

Stonequarry

Journal

DATE: December 1994

VOLUME: 2

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Pictou & District Historical

&
Family History Society Inc.

PICTON and DISTRICT HISTORICAL
and
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

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RESEARCH:- All enquiries will be handled by a committee.
 Fees are **\$10.00 plus copying charges.**

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 New South Wales
 Australia.

LIBRARY (Resource Centre):-

The Coach House
 Argyle Street
 Picton.
 (enter by the Menangle Street carpark at the rear
 of the National Australia Bank)

HOURS:- Thursday:- 10 am to 2 pm
 Saturday:- 10 am to 3 pm

MEETINGS:- Second Monday of each month at:-
 The Community Rooms
 Shire Hall
 Menangle Street
 Picton.
 (excluding January)

MEMBERSHIP FEES:-

Pensioner:- **\$8.00**
 Single:- **\$10.00**
 Family:- **\$12.00**

*** The Stonequarry Journal is Published Quarterly ***

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Responsibility

The Society does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed or statements made by authors of papers in this journal. No article or item from this journal may be reproduced without the written permission of the society.

Omissions

The size of this journal is governed by postal charges. Therefore it has been necessary to either exclude articles or reduce the content of other material. I apologise and trust that the editing has not altered the context of the article. Also apologies for the reproductive quality of the financial statement.

Theme of the next issue

March 1995. The Wollondilly Shire Council will be celebrating 100 years of local government in this area in May 1995. The Picton Borough was incorporated in 1895. Perhaps one of your ancestors was a councillor/alderman or alternatively worked for or contracted to, the Council. **Please tell us about it!**

From the President

December - and "The Year of the Family" has passed so quickly. In our recent participation in the "Picton Village Fair", our stall worked well as a public relations exercise with many visitors at the Coach House and making enquiries.

We have welcomed new faces to our Executive and relinquished the organization of the Stonequarry Festival of Arts and Crafts to the Picton A.H. & I. Society Inc. This means we will have a new direction in fund-raising.

Our October and November speakers, Mr Wal Lockwood and Mr Vincent Pike entertained us with their individual styles of repartee - many questions and much discussion followed their talks.

After two months as President, I am aware of the diverse membership of our Society. Each of us has varying interests and reasons for belonging to it. With a new year approaching, we may give thought to how we can contribute to the Society - so that as a body, we can channel its activities, considering where each of our members can best help, according to interests, needs and commitment.

So we look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting (13th February 1995) or "hearing" from you through the mail. For those who cannot attend our Christmas meeting, my best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas.

The Natural Cultural Environment The Historic Perspective by:- Peter Reay

One is often questioned what is the relevance of nature - natural environment, to History or an Historical Society. One would then have to question what is history - buildings, people, events - doing in the natural environment and more importantly what has it done to and still doing to the natural environment. It is all interrelated, all relevant and is all part of the Cultural Environmental Heritage.

Australian Aboriginal Culture has developed to live with nature. They have realised that people depended upon the land for survival, of belonging to the land, rather than the land belonging to one or several people. This realisation continues today and more and more people of different cultural backgrounds realise that nature has no boundaries, fence lines and cannot be trained to go in straight lines or wherever we want it to go. We need to adapt our ways, to be more in line and in harmony with the natural environment.

Since white occupation of Australia, large areas have been cleared of natural bushland. Native wildlife have been pushed to the extreme to survive in competition with grazing animals, domestic and feral animals, weeds and other impacts.

In Australia we have the largest rate of extinctions in species and it still continues. 500,000 hectares of bushland is still cleared annually in this country. What species of flora and fauna have we lost that we didn't even know existed before its destruction and how do we know what was once there, once it was cleared?

Historical and scientific documentation tell us these things and more so cultural information is playing a bigger role. As Aboriginal communities have stories or cultural information relating to plant or animal species going back thousands of years.

Early writings of Louise Meredith of Sydney tell us sketchy information about the colour of bush flowers and shape and from that botanists can determine the most likely species. Other early botanists/scientists tell us much about the flora and fauna, the waterways, bushland and grasslands of this land. The minute details of certain regions come from personal journals, pressings and collections. Naturalists of an area tell us much of the natural environment.

Nowadays, research and the collection of historical data are done by some government departments but much more is needed. Community based research is developing and many opportunities are arising for this to occur.

We have valuable assets in this region such as the library at the Coach House or the library at Wirrimbirra Sanctuary which offer valuable resource material for researching the past and recording for the future. We need to support these community based ventures if we are to support and conserve our Cultural Environmental Heritage.

Some species of fauna, threatened and close to possible extinction in the area are; Brush Tailed-Rock Wallaby, Powerful Owl, Rock Warbler, Platypus, Koala, Brush Tailed Phascogalye, (small rodent) possibly Quolls (tiger-cat), aquatic species - rare frogs and various plant species such as ground orchids etc.,

If you are interested in being involved in community based research of the natural environment in your area and helping to build on the historical documentation as well as helping species - contact myself, Peter Reay on (046) 818774 - various groups will form as part of the Threatened Species Network in 1995.

PICTON HAIRDRESSER'S TRADITION.

by James (Wal) Lockwood.

Wales Wallace Watson, Picton Hairdresser and Tobacconist¹ from 1894 to his death 1910 was unaware of his ancestral history. Recently researched and confirmed it is now filed with the Picton and District Historical and Family History Society.

His line goes to America, England, Ireland, The Mayflower 1620 settlement Plymouth USA, and beyond through Burke's and Debretts Peerage listing ancestors to King Edward I and before to William the Conqueror 1066 and all that.

He came to Picton having to fight T.B., with a pregnant wife and a baby girl who later married and one of whose children discovered the history previously unknown. The following graph attempts to show his past was well recorded, some of which led to his death from disease which his generic background could not overcome. (Graph not included - Ed)

There was in all this a silver lining with his reported Silver Mine discovery in 1899 in the Burraborang Valley² now being researched further.

No doubt the Nickelodeon (Jukebox) installed in his shop 1900 tinkled some terrific tunes as the barbers shears clicked after that occasion.³

He knew his ailment was inherited from his mother and that his father was a sea captain with peculiar accent and clothes. Being a Yankee his father was not encouraged by local society. As a proud American citizen he could not be accepted as a member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. However he was accepted as a champion yachtsman for Commodore and club boat owners pleasure winning their races for them such as the first Intercolonial Yacht Regatta in Melbourne in 1883 on R.P.A.Y.C. Commodore Dr. Milford's yacht "Doris".⁴

Into this hairdresser, sea captain world, Minnie Edwards was attracted as his wife becoming a sailor also only to lose her hearing by cold water immersion in a harbour sailing accident. She lived in Picton for 16 years, stone deaf, raising two girls. One with musical talent who cared for her, the other to marry with children leading to the unfolding of this story.

His daughter Elsie kept up her artistic talent developed by the Picton Josephite Nuns with painting in both watercolour and oils.

His grandson managed and expanded the well established family business of Manufacturing Chemists into an international reputation winning two Export Awards.⁵ This research interest was later to reveal the family history which preceded the Picton era.

Two of his great grandsons followed the barber shop tradition by taking up its offshoot Dental Profession.

One of his great great grandsons has been accepted as a Life Member of The Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth MA. U.S.A. with five family descents continuing the family history now filed in Picton.

A photograph of Wales W. Watson is yet to be identified, he usually being the photographer. One would be appreciated.

continued page 9.

Financial Statement

Year ending - June 30 1994

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1994

RECEIPTS

Annual Membership	1004.00
Resource Centre	705.95
Written Enquiries	183.40
Sale of Publications	
- Journals	12.00
- Chronicals	168.00
- Peeps at Ficton	35.00
- Cemetary Transcripts	788.30
- List of Landholders	6.00
- Members Interest	4.00
	1113.30
Sales on Commission & Other	
- Postcards	16.00
- Chronicals of Appin	64.00
- Forbidden Land	20.00
- Thirlmere Public School	35.00
- Trail Boss	12.00
- Bushrangers	16.00
- Other	16.95
	179.95
Journal Advertising	
Excursion to St. Marys Towers	25.00
Tour - Rose Bay	22.00
Bus Tour of Ficton	50.00
Postage on Sales	53.00
Raffles	4.35
- Christmas in July	360.10
- " " "	324.00
Sale of Photographs	684.10
Street Stalls	5.00
Refund of Subscriptions	170.75
Donations	10.00
- Wollondilly Shire Council	
- General	1000.00
- Joan Brown	651.00
Arts & Crafts 1993	100.00
Fundraising - Other	1751.00
Reimbursements for Purchases	5632.25
	27.00
	25.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS to JUNE 1994	11546.05
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1st JULY 1993	4338.71
	<u>15884.76</u>

INTEREST FROM TERM DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 284680478 100.00

PAYMENTS

Postage	323.00
- Journals	111.90
- General	434.90
Subscriptions	
Amenities	214.00
- Electricity	204.05
- Post Office Box	39.00
- Insurance GIO	309.11
- Corporate Affairs	20.00
- Rent of Community Rooms	35.00
Library Resource Material	607.16
Display Material	1415.14
Stationery	34.96
Purchase of Items for Sale	277.72
- Chronicals of Appin	180.00
- Trail Boss	108.00
Maintenance	288.00
- Photocopier	465.00
- Coach House	1878.50
Miscellaneous	2343.50
- Coffee/Biscuits Etc.	72.88
- Donations	30.00
- Raffles	5.00
- Keys Cut	16.90
- Floral Arrangements	80.00
- Groceries for Raffle	120.00
- Stall/ Float/ Fundraising	20.00
- Banners	7.80
	352.58
RANS Conference Goulburn	55.00
KSW Family History Conference	55.00
RANS Insurance	208.00
Purchase of Photocopier	3058.00
Bank Fees & Charges	114.35
Arts & Crafts 1993	5846.10
Arts & Crafts 1994	50.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS to JUNE 30 1994	15354.50
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD as at JUNE 30 1994	530.26
	<u>15884.76</u>

Notes From Auditor

1. Receipts and Expenditure Statement represents a true summary of information presented in the cash journals.
2. Minute Books authorising expenditure contained in cash journals were not sighted.
3. Cash journal entries have been reconciled with bank statements.

From the Social Secretary

COMING EVENTS for 1995

February Judith Dunne - "Cemeteries - "Short Poppies"

Autumn
March (Evening Walk) Andrew Wilson - Archaeology
April and May Aboriginal and Natural Environmental History

Winter
June, July and August Cultural Music / Arts History
Old Bush Craft

Spring
September Historic Gardens and Homes
October Cemeteries
November (Evening Walk) Bush Heritage

Summer
December End of Year Party

Help, suggestions and ideas welcome for places to visit, picnics, guest speakers etc. Please ring me on (046) 818774.

Peter Reay

From the Archivist

Since taking on the position of Archivist, I have found many and varied articles. A lot of notes are from the Late F. Bruce Knox had given to the Society over the years.

A photo of Mr Blackford's house in Arina Road, Pheasants nest, has had several people looking at it and asking for copies.

Some of the other items of interest are:-
Post Office Directories for 1860-1875.
List of Business Houses at Various Times
Summaries of Picton Post and Picton News up until 1989.
These have been indexed.

Recently completed by member Colin Post are index cards for all the B.D.M. from the Picton Post - Picton News up to 1984. Also the full newspaper article for death, funeral and probate notice has been produced in five (5) volumes.

Dianne Irwin

Journal Format

You will notice that the journal cover has been modified and we trust that this will not cause too many problems with other societies. I cannot guarantee that someone else will not change it in the future but for the time being all covers will be in "black and white" and in the same format.

One of our members commented that the colours of the Picton Public schools were now officially "black and white" and that this was probably because the local rugby league team is known as the Picton "Magpies". She was quickly advised that the sporting club's colours were black and white decades before the term "Magpie" was adopted by the local team.

However, while we too have assumed the colours of "black and white", it is primarily a "cost saving exercise" and we hasten to assure you that we do not consider our society solely "Picton" based. Picton is simply the home of our library/resource centre.

Centrefold

Another new innovation is the centrefold. No, it is not a provocative photograph of one of our members but a removeable sheet which will not destroy the context of members' articles. These four pages are a "substitute newsletter" and will focus on activities for "you".

Journal Articles

It has always seemed to me that the majority of articles, whether in our journal or in other similar publications, have been submitted by locally based members. Yet, why do we have such a large membership of people who live outside our area? Obviously, because these people have a specified interest in this area and a lot of them are family historians. We recognise that you cannot attend meetings and we accept that you are unable to assist with the maintainance of our library but you are able to contribute to our knowledge of this area.

Nothing is more rewarding than "an exchange of ideas". If it was possible to combine all your knowledge we could have a wonderful social history of this area. You have the "indepth knowledge" of your family and we have accumulated a vast collection of locally related records. Bearing this in mind, we are willing to publish journals to reflect your input.

Over the years we have compiled a locally based "Occupation Index" and we are prepared to share this information with you. Once we have received a number of articles pertaining to a "specific occupation" we shall publish a list of names of people engaged in that "occupation" and if possible an accompanying article outlining the activity in this area.

P U B L I C I T Y
by:- Geoffrey Fegent
Veteran Lawyer Recalls Picton as Rail Centre

For the last regular meeting for the year on Monday, November 14, 1994, the Society was entertained by two outstanding speakers.

Heading up the double bill was 90-year-old lawyer, Vincent Pike, founding partner of the venerable Sydney law firm, "Pike, Pike and Fenwick". A most remarkable man, Mr Pike's incisive mind and memory belie his years. When he retired from legal practice at age 85, he turned around and completed an Arts degree majoring in history.

Choosing for his topic the history of the Picton railway, Mr Pike recalled the days when Picton was an important and flourishing railway town. A large workforce was employed in Picton's extensive shunting yards and its workshops, which provided repair and maintenance services to the busy mainline rail traffic around the turn of the century. A turntable, needed then for turning steam engines, can still be seen partly submerged in today's greatly reduced Picton yards.

Second speaker for the evening was Sam Storey, from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Trust, who gave details of a joint exercise, "Healing the Stonequarry Creek" planned by the Trust and the Wollondilly Shire Council.

With the aid of the "Operation Healing" grants program, the aim of the exercise is to refocus community attention on "our creek". Community groups are asked to commit themselves, within their own capabilities, to accept responsibility for the care and rehabilitation of even a small area of the creek and its surroundings. Expert help and guidance will be given.

The Trust and the Council are anxious to receive indications of support for this important project from interested groups as soon as possible, preferably before the end of November 1994, in order to secure the necessary grants. The project itself, of course will not get underway until early in 1995. Interested groups should contact John Sproule at Wollondilly Council on (046)771326.

From the Librarian
Journal Jottings

R.A.H.S. Computerising the convicts - data base containing over 11,000 N.S.W. convicts has been installed at Hyde Park Barracks Museum and available to the public.

Gail Hanger

(continued from page 4)



Minnie Watson (Edwards).
Vera Watson.

Elsie Lockwood (Watson).

References;

- 1; The Picton Post and Advocate. Advertisements 1895 onwards.*
 - 2; The Picton Post and Advocate, Wednesday 12 April 1899.*
 - 3; Pictons Past, Peeps At. by F.B.Knox. September 5. No.96,68 (8)
Picton Historical Society File.*
 - 4; Sydney Morning Herald. 24 February 1883, page 12.
12 March 1883, page 6.
30 March 1883, Customs Notes.
 - 5; The Australian Department of Overseas Trade. 1969 and 1974
Awards to Lockwood, Magrath Pty.Ltd.
- * With appreciation of Society members archival help.



