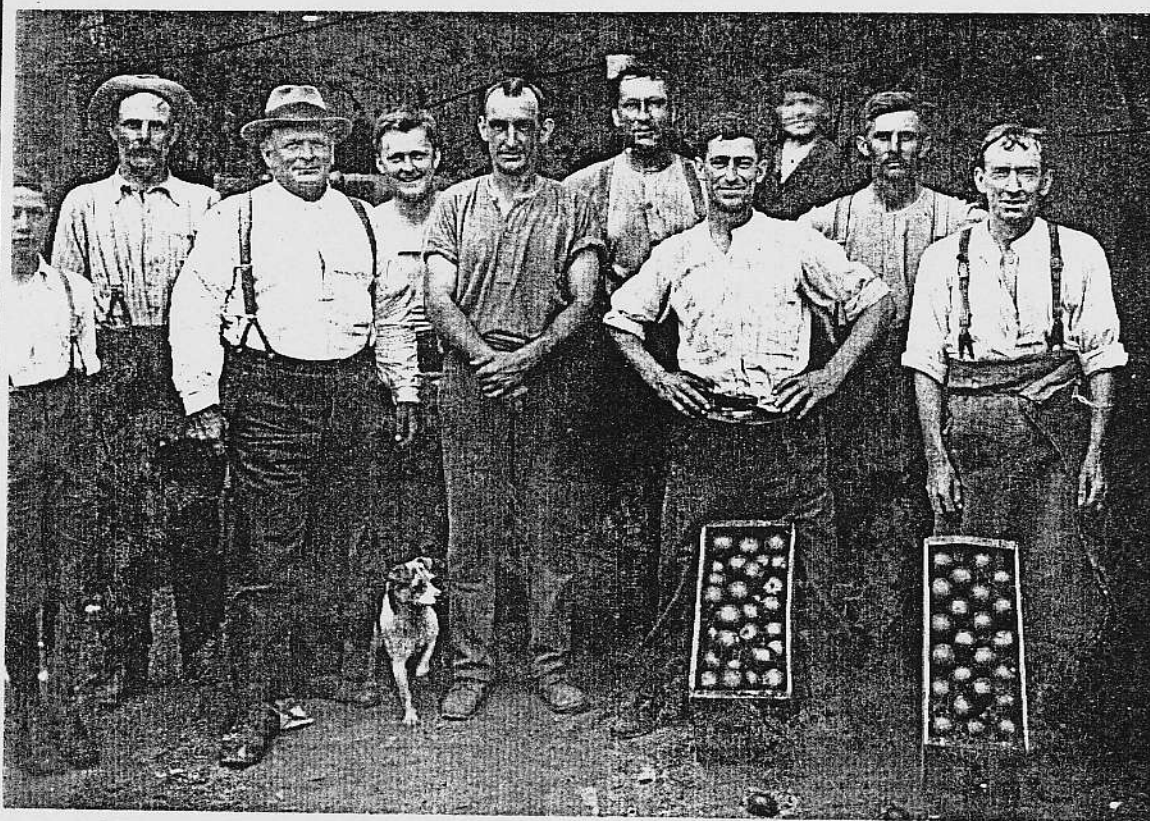




THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS

PATERSON ORANGES



FRANK AUCKETT'S CITRUS PACKING SHED - PATERSON

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PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Affiliated with the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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 -
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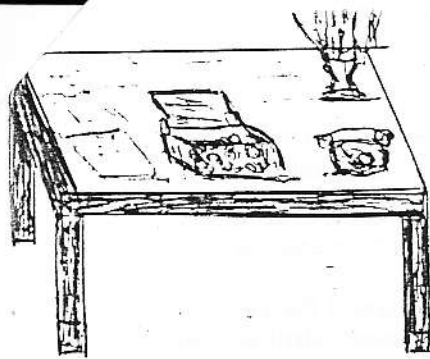
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Attendance figures increased greatly in October when group visits from members of the Veteran Car Club of Australia, Newcastle Family History Group and Cessnock Historical Society visited the museum. This, together with over 400 visitors to our 20 Anniversary Open Day on September 11 has really kept us on our toes.

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LES DARCY - HARRY BOYLE CONNECTION

The recent publication by Peter Fenton on the life of Les Darcy was dedicated to PHS Life Member, Harry Boyle OAM. The book launching took place at the Rugby Union Club, Sydney, where Harry had a most enjoyable time signing copies of the book for some of his Rugby Union Test Heroes.



From the

EDITOR

HELLO to members as we meet for the last time in 1994. Where has the year gone? It seems only yesterday that we were looking forward to a new year with all the hope it brings, many have been realised, many dashed, but a New Year is around the corner!!

OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY.

The recent Open Day held at the Museum to celebrate the Society's Anniversary bought back many memories to our Foundation Members, and to those whose interest in the Society has lasted throughout the years.

In 1973 a small group of townsfolk met in the School of Arts to look into the possibility of forming a group to preserve Paterson's historic image. None of us had been involved in such a group before but the convener of the meeting, Mr. John Northcott enthusiastic about the project, and soon convinced us that it was a feasible project. Unfortunately business took the Northcott family away from Paterson before the Society fully came into being.

We had no real guidelines to work on... except to collect photographs of Paterson as it was in the early days, old stories, papers and any other memorabilia of Paterson in bygone days. At this time we had no place for meetings except the School of Arts, and nowhere to store the material, except the Secretary's home.

The young Society was incredibly lucky that the Dungog Shire Council at this time offered the Court House to any group in Paterson willing to use it and take care of the building... so at last we had a home to display the mounting number of items which were being donated.

We had chosen the name, the Paterson Preservation Society to be known by, but this was changed to the present one when it became evident the townspeople now thought there was a ready-made pool of free labour and money to preserve their old homes.

Who of us can ever forget the excitement that Saturday Afternoon 4th Nov., 1974 when our local Parliamentary representative, Mr. Milton Morris and Mrs. Morris arrived by vintage car to perform the Official Opening Ceremony. They were greeted by gentlemen in formal attire of yesteryear, complete with top hats, bearded gentlemen, (grown especially for the occasion) and ladies in bustles and crinolin gowns (Courtesy Maitland Reporary Society), and a goodly crowd of well-wishers. The two bottle-brush trees at the front of the building were planted by Mr. Morris and Mr. John Hawley, then President of the Dungog Shire Council. Like the Society they have grown steadily, sometimes struggling along, and then bursting into greater activity for a period, but now well established and continuing to grow.

The ambition of the Society had only ever been a simple one... to collect Paterson's written and photographed history and present it in a simple readable manner, and to help the many people who came asking for help in their search for forebears who had lived in the area generations ago. The doors of the Museum have kept open each Sunday to welcome visitors, whether they be just browsing or looking for information.

However, times change and new members bring new ideas so that the overall image of the Museum has a much higher profile, more in keeping with today's concept of Museum Exhibitions. Having received several Government grants for maintenance on the building, and after lots of

hard work by members, as well as professional advice and builders skilled in work on historic buildings, we now have a landmark in Paterson which catches every eye and brings much favourable comment.

May the next twenty years and more bring further progress and prosperity to the Society.

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MEETING COMFORT!

A great improvement came about recently in the Court Room Section of the Museum... an improvement most noticeable on meeting nights of the Society.

Previously, no matter how interested one was in proceedings, we would find ourselves wriggling and squirming to find a more comfortable spot on those hard wooden seats. Then a suggestion was made at a meeting to see if we could not get some cushions for the seats. No sooner was the suggestion made than one of our newest members, Esme Meehan, kindly offered to see about the matter.

In no time at all her clever fingers had made padded seating for those hard benches. Now meeting is more comfortable and enjoyable for all. Our very sincere thanks, Esme!!.

PAULINE M CLEMENTS
EDITOR

OPENING OF PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM - ANDREW BURG
HUNTER VALLEY HERALD 4. 7. 1974

Hunter Valley Herald 4/7/1974

PATERSON OPENS MUSEUM ON AUGUST 4

The museum of Paterson Preservation Society will be officially opened at 2 pm on August 4.

The museum will be located in part of the old courthouse building.

Construction of the building began in 1857 and was completed in 1865.

In the years that followed additions were made without altering the main features.

The last court proceedings were held there in 1968. Since then, court hearings formerly set for Paterson have taken place at Maitland.

The Preservation Society is really the district's historical group.

The Secretary (Mrs E. S. Clements) said the society

had the use of six rooms for display and storage.

The other part of the courthouse was used as a library operated by Dungog Shire Council.

"We are starting in a small way but hope to build up," she said.

"We have received a good response to an appeal for early photographs and documents.

"We will try to collect, as much as possible, records of settler families and the first development of the district."

Mrs Clements said the society had received farm equipment used by the pioneering settlers and had been promised more.

Other officers are—President, Mr G. Johnson; Vice-president, Mr N. North-



2 PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM
1858-63

Paterson Oranges

Contributed by Cynthia Hunter

We all know that in the past splendid oranges grew in the Upper Paterson Valley. There is little visual evidence today to indicate how important orange orchards were to the district in those days.

The establishment of a Department of Agriculture in the late nineteenth century enabled farmers to obtain good advice about methods and crops if problems arose. In the 1890s, the Department had a 'fruit expert', a Mr Albert Benson. Also in the 1890s, the orange growers of the Upper Paterson, Allyn and Williams Rivers had a severe problem whereby many of their trees were either dying or deteriorating. Numerous were the opinions about the cause of the problem. In November 1893, Mr Benson was called upon for his.

The disease that destroyed the trees in the Paterson district was called Mal di Goma, foot rot, collar rot, bark disease or gum disease. The cause was mainly want of drainage, permitting the accumulation of stagnant water. This destroyed the fine fibrous roots and prevented the proper assimilation of nutrients by the tree. Fermentation of the sap also occurred along with the exuding of gum from the bark generally at or near the surface of the ground. The disease destroyed the bark and ring barked the tree. Another cause was injury to the tree from a harrow or other implement, injudicious irrigation or the after effects of floods.

The Upper Paterson and Williams districts fared badly in the early 1890s from three or four consecutive years wherein record floods devastated extensive area of agricultural and cultivation land. The cause of the subsequent failure of orange crops may well have been an aftermath of this excessive rainfall.

Whether or not Mr Benson's advice was able to arrest the problem I don't know. Further floods caused great losses in 1894, so that tree losses may have continued for some time. However, Benson left us a description of the state of the orange orchards of the district as he found them at the time of his visit - October 1893.

Leaving Sydney by the northern mail ... I proceeded direct to Gresford, and examined the orangeries of Mr Doyle, at Clevedon, and Mrs Parkes, widow of the late Dr Parkes, at Lewinsbrook. The first mentioned is at present in the occupation of Mr Jas Boydell, and thou it is in a very neglected and untidy state and shows the disastrous effects of flood and of a heavy frost, the trees, except being covered with lichens and showing a good deal of dead wood, were generally sound at the root.

In the case of the Lewinsbrook orangery, however, the effects of the disease have been most disastrous, all the fine seedling trees being entirely destroyed, and only the old worked trees which are on common lemon roots and planted on the lightest and best drained soils are alive. These old trees are nearly seventy years old, and were planted by the late doctor's brother, being obtained by him from Parramatta. The trees though still bearing fairly well begin to show signs of age, and the fruit thou not of first class is noted for its shipping qualities, being superior in this respect to the seedling fruit.

In Mrs Parkes orangery the land on which the seedling trees have died is a stiff loam with a clay bottom at a depth of two feet. It is very level and heavy rains or flood waters lie on the land for some time ... Water stagnates round the roots as there is no sub drainage, a few timber drains laid years ago being now worthless.

In the preparation of the land before planting it was all spaded two spits deep (spit: length of a spade blade, used as a measure of depth in digging), the surface soil being placed in the bottom and the heavier soil brought to the top. The orchard was cultivated with horses, and as a consequence the roots were forced down to the bottom spit resting on the clay, where for some years till they got down to the level of the stagnant water they did remarkably well and brought in handsome returns, but with the recent excessively wet seasons, and the roots being more or less in the stagnant water, the trees rapidly developed Mal di Goma, and are dead.

From Gresford I went to Mr H. H. Brown's, M.L.A., at Coulston, noting several orangeries en route more or less affected, and to which the remarks I have made in the case of the Gresford orangeries apply equally well. At Mr Brown's I examined a number of old naval oranges and other worked trees over 50 years old, also a number of unworked trees of various ages. Here the cause of the disease was also the want of sufficient sub-drainage.

From Coulston I returned to Gresford, and from there proceeded to Paterson, where I visited the orchards of the late Mr James Cann and those of Messrs John and William Tucker.

The first-named orchard I found had suffered considerably from the floods, but the trees were not of a desirable variety and very much covered with lichens. At Mr William Tucker's I noticed a fine patch of seedling oranges, also a number of scarlet and thorny mandarins, and although the orchard had suffered severely from the floods, the trees were as a rule looking well, only one or two cases of Mal di Goma being present, and these I place to the credit of the floods, as no fault can be found with the drainage, the soils being a naturally drained alluvial of great depth.

At Mr John Tucker's I spent a considerable time and carefully compared the seedling oranges and trees, and trees worked from seedlings, with worked trees from Cumberland nurseries, and the result was certainly not flattering to the Cumberland nurseryman. The seedling trees and the trees locally worked from seedlings were superior in every way to the Cumberland trees both in size, vigour and health and the quality and quantity of the fruit. Mr Tucker was debating the advisability of digging up all the Cumberland trees and planting local trees in their places.

What I advocate in the case of intending planters in this district is to plant the common lemon as a stock, and on it work the buds or grafts taken from the finest quality seedling trees that can be obtained, as by this means a good type of fruit will be ensured, and it is more reliable than the planting of seedlings. Should seedlings however be wished, always select the finest quality fruits from the healthiest and most productive trees, so that by selection you will probably grow trees equal to and in some cases superior to the parent tree.

The secret of success in orange culture depends very largely on having the trees planted in thoroughly drained land, and if the drainage does not exist naturally, it must be applied artificially, the best system being tile drainage...

In several of the orchards visited, I noted that the trees were covered with lichens which, as they derive most of their nourishment from the host plant, have a bad effect on the trees on which they are growing. They are easily removed by spraying the trees with Bordeaux mixture - (take 6 lbs bluestone in 4 gallons of hot water, and 4 lbs of lime in 2 gallons of water. When cool, pour the lime wash on the bluestone water, straining the lime wash whilst pouring through a fine sieve. Add water to make up to 22 gallons and apply with a spray pump)

A good coating of lime wash is beneficial but the Bordeaux mixture is more efficacious.

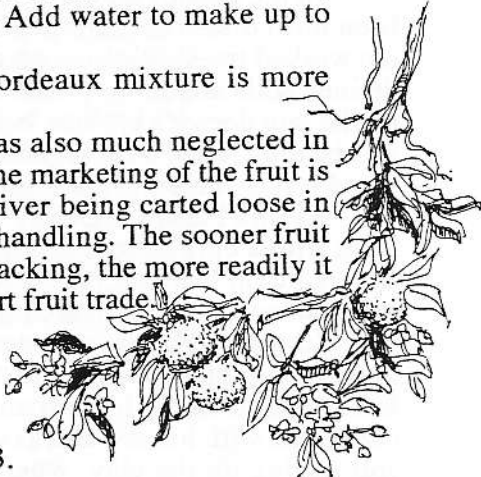
Cultivation of the orchards and pruning of the trees was also much neglected in the district and the trees would pay for better looking after. The marketing of the fruit is also done very crudely, that from the upper districts of the river being carted loose in springless carts to market. No care is taken in the picking or handling. The sooner fruit growers realise that fruit pays well for careful handling and packing, the more readily it will sell and the better will be the future for a successful export fruit trade.

Principal references:

'Our Orange Trees', *Dungog Chronicle*, 10 October 1893

'Orange Culture', *Dungog Chronicle*, 21 November 1893, p3.

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COVER: Staff and growers at Auckett's citrus packing shed.
L to R Laurie Marquet, George Sales, Ern Hopson, Len Graham
Bill Wells, Frank Auckett, Jerry Phillips, Bill Menger,
Goerge Marquet, Sam Adlam - Photo 1922 - P M C

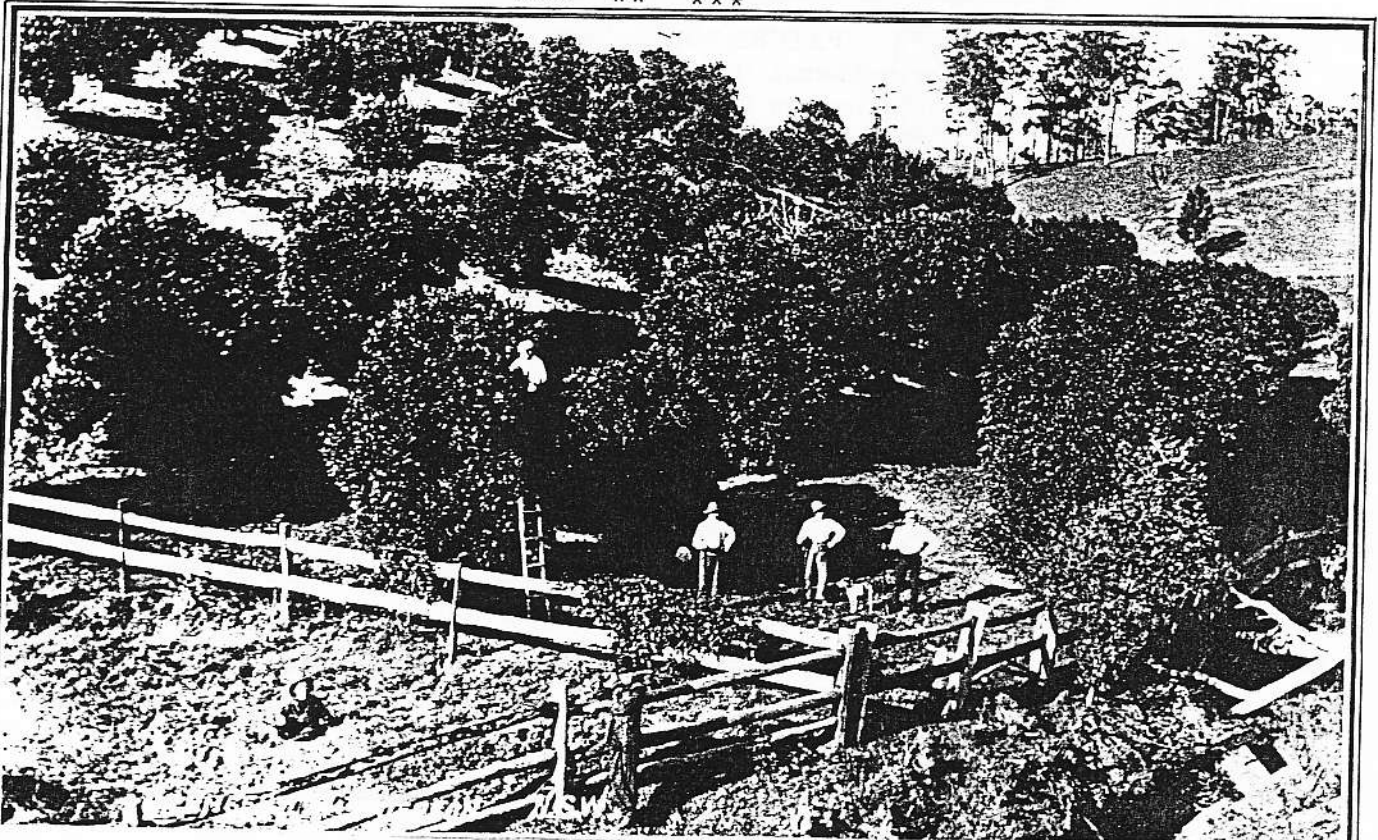
P H S SOCIAL OUTINGS:

ANOTHER ADVENTURE WITH THE PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY: June Mayne
It was a nice morning on August 6 when ten of our members left the Museum to drive to "Turanville" - a lovely old home near Scone. Normally the country in that area would be lookin lush and green but due to the drought, and Winter, it was not looking its best - howeverwe all enjoyed our trip and when we arrived found our five Newcastle members had beaten us!! There was a "little confusion" when we were not greeted by the owner, Elizabeth - she had apparently hadn't expected us till the next day!!!! But her husband, Jock welcomed us warmly and his son and girlfriend provided us with a lovely cup of coffee and cake before Jock gave us a guided tour of the house and garden. The garden is one of those "magic" ones where you wander and find "bits and pieces" in all kind of unexpected places. We enjoyed our picnic lunch in the sunshine on the lawn and later inspected the interesting outbuildings. No doubt our early settlers chose magnificent places to build, the view from the front verandah of "Turanville" is marvellous. I would like to visit one day in the Spring and after we have had some of that much needed rain! As usual, after one of our Historical outings, we arrived home, tired but happy...

MARTINDALE - DENMAN OUTING, OCTOBER 8 - VAL ANDERSON

For those of us who travelled to Denman to visit the Martindale Homestead, we can only wonder at the time and cost involved in the outstanding restoration work done on this grand old home associated with the White Family in 1850-60s. We were extended another treat by being given a tour of this magnificent home by the present owner. Member, Andrew Burg, allowed the group to take the original Auction Sale of Property poster dated 18th March 1921 on the outing and it was well received by all. Some members then went on to Denman and visited the old Court House being restored by a delightful and energetic young couple. We could relate to their restoration work as it was following the pattern of the work done on our own Paterson Court House.

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ONE OF THE FAMOUS PATERSON ORANGERIES AT ITS PEAK,
AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

SALOME KEPPIE'S DIARY - EXTRACTS - MABS KEPPIE

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

- 1868 - Oct 2nd. We came to live at the Royal Oak Inn.
1868 - Oct 6 Ellan Noulon's baby was stole Tuesday night, was found drowned on Wed. morning Oct 6 1868 by W. Randles. W. Randles was brought into the township and put in the lockup on Sunday 11th by the police. He was taken to Maitland on Tuesday 12th Oct. I was summoned to Maitland Court Oct 23rd. Crown v W. Randles.
1869 - Monday 4th Oct. Andrew Keppie, Wiley Keppie and I went to Maitland to see the opening of Belmore Bridge.
1869 - 6th Nov, (Sat) John Gates and family the Paterson for Sydney. Left in Tom Curls boat.
1879 - 25 Nov. Mr Wells coach accident happened. Mary Holden aged 10 was killed.
1886 - Waterford Keppie had Scarlet Fever Sept. 28 - Gerty and Wiley had it Oct 1st - Pearl Oct. 19th - Mary Ann Oct. 20th - Etta Oct. 24th - Salome 2 Nov. - Wall 18th Nov. Percy.
1891 - Children, Will and I went to the selection first time Sat.
1894 - 1st November, Charley Bridger started baking.
1904 - 20th Nov. New Organ played first time by Mrs. Tucker at Martin's Creek.

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MAITLAND MERCURY EXTRACTS: JACK SULLIVAN MM 29. 6. 1871

M/M PATERSON. *THUR 29/6/1871*
WESLEYAN ANNUAL MISSIONARY MEETING
—Last Friday evening the annual missionary meeting in connection with the Wesleyan Church, was held in the Court-house (which was kindly granted by the magistrates for the occasion) and was very well attended considering the very inclement state of the weather—from forty to fifty persons being present. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Nolan. The chairman, the Rev. Mr. Allen, and the Rev. Mr. Fison, the latter a recently arrived missionary from Fiji, very ably addressed the meeting in advocacy of the cause of missions. The latter gave a very entertaining description of his experience as a missionary at Fiji and other places. At the conclusion of the addresses a collection was made, a vote of thanks given to the chairman, the benediction pronounced, and the meeting separated.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FUTURE ARTICLE FROM JACK'S RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY, AND THE POSSIBLE SITE OF THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL IN PATERSON.