



**THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED**

MUSEUM NEWS



Photo: Bill Anderson

PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM – 1994

**SOCIETY MEMBERS ENTERTAIN
NBN CHANNEL 3**

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Back Row: Andrew Burg – Bill Keppie – Val Anderson – Esme Meehan – Mac Mayne – June Mayne

Front Row: David Threlfo (NBN) - Shirley Threlfo – Mabs Keppie – Chris Bath (NBN) – Mary & Maurice Dunlop.

THE AIM OF THE PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM
IS TO HOLD ITEMS IN TRUST
FOR THE PATERSON COMMUNITY
THE HUNTER VALLEY AND AUSTRALIA

VOLUME 11 # 3

ISSN 1321 4438

AUGUST, 2004

Royal Australian Historical Society

Affiliated with:

Museums Australia – Hunter Chapter

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2004

AFFILIATED with Royal Australian Historical Society Inc. and Museums Australia Inc.

PRESIDENT: Cameron Archer

SECRETARY: Pauline Clements

ASS. SECRETARY: Pam Sivyer

TREASURER: Shirley Threlfo

VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Lyall

JOURNAL: Pauline Clements, Val Anderson & Shirley Threlfo

MUSEUM CURATORS: Val Anderson & Bill Keppie

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Bill Anderson

RECORDER: Mabs Keppie:

PUBLIC OFFICER: Cameron Archer

RESEARCH COMMITTEE: P Clements, S Threlfo, M & B Keppie, B Brown, H Boyle OAM, J Sullivan, C Archer, V Anderson.

PATRONS

Mr. M Morris OA

Mr. R Baldwin MP

Mr. J Price MP

Mr. S Lowe AM

Mr. G Semken

Mr. A Fairhall

MEETINGS PHSI meets the first Thursday of each month – 7.30 pm. – at the Paterson Court House Museum (Recess December/January)

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Annual subscriptions due February each year. \$5. single \$10. family.



**LIFE MEMBERS - BILL AND MABS KEPPIE
PLANTING A YOUNG ROSEWOOD TREE IN MUSEUM GROUNDS**

(Grown from seed taken from the Rosewood tree growing on Paterson Road at Hallinan's property entrance)

- 1993 -

Background – Maurice Dunlop, Val Anderson, and June Mayne



BORIS SOKOLOFF and **PETER GIBBS** have presented excellent talks on their pet subjects — Boris, **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE PATERSON** (Annual Heritage Address) and Peter, (described by Cameron as one of Australia's experts) on **RED CEDAR**.

RESEARCH

SHIRLEY THRELFO has completed an extensive survey of **KEPPIE LAND** holdings in the Paterson and surrounding areas.

JACK SULLIVAN has been featured in two excellent full page accounts of his local historical research for the society in the *Newcastle Herald*.

PAULINE CLEMENTS has commenced a book on the **HISTORY OF PATERSON** (similar to her successful Vacy Book) to be published in late 2005.

CAMERON ARCHER is to commence research on the Paterson and district involvement in **WWI** and **WWII**.

CONVICT RELICS RETURNED TO PATERSON - Val Anderson

Paterson Court House museum recently received two portions of building material said to have been used in the building of the Bush Inn, one of Paterson's first hotels.

Four slate roofing tiles from Manning River Historical Society together with one house brick and two nails (labelled convict made) from Dubbo Museum and Historical Society Inc have been accepted and are now on display in the museum.

The Bush Inn was built by Captain David Brown in 1834 on property he had purchased from Susannah Matilda Ward. It was from Mrs Ward's estate that the government resumed 100 acres of land in 1833 to establish the township of Paterson.

Set on the left hand side of the road to Gresford, about one kilometre from the present day Paterson railway crossing, the Bush Inn had a commanding view of the river and surrounding farmlands.

