

# GLENBROOK POINTS

Newsletter of Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc.



POINTSMAN'S COTTAGE

**APRIL-MAY '17**

Postal address P.O. Box 38 Glenbrook NSW 2773

**Contacts:** President Joan Peard 0414 605 482 or Secretary Neil McGlashan 4739 9864

E-mail:- gdhs@gmail.com Facebook:- Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc

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

## **"History Walks" 2017 Programme ALL on SATURDAYS led by Doug Knowles & team**

<b>May</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	<u>"Bull's Creek Dam"</u> Railway water supply. Stone dam, pump, pipeline relics.	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	<u>The Mountains Murders.</u> Captain Lee Weller's murder site and first grave	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<u>Zig Zag 'A' Special Walk:</u> 'The Eastern Zig Zag' 1867. This walk is focussed on the Knapsack Gully stone viaduct offering good photographic opportunities. This walk includes Gatehouse No1. 1867. (Tea/coffee biscuits.)	<b>\$15.00</b>
	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<u>Zig Zag 'B' Special walk:</u> 'Eastern Zig Zag' this walk on the 1867 Zig Zag Railway, also extends to the first improvement, the lapstone Hill Tunnel 1892. East Portal only, and the 'washaway' section (1906). (Tea/coffee, biscuits)	<b>\$15.00</b>
	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	<u>Lapstone Construction (temporary.) Railway</u> 1910-1913. Explore the supply to enable construction of the present-day Glenbrook Gorge double track railway. Also see East Portal of the 1892 Lapstone Hill Tunnel.	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Aug.</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<u>Faulconbridge Steam Sawmill and incline railway.</u> See boiler, engine parts and other relics. 1914 - 1925. <b>(Steep terrain, Allow 3 ½ hours.)</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<u>Lennox Bridge, Brookside Creek</u> and old quarry, Dunn's Mill relics/earth dam.	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<u>Glenbrook Discovery: Heritage Walk.</u> Historic sites, houses and 1892 railway route to Lapstone Tunnel, West Portal.	<b>\$10.00</b>

*Children under 16yrs. Free-but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

**BOOKINGS are ESSENTIAL:** Phone Doug. on 4751 3275 for details re meeting place, time and grade of walk. Good walking shoes are essential. Please bring a hat and drinking water. **BAD WEATHER ON DAY:** excessive wind & rain could cause cancellation due to **hazardous conditions.** (No dogs please.)

## **COMING EVENTS:- Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum Visit**

*This trip will take place on Tuesday 23 May, arrival time 10.30 am. Cost is \$10 per person which includes Devonshire tea and a full tour with a hostess. Depart Glenbrook Girl Guides (cnr. Hare & Moore Streets, Glenbrook) at 9.30 For bookings contact Pam 4739 3078 or email: [pplinden@gmail.com](mailto:pplinden@gmail.com)*

*This Heritage Centre and Museum have been operating for many years and is truly worth a visit, it has received many awards. All buildings have disability access. It is popular with locals and bus trips attend from all over NSW. The Collection displays People and places of the Wollondilly Shire and Burratorang Valley. There are several buildings to look at including Special Collections such as Burratorang, Yerranderie and the coal mining that took place*

# PAM'S PAGE

## Primary School days

by Peter Berry (1<sup>st</sup> Published 1991)

Next year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Glenbrook Public School. The centenary will be marked by many events and planning for this has been going on for many years. I was one of the many students over the years to attend Glenbrook School. I decided to put just a few of my many recollections together. There must be plenty of people in our community and indeed within our congregation who went to the school many years before I did. Perhaps they might be inspired to write something for the next issue of "Kalori".

More than anything else I remember my years at the school as ones of great happiness. It was a school we were all proud to belong to. We saluted the flag, honoured our God and the Queen every Monday morning and cheered our hearts out at the athletic carnivals, which Glenbrook excelled in at the time

My school career began in 1954 when there were no uniforms, sometimes no shoes and free school milk. I remember demolishing 9 bottles one lunch time, in second class, to become the fleeting school hero. Some of my classmates from those early years are still known to me. I met up with some of them just recently at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Leaving Certificate from Penrith High School. It was remarkable what incidents some of them could recall from all these years ago when were 6 year olds at Glenbrook.

My first teacher was Mrs Farnsworth. I often wonder what became of her. She seemed to be elderly when I was 5, but I suppose she could easily have been younger than I am now! All I can recall from that first year at school was sewing coloured wool onto little squares of hessian and the strict instructions from Mrs Farnsworth not to lose our needles between the cracks in the floorboards.

A little later on we started folk dancing and it was a dreadful experience as we had to hold hands with the girls. This was a good enough excuse to take an early mark, but we had some explaining to do to our mothers when we got home 2 hours sooner than we should have. In later years we performed our colourful maypole dance, winding and unwinding streamers of coloured ribbons around the flagpole in the playground. I remember how proud we all were, not to get the ribbons all tangled as we performed before our parents

The school was dominated by the presence of its headmaster A.C.Murphy. I'm sure many young peoples lives were shaped by his disciplinary style and his fierce love of the school. They were the days when we had Empire Day sports with races, tugs of war, a slice of cake and two pieces of fruit each, and the afternoon off to prepare for one of the biggest events of the year – Cracker Night. I can still relive the great excitement and expectation that night brought to us all.

A school excursion then consisted of a walk across the road to McCall's Bakery where we all had a bun, fresh out of the oven, slapped with a lump of butter melting on the still warm dough. I remember with fondness so many happy times. The school concerts, the fetes, standing out in the playground watching with amazement the first Russian Sputnik float across the sky. I remember the musty smell of the old books in the library where I first learnt of the heroic deeds at Gallipoli. I can still see the old pa-



**Peter (right) & 2 elder brothers at Glenbrook**



**Empire Day Glenbrook Park 1952**

per rolls fixed to the classroom walls where we sang lustily. I still remember the words and the tunes..... "The sunshine is coming....."

I recall the school inspectors Mr Cash and Mr Astill. We lived in fear of them but I never found out why, as they seemed friendly men. Glenbrook was a school which we were intensely proud of. The blue and gold colours meant a lot to us too. So did the two school houses, Barton and Parkes. I'm sure we deeply respected our teachers and as far as I can recall they had our interests at heart both during and after school hours. It was a wonderful start to my school life and I am sure part of the reason that Glenbrook Village is still so special to me. I very much look forward to the Centenary celebrations of the Glenbrook school in 1992. Like many others I hope to relive the happiness of those innocent years.

**EDITOR:-***Peter Berry was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Noel & Joyce Berry who moved to Glenbrook 1952. Noel was a Warrant Officer in the R.A.A.F. and was posted to the Glenbrook base. They lived in the village all their lives. Peter was 5yrs old and commenced school immediately. He has lived all his life on the Lower Mts. and is now retired, with his wife Helen, at Mt Riverview. Peter is currently an Elder at St Andrews Uniting Church at Glenbrook. The article was written for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Glenbrook School 1992*



**Peter & Helen recent photo**

## From the Secretary's desk

**i) Re John or Jack McConville:** Mary – Barry McConville has been most co-operative in providing us with a copy of his history – "Barry McConville Gaelic and British History". He has not included anything on saving my sister from what is now the Causeway.

**ii) Re Springwood High School and New Lease:** Joan – New lease signed with Deputy Principal, Kathy Dean who is easy to get on with and gave us what we wanted with additional opening days. Organised bus trips by other groups to visit the Museum are allowed but need to just to advise her beforehand by email to let her know it is happening. Sign on the fence is okay. With maintenance of leaves the gardener has been spoken to and it has hopefully been done. Copy of new lease sent around. The building behind us is being repainted. The person in charge at Glenbrook thought our building only needed a wash. To let Kathy know any maintenance issues we do have.

**iii) Re GDHS Museum Ross St Sign:** Ian – passed around updated wording. Increased size from 750mm to 800mm to fit wording and make it a bit more obvious. Closed Sunday into the sign. Will get a quote from PC Signs. Meeting decided the sign was already approved at the last meeting and to go ahead. Also I have had History Walks brochures printed up and placed in the Glenbrook Tourist Centre to go with our normal information brochures. All our details are in their Facebook page.

**iv) Skarratt artefact** – D. Knowles presented the talk to the meeting he gave on the Skarratt Watch to the BMACHO Artefacts conference on 7 May 2016. Doug said that the presenter of the watch in 1906 Henry Goodwin who died in 1914 had a fine house. (Secretary's Note: Checked and it was called "Crecy" in Hazelbrook. The Blue Mountains Echo of 21 January 1921 had "Crecy" as undoubtedly the quaintest built house on the Mountains.) Denis mentioned the house is no longer there and he has been told someone has the foundation stone. Doug said the Society would be interested to find out if we could have it. Doug said he is still to find out how we came by Tom Skarratt's watch and how many Skarratt's involved. Denis has a friend who visits Mrs Skarratt regularly and may be able to find this out

**v) Future event** - March meeting resolved that we have an afternoon tea celebration for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the centenary of Glenbrook Public School. Date to be advised





# The Knight of Regentville

## Colourful History of the Jamisons

As previously reported in our Newsletter, Sir John Jamison was credited with being the first to coin the word "Glenbrook" in reference to Glenbrook Creek from which the Village was named. When the Jamisons, a small family of Irish Catholics, sent their eldest son, Thomas, to the Trinity College in Dublin in the late 1700's, they did not realise that he, and his eldest son, would not only become surgeons, but also the founders of one of the largest and most prosperous regions of early Nepean history.

In 1777, Thomas received a warrant as a naval surgeon, and travelled to N.S.W. on the *Sirius* in 1786 and was appointed surgeon-general in 1804. Thomas Jamison fell out of favour with Governor Bligh over constant request for medical supplies and a request in 1806 to bring his family to the colony was denied. He returned to London and died 1811 after a long illness, and leaving the 1000 acres of land on the Nepean River, a grant in 1805, to his eldest son, John.

John also became a surgeon, entered the navy and served under Lord Nelson. In 1807 he was decorated by Charles III of Sweden. John Jamison thereafter called himself "Sir John", though the title was not valid in Britain, he claimed the Prince Regent endorsed his "knighthood". In 1814, John came to collect his inheritance and obtained more land in the vicinity.

On the trip out, he made an alliance with Catherine Cain, who became his mistress and bore him 2 daughters. Later, a Mary Griffiths lived with him, daughter of John Griffiths, a Royal Marine, bearing him a further four daughters and two sons. Thus the descendants of Sir John are hard to trace!

By 1826 his land holdings totalled 9761 acres and his extravagance materialised into bricks and mortar as he built his dream mansion "Regent Villa" named after his patron Prince Regent. The mansion contained 16 rooms, a servants hall, a bakehouse and 17 horse stable. Regentville, as the property became known, was the focus of the Penrith district and in it's strength slowed the development of Penrith between 1820-1840. Amongst those employed at the property were 200 convicts from the Emu Plains prison. One of the free settlers in 1839 was a Henry Parkes, later to become N.S.W. Premier.



**Sir John Jamison**



**Sir John's mansion "Regent Villa"**

Sir John was well known for his hospitality and generosity, sponsoring the first horse race in Australia. In 1817 he planted a 16 acre vineyard which was to be the biggest wine producer in Australia. Despite his reputation and generosity and pioneering, he was often at loggerheads with governors and officials, like his father. Banned from holding public office, until he became a member of the Legislative Council in 1834. He helped establish the Bank of N.S.W.

1817 (now Westpac) and became the leading shareholder in Bank of Australia 1826. Although his estate was intact, his financial situation deteriorated due to drought and the depression of 1840's and also the collapse of Bank of Australia.

Setbacks contributed to his physical decline and eventually his death, June 29 1844. Most of the original land grants were seized by creditors and part of this land became a small township, most of the homes being built by former employees of Regentville, eventually named Jamisontown. Later, in 1856, the mansion and 40 acres were sold to be used as a privately run asylum. It was later converted to a hotel and finally in May 1869, the whole building went up in smoke. Sir John lies in the grounds of the Church of England Cemetery behind St. Stephens church in Penrith.

**EDITOR:-** *This is an abridged version of an article published in Penrith Star Souvenir Edition 16/6/1989 written by Laurinda Monague*

# HISTORY OF GLENBROOK

Author George K. Bunyan

1904-1990



**EDITOR:-** *George K. Bunyan was eldest son of George E. and Millard Bunyan, born in Emu Plains 1904. He first worked for his father, as a butcher, at their shop in Emu Plains, a true butcher, as they slaughtered their own meat, on the farm at Emu Plains, now site of Rocla Pipes. He and his brother Eric delivered fresh meat weekly to the small village of Glenbrook, travelling up Mitchells Pass by horse & dray, into Glenbrook via lagoon. In 1922 they opened a butchers shop in Ross St Glenbrook where by 1930 he had met and married a young 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Glenbrook girl, Jessie Dunn. They built and lived in the residence adjacent to the shop. In 1947 they sold the shop and residence but still remained in Glenbrook for the rest of their lives. George & Jessie were always very active in the community, known to and loved by all, household names. But this article is not intended to be an autobiography of George & Jessie, it is an historical story from George. The story is reproduced as written, authenticates many articles already published in the "Newsletter". Although not sure who & why he wrote this for, we believe it was written 1980. Due to the length, the story will be published over 2 editions. Photographs from G.&D.H.S. collection*

**George & Jessie Bunyan 1984**

**GEORGE:-** "As we all know the first road over this area was Cox's Rd built by convict labour around 1813, as far as I have been able to obtain no name was given to this area of Glenbrook as we know it today. The road was replaced by the Old Bathurst Rd. which zig zags up the mountain from Emu Plains to what is now East Blaxland, also built by convict labour. Then this was replaced by Mitchells Pass road and Lennox bridge was built in 1833, this bridge is the oldest bridge on the mainland of Australia.

The first road or track (*into Glenbrook*), as it was in those days, came in from the east side of Lennox bridge, it was very rough, then the railway line came through. They built a bank along the eastern side of the lagoon to hold more water for the purpose to obtain water for the steam engines. When we had Glenbrook Rd made, which ran along the bank, Glenbrook was called "The Tanks". Glenbrook Rd continued into the village then left along the northern side of the highway of today, which was then the railway embankment, then crossed over the railway line opposite Mann St.

The railway was constructed in the 1860's by way of the Zig-Zag, under the RAAF, and the old Lucasville platform can still be seen today. Called after Mr Lucas who lived about where the RAAF headquarters are today. As I have said, Glenbrook was first called "The Tanks" then "Wascoe Siding" and finally "Glenbrook". My father, who was a keen historian, told me it got its name from a Glen near a brook. The water for the engines was gravitated from the lagoon to tanks, about opposite to the native flower reserve. Some of the brick piers can still be seen on the side of the highway. The railway station was where the highway is today and situated opposite the School of Arts (*now Community Centre*). The stone house at the garage was the station masters house. The names of Mr Beattie, Mr Hatherly, Mr Player were amongst the first station masters at Glenbrook, and Mr Donaldson at Lucasville.

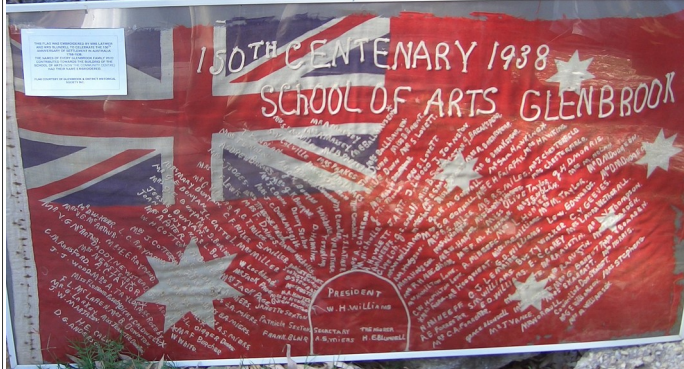
The present railway was constructed and opened in 1913. Two men lost their lives in building the line around the bluff. Camps for the workmen were in the Bluff area and Lapstone school area and also the area now occupied by Blaxland High School. A large store was on the Church of England site (*Wascoe St*) where they obtained their supplies.

The highway of today is built on the railway line. This road was constructed in 1927. The camp for the men was on the site of the new swimming pool, water (for the camp) was taken from the lagoon.



They dug holes along the side to let the water filter through to make it better for drinking. A drought dried up the lagoon and the reeds died, and in the 1930's a bush fire burnt across it. That is the only time I have seen it dry in my 58 yrs in Glenbrook.

The water for the railway camps came from the "Duck Hole" and pumped into big tanks. This system was offered to the Blue Mountains council, but was rejected by them. Our present supply was put in around the late 1930's. The first School of Arts was in the NE corner of Glenbrook Park but was burnt down in the early 1920's (1923) and a new one built 1927. Mr Kirkpatrick was the architect and



**EMBROIDERED FLAG Mrs Blundell & Mrs Latimer**

Mr John Dunn, and his son Jim, the builders. The residents subscribed to the building by buying bricks at 5 pounds per thousand. Some gave 10 & 20 pounds and others 1 pound or 10 shillings, whatever they could afford. Mrs Blundell (and Mrs Latimer) embroidered the names of subscribers on a flag, which I understand is still in the School of Arts .(now at G&DHS museum).

Mr Kirkpatrick was the builder of the Lapstone Hotel where the RAAF now stands. The old guard house was the road bar, and gossip says that the curve in the road at the RAAF was made so that the motorist could see the hotel as they came down. Mr Gartic, the engineer was a friend of Mr Kirkpatrick.

The Church of England was erected first in No 9 Hare St, where Mrs Crozier lives and pulled down to the present site, by bullock wagon. Mr Venn Snr. was the owner of the team. The old church is now used as a hall at the back of the new Church. The first Post Office was in a house now

occupied by Mr Hill, cnr Park & Raymond St., then transferred to a brick house behind the Church of England, also the fibro cottage, between the two houses, was also used. This was first built in front of the brick house, in the corner near the lane. Miss Moore was the first postmistress that I knew. My wife was her assistant when she left school. On the next corner up at Mann St, when I first came, Mr Bob Carey had the wood & coal yard, was a general carrier and had a coach & pair that he used to meet the trains, and his wife had a hooded buggy. Later his son set up the first taxi service by car, late 1920's .....” TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE NEWSLETTER



**First Church of England. 9 Hare St**

## **GLENBROOK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.**

### **OFFICE BEARERS 2016-2017**

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

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



