

THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED
MUSEUM NEWS



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PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Affiliated with the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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

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COMING EVENTS:

- FEBRUARY 1 - MEETING - A G M
GUEST SPEAKER - Jacquie Youldin - Historian
Glen Oak Historical Society
- 3 - WORKING BEE at MUSEUM - All welcome!
- MARCH 2 - 24th ANNUAL HISTORY CONVENTION of HUNTER and
COASTAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES at RAYMOND TERRACE
- 7 - MEETING - GUEST SPEAKER - ANDY BURG
"The 1916 LIVERPOOL MUTINY"
- 23 - WORKING BEE - All welcome!
- 24 - HERITAGE WALK - MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT PLEASE?

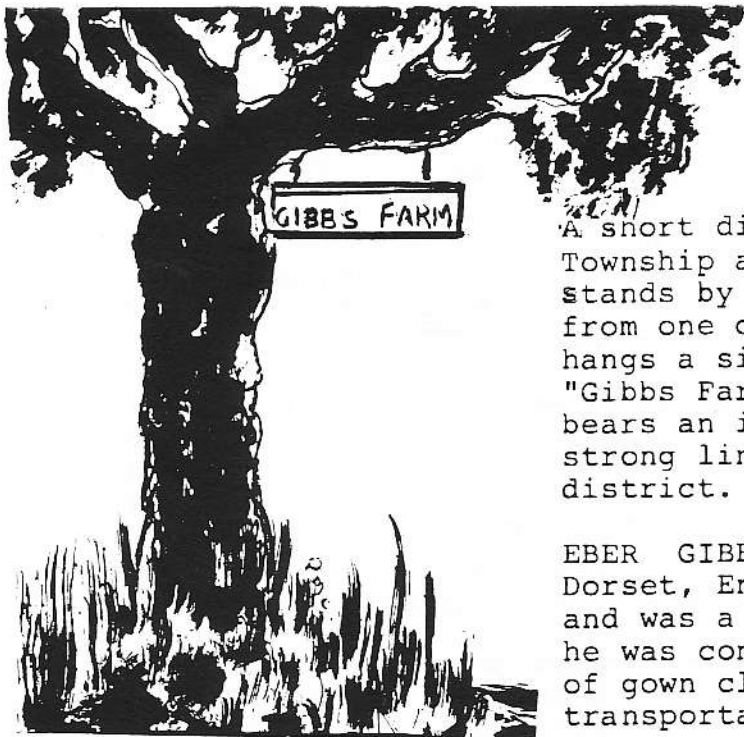
CURATOR'S CORNER - VAL ANDERSON

ACQUISITIONS:

JUNE & MAC MAYNE - FORSTER - Historical Books for Society Library
DAVE SKELTON - THORNTON - WAGGON WHEEL HUB (unfinished)
BARBARA (FRY) FRASER - PATERSON - Newspaper cuttings - Maps - etc.
(From the estate of Life Member Stan Fry)

"THIS WORK HAS BEEN ASSISTED BY FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY THE MINISTRY
FOR THE ARTS - NEW SOUTH WALES"

COVER: GIBBS FARM, PATERSON NSW. Sketch by Val Anderson from
a photo taken by Mr Stan Priestly thought to have been
taken soon after his purchase of the property in 1944.
Photo by courtesy of Betty & Colin Sexton - PATERSON



GIBB'S FARM.

A short distance from Paterson Township a sturdy old Tallowood Tree stands by the side of the road, and from one of its overhanging branches hangs a sign indicating that this is "Gibbs Farm". This acreage of land bears an interesting history and has strong links with the pioneers of the district.

EBER GIBBS was born at Birdsmooregate, Dorset, England on 18th July, 1819 and was a lad of only 16 years when he was convicted of stealing a piece of gown cloth. His punishment was transportation to the Colony for seven years, and he arrived on these shores on the "Strathfieldsay" on 15th June, 1836. It is not known where he was assigned at that time, but when the 1837 muster was taken he was in the employ of G.F. Davidson, of Paterson. His occupation was then given as "Wheelwright's boy"

On 8th October, 1840 Eber was granted his Ticket of Leave with the proviso that he remain in the Paterson area, and just three years later he was granted his Certificate of Freedom.

In May of 1842 Eber was married to Catherine Cotty in St. Ann's Presbyterian Church. Catherine was a young lady from Limerick in Ireland, and had arrived in the Colony as a Free Passenger on board the "Earl Grey" on 24th June, 1841. Eber and Catherine settled in the Paterson village with Eber working at his trade of Wheelwright, and as his family grew he prospered with his work.

In December of 1850, Eber purchased a quarter of an acre of land from Mr. J.H. Boughton who owned the property named "Tillimby" and here he built a small slab hut for his wife and family of four young children. Eber continued in his work of attending to the needs of horses and carriages and in 1867 it is noted that he was working on the "Valentia" Estate, but by the time the 1872 Post Office Directory was issued it would appear that he was self employed on his own property, where stables etc. had been built.

Over the years Eber also became well-known as a producer of fine honey - a business which grew from the chance settling of a swarm of bees on his house one summer day. Eber was able to capture and box the swarm and so began a profitable business. It is recorded that his bee-boxes were made of cedar wood! The honey shed was sited at the rear of the block near the stables. Successful as his beekeeping activities were, Eber was only listed as a Wheelwright in the 1880 Post Office Directory so perhaps he regarded his bee-keeping only as a hobby.

Eber died on the 12th June, 1889, at Paterson - just one year after his wife, Catherine had passed away, and both are buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Gresford.

During their 46 years of marriage Eber and Catherine raised seven children - Harriet (b. 1843); William (b. 1845); Mary Ann (b. 1847); Louisa (b.1848); Denis (b. 1851); Edward Eber (b 1854); John (b 1857). Two of the sons of the family, Denis and John remained in the Paterson area working with the skills of Blacksmithing and Wheelwrights learned from their father.

Shortly after their parents deaths, and before their own marriages, Denis and John built a substantial brick house on the property, which had grown somewhat from the original quarter acre. In 1890 Denis was married to Margaret Alice Cook and they lived in the new house until Denis died in 1915. After Denis's death John Gibb bought the house and lived there with his wife and family until his death in 1944, when the property was sold.

The buyer on this occasion was Mr. Stanley Priestley, who was the owner of the "Tillimby" property, the estate from which the original quarter acre had been bought in 1850.... however, now the property had grown to 58 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Priestley and their young family lived in the house while Mr. Priestley continued to be actively engaged in farming the "Tillimby" property. As the family grew to adulthood and married another home was built on the property, and is today occupied by the youngest member of the Priestley family, Betty, and her husband, Colin Sexton.

Mr. and Mrs. Sexton are very mindful of the history of their property and proudly display the name of "Gibbs Farm" at the gateway of their home.

The brick house, built in 1889 has been refurbished and is now home to a third generation member of the Priestley family, as Philip, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sexton lives there with his wife and two sons giving the old house new life and with a new generation to reap the benefits of the comfortable old brick house.

Compiled from information received from the following....

Miss Monica Gibbs, (Descendant of Eber Gibbs) East MAitland.

Mrs. J. Vernon.. " " " " Davidson. n.s.w

Mr. K Priestley, Maitland.

Pauline M Clements
EDITOR

MAITLAND MERCURY EXTRACT: JACK SULLIVAN

MAITLAND MERCURY - SATURDAY 12.7.1856 - PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOTICE: At a meeting held on the 4th July, 1856, by the trustees of the Presbyterian Church, Paterson,
IT WAS RESOLVED-

That, in consideration of the required repairs by the Church, including light, cleaning, &c, they deem it necessary that a fund be raised for liquidating the same; and that it is intended to Let the Seats of the Church, which will commence from the 1st of July instant.

WEDNESDAY, the 23rd instant, is the day appointed when one or more of the Trustees will be at the Church from Ten to Twelve to receive applications for Seats.

DAVID BROWN)

WILLIAM CORNER) Trustees.

Paterson, July 9 1856

DEATH OF DR NEWBERRY: HARRY BOYLE

EXTRACTS FROM MAITLAND MERCURY NEWSPAPER 6.10.1883 - 28.6.1883
14.7.1883

MAITLAND MERCURY - 6.10.1883

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.
ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

In the Will of BENJAMIN NEWBURY, late of Paterson, in the Colony of New South Wales, Surgeon, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that after the expiration of Fourteen days from the publication hereof in the *Maitland Mercury Newspaper* and the *New South Wales Government Gazette*, Application will be made to this Honorable Court that LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION (with exemplification of Probate of the Will annexed) of the Estate and Effects, in the Colony of New South Wales, of BENJAMIN NEWBURY, late of Paterson, in the said colony, Surgeon, who died at sea, on the 5th day of May last, MAY BE GRANTED to RICHARD WINDEYER THOMPSON, of West Maitland, in the said colony, Solicitor, the duly constituted Attorney of FRANCES MARY NEWBURY, of Cheltenham, in the County of Gloucester, in England, the Widow of the said deceased and the Sole Executrix named in the last Will and Testament of said deceased.

— Dated this 5th day of October, A.D. 1883.

JOHN MALBON THOMPSON, —
Proctor,
98, Elizabeth-street,
Sydney.

8840

MAITLAND MERCURY - 28.6 1883

DEATH OF DR NEWBURY:

Many of our readers will regret to learn that Dr Newbury, who for over twenty years was a resident of Paterson, died on the 5th May last on the way to England. It will be remembered that owing to failing health, the doctor and Mrs Newbury decided upon taking a sea voyage. At the time of leaving this district the deceased gentleman appeared to be suffering from a cold which afterwards took the form of an attack of bronchitis, and culminated in inflammation of the lungs..... Dr Newbury was buried in the sea, the captain of the vessel reading the burial service in a very solemn and impressive manner. During Dr Newbury's long residence at the Paterson he took an active part in church matters and it will be remembered that prior to the doctor's departure he and Mrs Newbury were the recipients of a couple of addresses from the residents of the district.

MAITLAND MERCURY - 14.7.1883

SAD NEWS:

The sad and startling news.... Concerning the early history of the deceased, we are but very little acquainted, but from what we have heard, his colonial experience has been of a rather chequered character. In the first instance, the ship that he left England in was wrecked, and the doctor narrowly escaped with his life, leaving him to begin his colonial career with little else besides the clothes he wore, and for some years he appears to have had to struggle for a livelihood. But some years after his arrival here he was the fortunate recipient of a considerable fortune, and many years ago he retired from active practice.. It is thought that the doctor would end his days in bachelorhood, but these thoughts were dispelled about two years ago, when Mrs Newbury came out

from England to be married to him; but it seems that colonial life and climate did not quite meet the views of that lady, hence their voyage to the old home. During his thirty years residence in this district he made many friends, who lament his decease. He was in many ways rather eccentric, but had a kind and generous heart, and his many kind and charitable acts, many of which are unknown to people generally, will not soon be forgotten. He was also liberal in church matters, and gave liberally to his own and other churches - in this respect he will be greatly missed in the community - indeed ever since his departure we have felt that in many ways there is a vacant place in our community which will be very hard indeed to fill.

MANCHESTER UNITY INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS BANNER:

Now the property of our Society, this rare banner has been transported to the conservators, International Conservation Services Pty Ltd at Chatswood where it will be restored and placed in a double-sided display case and on return to Paterson will be on permanent display in the Court Room of the Museum.

The Society is greatly indebted to the Newcastle Branch of the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society which viewed the banner at the Regional Museum on Monday, 15 November, 1993 and contributed \$700.00 towards the cost of a conservation assessment and display programme.

Two State Government grants were received during 1995: \$5000 from the Dept. of Urban Affairs & Planning in the Department's Heritage Assistance Programme for 1995/96 and \$3000 from the Ministry of Arts. Conservators have estimated the cost for restoration and display to be around \$10,000. It is hoped the shortfall on the quoted price will be met from other sources by the time the work is completed. The Society is indebted to Bill Anderson who has taken the banner to the conservators and will collect it when the work undertaken will be completed within six months.

M E S S R S W A R R E N H A M I L T O N

& C O

Merchants and Ships Chandlers
SYDNEY TOWN 1852

RULES FOR THE CLERICAL STAFF
(EXTRACTS)

- 2 On the recommendation of the Governor of this Colony, this firm has reduced the hours of work, and the Clerical Staff will now only have to be present between the hours of 7am and 6pm on weekdays. The Sabbath is for Worship, but should any Man-of War or other vessel require victualling, the Clerical Staff will work on the Sabbath.
- 10 Now that the hours of business have been drastically reduced the partaking of food is allowed between 11.30am and noon, but work will not, on any account, cease.

(Thirteen new rules in all - the others just as generous!)
THE OWNERS HEREBY RECOGNISE THE GENEROSITY OF THE NEW LABOUR LAWS, BUT WILL EXPECT A GREAT RISE IN THE OUTPUT OF WORK TO COMPENSATE FOR THESE NEAR UTOPIAN CONDITIONS.