of Menangle Street, but it would be best to contact us via mail or email from this time. There will be more information in the next journal.

We are now prepared to take payments by direct credits, please email Gail for details.

As promised in our last journal, here is an article on William Pritchard – and there is another nice connection to Franz Dietrich:

WILLIAM PRITCHARD (1857 – 1913) by Lynette Styles

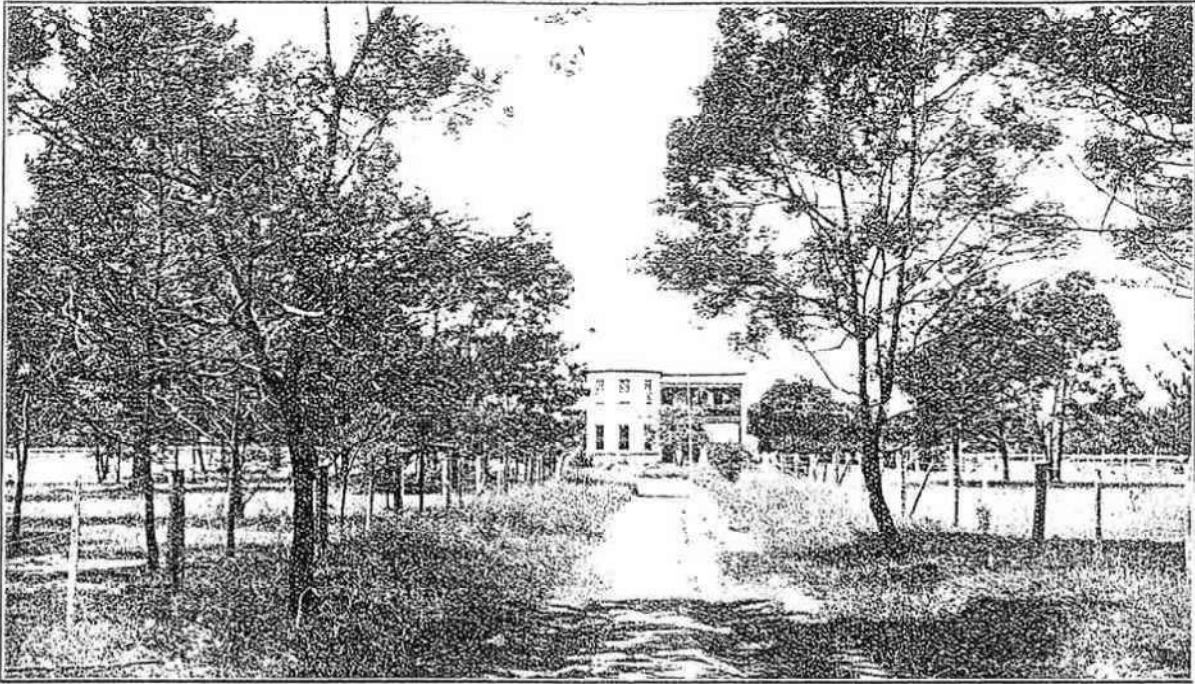
BORN in Bluith Wells, Brecknockshire Wales in 1857, William “Billy” Pritchard, a bricklayer by trade, sailed from Plymouth England on 18 March 1880 as an assisted immigrant on the *Camperdown* and reached Sydney Harbour on 9 June 1880. No doubt he was looking to make his fame and fortune in a country that had only been settled 92 years earlier. It’s not know what drew this young man to Picton, but in time, he would leave his mark on the Picton township in stone, bricks and mortar.

By 1882, William was working as a stonemason in partnership with another Welshman named John Thomas. Their business *Monumental Masonry* operated in Menangle Street West diagonally opposite St Marks Church with its picturesque leadlight windows, gothic features and sandstone façade. Headstones of colonial settlers bear the mark “Pritchard and Thomas” at St Marks and Upper Picton cemeteries and the business was steady. John Thomas left the partnership in around 1884 and moved to greener pastures in Sydney, leaving William to continue under his own steam.

His reputation as an artisan grew and by the mid to late 1880s, Pritchard had built several homes in the locality and was regarded a “good fellow” by the townspeople. It was around this time that he accepted a contract to build a house on the Berrima Road south of Picton, not far from the Bargo River. The road was also called the Great South Road. Plans for the house were drawn by George Allen Mansfield of Mansfield Bros Sydney and was very grand in design considering its location at the back of nowhere. It is unknown how much Pritchard was paid to build the house or where the bricks were made but it is probably they were made on site.

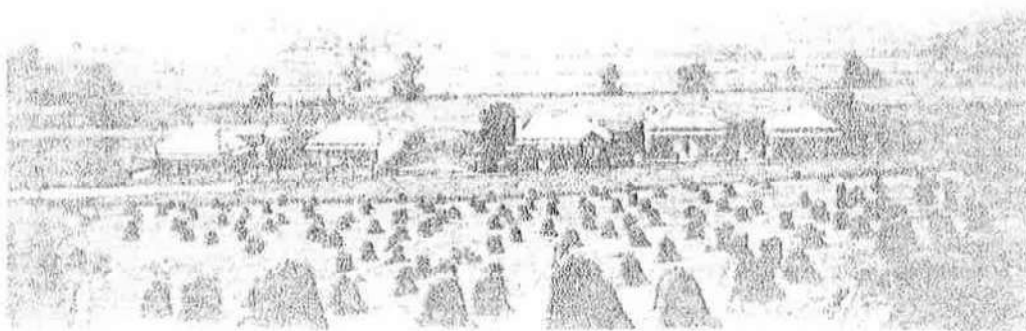
Originally granted to Charles Nott of Narellan in 1859, the land comprised 51 acres and had been sold to Franz “Frank” Dietrich in June 1875. Dietrich was a dairy farmer and lived on the property with his wife and children. His German nationality had excluded him from buying land in the country, but he remedied the impediment by becoming an Australian citizen and purchased blocks from neighbours when they sold up. The rough track on the corner of his property off the Great South Road was always known as Dietrich’s Road and later renamed Rockford Road.

Built in the Victorian style with iron lacework on the verandahs and awnings, the two-storey mansion had four chimneys, six bay windows and four full-length sash windows on the ground and first floor with a beautifully crafted mahogany staircase rising from the ground floor to the bedrooms on the first floor. The house took several years to build and was called “Waratah” until it was renamed “Stratford House” after Dietrich sold the property.



Photograph of Stratford House from one of the advertising booklets about development in Tahmoor c. 1917 when the house was being used as a private school.

William Pritchard went on to build several other houses in the Picton district including "Macquarie Cottage" (no.55) in Argyle Street, Picton, together with its elegant neighbours "Hillside" (no. 53) and the house at no. 49, all three built for William Apps in the 1890s. William himself rented "Hillside". Another house, "Montrose" at no. 42, in the shadow of Vault Hill, the eternal resting place of the Antill family of "Jarvisfield" is a similar brick and slate roof construction.



Taken from Vault Hill in 1911: Nos. 55 and 53 on left, then Downing Street, weatherboard house at no. 51, the third Apps/Pritchard brick house, no. 49, and another weatherboard house at no. 47.

Pritchard also built the two-storey Commercial Bank on the corner of Menangle and Argyle Streets Picton; the single storey section was added in the 1950s.

