



**THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED**

MUSEUM NEWS



**PROJECT OF ROTARY CLUB OF PATERSON
OPENING AND UNVEILING OF THE REFURBISHED
PATERSON WAR MEMORIAL**

9 May 2006

**Bill Keppie and daughter Kathy Lyall
Planting a Lone Pine at the ceremony**

Photo: Geoff Keppie

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

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Affiliated with:

Royal Australian Historical Society

Museums Australia – Hunter Chapter

RURAL MUSEUMS

are a reflection of their community's identity

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2006

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

PRESIDENT: Cameron Archer

SECRETARY: Pauline Clements

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 and Shirley Threlfo

PUBLIC OFFICER: Cameron Archer

RESEARCH COMMITTEE: P Clements, S Threlfo, M & B Keppie, J Sullivan, C Archer, V Anderson, R Stevenson.

PATRONS

Mr M Morris OA

Mr R Baldwin MP

Mr J Price MP

Mr G Wall

Mr G Semken

Mr A Fairhall

MEETINGS: 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.



- **A warm** Paterson welcome to Andrea and Lawrence Nield, the new owners of “Annandale” in King Street. Both heritage architects, they ‘fell in love’ with Paterson and have immediately become society members.
- **The society** has accepted an orange grading machine used in the town to process oranges grown on Corner’s farm. Our thanks to Pam and Peter Sivyer for this valuable donation and to Richard Lindsay, Lindsay Kidd, Const. Brian Smith and Bill Anderson who coped with the difficult delivery to the museum side verandah.
- **Yes - - - we** enjoy the relaxing Court Room music as well—it is titled “Mozart for mothers-to-be”!
- **Bill Keppie** and Virginia Daniels have named and listed the rural artefacts in the museum. Virginia has also introduced and supplied regional and shire maps to assist museum visitors know our area.
- **Beverly Bignall** of Beaumont Antique Furniture has re-caned two of the original 1880s cedar court room chairs, one gratis and the other very generously. (Arthur Bignall, Beverly’s husband is a descendant of Samuel Kingston who was at one time assigned to the “Tillimby” estate.)
- **Robin Stevenson** and Virginia Daniels will attend the State Library of NSW oral history seminar in November. Jack Sullivan, Bill and Val Anderson represented the society when the Hunter Chapter of Museums Australia visited the Powerhouse repository at Castle Hill in September.
- **Harold Green** of Kotara has donated copies of the 1909/10 engineer’s works diary relative to the building of the Paterson Rail Bridge which was opened in 1911.
- **Two original** doors from Trevallyn Homestead c1836 have been procured for the museum by Cameron Archer. (See associated article and photo).
- **Mabs Keppie** has given a wonderfully preserved carcass of a native quoll for museum display.
- **Genevieve** Harvey and Val Patfield have combined their computer skills to complete the first in a series of Paterson Historic Photos. Once again the RAHS has given wonderful support with a \$300 grant towards this series. The cheque was collected by Ruth Trappel at the Annual RAHS Conference in October.
- **Invitations** have been sent out relevant to our society holding the combined RAHS Museums and Galleries Conference in Paterson—3 March 2007.
- **Jack Sullivan** has completed the first in a series of books recording the history of wine in this region—an outstanding chronicle of research. (Available early in 2007)
- **Members** Shirley Threlfo, Cynthia Hunter and Val Anderson have completed a tribute booklet to Harry Boyle OAM—life member of our society, to be launched 25 November (see associated details).
- **St Paul’s** presentation books from the Brooker Estate and Minute Books from Paterson School of Arts 1916-1981 are now on museum display.