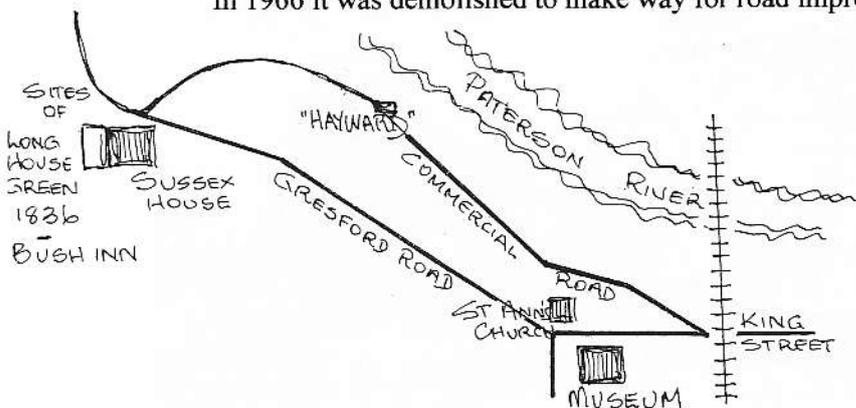
Originally built as a residence by Brown, it was named "Long House Green – 1836", this inscription set in stone above the front door. The house was unusual, of two storeys, one room thick and stone walls 23 inches thick. It is thought a verandah extended from three sides. All joinery was of cedar the wood for rafters etc was pitsawn and the nails used throughout were hand forged. Later registered as a hotel and called the Bush Inn, Brown held the licence from 1838 to 1841. It was then taken over by James Keppie from 1841 to 1844. It was a first-rate establishment and ran by Brown's wife while he operated his small sailing vessel between Paterson and Sydney. At some time later a wine shop was also conducted in the building. The appearance and use of the Bush Inn was to change considerably when William Corner purchased the building.

Corner arrived in the colony in 1839 from Sussex, England. He found employment with a merchant in Sydney for some time before arriving in Paterson and becoming a storeman in the employ of George Wilkinson, a prominent businessman and landholder. Following Wilkinson's death in 1848, Corner purchased his grain selling business and soon became the largest buyer of grain in the district. He went on to own two flour mills, a large Paterson grazing property as well as land at Hinton and on the Manning River. In 1854 Corner was elected a member of the District Council of Paterson and was active in local affairs. Corner died in 1894 at the age of 79. He was widowed three times and is buried in St Paul's graveyard, Paterson alongside his first wife Christina and their infant children.

When Corner purchased the Bush Inn he completely changed the building by adding a new front which joined the back of the old inn and fronted the newly realigned road to Gresford. He named his new residence Sussex House, nostalgically after his birthplace. For many years Sussex house was one of the most attractive houses in the district.

After Corner sold the house it was leased for some time as a private hospital. A *Maitland Mercury* article dated 1924 records the name of the hospital as being Kallala Private Hospital, the doctor, Dr Kemyee and matron, Kate Lock. Sadly the building became unoccupied and its condition deteriorated. In 1966 it was demolished to make way for road improvements.

(As printed in *Maitland Mercury* 30 April 1999)

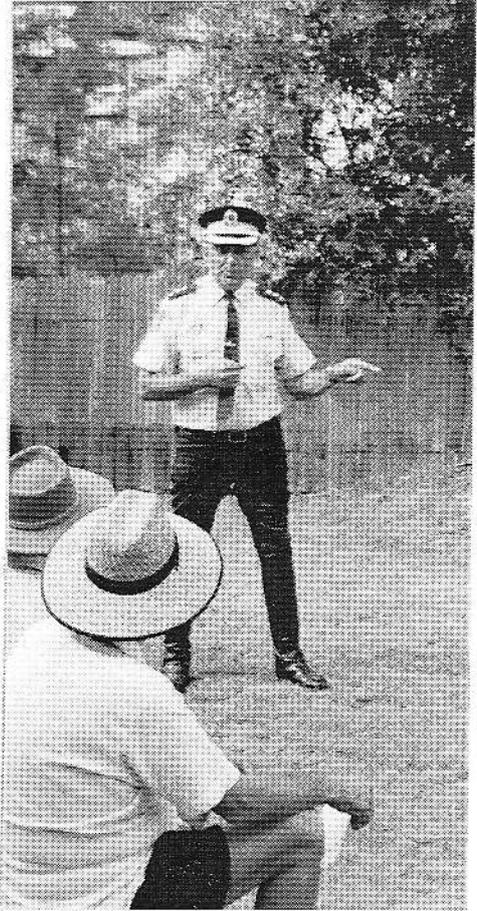


"SUSSEX HOUSE"

Photo: Jack Sullivan Collection

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

- 1969 Aerial Photo of Shirley & Don Threlfo's farm at Martins Creek – Don Threlfo.
- History & Photos of Styman Family – Judy Styman
- Book – Complete set of Shakespeare's work 1863.
- Artifacts from the Stan Lewis Estate of Martins Creek – Margaret & Brian Lewis
- Minute Books relating to formation of Paterson School of arts – Judy Styman
- Large framed print of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo – Val Rudkin (imported from England c1910 by Val's father a Maitland businessman)



Top Left — Cameron Archer, Visitor Thelma McGuinness, Insp. Don Eyb, John Priestley of Tillimby Paterson.

(The 82 years old visitor had travelled some distance to see and re-enter the Bunker she had used in air raid training whilst attending the former Paterson School opposite.)

Top Right — Inspector Don Eyb – APM Commander of the NSW Mounted Police .



Small portion of visitors in the Court House Museum Grounds.

Photos: Bill Anderson

ANNUAL HERITAGE WALK 2004 – A PHS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

Each year prior to the society's Annual Heritage Walk we ask — will they come? and, lets hope the weather is fine — well they did come and the weather was perfect. Our special guest was Inspector Don Eyb, Commander of the NSW Mounted Police (and a local lad from Hilldale!) whose address was on the exciting history of the Mounted Police in Australia formed in 1825 and the oldest in the world. Question time was overwhelming after Don's description of his orchestrating the outstanding segment opening the Sydney Olympic Games. 120 stock horses and riders came from across Australia making an unforgettable entrance into the Olympic Stadium. Don also supplied photos and memorabilia of his career and the games for a display in the museum court room. Don, dressed in his police regalia, joined President Cameron for the town walk. Cameron with his historic expertise and Don with childhood memories made it a very memorable day for the large crowd who came along. Following afternoon tea, Judy and Doug Styman opened their garden and allowed the visitors access to a WWII Bunker set into the side of their property to be used by school children from the Paterson School opposite should foreign invasion occur.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR —

I found DR BARRY CHAPMAN'S "NAPOLEON – PATERSON RIVER CONNECTION" in your current Museum News extremely interesting. During some "catch-up" reading (SMH Weekend edition – March 6-7 2004) I read an excellent article on St Helena and have extracted some points of interest relative to Napoleon's association with the island. The only way to reach St Helena is by way of the Royal Mail Ship (RMS) St Helena. It does several round trips Britain – Cape Town voyages a year, with sailing time

about 14 days from Britain. The island is a black lump of craggy rock plunging vertically into green water and is surrounded by 142 million square kilometres of empty ocean.

Over the last five centuries, a long line of exiles and those unwilling have been ferried to the wharf below the volcano rock-face of the island's capital, Jamestown: slaves from Africa, Zulu chief Denizulu, Boer prisoners of war, Bahraini dissidents and in 1815, the most famous of all, Napoleon, who was held in detention at Longwood House. (Longwood House is open to the public). Following his death in 1821, having succumbed at last to stomach cancer, and having lived at Longwood House for six years behind shuttered windows, his funeral procession to the tomb in Geranium Valley was led by his grey horse. "I feel the infinite in myself" were the last words of Napoleon, one of history's most powerful men. Only a brass plate remains at the site.

"L'EMPEREUR NAPOLEON 1. Est morticle 5 Mai 1821"

POST SCRIPT — St Helena's days may be numbered — the islanders have voted in favour of a \$200 million, 10 year development project that will include an airport, a five-star hotel, golf course and luxury villas.

Alex Anderson – Glebe Point NSW.



A Society member/farmer is desperate for advice as the drought worsens —
We eat the Kangaroos (well they eat the Roses!)
We pickle the Rabbits (well they dig under everything!)
But we are past reasoning with the Chuffs (who are continually ruining our mulching!)

HELP!



A Tocal/Paterson/Family History request information sheet has been co-ordinated to be used at Tocal Visitors Centre and the Museum.

