

PILGRIM INN, BLAXLAND.

For many years, Pilgrim Inn has been the subject of much conjecture as to whether it was the first Inn at Blaxland. Many articles were written in the journals of the Royal Australian Historical Society in the 1920s arguing this question back and forth, but the facts speak for themselves.

Pilgrim Inn, as we know it today, are the ruins behind McDonald's Family Restaurant, on the corner of the Great Western Highway and Layton Avenue, Blaxland, and is 38 1/2 miles from Sydney.

Barnett Levey, the first free immigrant ^{few}, was promised a grant of land on Lapstone Hill, in 1825. (All of the area at the top of the hill in those days was known as Lapstone).

By 1826 Barnett Levey had organised for John Knatchbull and a team of convicts to build a "caravansary", on the grant. William Cordeaux returning to Sydney after a surveying trip in June 1828, described the buildings as "a good sized wetherboard house of four rooms,with out-houses, piggery, stables. etc."

This must have been the first of two Pilgrim Inns. Barnett Levey was promised a further 640 acres and it is on this second grant of land that the ruins of the second Pilgrim Inn stand today. Barnett Levey experienced financial difficulties and in 1830 the property was sold by the sheriff. The property was bought by John Wood.

The first licence for Pilgrim Inn was issued in 1830 to James Evans and it was to the second building that this licence was issued. The Inn must have been built sometime during 1830. This is borne out by the fact that in 1832, Wood wrote several letters to the Colonial Secretary, Alexander McLeay, asking for the intervention of the Governor, Sir Richard Bourke, regarding the route of Thomas Mitchell's Pass Road because the original plan was to take the road to the south of the Inn, and this was going to cost Wood a great deal of money. This route would have necessitated the removal of the stables, stores etc. as well as him having to construct a new front to the building so that it faced the road. The final route where it is today to the north of the Pilgrim Inn site was a compromise

acceptable by all parties concerned and it saved Wood the unnecessary expensive alterations.

Barnett Levey named the valley through which Mitchell's Pass travels as the Valley of Jehosophat and the creek he called the Creek Kedron. (The creek is now piped at its beginning but the remainder is the same as it was when the local Darugs used the valley as a route up the mountains before the Europeans came.) The streets around what is now Glenbrook such as Olivet Street, Tabor Street, Carmel Street and Kedron Street are streets on Levey's second grant, hence the Jewish names.

Pilgrim Inn had an interesting career with a succession of licensees as follows -

1830	John Wood	purchased
	property from Barnett Levey	
1830	James Evans	30 June
	held first licence	
1831	James Evans	14 July,
	licensee	
1832	James Evans	10 July,
	licensee	
1833	James Evans	9 July,
	licensee	
1834	James Evans	30 June,
	licensee	
1835	Isaac Williams	3 July,
	licensee	
1838	Lewis Lyons	27 June,
	licensee	
1839	Lewis Lyons	29 June,
	licensee	
1840	Francis Brownlow	10 June,
	licensee	
1852	John Outrim Wascoe	20 April,
	licensee	

John Wascoe purchased the property in 1857, and it was he who held the last licence. For many years the Pilgrim Inn was also known as Wascoe's and the town of Blaxland itself in the beginning was known as Wascoes. The railway station, opened on 11 July 1867, was named Wascoes and the postal address was also Wascoes. The Railway changed the name of the station to Blaxland on 21 April, 1879 and because of confusion caused by the two names, the Post Office changed to Blaxland in 1914.