13 February 1995

Speaker

Judith Dunne

Cemeteries

"Short Poppies"

Local History in Primary Schools

When Local History was introduced as an extra curricular activity into primary schools in this area, several members of the society assisted Mrs Joan Brown of the Picton Public School with the program. The following story was written by a participating student and each segment was illustrated by a photograph. Due to editorial constraints and the poor reproductive quality of the photocopying, the photographs have been omitted and the article has therefore been amended accordingly. (Ed)

B E N N Y

**by:- Phillip Syphers
(Picton Public School - Grade 6-1994)**

This is a true story. It is about my Great Uncle Ben. I dedicate this story to his memory. He was born on 10th of December 1923 and died on 12th of May 1992. He was a 3rd generation farmer on Razorback, his wife was born and bred in the Burragorang Valley from a long line of farmers (the O'Brien family).

I was born at Razorback on the farm in the slab hut which is still standing behind the new house. When I was a boy, I lived on Razorback. We did not have much money. I had 4 sisters and I was the eldest so I had to help Dad with a lot of the work.

We had to get the cows in for milking each day before we set off in the horse and cart for school. Often we didn't make it to school, and Mum and Dad didn't mind as long as we came home with a feed of rabbits.

At school the old teacher used to let us out early if he saw the Gypsies coming along the road in their horse drawn vans. They often camped on the Cawdor Flats. We also passed the old swaggy often; with his long beard and bag rolled up to sleep on.

Eddy Dengate, the ice man was a favourite as he often chipped us kids off a bit of ice as we struggled up old Razorback Road on a hot day.

Other visitors to the farm (which was quite an event) was the old bagman Mr Clarke, who collected all the old corn plus bags. He had an old truck similar to the one Dad has load up with hay.

We didn't have much money, but Mum and Dad always had a good vege garden, chooks, a goat, sheep, pigs as well as the dairy. We also caught rabbits for her ferrets (which she sold for extra money) railing them all over the state.

A photograph was taken of me with my three oldest sisters on the verandah of the new house (which my son now lives in) which the youngest sister was born in.

Dad was proud of his hard working stallion which ploughed many fields. Lots of peas were planted once the war broke out, with the old pea pickers to help at harvest time.

We always knew about the harsh Australian climate, and everybody wore hats. Water was always a bit scarce too. Bathtime was once a week, in a round tub in front of the fire in winter. (In the Summer time we spent a lot of time swimming in the creeks.)

Dad was in one of the old movies about the bushranger Captain Starlight who often took refuge down Burragorang Valley, where Mum (O'Brien) was born.

We were married at St Mark's Church; my sister Rita was the bridesmaid and Jenise Wanson (Kitchen) the Flower Girl.

**N.S.W. Family History State Conference
Report prepared by:- Gail Hanger**

The Conference started on Friday night with a social get together. Upon arrival we received our registration packs, which contained name tags and a programme for the weekend. A light supper was provided with good country cooking. As Picton is on the State committee, Friday was also a meeting in order to prepare for the annual meeting on the Sunday morning.

To the tune of rain, the Conference started bright and early Saturday morning following the official welcome by the Mayor of Casino, Senthil Vasan, President Joan Newman (Casino) and Cynthia Foley (State Association).

The John Crowe Memorial Address was given by Robyn Howell who spoke on the problems of Early Settlement. The convicts went from being sentenced to death to being pardoned on condition of transportation to Australia, where they faced the unknown. She spoke on the hardships faced by both men and women, who made this country what it is today.

Following morning tea, Colin Sheehan spoke on using the Australian Joint Copying Project. Except for the basic use of convict records and related papers, this project has been under utilised by family historians in their research. Colin spoke on the wealth of information available to the researcher, such as letters back to the English government and in some case details of letters between the colony and the home country.

Shauna Hicks spoke on Missing Ancestors. Shauna presented a lively talk on looking for the missing behind bars. The information could give a detailed description of your ancestor and lead to other avenues of research. As this had been the case in my own research, I found this talk most interesting and informative.

After a most enjoyable lunch, John Ferry enlightened us on Wills and the trouble they can cause in families. But together with the death certificate and the deceased estate files, a wealth of information can be found on the lifestyle and circumstances of the family.

Maurice Ryan talked on Newspaper Research in Genealogy. Newspapers allow us to find out what was happening at any given time. They also are of use in disproving family tales, e.g., 'he was born on a dark and stormy night'. When the paper was looked at, the weather was listed as fine and clear.

The final speaker for the day was Jennifer Harrison who spoke on Female Convicts - Enterprising Criminals. Jennifer enlightened us on the female convicts and whether they were really convicts. Females had a hard life in the colony. One was arrested for walking arm in arm down the street on a Sunday instead of attending church.

Saturday night was the Conference dinner with over 120 people in attendance. It was an enjoyable evening talking family history to our hearts' content with our dinner companions.

Early Sunday morning, on the daylight saving weekend, the annual meeting of the Association was held. The 1995 Conference will be at Hastings Valley and the Conference in 1996 will be hosted by the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Society. In 1997 the Conference will be held in Newcastle to coincide with the official celebrations. While I attended the annual meeting, Helen attended a seminar given by the State Archives, which she found very informative.

Alison Morgan from B.D.M. spoke on the changes in the transcription service and the establishment of a family history reading room. In the long term, the registry is looking at releasing all records until 1952. This will involve approximately 9 million records.

The morning was rounded off with short talks by Heather Garnsey on ABCI and Jamie Arnfield on Family Research on CD Rom.

On the whole the weekend was most enjoyable, meeting old and making new friends. I should mention a fortune could have been spent at all the books stalls. I had a lovely time at the Victorian stall. I would recommend the Conference to anyone and it is hoped that next years will go just as well. The Committee of Casino is to be commended for their well run weekend.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Published by the Society

PEEPS AT PICTON'S PAST by F.B. Knox	7.50
MEMBERS INTEREST DIRECTORY	2.00
BARGO GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT	10.50
UPPER PICTON GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT	20.50
REDBANK UNITING (Formerly Wesleyan) GRAVEYARD TRANSCRIPT	10.50
ST MARK'S ANGLICAN (Picton) GRAVEYARD TRANSCRIPT	15.50
THIRLMERE GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT	20.00

Coach House Chronicles

No. 1. RAILWAY PRECINCT RAMBLE (Picton) by Jan Ross	5.00
No. 2. WILTON-EAST BARGO. A Brief History by Pat Shephard	3.00
No. 3. LIEUT. GENERAL SIR THOMAS PICTON, K.G.C.B. by Cynthia Collison	2.00
No. 4. VAULT HILL (Picton) by Jan Ross	2.00
No. 5. HARMONY HOME (Picton-Thirlmere) by Jan Ross	4.00
No. 6. IT HAS NO DEFINITE NAME - A POSTAL HISTORY OF TAHMOOR 1892-1916 by Marlane Fairfax	2.00
No. 7. ANTONIO MANOLIS, THE FIRST GREEK & ATHENIAN BORN SETTLER IN N.S.W. by Jan Ross	2.00
No. 8. PICTON COURT HOUSE & LOCK-UP by Jan Ross	2.00
No. 9. ST MARY'S TOWERS - DOUGLAS PARK (Nepean Towers - Wilton, East Bargo) (Park Hall - East Bargo) by Pat Shephard	5.00

Other Publications for Sale

THIRLMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL 1888-1988	5.00
HISTORY OF THE FORBIDDEN LAND - Wollondilly Shire	5.00
THE TRAIL BOSS. THE FAIRLEY FAMILY and PICTON HISTORY by Joan Brown	12.00
HISTORY OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL by Jan Ross	10.00

