



THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS



June - Volume 1 - No 3 1994

ISSN - 1321 - 4438

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Affiliated with the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: Cameron Archer

PATRONS:

SECRETARY: Pauline Clements

MR M MORRIS OA

ASS. SECRETARY: Shirley Threlfo

MR R HORNE

MR P BLACKMORE

TREASURER: Mac Mayne

MR A FAIRHALL

MR L KIDD

MR G SEMKIN

VICE PRESIDENT: Maurice Dunlop

JOURNAL: Pauline Clements
Val Anderson

MUSEUM CURATOR: Val Anderson

RESEARCH OFFICERS:

Pauline Clements

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR: Bill Anderson

Shirley Threlfo

Mabs Keppie

RECORDER: Mabs Keppie

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER: Clive Corbett

PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM is open regularly on
SUNDAYS from 1pm - 5pm

MEETINGS: Paterson Historical Society Inc. meets the first
Thursday of the month - 7.30pm at the Paterson
Court House Museum (Except December and January)

JOURNAL: "MUSEUM NEWS" is published five times a year -
February, April, June, August, October.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION DUE: February each year

Family: \$5.00 Single: \$3.00 Student: \$1.00

LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS: List available from secretary.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

THE SECRETARY
PATERSON POST OFFICE
PATERSON NSW 2421

(c) ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

COMING EVENTS:

JUNE:

- 2 Meeting - General Business
4 OUTING - Cessnock Vineyards - Inspection
Tyrrell's Vineyard - Pottery Kilns -
St Patrick's Church

JULY:

- 7 Meeting - GUEST SPEAKER - Peter Gibbs
HISTORIC HOUSES SLIDE EVENING
9 WORKING BEE AT MUSEUM - All Welcome!

REMEMBER, All meetings commence at 7.30pm sharp!

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME!

OUR COVER:

SID and PHYLLIS REYNOLDS with long-time friend, HARRY BOYLE
in the beautiful gardens of "OLD DUNINALD".

photo - Bill Anderson



GREETINGS TO ALL ... as we welcome the month of June, the first of our Winter Season ... may it be short and mild!

Following the visit of our society in April to "OLD DUNINALD" and our meeting with Mr and Mrs Sidney Reynolds, it is timely to review the contribution made by Mr Reynolds to the progress and improvements to the lives and working conditions of the Dairy Farmer, both in this and other areas of the State.

Sid, as he is known to one and all, was born into the farming industry - his father, also named Sidney, was farming on a property named "Creebank" at Vacy, and young Sid and his brothers and sisters had to contribute their share of labour on the farm, before and after school, so he grew to manhood knowing full well the shortcomings of life on the land.

At the early age of 22 years, Sid's talent for writing came to the fore and he left the farm to commence publishing a monthly magazine fostering the Arts in Maitland. He later moved his business to Sydney where he and his wife added the publishing of sheet music to their available services, and commenced a recording company which listed several well-known artists of the day among their clients. After several years, Sid and his wife returned to the country life but found that conditions were no better for the man on the land.

In 1932 the then Premier of NSW, Mr Jack Lang, introduced Milk Zones throughout the coastal regions of the state in an effort to better control the distribution and quality of milk. In summer months when production was easy, the quantity of milk despatched from the farm bought a reasonable return to the farmer, but in the cold winter months brought greatly reduced production and income, which was good for neither producer nor consumer. In the early 1940's the Milk Board, which handled distribution of milk to cities and towns, decided that production had to be more evenly spread, so by a quota system and revised payments the farmer was forced to change his feeding and breeding programs to keep his milk production evenly spread throughout the year ... and it was here that began the constant battle with Milk Board and factories to keep income for the farmer at a reasonable level.

It was his skill with the written and spoken word that Sid Reynolds became the leader in this never-ending battle. Meetings with farmer's representatives, the Milk Board, Government Departments and Factories took Sid on long trips keeping the farmer's needs before the officials who made the rules for the man on the land. All these negotiations were faithfully reported in the monthly magazine which Sid had commenced printing in 1950. Known as "From the Cow's Mouth" this newspaper was eagerly read by farmers throughout the Hunter Valley and beyond, and kept the farming community up-to-date with developments in their industry. There was space also found to report all the social happenings in the many small villages in the area. By the 1960's the name of the paper had changed to "Dairyman's Digest" and now after 43 years is the Official Journal of the Primary Producers Union.

