

On 5 May, 1873 Pilgrim Inn was bought by William Deane, a Solicitor in Sydney, as a country residence and for many years the Inn was used as the family holiday home, also catering for guests. After some years the Inn because of disuse, fell into disrepair until William Deane's son William took up residence. William Jnr. carried out some renovations and repairs and lived there until the Inn was destroyed in the 1968 bushfires.

Pilgrim Inn had an excellent reputation being described in 1921 by Frank Walker, FRAHS, as "one of the cleanest and most convenient in the country". Comments made by Louisa Ann Meredith in 1839 and attributed in some places as referring to the Inn appear to be inconsistent with the more generally accepted view of the accommodation at Pilgrim Inn. However she could have been referring to the first building, (constructed in 1826), as it also operated as an inn from 1838 to 1842, and is believed to have been the Late Lord Byron Inn. Certainly both Inns were operating at this time and since there is a clear record of the licensees of Pilgrim Inn on its present site, this is the only logical conclusion. References to Elizabeth Hawkins staying at the Pilgrim Inn are incorrect. Elizabeth Hawkins travelled across the mountains in 1822 and Barnett Levey did not even have his first grant until 1825.

Toby Ryan in his *Reminiscences of Australia*, claims that William Williams built the Inn. There is no documentation for this and it is most unlikely since Barnett Levey named the Inn. No Williams appears on the list of owners or licensees until 1835 and that was Isaac Williams. Historians would do well to remember that Toby Ryan's book is "reminiscences" of a man in his 70s and that is all that it is, "reminiscences". Toby himself writes that "if the reader looks foror expects the 'dignity of history' where only something very much more modest in character is intended", they will be under a misapprehension. Although many people refer to Toby's book it should not be regarded as a true historic record of events. Toby includes no documentation in his book to confirm any of the comments he makes.

The most notable event in the history of Pilgrim Inn was Sir Frederick William Pottinger's acci-

dent. Again the facts have been confused but Police Records give the true story. Pottinger was travelling to Sydney to appear in court and the carriage he was travelling in stopped at Pilgrim Inn, on Sunday, 5 March, 1865. As he was re-boarding the coach his pistol went off wounding him in the leg. He was admitted to hospital on his arrival in Sydney, and five weeks later on the 9 April, 1865, he died as a result of his wounds. He is buried in St. Jude's Churchyard, Randwick. A display of relevant artifacts can be seen in the McDonald's Restaurant at Blaxland, now situated on the site of Pilgrim Inn. This is one of McDonald's finest displays. The ruins of the Inn have been preserved *in situ* at the back of the Restaurant.

Barnett Levey's grant was one of the first grants on the mountains and Pilgrim Inn was one of the earliest European buildings. A significant link with the early colonial days was lost when Pilgrim Inn was destroyed in the bushfires of 1968. The Inn's importance to the town is emphasised by the fact the railway station was placed where it is because of the close vicinity of the Inn and the town of Blaxland grew up around the railway station and the Inn. Many other historic sites exist in Blaxland but the Pilgrim Inn site is by far the most significant.

Pilgrim Inn was at the junction of Cox's Road (1814), the Zig Zag Road (now the Old Bathurst Road)(1824), and Mitchell's Pass (1834), and was a popular stopping place after the long climb up Lapstone Hill from Emu Plains. There must have been some wonderful stories that could have been told by those who travelled across the mountains and stayed at the Inn, especially in the days when travelling was done by coach and the Inns were few and far between.

After the bushfires of 1968, several accommodation buildings were erected on the mountains for the benefit of those who had lost their homes. One of these such buildings was erected on the foundations of the old Inn. A Garden Nursery, called The Old Pilgrim Garden Centre, and then a hardware store operated on the block behind and a motor garage was erected on the corner of Layton Avenue and the Great Western Highway. These buildings have all been removed and the site is now occupied by McDonalds Family Restaurant and garage com- #