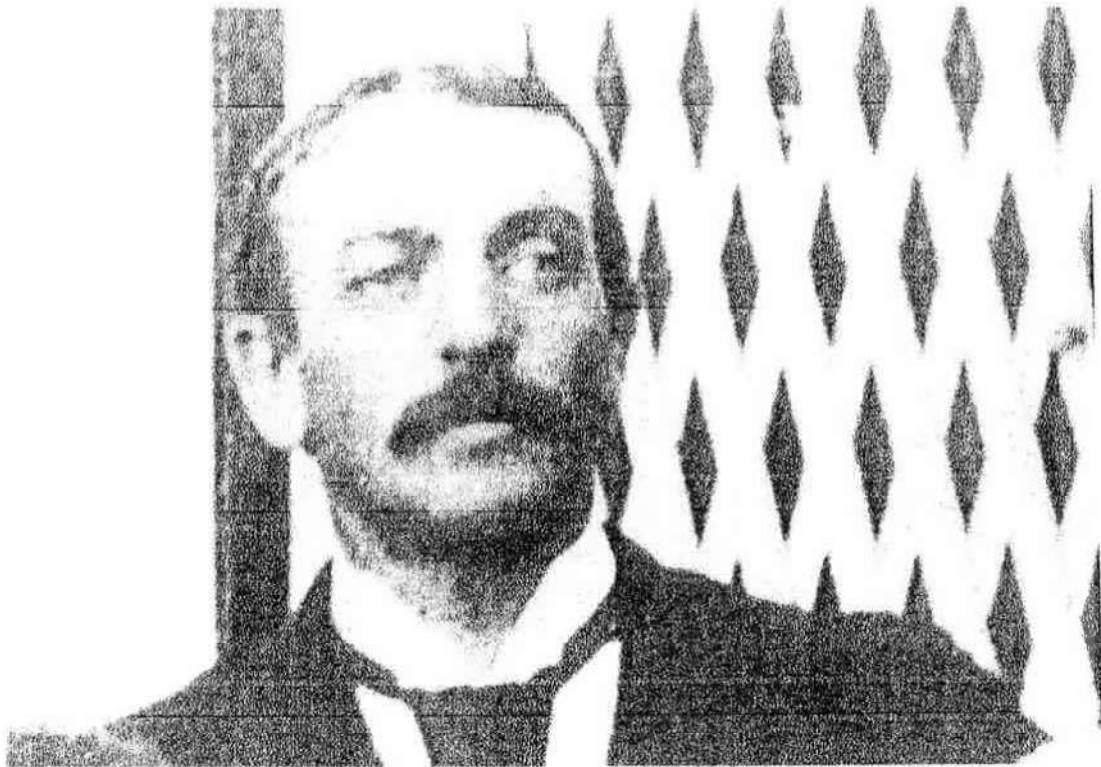
After 11 years in the township, and held in high esteem by his contemporaries, William Pritchard married Miss Matilda Quinn in Picton in 1891. She was 29. He was 32. The sixth child of seven children, Matilda was born in Campbelltown in 1861 of Irish parents. Raised in Picton near the racecourse where the family lived in an old-fashioned timber cottage, her parents Anne and Edward Quinn were tenant farmers on the

“Jarvisfield” estate. Her father Edward died in 1876 at the age of 56 and was buried at St Mark’s Church.

The Pritchard’s first son Cecil was born in 1892. Their daughter Elsie Anne was born in October 1893 and died on 22 January 1895 at the age of 15 months. The span of grief was not to leave the Pritchard family without more trials and tribulations. Following the birth of their third child Fred Price Pritchard, Matilda died of septicemia on 5 July 1895. She was 34 years old. Two days later, she was buried at St Mark’s at a solemn ceremony performed by the Reverend Dillon.

Married just four years, William erected a marble tribute to his “beloved” wife and their daughter Elsie Anne at St Mark’s necropolis, anticipating, we can assume from the size of the plot, that William too, expected to be buried with Matilda at the end of his life. But that was not to be. Within a few months of Matilda’s death, her mother Anne died on 23 December 1895 at the age of 73 and was laid to rest with her husband Edward.

Just prior to Matilda’s death, William had been elected to the first Picton Municipal Council in May 1895, along with other notable citizens including John Wright McQuiggin, Lachlan Nicholson, James Connellan, Dr Frederick Dalton, Moses Mulholland, George William Sell, John Wardrobe and Dr Arthur Mills who had attended Matilda’s fatal condition. A very popular man in the village, William polled the second highest number of votes out of all the candidates.



