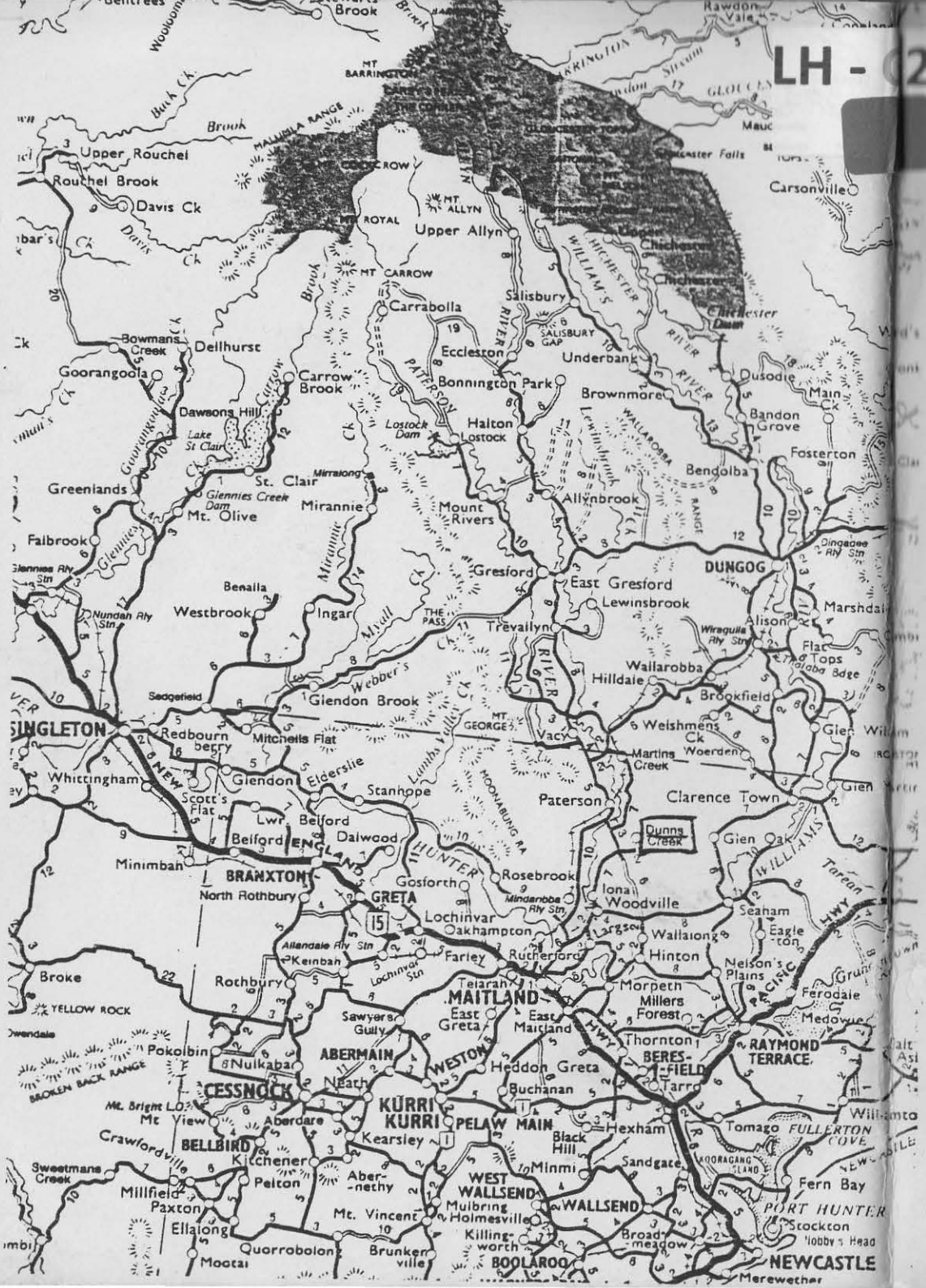
Upper Rouchel
Rouchel Brook
Davis Ck
Carsonville
Upper Allyn
Salisbury
Carrabolla
Eccleston
Underbank
Bowmans Creek
Dellhurst
Goorangoola
Carrow Brook
Bonnington Park
Brownmore
Dusodie
Bandon Grove
Dawsons Hill
Halton
Lostock
Fosterton
Bendolba
Greenlands
St. Clair
Mirannie
Mount Rivers
Allynbrook
Mt. Olive
Falbrook
Gresford
DUNGOG
East Gresford
Lewinsbrook
Marshdale
Benaila
Westbrook
Ingar
Trevallyn
Alison
Flat Tops
Wallarobba
Hilldale
Brookfield
Sedgefield
Glendon Brook
Weishmens Ck
Redbourn berry
Mitchells Flat
Vacy
Martins Creek
Whittingham
Glendon
Elderslie
Stanhope
Paterson
Clarence Town
Scott's Flat
Lwr. Belford
Belford
Dalwood
Dunns Creek
Gien Oak
Minimbah
BRANXTON
Gosforth
Rosebrook
Iona
Woodville
North Rothbury
GRETA
Lochinvar
Oakhampton
Seaham
Eagle ton
Wallalong
Hinton
Farley
Rutherford
Keinbah
Nelson's Plains
Broke
Rothbury
Telarah
MAITLAND
Morpeth
Millers Forest
Ferodale
Medowie
YELLOW ROCK
Sawyers Gully
East Greta
East Maitland
Thornton
RAYMOND TERRACE
Pokolbin
Nulkaba
ABERMAIN
WESTON
Heddon Greta
BERES-FIELD
Tarro
CESSNOCK
Neath
Buchanan
KURRI KURRI
PELAW MAIN
Hexham
Tomago
FULLERTON COVE
Mt View
Aberdare
Kearsley
Black Hill
BELLBIRD
Kitchener
Minmi
Sandgate
Fern Bay
Sweetmans Creek
Pelton
Aber-nethy
WEST WALLSEND
WALLSEND
Millfield
Paxton
Mt. Vincent
Mulbring
Holmesville
PORT HUNTER
Stockton
Ellalong
Quorrobolon
Brunker ville
Killing-worth
Broad-meadow
Mootai
BOOLAROO
NEWCASTLE
Merewether
Carrow Brook
Lostock Dam
Glennies Creek Dam
Lake St Clair
Dingadee Rly Stn
Wiraguila Rly Stn
Nundah Rly Stn
Glennies Rly Stn
Allandale Rly Stn
Lochinvar Stn
Mindarabba Rly Stn
Dunns Creek
MT BARRINGTON
MT ROYAL
MT ALLYN
MT CARROW
MT GEORGE
THE PASS
SALISBURY GAP
Chichester Dam
Gloucester Falls
Brook
Buck Ck
Davis Ck
Goorangoola Ck
Glennies Ck
Mirannie Ck
Myall Ck
Webber's Ck
Lambs Valley Ck
WILLIAMS RIVER
HUNTER RIVER
PACIFIC HWY
NEW ENGLAND HWY
BROKEN BACK RANGE
MOONABUNG RA
WALLAROBBA RANGE
Tarean
Grun
Willamto
Crawfordville
Millfield
Ellalong
Mt Bright LO
Mt View
Sweetmans Creek
Kearsley
Aberdare
Kitchener
Pelton
Paxton
Mt. Vincent
Quorrobolon
Mootai
Brunker ville
Killing-worth
Mulbring
Holmesville
Broad-meadow
Stockton
Hobby's Head
Merewether
Fern Bay
Tomago
Hexham
Black Hill
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Sandgate
Thornton
Tarro
Buchanan
Heddon Greta
Nulkaba
Pokolbin
Rothbury
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Minimbah
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Wallalong
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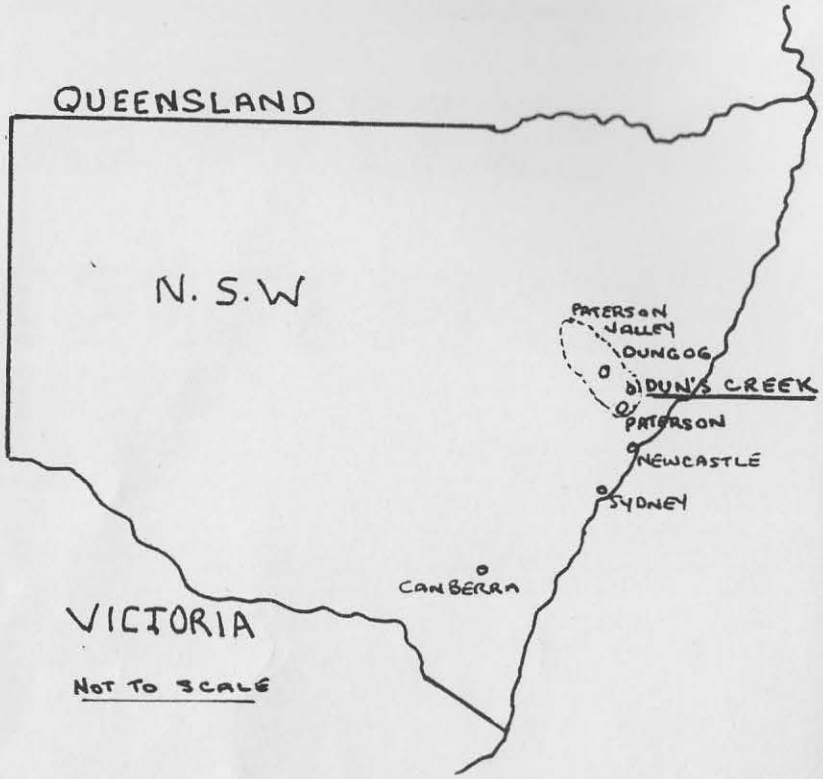
Ferodale
Medowie
Morpeth
Millers Forest



CONVERSION		TABLE
1 shilling	=	10 cents
1 pound £	=	2 dollars
1 gallon	=	4.546 litres
1 acre	=	0.405 hectare
1 foot	=	0.305 metre
1 mile	=	1.609 kilometre

ISBN 0 9588111 2 1

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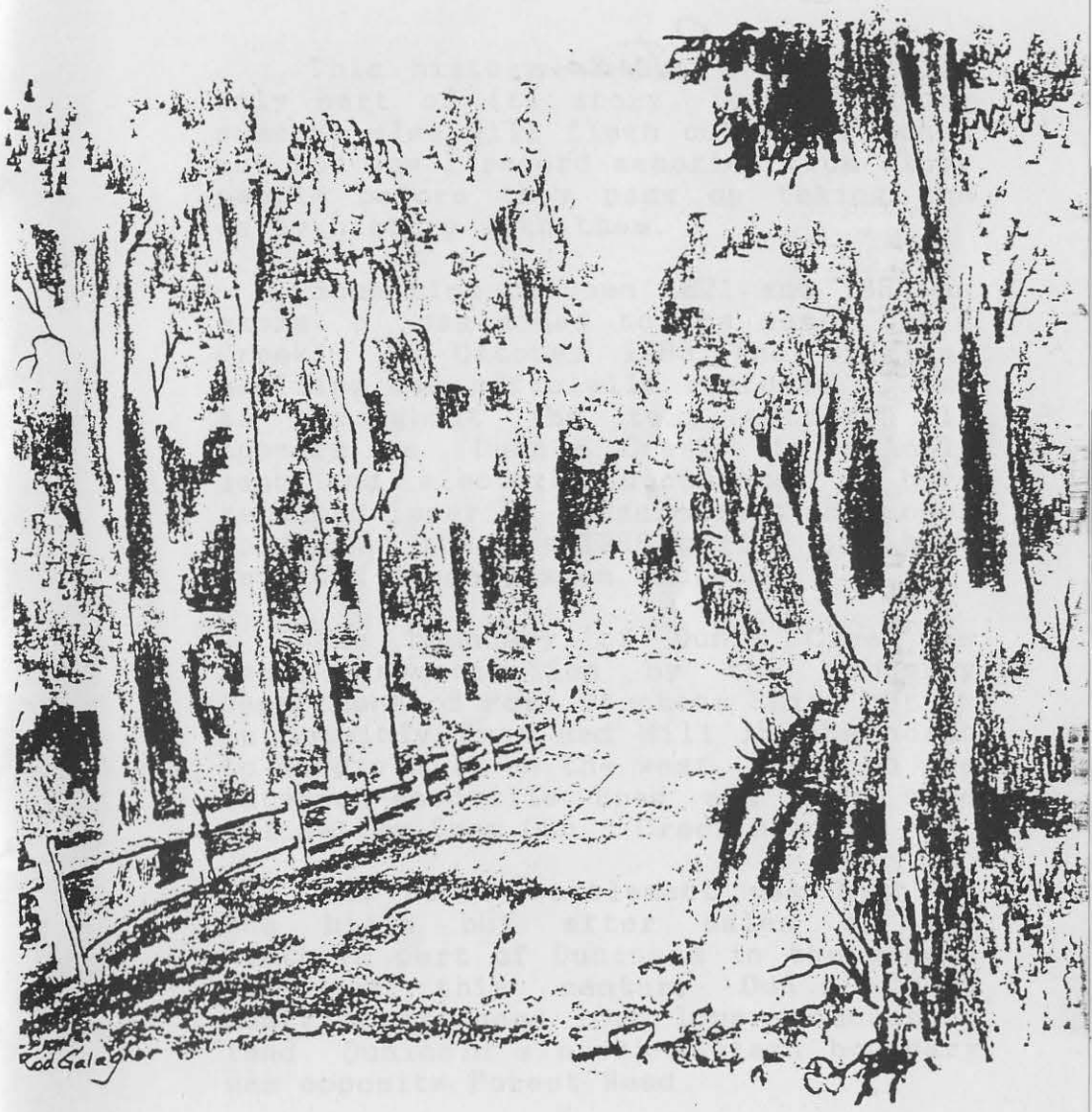
Best Wishes
Kay Ingle

Paterson Historical Society
King Street
Paterson 2421 NSW



Donated By

Ml. L. Keppie.
"Glenlossie"
Paterson.

INTRODUCTION

This history of Dun's Creek tells only part of its story. In the future someone else will flesh out these bones but for now I record memories from older people before they pass on taking the early history with them.

Some time between 1821 and 1860 an extra 'n' was added to the name 'Dun's Creek'. In October 1988 the original spelling was officially restored. I use it throughout the text although it appears as 'Dunn's Creek' in school, land and electoral documents. I have retained Imperial measurements and money values of the pre-1966 period but have provided a conversion table.

The boundary of Dun's Creek is under investigation by the Property Department of Port Stephens Shire but it is possibly from Red Hill in the north to Hungry Hill on the west, south to the Paterson-Woodville Road and east some kilometres from Dun's Creek Road.

The first settlement was high in the hills but after sales of the northern part of Duninald in the second half of this century Dun's Creek district extended into lower undulating land. Duninald's north-western boundary was opposite Forest Road.

Farming and timber getting were the first industries, of uneven prosperity and with a fluctuating population. In 1914 Senior School Inspector Cornish described the area as: 'a mountainous place entirely to itself...Place has deteriorated...little prospects...people not in good circumstances.' The Depression years of the 1930's were especially difficult but in the 1940's and 1950's there were several dairies supplying Gresford and Paterson milk vendors Keppie, Presland and Norrie Rumbel.

Dun's Creek now seems a dormitory suburb of Maitland and Newcastle, a peaceful collection of small acreage holdings in an unpolluted haven.

It is not possible to present the story of all families, but some are included as examples of the enterprising, industrious and community minded people of Dun's Creek.

KAY INGLE
Hilldale
October 1990.

My thanks go to Rev. Rod Galagher for his illustrations.

I am grateful to the following for their time and patience in answering my many questions, and lending photographs.

Berry, Christine and Rebecca.
Boyle, Harry, Hinton.
Chester, Marie, Paterson.
Clode, Bert, Paterson.
Davis, Ray.
Dennis, Len, Rutherford.
Dun, Loftus, Oatley.
Hallinan, Edie, Paterson.
Howarth, Joy, Metford.
Howell, Tom, Cliftleigh.
Jordan, Alan, Tenambit.
Jordan, Keith, Paterson.
Kent, Doll, Beresfield.
Knudsen, Maxine, Dun's Creek.
Reynolds, Peter Alan, Paterson.
Reynolds, Phyllis and Sidney, Paterson.
Smith, Ralph.
Upton, Margaret, Bolwarra.

DUN'S CREEK

In 1797, nine years after Captain Arthur Phillip began the penal settlement at Sydney in the Colony of New South Wales, Lieutenant John Shortland sailed up the east coast in search of escaped convicts. Around a harbour which he called 'Kingstown', later named Newcastle, he found coal and plentiful timber including red cedar.

In 1801 convicts were sent to Kingstown to mine the coal and cut cedar for the Sydney settlement. The camp was dismantled in 1802 and convicts were then sent from Sydney.

In 1801 Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson led an exploration party up the Hunter River in a row boat, past the present Maitland and along the 'Branches' as the river's tributaries were called.

In 1804 another settlement at Newcastle was made. To it were sent second time and recalcitrant offenders to be employed in coal mining, cedar cutting, lime burning and salt panning.

Convict gangs were sent up one branch of the Hunter River first named 'Cedar Arm' and later 'Paterson River' in honour of its explorer, but the natives called it 'Yimmang'. The convict camp was at 'Old Banks', thought to be on the western side of the Paterson River between Lemon Grove and Mindaribba House. The felled cedar logs were made into rafts and floated down river to Newcastle.

Governor L. Macquarie visited the Newcastle penal settlement in 1811 and journeyed up river where he was impressed with the farming potential of the land along the river. By 1813 a few well behaved convicts were farming south of the present town of Paterson with 'permissive occupancy'. By 1820 there were twelve farms on the Paterson's Plains, five of them occupied by free men employed by Newcastle officials.

The Hunter River Valley was closed to further settlement until after John Howe discovered the overland route from Windsor to Singleton in 1820. This made escape too easy for prisoners so the convict settlement was completely transferred to Port Macquarie before the end of 1823.

When the Hunter Valley was opened for settlement wealthy settlers obtained large grants of land from 1820 onward, and were required to employ one convict for every one hundred acres of land. They were to be fed and clothed until the expiration or remission of their sentences.

Captain William Dun arrived in Australia with his wife Maria and two small daughters on December 15 1821. On December 31 1821 he was granted 1,300 acres to be called 'Duninald', on the Paterson River just south of the present Paterson town. He was the first grantee in the Paterson Valley and the ninth in the Hunter Valley.

At that time there were no clergymen north of Newcastle to take church services so at the invitation of Major Morisset, Commandant of Newcastle, William Dun held Sunday meetings for free men, cedar cutters and other convicts. This was perhaps in a slab building at Woodville where the School of Arts was later built, or on the perimeter of Duninald near the present bridge over the Paterson River where the village of Dourabang was planned. In 1823 he successfully requested a further 700 acres as a reward.

The name 'Duninald' means 'castle on the hill', and is appropriate since the flood waters of the Paterson can not reach up to homestead. It was probably chosen by Dun as a memory of Scotland. A little south of Montrose in Scotland is a property named 'Duninald' with a castle like building, owned by the Arkley family whose ancestor married a close relation of William Dun.

Dun's third daughter, born at 'Duninald' Paterson, was christened Maria Arkley, mistakenly printed in the 1828 Census as 'Markley'. Her correct name is in the 31/7/1847 Maitland Mercury notice of her marriage to George Faircloth.

Dun built the first house on Paterson's Plains, a large rectangular, shingle roofed, sandstone home still standing as 'Old Duninald', the residence of Mr and Mrs Sidney Reynolds. Dun was involved in Paterson business and civic affairs during the almost forty years the family ran the property and in 1827 was made a Coroner.

