



THE JOURNAL OF  
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED  
**MUSEUM NEWS**

**TICKET OF LEAVE.**

Police No.

Police Office,



Old Banks 1832  
Paterson's Plains



**THE BEARER**

A Prisoner holding a Ticket of Leave, has Permission to pass free, this day, to all Public Places, Parks, Churches and Walks, cross Bridges without the Payment of Toll at Paterson's Plains and return on or before the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1832 To whom it may concern,

*James Archer*

N.B. - This pass is to be taken on the Day the Bearer arrives in the District to *James Archer* Constable of Paterson's Plains who will write his Name and Date on which it is exhibited to him hereon, and enter the Pass in his Book. The Pass is to be returned to the Police at Old Banks by the Bearer, and should he have occasion to return before this Pass is out, he must leave it at the Police Office on the Day he arrives in Old Banks and should he be unable to leave the Day this Pass is dated, he is immediately to return it to this Office.

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

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC EXECUTIVE 1999  
AFFILIATED WITH ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
AFFILIATED WITH MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA INC

PRESIDENT: CAMERON ARCHER  
SECRETARY: PAULINE CLEMENTS  
TREASURER: SHIRLEY THRELFO  
VICE PRESIDENT: MAURICE DUNLOP  
ASS SECRETARY: PAM SIVYER  
JOURNAL: PAULINE CLEMENTS - VAL ANDERSON  
MUSEUM CURATORS: VAL ANDERSON - BILL KEPPIE  
PROJECT COORDINATOR: BILL ANDERSON  
RECORDER: MABS KEPPIE  
SURVEILLANCE OFFICER: PHILIP LEAK  
PUBLIC OFFICER: CAMERON ARCHER  
RESEARCH OFFICERS: P CLEMENTS S THRELFO M KEPPIE B KEPPIE V ANDERSON  
PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM IS OPEN SUNDAYS FROM 1pm

PATRONS:  
MR M MORRIS OA  
MR R HORNE MP  
MR J PRICE MP  
MR A FAIRHALL  
MR L KIDD  
MR G SEMKEN

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

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Annual Subscription due February each year  
Family \$5    Single \$3    Student \$1  
\* \* \* \* \*

MUSEUM ROSTER:

23	May	C ARCHER	1	Aug	M M DUNLOP
30	"	S THRELFO P SIVYER	8	"	B V ANDERSON
			15	"	C ARCHER
6	June	B M KEPPIE	22	"	S THRELFO P SIVYER
13	"	P CLEMENTS P LEAK	29	"	B M KEPPIE
20	"	M M DUNLOP			
27	"	B V ANDERSON	5	Sept	P CLEMENTS P LEAK
			12	"	M M DUNLOP
4	July	C ARCHER	19	"	B V ANDERSON
11	"	S THRELFO P SIVYER	26	"	C ARCHER
18	"	B M KEPPIE			
25	"	P CLEMENTS P LEAK			

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WAR EFFORT KNITTING: NEWCASTLE REGIONAL MUSEUM

Between 1914-16 the Newcastle Red Cross and its 23 branches and sewing circles provided 4,731 pairs of socks for soldiers at the front, along with other items including handkerchiefs, writing pads and Christmas cakes.

\* \* \* \* \*

LES DARCY MEMORIAL FUND: HARRY BOYLE (ph 49305130)

TWO CURRENT FUND RAISING PROJECTS ARE BEING WELL RECEIVED.

BADGE: @ \$15 depicts Les Darcy standing on an anvil with 40 gold stars across the badge top (the number of fights won)

STATUE: 100 only available - INVESTMENT & COLLECTORS ITEM

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St James Church - MARTINS CREEK;

For 13 years society members Bill and Mabs Keppie have helped maintain the Anglican Church of St James (1928) at Martins Creek, a small village about 7klms from Paterson. While Bill mowed and tidied the church grounds Mabs would be inside tending to duties and always supplying flowers for services. When Bill's hands and knees slowed him down a few years ago, Mabs assumed both duties. Bill and Mabs retired at Easter. To them, congratulations for years of such dedication and the pleasure they gave to those passing by.

1999 HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND MUSEUMS ANNUAL CONVENTION HOSTED BY  
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 6 MARCH

Our society can be justly proud of the success of the Convention held in our town's School of Arts Hall earlier this year.

The pleasure we had organising the event was as rewarding as the complimentary remarks which followed (just how many iced tea buns should we order for morning tea was debated on more than one occasion!).

It is very easy to move paper and numbers around at meetings, but on the day our small group worked with so much precision and team work we surprised ourselves.

Our guest speakers, Allan Fairhall, Boris Sokoloff, Cynthia Hunter, Harry Boyle, Rex Meehan, Mari Metzke, Eve Semphill and our visitors were wonderful and very tolerant considering the extreme heat of the day.

As usual, our President Cameron excelled with his masterly control of the program (using a century old bullock bell from 'Duninald').

As the Convention was staged in the society's 25th year, special mention was made of the continuing support of foundation members Pauline Clements, Mabs and Bill Keppie, Shirley Threlfo and Mary and Maurice Dunlop all still holding executive positions in the society. A tribute was also made to Cameron Archer for his support and interest, now in his 14th year as President. As well as his busy position as Principal of Tocal College, Cameron leads our Heritage Walk each year, does his monthly stint at the museum and rarely misses a meeting.

To Pam Sivyer, who interrupted husband Peter's preparation for his District Governor's Rotary Convention to run off our literature sheets (very small by comparison!)...

to Cathy Lyall, thinking it could be one of those hot Paterson days, pre-organised the well received icy cold orange juice...

to Mary Dunlop, Esme Meehan, Val Watson and Pam who coped so well with melting chocolate cake at morning tea...

the boys, Maurice Dunlop and Charles Webbeck who kept the urns on boil from 8.30am until after lunch...

to Helen Masson for her delicious quiche, and who could not feel at home when you had a real country welcome at the door from Bill Keppie and Philip Leak...

Mabs Keppie and Jack Sullivan were all smiles when they counted the takings from our literature sales table... well done!

Our sandwiches received top votes (we always knew Robyn had the best chips in Australia - now we know who makes the best sandwiches!).

A special thank you to Cynthia Hunter who was on hand so willingly with her camera.

Where could any group have had a better committee?

Thank you all from the Convention Coordinators - Pauline Clements, Shirley Threlfo, Bill and Val Anderson.

COVER: PRINTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE CONVENTION  
'TICKET-OF-LEAVE' FACSIMILE

THE PATERSON'S PLAINS TICKET-OF-LEAVE HAS BEEN ADAPTED FROM A TICKET-OF-LEAVE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (WA) AT THE OLD GAOL AND COURT HOUSE YORK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE PATERSON'S PLAINS TICKET-OF-LEAVE IS IN THE STYLE OF THE ORIGINAL BLUE PAPER TICKET-OF-LEAVE ; THEY ARE REPRODUCED BY US ON CARD AS A MORE PERMANENT SOUVENIR. 1832 WAS THE YEAR IN WHICH A COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS WAS ESTABLISHED AT PATERSON'S PLAINS, HUNTER RIVER.

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

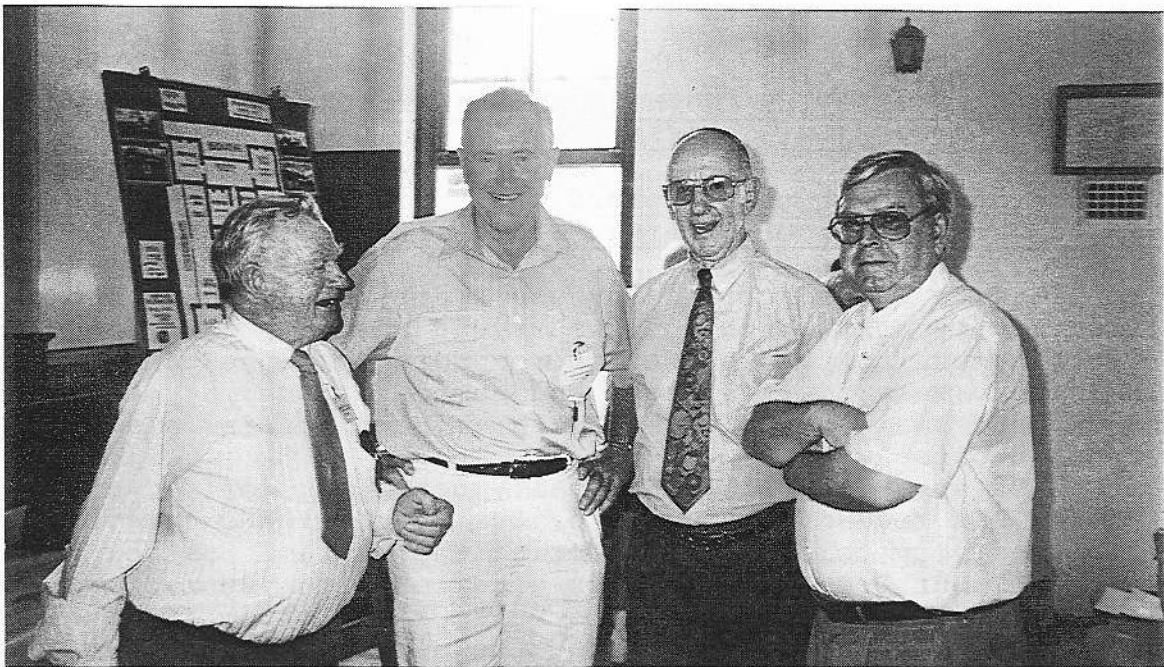


PHOTO - CYNTHIA HUNTER

CONVENTION LARRIKINS: HARRY BOYLE, BILL ANDERSON, REX MEEHAN and JACK SULLIVAN

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HERITAGE ADDRESS:

The ANNUAL PATERSON HERITAGE ADDRESS, an initiative of our society, was presented Thursday evening 1 April at the Paterson Court House Museum. Now in its seventh year, this year's invited guest was society member Shirley Threlfo who chose as her subject, Captain James Phillips, a pioneer of the Paterson district. Phillips received a land grant of 2090 acres in 1822 (between Tocal and Paterson village) which he named, 'Bona Vista.' Shirley gave an excellent account of Phillips and the involvement of his family in the early development of Paterson. Society treasurer and Life Member, Shirley has been active with the society since its inception in 1974 and was recently the author of a publication by the society on the Australian Womens Land Army and its association with the Paterson district.

Next year's Heritage Address guest will be well known Lake Macquarie historian and author, Dulcie Hartley who will speak on John Herring Boughton, Paterson land grantee in 1822.



PHOTO - BILL ANDERSON

PRESENTATION by PAULINE CLEMENTS (centre) to SHIRLEY THRELFO (right) (Left background MARY DUNLOP)

## ONE CHAPTER OF A WAR STORY. THE SCENE: PATERSON, 1916

The 'Tocal Murder' was recovered from the pages of history and brought back into local folk lore because the 'murder stone' was too heavy to dispose of easily when the Court House was given a 'clean-up'. Hence it stayed about the building to whence it had been brought in late December 1874 as evidence in an inquest and trial. How different would our present-day treatment of the grim historical event be if the stone had been broken up and used to edge someone's garden bed, or just thrown away. I wonder if another exhibit, a 51-pound piece of iron pipe, *was* actually thrown away at the time of that clean-up, thereby contributing to our forgetting another dreadful occurrence in this area.

In late 1916, Captain Herbert Patfield was skippering the rear-wheeled paddle steamer ANNA MARIA on one of her regular trips from Paterson when he noticed an object in the river on the Paterson side of Powell's Rocks, amongst some willows, and about ten feet from the Tocal bank. Five days later, on a late afternoon return trip, it was still there. He brought the steamer over as close as he could. He thought the object had clothes on so he lowered a boat and going over saw a floating body clad in women's clothes. The body was caught on low projecting limbs of a willow tree. The legs were tied around the ankles with rope.

Captain Patfield proceeded on to Paterson then called at the Police Station to report the find. In the morning, he accompanied Constable Couper to the place where the clothed body was floating, which was 'about a mile below Tocal Bridge'. The constable brought it to the shore. The body was that of a woman. It was tied to a bent cast iron pipe by several turns of stranded wire rope.

The body was taken to a room at the rear of the Court House Hotel and Dr Perkins, the Government Medical Officer for the Morpeth district, undertook a post mortem on the following day. The body was disrobed, revealing that day clothes had been put on the body over a night dress. Dr Perkins came to the conclusion that the woman was already dead when thrown into the river and that she had died of haemorrhage 'following a certain event', but he could find no evidence to show by what means this event had been brought about. He estimated that death occurred about a fortnight previous to the body's discovery.

By this time, the deceased woman had been identified as 30-year-old, English born, Mrs X, of Cessnock, a mother of three children whose husband, a former miner, had enlisted 12 months previously, had served in France, sustained wounds, and had been invalided to England. A recent letter from him told of his improvement in health, and of his affection for her. The deceased woman had left her home on 2 October, leaving her children with a friend, and telling her friend that she was to have an operation for appendicitis at Maitland Hospital. However, she did not go to the hospital.

Meanwhile, the iron pipe was examined and recognised as having been cast by D. Sim and Son, iron founders of Morpeth. Robert Sim identified it as part of wool-scouring apparatus that had been cast about 28 years ago for JH Geddes and Co., a firm that then had a wool washing business at Oakhampton. These premises were, in 1916, occupied by a blacksmith who also identified the piece of iron to be one of several similar pieces from an old boiler that was on the river bank. The blacksmith was aware of a neighbour Mrs Y, and a man, Mr Z who resided with her, and a laneway that existed between Mrs Y's house and the river bank where the old boiler lay.

Sergeant Dolman had taken some newly-cut wire from the fence at the back of Mrs Y's house and found it similar to the wire found round the body. There was also evidence that a part of the old boiler nearby had been removed.

The deceased woman's clothes were identified by the Cessnock dressmaker who had made them. Mr W, a labourer of Cessnock who boarded with the deceased woman since her husband had been away at the War, acknowledged that 'certain relations existed between them', and that the deceased said that she was 'in a certain condition and would do something'. He knew that she had 'made arrangements' to go to Mrs Y's place on 3 October and would stay with her a full week. When she did not return at the arranged time, Mr W went to Mrs Y's house to ask after her. Mrs Y denied that she had been there. Mr W then went to the police in Maitland with the information.

When some witnesses and a range of evidence had been assembled, an Inquest was held at Paterson Court House before the Coroner, Mr Walter Tucker.

Constable Couper, who had been stationed at Paterson for twelve years, produced a sketch of the Paterson River from the traffic bridge to Powell's Rocks, showing Webber's Creek and the Maitland to Paterson Road, via Tocal. He stated how he had received

information from Captain Patfield and, on 19 October, had travelled by the ANNA MARIA to the body, 'about a mile below Tocal Bridge' and on the Tocal side. He described the body, its position, its clothing, and the way it was attached to the iron pipe with the seven-strand galvanised iron wire.

Dr Perkins recounted the result of his post mortem. He had determined that the deceased person had been put in the river after death. There was very little blood in the body. A 'certain event' had taken place but the time that had passed since death prevented him from determining by what means it had come about.

Captain Herbert Patfield, who had been master of Paterson River steamers for 28 years, told his story, and Robert Sim of the Morpeth foundry identified the iron pipe and the year and purpose for which it had been made. Certain machinery had been installed at Oakhampton which now lay idle.

The blacksmith who worked from the site of the old machinery also identified the pipe, and spoke of the neighbour Mrs Y and her tenant Mr Z.

The dressmaker from Cessnock identified the clothes worn by the deceased woman and knew something of her circumstances. A sister of the deceased identified her and spoke of her circumstances. Neither knew that she was 'in a certain condition'.

The deceased woman's boarder acknowledged their relationship, and her condition, and her decision to 'do something'. He knew she intended to go to Mrs Y's place, for a week. She did not return. Mrs Y denied to him that she had ever been there.

Sergeant Dolman stated that the wire around the body was similar to some freshly-cut wire in a fence at Mrs Y's property and that there was evidence that the old boiler had recently been interfered with. To Sergeant Dolman, Mrs Y denied that the deceased had ever been to her place and she denied that Mr Z had been there to ask after her.

Two miners came forward to give evidence. They said that they were fishing in the Paterson River near Webber's Creek on the night of October 7. A motor car came from the direction of Maitland on the Tocal Road. It stopped at the Paterson Bridge for about ten minutes and turned around and came back 'at a great speed'.

Mrs Y refused to give evidence.

Miss Q, of Oakhampton, said that she passed Mrs Y's place four times a day. On October 5 she saw a woman in Mrs Y's front garden with a loose wrapper on and no hat. She had brown hair, was about 30 years of age, of medium height and slight build. She was a stranger.

The Coroner found that Mrs X, between October 2 and 12, died from haemorrhage, the result of a certain event, but whether it was brought about by criminal practice and, if so, by whom, there was not sufficient evidence to enable him to say.

The deceased woman's body was buried in the graveyard of St Paul's Anglican churchyard following the post mortem. No mention is made in St Paul's burial register of this event although the death certificate states that the burial did occur here. For many years, the woman's mother travelled every week by train from Cessnock to Paterson to visit her daughter's grave. No memorial was ever erected here and the grave's location is unknown today, although it may be one of the single graves which bear no identification in the lower section of the cemetery.

No personal names have been given in this account of the Inquest as 1916 is not all that long ago and no good purpose would be served by doing so. This account outlines all the evidence given to the Coroner, as reported in the 'Mercury'. Reading it today, does it seem satisfactory? What further investigations would you have like to see made? How would contemporary (1916) people have viewed the event, the evidence and the verdict? What impact would the event have had on the Paterson community, or the Cessnock community, or the people in Oakhampton? How would a similar problem, or event, be handled or viewed today? What became of Mrs Y? Did the police keep an open eye on her activities, or a blind eye? What became of Mrs X's children, or Mr X when he returned from War, or Mr Z? A sensational event can easily be plucked out of the past but it is more difficult to place that event in the context of its time. And not all victims of War die in battle. What do you think?

Prepared by Cynthia Hunter from the report of the event, and the Inquest copied from the *Mercury* and reproduced in the *Dungog Chronicle* 24 October and 7 November 1916, and Pauline Clements' *Burials in St Paul's* ..... Vol 2.

ANNUAL HERITAGE WALK:

Once again our society's ANNUAL HERITAGE WALK held on 21 March this year was popular and well attended. Over eighty adults and many children (they seemed to be everywhere!) joined President Cameron on a tour of the town, the high ridge above the museum and along old Commercial Road through Keith Jordan's farm. Highlight of this year's HERITAGE WALK was the first public viewing of a refurbished Barbers Chair unveiled by Cameron prior to the commencement of the walk.

The Barbers Chair, closely related to the early history of Paterson, was donated to the society by Mrs Eileen Cowan in 1976 and will form part of a standing exhibition at the museum. The chair was originally owned and used by Ted Stedman in the late 1930s into the early 1950s in association with his barbering businesses in Duke and King Streets, Paterson. The chair came into the possession of Fred Cowan who used it for some time as a service to friends. Handsomely restored, it will now give great pleasure to those visiting our museum.

We must mention and give thanks to Bill Anderson for the research, time and restoration procedures he followed with this project.

(photo p7)



PHOTO - VAL ANDERSON



CONGRATULATIONS  
CHARLES & VAL  
WEBBECK

HERITAGE WALK:  
SOCIETY EXECUTIVE  
SHIRLEY THRELFO & PHILIP LEAK

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A SPECIAL VOTE OF THANKS:

At our last monthly meeting, President Cameron moved a special vote of thanks to Keith Jordan for the continued co-operation he has given to the society for many years relative to access to his property during our ANNUAL HERITAGE WALK each year. Keith slashes the old Commercial Road, where prior to the 1875 flood, the bulk of Paterson's commercial centre was situated. Keith has a great knowledge of Paterson's early history particularly in the area of his farm and other land holdings he owns nearby which were part of original land grants.



PHOTO - VAN ANDERSON

Our society was delighted to have members of Ted Stedman's family at the launch of the Stedman/Cowan Barbers Chair prior to the Heritage Walk on 21 March this year. Jean, Peter and John Stedman, three of Ted's four children were very complimentary and proud to view the restoration.

(SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL BE NOTIFIED RE AUDITION TIMES FOR A BARBERSHOP QUARTETTE!!!)

PHOTO; Peter and John Stedman with society executive Bill Keppie. As a Paterson lad, Bill was a regular of Ted Stedman - The Barber.

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PHOTO - RAHS

NSW MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS - ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
CULTURAL GRANT CHEQUE PRESENTATION-PORT MACQUARIE-1998

Society member Cynthia Hunter receiving a cheque for \$1000 towards publication of the Annual Paterson Heritage Address by Jack Sullivan "CHARLES BOYDELL - HUNTER VALLEY PIONEER".

The presentation was made by The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC. Also present in the photo is the RAHS President, Dr Ruth Frappel.