EARLY DAYS ON THE PATERSON — Harry Boyle OAM*Maitland Mercury* 9 November, 1886(To the Editor of the *Maitland Mercury*,)

SIR,—Are the people of New South Wales as industrious now as the settlers of my early days, is a question I often ask myself, and I say I think not. I will now proceed to give your readers a slight sketch of the past time. I can remember when I was a very small child in 1838, travelling with my mother to a farm my father was renting on the Upper Paterson. My great astonishment on arriving there was to see the house we were to live in hung with rows of green tobacco from poles placed across the tie beams. When this tobacco was dry and cured, men were engaged to twist it into figs and packed into kegs which were pressed by a lever fixed into a stout tree or stump. When sufficiently pressed, this tobacco sold readily in Sydney, and was a great source of profit to the settler.

As this time there were very few inhabitants in this part of the country, but very soon numbers of new arrivals came and filled the surrounding brushes and flats, and each family grew crops of tobacco which they cured and pressed. At last one old settler bought screws, and bought up all the crops grown by the settlers, and made a flourishing business on the Allyn River where no less than thirty men were employed for years, each man having a family to support. This brought population into this district.

These were the days of energy; men of means felt it a duty to open up industries and employ labour even if it did not pay.

For years it was a delightful sight to see all the little farms along the banks of the Paterson and Allyn Rivers with their beautiful clean fields of tobacco; to see the happy children (learning to be helps to poor father) running to the river for the buckets of water to water the young tobacco at sundown, and covering each plant with a bit of bark before the sun came out in the morning. All this now belongs to the past. This grand source of prosperity and industry is crushed out of existence; the fields are now empty of tobacco, and the weeds are flourishing. The shilling a pound tax on our own home grown tobacco has done this sad deed.

Our farmers now smoke American tobacco. Is this a good result? No wonder there are numbers of men without employment. I remember the time when a friend of mine was glad to sell a ton manufactured at 14d. per lb. And in kegs that cost ten shillings each, and now the tax is one shilling per lb. To the Government for the raw home-grown leaf. Your thinking readers will ask —What are the tobacco growers doing now for a living? They week work on the public roads to buy themselves Adelaide flour, and the wife sells her eggs to buy tea and sugar and clothes for the children. Is this a prosperous state for the bush? Statesmen, think and ponder! Yours, &c.,

JUSTICE.

*Maitland Mercury* 15 December 1863, District News Paterson. From Cynthia Hunter

Gold at the Paterson:- Gold in small quantities has frequently been found in different parts of our district. Last week a little girl, daughter of Mrs Boreham, who resides at Mount Ararat, a range of mountains dividing the waters of the Allyn River from that of the Williams, brought to her father a piece of quartz impregnated with particles of gold, some of which were like large shot. The little girl further informed her father that she had found a larger piece of the previous metal but in endeavouring to extract it from the quartz she lost it. There are a number of quartz reefs in various parts of this mountainous range, and the general appearance of the land appears auriferous. Whether there is gold in paying quantities it is hard to say.



- **The Paterson** origins of the Dorothea Mackellar “My Country” poem have been acknowledged on the new “People and Places” Mitchell Library Website—(this is wonderful!). Jack Sullivan represented the society at the grand opening evening at the Mitchell Library.
- **The museum** has acquired a new display cabinet—empty at the moment but secretary Pauline is to be watched closely!

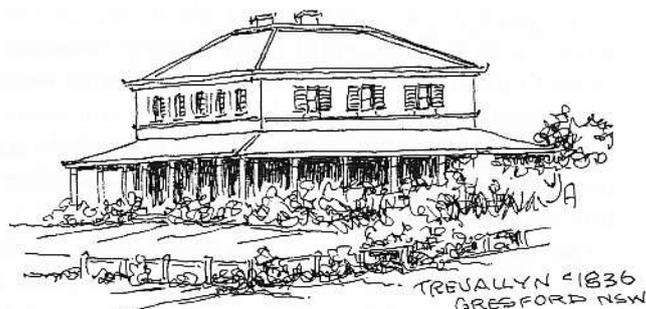
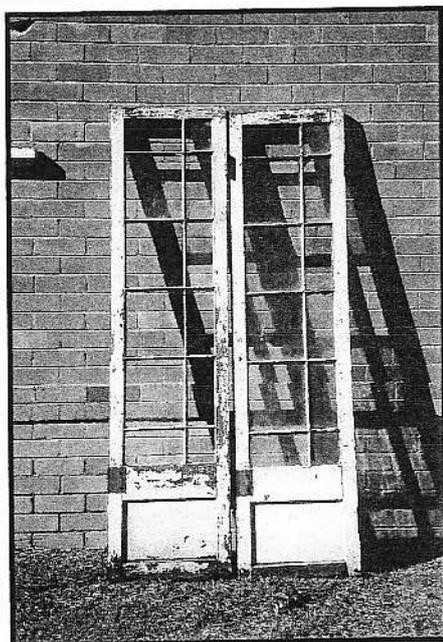
FRENCH DOORS FROM TREVALLYN HOUSE

In June 2006 Paul Taylor, auctioneer advertised French doors from Trevallyn House for auction in Newcastle on Saturday 24 June. Cameron Archer attended the auction and inspected doors and came to the opinion that they were genuinely from that era. In addition Paul Taylor had said that his provenance on them from the vendor was good.

Trevallyn was an important Paterson River house and for a long period was owned by Walter Reynolds from Tocal so there is a direct link with the house and Tocal. Reynolds did not build it but did own it. In addition in terms of the valley's agricultural history, Trevallyn during its ownership by George Townshend was one of the colony's most vibrant and innovative agricultural enterprises.

Cameron has learnt that the vendor was Peter Gibbs of Maitland. He had purchased five sets of these doors from a person in the Gresford area many years ago with the knowledge that they came from Trevallyn House. Subsequently he had the late Sidney M Reynolds of Duninald inspect the doors and confirmed their authenticity through the paint colour on them. It is therefore well established that the doors were from Trevallyn House.

Peter used three sets of the five for renovation of his property, Englefield, 49 Newcastle Road, East Maitland.



French Doors from "Trevallyn House"

Photo: Cameron Archer

From Jack Sullivan's Files

PATERSON ORANGE

Much discussion has been made lately of the famous Paterson orange—the following references are of interest:

Maitland Mercury 1871

ORANGES.—For some weeks past large quantities of oranges have daily been exported from this neighbourhood, principally from the Travallyn, Caerguile, and Lewinsbrook orangeries. Sometimes six and seven dray loads pass downwards in a single day, on their way to Maitland and Newcastle markets. We leaned the other day that a large consignment of this delicious fruit was sent from here to New Zealand. We hope the speculation will be a payable one.

Maitland Mercury 1861

ORANGES FOR SALE

MR. TOWNSHEND, of Trevallyn, Gresford can supply any person with any quantity they may require, up to 20,000 dozen, at Paterson or Morpeth, well sorted, and packed in the regular fruit boxes, if required (at cost price), they holding from 20 to 30 dozen each.

The ORANGES offered are well calculated to bear carriage hundreds of miles up the country, with very little loss.

Maitland Mercury 1861

TREVALLYN PRESERVES also on Sale, at 1s. Per lb. For RASPBERRY, Black Current, Plum, Apple, Peach, Quince, Apricot, Grape, Red Currant, Gooseberry, Nectarine, at 1s. Per lb. Seville and Little Orange MARMA-LADE, at 1s. 3d. Per lb. In cases assorted, from 20 lb. upwards.

Maitland Mercury 1862

TREVALLYN JAM.—A. Coleman has received instructions from G.B. Townshend Esq, to sell by auction at Trevallyn, Gresford, on Monday, 22nd December, 1862, at Ten o'clock a.m.

Two Tons of TREVALLYN JAM, assorted, in lots to suit purchasers. — Terms at sale.

Newcastle Chronicle 1862

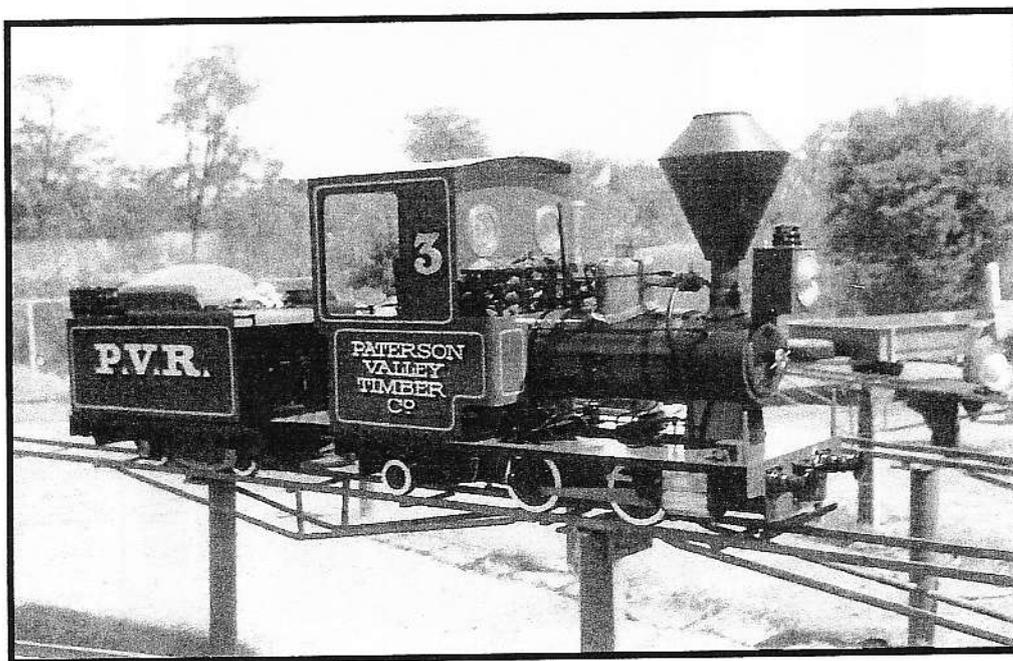
ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER BOLWARRA.—On Tuesday last, the steamer Bolwarra, belonging to the Australasian Steam Navigation Company, arrived at Paterson, and proceeded to the Gostwyck Mills, where she took in a quantity of hay and other produce, and finally completed her loading at Mr. Corner's where she took a quantity of grain. This boat is in every way suitable for the navigation of the river, only drawing two feet six inches of water when fully loaded. Her capacity in carrying hay, grain, and other produce is good. Should she make regular trips, and due notice be given of the time of her arrival and departure, we believe she will meet with ample encouragement, as it will be much to the advantage of our settlers to encourage the opening up of steam communication, as they will then be able to take advantage of any rise in the markets, and always derive the benefit resulting from quick dispatch and quick returns.



WAYNE'S "BACKYARD"

At our October meeting Wayne Patfield presented a wonderfully diverse address. A descendant of the river-boat Patfield family of Paterson, Wayne shared his family research to date (with much support from his wife Val and another Patfield enthusiast, David Smith).

Wayne's other strong (or should it be called dominating!) interest is his model train which runs around the boundary of his 5 acre property containing an olive grove and vineyard. Olives, cheese and a red were a real winner at supper.



Wayne's pride and joy — Built by Wayne

Photo: Wayne Patfield

FAMILY SAMPLER

At a recent meeting, Mary Dunlop tabled a beautiful family sampler dated December 20 1860 and measuring 29 mm x 64 mm. The sampler records in cross stitch and ribbon lace family births and marriages by Mary's great grandmother Mary Jane Watters who was born April 26 1845.

A treasured family "collectable" the sampler will pass on to fifth generation Eliza May born earlier this year.

David Watters and Anne Mould
was married Dec 6 1834

- David Watters aged 31— born Dec 4 — 1802
- Anne Watters aged 26 — born April 29 — 1807
- Anne Mould born August 1 — 1830
- Sarah Mould born July 10 — 1832
- David N Watters born Feb 13 — 1836
- Joseph M Watters born Sept 10 — 1838
- Charles T Watters born April 22 — 1840
- Mary J Watters born April 26 — 1845
- Elizabeth E Watters born May 17 — 1848
- Ellen Watters born May 19 — 1849

Remember me when this you see

OAKVAIL

December 20 1860

(The family settled at Oakvail, near Buchanan on the outskirts of Maitland)

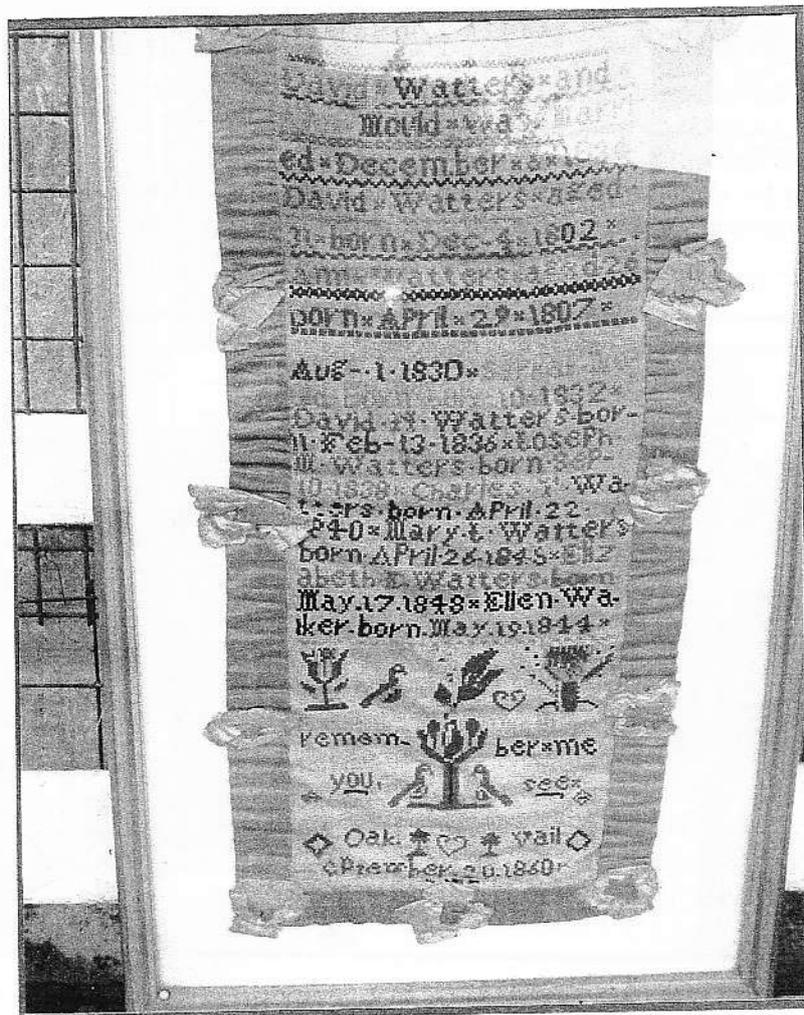


Photo: Maurice Dunlop

MUSEUM ACCESSIONS — 2006

- SVB soil drainage pipe from Ralston Homestead, Mt Kanwary—Geoff Dunlop, East Maitland.
- “General Return of Convicts in NSW—1837—Peter Johnson, Paterson
- “Wesley at Wiseman’s” — Peter Beale, Wiseman’s Ferry
- Large Stock Brands Directory of NSW—(2 copies)— Constable Brian Taylor, Paterson Police Station.
- Manchester Unity Lodge Award—1910 — Crouch family, Paterson
- Family history details—Patfield family—Paterson District — David Smith, East Maitland
- Family history details—Rudkin family — Val Rudkin, Mayfield
- Christening gown and slip —1909 — Brooker Estate, Gresford
- Photo— Paterson Bakery bread tokens — T Odgers, Newcastle West
- Photo— Allyn River Saw Mill — Jack Sullivan, Newcastle
- Photos— Tillimby connection — Jean Hearne, Wyongah
- Maul Head — Basil Lawrence, Paterson
- Baby clothes and toys — Lewis family estate, Martins Creek
- “K” Frog bricks—Kirkton Homestead, Lower Belford
- Journal G.B. White 1831-32 — Les Dalton, North Carlton, Victoria
- Sketch Book— St Johns Church Vacy — Kathy Lyall
- Port Stephens Orchid Poster — Cynthia Hunter, Hinton
- St Columba Church bell 1880s — Joan Clode, Paterson
- Dorothea Mackellar photo— framed — Bob Skelton, Tarro
- Photos of Paterson — J Osborne, Beresfield
- 2 children's tricycles, 1 phonograph — Dodds, Hancock, Tarro



PATERSON SCHOOL OF ARTS 1946 SPRING BALL TICKET

From Joan Priestley, East Maitland.

Paterson School of Arts
Friday, 13th September, 1946
SPRING BALL
 Dancing 8.2 a.m. with Norm. Olsen and his Diggers' Dance Band
 Dainty Home-Made Supper
 — Gentlemen, 4/- —
 Proceeds in Aid of Paterson School of Arts
 J. H. Crockett, President Keith McGill, Secretary
TIPPER, PRINTER, BAL LARG PHS-06.F.931

TOM KELLY
 IS NOW THE PROPRIETOR
 — of the —
COURT HOUSE HOTEL
PATERSON
 ONLY THE BEST IS SOLD AT THE COURT
 HOUSE.

More from Jack Sullivan's files:

Maitland Mercury 1870

HIGH FLOODS.—Several very old hands with whom I have been in communication state that they have seen far higher floods here than even the flood in August, 1857, that being the highest we have experienced within the last thirty years. One old hand informed me he had seen one flood reach to the door-step of the old Bush Inn. Such a flood, to reach that height, must have exceeded in height the great flood of August, 1857, by over twenty perpendicular feet. The same informant describes many places where the flood waters reached on that occasion, and by which it would appear the whole hill on which our town is situated must have been covered at that time. I have no reason to doubt the truth of this information, for its truth has been verified by several other old hands—one of whom fixed the period of this last great flood as in 1829. I also remember an old sawyer pointing out to me on one occasion a high spot, now in King-street, opposite Major Johnstone's old house, from which he said his tent was washed away, and from which he towed a raft of cedar which they had been sawing up. The height of this would bring the water somewhat on the same level as that described by my informant the other day, which he said reached the old Bush Inn.

SIGNIFICANT DEATH NOTICE.

Maitland Mercury, 1860

SURGEON WILLIAM EVANS at "Bellevue", Paterson River on the 30th July 1860. William Evans, Surgeon, in the 82nd year of his age, after a lingering illness, and a resident in the colony of fifty one years—having arrived in the year 1809, surgeon of the "Indispensable" (Convict ship) in which the late Dr. Cowper came out as Minister.
("Bellevue" is situated on the left hand side of the Maitland Road on the Paterson side of Mindaribba)



HARRY'S BOOK LAUNCH

"SOLDIER — FARMER — HISTORIAN"

25 NOVEMBER 2006

PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM

11 am

This will probably be our one-and-only book launch at the museum due to our limited resources (but we will have a lot of fun).

Could you complete the following please?

RSVP — Pauline Clements — 49385183 (acceptance only)

PLATE/SLICE AVAILABLE (for catering—sandwiches supplied)



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL