



THE JOURNAL OF
 PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS



Photo: Bill Anderson

Cameron Archer and Rod Morris at the reopening
 of one of the 1830s underground silos on Tocal Estate
 26 September 2002 .

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 2002

AFFILIATED with Royal Australian Historical Society Inc. and Museums Australia Inc.

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B. Brown, H. Boyle OAM, J. Sullivan, C. Archer, V. Anderson.

PATRONS

Mr. M. Morris OA

Mr. R. Baldwin MP

Mr. J. Price MP

Mr. S. Lowe

Mr. G. Semken

Mr. A. Fairhall.

MEETINGS PHSI meets the first Thursday of each month - 7.30 pm. - at the Paterson Court House Museum (Recess December/January)

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Annual subscriptions due February each year.
Family \$5. Single \$3. Student \$1.

PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 7 MEETING - CHRISTMAS GATHERING - Sue and Boris Sokolof - Slide evening.
Refreshments. (Mary, Kathy and Pam to organize)



GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers at our monthly meetings have been excellent. Distance does not seem of concern and our society appreciates the effort taken in our speaker's preparation. Esme Meehan gave a detailed and well documented talk on her many sorties throughout Australia. Ed Tonks has completely changed our attitude towards the locomotives which pass so close to our museum and draw comment when proceedings come to a halt during meetings. Professor John Fryer presented an outstanding (computer based) talk on indigenous sites and comparisons throughout the world. Graeme Martin showed slides of the early development of the Snowy River Scheme which complemented Pauline Clements talk earlier this year on her tour of this magnificent achievement.



MAITLAND MERCURY PATERSON DISTRICT NEWS (condensed) 1878 - Harry Boyle OAM

October 1878 was a busy time in the Paterson district. The weather was favourable, although "exceedingly hot with the thermometer running up to over ninety degrees". There had been good rain. St Leon's Big Show and Circus troupe played to big houses in tents erected at the foot of King Street. The retired former police Sen. Sgt. James Wells was the successful tenderer for conveying the Dungog, Paterson and Gresford mails for a period of three years. The young wheat crop was badly affected by rust and Mr. Thomas Smith commenced contracted work to do drainage and repairs to the new public wharf. The Old Dungog Road by Mowbray was reopened giving the travelling public an alternative route to Dungog. The sad news of Mrs. Bowker's death caused a gloom over the community. Mrs Bowker was the wife of Dr R.S. Bowker and the youngest daughter of the late James Phillips of Bona Vista. Mrs Bowker always looked upon Paterson as her home and was regarded by all "with affection". Mrs. Bowker's funeral took place in Sydney, her remains having been brought from Sydney by steamer and train to East Maitland where mourning coaches conveyed the funeral procession to Paterson. Following a church and grave service Mrs Bowker's remains were lowered into the Phillips' family vault in St Paul's churchyard.



Maitland Mercury 13th April 1865 - Harry Boyle OAM

Mr. Corner has erected a large and commodious Produce Store, opposite the old Bush Inn. This building is a substantial one, of brick, with stone foundation with a slated roof, and measures fifty feet in length and 99 feet in width, two stories in height, with a loft above, and a capacious verandah in front. The building presents a very neat and creditable appearance, and is capable of storing away an immense quantity of produce. Opposite and adjoining the old Bush Inn, the same gentleman has erected a large retail store, of the same substantial materials as the produce store. This store measures 30 feet frontage to the street, and 50 feet back, with offices and unpacking rooms in the old Bush Inn. We are sorry, however, that the front windows, which extend nearly the whole length of the front, present an old-fashioned appearance, with its common glass windows. Had plate-glass windows been used, these stores would certainly not be discreditable to the main street of our metropolis. Mr. Corner is also having the old Bush Inn completely altered and repaired throughout, with the intention of making it his residence. In the same quarter of the town, Mr. Frederick Wilson has erected a neat brick public-house of two stories in height now known as the Cricketer's Arms Inn, between Mr. Terry's and Mr. Horsley's mills. Mr. Edwards has erected a neat brick cottage in King Street, a little below the Scotch Church. Mr. Saunders has erected a new baker's shop with out offices, &c., further down King Street. Mr. Cann has erected a small but substantial brick produce store, a little further down the same street, but on the opposite side. Mr. Brooker has erected a two-storied building of brick as his residence, and butcher's shop adjoining, in Princess street Mr. Saunders has erected a neat wooden cottage, in Church-street The Oddfellows Hall is nearly completed, and presents a very neat and commanding appearance, and will certainly be a credit of the small body of Oddfellows in this town. The building is of brick, with stone foundation, and will measure about thirty-five feet in depth, with twenty feet frontage to the street. Other improvements are about being made, amongst which will be our National School, which is to be erected nearly midway between the Scotch Church and Mr. Corner's new store.