The HALLINAN family have refurbished and returned to the museum the HALLINAN FAMILY BASINETTE. It has been used by each generation of the family since arriving in Australia in December 1863.

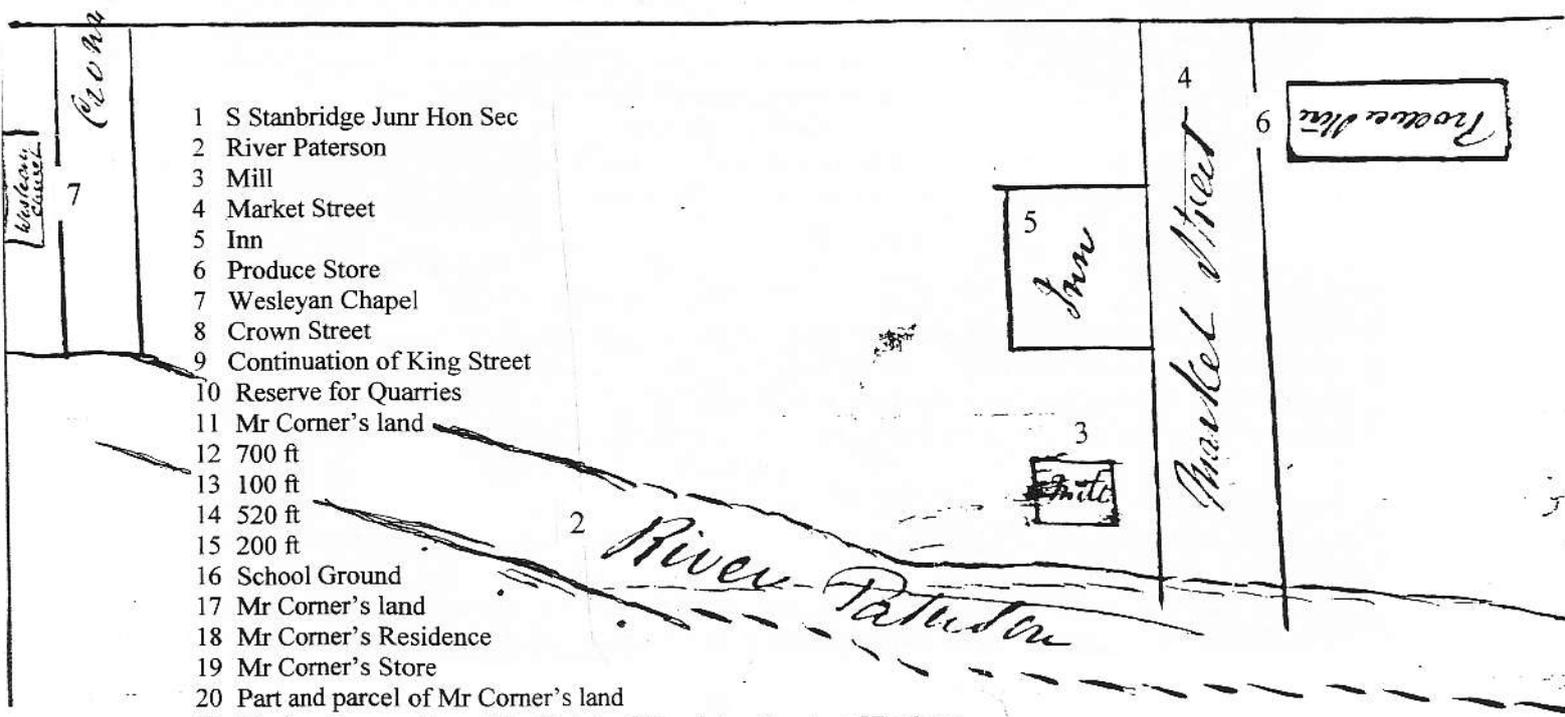
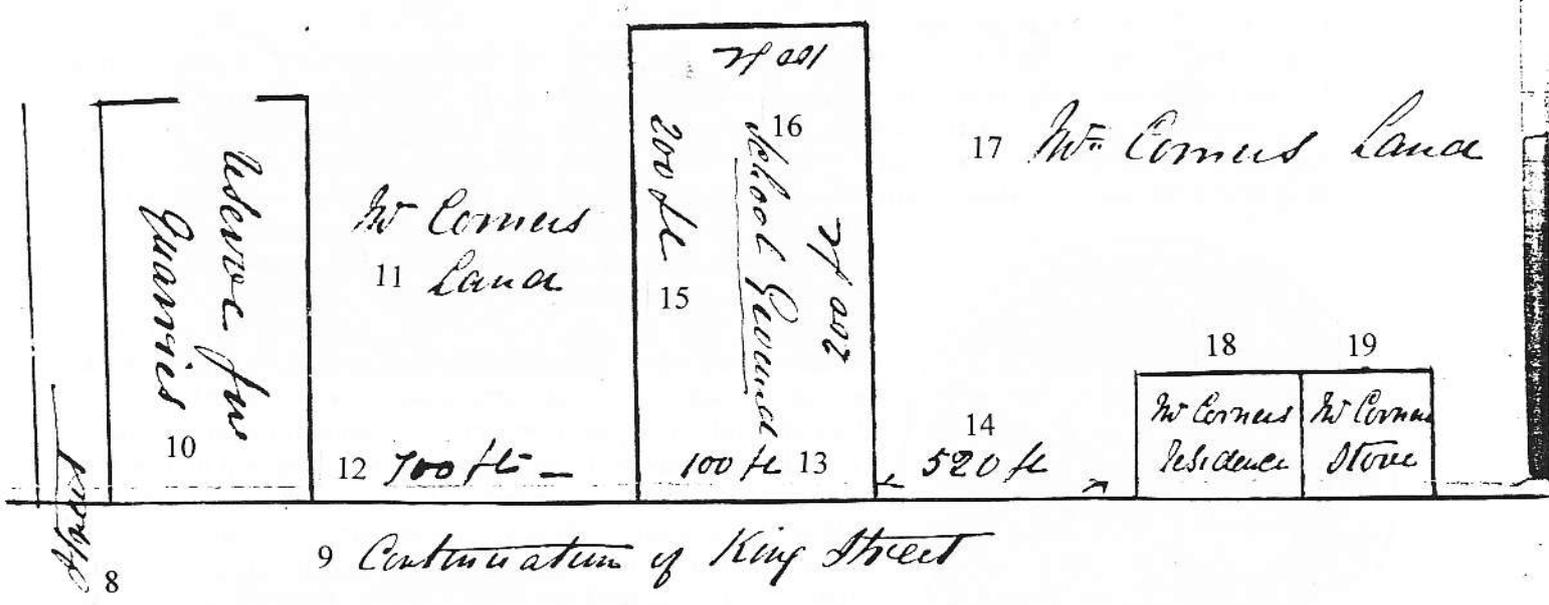