William Pritchard, taken from a group photograph of the first Picton aldermen.

The first meeting of aldermen took place in the Protestant Hall on 9 May 1895 to unanimously elect John Wright McQuiggin as the township’s first mayor. Undaunted by the labours of incorporation throughout the first three years of the Council’s existence,

William was re-elected for a second term on as an alderman in 1898.

In 1900, William married Amy Edith Mann, daughter of Joseph Mann and granddaughter of James Crispe, a former publican of the George Inn. Born in 1877, Amy was 23 when she married Bill Pritchard. He was 43. They lived at "Hillside" Argyle Street, the beautiful colonial house William had built for William Apps several years before. Their first son Willie Price Pritchard was born 25 December 1900 in Picton followed by Leslie Crispe Pritchard born on 30 September 1903.

By the time Leslie made his entry into the world, William had made the decision to sell up and return to Wales. He had paid a visit "home" in 1902, which may have opened his eyes to opportunities there. A notice appeared in the *Picton Post & Advocate* on 8 July 1903 advertising the sale of his land opposite the post office on the corner of Argyle and Menangle Street West. C H Wonson of Wilton reportedly purchased the block for £3700. It seems an extraordinary amount of money for the times, although the block included George Gatty/Geotty's old stone hotel, now divided into shops, and quite a bit of land. In a further advertisement in the *Picton Post & Advocate* dated 20 January 1904, William Pritchard reported his eminent departure. As soon as the Monumental Masonry business was sold, Pritchard and his family set sail for Wales.

Returning to Buith Wells Wales after an absence 24 years, William Pritchard settled back into the Welsh way of life and took up residence at 2 High Street. As he had done in Picton, he took an avid interest in the civic affairs of Radnorshire and donated his labours to the good of the community.

He died on 31 January 1913 at the age of 55. A quarter of an hour before the time announced for the funeral at 2.30pm, founding members of the Central Wales Spa Lodge walked two abreast to William's residence in the High street where they joined the general public and officials of local bodies on which William had served. After a service at the house, the cortege followed on foot behind the dray bearing the coffin laden with wreaths. Businesses in the main street suspended trade as a mark of respect. Shutters and blinds were drawn along the entire route to St Mary's Parish Church. At the graveside, the brethren of the Central Wales Spa Lodge formed a circle round the grave and after the burial service, Lodge members threw their emblematic sprigs from their lapels onto the coffin.

Probate was granted to Amy Pritchard on 25 November 1913 amounting to £1,518. She did not remain in Wales long after William's death. The property was sold and she moved to Fairland Pilford Road in Cheltenham, where she remained until her death on 18 May 1937. She did not remarry. Her two sons Willie Price Pritchard and Leslie Crispe Pritchard, one an accountant, the other a bank clerk, inherited her estate valued at £1,743.

The fate of William's two sons Cecil and Fred Price Pritchard to Martha Quinn is not known.

Additional notes on William Pritchard's buildings:

Stratford House was owned by the Gorrick family for some 72 years, although Mr. Gorrick senior let it out at different times – it was used as a private school during World War I, and

possibly as the public school in the 1920s. When son Vic was married in 1928, the young couple lived at the house until it was sold in 1960. The *Picton Post* article of July 20th, 1960 noted that there was a large aviary in the back garden, plus stables, cowbails, dairy and well; the gardens were magnificent, although an avenue of pine trees had been destroyed in the bushfires that burnt "Grasmere" on the opposite side of the road. Stratford House was very lucky to survive.

William Pritchard is also remembered as the man who built the water reservoir for Picton's first water scheme in 1898, on what was then known as Fieldhouse Hill, but now known as Reservoir Hill. That same year he did some additional work at the Picton public school, and also at the Thirlmere school. When the decision was made to build a creamery at Picton in 1900, William's tender of £300 was accepted, as long as the weatherboard building was finished in six weeks. He managed that, and the Picton Creamery opened on December 3rd. The building survives at the railway end of Victoria Bridge, but has been a private residence since the 1940s.

