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KURRAJONG ~ COMLEROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Kurrajong ~ Comleroy Historical Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the growth of interest in the history of the Kurrajong district, the area west of the Hawkesbury River bounded by Bilpin and the Grose and Colo rivers

The Old Inns of North Richmond - Part 2

Deborah Hallam

In 1863 the "Woolpack" was advertised for lease, as William Clarke was ill:

"WOOLPACK INN, NORTH RICHMOND, containing twelve rooms, kitchen, store above, outbuildings, stock-yards. Garden stocked with choice trees, and about twenty acres of land all securely fenced". (SMH 12/5/1863p8)

The licence was picked up in 1864 by Elizabeth Griffiths the widowed daughter of Robert Eather and niece of Charles Eather. In 1871 Elizabeth removed to the "Union Inn" in Richmond transferring the licence. Thus the "Union" became the "Woolpack Inn", Richmond.

John Town and George Matcham Pitt immediately began advertising the "Woolpack" for lease, apparently with no luck as in 1873 it was again advertised as "thoroughly repaired" and suited for both public and private use with low rent. At this stage the North Richmond Bridge Company was also advertising for lease the right to collect the tolls on the North Richmond bridge, which was shortly to be declared unusable. Perhaps this was a downturn as a result of the 1867 and 1869 floods.

In 1874 the hotel reopened as "The Travellers Rest" Licensee Jane Cribb who was replaced two years later by Harry Stevenson.

During early 1896 improvements were made to the hotel and on 15th July, 1896 John Thomas Matcham Pitt described a farewell get together for Stevenson, who was retiring after twenty years to his farm on The Terrace. John (also Johnny/Jack) Town, his wife and two children moved in the same day.

What followed was a series of rapid changes of management of "The Travellers Rest" with John Town retiring in 1900 to be replaced by Ted Williamson, in turn handing over to W. H. Pacey in 1901, followed by Thomas Dawson and John McLeod. Both transfers were in 1909.

Pacey changed the name of the hotel from the "Travellers Rest" to the "Riverview" sometime between 1903 and 1909.

In 1911 the licence was transferred to James Walsh, formerly of the "Hawkesbury Hotel", Windsor. The pattern continued with transfers in 1919 to Harold McMahon, in 1921 to Robert Jenkins and again in 1921 to Joseph Hammond. On Hammond's death in 1923 the licence passed to his wife Violet and then back to Robert Jenkins who made extensive improvements to the building. The fortunes of the hotel did not appear to improve with the licence being transferred again in 1924 to Thomas Parker and in 1925 to William Hansford.

In March 1930, the licence was transferred to the "new and up-to-date" building that Hansford had built on the western side and a boundary fence was constructed between the two buildings. Initially the new building was still known as the "Riverview" and the old building was leased to later become a boarding house. In 1940 the new "Riverview" became the "North Richmond Hotel".

The old "Travellers Rest" building was eventually demolished (late 1960s) to make way for the new hotel car park.



Above is an image of the North Richmond Hotel taken of a photo under glass, courtesy *Peter O'Donnell*. The old "*Travellers Rest*" can be seen to the left, later demolished to make way for the hotel car park. More Nth Richmond Hotel images can be viewed at www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

PRESIDENTS CORNER

of North Richmond, researched by Deborah Hallam, and begin Paul Hulbert, assisted by others. The actual photographs are the story of "Fernmount" at Kurrajong heights, by Airdrie Mar- all Paul's work, and we are fortunate to have such a skilled tin. We are always pleased to get contributions like this from photographer in our ranks. There are samples from the collecmembers, adding to the total of historical information in the tion on Page 7. If you have not seen the whole collection, go Society's files - much of which has not been documented be- to the Digital Archive on the Society's website, click on Categofore.

archive of photographs of items listed on Council's Local Envi- Kurrajong Heights, was entertained and informed by a presenronment Plan, as being of heritage interest. As has been noted tation from John Miller on the general history of the Hawkesin these pages before, such listing does not confer absolute bury. John has been well known as a local historian for many protection for these items, and the constant advancement of years, and his illustrated talk gave new insights in aspects of development west of the River will continue to threaten at that history. Note: A CD of John's talk is available from the least some of them. This was the reason for mounting the pro- Members Library. ject to photograph as many of them as possible in their

In this issue, we continue the fascinating story of the Old Inns current state. The project has been carried out by member ries and elect LEP Heritage. Thoroughly recommended.

Another aspect of documentation is the addition to our digital The June General Meeting of the Society, held at St David's in

Steve Rawling AM

THIS ISSUE

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A visit and chat on the 15th May 2016, with the late Mary Avern by Pat O'Tooleas always she recalled most vividly some wonderful aspects of her living history, expressing regret at all the things she had not been able to pass on to her sons.

Mary talked about the old newsagency in Windsor Street, Richmond with its crumbling sundried brick walls and how new walls were created within the old walls....she talked of her father's garden which extended over 2 blocks from Windsor Street to Francis Street. The orchard contained plums, nectarines, apricots, peaches (alberta and blackburn slip skins) and a lemon tree. There were also chooks, ducks, pigeons and they sometimes had pigeon pie for dinner.

Their Jersey cow lived in a paddock next door to Woodhill's stables on the other side of Francis Street. Woodhills Produce Store owned horses who pulled carts to make deliveries. When the store closed at 12pm on Saturday the horses were taken to grass somewhere at North Richmond. They had a day off on the Sabbath, but come Monday morning they had to be back on duty in Francis Street. Mary's father cleaned the stables and scored the manure for his thriving garden which grew every imaginable vegetable.

She also spoke of Vern's time studying anthropology at Sydney University. Noel Powell and Arthur Cooper accompaning him to explore and locate aboriginal paintings and carvings in the Wollemi National Park.

Mary Avern born 9th August 1928 passed away 11th June 2016

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Nestled at the foot of the Blue Mountains in Emu Plains is an old coaching inn, built in two sections, the first around 1826. The Inn was the last stop west of the Nepean River, before embarking on the climb through the Blue Mountains on the road west to Bathurst and later, the gold diggings.

The stage coach and bullock team drivers would stop at the Inn on their travels, taking people, stock and provisions over the mountains in either direction. As the Inn initially had only two main rooms,

Tour Images: P. O'Toole and D. Griffiths

the barn, on the veranda or under their Nepean District Historical Society and wagons. Later the laws changed and operates as a Museum, displaying interinns were required to provide separate esting artefacts from past eras, including rooms for ladies and children. Four stage coaches and early farm machinery. rooms were then added as bedrooms.

As bushrangers were a great problem, a method to warn travellers was accomplished by another Inn further up the mountain, hanging a lantern when the road was clear. The Inn continued to prosper till the late 1860's when the rail line became the preferred method of transport and travel into the mountains.

Visit to the ARMS of AUSTRALIA INN most overnight travellers had to sleep in The Inn is currently administered by the

Volunteers, Steve and Carmel greeted our group and guided as through a most informative tour of the property, stepping us back in time to the early 1800's and a particular colonial way of life. For more detailed information than space here provides, I recommend a visit to one of the Nepean Society's many OPEN DAYS. Visit their website for details: www.armsofaustraliainn.org.au



the first of the stand

Valley Heights Locomotive Museum Visit 15th June 2016 Our host and guide was Keith Ward assisted by Warwick Tafe.

As part 2 of our Society June excursion, our small but enthusiastic group visited the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum. We were fortunate that, because the museum had a large school group visiting before us, they lit up their steam tram.

The purpose of the depot being constructed in 1913 was to provide locomotives to assist trains on the steep grades between Valley Heights and Katoomba. These locomotives were that they were assisting.

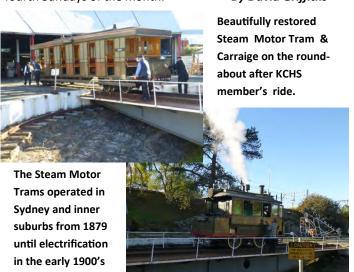
It is counter intuitive that the grades above Valley Heights are steeper than the grades below! The reason being that below Valley Heights the line takes a slightly more circuitous and therefore less steep route, whereas to the west the line is obliged to stick to the narrow ridge line.

When the Blue Mountains line was electrified in 1957, the passenger trains were hauled either by 46 class electric locos, which were more powerful and didn't need assistance, or the new fangled stainless steel electric trains. At the same time more powerful diesel locos started to be used on freight trains. Hence the need for pilot locos declined dramatically. The depot reinvented itself as a maintenance depot for the electric locos and freight wagons until it was closed in the late 1980s. After a concerted battle with the railways it became a heritage museum about 5 years later. It is now part of Transport Heritage NSW, which also operates the Thirlmere Trainworks Museum.

After the brief Steam Tram ride, we inspected the detailed model showing the layout of the depot in 1950, with the now missing coal stage.

Of the many locos and carriages on display, we were specifically shown the Caves Express buffet carriage, the milk wagon, electric loco 4601 and the Stephenson tank loco, the latter of which is operational. All these exhibits have been restored by volunteer members.

called pilot locos and were attached to the front of the train. The tour ended with a splendid Devonshire Tea. We spent about two and a half hours there and could easily have spent longer. Normally the museum is open on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. By David Griffiths



"Fernmount" and William Scott Part 1

rajong Heights, had been familiar to Abo- Crown Land with a prime view of the Overseer. The chimney resembles the

familiar to European settlers in the late 1790s. George Caley crossed the Tabarag Ridge near "Fernmount" in 1804 and went on to Mt. Banks. Governor Macquarie rode to this summit in 1810. Bells Line of Road was first surveyed in 1823 and the panoramic view became more accessible. It was used throughout the Nineteenth Century as a stock route from the Western Plains.

Accommodation houses opened up - the earliest one being "Ivy Lodge" (now "Lochiel") at Kurrajong Heights in 1832. Lady Franklin, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land and an indefatigable traveller, visited the area in June 1839. Samuel Perry, Deputy Surveyor-General of the Colony wrote "from the retreat which he called top of Tabarag a view is obtained comprising Mt. Hay, the valley of the Grose, King George's Mountain, Mt. Tomah, the Heads of Broken Bay and on a clear night The main house faces east. the Light House of Port Jackson."

Kurrajong Mountain developed as a hill station in the 1860s with one of the earliest properties being "Fernmount" which also had one of the earliest orchards.

"Fernmount" was built in 1861 by the Reverend William Scott, an interesting Anglican clergyman and scholar. Born in England in 1825, he came with his family to the post of Colonial Astronomer at Sydney in 1856. He selected the site for

Sydney's Observatory and his residence converted it into two guest rooms, rethere in 1858.

On Scott's first private trip to the country The Cottage was built in 1860 to the Kurrajong Mountain, now known as Kur- in 1860 he purchased 60 acres of vacant north-west of the main house for the



moving the chimney at the northern end.

riginal people for millennia and became Cumberland Plain. It is likely that he was chimney built for the main house. The cottage was probably occupied by Henry and Mary Peck and their family while the orchard was being established. During the 1870s the Pecks moved to a cottage on Busby's land immediately to the north of "Bunburra", where Scott Trig was established.

> The Slab Hut to the south-west of the main house and at right angles to it was known as the Tool Shed and later in Filinea Andlinger's time (1967-1983) known as The Chapel when the property was renamed "The Hermitage".

inspired by his friend Charles Moore, Scott had a cart house and stabling for

Director of the Botanic Gardens, who soon after bought the estate known as "Loxley". Scott was a man of decision and at once proceeded to build his country "Bunburra",(now known as "Fernmount") at Kurrajong Mountain in 1861.

It is distinguished by the quality of the stone chimney and internal fireplace at

the north end. The two blind dormers were inserted for aesthetic reasons during the Culver ownership (1925 - 1967).

The slab building at the west and rear of the main house was the kitchen built at the same time by William and his wife Elizabeth and remained in use as a kitchen until 1980 when the Walkers



the horse and two carts for transporting the oranges, cow bails for two milking cows (noted in the 1917 inventory), a packing shed and accommodation for workers. All whereabouts unknown.

Airdrie Martin – based on research by Professor Ian Jack



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ANDREW MAHON **KURRAJONG IDENTITY**

There is no doubt that the Andrew Mahon buried at the St Gregory's Catholic Church Cemetery is an ancestor of many local families (see list below), however there has been much confusion as to his convict past. For many years most believed that Andrew was from Ballymote. County Sligo, Ireland, however newly discovered evidence shows Bagenalstown, County Carlow, Ireland is far more likely.

This evidence was found in the Windsor & Richmond Gazette inserted by a nearby friendly neighbour Mr Robert H. Forrester, who had been given the facts by a relative of the deceased. In short - Andrew Mahon died on Wednesday night, not on Thursday (16th nor 17thJul 1889) as stated, his age was 95 years instead of 96, he was a native of Bagnalls, or Bagnals Town, County Carlow, Ireland and had been born in the year 1794.

The convict transport ship "Phoenix" III arrived in Sydney Cove, on Christmas Day 1826. She had sailed from Dublin on 27 Aug 1826 in 120 days and was a ship of 500 tons with 190 male convicts, suffering only one death. Among the convicts was one Andrew Meehan aged 23 who could read and write. He was a Catholic, single, Farmer's man and was from County Carlow. Andrew had stolen money and

was convicted at Carlow 20 Mar 1826 with a sentence of 7 years, he was 5'-6½" (1.7m) tall and had a ruddy complexion with brown hair and eyes. Andrew is noted as having a scar on the right cheek onto right side of nose. He was directed tattooed inside lower part of right arm to work for Robert Sherringham.

In the 1828 Census an Andrew with the surname of McMahon, a Protestant, was working as a labourer for Robert Sherringham at Evan.

By 1833 (the now named) Andrew Mahon's description in his Certificate of Freedom re-iterates the ship's name "Phoenix" with arrival 1826, Carlow and other details, but his age, height and eye colour differ, additionally the General Remarks column notes a scar right side of forehead, scar on right cheek another on right side of nose, small mole right cheek, scar on knuckle of forefinger of right hand.

On 26 Nov 1837 Thomas Mahon arrived as a convict on the "William Jardine". He could neither read nor write and had a brother Andrew MAHON out as prisoner who had been sentenced for 7 years. Thomas MAHON was born in 1816 in County Carlow, had been a private in the 87th Regiment but had been tried by Courts Martial at Limerick on 27

March 1837 for desertion. Thomas had

suffered numerous military punishments and was sentenced to 14 years servitude across the seas. He was aged 23 years, 5'-11" (1.8m) tall, had an "M" and "IT" inside lower part of left arm, blue eyes, eyebrows partially meeting, brown hair with a fair complexion. The convict transport ship "William Jardine" had left Kingstown Harbour (Dublin) bound for Sydney Cove, Australia.

After 11 Mar 1850 Thomas Mahon was allowed to remain in the service of Mr A. Mahon and travel between Windsor and Bathurst. It is obvious Andrew Meehan, McMahon or Mahon is the one person – same ship, same year, same facial scars, same master - Robert Sherringham, roughly same age, religion and appearance, brother with same surname and all with the same native place of Carlow.

It should also be noted that the "Phoenix" III 1826 had no convict named Andrew Mahon or similar on board apart from Andrew Meehan.

So the Kurrajong Andrew Mahon did NOT come from Ballymote, County Sligo, Ireland but was from County Carlow! Some descendant families are listed below.

Ray Goddard (Ray has provided detailed notes giving references).

Andrew MAHON

ВАТНО	DALTON	GODDARD	LANE	ROUGHLEY	UPTON
BENNETT	DUFFY	GRIFFITHS	PARRY	ROYAL	ZOERNLEIB
BIRCH BLOW	FISH FRANKLIN	HIGGINS HOLLAND	PEAK PLUNKETT	SHELTON SIMS	
CANNON	GIBSON	KABLE	POPE Popp	SMITH	
CARTER	GIDDINS	KENNEDY	RANDALL	TRICKETT	

Thomas MAHON

BANKS	OAKLEY
BRISCOE	WILTON
COWLING LAVENDER	
MOONEY	
MULLINS	





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Resource & Image ARCHIVES

Over recent months our Librarian/Archivist, Val Birch, and our Digital Archivist, Jenny Griffiths, have been working on transferring the manual archive records onto the Resource Archive (database). Our Webmaster and Database Administrator, David Griffiths, has made some improvements to the searching options and some cosmetic changes.

The Resource Archive has been renamed to Resource/Document Archive (excuse the tautology) to stress that this is where you find documents. It has also had a soothing change of colour.

The most obvious change is the addition of the ability to search on Resource Type, so you can now ask for only 'maps' to be found, for example. You can also specify that you only want to find resources that are available online for immediate viewing. At present there is only a small number of documents online but we plan to gradually increase this amount. Anyone who has relevant articles they have written is welcome to submit them for inclusion. We will also gradually extract articles from old Millstones.

Whole words: All words: All

You can change the sort order of the list of resources by clicking on the heading of each column (except Author and Description). There is now a concise Help page for each archive, accessed by the Help button at the lower right corner. The full User Manual, which was previously the help document, is also still available.

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Most of these resources are available for members to borrow. Contact Val Birch, our librarian, to make arrangements. librarian@kurrajonghistory.org.au

KCHS Members Library

- 1. Visit the Society website: kurrajonghistory.org.au
- 2. Select "Archive"
- 3. Select "Members Library"
- 4. Choose BOOK (note title and author)
- 5. To place an order EMAIL Librarian Val Birch

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A pre-arranged book collection and return is also available via Pat & Ian O'Toole at the Radio Museum



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KCHS Image Archive 150008 A Pioneer cottage East Kurrajong



"Sunnyside" Hermitage Road KCHS Image Archive 150603



Heritage home on Comleroy Road once known as "It'll Do" 150653



"Curraweena" Grose Vale Road Archive Image 150615



Kurrajong North School 1878 Stone Terrace Kurrajong Hts KCHS Archive Image 150605



'La Tosca' 1905 on Westbury Road Grose Vale Image 150005



The Ridge C1885 Kurrajong Heights KCHS Image Archive 150911

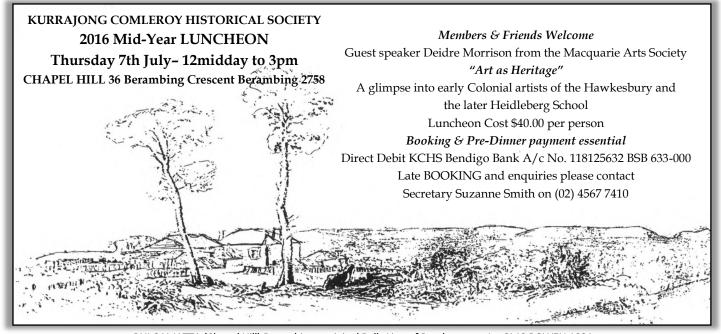


The Ridge C1885 (Side View) KCHS Image Archive 150912

The above images are a selection from the KCHS website LEP collection listed as of heritage interest in the Kurrajong region.

A knowledge and history of any of the properties listed on the website is welcome. Visit: www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



BULGAMATTA (Chapel Hill) Berambing - original Bells Line of Road grant to Lt. GMC BOWEN 1831 Pencil sketch by Conrad Martens inscribed "From Mount Tomah Bowen's, July 18, 1838" Courtesy of the State Library of NSW

175 Years - Anniversary Commemoration

St Peter's Richmond (1841-2016) 175 Year Anniversary Sunday 24th July 2016 11.30am Historical Displays and Food Stalls

2pm Celebration Service in the church

Special Guest; Archbishop Glenn Davies

KCHS AGM 7pm Monday 26th SEPTEMBER

BLAXLAND RIDGE School HALL

Guest: Professor Carol Liston (President RAHS)

Please do not hesitate to let David Griffiths on Ph: 4567 8999 or Suzanne Smith 4567 7410 know if you require transport to the evening meeting

Further information and nomination forms in the September - October Newsletter

Nepean Gorge History Discovery Tour

NEPEAN BELLE Paddlewheeler October 2016 Saturday 8th or 15th (exact date to be confirmed)

The KCHS committee is seeking members interest for participation in the above Discovery Tour

KCHS members have been invited to join a tour further into the Nepean Gorge than the Nepean Belle usually takes guests. We would be retracing the steps of The Count O'Meagher's Picnic tours on the MV Reliance

Fallick's Cave, and the site of he old jetty of interest.

The historical commentary throughout the Discovery Tour will be given by historian and author of "The History of the Blue Labyrinth" Bruce Cameron.

The tour provides for amazing photographic and viewing opportunities of the natural beauty of the Sandstone Walls of the Gorge, towering 150m above water level. Sightings of sea eagles, kingfishers, cormorants, wallabies and other wildlife along the rivers edge, the usual nature encounter.

The Belle would cruise through the This special 5 hour cruise event will de-Gorge taking in Glenbrook Creek, Tyler's part at 10am from Tench Reserve return-Quarry, Euroka Creek, Breakfast Creek, ing approx.3pm on either Saturday 8th or 15th October 2016. Morning Tea, at Selfe Farm, to name only a few points beverages and the Nepean Belle Buffet Lunch selection will be served during the tour and is inclusive of the \$100.00 Seniors Cost for the tour.

> If you are interested in this event please let KCHS secretary Suzanne know: Email secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au Ph: 4567 7410

WATCH THIS SPACE

