

MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Volume 1 Issue 6
AUTUMN 2014



MUSEUM ADDRESS
20 Riddell Street
MOLONG NSW 2866



*From Orange to Yeoval on the Banjo Paterson Trail, via Molong.
The Penny Farthing Man who was a attraction at the recent Festival.*

The Molong Museum will be open on the last Sunday of each month
30th March, 27th April, 25th May, 29th June

The Museum open on Thursday's by appointment,
contact President or Secretary (0400425015).
(at least 48 hour notice required)

COMMITTEE for 2013-14

PRESIDENT	Marie Hammond
VICE PRESIDENT	Des Sullivan
SECRETARY	Sue Milne
TREASURER	Maureen Kirkwood

Address all correspondence to:

The Secretary	PO Box 119, Molong NSW 2866
The Secretary	molongmuseum@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

One of the most exciting objects in any collection whether it is in a Museum or privately own is a photograph and especially if you know who is in the photo or what it is about. Over time and through receiving photographs at the Museum and not knowing whom they are, because it is not written on the back or attached, make it very frustrating. I have written about this before. We are still being given and finding photographs with no date, name and place.

There was a time when families got together and Granny produced a Brag Book with snaps but now the trend is when our family get together they produce their IPods or Laptops and that's right there are no names etc. This is Ok for now but in future, these too will be largely unknown. I'm sure many do catalogue them but many don't.

Sue has included this lovely old school photo on page 9 but it is a bit before my time and I have had a guess and say the girl with the light coloured jumper on the bottom row maybe Lee Burgess but perhaps she was not that old then. Is that Merv Hentchell on the top row with the glasses and perhaps one is an Alexander. If anyone knows, we would love it if you can share it with us.

Also in this newsletter is an early story about Gregra but one of our members, John Pocknall from Canberra, has a fantastic collection of photographs of his family and others farming at Pinecliffe which is not too far from Gregra. The collection John has tells a thousand stories showing the harvest and men at work with the horses and the crops. There are also many photos too of the early days of the Baptist Church out there when the minister would come and the men would cover a large wooden structure with a large tent where the service would be held. Not only did they meet spiritually at the church but they also played tennis that day and had a full- on picnic lunch. The young girls wore calf length dresses and all appeared smiling and happy. Great photos-looks very like the 1920's.



This photo recently given to the Museum. It is believed she lived in the Garra area.

Can you assist with identification?

We have planned for some time to put the photographs we have at the Museum on a rack and I'm happy to report that this is now in the installation stage with John, Robert and Des working on it at the weekend. Thank you to "the Molong Players" for the contribution towards this shelving. While there, they needed to repair the front gate that someone has pushed in by the look of it. It is very upsetting to find that we may have had some out of hour's activity around the place.

The first part of the Regional Project "Villages of the Heart: Telling Rural Village Stories" has now ended. It was not an easy task and it all needed to be completed when the very hot weather has upon us in January and February. Despite the weather, some most interesting stories have been told. I'm not sure about everyone but I myself, on being interviewed told much about what it was like to be a child growing up in Molong during the World War 2. The most exciting perhaps was that we saw trucks with Japanese prisoners on their way to Cowra Prisoner of War camp there. The scary part of the war was the night of the breakout from there and we were warned there could possibly be escapees come our way.

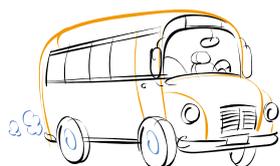
Some of you may remember Harry Connolly on the back of a Ute' with a megaphone driving around the streets to let everyone know. I never heard of any actually getting to Molong. The other memory is the War Effort as it was called with mostly women making fruit cakes to send (because they would last) and knitting socks and jumpers. The Red Cross and CWA were also very active then.

Again, I want to thank all our members for all their continued efforts in volunteering for all the different jobs they do and again to Sue for yet another most interesting Newsletter. Not forgetting Catherine, our Research Officer who has worked quietly in the background for many years, to provide so much material for our use. Catherine has retyped many of the original "Historians" a major resource of the Museum.