HISTORY OF A HALL - Pauline Clements

A recent correspondent, Mr. J. Atkins, of Bondi, was seeking information on our School of Arts building, after he had visited the town. The gentleman has made a long study of the School of Arts Institutions in Australia, which were originally modelled on the old Craft Guilds of England.

The purpose of the organization was to establish a place where settlers could gather for instruction in all manner of subjects, borrow books from the libraries they contained, attend evenings when visiting Lecturers spoke, and enjoy dramatic or musical entertainment. How it must have been appreciated by those early settlers!

Our own School of Arts was established in 1868 and the meetings were at first held in the little church school-house at the corner of King and Duke Streets. Perhaps more space was needed and a move was made to the Oddfellows Hall in Church Street, where they stayed until 1883 when their own Hall was built in King Street. This Hall continued in use until 1935 when the brick building in Duke Street was completed, and became the meeting place for local functions.

The old Hall still stands and is used as a residence at 25 King Street, Paterson.



Court House Hotel - Former School of Arts Hall - Railway - Court House Museum 1987.

Photo: Bill Anderson.

TOTAL'S HISTORIC UNDERGROUND GRAIN SILO REOPENED

When the timber was wrenched away on Old George Bowmans 1830s wheat silos at Archerfield in 1895 after many years sealed "dust of ages rose in clouds" and the air came up in "hot puffs"

Maitland Mercury 31.8.1895.

When one of the 1830s underground silos at Tocal was reopened for the first time since its discovery in 1988 the scene was somewhat different.

Bob Dunn was driving a modern 4WD tractor with forklift attachment to remove the silo's large closure stone, a long handled shovel was on hand for snakes, Rod Morris directed the activity and removed the time worn timber trap door complete with frame work, Cameron Archer was on hand with an electric blower and plastic piping to lower into the silo to exhaust fowl air. (Jennifer Dunn had run two extension leads a distance of 100 metres from the 1830s stables)

What did we find? An extremely well built bottle shaped brick lined silo partly sunk into a sandstone rock shelf.

The three silos at Tocal are thought to have been convict built in the late 1830s. There are no written records of the Tocal silos and it was only through a chance discovery by Trevor Smith, a former caretaker that they were uncovered in the late 1980s. They are the only silos to be built by a private settler that have survived virtually intact. The only other existing silos known to date are at Cockatoo Island, Norfolk Island and Stroud. Tocal staff and society members reopened the silo to examine and compare it with its neighbours as part of research for a book on colonial underground silos being prepared by Cameron Archer.

The society will feature a display on underground silos in Webbers Cottage (c1823), Tocal, at next years Tocal Field Days.



Photo : Bill Anderson

First view of silo entrance 26th September 2002



As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding year we would like to particularly thank Jennifer Dunn (member, Sunday Museum assistant, Tocal caretaker and Tocal Friends secretary) and Joan Gollan (Tocal Archivist) for their kindness and interest during our visits to Webbers Cottage on Tocal Homestead Open Days.



(Bill A is closely watching our meetings again - topics in the past quickly turned to gardening - now we seem to have sub-committees during meetings where church, bowling uniforms and grandchildren creep into the agenda - BILL, ITS ALL HISTORY IN THE MAKING !)



Shirley Threlfo, Jack Sullivan, Val Anderson, Jennifer Dunn (both partly obscured) Rod Morris, Cameron Archer, Bill Keppie - Tocal Staff. 26th September 2002. Photos: Bill Anderson.