FROM SOCIETY'S FILES

An area map drawn by S Stanbridge Junr of present day Keith Jordan's estate. Unsuccessful efforts have been made to obtain adjacent portions of this document.

18-8-65 22 10-8-65

The land is a portion of the Parish of Houghton
 County of Durham
 Part and parcel of Mr Corner's Land



- 1 S Stanbridge Junr Hon Sec
- 2 River Paterson
- 3 Mill
- 4 Market Street
- 5 Inn
- 6 Produce Store
- 7 Wesleyan Chapel
- 8 Crown Street
- 9 Continuation of King Street
- 10 Reserve for Quarries
- 11 Mr Corner's land
- 12 700 ft
- 13 100 ft
- 14 520 ft
- 15 200 ft
- 16 School Ground
- 17 Mr Corner's land
- 18 Mr Corner's Residence
- 19 Mr Corner's Store
- 20 Part and parcel of Mr Corner's land
- 21 The land is a portion of the Parish of Houghton County of Durham
- 22 18.8.65

S Stanbridge Junr
 Hon. Sec.

PAINTED OIL CLOTHS

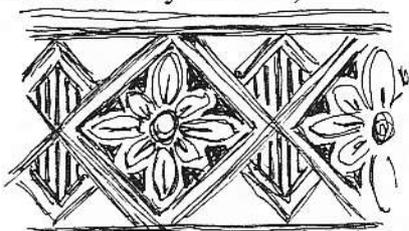
Painted oil cloths were common floor coverings in the 19th century and were used in many different situations from the most elegant homestead to the simple cottage. Oil cloths were originally used in 14th century France as painted hangings and table covers, and were not used for floor coverings in England until the 18th century. They were found in entrance halls, bedrooms and living rooms on bare floorboards or placed under rugs in winter for extra warmth. Although easily cleaned with a damp cloth and repainted when the pattern was worn they were not economical and wore out quickly in high traffic areas.

When, at one stage in the museum restoration program our curator unsuccessfully searched various outlets for a bordered linoleum runner for the downstairs hallway, the possibility of a member-activity oil cloth project was considered until..... the process was found of how authentic oil cloths were made in *THOMAS WEBSTER'S "ENCYCLOPAEDIA of Domestic Economy's 1847."*

"A stout canvass is chosen in the first instance for floor cloth, and this is sometimes of very large size ... The canvass is stretched on a strong wooden frame, and, after being well sized is rubbed and smoothed down with pumice stone. Four coats of stiff oil paint are then laid on successively, on one side of the canvass, suffering each first to dry, and then three coats on the other side. After this paint is quite dry, the cloth is detached from the frame in order to be printed in the manner of calico printing: for this purpose it is rolled up on a roller, and unrolled as required for the process. In giving the surface pattern, stencilling was formerly employed: but printing with blocks is now generally practised. The colours employed in good floor cloth are always white lead mixed with ochre, umbers, and the usual earthy pigments ground in linseed oil, and mixed with a little turpentine. In spurious oil cloth whitening is sometimes mixed with the white lead, but such cloth cracks and does not wear well ... Good cloth, when used for covering verandahs, or other places exposed to the weather, ought to last nine or ten years."

It was very obvious that making oil cloths was a time consuming and laborious process — and then fate intervened!

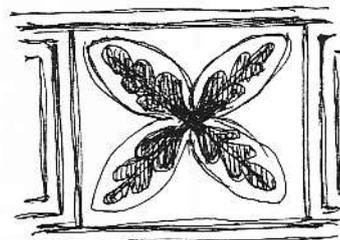
The next door police residence was re-carpeted and the society given a resource opportunity prior to the old carpet removal — Bill Anderson quickly seized the opportunity and in no time the hallway and two adjoining rooms were covered — it looks wonderful and "the girls" are happy (in particular our curator is very relieved!)



Rough sketches of oil cloth motifs — VAUCLUSE HOUSE



ELIZABETH FARM



ELIZABETH FARM

The Society have, and will continue to support the new PATERSON MONTHLY Newsletter — "PSST" — Society member, KEVIN HAWTIN heads this new group of locals and we wish them well.

DURING the recent visit to the museum by 29 Cubs (plus parents) it was interesting to note how many of the youngsters had not seen a typewriter before. A long queue soon formed to try the machine after a quick repair to the tape had been made.

THE last two visiting guest speakers have been taped and tapes will be held in society's archives.

PLANS are well in hand for the Society's 30th Anniversary celebrations to be held during a MUSEUM OPEN WEEKEND September 18 – 19.



HEARSE SHED RESTORATION—President Cameron is continuing his crusade for financial support towards this worthy project.

MUSEUM/RAILWAY boundary fence — Bill (Anderson) is negotiating with Dungog Shire Council towards a replacement solution.

HISTORIC "BRISBANE GROVE" is on the real estate market for \$1.7 million.

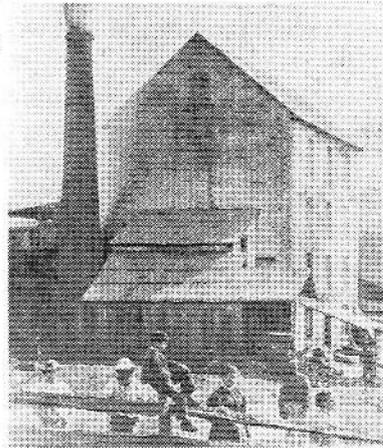
VAL AND BILL ANDERSON attended the Powerhouse museum workshop in care and display of rural machinery. (Bill also represented Paterson at the Dungog Council Cultural Heritage Planning workshop)

PATERSON STEAM FLOUR MILLS — Barb Brown.