'OLD DUNINALD', PATERSON

Duninald was purchased from William Dun in 1860 by Charles Reynolds of Tocal who had married Dun's daughter Frances Seaton Dun in 1844, four years after his arrival in Australia. Charles moved his Devon cattle stud and his best fillies to Duninald and kept his thoroughbred horse stud at Tocal. In 1870 it was reported that Duninald grew fine crops of cereals and the vineyard produced fine wines. After Charles died in 1871 his wife Frances Seaton and her son Frank ran the various properties till her death in 1900. Her son Sidney and his descendants have continued the long association with Duninald.

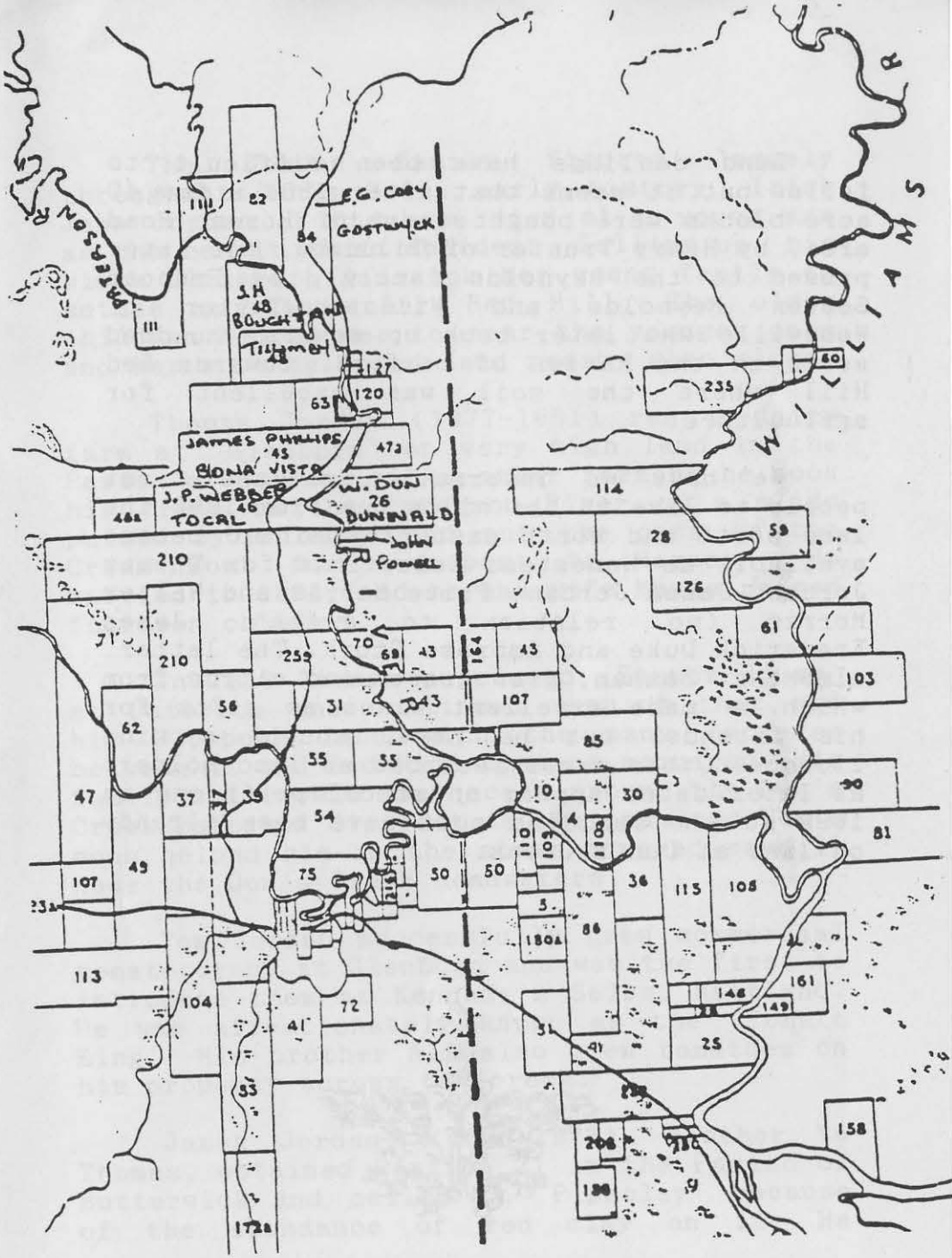
Land grants in New South Wales were made on arable flat to undulating land near a river or substantial watercourse, and the surrounding less fertile hills were reserved as Crown Land. In such high country north east of the Old Duninald home, from a ridge south of Red Hill,a creek rises and snakes down to and through Duninald property into the Paterson River. It takes its name, 'Dun's Creek', from the first owner of Duninald.

The hills were wild country, covered with dense trees and undergrowth but for the adventurous there were spectacular views from the ridges. The track which became a road was so steep in places that early motor transport was known to be forced to back up. On the creek were waterfalls and caves. In one recently, the leg bands and remains of pigeons were discovered. Investigation revealed it was under the route for homing pigeons and a resident peregrine falcon had found a convenient supply of food.

There were no known settlers in these mountains until after the Robertson Land Acts of 1861 opened up Crown Land for small farms of 40 to 320 acres, able to be selected before survey if necessary.

When Henry Dangar was commissioned in 1823 to survey Paterson's Plains on a grid pattern, some of the early farms did not fit neatly so the landholders were offered alternate land. One who took up the offer was Richard Binder near Albion Farm at Woodville. He obtained 100 acres on the Williams River and the route between the two areas became known as Binder's Track. From Iona it ran north east skirting Duninald, along presnt day Dun's Creek Road route, dropping down from Red Hill to Glenoak and Clarencetown, the first road to the Williams River.

On a topographical map of Paterson you will see marked an abandoned quarry, some kilometres east of Dun's Creek, where discarded convict implements were found some years ago. The sandstone quarried there by convicts was used to build the Newcastle Courthouse in 1839 on the site where the Post Office now stands. It was used for criminal and civil sessions as well as for church and public meetings. The present larger Courthouse in Church Street was built in 1891 and the older one demolished in 1900.



Properties on Land Grid

Adapted from Dangar Map 1828
in Mitchell Library Sydney

Land dealings have been difficult to follow but it seems that after 1861 a few 40 acre blocks were bought, east of Forest Road area, by Henry Tranter of Tillimbi, (it later passed to the Reynolds family), by Frances Seaton Reynolds and William Taylor of Woodville who later took up several hundred acres in the Parish of Barford, towards Red Hill where the soil was excellent for agriculture.

