

GLENBROOK POINTS

NEWSLETTER OF GLENBROOK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



POINTSMAN'S COTTAGE

APRIL-MAY '18

Postal address P.O. Box 38 Glenbrook NSW 2773

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

EDITOR W.(Bill) Peard E-mail:- jpe13704@gmail.com

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" PROGRAMME for 2018.

All on Saturdays: Walks led by Doug. Knowles & Team.

April 14th: 9.00am "Faulconbridge Steam Sawmill Site." Engine remnants and other relics.
Op.1914-1925.

May 5th: 1.30pm "The Mountains Murders." Captain Lee Weller's grave site and rock inscriptions.

26th: 1.30pm "Cox's Road." Walk along a section of this historic road following the ridge top from Linden to Woodford Trig.

June 9th: 1.30pm "Lapstone Construction Railway." 1910--1913 and east portal of Lapstone Hill Tunnel 1892.

23rd: 1.30pm "Duck Hole--Glenbrook Creek." Old Roadway construction and pump site for railway water supply to old Glenbrook Station.

July 14th: 1.30pm "Dunn's Steam Sawmill Site" and earth dam. Brookside Creek, Lennox Bridge and the old stone quarry.

Aug. 4th: 9.00am "Bull's Creek." Railway relics:- Stone dam and steam pump relics.

Sept. 1st: 9.00am "Eastern Zig Zag Railway 1867" and the first improvement: The Lapstone Hill Tunnel route. 1892

Sept. 29th: 9.00am "Glenbrook Heritage Walk." Historic sites, houses and West Portal of Lapstone Hill Tunnel--1892. **(Last Walk for the year.)**

BOOKINGS are ESSENTIAL: Phone Doug on 4751 3275. Please allow the phone to ring longer than usual for details re meeting place, time and grade of walk. Good walking shoes are essential. Please bring a hat and drinking water. (No dogs please.) **BAD WEATHER ON THE DAY:** Excessive wind or rain could cause cancellation due to hazardous conditions. **Adults: \$10 (Except for Special Walk.) Accompanied Children under 16yrs. Free**

JOHN COLQUHOUN DUNN & GLENBROOK'S THREE SISTERS

...by Joan Peard (Granddaughter) Pres. G.&D.H.Society

John Colquhoun Dunn, a master stonemason, married Esther Hamment on 15th January 1887 at home in Park St. Glenbrook by Rev. Creswick. They raised their 8 children in Moore St, 5 sons and 3 daughters. These THREE SISTERS, Esther, Daisy & Jessie could rightly claim to be "*Glenbrook's Three Sisters*" as descendants of each, today still reside in Glenbrook. But more of this later, as this story is also about John C. Dunn & Esther Hamment.

John C. Dunn was born in 1862 and died in Glenbrook September 30 1947, Esther Hamment was born on 23rd March 1867 at Blacktown and died in Glenbrook June 30 1947. Hamment Place, in front of Information Centre, is named after Esther's parents, Richard & Sarah, who migrated to Glenbrook c1860, built a cottage on cnr. Park St and Euroka Rd., where shops now operate.

John C. Dunn's parents had a general store in Lithgow, where McDonalds stand today, then known as Dunn's corner. His father, who was a silk weaver from Scotland, worked in the Lithgow mills, and made the first silk handkerchief in Australia, which was presented to the Governor of N.S.W. John C. had learned his trade from Mr Ross, who built the two storey house in 8 Wascoe St, named "Kalgoola" but now known as "Ilford" house. (Ross St. named after him).

John C. built many buildings, in Glenbrook and other towns, but he is well known for the three stone cottages that grace Moore St. so magnificent today, Could these cottages also be called "*Glenbrook's Three Sisters*" as against 3 rock formations else-



DUNN FAMILY "Bonnie Doone" 1907
STANDING, Molly(wife of Jim), Bill, Marge (wife of Bill), Jim.. **SEATED** David, Esther & John with baby Alec, Doll (wife of David) **FRONT** Jessie, Jack, Daisy, Esther



**JOHN & ESTHER DUNN & Families at
FIRST COTTAGE c1910**

ware? The 1st stone cottage built in Moore St, now known as "Hensonbrook Cottage", was completed c1895 and became the family home. As the family grew so did the need for a bigger home, so he built the 2nd stone cottage "Bonnie Doone" next door c1900. and this became the family home until their deaths 1947. The 1st cottage was eventually occupied by his son, Bill and his wife Marge (Thoms). The 3rd stone cottage "Koondroo" was built c1912, cnr Moore & Hare St. This was built for Mr Horne of Raine & Horne

estate agents, as a weekend retreat and as a residence for his sister in law, Miss Clutterbuck. These 3 stone cottages still stand today, they are solidly built and are fine examples of his stone work. The 1st cottage was rebuilt c1959 by the youngest son, Alec, using the same stone blocks and naming it "Hensonbrook". (refer to Newsletter June-July 2017 'Hensonbrook Cottages'). Alec, his wife Thelma (Whiteman) lived there until their death. Their children, Richard, Eric (deceased) and Marie (deceased) were raised there. Susan & John Wakefield are the current owners. In 1946 "Bonnie Doone" became the family home of Jessie, youngest daughter, and her husband, George K. Bunyan and their daughter Joan (myself) and until building a new cottage next door 1951. The cottage had a few owners until purchased by Susan & John Dikeman, who have restored the cottage beautifully, and added to the rear using similar stone blocks.