THEIR COMMON NAMES

Aqua fortis is nitric acid.
Aqua regia is nitro-muriatic acid.
Blue vitriol is sulphate of copper.
Cream of Tartar is bitartrate of potassium.
Calomel is chloride of mercury.
Chalk is carbonate of calcium.
Salt of tartar is carbonate of potassa.
Caustic potassa is hydrate of potassium.
Chloroform is chloride of formyle.
Common salt is chloride of sodium.
Copperas, or green vitriol, is sulphate of iron.
Corrosive sublimate is bichloride of mercury.
Dry alum is sulphate aluminum and potassium.
Epsom salts is sulphate of magnesia.
Ethiops mineral is black sulphate of mercury.
Fire damp is light carburetted hydrogen.
Galena is sulphide of lead.
Gauber's salt is sulphate of sodium.
Glucose is grape sugar.
Goulard water is basic acetate of lead.
Iron pyrites is bisulphide iron.
Jeweller's putty is oxide of tin.
King's yellow is sulphide of arsenic.
Laughing gas is protoxide of nitrogen.
Lime is oxide of calcium.
Lunar caustic is nitrate of silver.

MAITLAND MERCURY, XMAS SUPPLEMENT

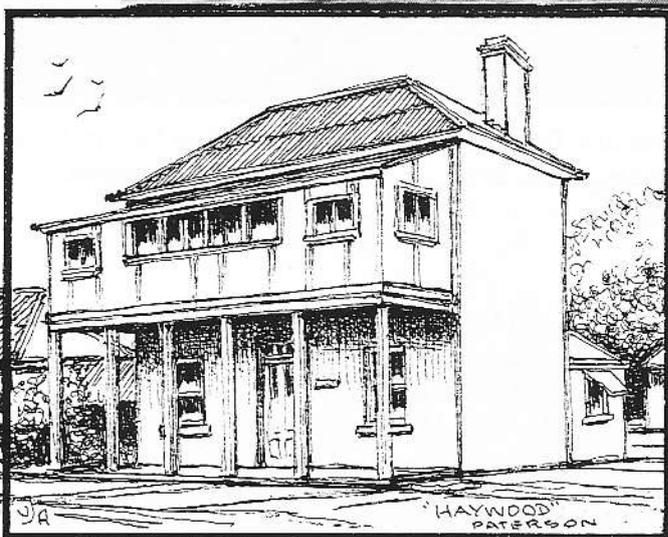
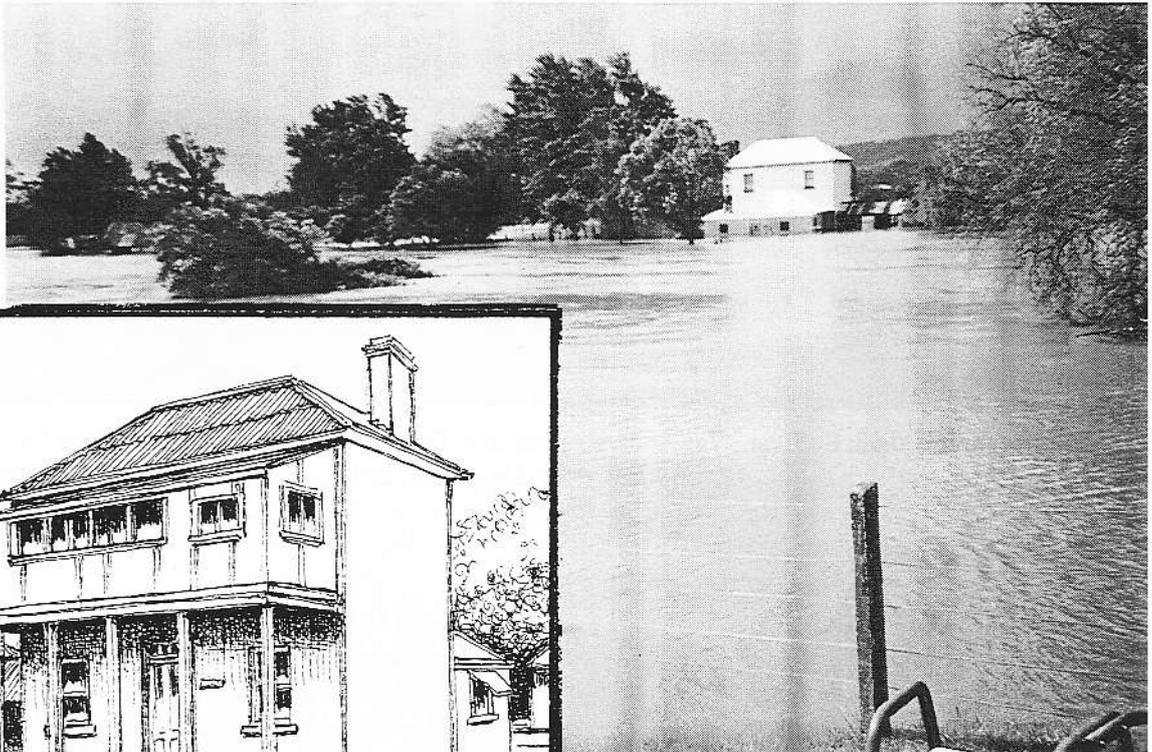
21st December, 1889