We have no information on the first people to live in the hills but from 1896 the land north and north east of Duninald became available as Homestead Selections for Thomas Jordan, James Jordan, Price Morris and Walter Morris (no relation to Price), James Frederick Duke and Ambrose Stork. The latter, almost at Seaham, grew grapes and citrus from which he made excellent wines as gifts for his friends, but he never sought a wine licence. Other names recorded as land holders at later dates appear on school petitions in 1899 so the families must have been already on land at Dun's Creek.

The Jordan family figured largely throughout Dun's Creek early history. Irish John Jordan of Stanhope died at a young age as the result of an accident. Selling up, his widow Elizabeth Ann took her young family to settle on land near Red Hill. The older children helped her to rear the younger ones and her sons selected land nearby when older.

Thomas Jordan (1877-1961) ran a dairy farm at 'Glenburn' on very high land in the Parish of Barford. Like other farmers he took his cream to the Paterson River on a slide pulled by a horse and put the cans on the Cream Boat for transport to Morpeth. He married in 1904, and he and wife Maude raised fourteen children.

In 1918 Thomas purchased 'Sussex House' at Paterson and continued running that and his Glenburn land with the many hectares between it and Red Hill that he acquired. His family still owns many acres around the Dun's Creek/Paterson district.As they matured Tom's sons helped him in the steam powered sawmill near the Dun's Creek headwaters.

Tom Jordan successfully grew commercial tomato crops at Glenburn and was the first to introduce them at Kennedy's Sales, Maitland. He was affectionately known as the 'Tomato King'. His brother Alf also grew tomatoes on his property across the creek.

James Jordan, (1878-1973), brother to Thomas, obtained Portion 21 in the Parish of Butterwick and called it 'Pipeclay' because of the abundance of red clay on it. He

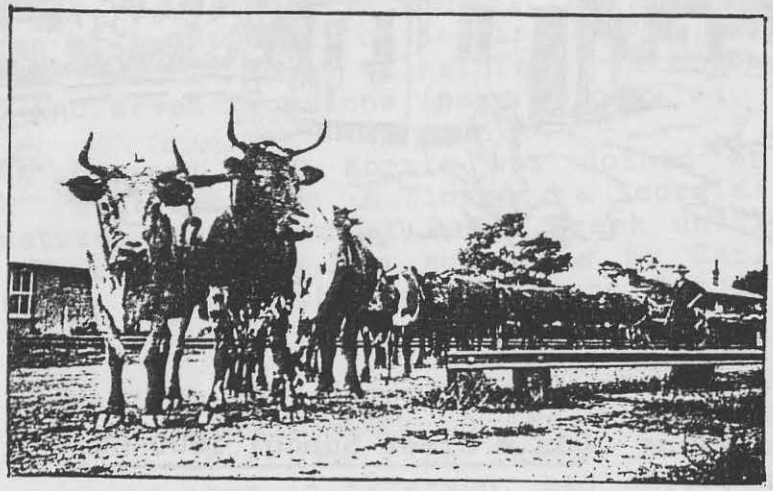
married Lydia Collison, sister to Thomas' wife and had two sons and one daughter.

After selling 'Pipeclay' to J.Baldwin, James worked his land on the opposite side of the road. He became expert in the selection of timber for special purposes. There was no cedar in the local hills but he obtained other needed timber around Dun's Creek, Vacy and in the surrounding districts. He carried it to Paterson and Maitland by bullock wagon with teams he bred and trained himself. Over the years that he worked with timber he often employed drivers Joe Horgan and Herb Burgess from Paterson. Sharing the road with them was Jack Ernst of Clarencetown and his team.

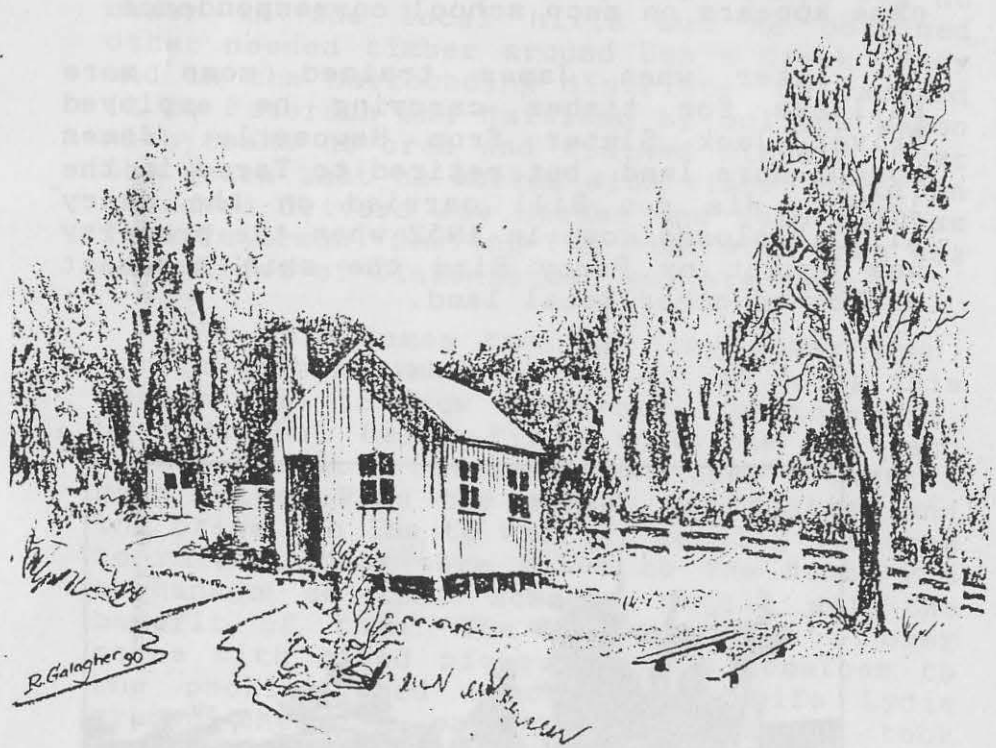
In 1919 James took up land lower down, continued his timber trade, whilst using this better soil to grow commercial tomato crops. He aimed at being first into the Maitland market in early November when they brought a good price. When the market was glutted and the price too low to warrant sending tomatoes to market, they were given to the Monte Pio orphanage so that someone should get the benefit of them. The property was a busy scene with hired pickers taking tomatoes to the packing shed where James' wife Lydia graded them. He packed the cases and took them by horse and wagonette to Maitland.

James deferred timber operations until he had established a dairy farm. He milked up to 50 Ayrshire and Jersey cows by hand twice a day, erected cow sheds and bails from large timbers and cut shingles for the roofs. He cut timber in a saw pit, a hole in the ground with one man below and one above, the top dog, using a large pit saw like a crosscut saw. Water was collected downhill in a dam across a gully, and pumped uphill to the cow sheds and to a 2,000 gallon tank set on a tower to water the garden near the house he built. He found time to join his neighbours in promoting local affairs and his name appears on much school correspondence.

Later when James trained some more bullocks for timber carrying he employed driver Jack Slater from Newcastle. James bought more land but retired to Tarro in the 1930's. His son Bill carried on the dairy till it closed down in 1952 when the property was bought by Percy Bird the skin merchant who owned other local land.



James Jordan Bullock Team
a
at Paterson Railway Station
(Doll Kent)



Dun's Creek School 1900-05.

EDUCATION AT DUN'S CREEK AND MORE SETTLERS

Provisional School 3/9/1900-21/2/1905.
Subsidised School July 1912-June 1918.
Provisional School June 1918-1/9/1938.
Subsidised School 5/10/1939-1941.

Teachers:
Eliza Y.Gate 3/9/1900- 30/9/1900.
Amy Newton 15/10/1900-31/12/1903.
Zillah Watson 15/1/1904 - 2/3/1905.
Ella Butler July 1912- June 1913.
Miss Strong.
Miss Freeman.
Isobel Gladys Mary Connolly.-17/5/1929.
Elsie Steeper 23/5/1929-15/1/1932.
Thomas Bowen Jones 27/5/1932-28/9/1938.

In May 1899 Price Morris began a correspondence with the Department of Public Education requesting a school for 15-20 children at Abbott Dell on Morris land in the new settlement, five miles from Paterson School and seven from Iona (near Woodville).

In January 1900 Morris was joined by Joseph Patterson and A.Tinson, a cordial manufacturer who lived at Dun's Creek until 1905. Their petition was supported by Carl Schumacher, the teacher at Paterson Public School.

Edward Auckett, brickmaker, who had a large citrus orchard high in the hills and whose family later ran the famous Auckett fruit packing shed in Paterson, had children

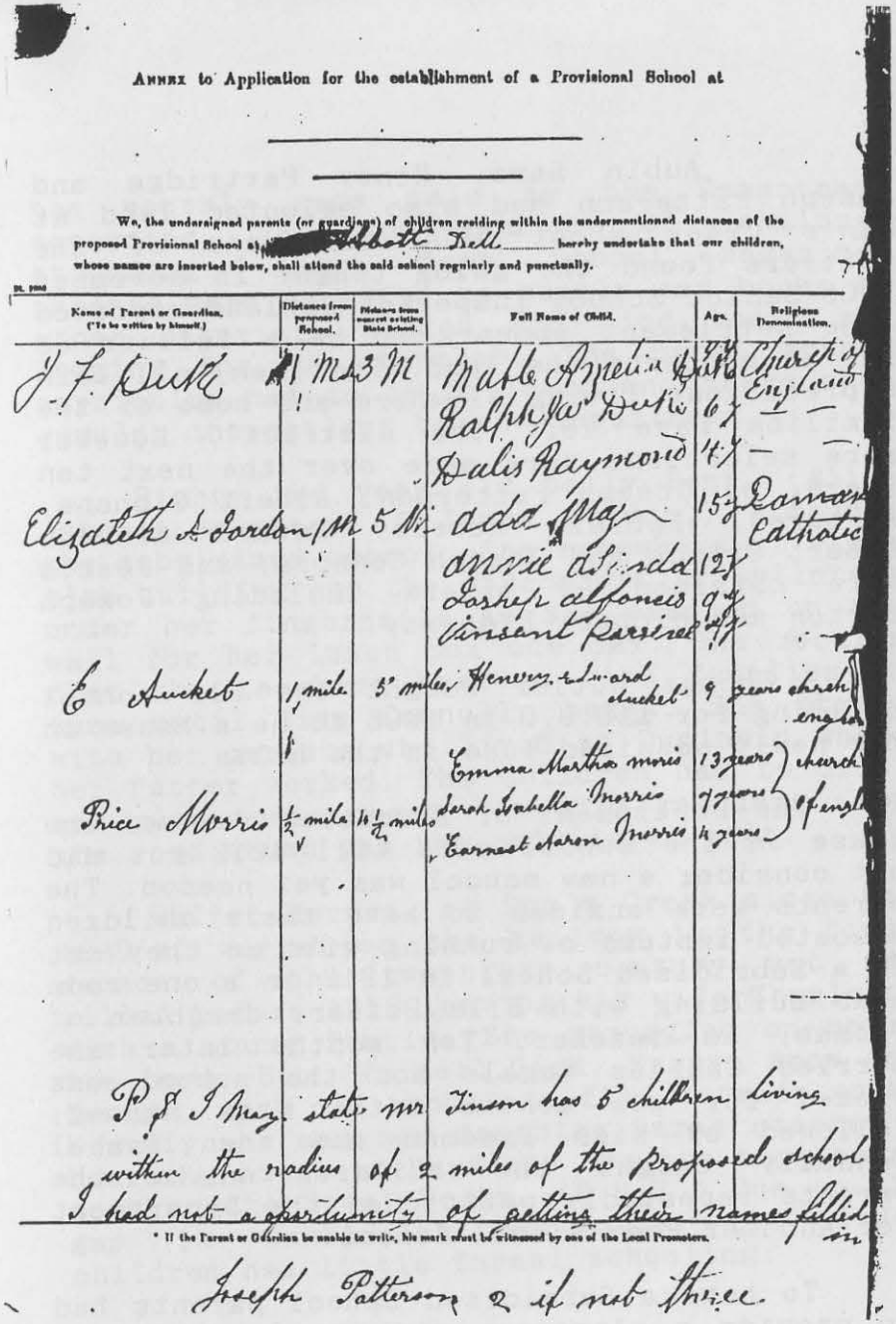
of school age. So did James Frederick Duke who held windswept Bald Nob near James Jordan from 1896-1905. He had run a secondhand shop in Paterson where his two older children had attended school and there was a third ready for school.

A site was leased for seven years at peppercorn rent from Ephraim Morris, son of Price, and Albert Taylor of Paterson built the sawn slab one room school for £52.14.0. It opened on September 3 1900 with Eliza Gate as teacher but she left after four weeks and was replaced by Amy Newton, transferred from Upper Dungowan. Amy rode her horse six miles to the school each day and suffered badly from the inclement weather.

Price Morris had to put battens over the spaces between wall slabs caused by shrinkage and reset the floor boards six months later. In 1902 he obtained permission to erect another tank, for his own use, to collect water previously going to waste. Finding enough water was a problem for all.

Amy Newton resigned in December 1903 and Zillah Watson came to take over the school. By January 1905 the steadily declining enrolment made closure of the school imminent. Attendance was only four children in one week, 'owing to the people being burnt out.' The school closed in March 1905 and Miss Watson went to Weston Public School.

Paterson Historical Society
King Street
Paterson 2421 NSW



ANNEX to Application for the establishment of a Provisional School at

We, the undersigned parents (or guardians) of children residing within the undermentioned distances of the proposed Provisional School at [redacted] Abbotts Dell hereby undertake that our children, whose names are inserted below, shall attend the said school regularly and punctually.

Name of Parent or Guardian. (To be written by himself.)	Distance from proposed School.	Distance from nearest existing State School.	Full Name of Child.	Age.	Religious Denomination.
J. F. Duke	1 M	3 M	Mable Angelina Duke	7	Church of England
			Ralph Jas Duke	6	—
			Dalis Raymond	4	—
Elizabeth A Jordan	1 M	5 M	ada May	15	Roman Catholic
			annie alinda	12	
			Joseph alfonsis	9	
			Vincent Parsivel	7	
E Aucket	1 mile	3 miles	Henery Edward Aucket	9 years	church of engla
Price Morris	½ mile	1½ miles	Emma Martha morris	13 years	church of engla
			Sarah Isabella Morris	7 years	
			Earnest Aaron Morris	4 years	

P.S. I May state mr Jinson has 5 children living within the radius of 2 miles of the proposed school I had not a opportunity of getting their names filled in

* If the Parent or Guardian be unable to write, his mark must be witnessed by one of the Local Promoters.

Joseph Patterson 2 if not three.

First Application for School at Dun's Creek 1899

School File/Dun's Creek/5/15766.2
State Archives of N.S.W. Sydney.

Aubin Sams, Henry Partridge and Joseph Patterson had also selected land at Dun's Creek about 1900 but many of the settlers found the going tough. In November 1905 Senior School Inspector Lelland reported 'The settlement appears to be a failure as far as concerns the land. The [men] all earn a precarious living elswhere and some of the families have left the district'. However more selections were made over the next ten years, by Joseph Patterson, Albert Gibbons, A.Pearse, Ephraim Morris, Edward Arnold, Albert Crouch and Joseph Connors, and leases were obtained by others including Joseph Barton and Michael Flaherty.

Thomas Butler bought the old school building for £10.0.0 in 1906 to be a house on his newly acquired land in the hills.

The Department of Education renewed the lease on the school site till 1912 but did not consider a new school was yet needed. The parents were anxious to have their children educated instead of running wild so they set up a Subsidised School in 1912 in a one room slab building with Ella Butler, daughter of Thomas, as teacher. Ten months later she married Charles Vogele and the school was closed for six months until Miss Strong, followed by Miss Freeman and then Isabel Connolly taught the children while the parents repeatedly petitioned the Department for another Provisional School.

To have a Subsidised School parents had to provide a classroom and its furniture, a teacher, not necessarily qualified, and, if possible, an amount of money to supplement the monthly wage paid by the Department according to the number of children attending. Apart from School Magazines parents were expected to supply any books or other materials needed and find board and lodging for the teacher. The usual school curriculum had to be followed and there were regular inspections by the Department.

Eighty two year old Dolly Kent, (Alice Alberta,daughter of James Jordan), attended the subsidised school. She remembers it was a slab building and the discomfort of splinters under her fingernails as she reached up the wall for her lunch box one day. She recalls that the teachers boarded with families in turn until Miss Connolly began. She stayed with her parents who lived at Duninald where her father worked. The children had to drill and play their games - mostly rounders - on the road which was the only level spot.

Walter Morris, at Dun's Creek since the 1890's, worked on the railway in the first decade of the twentieth century but was killed before 1918 leaving his wife Charlotte with a young family. She struggled on until the boys, Bob (Walter),Dick, Harry, Amos and George, were old enough to find outside work. Bravely she and her daughter Sarah started a boarding house at Mayfield and the boys began work at the Steel Works. (B.H.P.) Due to the gap in continuing education the older children had little formal schooling.

Isobel Connolly (right) and friend.

Miss Freeman

(Photos — Doll Kent)

When Arthur E Crouch bought the land on which the school was conducted and needed the building to store produce he threw his support behind the petitioners, especially pointing out that the parents contributed only 6/6 (65 cents) weekly to the teacher's board. Still unsure of the permanency of residents in Dun's Creek, the Department of Education procrastinated, the teacher resigned on 31/10/1914 and was replaced, but the parents persisted in requesting a Provisional School. They even placed timber for a new school on another site about a mile south.

The Department did fund an 18 feet by 16 feet schoolroom but it was June 1918 before it became a Provisional School with Miss Connolly from the Subsidised era as teacher. She was given permanent teacher status in 1926.

In May 1919 Miss Connolly reported that the school had been closed for five weeks due to the effects of the Influenza Epidemic.

After his return from World War 1 service, Albert W Dennis of Gresford obtained a Soldier Selection where James Jordan had carried on his timber business. Albert married a daughter of Dick (Edward) Auckett and raised a family of nine. Auckett, whose son Harry was killed on active service, had the adjoining property and when Auckett died Dennis bought it with its citrus orchards. People from as far away as Newcastle came to Dun's Creek for an outing on Sundays to buy local fruit.

Albert Dennis and the Jordans had the largest dairies in the area, taking the cans of milk to the stand on the corner of Dun's Creek and Woodville Roads twice daily and collecting the empty ones. Later a lorry came as far as Jordans to take the milk to Hexham.

The steepness of Dun's Creek Road made visiting friends, shopping and church going an adventure. Horse drawn vehicles took the people to churches and stores on the punt over the Paterson River just north of the present bridge. The route to Maitland was along the Woodville Road, crossing the river at Hinton.

Albert Crouch had one of the earliest motor vehicles, a truck on which he could fix seats and a protective cover. He provided transport for local people to Maitland or Paterson, or to dances in nearby districts.

Early entertainment was simply visits to neighbours but later years saw cricket games organised, picture shows in the School of Arts at Paterson, dances at Paterson, Woodville, or in Frank Mate's big barn. James Jordan was a skilful self taught violinist at many of those dances. There was horse riding and excursions by bicycle, and a few joined the Maitland Pony Club. Horses were ridden to the Rutherford grounds and then competed there with reasonable success.

By October 1921 enrolments had increased so much the school was too small but it was seven years before a new one eventuated. Meantime a weathershed was denied but a verandah was added the full length of the western side, floored and closed at each end.

Miss Connolly turned to horse and sulky for transport after she had two nasty spills from her horse, breaking her collarbone in 1925 and crushing her right elbow in 1926. It is interesting to note that she obtained attention from Dr Kem Yee at the Private Hospital in Paterson which had been Sussex House. She records its name as 'Kala'.

Surnames of pupils in 1926 were Arnold, Barton, Bond, Crouch, Dennis, Greentree, Jordan, Latter, Mate, Morris, Partridge, and Vogele.

In 1927 Inspector McDowell described the school as 'unlined, unpainted, constructed of rough weatherboards, flooring boards gape, chimney smokes badly, outhouses rough wooden slabs, built on side of a steeply sloping hill'. Erecting a new school was approved and W.M.Mitchell of New Lambton won the contract to build at a cost of £480.10.0.

The new school was built on the corner of Barton's Lane, now called Forest Road, and was first used on 16/4/1928. Pupil Frances Marjorie Howell of Duninald, a Reynolds granchild, travelled to school in the sulky with Isobel Connolly until the teacher's resignation on 17/5/1929.

The next teacher, Elsie Steeper, was at the school during the harsh time of the Depression which hit Dun's Creek as hard as anywhere else.

Work was scarce and many lived on the rabbits they caught and what they could grow. Often the children were needed to help

harvest cash crops so school attendance was poor and the school closed at the end of 1931. Within a few months it reopened with Thomas Bowen Jones from Howes Valley when the parents agreed to provide the continued attendance of sufficient children.

Over the next six and a half years Tom Morris, Albert Dennis, Albert Crouch, and Frank Mate, the Stevenson, Carter, Lowrey, Kidd and Krake families were among those who had children at the school. Mr Jones earned the reputation of being an excellent teacher who inspired even the average student to greater achievements. He encouraged the pupils to garden and helped them plant about 70 young trees in the school grounds.

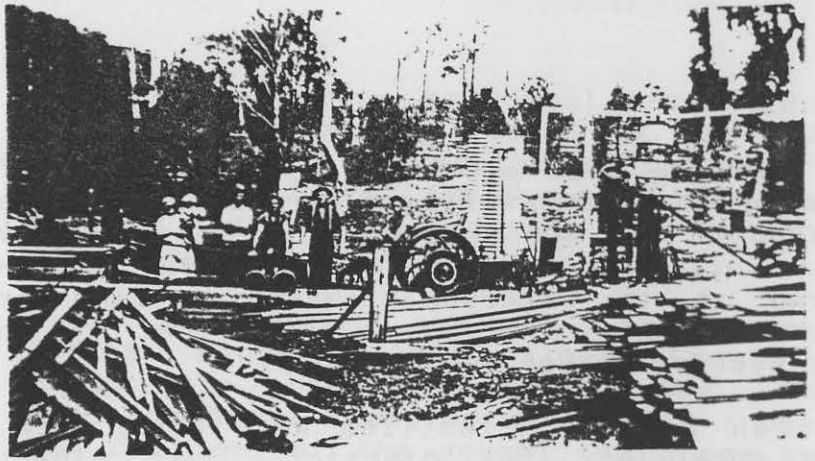
Jones lived in Paterson and during 1936 he began travelling to school in the Rover Bus which ran from Gresford to Maitland along the Woodville Road. His fare was 2/- a week, he left Paterson at 8.05 am and walked from the Dun's Creek Road corner to the school, but walked all the way home. His wife was the sewing mistress and came to the school in a horse and sulky.

In the 1930's George Partridge, son of Henry, set up a sawmill on Jordan land at the bottom of the Dun's Creek hill, assisted by Jack Jordan. Just prior to World War Two he moved it to Paterson, learnt welding by correspondence from America and set up an engineering works.

In 1938 most families were unemployed, and some left the district. Only Albert Crouch, a carpenter, was regularly employed. He had built the home on Brampton, and his own home on the triangular block near it, where previously Sams had lived in a slab house. Albert, brother to Herb Crouch who ran the garage in Paterson, was very civic minded and a good organiser. He recruited a cricket team from among those left. They played in the back paddock of Brampton and many a youngster honed his skills there.

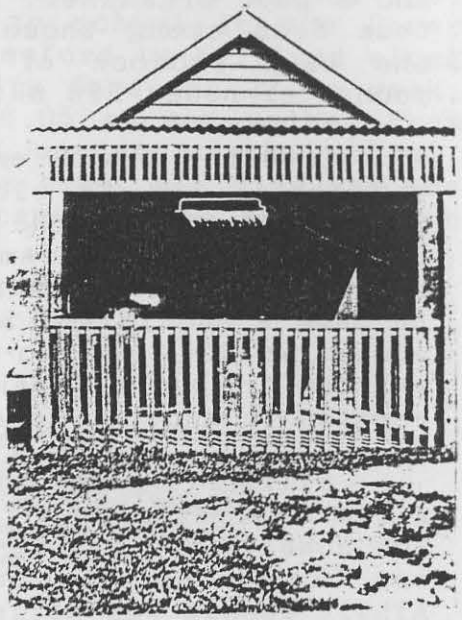
Once the school enrolment fell below ten the school had to close, and so it did on 1/9/1938, much to the dismay of the Dennis, Jordan and Atkins families. It took twelve months of desperate striving by Albert Dennis to have a Subsidised School set up. That too closed in 1941 and no other school has since existed in Dun's Creek. The school has been removed to another location near Newcastle.

William Jordan in the Royal Australian Airforce, Peter Alan Reynolds of Duninald, Tom Howell, Ron Dennis and Albert Dennis Jnr. saw active service in World War Two, and Albert Dennis was killed in action.



George Partridge sawmill (Marie Chester)

James Jordan and violin with son Bill (Doll Kent)



Dairy-Dun's Creek Built by James Jordan (Doll Kent)

Tom Howell was son to widow Frances Seaton Howell nee Reynolds who owned the northern portion of Duninald, and brother to Frances Marjorie mentioned earlier. He ran his mother's dairy at Brampton from 1929 to May 1940 when he joined the Army. Mrs Howell died in 1948 and Brampton was bought by Upton Brothers Dairy which then became one of the three largest in the Paterson District.

One by one the previous inhabitants of Dun's Creek left until only the Dennis and Jordan families and their dairies were left. They too closed, the last being Jordan's in 1955, and the hills returned to their early solitude. Deserted houses stood as silent reminders of previous industry while they gradually deteriorated. A few new homes were built by new landholders before 1970 but were probably weekenders.

Uptons sold out in the 1970's. Peter Alan Reynolds set up Duninald Pty. Ltd., managed by his two sons, and bought Brampton. Managing-Director Peter A.Reynolds and wife Marjory live at Durham Park, son Peter V., his wife Jane and family at Duninald, and son William D., his wife Anne and family at Brampton.

The buyer of the rest of the Upton acres created a new subdivision, allowing for the present development of small holdings and the advent of another wave of inhabitants. Where cattle grazed are substantial modern homes and a generation of school children who are bussed to schools away from Dun's Creek.

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