It was during these busy years that Sid formed a Co-operative

of farmers of the area, and established a Store in High Street, Maitland. Catering mainly for the man on the land, the store carried a great stock of items essential for the farmer and was ever-ready to meet phone orders, or obtain hard-to-comeby items. Unfortunately, the Co-operative closed down through lack of business as more and more families left the land for more lucrative occupations.

Up till the 1960's there had been 10,000 dairy farmers making a living in the coastal region of the state, but today, through the "Get Big or Get Out" theory, only about 2,000 remain.

The contribution Sid Reynolds made to the success of the modern day dairy farmer may not be realised by the younger generation, but through his untiring efforts in bringing the farmers together in one united body and making sure their voices were heard by the formation of the Milk Zone Dairymans Union, he brought the dairying industry from one of near-slavery to an acceptable modern way of life with a reasonable return for their labour and the means to enjoy their chosen way of life.

Sid Reynolds also had the vision to think that Paterson could stage its own Agricultural Show, and through his initial work as Secretary and general organiser, the Paterson Show Society was under way. The co-operation of local businessmen, farmers, housewives and indeed the whole district, was given freely and February 1949 saw the staging of the first Show, on the grounds now known as Paterson Sportsground. For three days the ground became a bustling show place for farm machinery, new cars and trucks, the finest cattle of the district and the old pavilion was filled with cooking, handcrafts, flowers and vegetables, and of course there were the sideshows from near and far ... it was indeed the Showplace of the District.

The Show Society flourished until the late 1960's when economic conditions of the country made such activities unworkable. It was a sad loss for Paterson, but for those years, the show did put our town on the map. During these busy years Sid became Secretary of the Gresford Show Committee for several years.

Through all these active years of Sid's life, his wife Phyllis has been a tower of strength ... looking after their four children and generally keeping a stable and loving home for the family. A true helpmate, whether it be helping with the milking or other farm jobs, or graciously entertaining the many visitors who came to see Sid at his home, Phyllis has done her part admirably in supporting Sid all the way.

In his mid-seventies when most men retire from the land to lead a quieter life, Sid commenced a nursery business featuring natives and shrubs, growing them mainly from seed, and became expert at growing the more difficult items of our native flora. A new Grevillia Shrub bears his name and features in many a garden across the country.

At the age of 86 years, Sid can review his life and feel satisfied that he has done his best in this life to help his fellowman, and for this many can say, THANK YOU!!

PAULINE M CLEMENTS
EDITOR

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SOCIAL OUTING: 9 APRIL 1994

A GRAVE LOOK AT HISTORY: MABS KEPPIE

What a gloomy heading!!

However this Historical outing was anything but!

A lovely day weatherwise, filled with interest and extremely good company. Morning tea was enjoyed at Paterson Court House Museum followed by a gentle stroll to St Paul's graveyard to inspect head stones after an interesting talk by our Secretary, Pauline.

Many pages of Paterson's History lay in that peaceful spot. An 'archaeological dig' claimed a 1919 headstone from eighteen inches of flood silt.

Then a walk down Commercial Road led by an eager Jack Sullivan to pin-point the site of the Methodist Church (1860's). This was successful as some dressed sandstone still marked the foundations.

After lunch under the fig trees it was off to Old Duninald where we were warmly greeted by Phyllis and Sid Reynolds. A scenic walk led us to a lonely grave on a hilltop above the lagoon. A walk through Sid's rainforest and a chat on the shady verandah ended a delightful visit.

Our last port of call was an old slab cottage on Brisbane Grove now owned by Mr and Mrs Jack Germon.

Cattle feed stalls taken from Paterson Showground and reassembled at Brisbane Grove was also a point of interest.

WHAT A BEAUT DAY!