I find the article on the phosphate deposit at Cave Flat (where is Cave Flat?) most interesting. I am wondering if any of our members know anything further of this and if so would you please get in touch and let us know, as I'm sure there will be several who may wonder the same. Is it at Borenore?

A happy and safe Easter to all.
Marie Hammond

Bus trip Invitation



Orange Regional Museums Advancement Association (ORMAA) invite you to join in for a trip to "MAYFIELD GARDENS," OBERON on Saturday 3rd May 2014.

This magnificent Garden is open to the public on limited days during spring and autumn. The gardens will be showing off their autumn colours and should be at their best.

Please contact Elizabeth Griffin (ORMAA President) or Sue for further details.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Where is the year going, the Society has been busy with several Open Days, research enquiries, Community events and working on the collection.

Museum Open Days have proved successful with more people coming to view the Museum and enquire about their family or a building in the district. We have had visitors from Interstate, Bourke, Sydney and the local area. We welcomed Marie Nightingale who wrote a book on the VEECH Family and donated three photographs of Doctor Michael VEECH who owned this building from 1900-1926. Research enquiries include the following names, STACEY, McLEAN, WOOLBANK, STARR, FINCH, BRAZIER, LOGUE. if anyone can help please contact the Museum.



In January we were visited by David Hill and Ian Bailiff from Fairbridge who talked with the Committee about preserving the history of Fairbridge, in all forms. Everyone came away feeling positive about the future. In March several Fairbridgians attending the Bi-annual Reunion in Orange, visited the Museum.

Des and myself ventured to Manildra to speak at the PROBUS meeting. The audience was interested in the history of the Society and Museum as well as current activities. Several questions involved how to run a museum and collecting objects for the future displays. Following this we were shown around the Amuse Theatre and Poster Museum. An invitation to visit Molong was offered for the future.



The small group of members who keep the Society functioning need assistance with various tasks. These include volunteering for museum duty, assisting with collection management, tea making and cleaning.

In the next newsletter (due out in June) I would like to focus on the "Molong Show" history. Any stories, photographs or personal histories will be welcome. Please contact me at Museum or email suemilne@colourcity.com

Sue Milne

A BUSH BAROMETER

Hang up a piece of string about twelve inches long outside the kitchen window. It works like this:

- If it moves about, it is windy.
- If it is wet, it is raining.
- If it has gone in the morning, some swaggie has pinched it for a bootlace.

(Anon)

HIGGINBOTHAM FAMILY HISTORY (Part 1)

Written by Wayne Higginbotham 2013

INTRODUCTION

Mrs Elaine Goad researched this article donated to the Molong Historical Society by Wayne Higginbotham, over twenty years ago.

Elaine is a descendant of Mary Anne HIGGINBOTHAM who was born in 1850 to William and Mary (CORRIGAN) HIGGINBOTHAM who had settled at Brymedura, near Molong in the early 1840's. Mary married Jacob MATTHEWS whose family become Publicans in the Peak Hill area.

THE STORY

Mary Ann was born on 13th January 1850 at Gumble NSW. She was baptised on 13th May 1854 at Molong by Father B. Murphy, Parish Priest of the Parish of Errol, County of Carcoar, according to Roman Catholic Rites.

At the age of six (6) years, she suffered the loss of her mother, Maria (Mary) and was raised by her father's second wife Jane Wing. Another three girls were added to the family by this marriage and later two half-sisters were born between 1858 & 1861. They were Catherine who married John Asgll (1878 Molong) and Martha Jane who married William C Townsend (1881 Molong), a farmer who had a farm near where John Higginbotham farm was situated at Gumble (See Elizabeth Mathews & Ellen Wing). Mary Ann had two (2) brothers, William born 1844 and John born 1847 and two (2) sisters Margaret born 1845 and died of typhoid when she was a servant in 1859, and Ellen born 1852 and died a few months later in 1853.

William (born 1844) married in 1878 to Julia S Wilson. A large family was born to William and Julia, including triplets. William was a carrier and the family lived around the Bourke area for some time. Two daughters died of diphtheria while in Bourke. The two deaths happened within a few days, one girl aged nine, the other four.

John (born 1847) received a Conditional Purchase of land of one hundred (100) acres near his father's Conditional Purchase of forty(40) acres at Gumble. The father and son would no doubt have farmed these two lots of land together. When William (father) died in 1878, his land was sold, also John disposed of his lands. The first crop of wheat was grown on William's farm in 1876.

This land was part of the original land granted to a son of Wentworth and known as "Brymedura" – meaning Mallee hens nest and "Gumble". "Gumble was known a "Gumble Gumble" as there were an abundance of 'bush turkeys in the area, the name resembling their mating call. When Mary Ann' father William was transported to Australia on a fourteen (14) year sentence in 1835, per ship "Lady Kennaway" he was assigned to John Kinchela. John was the son of Attorney General John Kinchela senior. John Junior was a Police Magistrate at Bathurst in 1837 and did not stay long,

because his appointment was not popular among fellow magistrates, the obvious reason being that John had received the appointment which was influenced by his father.

John was granted a Crown Land Grant in 1840 in the Wellington Valley and William is presumed to have come to the area with John Kinchela. When William received his Ticket of Leave at the end of 1842, he asked and granted the request to be left in the Wellington Valley. William picked up a position as a shepherd and with his wife Marie Kerrigan, her position was as a hut keeper. The large properties often employed both husband and wife in these positions as an incentive for continued employment. William and Maria married in February 1843. It is not known if they were acquainted with one another before the marriage, but William had applied and given permission to marry. This took place at the All Saints Roman Catholic Church Liverpool. When Surveyor Thomas Mitchell called at the Shepherds Hut in 1846, it is thought that he spoke with Maria. Mitchell was enquiring their position (geographically). Written in his journal SZ-762-pp6-7

Calling at a shepherds hut to ask the way, an Irish woman appeared with a child at her breast and another by her side. She was the hut keeper. She had been there for two(2)years, she had not seen a priest during that time and only complained that they had never been able to get any potatoes to plant"

These lines were featured in the Centennial Book, published by the NSW Archives Authority with the caption "An insight into the hardships and isolation experiences by the early settlers written as recorded by Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General from 1828-1855."

Mitchell built a second fireplace twenty (20) inches across and eighteen (18)inches high near where the Gumble Hall stands. This historic landmark was never preserved and some years ago was destroyed by road making machinery. The fireplace was a stone's throw from where William Higginbotham selected his forty (40) acres in later years.

STORY TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE JUNE 2014

RED CROSS CENTENARY RESEARCH

the
power
of
humanity



100 YEARS
PEOPLE
HELPING PEOPLE

Essie Sullivan is looking for memories, photographs, documents and information on the RED CROSS in the Molong, Cumnock and Euchareena areas

Please contact Essie on 63696256 or sweandre@bordernet.com.au or the Molong Historical Society.

THE MOLONG HISTORIAN

The Molong Historian was published between 1972 and 1997 and contains a collection of articles on the history of Molong and District. This article is reproduced from volume 2 No 1 issued June 1977.

“Villages of the Heart: Telling Rural Villages Stories” project, this story on one of the small settlements of the District

SOME EARLY HISTORY OF GREGRA

Some time about the early eighties settlement commenced in the area known as Gregra – east of Manildra.

Gregra which derives its name from the aboriginal word GREGRE meaning lagoon. It is uncertain whether the lagoon would be water holes in the upper reaches of Flash Jack Creek or as some old hands believe a flat swampy area in what is now “Mirridong” owned by the Cooper family.

One of the very first men to settle at Gregra was Mr Samuel Clarke, who selected the property “Home Plain” on the Orange Road, now owned by Gordon Miller. He was followed shortly after by William Allen Richard Riach (1874), Thomas Sharpless, John Wilson and William Cole.

These sturdy pioneers came with their families and belongings in bullock drays and covered wagons to make a living from what was virgin bush. The first task was to clear a few acres to grow grain and fodder for their families and stock.

It is said that when Sam Clarke arrived at Gregra he cleared two acres of land and grew a crop of wheat, this he cut with a scythe, and threshed it with a Flail, which is simply two sticks joined together with greenhide. This crude implement was used to bash the grain from the heads of wheat – the grain was then separated from the chaff by throwing it up in the air and the wind blowing the chaff from the grain.

Some other early families to select or acquire land at and close to Gregra were the Petersons, Cassell’s, Deans, McArdle’s, John Sharpless, Goodman’s, Whiley, Reeces, Wrens, Wards, Harpers, Howarth’s, Giffin’s and Matthews, later Offner’s, Leabeater’s, Snell’s, Taylor’s, Crampton’s, Livermore’s, Kinsella’s, and Stapleton’s, now Harvey Robard’s property.

As the first settlers established themselves so it became necessary to have a school to educate their children. The first Gregra School was a bark humpy arrangement about half a mile down what is now known as Sharpless’ Lane. Later about 1888 a school was built on the main road to Orange – this building is still standing and is now used as a private residence. Some early Gregra schoolteachers were Mr Hanks, Mrs Jenkins, Mr Fred Willis, Mr J.F. Olde, Mr MacIntosh and later Mr Harry McAlister, J.D. Tolhurst (1932), R. Skelton, R. Barber, J. Brown and E. Mills.

Many legendary stories are told, perhaps many authentic, perhaps some a little exaggerated, having been handed down to the third and fourth generations. It is said that Gregra even has its own ghost, but has not been sighted of late years.

There have been many records set and broken for various feats performed, such as bag sewing, stacking and ringing bags from Bert and Ted Allen's chaff cutter – ploughing with single furrow ploughs – drilling perfectly straight rows for corn etc.

One of the main pleasures to be had by people in the early days was naturally their horses. Records were held and claimed for the quickest time in riding or driving to Manildra and back – Orange and so on. One Gregra resident held the record for pulling a load of half a ton of grist on a slide (which was a forked limb of a tree with boards nailed across it – no wheels) up hill from Manildra village with one horse attached to it.

Other forms of entertainment was horse racing, scratch pulling, ploughing matches, hare drives, dances to concertina music and community concerts and magic lantern shows in the old Gregra Congregational Church which was situated opposite the Gregra siding turn off. The coming of the railway through (in December 1893) Gregra gave things a big boost – the siding was a very busy centre with a station master and porter in attendance where a good deal of wheat, maize, chaff and hay was dispatched mainly to Orange. Before this produce in the way of grain was carted to Orange by bullock and horse drays to Dalton Bros., Flour Mill where it would be sold or exchanged for flour and provisions from Daltons Mill and Store.

Gregra at one time had a store, Larry Clarke's bark topped building just east of Gregra School. The stores consisted mainly of bully beef – plug tobacco – and green hide blucher boots.

And so Gregra had become established – through hard work and determination on the part of our pioneer forbears. It is now a very valuable tract of country roughly bounded to the east by Mirridong Station one mile north and three miles south of Flash Jack Creek.

Many of the original farms some only of one to three hundred acres, from which these people reared their families, have now been incorporated into larger holdings. The country is very fertile, producing crops of many kinds, sheep, wool, cattle and pigs.

Gregra is located on the Scenic Drive through to Cudal where the visitors may see panoramic views of great beauty embracing Mount Canobolas to the east as well as miles of scenic views in all directions.

(Colin Riach)



This photograph of Molong Central School was found in Canberra and has been donated to the Museum.

It is of class 3-4 1937

Can you identify any of these pupils?

PHOSPHATE DEPOSIT.