Maitland Mercury December 31, 1852

WANTED, at the Paterson Steam Flour Mill, a FIREMAN; one who thoroughly understands Working an Engine preferred. Liberal wages will be given. Apply to Mr. A. Mather, at the Mill.

December 31, 1852



Maitland Mercury February 26, 1853

PATERSON STEAM FLOUR MILLS

Important to Farmers and others

THE undersigned wishes to inform the inhabitants on the Paterson and district, that he has REDUCED the Price of Grinding Wheat to 9d. per bushel—10d. if smutted.

A boat will always be on the river to receive and deliver Grist, for which 1s. per bushel will be charged

Also begs to inform that he has admitted Mr. Peter Keppie, of the Paterson, as Partner; and the business of the above mill will be carried on under the firm of Mather and Keppie.

ADAM MATHER

Superior fine and Second flour for Sale, always on hand, at Maitland Prices. Cash given for fine samples of Wheat at the Mill.

Feb 26, 1853.

Photo: Jack Sullivan collection

FLOUR MILL references taken from two *Maitland Mercury* newspaper reports on the 1875 flood damage done to the Commercial Road area – Pam Sivyer .

Maitland Mercury, Saturday, March 6, 1875

(Flood waters peaked Tuesday March 2nd)

But so rapid was the rise of the river that all the people who reside between the Scotch Church and Mr. Corner's residence had to remove without being able to take away with them anything beyond the clothes they stood upright in, leaving their dwellings, with all their contents, to the mercy of the water. The river, by noon on Monday, had reached the eaves of the dwellings of Messrs. W. Edwards, C. Oldfield, B. White, and T. Lindsay, and the shop of Mr. George Gardener, in this locality. Mr. F. Wilson, of the Cricketers' Arms Inn, and his brother, Mr. H. Wilson, remained in the upper stories of their dwellings until the afternoon, when the waters began to enter the upper floors, when they also deemed it prudent to remove, and were taken away—with much difficulty—in consequence of the fearful current that was running round the houses. Brown's Creek Bridge was fully ten feet under water. The dwelling-house and butcher's shop of Mr. John White, situated on the upper side of Brown's Creek Bridge, was completely swept away, with all the household furniture and other effects, the inmates having only left the house a few minutes previously. The water was about six feet up the third floor of Mr. Wilson's mill, and many tons of wheat and flour therein were destroyed. It was up to the eaves of the A.S.N. Company's wharf stores; also, up to the eaves of Mr. Hough's mill, and on the roof of the Wesleyan Chapel. There were from six to ten feet of water on the road between Mr. Corner's and the Scotch Church. (Keith Jordan's flat)

Maitland Mercury, Saturday, March 6, 1875

(Flood waters begin to Subside Wednesday March 3)

In addition to the house of Mr. white, reported in yesterday's communication to be washed away, we have since ascertained that the Mill House, belonging to Mr. Corner, and situated near his upper flour mill, has been washed away. Mr. H. Wilson's large blacksmith's shop has been washed down, and his dwelling house greatly injured. The Cricketer's Arms Inn has also been much damaged, a house situated in Mr. Tucker's orchard has also been washed down, and the trees in the orchard have nearly all been torn up by the roots, and are now lying flat on the ground. Mr. Corner has upwards of twenty very fine orange trees in his orchard torn up by the roots. Mr. Corner's lower mill, in the occupation of Mr. Hough, is much damaged; one of the corners of the building being washed away. Mr. Corner's upper mill is considered so much damaged that on the going down of the water it is anticipated it will fall. The A.S.N. Company's store is also damaged. In fact there is not a house or building situate between the Scotch Church and Brown's Creek but what is very seriously damaged, and all the beautiful gardens in that locality are totally destroyed.

References by courtesy: Harry Boyle OAM

It is hoped, that in some future Museum News the full report from the *Maitland Mercury* of this disastrous flood and recovery in Paterson's past will be printed. ED.