When the Pritchard family left Picton, the *Picton Post & Advocate* noted on January 13th, 1904:

Mr. W. Pritchard leaves Picton for England at the end of next week, where he will permanently reside. On Friday night he was banqueted at the Great Southern Hotel, when his health was drunk with enthusiasm, and reference made to the interest taken by him in all matters relating to the welfare and advancement of the town during his residence here. The meeting was largely attended.

On a lighter note, local historian the late Bruce Knox spoke to Miss Cabrera and Mr. Bradford from Thirlmere, in 1971. They remembered William Pritchard well, he was very short, while his second wife was very tall. "Local gossip said he used to climb a peach tree in the garden to kiss her." Fortunately his construction work and monumental masonry have left a much more substantial record in the Picton district.

Our World War I book- some additional information

By one of those strange ironies, when the book was taken into our excellent local printer, Ted Rixon, I happened to leaf through it and see that one young man was a gardener at Buxton, but we hadn't been able to find out who employed him. Ted said, I know, it was a minister who had a lot of land – I saw the ruins of the place a long time ago. So I think it must have been Rev. Thomas Kench who bought some 80 acres about a mile from Buxton Station (just south of the present Wollondilly Shire boundary), possibly in the 1890s, and had turned some 16 acres into an orchard. As Rev. Kench was elderly, and died in 1910, it is no wonder he employed a gardener. A letter in his probate papers, from his son Ernest, says the property was taken up as a retirement home, but the land was not particularly good for "orchard purposes" so it was not extended any further. Another of his sons, Arthur lived in Buxton for most of his life and died in 1970, aged 93. His obituary noted that his home for most of that time, and possibly his father's house, was burnt down in the bushfires of 1968 – explaining why Ted may have seen only the remnants of house and garden. Pity we couldn't include this in the book, but we hope there will be other responses to the information we gathered. If you want to know who the gardener was, you'll have to buy the book!

Then a visitor in June came in looking for information on a Baxter family, who happened to be the same as our Cecil James Baxter, born at Douglas Park to David and Frances. We had found only three children in the family, but our visitor had nine, most of whom had been born in Goulburn before the family moved to Douglas Park. Cecil was the second youngest child.

While checking through the book while writing to all the Shire schools, showing which men came from their area, it was discovered that there were a couple of references to the Bargo Railway Station in the 1880s. How this got past the various proofreaders is a bit of a mystery, perhaps because there is a Bargo railway station now, but it didn't appear until the railway line route was changed in 1914, and the new line opened in 1919. On checking back, one reference may have been just to Bargo Station, which seems slightly odd that in no properties in the area were large enough to be described as a station. Could it refer to a coach stop between Picton and Mittagong, along the Great South Road, as the time when the first railway line south went through Thirlmere, Buxton, Balmoral and Colo Vale? Further research is needed.

From the Records: the *Camden News* October 1, 1896.

Menangle

(From our own Correspondent)

The ball in aid of the funds of the Douglas Park Cricket Club was duly held on Wednesday, 23rd September at Nepean Towers, which had kindly been placed at the services of the committee by Mr. A.E. Wetherill in his usual generous style. The ball and supper rooms were elegantly decorated with ferns, evergreens and pot plants, and the club colours, and reflected great credit on the taste of Mrs. Bone (a sister of Mr. Wetherill's) under whose supervision, the work had been carried out. Dancing commenced at about 8.30 p.m., and was carried on until about 4 a.m., to music supplied by Mr. Oovad of Appin, on the piano, nearly 50 couples taking part. The duties of Ms.C. being ably carried out by Messrs. E. Hughes and Williamson. A first class supper was provided about midnight and the various wants of the guests were ably looked after by Mesdames Hughes, Bone and Miss Lord, and Messrs. Wetherill, Hughes, Williamson and Kenniff. The dresses worn by the ladies were both bright and tasteful, and all combined to make the scene a truly animated one. Visitors were present from Sydney, Picton, Appin, Wilton, and Menangle and all seemed to enjoy the evenings entertainment. Mr. M.J. Kenniff undertook the office of Secretary and was untiring in his efforts to make the affair a success.

Arthur Wetherill was the son of John Wetherill, who bought Nepean Towers from Dr. Jenkins' estate in 1883, and sold most of it in 1904, the rest in 1906. **Mr. Oovad** probably refers to **John Orvad** who married Sybil Wonson in 1897, they had a child and she died, all in the same year. Their son Jack was a casualty in World War I, and is mentioned in our book, *Wollondilly's Fallen*. **Michael Kenniff** was the teacher at the Spaniard's Hill/Douglas Park school from 1885 to 1909; his son Frank also appears in our book. **Mr. Williamson** is probably the J. Williamson who was the station master and post master at Douglas Park between 1896 and 1902.

Recent Donations

Acknowledging some interesting donations in 2014 has been a bit late, due to being busy with our World War I book.

Gilbulla Anglican Conference Centre - photographs taken during renovations c. 1981, some colour, most black & white prints. These arrived from the consultants via the Shoalhaven Library and our Wollondilly Library.

Collection of domestic hardware from Picton Police Station, donated by Mrs. Christine Cheetham, her husband Walter worked on repairs and maintenance there 50 or more years ago. Items include two padlocks from the lockup, a brass door knob from the old house section, and nails from the court house.

A Douglas Pratt framed drawing of the Childrens Holiday Home, Tahmoor, donated via our Library.

A framed copy of a photo of Picton Railway Station, and plan of the building, found during a Council cleanup by a Mr. Green of Cambelltown, who gave it to us. While not in great condition, it is an interesting item, though we have been advised that "the Archives" had a lot of these sorts of items for sale some years ago.

This year we have received other interesting items:

Photo album, colour prints of the construction of Pheasant's Nest bridge c. 1970, donated by Mrs. Doreen McIntosh of Picton. The photographs were taken by her husband Charles, who was foreman at the Maldon Cement Works, and seems to have been supervising the cement pours. Very detailed photos. Mr. McIntosh died in 1971

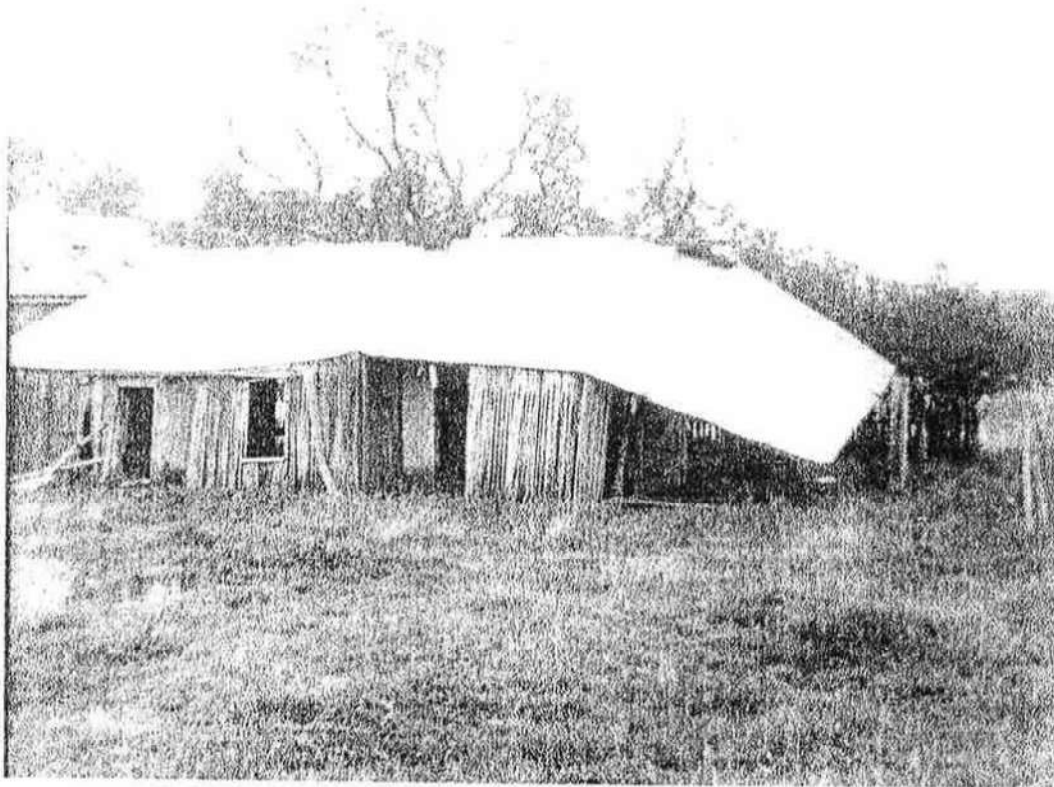
Collection of personal history and Picton items from Mrs. Marie Wonson.

Photographs of Henry Perry, a policeman station here between 1928 and 1932, from Anthony Oates, a grandson.

Photographs of old Wellington Park buildings, of various sources, but donated by member Marie Holmes. These are amazing, and you can see some of them below.

Wellington Park was granted to Dr. William Elyard who arrived in the colony in 1821, and was Superintendent of Carter's Barracks in Sydney in 1822 before moving to this area in 1823 or 1824. A daily diary survives from 1824, written by his son Alfred, as well as William when he was in residence; Bruce Knox got a copy of it some decade ago, and more recently Betty Villy typed it up, including additional references from the (then) Stonequarry Bench Books of relevant court cases. The diary lists the various tasks set to the convict labour force, and in January 1824 there are reference to several men: Grace, Groves, Donnelly, Lovell, Allman, Swan, Lander, Egar, Dennis and Wood. When Dr. Elyard is in residence there are references to visiting the other local people – the Pantons, Rumker, Klensendorffe, De Arrietta, Harper and the Major [Antill]. By July plans for a house are underway, which was built by the end of the year. This was burnt down in a somewhat suspicious fire in October 1826, fortunately when Mrs. Elyard and her daughter were visiting the Pantons, and Alfred was sleeping in the stable; presumably Dr. Elyard was also absent, and no-one was hurt.

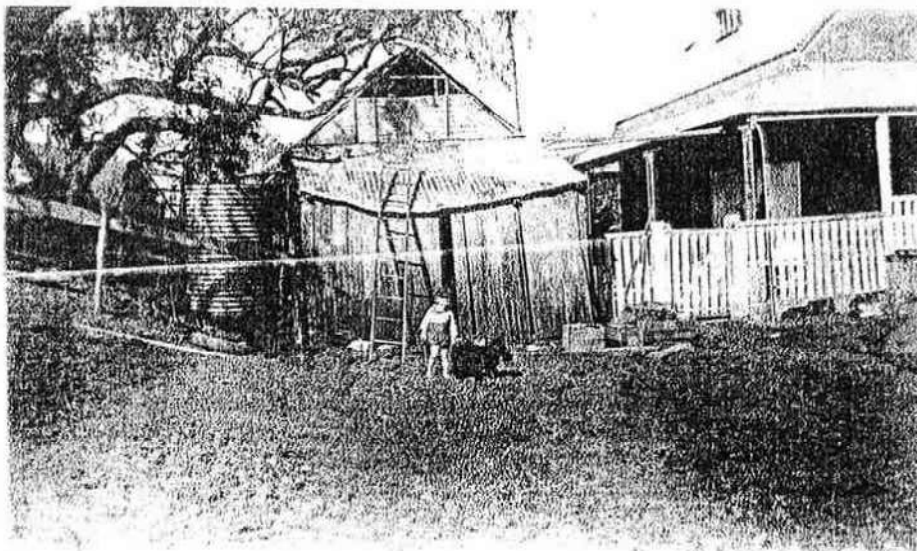
Another house was built, but the Elyard's sold in 1844, though Dr. Elyard's medical skills would have been missed in the district. Wellington Park seems to have been bought by a Mr. Blackwell, and then about 1854 John Ray bought the property – he certainly owned it by 1859 as the electoral roll notes it as his land, though it seems unlikely that he lived there. John Ray had already established the Commercial Hotel, on the site of the Jolly Butcher, and replaced in 1939 by the Picton Hotel. Three of his sons, George, Jack and Tom farmed at Wellington Park, with George developing the dairy side.



Slab homestead known as "Thomas's". Jack and Tom Ray lived there before moving to other dwellings on Wellington Park; George Ray died there. Photograph by Margaret Herries, c. 1968

Could it be possible that this dates back to the Elyard days?

Below, "Trevor in front of kitchen of Old House" – the kitchen was demolished in 1952



Wellington Park in 1981 – the older house on the right can be seen in the previous photo, and a more modern house can be seen on the left, probably with a space between them, where the old kitchen was.



These are just a few of the photographs from the collection, most of which seem to have been taken by Margaret Herries, though not all are acknowledged. It also includes a wonderful photo of “Saltbush Station”, the Shannon Homestead, in 1894; the location is unknown but came from a Ruth Hennessy. Does anyone have any ideas? We would be very happy to hear from you.

John Ray (1817-1859) did very well in his relatively short life. His father William was a convict who arrived here in 1791, and his mother was Sarah Wade, the daughter of the well known Mary Wade. John married Hannah Higgins in 1841, and **George Ray** was their fifth of 8 or 9 children, mostly born in the Campbelltown area. John and Hannah and family were in Picton by 1854 when John was granted a publican’s licence; Hannah and then their son John continued to run the hotel until the 1880s.

George Ray (1850-1932) married Amy Hilder in 1882 – another well known name in hotels in the Picton area and they had George Hilder, John, Thomas A, and Elsie. Amy Ray died in 1896, and years later George married again and had 3 or 4 more children. There is some confusion about his second wife who could have been Maria, or Myra S., but as **George Hilder Ray** had married Myra Olivette Warters in 1905 and had five children, some of similar ages to George senior and his second wife, there may be some muddling of names. There is no doubt that George senior and his children and grandchildren were the driving force behind the development of Wellington Park dairy and their Guernsey and Friesian herd, establishing one of the oldest dairy studs according to an article in the *Town and Country Magazine* of 14th June, 1993. The Pictona stud were winning prizes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show from 1906 onwards. A later sideline was the Wellington Park Iceworks which operated between 1926 and 1961, supplying ice throughout the district.

It was only a few years ago that the sixth and seventh generations of the family decided to sell the property.

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. Only one copy remaining.

\$15.00 + \$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.

Special price – now only \$25 + \$10 p&p

Tea towels – we have a new supply, black& white, drawings of several historic buildings and map of Picton showing their positions.

\$10.00 each, + postage \$3.50

Other books available through us include:

Ross, J & Lyon D: **A History of Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital 1877-1994,** A5, n.d.
\$10.00 + \$5.00 p&p

Ross J & Wilton J: **The History of the Picton District Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc.** A5, 2006
\$15.00 + \$5.00 p&p

If undelivered please return to

POSTAGE
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PDHFHS
PO Box 64
PICTON NSW 2571

Picton Post Wednesday June 2, 1915

Mount Pleasant, Picton
Wednesday 16th June 1915
Important Sale of Household
Furniture and Effects

W. LARKIN

Has received instructions from Mrs.
SELL to sell at her residence, Upper
Picton, at 1.30 sharp.

The whole of the contents of her seventeen
roomed house (everything from a piano to
tables, beds, ornaments, as she had run a
boarding house). ...
must be sold as the property has been
resumed for railway purposes