CROSSING OF THE MOUNTAINS 1813

COX'S ROAD 1814 FLOODED CREEK PROBLEM

OLD BATHURST ROAD OR LAWSONS ROAD 1824 STEEP

MAJOR MITCHELL,... MITCHELL' PASS RESULTED FROM THE
LAYOUT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EMU AND THE SIGHTING OF
A CLEAR PASS THROUGH WHICH A NEW ROAD MAY BE MADE

WORK BEGAN IN 1832 AT THIS POINT DAVID LENNOX CAME
INTO THE PICTURE

DAVID LENNOX HAD BEEN BORN, TRAINED AND WORKED IN
SCOTLAND AS A MASTER STONEMASON. HE WAS ASSOCIATED
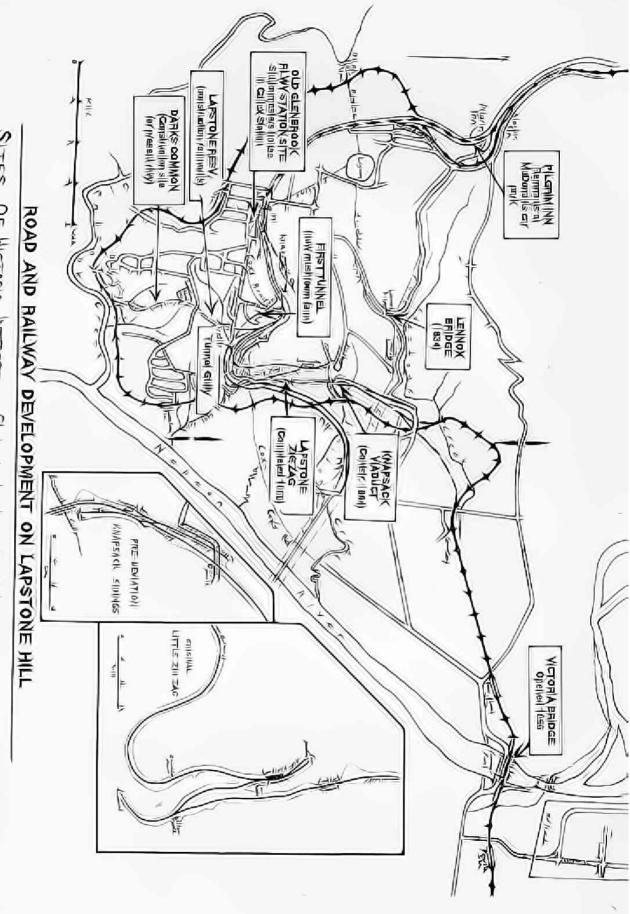WITH THE FAMOUS BRIDGEBUILDER THOMAS TELFORD.

AFFECTED BY UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1828 HE MIGRATED TO
THE COLONY IN EARLY 1832 AND WAS WORKING ON THE
STONE WALL IN FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE IN
MACQUARIE STREET WHEN HIS WORK WAS NOTICED BY
MAJOR MITCHELL.

INTRODUCED TO THE GOVERNOR HIS CREDENTIALS WERE
CHECKED AND HE WAS APPOINTED FIRSTLY A SUB
INSPECTOR OF ROADS AND SHORTLY AFTERWARDS THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF BRIDGES, HE STARTED WORK ON
THIS BRIDGE IN NOVEMBER 1832 WITH A FORCE OF
20 CONVICTS AND COMPLETED IT IN JULY 1833 .

THE QUARRY FROM WHICH THE STONE WAS OBTAINED IS
LOCATED ABOUT 400 METRES UPSTREAM FROM THE BRIDGE.

THE BRIDGE IS A SEMI CIRCULAR STONE ARCH TEN METRES
RADIUS 30 FEET HIGH. IT HAS A CURVED FRONT WALL
TO ACCOUNT FOR THE BEND IN THE ROAD AND BECAUSE OF
THIS WAS SOMETIMES CALLED THE HORSESHOE BRIDGE.

CARRYING ALL WESTWARD TRAFFIC UNTIL L926 UNTIL
THE GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY DEVIATION IT REMAINED
OPEN UNTIL 1964 WHEN SERIOUS CRACKING CAUSED THE
COUNCIL TO CLOSE IT. IT IS THE OLDEST MAINLAND

ROAD AND RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT ON LAPSTONE HILL

SITES OF HISTORIC INTEREST — Glenbrook, Lapstone, Emu Plains

Adapted from map produced by William A. Bayley, from book "Lapstone Zig Zag Railway, Blue Mtns NSW". 1975. Austral. Publication.

DARKS COMMON
(Construction site
for freeway Hwy)

LAPSTONE FWY
(construction/railway lines)

OLD GLENBROOK
R'LWY STATION SITE
Still carries lines
in Glenbrook Station

PILGRIM INN
Remains is at
MacDonalds car
park

LAPSTONE FWY
(construction/railway lines)

FIRST TUNNEL
(now museum (tram))

Tunnel Gully

LENNOX BRIDGE
(1834)

LAPSTONE
ZIG ZAG
(completed 1 km)

KNAPSACK
VIADUCT
(completed 1844)

VICTORIA BRIDGE
Opened 1858

PRE-DEVIATION
KNAPSACK SIDINGS

ORIGINAL
LITTLE ZIG ZAG

Nepean River

Summary of Lapstone Road and Rail Routes

Roads

1813 Blaxland, Wentw'th & Lawson crossed Mtns

1815 Cox' Rd built up Lapstone hill
(v steep & prone to washouts)

1824 Lawson's Rd built (now Old Bathurst Rd)
(Sharp bends, difficult for bullock teams etc)

1834 Mitchells Pass constructed (lower gradient)
This includes Lennox Bridge. (1st type in Aust)
(Built under stone mason David Lennox)
Used as Hwy until 1926 (superseded by Kpsk)
Closed to traffic by 1960's due to damage.
Reconstructed in 1970's.

1856 Victoria Bridge (steel) built over Nepean Rv.
(similar design to Menangle bridge)

Railways

1856 John Whitton (Yorkshire) appointed Engineer in Chief
of NSW Railways.
Rail proposals over Mtns included Grose River &
Bells Line of Rd. Main ridge finally chosen.
Whitton had several options for Lapstone monocline incld
tunnelling through Glenbrook Gorge (todays route).
Had to settle for Zig Zag option (cheaper).

1864 Knapsack Bridge built (by William Watkins)

1867 Zig Zag completed

1892 Single lane tunnel built (now mushroom farm).
Zig Zag disused.

1910 Lithgow Zig Zag superseded.

1913 Dual railway through Glenbrook Gorge constructed.

1926 Knapsack Viaduct used as Highway

1938 Knapsack Viaduct widened

Historic sites in area

Knapsack Viaduct (sandstone bridge)

Lapstone Zig Zag

Tunnel Gully (2nd rail route up Lapst'ne Monocline)

Skarrat Park (site of Zig Zag sidings & 2nd rail)

Lennox Bridge (on Mitchell's pass road)

Darks Common, Lapstone
(used for Glenbrook Gorge rail construction)

Pilgrams Inn (located at road junctions, Blxnd.
Lic. 1824). Remnants in McDonalds car park.

Old Glenbrook Railway Station
(Remnants at Caltex Station)

Historic names

'Watertank'
became 'Brookdale'
(= Glenbrook in 1879)

'Wascoe's'
(= Blaxland in 1879)

'Weatherboard'
(= Wentworth Falls)

'Blue Mountain'
(= Lawson)

'The Crushers'
(= Katoomba)

LENNOX BRIDGE OPENING

14TH DECEMBER, 1982

LIST OF GUESTS

The Mayor
Bob Debus
John Pike (Supervising Architect from Public Works Dept.)
Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
City Engineer
Tony Brown
Arthur Stuart
Pat Tonner & Wife
Allen Cummings & Wife   (Descendants of David Lennox)
Keith Cummings & Wife   "   "   "
Mr. & Mrs. Munro plus 2   "   "   "
Wendy Godfrey   (Lower Mountains Conservation Society)
Christine Strickly   "   "   "   "   "
G. Kerr & Wife (Katoomba & District Wildlife Consv. Society)
Vice President of Springwood Historical Society
Tom Morony (Springwood Historical Society)
Sue ?   (Heritage Council)
Mrs. Ward   (Blue Mountains Historical Society)
Mrs. Douglas   (Blue Mountains Historical Society)

Schools: Pupils   Teachers

    Blaxland East   57   1
    Blaxland Public   25   1
    Glenbrook Primary   137   2
    Lapstone   40   2   (Song)

M.C. (Alan Fidler)
Ted Alderson (Melocco - Builder)
Gary Vidler, D.M.R.
Bob Daley, D.M.R.
RON WHITE   BMCC PROJECT ENG.

Apologies: Keigh McPhee, (Police Department - Sergeant).

13.12.82

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

GUESTS

Local Member, Bob Debus, M.P.

Local Historical Societies

Local Conservation Societies

Supervising Architect - Public Works Department   *John PIKE*

Heritage Council of N.S.W.

Members of the Cummings Family, who are decendants of David

  Lennox, who was responsible for the design and building of the bridge.

Fellow Aldermen

School children from the Lapstone, Glenbrook, Blaxland and East

  Blaxland Primary Schools - Lapstone School have composed a song

  dedicated to the bridge and will perform it.

Ted Alderson (Melocco - Builder) Gary Vidler, D.M.R., Bob Daley, D.M.R.

HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE

Commenced late 1832 and completed July, 1883.

Designed and supervised by famous Scottish Stonemason/Bridge Builder,

David Lennox. Small convict labour force. Materials obtained

locally. Serviced the Mountains for over one hundred years.

Oldest remaining bridge on the mainland.

RESTORATION

Bridge closed a number of years ago to carry out repairs ∧ which has   *REOPENING*

been possible due to financial input from Council, Federal and State

Government grants and Heritage Council of N.S.W. Re-opening, benefit

to local residents. Also tourist attraction.   *(SULLAGE*
PLAQUE
LOAD LIMIT)

150TH ANNIVERSARY - JULY, 1983

Plans in hand to arrange to celebrate the occasion in an appropriate

manner, soldiers in period costume, the transport of the period, music,

refreshments etc. Invitation extended to the Premier to officiate.

CLOSE   *MELOCCO, Public Work Architect, Engineers RON WHITE ALAN PIDLOR*