**"BONNIE DOONE" DESCENDANTS
REUNION 2003**



**"HENSONBROOK" REBUILT 1959
photo 2015**

"Koondroo" is currently owned & occupied by Martin & Kara Murnene. The original cottage remains unchanged, but gardens have been beautifully landscaped and improved. A garage and annexe were added c1980 and constructed in same style as original cottage.

Other structures built by John C. (a) "Wyuna" a stone cottage King St. now part of Merindal Retirement Village. (b) Stone pillars 1930, at the entrance to Glenbrook Park near Information Centre. (c) Stone pillars cnr Lucasville Rd & Explorers Rd. Originally entrance to Mr Blundell's home. (d) 1927 stonework on School of Arts (now Community Centre) Ross St. (e) 1920's Stonework & gates at "Briarcliffe" now RAAF base. (f) Annexe to St. Peter's Church Emu Plains. (g)



"KOONDROO" & Annexe... photo 2015

Stonework on mountain's railway stations. (h) Stonework around Explorer's Tree Katoomba. He also helped to build, together with his sons, Bill & Jim, his daughter's home in Ross St. (Jessie & George



Daisy (19) & Jessie (17) Dunn

Bunyan), and the cottage on west cnr Bennet & Wascoe Sts. Descendants of the three sisters still reside in Glenbrook. Mrs Gayle Reid, granddaughter of the eldest, Esther, resides in David St. Mrs Joy Brown, daughter of Daisy, resides in their original family home in Hill St. A great grandson of Daisy (Jackson), Mr Andrew Roberts and family, reside in Blaxland, he is the grandson of Cecil Jackson. Mrs Joanne Ulrich, daughter of Mrs Joy Brown, together with her son John, reside in Layton Ave. Blaxland. And lastly, for the youngest, Jessie, her daughter Mrs Joan Peard (myself) and my daughter Mrs Jennifer Moore and her daughter, Alison Moore, all reside in King St. Glenbrook. John C. Dunn & family certainly made a mark on Glenbrook.

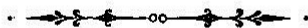


Esther Dunn (18)

THE TOURISTS' GUIDE

TO THE

BLUE MOUNTAINS and the Districts between PARRAMATTA and LITHGOW,
ADJACENT TO THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.



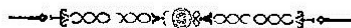
TRAINS to all the important stations on this line of railway leave the Redfern terminus twice a day—namely, at 9 a.m. and 5.20 p.m.—and a mail train leaves at 8 p.m., stopping only at Penrith, Lawson, Mount Victoria, Lithgow, and Wallerawang. On Saturdays, however, there are *two additional trains* leaving Redfern at 7 a.m. and 1.45 p.m. No trains run on Sundays except one to Penrith and intermediate stations, starting at 12.15 a.m. from Redfern.

By the additional Saturday trains the fare is 2d. per mile first class and 1d. per mile second class; but special excursion tickets are issued for these trains at the rate of 2d. per mile first-class and 1d. per mile second-class return; or, the double distance being reckoned at the single rate. These tickets are available for returning by *excursion train* the same (*Saturday*) evening, by the *Monday* morning, or on that day week by the same train. The visitor may, if he like, prolong his stay and return by any ordinary train by paying the amount of difference of the fare.

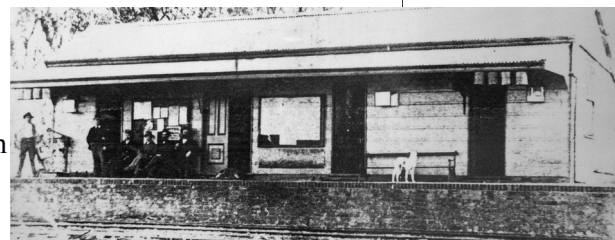
The times of departure of trains above mentioned are of course liable to be changed, and are only given as showing the arrangements in force at date.

The general details as to the rail service must also be taken in the same way, but it is improbable that any material change will take place either in the times of departure or in the fares, and of any such variation the fullest notice is given in the numerous penny pocket guides.

Trains leaving Sydney for the country are always called DOWN TRAINS; and all trains approaching Sydney are called UP TRAINS.



EDITOR:- This article was published in "The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains" 1882. Publishers Gibbs, Shallard & Co. 70 Pitt St Sydney. A Major Shallard operated a Bee Farm in Glenbrook during this period, (refer to Newsletter April-May 2015. 'Schooldays in Glenbrook 1881-1892'). It is not known if these Shallards have any connection:

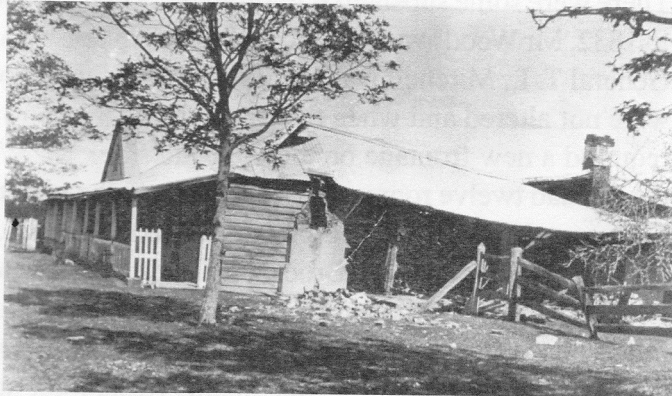


Glenbrook 1st Station known as

BLAXLAND'S LOST HISTORY

by Davina Curnow

The "Pilgrim Inn" was for many years the focus of Blaxland's history since it was the first building after Barnett Levey received large land grants in 1825. By that time, the first two roads to "Wascoe", (as the town was originally known) had converged, making it the ideal site for a travellers rest.



PILGRIM INN BLAXLAND

There were several hosts for the Inn until William Deane purchased it for a country residence in 1872, while living in Burwood. He was the first to purchase and subdivide large tracts of land in the precinct in 1867. "Pilgrim Inn" remained in the Deane family for several generations until sadly it was burnt down in the devastating bush fires which raced through the lower Blue Mountains in 1968. McDonalds Restaurant now occupies the site

and fortunately some history is recorded on a metal plate on the protected stone walls of the Inn's remains. There are also some historic photos inside the café.

What is not known now is that those same terrible fires also destroyed the historic Church & Rectory and several of the homes in Hope and View Streets which were built in that first subdivision by Rev. Joshua Hargrave, in the early 1900's. He and his family members and friends remained for years as the small village developed. Now only five of the homes remain in Hope and View Streets.

Along the Highway, another five early homes were destroyed in that bush fire. Two of them, with very large, lovely gardens were established across the highway from the Inn. One known as "Pilgrim Cottage" and the other one, were originally owned by families related to William Deane. The gardens were opened to the public on occasions, sometimes for fund raising. A new home, "Pilgrim Cottage" was built on the original site which is now much smaller. "Euroka Pre School Child Centre" and the extension of Hope and Station Streets are now on the other one.

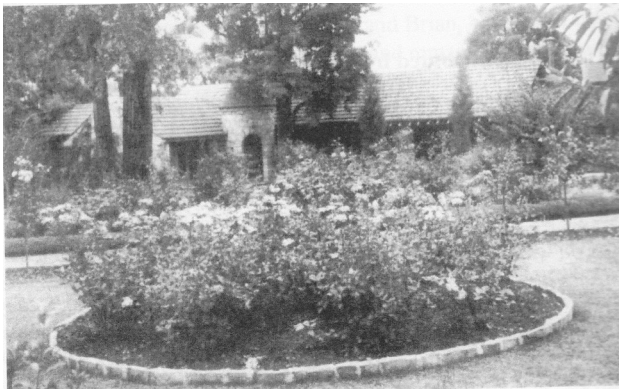


***"Wybelina" G.W.Highway
1960....destroyed 1968 fires***

Three Tea Rooms and an Antique shop, once popular with locals and passing travellers stopping in the mountains, closed when no longer viable.



Pilgrim Cottage c1930



New Pilgrim Cottage & Garden c1940

Mature deciduous oak trees were a attraction lining the highway alongside the railway line. They too were demolished for the highway which also cut off vehicle access to Blaxland Park, once a popular recreation area for the community with shelter sheds and play equipment. Major works to widen the Great Western Highway and provide footpaths to the station and shops occurred in 1960 and 1970. Old homes, one with a popular tennis

court, were demolished or had severely reduced frontages.

As a result of the need to enlarge the shopping precinct, the original Scout clubroom was demolished to provide for a small park and increased parking. BMCC provided a new clubroom in Baden Place in exchange. Another renowned property, burnt



***Don't mind the sway,
It's just the way***

by another bushfire in 1944 was established by Bernard Cummins in Bunbinla Avenue about 1930. Bernie had built a ladder on a very tall tree for a lookout on a substantial platform. He charged sixpence to climb and view the vast green plains, farms and orchards below, through a telescope. The Sydney Harbour Bridge could be viewed during construction and subsequent completion. There was a notice on the Lookout which read “*Don't mind the sway, it's just the way*”. Bernie, who was an artist and writer, also developed a small Museum and Tea room in his home with his wife Mary.

The original Public School built in 1925 on the highway, remains, but has a side entrance and it is obscured, surrounded by new buildings, trees and fences. Presently, scattered elsewhere throughout Blaxland, there are only about twenty old homes built before the early 1930's. Most have been renovated and hidden by gardens. It is to be hoped that the proposed new developments for the shopping area, around “Pilgrim Place,”

will enhance the township and retain some memorials of the first settlement years.

EDITOR:- Photographs Davina Curnow collection. Davina was born in Blaxland, 7th child & 2nd daughter of Isabel & Mervyn Donaldson (9 children), who raised their family in Bridge Rd. Davina married Phillip Curnow and raised their family in Ross Cres. Davina is the author of “A Social History of



Merinden Hall Hope St. Damaged by fire and restored

Blaxland” A copy can be read at G.&D.H. Society's museum



PAM'S PAGE

FORD – A PUNT – 3 BRIDGES

.....Continued from Feb/March newsletter

Originally the bridge took one railway line and a road across the river, erected a small way South from where the ferry crossed the river. The road surface was close fitting wooden planks and wheel guides were added to keep horse drawn vehicles on a straight line. In 1883 a galvanised fence was installed between the road and railway line, and a warning bell was installed to warn of approaching trains so that livestock on the bridge would not be frightened by the noisy train. In 1907 another bridge was built close to existing bridge, to take two railway lines across the river, and the existing bridge to be road and pedestrian only.

The new bridge was important in the development of the colony as it allowed an increase in rail traffic to reach the Blue Mountains and beyond to the Western Plains, and road traffic was now free of rail traffic. Today most of the road traffic uses the M4, over



RAILWAY BRIDGE 2017

another bridge, well South of the Victoria bridge and rejoins the old highway on Lapstone Hill. This year will see the completion of another bridge alongside the road bridge. This will be for pedestrians and cyclists only.

Since being built the Victoria bridge has withstood many large floods. I can remember as a small child being taken to the Emu Plains side of the river, to watch great volumes of water roaring along past the bridge carrying with it all kinds of debris, including large trees which had been ripped out roots, and all.

GLENBROOK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

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

**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 pm.

Entrance FREE

Pam Pascoe social activities

“Nutcote” - Visit to May Gibbs’ Home Neutral Bay.



The date is Wednesday the 2 May 2018 @ 11.30 am.

*Transport is by train leaving Glenbrook Station on the 9.10 train to Central (bring your Opal Card). Getting off at Central we will make our way to a Circular Quay train. Alighting at Circular Quay we will then catch the 10.55am Ferry to Neutral Bay from Wharf No.4. **Note:** There is*

*a slight upwards footpath to the property but downhill coming back. At the property several steps down to the Studio level **Cost Package \$20 includes entry, tour and lunch (Min. 10 people) RSVP 21 March (Payment by this date would be appreciated)** 28 March cut-off date **Contact is Pam Pascoe Tel: 4739 3078 Email: pplinden@gmail.com Mobile: 0420323226***

***Some Background:** May Gibbs is one of Australia’s best-loved authors, illustrators and artists. She was an early conservationist. She lived at “Nutcote” which is a house designed in the Mediterranean style of 1925 for 44 years. The garden features a 150 year old banksia tree amongst many other flowering plants including some very old roses. Visits to “Nutcote” start with viewing two films, including an interview with May Gibbs.*

Our Trip to Carrington Hotel

A good day was had by all! 23 members attended on the day. It was rainy and windy but comfortable inside. Our Guide, Paul Innes took us into several rooms, gave us information and told lots of stories of guests from the past, very fascinating. After our tour we boarded our bus and went to the Wentworth Falls Bowling Club Bistro for lunch and enjoyed a pleasant meal. Our good bus driver, John Dikeman then drove us back to Glenbrook. Thanks a Lot John!

I would like to thank those that attended and I do hope you enjoyed the day. It is good to see so many of our members participating and without that I wouldn’t have a trip to report on. Once again, thanks everyone.



From the Secretary’s Desk

Visit by Karen McKeown – Karen gave an excellent talk on Hadley Park and her efforts to get it listed on the State Heritage Register. Hadley Park is an excellent and largely unaltered example of an early colonial rural property, including a main house, earlier slab cottage, farm outbuildings and cultural plantings, prominently located on the Nepean River floodplain at Castlereagh.

Construction years 1803-1812. Hadley Park is in the Penrith council area where many historic buildings have been lost and this definitely should not be one of them. Karen is a councillor and X-Mayor of Penrith City Council.



Pres. Joan & Karen