OLD DUNINALD VISIT: ESMAE MEEHAN

After lunch at the Paterson Museum we drove to "OLD DUNINALD", the original land grant of William and Maria Dun. Their eldest daughter, Frances Seaton Dun had married in 1844, Charles Reynolds of Tocal Estate. Duninald is still owned and operated by descendants of Charles and Frances Reynolds; Sidney and Phyllis Reynolds Snr.

We were given a most gracious welcome by Phyl and Sid to their historic sandstone and brick home which had been built about 1822. The house had originally two extra wings which had been pulled down in more recent years and the bricks used to build "Duninald House", also on the property.

Phyl reminisced and told us stories of bygone days, two of which I am noting.

When the original bedroom wing had been built it faced a beautiful Norfolk Island Hibiscus tree which William Dun had brought with him to the property and planted so that they could look out each morning and delight in the splendour of its colour when in bloom.

Phyl also told us of her exorcism of the ghost of William Dun in "Old Duninald House" back in the 1950's when a Scotsman on the early B and W television told everyone how to rid themselves of ghosts on their properties!

She said, "May your soul rest in Peace", three times - Phyl hasn't sensed the ghost ever since!

Sid took us on a stroll on a pathway around the lagoon up onto a piece of higher ground where there is a lone grave with the headstone and footstone flat on the ground and broken into several pieces.

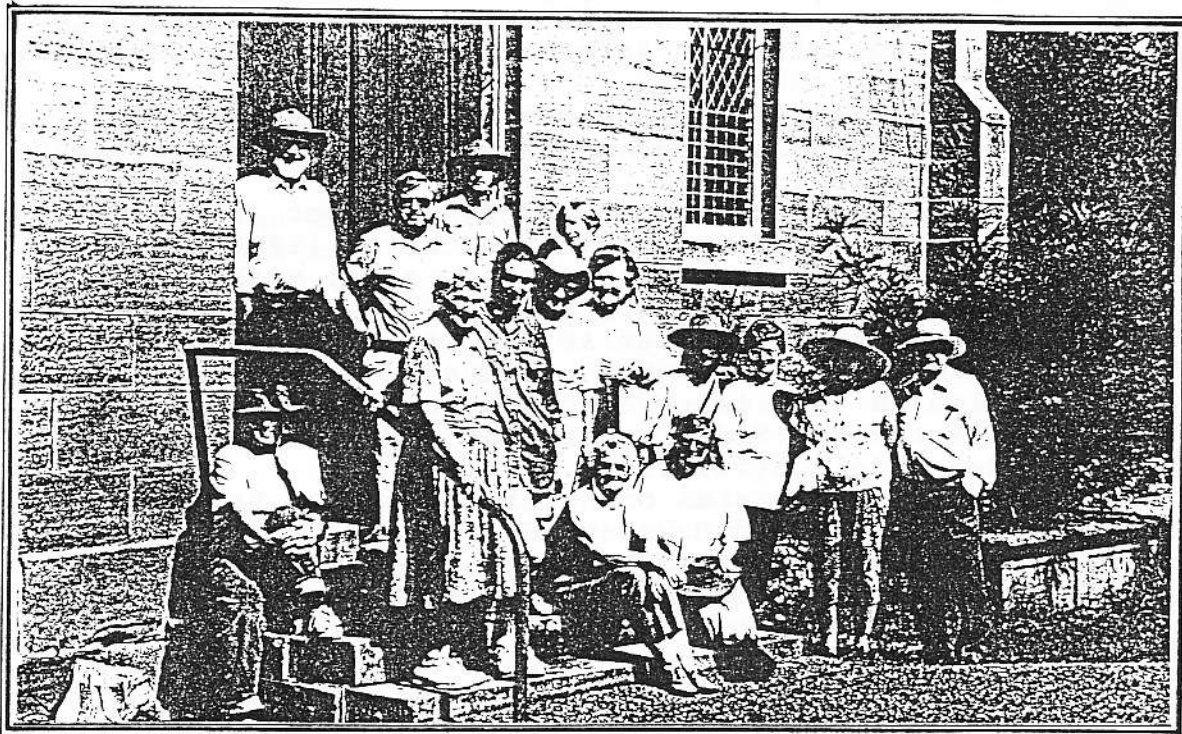
The inscription reads -

IN LOVING MEMORY
OUR DARLING DAUGHTER
MARGARET ADRIA DUN
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
(13 or 15)? MONTHS 9 1830

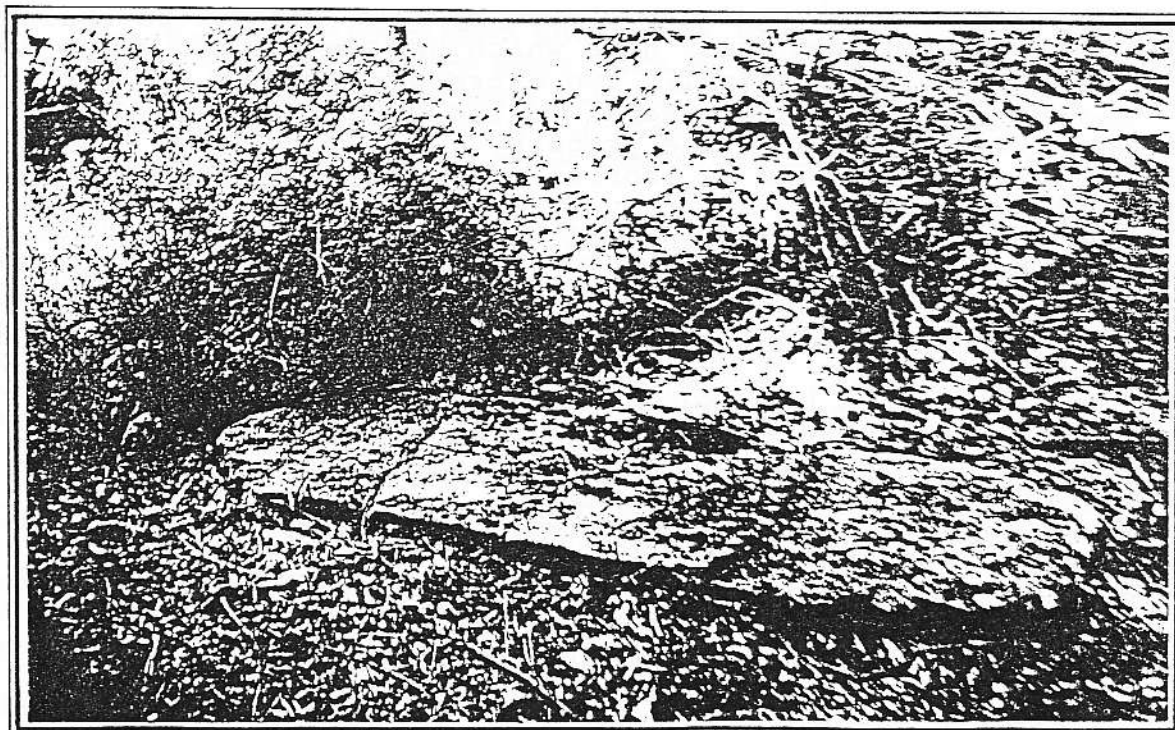
The footstone read;

M. A. D. 1830

We wandered back through a large area of land which had been planted with many trees, shrubs and flowers which forms part of a nursery operated by Sid.
We said our goodbyes amid a warm invitation from our hosts to return at any time.



SOCIETY MEMBERS at ST PAUL'S CHURCH, PATERSON
photo - Bill Anderson



HEADSTONE on "OLD DUNINALD" - MARGARET ADRIA DUN - 1830
photo Cynthia Hunter

SALOME KEPPIE'S DIARY EXTRACTS: MABS KEPPIE

1868

May 26 - Henery Harrison was killed by a fall from his horse in our paddock on Tuesday May 26 1868. Buried on Thursday 28

June 10 - I went to Maitland Wednesday June 10. Put 5£ in the Bank. Got my likeness taken by Moss. 12 for 10s.

1869

May 13 - Elon Parish came to live at Mrs Puxty's Royal Oak.

June 8 - Mrs Brooker, Elon Cowley Samey Keppie and I went up to Lostock to a tea party.

1878

May 22 - John Keppie married to Mary Ann Tinkler Wednesday 22 May

May 25 - Miss Stanbridge died Saturday 25th May.

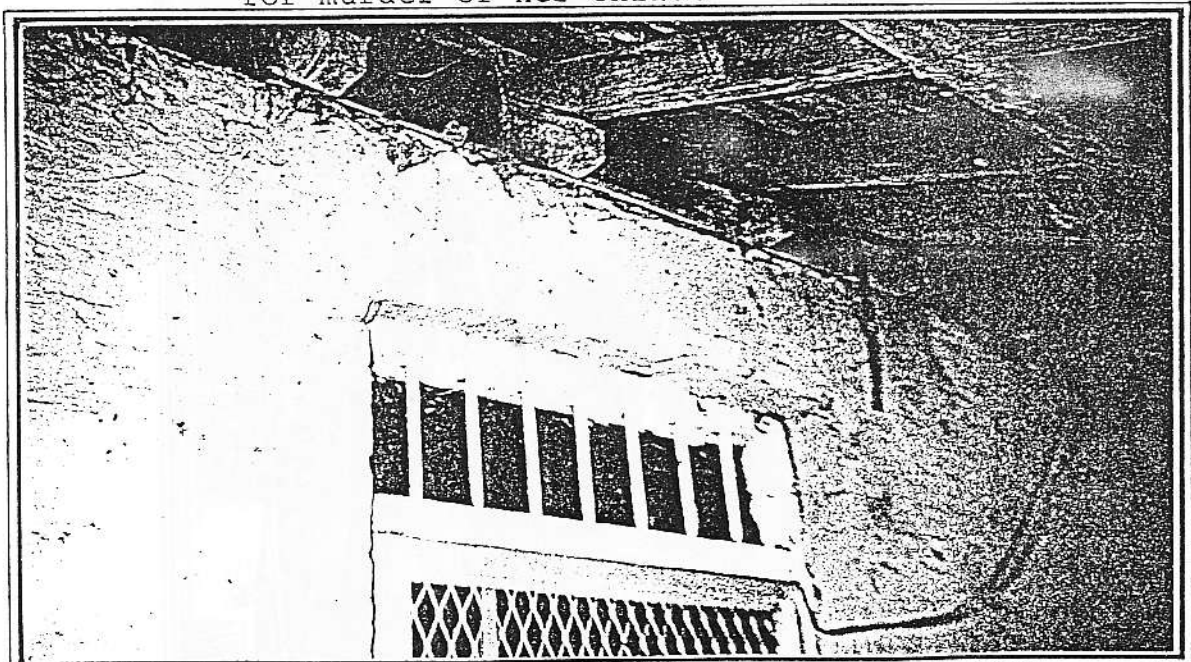
June 10 - A little black girl was burnt Monday 10th June Died Tuesday 11

1879

May 9 - The Election was Friday 9 May, L Stanbridge and J Puxty was nominated.

May 15 - Prepared dinner for Cricketers Saturday 15 May 26 set to dinner. Clarendetown and Paterson.

May 18 - Mary Chick went to Maitland Jail Tuesday 18 May for murder of her child.



"OLD DUNINALD" - PATERSON. Security grill above a doorway - glass behind. Said to be a detail of the original house. photo - Cynthia Hunter

NOTES FROM HARRY BOYLE:

In 1821, Capt. William Dun was one the first land grantees on Paterson's Plains. "OLD DUNINALD" was built by Dun c1821-22 and is said to be the oldest building in the Paterson District. The Norfolk Island Hibiscus mentioned in Esmae's article was planted by William Dun as "OLD DUNINALD" was being built. It is believed that this tree was the first of its kind planted in the Hunter Valley, the colour of the blossom an unusual mauve. The Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria Patersonii*) was introduced into Australia by Lieutenant William Paterson who had obtained seed from Norfolk Island in 1792. From personal research given to me by Loftus Dun in 1979, the age of Margaret Adria Dun was 13 months.

PATERSON HISTORIC WALK: JUNE MAYNE

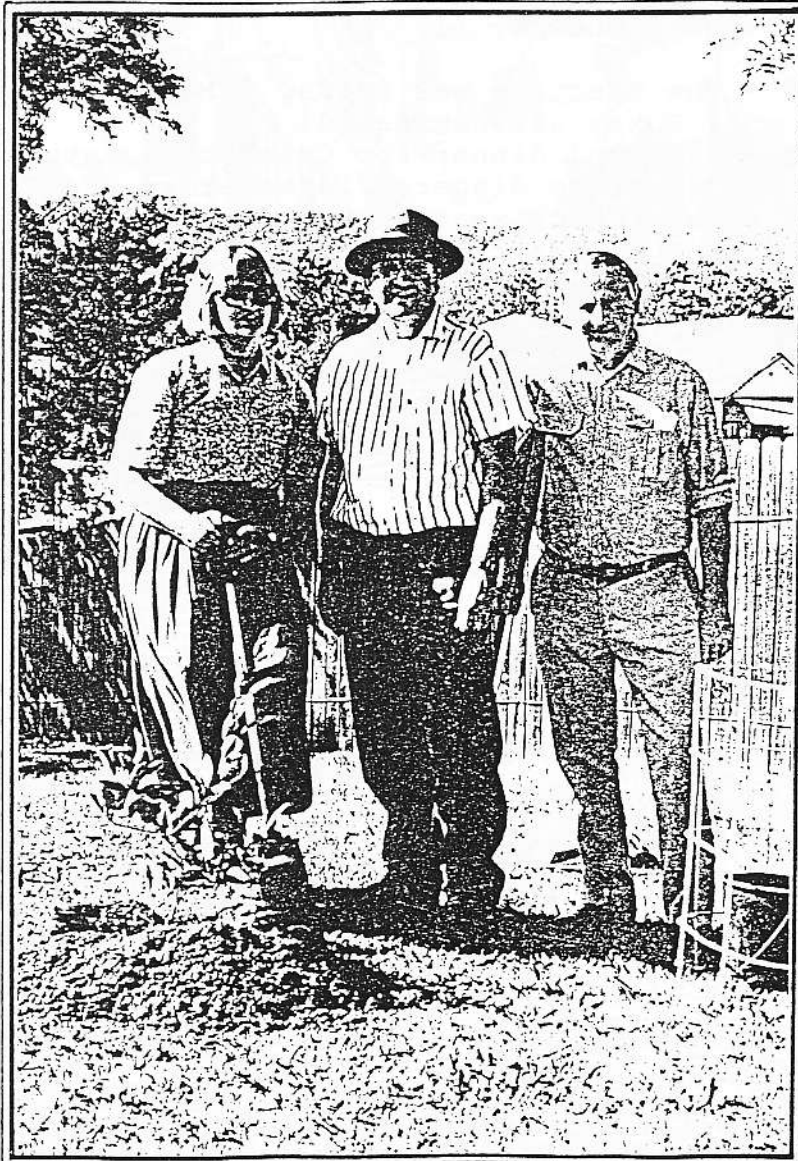
We were blessed with a perfect Autumn Day on Sunday 24th April for our Paterson Historic Walk. About 90 folk - men, women and children gathered in the lovely grounds of our Court House Museum at 1pm.

This actually was a rather "Special" walk as just before they set off, under the expert guidance of Cameron Archer, a Paterson River Orange Tree was planted in memory of Stan Fry. Stan was a much loved Life Member of our Society and his daughter, Mrs Barbara Frazer performed this duty with love.

THEN - THEY WERE OFF! About 1½ hours around the village - back to the Museum for a refreshing cup of tea or coffee then off again! Up the hill and then along Commercial Road finishing back at the Museum about 4.45pm.

Quite a number still had the strength and enthusiasm to spend three quarters of an hour wandering through the Museum.

A very successful and happy afternoon.



BARBARA (FRY) FRASER, CAMERON ARCHER Pres.PHS, and GORDON FRASER in the grounds of PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM

(The Paterson Orange seedling planted by Barbara was propagated by society members in 1990 from seed taken by George Joliffe from old Paterson Orange trees on his place at CARRABOLLA - thanks George! ED)