



THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED
MUSEUM NEWS



PHOTO - BILL ANDERSON

BOB HORNE MP - GARY KIRKWOOD - PAULINE CLEMENTS
PETER BLACKMORE
at the OPENING of "NOUMEA" B&B PATERSON 5.11.98

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 OFFICERS: PHILIP LEAK - CLIVE CORBET
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

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PROGRAM:

OCT 7 MEETING: BUSINESS MEETING - 25th Anniversary Program
9 WORKING BEE - All welcome
NOV 4 CHRISTMAS GATHERING - Light refreshments supplied by society
13-14 25th ANNIVERSARY MUSEUM OPEN DAYS

RECESS: DECEMBER 1999 - JANUARY 2000

FEB 4 MEETING: AGM - Planning for the Year 2000
MAR 3 MEETING: Guest Speaker - MAUREEN KINGSTON
Historic 'Lanyon' - Canberra Legal Policy
26 HERITAGE WALK
APRIL 7 MEETING: HERITAGE ADDRESS - DULCIE HARTLEY
J H BOUGHTON - 'Tillimby' Land Grantee

TOTAL FIELD DAYS: May 4 5 6

SOCIETY LITERATURE SALES STALL - MEMBERS FOR ROSTER
MAY 5 MEETING: BUSINESS MEETING

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MUSEUM ACCESSIONS:

Fabric Maps x 2 - Cheryl White - Paterson
Bidner Book of Facts and Memories - Keith Rudkin - Newcastle
Death In The Hunter (Inquests and Names) by purchase
BDM Paterson Houghton Middlethorpe - Brian Walsh - Martins Creek
Dolly Pegs - Bill Anderson - Martins Creek
Paterson Orange Leaflets - Margaret Dent - Gresford
Linen Bag - Mabs & Bill Keppie - Martins Creek
Land Grants - 1788/1809 - Rex Meehan - East Maitland
Gramophone Record Carrying Box - Harry Wright - Rail Motor Society
Early Road System Map - Alan Dunlop - Paterson
Rubber Stamp - Joan Priestly - Paterson
Book - Heriott's Choice - Mabs & Bill Keppie - Martins Creek
Family Photo - Clive Corbett - Crystal Creek

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WHEN IS WILD DUCK COOKED AND READY FOR EATING?

Harry Boyle reckons it's when the 2" nail thrown in the pot is tender - Grahame Tanner, manager of Pickering Estate disagrees... it's when the 2" stone thrown in is tender!

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE PATERSON VALLEY.

For more than 170 years the Paterson ideal has remained unchanged. The small Government township was established in 1833, with private land becoming available for sale in the 1840's, the size and shape of the township was set, and has remained so to the present day.

Outlying land was made available for sale over succeeding years as the original land grants were broken into smaller allotments. The small areas eventually became ideal dairy farms for men and their families. The popularity of the newly established dairy industry brought prosperity to the district, and indeed to the whole of the Hunter Valley.

However, succeeding years have seen many changes occur and these have meant the end of the days of the small dairy farm. Today we see very few dairy farms and those still existing are a great deal larger than those in days past.

This leaves many acres of land in the district of little use for any productive venture. The days of raising a few fat cattle on a small acreage have also gone, and so the small properties are left idle. Is it any wonder then, that the owners of these properties are interested in selling their land and investing that money to provide a more lucrative income.

Forseeing this change in land use, the local Council has produced an ammendment to the Local Enviroment Plan of 1990 - the Paterson Closer Rural Settlement Strategy - which will allow for the sub-division of this unproductive agricultural land. It is not something which is going to happen in the immediate future, but in time, when all necessary infra-structure has been properly planned and put in place.

Meetings have been called to allow local residents to discuss the new planning but there has been strong opposition to the idea... many fearful that land sub-division will mean the end to the area as we know it. However, with careful attention to the areas allowed to be built on - considering drainage, soil run-off, bush destruction etc. there should be no reason why more people cannot come to the area to enjoy the life-style we now have. Many people have already built their homes on what was once agricultural land, and are enjoying the rural life-style, so why not allow others the same privilege.

The face of the district has been changing since settlement of the area began, and while ever people want to come to this district to live, changes will continue to take place. Small clusters of homes properly planned and provided with all ammenities can surely be built in parts of the district where there will be no interference with the overall face of the area.

The immediate look of the township of Paterson can never be changed, nestled as it is between two protecting hills and the bend in the river. We shall always have the distinctive historic village that is Paterson, even if the few available blocks of land are built upon. No one would want to see every tree cut down to be replaced by houses, but with judicious planning surely our wonderful district can be opened to newcomers without destroying the scenery and life-style they want to come and enjoy.

Pauline Clements.

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R A H S CULTURAL GRANT:

The society has been successful in being allocated \$300 towards a monograph publication, "James Phillips - Bona Vista", the 1999 Heritage Address written and presented by Shirley Threlfo in April. This year, \$25,000 was made available by the NSW Ministry for the Arts for distribution by the Royal Australian Historical Society. Our society is most appreciative of this support.

HAVE YOU VISITED SANDGATE CEMETERY LATELY?

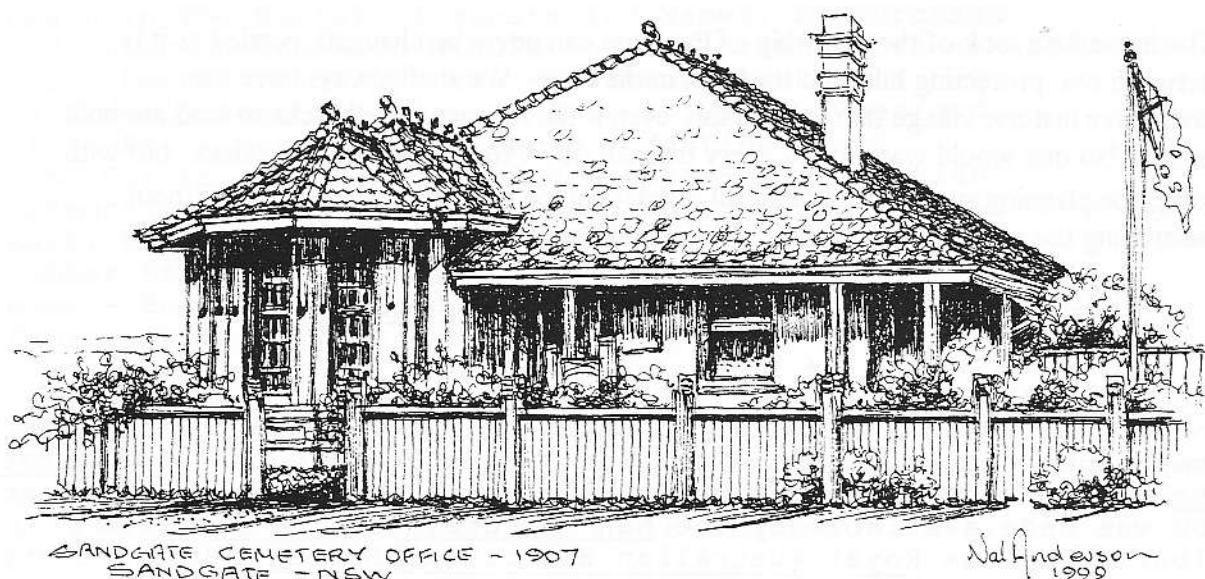
Society member Cynthia Hunter has, for the last few years, been a member of the Trust that manages Newcastle's Sandgate Cemetery which is the largest cemetery in NSW outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Many people assume that Newcastle City Council administers Sandgate but this is not so. Sandgate is a Crown Land cemetery under the control of the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the day-to-day administration is now in the hands of a community-based Trust. This arrangement was put into place in 1987. Prior to that time, and for the 100 years previous, the cemetery was managed by eleven separate religious Trusts, all working relatively independently until about 1980 when the then Catholic Trust agreed to take on the overall management. As noted, this arrangement was replaced by a standard Lands Department reserve Trust in 1987. The first directive given the new Trust was to commission a Management Plan to cover all aspects of running Sandgate.

The cemetery's needs came under a few main headings. There was a need to upgrade facilities, such as roads, pathways, shelters and toilets. Visually, the cemetery needed to have a friendly and welcoming appearance. The 60-acre site needed to be fenced, with gates at the three main entry points. Boundary and internal planting, internal turfed pathways and signs were needed. The 'underground water table' needed management, especially since the in-ground drainage system had been seriously damaged in the 1989 earthquake. The future usefulness of Sandgate as a place of interment needed to be determined, especially with regard to the contemporary needs of a community of diverse cultural backgrounds.

The Management Plan was prepared by Suters Architects of Newcastle and after completion and public exhibition, was given Ministerial approval. The next task was to begin to implement the Plan. In late 1995, the Trust was successful in securing a DEETYA (Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs) grant for labour-oriented works to be carried out over an 18-month period. EJE (Architects) Landscaping was appointed to supervise the DEETYA works and priority was given to the 'facilities' and the 'visual' components of the works considered necessary at the cemetery. Management of the grant and works was carried out by the Wallsend Training and Development Centre.

Since the completion of the DEETYA work, the Trust has appointed a full-time cemetery manager, Bill Saxby, who has, among other duties, continued to implement the Management Plan as resources come available. Some of these resources have been successfully-negotiated government initiated work-experience schemes and have enabled some particularly important initiatives to be undertaken at Sandgate.

One of these has been the Habitat Rehabilitation of the Railway Spur Precinct, undertaken under the 'Green Corps' (Young Australian for the Environment) Program. On the southern boundary of Sandgate, between the cemetery and the railway, is a remnant of wetland that had long been a wild, unmanaged wasteland. After six months of the Green Corps program, this area is now a delightful, accessible environment enhanced by a walking trail, with areas and facilities to sit and enjoy interesting vegetation and wetland scenery. When clearing this precinct, a few rare plant were identified that could almost be called 'heritage' species.



Another important program was the construction of a heritage walking trail through the original sections of the cemetery. This was achieved through a 'Work for the Dole' project. Groups of young people tackled this initiative with great enthusiasm and their achievements individually and working in a team are highly commendable. They were introduced to history, heritage, botany and plant culture, monumental masonry, restoration techniques, and the making and erection of signs.

During 1998, the manager, Bill Saxby, has overseen the establishment of a lawn cemetery at Sandgate, as well as the construction of a structure comprised of above-ground crypts and chapel to serve the needs of Newcastle's significant ethnic community. Bill has also negotiated the erection in early 1999, of a special monument to remember the over-4000 neonatal burials at Sandgate for which no marked grave or memorial exists. Another special project is to honour the hundreds of citizens remembered on graves in the cemetery who fought in, or who were killed in, the wars of the 20th century. These initiatives are underway, and are achievements in addition to the general day-to-day running of Newcastle's largest cemetery. They are all part of a program the object of which is to make Sandgate a welcoming and interesting place where visitors can remember, and discover, the contribution of the district's former residents in pleasant surroundings that reflect activity and care. Visitors are certainly returning to Sandgate, a situation easily confirmed by the colourful landscape of well-tended graves and bright flowers. Recent Walking Tours of Sandgate arranged through the WEA have been popular and well-attended. The Trust has also set up a 'Friends of Sandgate' organisation to enable members of the community to contribute to the cemetery's future management. For further information, please contact Cynthia Hunter, or the Cemetery. Cynthia Hunter

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2000 HERITAGE WALK:

Once again, President Cameron will lead our Annual Heritage Walk around Paterson. The date has been set at 26 March 2000.

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25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Arrangements are well in hand. November 13 & 14 have been decided upon as VISITORS OPEN DAYS at the Museum to celebrate our 25 year's contribution to conserving Paterson's heritage.

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THE RETURN OF THUNDERBOLT:

With firearms smoking, much noise and great frivolity, Thunderbolt (alias Greg Powell and his bushranging gang) returned to Tocal during the recent Heritage Farm Skills Open Day. A questionnaire was distributed for comment asking what visitors considered to be highlights of the day. This was not easy. Could it have been... Bob Dunn's seeder restoration housed in the Blakett Barn... the beautiful new cedar garden seats... the enthusiasm of Eric Holliday... the new signs under the magnificent fig trees... the delicious scones cooked in the Homestead kitchen by our own Mabs and Kathy... the beautifully kept Valley Garden? I think not! To us it was the delightful expectations of the youngsters coming through the gates because, yes, today they would be seeing THUNDERBOLT!!!

(Rumour has it that Thunderbolt was definitely seen at Robyn's shop the evening before the open day buying the Mercury! It's true!)

It was a wonderful day Cameron, we'll just have to get the weather on side next year.

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LOCAL MUSEUMS GO GLOBAL ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB:

In the last few weeks thirteen of the Hunter's museums went live on the Internet as part of the Australian Museums on Line (AMOL) project. Listed under the banner of Hunter Chapter of Museums Australia (NSW), visitors on the net can quickly find detailed information about each museum including location, opening hours and contact details. In addition images of the museums and their collections are readily accessed. We have already had an enquiry from South Australia! The site is available for perusal at <http://amol.org.au/newcastle/hunterchapter/>



PHOTO - CAMERON ARCHER

Mary and Maurice Dunlop, society executives, Helen Dunlop and daughter Katie who drove from Mungindi, near the Queensland border, with a coach load of fellow teachers for the evening.

"CURTEISE FARM" BONFIRE AND CRACKER NIGHT CELEBRATION:

More than 300 Paterson friends and neighbours attended a huge bonfire and cracker night at Alan and Helen Dunlop's Vacy property, "Curteise Farm". The evening on May 29, was to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24) and the wedding anniversary of Alan's great-grand parents, John Guy Jnr and May Vitnell who were married on May 27 1899. Alan's parents, Mary and Maurice Dunlop, had the added pleasure of the company of Mary's cousins, who came from Sydney for the evening. Alan bought "Curteise Farm" earlier this year from the estate of Dr McGirr. A well-known Vacy district dairy farm "Curteise Farm" had been owned by Dr McGirr from 1954.

Alan has had long ties with the Paterson district, his mother's family being descendants of Wooger Vitnell, who was a police constable at Paterson in 1833. The main bonfire, comprising timber and dead tree stumps cleared from the property, was topped with a space-age Guy Fawkes while two fires nearby were just as spectacular.

Near perfect weather and a wonderful pyrotechnics finale concluded a memorable and much appreciated evening.

(The funeral of John Guy Snr's wife, Mary, conducted by Fry Brothers Funeral Directors in 1913 is featured in Cynthia Hunter's book, "BOURKE STREET - MAITLAND" p23)

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GUEST SPEAKERS:

For a number of years now Philip Leak, our security officer, has taken us to wonderful destinations on our July meeting nights. This year, once again Phil showed his talents captivating us with his beautiful slides of Norfolk Island.

Val Anderson had us overwhelmed, as she and husband Bill were, with their trip to China and the Great Wall climb.

The conservation of the Manchester Unity Lodge Banner was to Paterson what the restoration of the American National Flag will be to the United States of America. Val gave details of this three-story high American icon and of the private viewing on a recent trip to the Smithsonian Institute prior to a multi-million dollar restoration program.

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MORNING OUTING:

In her vote of thanks to our hosts, Treasurer Shirley made us realise once again how fortunate it is that there are those still committed to the conservation of historic homes. It is obvious that the cost of restoration and maintenance of Bolwarra House and Lorn House visited socially by members recently would be of enormous consideration yet both projects have now been completed and we can only applaud the owners dedication and attention to detail.



PHOTO - BILL ANDERSON

Bill Keppie standing beside the new Paterson Court House Museum sign - Feb 1999

BILL KEPPIE'S RECOLLECTIONS: VAL ANDERSON

Paterson Court House closed in 1967 for court procedures and reopened in 1974 as a museum with Paterson Historical Society Inc as its governing body.

Earlier this year the welcoming signs at each end of the town, donated and erected by the society in 1990 were cleaned, refurbished and the lower signs replaced. Colours chosen at the time were colonial, pre 1850s, and the logo, "First Land Grants - 1821" was felt to be appropriate by the society.

More recently, the original timber sign at the museum entrance was replaced with a modern sign to complement the colours used on the building when it was painted in 1993 to original 1860s colours.

Bill Keppie, society life member, had helped put up the original sign atop the plough at the entrance and was now giving a hand with its replacement 25 years later.

"It was the late Stan Priestley's suggestion that we use a plough below the sign," Bill said. "I had a small one at the farm and it looked right at home when we put it up."

Bill felt sure the plough would have been made by one of the Keppie family who were prominent trades and business people in the developing years of Paterson. Bill had used the plough on his property, "Glenlossie" (on the outskirts of Paterson) as did his father Walter and grandfather, William. Peter and William Snr Keppie, who came to Paterson around 1840, won medallions at the Hunter River Agricultural Shows in 1844 and 1845 for Best Scuffler and Best Plough. Bill's grandfather, William, won a medallion in 1874 for Best Plough. The former entry area used by magistrates before entering chambers at the court house (now an annex to Dungog Shire Council Library), has a fine collection of rural memorabilia on loan from the Keppie family. It includes farming tools used by these early pioneers .

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TOTAL FIELD DAYS: May 4 5 6 2000

The society has applied to exhibit at next year's Total Field Days. As this occasion is in our 25th Anniversary Year we feel it appropriate that we contribute and hope to stage a wall display and sell literature relative to the Paterson district. The financial returns from past years has been very rewarding for our small society and the historic Paterson displays greatly appreciated by the general public in attendance.

Another Sesquicentenary: G A Middleton, first chaplain to New Castle

ANGELICAN ENCOUNTER
P10 - MAY 1998

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle recently celebrated the Sesquicentenary of its foundation. There is also another Sesquicentenary which falls on 15 May this year: the death of the clergyman appointed to the serve as the first Colonial Chaplain to the convict settlement of New Castle: the Revd George Augustus Middleton.

I am engaged in writing his biography as a post graduate research student with the History Faculty of the University of Newcastle.

After making contact with some of Middleton's descendants, I am organising what I trust will be a fitting commemoration of his Sesquicentenary. Descendants will be travelling to Newcastle to participate and to swap information etc.

Middleton is an enigma. He attended St John's College, Cambridge as Sizar but never graduated. Later he put M.A. after his name, something he should not have done. He was ordained deacon and priest outside the normal guidelines and certainly outside the normal time frame.

He came to Australia in a hurry. On arrival he was sent to Parramatta to relieve Samuel Marsden, who was on a trip to New Zealand. Marsden did not like him because he felt he gambled too much. Others were to say that he was not a true Evangelical.

In 1821 Middleton was appointed to Newcastle. He seemed unable to avoid conflict and controversy: he and Morisset disagreed on many things, such as the state of the parsonage and the need for a boat to travel up-river to the, as yet, few settlers on Wallis and Paterson's Plains.

There was open conflict be-

tween the Commandant and the Chaplain: Morisset didn't like the way Middleton spent his time mixing socially with the free settlers who were beginning to arrive in greater numbers from the early 1820s. Middleton complained about construction work being carried on during the Sabbath worship and also accused Morisset of living in open adultery.

Then his church almost fell down around him, the steeple actually doing so, and he had to conduct worship in the Barracks (probably the soldiers' - so what then of the convicts? They appear to have been of little interest for him as objects of priestly ministry).

Middleton appears to have made no attempt to have the steeple rebuilt. So far there is no record of his ministry with the convicts, although he would have been expected to attend floggings and hangings. He had convicts assigned to him and there is emerging evidence that he had them flogged for stealing from his garden (in Newcastle) and later, a different lot, for being indolent on his property at Paterson.

Most notable of all was the amount of time he wasn't in his parish. He was a great traveller and drover, using the Great North Road (as it later became known) to move himself and his livestock between Newcastle, his farm(s) and Sydney Town and back.

Lancelot Threlkeld tells us that Middleton was "a great favourite with the blacks" and gives details of a trip to Lake Macquarie where, in the company of 100 natives, he and his companions had a great time "huntin', shootin' and fishin'". One wonders how he felt about the decline of the Aboriginal population up to the time of his death in 1848. By that time there were few left in the Lower Hunter.

Middleton remarried in Liverpool, NSW in 1824. His first wife, while he was still in England, had borne him a son and died soon afterwards. His second bride was Sarah Rose, who subsequently bore him 13 children. It is interesting to note that there was 18 years difference in their ages. He was 34, she was 16 on the day they married.

In the church, archdeacons are said to be "the crook at the head of the bishop's staff". Thomas Hobbes-Scott was no exception, and when he and Middleton fell out, the latter resigned from the chaplaincy and went to Moore Park near Hinton.

He then ministered to the rapidly increasing number of free settlers, using his home as the base for baptisms and weddings, there being no churches yet erected, nor any other clergy in the area. Once St James, Morpeth, was built he used its registers to record his activities until the first

Rector of Morpeth was appointed.

As well, Middleton became a notable farmer and leading citizen. He held an executive position in the Farmers' Association and in 1828 won a prize for his cheese-making. There are reports that he held sporting games on his farm, was a renowned horse breeder (and racer?) and there are suggestions that he experimented with a number of crops.

Having been a teacher in London, he seems to have set up a school in Balmain, Sydney, around 1832, but little else is, as yet, known about this. He is also reported to have had a school on his property at Hinton, but this may have been just he and his wife educating their ever-increasing brood. All the children born to Middleton and his second wife, except the first two (who were born in Newcastle) were born at Hinton.

With the arrival of Bishop Broughton in 1836, Middleton resumed full-time ministry as the Rector of Butterwick (of which his property at Hinton was a part) and ministered from there until his death on 15 May 1848, in his 56th year.

Sunday's timetable

The proposed timetable for Sunday, 17 May is as follows:

09.00 Meet at the Foreshore for a Commemorative Walk to visit

the sites where he "lived, moved and had his being". We will proceed to the sites of the first foundry, the whipping post, the Soldiers' Pool, the Old Gaol, the only remaining house from near his time (off Bolton Street), the first Parsonage and the original Christ Church.

11.30 Memorial Service in the Cathedral, possibly using the Book of Common Prayer, 1662, and the ecclesiastical vesture of the day - this will need to be decided in consideration of present Cathedral traditions.

12.30 Lunch

13.00 Proceed to Morpeth/Hinton and then to Paterson along Butterwick Road. This crosses some of the lands he held. At Paterson attempt to visit his original land grant "4 miles due west of Paterson". We will also visit St Paul's Church, Paterson, where he attended the induction of the first incumbent on 27 November 1845.

16.00 Return to Morpeth to St James' Church, where he also worked and attended the opening/consecration on 31 December 1840.

17.00 Conclude the day's activities with a visit to Middleton's grave in Morpeth Cemetery and a brief service of Commemoration.

Notes from Fr Brian Roach, based on his MA thesis, *George Augustus Middleton - a prodigal priest?*