

GLENBROOK POINTS

Newsletter of Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc.



POINTSMAN'S COTTAGE

AUG-SEPT '17

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Meetings 3rd Wednesday monthly at 1.30 pm (except Dec-Jan) Glenbrook Guides Hall
cnr Hare & Moore Sts Glenbrook

COMING EVENTS

Trip to "Combewood House" Tuesday 26 September 2017

Classified by the National Trust - One of Penrith's oldest homes. Accommodates an original family living on an original land grant We will be departing from the Glenbrook Girl Guides Hall at 10am. Transport will be via car pool driving to 234 Coreen Ave, Penrith. Cost \$10 per person, includes morning tea. Tour takes approximately one hour. The tour will be followed by lunch at the Penrith Rowing Club. RSVP to Pam Pascoe 4739 3078; Mobile: 0420323226 or e-mail:

pplinden@gmail.com Margarite and Ian Scott will be our guides. Margarite is a direct descendant of Captain Daniel Woodriff who was granted the land in 1804. In 1890 "Combewood" was completed by Francis Henry Woodriff, also a descendant of Captain Daniel Woodriff. Most of this house is in its original state and has volunteers to maintain the upkeep which is ongoing. The driveway to the house has a tree lined driveway of Himalayan cedars, Chinese Elms, Kurrajongs and Bunyah trees. This historical home is well worth a visit

HISTORY WALKS 2017 ALL on SATURDAYS led by Doug Knowles & team

Aug. 26th 9.00am Faulconbridge Steam Sawmill and incline railway. See boiler, engine

parts and other relics. 1914 –1925. (Steep terrain, Allow 3 ½ hours.) **\$10.00**

Sept. 9th 9.00am Lennox Bridge, Brookside Creek and old quarry, Dunn's Mill relics/earth dam. **\$10.00**

Oct. 7th 9.00am Glenbrook Discovery: Heritage Walk. Historic sites, houses and 1892 railway route to Lapstone Tunnel, West Portal. **\$10.00**

PAM'S PAGE

CATTLE COMING BACK TO EMU PLAINS

Residents of the Emu Plains area will be pleased to know that cattle are returning to the paddock, on Old Bathurst Rd. Commissioner Severen said the minimum security women's prison has a history behind it which would horrify the present inmates as well as the general public. In 1819, Governor Lachlan Macquarie first suggested building a prison farm at Emu Plains. Weatherboard huts were quickly built, originally housing 900 male convicts. Back then prisoners were seen as a source of revenue earners for the Government, rather than having work and education programs for them.



EMU PLAINS WAS A LARGE RURAL AREA WITH MANY FARMS BY 1880's

By 1820 the prison was yielding a profitable tobacco crop, maize and wheat were grown as well. Conditions were harsh, prisoners from the farm were also being used to blast rock and cut down trees to help make way for a road through the mountains. The prison farm continued to grow, and last century a daring experiment was tried and female convicts from the overcrowded Female Factory at Parramatta were transferred to Emu Plains. These prisoners were trained to run the dairy, which stayed in operation until closed last year.

Corrective Services N.S.W. continues to operate a milk processing facility on the site, with raw milk supplied by external dairies, and homogenised and then packaged on site before being distributed to C.S.N.S.W. inmates around the state. 100 head of cattle are coming back to the C.S. Industries paddock at Emu Plains. The "paddock to plate" program offers inmates diverse education, training and employment opportunities in primary food production and meal preparation. Compare to 1820's!!

The return of a cattle herd to Emu Plains continues a long tradition of using agriculture as part of the rehabilitation of prisoners. It is estimated that about 100 herd of cattle would pass through Emu Plains and will be looked after by the minimum security female inmates. Residents of the Emu Plains area will be pleased to know that cattle are returning to the paddock, on Old Bathurst Rd.

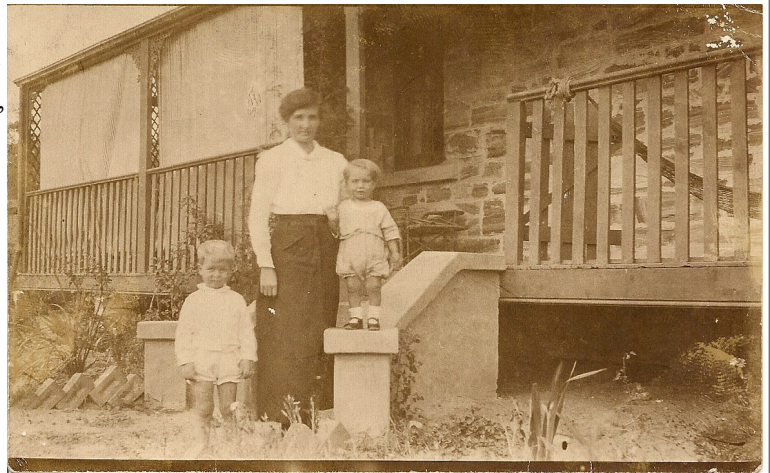
CHILDHOOD RECOLLECTIONS by Stuart Williams

Written April 2000

We lived in "Wyuna" King St. Glenbrook. The main part of the house was sandstone, built by our neighbour Mr John Dunn, with additions in brick for dining room, kitchen, laundry and bathroom. The house was compact and high enough above the line of Knapsack Creek, which ran parallel to the railway line (now Western Highway), to be out of cold air in winter and the frequent heavy frosts in the morning.

Our grounds were about one acre and the allotments to the east, south & west of us were of equivalent size. To the east of us was the Dobson family, to the south east lived Mr Horne and his housekeeper, Mrs Clutterbuck, and to the south was the family of Mr & Mrs John Dunn. To the west was the home of the Venn family to the north on the far side of King St was a large vacant area, a great place for boys to play in the tree and undergrowth.

About 150 yards to the north was the original St.Finbars Catholic Church, which now serves as a hall in the St.Finbars school grounds. The original St.Peters Church of England was opposite Mr Horne's house in Hare St., now the office building for the Glenbrook nursery in Ross St. (EDITOR:- now the "CHURCH" coffee shop), Mr Horne used to teach the Sunday School and we young folks were regulars.



"Wyuna" Mrs Williams, Stuart and Eric c1920



Mr Horne (centre) & Jessie Dunn (centre front) Sunday School picnic c1920

My father had to be away in the country, travelling on insurance business for a week or so at a time and Mrs Dunn was very kind to my mother. They were a fine family. Mrs Dunn had a cow and used to supply us with milk. Her son, Alec, kept our wood box full and her daughter, Jessie, would pick up and post our mail.

The butcher, baker and greengrocer used to call regularly. Any heavy goods from the railway would be delivered by Mr Carey on a flat top horse drawn lorry. His son, Bill Carey, met every train, to convey passengers and their luggage to their homes. He would wait at the foot of the steps and help to carry the luggage to the vehicle, and, if needed into their house. He drove a horse drawn carriage, to an

enlarged dog cart with a roof.

Mr Brownlow, one of nature's gentlemen, ran the Macquarie Store. We used to get our groceries from him. The Wall Bros. had the other general store on the SW corner of Ross and Park Sts. Mrs Hunter lived opposite across Ross St. She was known as Nurse Hunter and was relied on as our local health service midwife, a tireless cheery friend to all. Dr Higgins was based in Penrith and looked after our serious health problems. He would drive up from Penrith if necessary..

It was a very peaceful existence, lots of walks, book reading etc. Mother had the company of a young state ward for many years. Her name was Lily. Two important occurrences are my first real memories. Firstly at the age of 3 yrs and 2 months, I can remember the bell of St.Peters Church being rung with enthusiasm, and for quite a long time, and everyone being so delighted, with much hugging and kissing. It took me a long time to realise it must have been 11th November 1918, any wonder they were reacting, after four long years of horror. The second was probably about a year later when Alec

Dunn picked me up, pointed to the steam train going down the grade and told me it was the last train to go down the line, through the old tunnel to Emu Plains.

Until I went to Primary School we did not see many folks outside our little home base, but it was a happy, friendly, safe area, very few motor vehicles to worry about. I started School at about age 7 years. Mr Wurth was our teacher and the little one room school brought quite a change to my existence. Mr Wurth was a good teacher and practical man. By arrangement, the children were allowed to bring their pre-school brother or sister with them, in case of emergency, essential shopping trips by the mother and so on. We had cricket lessons, practical gardening and I think we all learned to share his appreciation of the verse and humanity of Henry Kendall, Henry Lawson and "Banjo" Patterson.

The social centre of the village was the old timber School of Arts, situated on the NE corner of Glenbrook Park. Dances, occasional concerts, school concerts and for a few years, evening gymnasium classes for the young folk were held there. And I must not omit the annual Cot Ball. It was after one of



GLENBROOK TENNIS CLUB c1915

these Balls that the old timber building burnt down, a real blow to the village. However the main general interest was in tennis. The public courts were in the same location as at present and a great number of homes had private courts. It was a very popular activity for young and old. Frequent tournaments on weekends and regular mid-week games at the various courts, with afternoon tea parties as the rule.

Occasionally the Family would have a train trip to Katoomba or Wentworth Falls, with a walk to the lookouts. Other times it could be a trip to Sydney for a ferry ride to Manly, or some special occasion like the Royal Easter Show. I had 2 brothers, Eric was two years

younger (1917) and Gordon five years younger (1920), Betty was born in 1927. I was the more cautious, careful type. Eric was full of go and we had a good yard to play in and room to ramble in the bush area across the road. Eric was daring, a natural climber, and had a couple of bad falls, but other than bruising did not come to any harm. Gordon did not figure much in our childhood activities, maybe just as well, as he turned out as a thoughtful, practical individual and we had lots of fun together as we grew older.

EDITOR:-*Stuart was born at Manly Sept 1915 and died Aug 2012 Penrith. After his marriage to Irene they moved to "Kelgoola" Wascoe St Glenbrook c1945, the property belonging to Irene's mother. Today known as "Ilford House" In 1955 they moved to 60 Levy St "Dartmouth" later changing the name to*

"Keloana" They spent the rest of their days in Levy St. raising 5 boys, John, Ross, Eric, Peter & Thomas, survived by 11 Grandchildren and 12 Great G'children. . Family tree planting below,... L. to R. Back...son Ross, Stuart, son John, wife Irene L. to R. front. Grandson Phillip ,G'daughter Jennifer & Sarah, Grandson Christopher



Family Tree Planting 1985

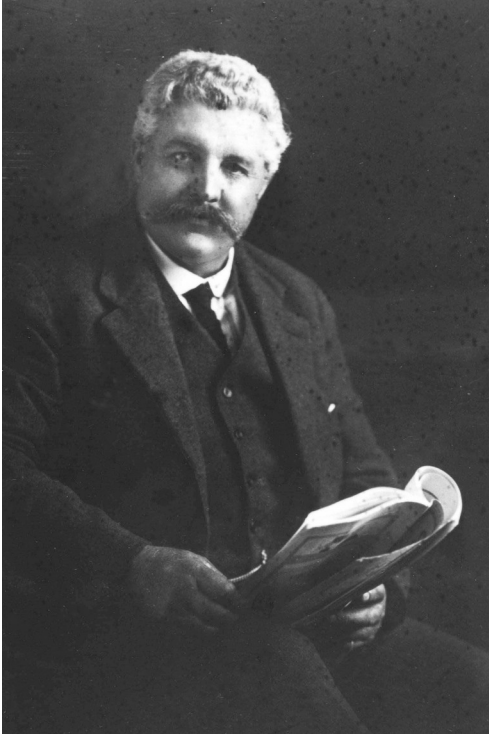


**Wedding Stuart & Irene O'Halloran
March 1943 Ashfield**

THE WASHAWAY at Glenbrook

The Nepean Times 31/3/1906 (Edited version)

This, perhaps, was the biggest thing coming out of the storm on Saturday, and one that will long be remembered in the annals of railway working. The storm there, was more severe than any other place we have heard of. At about 5.30 p.m. Mr J Salvana, artist, who was engaged finishing an oil painting from Lucasville, just opposite Mr Colin Smith's house, tells the history of the storm as no one else can.



Mr Don Skarratt Snr.

Just before the troubles came on, Mr Salvana removed his paraphernalia into the house at the request of Mr Skarratt, the gentleman in charge of the place, and they intended settling down until the storm had passed; but just then there was a fearful disturbance of rushing wind, loud thunder claps, and vivid flashes of lightening. In fact, the noise was, to those who heard it, as if they were in the vicinity of a terrific military engagement. Then the rain came swooping down in torrents, and the noise was even greater. The parties could stand it no longer. Then they saw trees being snapped off like carrots, limbs cut down, leaves shredded, and pieces of bark cut from the trees by the terrific fall of hail.

All at once, so Mr Salvana says, Mr Skarratt appeared to have suddenly gone mad. He jumped the fence in front of him and went down the mountain side, over huge rocks and boulders, at breakneck speed. Mr Salvana followed, wondering what was going to happen. As Mr Skarratt got down to the train line, he noticed a train approaching from Penrith and Mr Skarratt signalling the driver to stop. Just ahead, and about 100 yards this side of the tunnel, there was a sight that fairly paralysed our artist. About 10 chains (200 metres) of the main line had been washed away to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. The line had been lifted

and arched. In one place, so that a man could stand up underneath it. The Willis' Siding (catch-points in railway terms) had been partly washed away, some of the lengths of rail, with sleepers attached, being carried clean over the main line and down the bank. Huge rocks were lying here, there and everywhere. In fact, it is said that thousands of tons of debris covered the main line

Mr Skarratt, having prevented a terrible catastrophe, then made all haste to give the information to the Glenbrook stationmaster. This having been done, news was sent to Penrith, and instructions were given for the train to be propelled back to Emu Plains. A special train with about 50 men, and breakdown vans, were sent to the scene of the trouble. About 6 a.m. next morning repairs were fixed up to a "four mile per hour" run. An inspection of the place on Sunday afternoon plainly showed what had been affected by the terrible rush of flood waters. Hundreds of tons of earth on either side of the line had been washed away.

The workmen, all of whom looked thoroughly worn out by their arduous toil, knocked off between 4 & 5 p.m. Sunday, and after a substantial meal of bread, corn beef etc. cooked on the ground, a train going west picked up a large number of them for their homes, another train coming along a little later took the balance to Penrith and Sydney

EDITOR:- *Although this article makes no mention, Don was assisted with this episode by his brother Thomas, They both received recognition of their deed from the Railway Commissioner, with a reward of 25 pounds and an engraved pocket watch and a medal. Thomas watch is on display in the museum.*

From the Secretary's desk



Scenic Eastern Escarpment Management Plan was presented by Soren Mortensen of BMCC. The objectives of the Master Plan are to: (1) Guide the future development of recreational infrastructure; (2) Improve recreational and tourism opportunities in the region; and (3) Support the promotion of the sites cultural and nature based recreational opportunities. The Eastern Escarpment is located on the eastern edge of the Blue Mountains, fringing western Sydney. The site extends from Darks Common in the south, adjoining the Blue Mountains National Park, to Knapsack Reserve in the north connecting with Yellomundee Regional Park.- Land. Managers involved are Council, Crown Land, Penrith City Council and NPWS. For BMCC it covers from Hawkesbury Lookout to Dark's Common to the south. On-site surveys will now be undertaken to get a real idea of a sites usage .Glenbrook Sewerage Treatment works and Lapstone Hill Railway Tunnel will be looked at. Ruins of Gatekeeper's Cottage at John Whitton Memorial Place and Lucasville Station were mentioned. Society was involved in History Walks covering Lapstone Zig Zag Railway, Lennox Bridge, Lapstone Hill Railway Tunnel and Dark's Common .Soren wants our thoughts and feedback as it progresses.

Glenbrook Gateway Monument: Council to get back to us with an estimate of costs for stonework. Looking at no plaque. Larger keystone with "Glenbrook Proclaimed 1885".

Blinky Bill Bus Shelter Plaque and Protection: Pres. Joan spoke to the artist Jayne Shephard and she will put pen to paper on what she thinks should go on a plaque and give to us to then refer onto Council. There is an old photo showing there was a plaque on the bus shelter back in 1992, but don't know what was on it.

Knapsack Bridge plaque: Size to fit original position 520mm x 330mm. \$250 from PC Signage with approved wording decided at the last meeting. Council has put up new signage about not dumping and tidied up. No graffiti visible on the internal parapets.

To celebrate 125 years of education in Glenbrook. Principal, David Brown wants the event on Saturday 9th of September. The school hall will be provided at no charge. Museum to be open on the day to allow school children to inspect it. 1.00pm with afternoon tea at 2.30 - 3.00pm. Tim advised there were 2 time capsules done by the school children. One was opened and the children took the contents home. The second time capsule contents are kept at the Museum. Children will put on a programme on the day. 360 people attended 25 years ago but half are no longer with us.



GLENBROOK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc. OFFICE BEARERS 2016-2017

President	Joan Peard	0414605482
Vice- Presidents	Kevin Frappell	Doug Knowles
Secretary /Treasurer	Neil McGlashan	Chief Historian Tim Miers
Committee	Pam Thompson	Denis Bainbridge Ian Dingwall

**Glenbrook & D.H. Society Museum is situated within Old Glenbrook
Infants school, Ross St. Entrance via Park or Ross Sts
Museum is open
1st and 3rd Saturdays 9 am to 1.30 pm. Entrance FREE**