Courtesy - Jack Sullivan

Mosaic gold is bisulphide of tin.
Muriate of lime is chloride of calcium.
Nitre of saltpetre is nitrate of potash.
Oil of vitriol is sulphuric acid.
Potash is oxide of potassium.
Realgar is sulphide of arsenic.
Red led is oxide of lead.
Rust of iron is oxide of iron.
Salammoniac is muriate of ammonia.
Slacked lime is hydrate of calcium
Soda is oxide of sodium.
Spirits of hartshorn is ammonia.
Spirits of salt is hydrochloride of muriatic acid.
Stucco, or plaster of Paris, is sulphate of lime.
Sugar of lead is acetate of lead.
Verdigris is basic acetate of copper.
Vermilion is sulphide of mercury.
Vinegar is acetic acid diluted.
Volatile alkali is ammonia.
Water is oxide of hydrogen.
White precipitate is ammoniated mercury.
White vitriol is sulphate of zinc.

THE NAMING OF "HAYWOOD", COMMERCIAL ROAD, PATERSON - Cameron Archer.
During my recent Sunday afternoon duty at the museum two visitors were locals, David and Sonya Rowcliffe of "Haywood".

Over the years we have traced the name origins of many properties, paddocks of Tocal and places of local significance. "Haywood" has remained a landmark of the once bustling Commercial Road, business centre of early Paterson until the low lying area was severely damaged by the 1875 flood. "Haywood" was the home of the manager of one of two flour mills operating in the Commercial Road area prior to 1872. At one time it was the residence of the village midwife. "Haywood's" name - It was once the name of the Rowcliffe family's great aunt's home in Sydney - she didn't like the name and gave it to the family for their house at Paterson!



"Haywood" - A familiar site at floodtime.
(Paterson River in Flood - March 2000)

Photo: Bill Anderson

"Haywood", Commercial Road, Paterson. ("Haywood" will be a feature of the Society's 2003 Annual Heritage Walk)



SALOME KEPPIE & FAMILY DIARY EXTRACTS - Mabs Keppie

- 1868 We left the Plough Inn on Wednesday July 1st 1868. Went to live at Gresford. Bought my bridle from Carols on Wednesday July 15th 1868. Gave 12s for the bridle and repairing saddle
- 1880 Duck family left the Paterson for the Richmond Wed 7th July 1880. A dinner given to Dr Faddy Friday 6th August 1880
- 1892 W Tinkler married S Keppie 20th July
- 1896 Percy selected ground 23rd July 1896. Commenced Percy's house 30th July 1900. Andrew Keppie's kitchen and contents burned to ground 21st Aug.
- 1897 Charley Bridger married to Eliza Tinkler 20th July.
- 1912 Pater, Percy and myself went to Newcastle 11th July. Great destruction of the beach. Much rain. Usher Tinkler sailed 17th August in the Frankmere as second Steward for Valpariso, South America.
- 1921 Fred Cann found drowned on Powells Rocks Aug 20th.



SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL