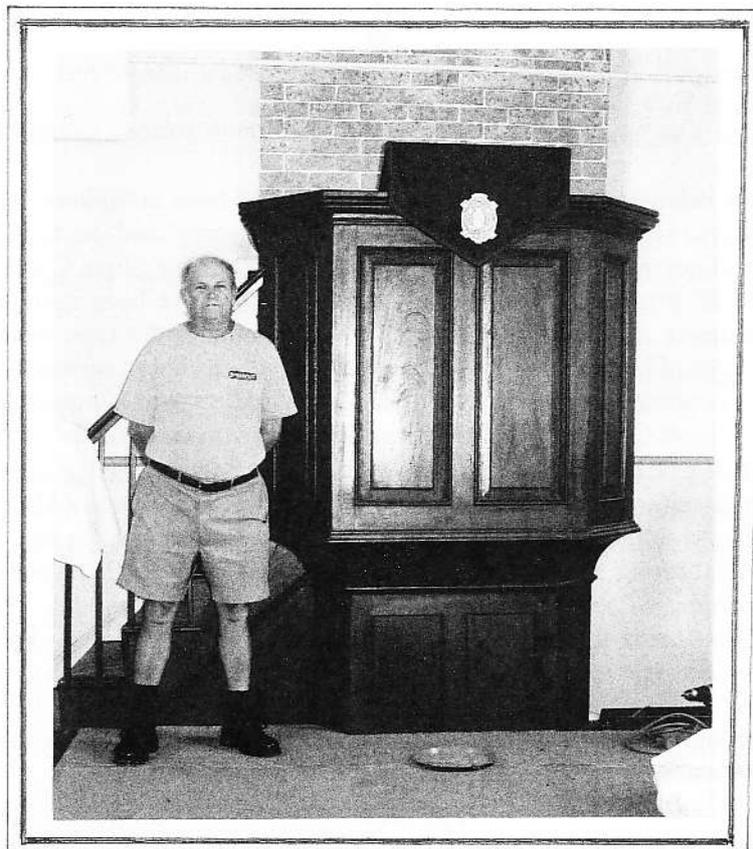




**THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED**

MUSEUM NEWS



P.H.S. VICE PRESIDENT LINDSAY KIDD SUPERVISING THE FINAL CLEARANCE OF
ST ANN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PATERSON NSW.

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

VOLUME 16 #2

ISSN 1321 4438

December, 2009

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 2009

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

PRESIDENT: Dr Cameron Archer

SECRETARY: Virginia Daniels Ph: 49385459

TREASURER: Shirley Threlfo Ph: 49341005

VICE PRESIDENTS: Kathy Lyall, Lindsay Kidd

JOURNAL: Val Anderson, Shirley Threlfo & Dr Robin Tucker

MUSEUM CURATORS: Val Anderson & Bill Keppie

PROJECT COORDINATORS: Kevin Hawtin, Wayne Patfield.

RECORDER: Mabs Keppie, Shirley Threlfo & Mary Dunlop

PUBLIC OFFICER: Dr Cameron Archer

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

FAMILY HISTORY: Pauline Clements, Shirley Threlfo and Olga Marquet.

PATRONS

Mr M Morris AO

Mr R Baldwin MP

Mr G Souris MP

Mr G Wall

Mr J Thompson

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.



- **Hello everyone** —Yes we are back mainly with lots of news relative to the Museum, the society and members.
- **One of the most intensive activities** for many years has been completed at the Museum this year. An external repairs, security and painting program was completed on time and on budget. Grant monies for this major project were made available to Dungog Shire Council through the Federal Government RLCIP program. Former paint combinations have been maintained from the 1991-92 years when last major work was carried out. Paint colours at the time were suggested by heritage Architect, John Carr of Newcastle. The Museum building has been constantly maintained by Dungog Shire Council in conjunction with Paterson Historical Society and is considered a show place of the Hunter Valley. Project Officers were members Kevin Hawtin and Wayne Patfield.
- **Dorothea Mackellar's reading** of her iconic Australian poem, "My Country" has been admitted to the National Archives in Canberra. In 1996, during Heritage Week P.H.S. launched a permanent exhibition at the Museum dedicated to Dorothea Mackellar, her poem "My Country" and the Mackellar family's strong association with the Gresford area at "Torryburn". On the day of the launching a recording of the poet reading "My Country" was played to the large crowd present. Dorothea Mackellar made this recording in 1958 at the age of 72 years. John Clark of ABC Radio Newcastle introduced the recording, the only known recording by the poet, which concluded with another rendition of the poem by pupils of Vacy School, which is very close to Gresford. A more recent recording introduced by ABC Radio presenter, Jennifer Fleming, is played on request to visitors to the Museum. It creates much interest.
- **New Opening Times** — 11 am to 3 pm on Sundays has proved popular with both members and visitors. Kevin Hawtin made an attractive sandwich board with relevant information which he or Wayne Patfield place out each Sunday at the Post Office.
- **Our long-serving secretary Pauline Clements**, and assistant secretary, Virginia Daniels, are changing positions on the executive of the Paterson Historical Society. Pauline's service to the community, in particular the establishment of the Court House Museum in 1974, is legendary. With mounting emphasis on family history enquiries, Pauline's knowledge of Paterson will be invaluable when she heads a new group formed within the society.
- **Virginia Daniels is no stranger** to Paterson having been active on local committees and is currently custodian of the Old Schoolhouse in the town. A former librarian with NZ Insurance, Records Officer for Randwick Council and the University of NSW, Virginia is now Records Co-ordinator at Dungog Shire Council.

ST ANN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PATERSON

Well ... it had to happen!

St Ann's Presbyterian Church at Paterson is about to change direction. Built in the early 1840s St Ann's will be placed on the real estate market after Christmas.

Situated opposite the Court House Museum on the main road through town there has been much speculation about the future of this charming building. Since the Museum's opening in 1974 there has been a strong association with St. Ann's.

An unusual and permanent reminder of the Great War came about at war's end when the bell at St Ann's was rung so vigorously that the bell cracked! The bell was rehoused by Church elder and P.H.S. vice-president Lindsay Kidd in 1997. Lindsay built the bell tower as a tribute to Kenneth Crouch an elder of the church for 23 years.

In what is thought to be the only formal address for the Centenary of Federation by an historical society was given by Jean and Cameron Archer to a packed St Ann's in July 2001.

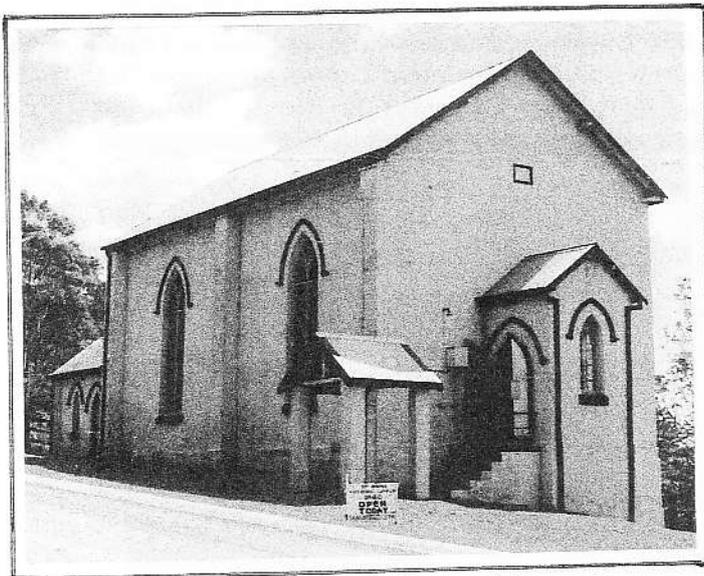
In September 2004 a crowded St Ann's helped celebrate the Museum's 30th Anniversary. Jean Archer spoke on the Rise of Presbyterianism in Australia, Cameron Archer gave a history of St Ann's and an outstanding book on the history of the Church (by AC Archer and J Sullivan) was launched by John Clark, well known ABC radio presenter. *

A Memorial Service to our great friend and mentor, the late Harry Boyle OAM also saw a packed St Ann's in November 2004, while recently two Annual Heritage Walks have included St Ann's on the agenda creating much interest.

Until its closure three years ago St Ann's was one of Australia's oldest practising Presbyterian Churches, a testament to the dedication of Paterson parishioners.

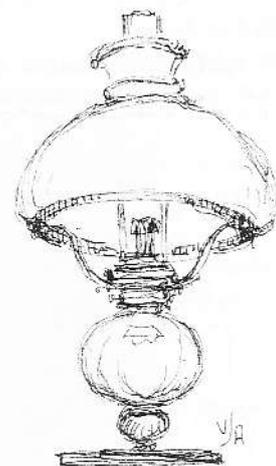
We must realise the sources of our history are not just written material but museums, graveyards, the landscape and buildings which can tell us much that we want to know about the way of life and faith of those who have come before us. We will follow the future of St Ann's with great interest.

Val Anderson – P.H.S.



St Ann's Presbyterian Church

Photo: Val Anderson



Original Pulpit Lamp
St Ann's

* "The History of St Ann's, Paterson" by noted Hunter Valley historians – Authors AC Archer and J Sullivan – Editorial and Layout David Brouwer and Brian Walsh is available from the Museum, Paterson Post Office and McDonalds, Maitland.

MUSEUM NEWS

- **Mary and Maurice Dunlop** introduced their latest great granddaughter (and our newest member!) Maggie Heather to the society at the Christmas gathering. Maggie seems very settled with Paterson's history and was attentive to Boris and Sue Sokoloff's slide program. Maggie's father Jeremy received a vote of thanks from President Cameron for his work on the society's new internet site – www.patersonhistory.org.au
- Valma Patfield, who handles Museum visits, reported that the last three visits have been financially successful bringing just under \$1,000. to funds.
- **Simon Daniels**, son of secretary, Virginia has donated a Power Point unit for use by the society. Maurice Dunlop has very kindly given the society a tape-recorder as an interim fill-in until our present recorder is replaced by a CD player. This will help considerably with the playing of Dorothea Mackellar's "My Country".
- **Kathy Lyall** has photographed King and Duke Streets towards her recording of the town for her "Photographic Record of Paterson – 2009" project.
- **Heritage Walk.** The 2009 Heritage Walk, led by President Dr Cameron Archer was once again very successful (They keep coming year after year!). The new format of seating visitors in the Court Room prior to the walk gave justice to Cameron's fine address on the district's history. Across the road at a rare opening of St Ann's Church, Cameron again excelled.
- **Treasurer, Shirley Threlfo** tallied 45 plus on the walk, Mary and Maurice Dunlop had 19 for the normal Museum open times and Val Anderson had 5 "strays" at St Ann's.
- **Paterson Historical Society members** have been busy away from society activities: **Cynthia Hunter** featured in ABC Radio's "Treasure hunter" and has produced a heritage publication – "Raymond Terrace Riverports."
Jack Sullivan had been consulted for research to be used in the English TV program "Who Do You Think You are".

Cameron Archer has been appointed Chair of the Belgenny Farm Trust. Belgenny Farm was John Macarthur's original farm at Camden Park and consists of an interesting complex of timber buildings dating from 1805. The Trust is responsible for the care and operation of the farm site, open days, school program, weddings in the former granary and the Macarthur Cemetery.

Valma Patfield has published an extensive family history on the Patfield family and associated early pioneers of the district.

Members Pauline Clements, Virginia Daniels, Jack Sullivan and Val Anderson attended this year's R.A.H.S. Conference at Kurri Kurri.

At the March meeting P.H.S. members had the pleasure on an interesting address from Robert Booth, Councillor for C Ward Paterson. P.H.S. welcomed to new members Jeremy Dunlop and Dr Robin Tucker.

- **WWII Petrol Ration Tickets** used in Paterson.



- A new exhibit has been added to the Les Darcy Room. At a recent garage sale (at the local garage!!!) Val and Wayne Patfield negotiated for a glass display cabinet which now houses baby clothes from the Lewis Estate of Martins Creek and Fred Ward's ("Thunderbolt") association with the Paterson District.

- **How fortunate** we are at P.H.S. to have such excellent guest speakers bi-monthly. Over past monthly meetings, Wayne Patfield has presented a most comprehensive coverage of river trade, shipbuilding, anecdotes and personalities associated with the Paterson, Williams and Hunter Rivers. Did you know that it takes the timber from 500 trees to make a 100 ton timber vessel; that the smoke at peak times from c1880 to c1910 seemed to fill the skies above the Paterson River with grey and belching smoke?
Wayne's observations and research have brought to our attention interesting facets of local history not only associated with the river. The ships boiler on the hill above Keith Jordan's, once in use for Long House Green (one of Paterson's first hotels – later to be extended and become Sussex House) was built around 1840-1850. It was also used to power one of the flourmills on Commercial Road and later as water storage for domestic use.
Wayne plans to bring his research together one day in what will be an outstanding, long-awaited chronicle on the rivers.
- **Ed Tonks'** (noted Newcastle historian and researcher) address on Collieries of Wallsend, Lambton and Merewether was as usual outstanding. Much can also be said of new member Dr Robin Tucker's presentation on "Charcoal Powered Vehicles WWII" in particular the previously unshown photos of service vehicles from the State Archives. Although small in numbers P.H.S. is held in high regard for its dedication and consistency.
- **Congratulations** to society member, Brian Walsh on receiving a Doctorate for his historical research. The title of Brian's thesis, "Heartbreak and Hope, Deference and Defiance on the Yimmang – Tocal Convicts 1822 to 1840." Brian is Manager of Continuing Education at Tocal College.
- **Special thanks** to the Paterson Country Café new owners Karen and Jack Pearce for their cooperation in retailing the Society's publications
- **Virginia Daniels and Bill Keppie** recently hosted two unexpected Sydney court reporters to the Museum. The reporters were covering a major court case at East Maitland were greatly impressed with the maintenance and presentation of the building, in particular the Court Room.
- **Antique Book Lovers:** The friends of the University of Newcastle conducted a RARE BOOK AUCTION in the Great Hall on the 8 August 2009. The friends held their first general Book Fair in 1983 with the money raised being used to help with the refurbishment of student residential houses. Since then the biennial Book Fair and Rare Book Auction has used the revenue raised for the benefit of students by providing scholarships, research grants and generally supporting their academic, cultural and sporting activities.
Past projects include the Great Hall Tapestry, Friends Room and Roof Garden on the Auchmuty Library. Funds also assisted in the purchase of the Great Hall Organ.
Paterson Historical Society member Lesley Gent, is a major organiser of this event.
- **History Uncovered:** Tucked away under rampant geraniums at the entrance of St. Paul's Church are the tombs of two of Paterson's earliest land grantees, Edward Cory of "Gostwyck" and John Boughton of "Tillimby".
A request from Lesley Gent to obtain photos of Cory's grave for her 2008 Gostwyck Heritage Publication was quickly responded to by John Priestley and P.H.S. member, Wayne Patfield. The site has been cleared to expose the resting places of these two men who contributed so much to Paterson's development. A job well done boys!
- **Lesley Gent's** excellent book on "Gostwyck" and the Priestley family is now available from the Museum, Paterson Post Office, CBC Restaurant and McDonalds Book Store in Maitland. Priced at \$25.00 the book is supported by a Literature Grant from the Royal Australian Historical society.
- **Due to the unfortunate** recent entry and vandalism to Sketchley Cottage at Raymond Terrace Museum curator, Val Anderson is near completing a detailed photographic record of the building and display cabinets for insurance purposes.



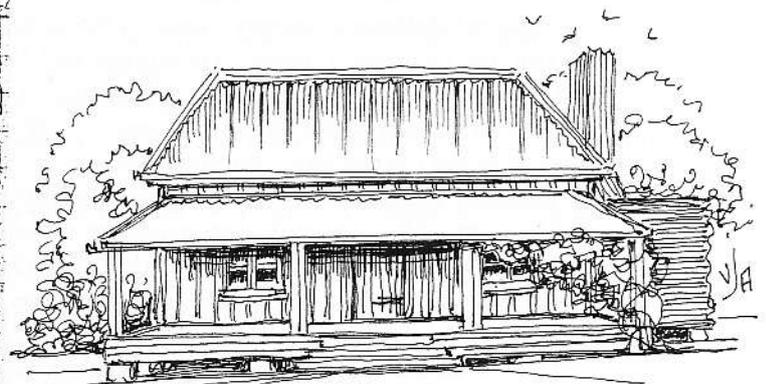
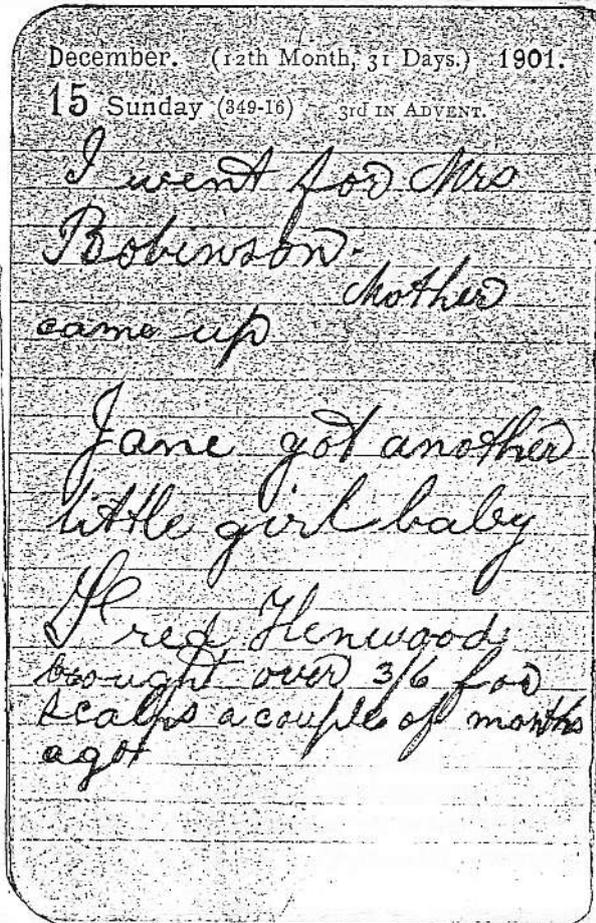
In light of the future sale of St Ann's Presbyterian Church we reprint part of an interesting letter to the editor from member Dr Barry Chapman.

"I myself have a personal link with Presbyterianism in the early days at Paterson. My great-great-grandfather was Reverend Laughton, a Presbyterian Minister. I understand that he lived at Dungog, and travelled around the area to conduct church services, including at Paterson and East Maitland."

**LOCAL MATERNITY NURSE
ANN ROBINSON – “MOUNTAIN VALE” – MARTINS CREEK.**

Kay Ingle.

When researching for her book on the Robinsons of “Mountain Vale”, Martins Creek, Wendy Cox was unable to find a written record of Ann Robinson’s very active service as a maternity nurse in the Paterson District. Member and author Kay Ingle has found this reference. From the diary of James Parish then farming on Mount Ararat – high above the present village of Hilldale – previously called Big Creek, Wallarobba. James Parish married March 7, 1900 to Jane Henwood of Bingle Burra near Gresford.
Children: First two – Amy Gladys born 27.11.1900 died 14.2.1987 (never married.)
Stella May born 15.12.1901 died 1.2.1988 (never married.)



"Mountain Vale"
Ann & Charles Robinson's
SLAB COTTAGE
MARTINS CREEK
N S W



NEW P.H.S. EXECUTIVE

Jennifer Dunn and Lesley Gent have joined the executive of P.H.S. Jennifer who has been on Sunday Duty for many years at the Museum and husband Robert have a long association with the Paterson area having been caretakers at Tocal Homestead for eleven years. Jennifer is now with Aged Care for the Dungog district and Robert on the staff at Tocal College.

Lesley brings a wealth of experience being an historian and researcher whose interests include early Australian authors, rare books, family and local history. Lesley will also be a guest writer on occasion for the Paterson newsletter "PSST"



MEMBER Kevin Hawtin, a wonderful supporter of our Museum (and may we say also Paterson) is still not completely mobile. We wish Kevin a speedy and successful recovery.

FROM OUR FILES

DUNGOG SHIRE STAFF VISIT – OCTOBER 2007



What a pleasure it was to welcome a visit from Dungog Shire staff – a first collective visit.

L to R Front: Terry Wilson, Stephen Farrow, Margaret Flannery, Lea Mitchell, Greg McDonald.
Back: Steve Low, Glen Wall.



RAHS AWARD TO VAL ANDERSON

The Royal Australian Historical Society Certificate of Achievement Award was presented to Val on Saturday 14th November when members surprised her by gathering at the Court House for the presentation by our President, Cameron Archer. It was a measure of the esteem in which Val is held that a large number gave their Saturday to travel to Paterson.

Val has made an enormous contribution to local history in the Hunter and in the last 20 years has worked tirelessly to develop and enhance the Paterson Courthouse Museum and the Paterson Historical Society. The generous use of her artistic abilities combined with her vast knowledge of the region's history has enabled her to create displays and presentations second to none. She has also developed professional level skills as a curator, conservator and designer which has resulted in the Paterson Museum being highly regarded for its displays.

Val has worked closely with all members of the Society and the community to research and develop a deeper understanding of the history of the area. She has strongly supported and facilitated publications publicising the history of Paterson and as a result the society has an impressive range of publications and booklets. Orders come from around the world for these publications from people interested in the history of Paterson particularly when studying family history.

Val's work in promotion of local history through the media and to local groups and organisations has been second to none. As a result Paterson Historical Society is highly regarded for its work in local history. Val has worked to seek grants and funding to undertake various activities at the museum which has resulted in it being in very good condition. Val's work in local history was strongly supported by her late husband Bill who sadly passed away in August 2008.

Dr Cameron Archer.

KNOW YOUR PIONEERS

Pauline Clements

(Reference: Burials in St Paul's Church Cemetery – Paterson NSW, Part 1 – from 1839 to 1900.)

18 March 1848 JOHN MARTIN, GOSTWYCK, aged 56



SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN MARTIN
Who died March, 28th 1848
Aged 55 years
"He was an affectionate husband
And a kind father."

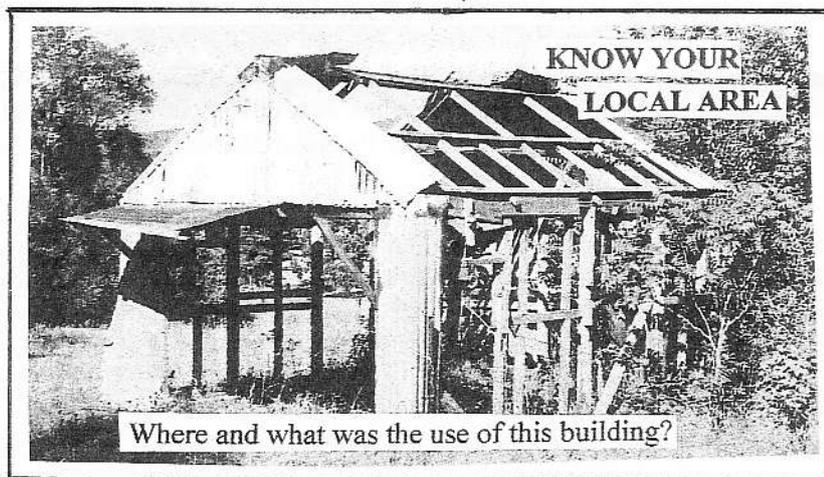
Weep not for me, my wife so dear
I lay by happy many a year
Weep not for me my precious love
My soul is gone to the place above
Wipe off your tears and do not cry
But when you die, let in my grave
Your body lie.

FOOTSTONE READS
J.M.
1848

JOHN MARTIN arrived in the Colony in 1818 after being convicted of sheep stealing at the age of 24 years. Upon arrival he was assigned to work as a Government Overseer on the road gangs at Parramatta, and later with a clearing party at the Cabramatta Orphan Farm.

On 3rd November, 1823, John married a Free Woman by the name of Jemima Rayne, and shortly afterwards he was assigned to G.J. Frankland, at "Mowbray", Paterson. By the time of the 1828 Census they had transferred to employment with G.A. Middleton, "Glenrose", Moneybung, Paterson. By the time John received his Conditional Pardon the family had taken employment with E.G. Cory at "Gostwyck"

During their marriage John and Jemima reared 11 children and many of their descendants still live in the area.



The remains of this building are located on the left hand side of Douglas Street, Martins Creek on the way up to Martins Creek Quarry. The building was once located up in the railway quarry and was used for workers to camp in; the last known person was a Vicors dozer driver who was employed to remove overburden. The Vicors dozer didn't have idlers it had all wheels inside the tracks. As time passed on the building was shifted to its present location for use as a second garage to one of two railway cottages, which were rented out to quarry workers. The cottages were pulled down some time ago.
Graeme Martin.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

30 October and 1 November 2009 at Armidale City Bowling Club

Over 100 delegates from Historical Societies around NSW attended the two day conference many coming on Thursday to enjoy the Friday activities which included An Australian Dress Register Workshop, The UNE Heritage Centre and Regional Archives and the Museum of Printing at New England Regional Art Museum.

The keynote address, “Layers in Landscape”, was given by Dr Ian Jack, President of the RAHS. His rich Scottish accent fitting in well with the feel of Scotland that still exists in the Northern Tablelands. He did pose a question that received many varied answers – why was the area called New England and not New Scotland?

Kate Chidlow and Lindie ward from the Power House made the journey north to address the meeting about the Dress Register. The new web site has been fiddled around with to make it more customer friendly.

Jillian Oppenheimer, “The Quiet Achiever: Samuel Perry, Deputy Surveyor General to Surveyor Mitchell”. Her take on Mitchell was eye opening. Jillian has a Paterson connection through the Nivison family of Tillimby.

Graham Wilson spoke on the life and designs of two notable country architects, then followed Marilyn Chaseling’s talk “Music Broadcasts in NSW Primary Schools”.

Janis Wilton opened the afternoon session with a very entertaining talk entitled “Talking Objects”. Janis and her husband now live at Maitland where her husband took up the Maitland Art Gallery job. We can hope to see and hear more of Janis in the Hunter.

Robert Hutchison: An illustrated address “Reading photographs: Every picture tells a story” reinforced the positive aspect of the magnifying glass and photographs.

Di Chase: “Writing the Dandaloo Story” how to record the history of a town that has virtually disappeared. Ann Hodgson: “The Family Ties Project – Newstead Homestead”.

Sunday commenced with the business session and presentation of grants and certificates followed by a panel of three of our affiliates, Lesley Muir, Carol Liston and Felicity Barry – “Finding Maps in the 21st Century”. The layering of original grants on top of subdivisions, and then more subdivisions and Parish maps and Google Earth, great stuff. All the grants and maps taken away for so long by the Lands Department, Nos 1-8497, are now on line. They cost and you buy them sight unseen, but there are some computers set up at the Lands Department, Sydney for a look see.

Melanie Oppenheimer: “An overview of the Bective Soldier Settlement, 1919-1939”: Bill Oats: “Civil Defence of the New England during World War II”: Judith Grieve: “Serving the Country: Armidale Teachers College”.

After lunch Angela Phippen: “Libraries: More than a collection of books”: Kylie Rees: “The De La Salle Brothers Collection”. To round off the weekend Janis Wilton led a discussion on rituals and remedies. Not many rituals but lots of remedies.

All speakers had something to add, for small societies in particular, on how best to address the many and varied problems that fact them today. How to manage publications in an attempt to record local history before most memories photographs and objects disappear was obviously a major concern.

LESLEY GENT – Country Affiliate, RAHS and PHS member.



FROM JACK SULLIVAN'S FILES

Maitland Mercury – 30 September 1875

“Find out if there is anything left on Dr Newberry's place, will you?” was Jack Sullivan's request when submitting this article”

RAMMED CLAY WALLS FOR DWELLINGS.—We were shown the other day a small building now being raised by Dr. Newberry, of this town, of rammed clay, which the doctor believes, and we have no reason to doubt, that if brought into general use for the erection of small dwellings, would add much to the health and comfort of those who occupied them, and add also much to the neatness of our small rural dwellings in the interior of the country; and take the place of those hideous deformities now known as the slab huts and bark gunya - which now everywhere abound in the interior. Walls of buildings of this material are very cheaply constructed, and may be made of any thickness, and are impervious to wet and remarkable cool in the hottest weather, which, in a hot climate like this, are conditions very favourable to health. Dr. Newberry states that walls of buildings of this material require no foundation of stone or brick, and may be laid on the surface of the soil. By digging the clay from one spot, near the proposed dwelling, a tank could be formed, which would also be beneficial in supplying the house with water. The clay for walls of this description requires but little working, particularly when taken from a depth, and when not absolutely dry. The clay is first dug out, and kept damp, a frame of boards is then made of the required thickness of the walls, and the size of the building, and some three or four feet high; into this frame the clay is put and rammed with heavy rammers until it has become firm and solid; the frame or box is then removed up higher, and the process of putting in clay, and ramming is continued, until the walls are carried up as high as is required. The walls, when completed, may be whitewashed or coloured, and would then present a very clean and neat appearance. Dr. Newberry informs us that in three departments in France houses whose walls are of clay, made as above described are very common and very durable; in one of them an architect was employed to enlarge some of the windows and he relates that the walls of that mansion, although they had been up for five hundred years, were so hard that the workmen were compelled to use quarrying tools to carry out the work. Dr. Newberry is willing to show any settler or other person the process required in erecting these clay walls of buildings.

(Dr Newberry built the present dwelling on the corner of Prince and Duke Streets opposite John Tucker Park. The dwelling was built on the site of one of Paterson's stores built by James Phillips around 1838.)

RESERVE FOR A CAMPING GROUND BETWEEN PATERSON AND MAITLAND.—The Government, in selling the church and school, and other Government land, on the Maitland side of Tocal, some three or four years ago, reserved a block, consisting of about sixty acres, for the purpose of a camping ground for teams and cattle – somewhere near the Lemon Grove Estate; but this reserve appears to have all been fenced in, and retained as their private property, by the purchasers of the adjoining lands. Endeavours are, however, to be made, we learn, to have the area opened for the purposes for which it was reserved. A camping ground for teams and cattle is very badly needed between Paterson and Maitland and a more suitable spot than that reserved for the purpose could not be desired.



THE COURT HOUSE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED FROM 20 DECEMBER 2009 AND WILL REOPEN ON THE 10 JANUARY 2010.



HAVE A WONDERFUL FESTIVE SEASON

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL