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The Stonequarry Journal



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Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

Committee:

President	Gail Hanger	02 46842179
Vice President	Caroline Richardson	
Secretary	Gail Hanger	02 46842179
Treasurer		
Public Officer	Peter Meyer	
Journal Editor	Kate Holmes	02 46770208
Librarian	Helen Hanger	
Research committee	Helen Hanger, Gail Hanger, Kate Holmes	
Grants Officer	Caroline Richardson	

Journal contributions

Contributions should be submitted to
The Editor, P.O.Box 64, Picton. NSW 2571
Web site:<http://www.stonequarry.com.au/padhfs/index.html>
Email: gehanger@bigpond.net.au

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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. As the Wollondilly Library will be closed from 7th September 2015, meetings will be held at the home of Gail Hanger until the Library re-opens in 2016. The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Saturday in September, before the monthly meeting.

Research room

Unavailable during Library refurbishment. Written enquiries only.

Research fees.

Members: Free (plus photocopying costs)
Non members: \$10.00 per hour, + photocopying. Written or emailed enquiries:
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President's Report for 2015 - Gail Hanger

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting, after a very busy year with many ups and downs. You will be aware by now that the Wollondilly Library will be closed for renovations after this week (second week in September). We have moved our collection between several of our members' homes. Hopefully this will only be for six months, but in the meantime we will be continuing with any research enquiries via phone, email and ordinary mail. Please be patient though, it may take us a little longer to answer enquiries.

Earlier this year we ventured into Facebook, which proved successful in raising our profile and gained us several new members. Due to some internal difficulties we have closed the page for now, but we hope to open it again when these have been sorted out.

We continue to support the John Ruffels History Prize at the Picton High School Awards Night, held in December. It is always a good night, and this year was no exception. Our support is greatly appreciated by the School.

National Family History Month was held in August, as usual, and two of our members, Kate Holmes and Ken Williams attended an event at Belgenny Farm, Camden. Although it was a cold and quite damp day, seeing other Family History societies was enjoyable. Despite quite a good attendance, sales were slow. Kate also led a tour of St. Mark's church and graveyard later in the month, which was well attended. We registered the event online and were lucky enough to win a prize, which will be awarded to one of our members.

Finally I want to thank everyone for support and encouragement over the last year, and for the work we are doing.

Librarian's Report for 2015 – Helen Hanger

Many thanks to the members who took on positions, we have had a busy year with research. Once again members of the Picton Society attended the State conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc., hosted by the Illawarra Society, which was very informative.

Thanks to Caroline Richardson and her husband Andrew for hosting our Christmas meeting and lunch – we had a lovely day.

We thank John Ruffels for his continuing support of the Society and the encouragement of local history through his prize to a Year 4 student at the Picton High School.

We put on our usual photographic display on Australia Day, which was very impressive as it was based on some of the personal histories from our World War I book, plus some who survived that war. I enjoyed the day, although I had done very little work for our stall. (Helen did not say that both she and Ken Williams had been nominated for different Australia Day awards, though neither won their categories. There was an impressive turnout by the Hanger family, with four generations to support Helen).

The Facebook page brought in several requests for information and new members, though with having to move out of the Library, we have been a bit slow in answering some questions.

We sent a get-well card to our Treasurer Ron Callaway who has not been well and has had to resign his position. We were also saddened to send a sympathy card to the Schultz family after the death of Albie, the late Member for Hume and one of our patrons and a great supporter of Australian history.

Our book launch for *Wollondilly's Fallen – The men of Wollondilly Shire who gave their lives in the Great War* was held at the **Wollondilly Remembers** day at Thirlmere on 18th April, hosted by the local RSL branch. They had put on a wonderful range of old and new army vehicles and displays, including many interesting photographs. The service was attended by both our Federal and State members and local mayor, and a good number of people attended including several older men who had served in World War II. Copies of the book have been given to all the local schools, and thanks to those who helped in getting them out to all corners of the Shire. Unfortunately sales have been rather slow.

We have now moved out of the Library, and I would like to thank all members for their help, specially Paul and Margaret French who did some very heavy lifting with their vehicle and trailer. We will need a new treasurer, and thank Ken Williams for preparing the annual accounts for us in the meantime. Good news is that we have been successful in getting a grant from Council for a new small printer/scanner/photocopier.

Treasurer's Report for 2015 – Ron Callaway/Ken Williams

Receipts and Expenditure for the 12 months ended 30th June 2015

Receipts		Expenditure	
Membership	\$719.00	Photocopier	\$647.51
Research	420.00	Office Supplies	183.70
Publications/Teatowels	702.00	Printing	3917.00
Photos/Photocopies	217.40	Tea towels	589.05
Donations	89.00	Library	60.00
Tours	145.00	Postage/P.O. box	307.25
Stationery	13.90	Membership*	622.40
Bank Interest	0.86	Bank Fees	32.50
Grant	<u>3500.00</u>	John Ruffels Award	<u>75.00</u>
	5807.16		6434.41

Balance at 1 July 2014	\$1437.24	
Plus receipts	<u>\$5807.16</u>	
	\$7244.40	
Less expenses	<u>\$6434.41</u>	
Balance at 30 June 2015	\$ 809.99	as per M.C.U.

Investment Account No. 1	\$1263.88
Investment Account No. 2	\$ 600.38
MCU shares	\$ 5.00
Petty Cash Float	<u>\$ 60.00</u>
	\$1929.26

Total society funds \$2739.25

*includes insurance

Please note some additions/changes to the inner front page, which was printed off before AGM and our move from the Library, as we weren't sure how we would photocopy the text of this journal, which was still in preparation. Tony Jagacic has kindly offered to be Treasurer, and also suggested that we could use the CWA Hall, Noongah Street, Bargo (just beyond the new IGA building) for our meetings, including the Christmas one, until we move back to the Library.

Vale Elaine Callaway, 1929-2015

We were very sorry to hear of Elaine's death on the 29th September, especially as her husband Ron has been very ill in the last few months. Helen and Joe Hanger and Kate Holmes attended the funeral at St. Mark's Church, Picton on 1st October. The following is an edited version of the eulogy given by her daughter Mandy.

Mum was born in Dulwich Hill in 1929, but the family, including her older sister Cecily, later moved to Punchbowl. When Mum left school she went to business college and got a secretarial job at the RSL in College Street, Sydney. Mum would have the same job on and off over the years between moving overseas and interstate until she retired.

She met Dad at a dance, the story being that Mum got hooked on his belt when they were dancing. They married in 1954 at St. Andrew's Church, Summer Hill. This year they celebrated 61 years of marriage, a wonderful milestone.



Dad was a radiographer in the Army, and was sent to Japan soon after their marriage, and Mum arrived a little later and they set up home in Kure where Dad was working in the hospital. They were extremely happy there. I arrived nine months later, and we stayed for another two years, before moving back to Sydney. The next move was to Puckapunyal, Victoria, where Deb and Av were born. We all then moved to Birrong (Sydney) where we girls went to school and grew up.

Mum's wish in life was to return to the country that she so enjoyed on visits to Wagga as a child. In 1976 they moved to Menangle on 25 acres, breeding Murray Grays. Mum and Dad continued to commute to work, Dad at Lidcome and Mum back with the RSL in Sydney. After their retirement they moved to Marulan on 300 acres, again breeding Murray Grays. In 1998 they sold up and moved to Tahmoor, their home until just recently.

Mum had many loves, including reading and her cats; she also enjoyed a brandy & dry and never said no to champagne. She was recently asked what was her greatest achievement in her life and she said "having her three daughters" [Amanda, Deborah and Avryl]. But nothing surpassed her pride in her five grandchildren – Luke, Matt, Christopher, Kathryn and Hannah. In recent years she would fondly ask the boys "what's the hold-up" referring to marriage, considering they all have lovely girls in their lives. She thought she would never see great-grandchildren. Well, we are still waiting for the marriages, but she did get three gorgeous great-children, Natalie, Cooper and Estelle, whom she was able to kiss and cuddle in the last few months.

Our records show that Elaine and Ron joined the Society in 1999, and were soon involved in various activities. Elaine became the newspaper "clipper", cutting and pasting any relevant articles from the local newspapers and filing them. I was amused that when her grandsons started playing in the local rugby league competition, Elaine became much more interested in the sporting pages! We have very much missed her industry in this regard, but she retired early in 2014 when her arthritic fingers made the work too painful. She was always beautifully dressed when she came to do her day's work in our space in the Library. Ron served as treasurer from 2002 until this year, while Elaine served as vice-president and president in the early 2000s. Both Callaways helped out when we had displays on Australia Day, and in earlier years at the now defunct Shire Days at Bargo. They hosted several of our Christmas meeting/lunch days over the years.

Elaine was very proud of her connection to the Angel family, and particularly that one of her forebears went on the Hume and Hovel exploration of 1824/25, especially after their move to Tahmoor. The explorers are said to have camped at the inn just being established then at what was known as Myrtle Creek. On her father's side she could trace back her line to a Fulbert L'Archer, a Norman crossbowman who came to England as part of William the Conqueror's army. Elaine wrote an article for the Journal in June 2002 talking about her great-grandfather Frederick Francis Archer, some 22 generations later who did the reverse trip. This is an abbreviated version of that article on "The Lacemakers of Calais":

Frederick was born in Radford, Nottingham county in 1816, the son of Francis Archer, a comb maker. In 1842 Frederick, now working in the lace trade married Mary Marvin, also of Radford, and they soon moved to the St. Pierre area of Calais where other family members worked in the lace and hosiery machine trade. There were thousands of English lace machine workers in Calais, but troubles in 1847-48 saw most of the factories closed and many returned to Nottingham in England, where the situation was not much better.

The Archers now had three children, Jane born 1843, Frederick (Frank) born 1845 and my grandmother Catherine (Kate) in 1847, and they decided to move to New South Wales. One ship, *Agincourt* brought 262 lacemakers from Calais, including the Archer family; two other ships

Harpley and *Fairlie* took others to South Australia. The *Agincourt* arrived in Sydney in October 1848 and several lacemakers, including the Archers, went to Bathurst where four more children were born to the family. Frederick worked at a variety of jobs, including some time as a gold miner, and was a Rural Constable for some years.

Mary Archer died in 1862 and Frederick in 1883; both are buried in the cemetery at Kelso.

In January 1998 the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais, with descendants of the lacemakers from the three ships began a year-long celebration to mark 150 years since their arrival in Australia.

Responses to the last journal

Our World War I book

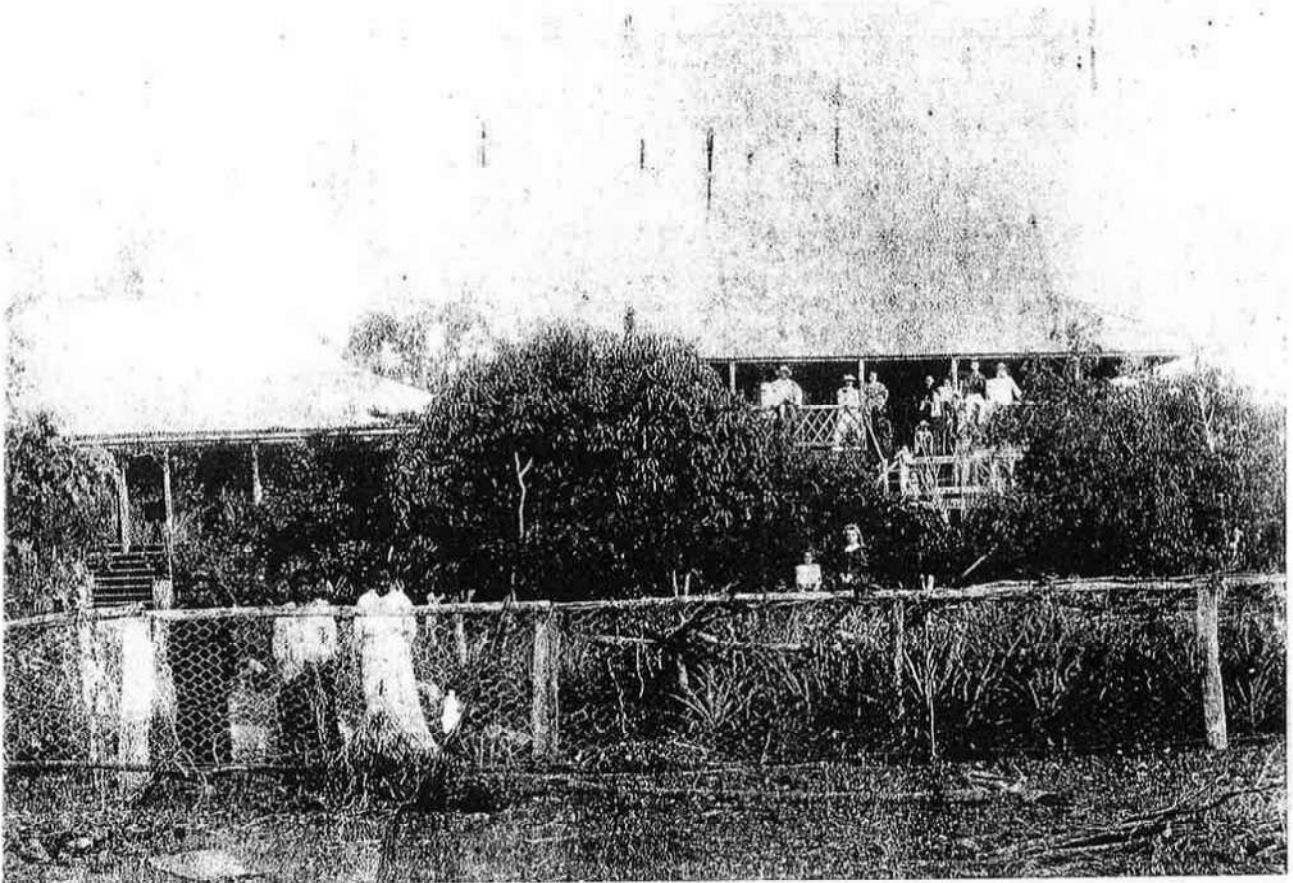
Bargo Railway Station: Our own Mr. Railway, Jim Whitfield, and Jeff Coggan from the Goulburn & District Historical Society were quick to point out that in the 1880s this was the name of what then became Balmoral. I should have known to check the various railway history sources we have, as I was well aware that in the early days, an area from Wilton to present day Bargo was given this name. Wilton was known as East Bargo for some time, and Bargo was West Bargo – and this name was still being used well into the 20th century. Balmoral is not very far from Bargo in a straight line. Thank you so much for your responses, and my apologies for not being more sensible – and if I had realised, we could have explained this in the book.

The gardener from Buxton: We have had a response suggesting that it was unlikely that the Rev. Kench would have employed a gardener (and I'm sorry, the email seems to have gone missing during the move out of the Library). I should have said that someone like the Rev. Kench, an elderly man with 80 acres of land might have needed help – even the 16 acres of orchard would have been a lot of work, as well as any garden around the house. I put the suggestion forward because we did have some information on the Kench family. On checking on the son, Arthur, who seems to have spent most of his time in this district, may have moved away for a few years around the time of the First World War. However, there are others who would have had similar acreage around Buxton and employed labour on their small farms.

We are rather disappointed at the slow sales for *Wollondilly's Fallen* so far, but we are pleased to have donated a copy to each of the schools in the Wollondilly Shire, and in some cases to schools on the edge of the Shire.

Reference to Saltbush Station in the article on the Ray family and photos of Wellington Park: This was just a passing reference (p.10) on why this photo should appear in the Ray collection donated by Marie Holmes. John McClean wrote to us saying that the Shannon family owned Saltbush Park in the Mackay region, Queensland, and that Ruth Hennessy edited an article on the family in 1972, and may have a family connection. Now all we need is the connection between Ruth and the Ray family! John also sent a

photo and biography of John Shannon (1841-1927) who was born in New South Wales but made his mark in Queensland where he moved with his new wife Margaret (Young) in 1865. They moved to Saltbush in 1874, had twelve children and in the next forty years or so bought many other properties. John Shannon became a well-respected breeder of Herefords, and also of Clydesdale horses, and his sons were involved with the growing property purchases. The photo of "The Shannon Homestead – Saltbush Station, 1894" courtesy of Ruth Hennessy is such a classic that it is shown below, though the copy we have is rather battered.



James Herring 1816-1874

Reprinted (slightly edited) from the Stonequarry Journal, vol. 8 no. 2, June 1994
by Mrs Catherine Williams, nee Herring

James Herring was born in England in approximately 1816, came to Australia where he met and married Mary Gilmore at Campbelltown, N.S.W. Their marriage is recorded in the Register of Roman Catholic Marriages for 6th April 1842, and their abode was Redbank (Picton). Their first child Margaret was born at Picton in 1843, then followed James in 1845, Thomas in 1846, Mary Ann in 1848, Elizabeth Bridget in 1852, William in 1853 and Rose in 1855. There was another son John, date of birth unknown, who was listed as deceased on the death certificates of James and Mary.

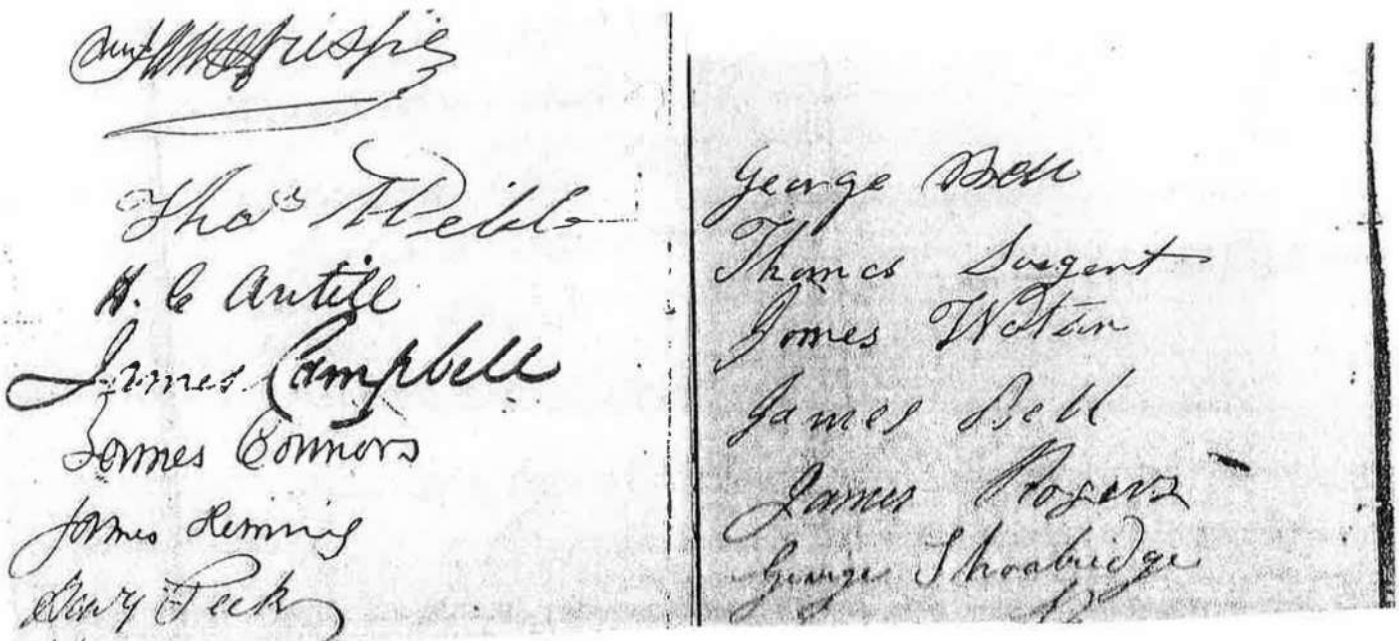
In the same year as the birth of his youngest daughter, James together with 33 other residents/landholders of the Counties of Cumberland and Camden signed a petition to

the Legislative Council of New South Wales stating their concern that "a member of your Honorable House has given notice of his intention to move for a return of the number of letters which have been transmitted by the newly established line of post between Campbell Town and Picton and fearing that the Honorable Gentleman's intention is to deprive us of the great advantages of such direct communication between the Towns, most humbly pray your Honorable House not to sanction such a deprivation and injury to us.

This line of road runs through one of the richest and most thriving districts in the Colony, daily increasing in population, and the village of Menangle, through which the post road passes and near which, the bridge over the river Nepean now is in course of construction under the sanction of a note of your Honorable House, contains four places of worship and two Public Schools maintained at the public expense.

The Establishment of this line of post has enabled us to pursue our daily industrial avocations without the necessity of sending twelve and sometimes eighteen miles a day to procure our letters and newspapers, an advantage scarcely to be estimated by those who have not had a similar difficulty and loss to encounter.

Under these circumstances, we humbly pray your Honorable House not to deprive us of the great boon the Government has conferred on us, and as in duty bound will every pray.



Andrew Wisping
Thos Webb
H. C. Antill
James Campbell
James Connors
James Leming
Henry Fack

George Bell
Thomas Sargent
James Weston
James Bell
James Rogers
George Shookbridge

Some of the names on the petition, James 5th down on the left

Although Picton was still a small town, progress as happening in the colony, with the railway line between Redfern and Parramatta opening in 1855, extending to Cambelltown in 1858, and then to Picton in 1863. The town and the people benefited greatly as rail transport could alleviate all the problems associated with using bullock teams over Razorback.

The effect this so-called progress would have on the life of James Herring and his family was devastating. On the 17th September, approximately six weeks after the railway

came to Picton, Mary Herring was killed by the 5 p.m. Sydney train passing over her about a mile from Picton. She was aged 45 years. An inquest on her death was held but the records have not survived. The Catholic section of the Upper Picton Cemetery contains a lovely stone headstone and footstone with the inscription of her name and date of death. Over the years the other wording of "a verse" on the headstone has faded but it states she left a husband and seven children to mourn her loss. The lives of James and his family would never be the same.

We track James Herring's working life from the Picton Bench Books, which record that on 13th May, 1864 James Herring senior, William Wonson, Mrs. Sutherland and Henry Walker all 10/- for a slaughtering licence. They also show that on 26th June, 1868 there was a transfer of the publican's licence for the "Picton Inn" from John Ray to James Herring. On the 18th December, 1868 James obtained a temporary publican's licence for a booth at a cricket match at Menangle Road.



Undated, but some time after the 1880s when the name was changed to Commercial Hotel from Ray's Inn. Now the site of the Picton Hotel, corner of Argyle Street and Menangle Street West.

The Post Office Archives show that between 1867 and 1873 James Herring had the contract for the mail runs Picton to The Oaks, The Oaks to Burragorang, and Picton Railway Station to Picton Post Office. Mail was delivered by horseback two or three times daily. In 1874 the contract was given to Francis Gray, who undercut James' tender by £2.

It appears that James then moved from the Picton area to the Goulburn district as his death was recorded there on 9th July, 1874, aged 57.

On checking the Picton Bench Book index, the first reference to James Herring was on December 29th 1840, when the notation "Manangles 1837, 7 yrs" shows that he was a convict and had been allocated to George Harper's Abbotsford property. He was accused of losing sheep:

"Thomas Durant, watchman over Mr. Harper's sheep, states that on this day the prisoner reported that he was rushed by native dogs and had 18 sheep bitten, 14 of which were obliged to be killed, two of the lambs were lost entirely but he found one the next day.

The opinion of the court is that the shepherd was not to blame having a ... of small lambs, they discharged him."

While James has other times in court, it was Mary who had the most; between 1858 and 1862 she appeared several times for being drunk and disorderly, and on at least five occasions spent a night in the lockup. What brought on this sad state of affairs is not known, but it might be a contributing factor in her death in 1863.

James had only a short stint as innkeeper, as the licence for Ray's Inn was taken back by George Ray in 1869. By 1880 Thomas McKendrick was the licensee, and the name changed to the Commercial soon after. Thomas had been the licensee of the George Inn from 1873, and provided space for the Commercial Banking Company when it set up in 1877. When he moved and re-named the hotel it was in the expectation was that the bank would move with him, but this did not eventuate, going to Wendover House instead. The now vacant bank building on the corner of Argyle and Menangle Streets, opposite the hotel, was built for the C.B.C. in 1885. The reference to a temporary licence for James for a cricket match in Menangle Road is interesting; we know cricket was being played on what is now Victoria Park in the early 1880s, but this reference suggests a much earlier use for this purpose. This would match with the references in the previous journals about a sports ground near the Viaduct.

In 1869 James was granted a hawker's licence, which was not renewed, and it seems he was concentrating on mail contracts in these last few years in Picton. A post office was established in the town in 1841, and was the reason for the name change from Stonequarry to Picton, there being another area of a similar name further south. There may have been earlier mail runs from about 1829 when Major Antill was living on his grant, Jarvisfield, and was the local magistrate. As the Post Office was not built until 1892, various buildings were used in those fifty years. The original courthouse may have been used in the 1830s, and in the 1840s the George Inn, with various houses and stores being used later. The Commercial Hotel seems to have taken on postal duties for a couple of years before the first official post master, Sydney Dargin, was appointed in 1882. He was replaced by Mr. F. Burgess in 1884, and it seems that from 1886 the post office and residence was an old building in Argyle Street, next to the new Commercial Bank. Although plans for a new post office were mentioned from this time, Mr. Burgess put on extra pressure when he wrote about the terrible conditions in 1889: *"The house is quite uninhabitable... all the walls of the rooms are quite wet.. I have just buried one of my children, who would have had a chance of recovery if the house were not in such a bad state. I have another child dangerously ill and have been forced to have it removed to a friend's place so as to give it a better chance to recover ..."*

Contact with the outside world was important to these early settlers in the Picton area, as shown in James Herring's story, even if things improved after the opening of the Picton Railway Station in 1863.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Wollondilly's Fallen – The men of Wollondilly Shire who gave their lives in the Great War (2015) A4, 108 pages, illustrated, s/c. Our newest book, published in time for the Anzac Centenary. Concentrating on the effect on the local community of the deaths during World War I, but including men from all over NSW who came to work in the area. Usually only brief war records, though some biographies go into more detail. \$20.00 + \$5 p&p

Cemetery Transcripts

Bargo Cemetery Memorials (2010) A4, 121p, illustrated, s/c; photographs of all headstones \$25.00 + \$5p&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. \$15.00 + \$5 p&p

Chronicles of the Early Cowpastures and Stonequarry – 1820-1850, Vol. 1 (2010)

A4, 74p/, s/c, illustrated, index. 12 chapters on people and subjects: 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.

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

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PO Box 64
PICKTON NSW 2571

POSTAGE
PAID

Picton Post Wednesday September 15, 1915
News in Brief

Another batch of 650 wounded from the Dardanelles arrived in Melbourne a few days ago. Sister Parry, daughter of Dr. Parry, Picton, was nurse in charge of the men as far as Melbourne.