MOLONG- What is believed to be an extensive deposit of phosphates has been discovered about a mile from the town, in a locality known as Cave Flat. Samples taken from it have been declared by experts to carry a very high percentage of manure properties. A lease of 62 acres has been taken up by a local syndicate, and in order to get a proper analysis a good portion has been sent down to the Government Geologist. In the meantime a big body of it will be taken out, in order to prove the length and breadth of the deposit. This is entirely a different phosphate discovery to that reported last week, and its location has caused vigorous prospecting in every direction. On Tuesday last a party consisting of Messrs. A. Fuller (president of the Macquarie Shire Council), Lorton (shire clerk), C. P. Kennedy, and G. A. Lawson, F.R.G.S., arrived here per motor, en route for the Borenore Caves. This party is interested in phosphate deposits, and spent a good deal of time prospecting and securing samples from round about. The samples obtained from the Borenore Caves are a fine lot, and on the advice of the expert, Mr. Lawson, they decided to take up a lease, and it is intended to immediately start a number of men at work. The phosphates in question are said to be equal in manure value to those at Wellington.

(9th March 1914 Sydney Morning Herald)

SALVATION ARMY 125 MOLONG

29/12/13

The Salvation Army celebrated 125 years in Molong with a special service held in the Community Hall. Several historical items were exhibited, including the old Molong Corps drum, which still gives a good sound.



Even though the Molong Corps no longer exists the work of the army goes on in the town through the faithful work of Soldiers of the Orange Corps.

Many of our corps members are descendants of the original pioneer Salvationists.

Margaret Dean has donated a copy of her research to the Society. "Salvation Army Meeting Halls in Molong" which has been published in newsletter of the Salvation Army Australia Eastern Historical Society "Under the Tricolour" No 56 Jan-Mar 2014. Anyone with information, photographs or documents relating to the Molong Salvation Army is invited to contact Margaret.

BANJO "MORE THAN A POET" MUSEUM YEOVAL



The dream of Alf & Sharon Cantrell to put together a museum to pay tribute to one of Australia's greatest bush poets is a reality. The Museum was officially opened on Banjo Paterson's 150th Birthday. Tim Fischer performed the Official Opening and visitors were entertained by Chloe and Jason Roweth of Millthorpe and a Banjo talk by Cliff Crane throughout the day.



"For 10 years we have been collecting his works and believe people will love the exhibition and it will help put our town on the map" (Alf Cantrell)

The Museum contains photographs, original letters, unpublished poems and some of his books. This includes an unpublished poem "the Animals Noah Forgot". You will need to visit the Museum to discover this story as well as many others.



BOOKS FOR SALE

Books are for sale

Allan TOM

"THE PICTURE SHOW MAN"

Aileen ROBERSON \$20.00

PADDY MCARDLE AND MOLONG

Aileen ROBERSON \$20.00

THE LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN SMITH

David RUTHERFORD \$30.00

PIONEERING WITH CHRIST

Baptist Church History

D.SPEARS, R BLOWES \$5.00

THE LONG WAY HOME

Jo BAILEY, Ronnie SABIN \$25.00

ECHOES OF ANZAC

(Manildra District)

Heather NICHOLLS \$25.00

THE HOSPITAL ON THE HILL

David A RUTHERFORD, \$10.00

FROM LIFE TO LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Robyn MacKENZIE \$15.00

A HISTORY OF WIRADJURI ABORIGINES

AROUND ORANGE & MOLONG

Robert ELLIS \$10.00

BORENORE Centenary 1878-1978

NOEL CANTRILL \$15.00

STORY OF BYNG

ORANGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY \$5.00

BANJO PATERSON and his BIRTHPLACE

"NARRAMBLA

ORANGE ROTARY CLUB \$3.00

BOREE CABONNE, ORANGE, NSW

Tina McGEOCH & Felicity CUNINGHAME

\$8.00

Please add \$10.00 to order
for postage if required

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

If you are able to assist, please
contact the editor for further details

- LOGUE FAMILY lived in Betts Street 1890-1904+ as well as Finch's Flat, BOOMEY. Michael LOGUE passed away in 1901 aged 105.
- Photos wanted of the NUBRYGYN INN pre 1950 for family history purposes
- WILLIAM STACEY & MARY BROWN, William worked at GAMBOOLA and was an early Molong road builder.
- KATHERINE DARVAL KATER of BOREE NYRANG, relative of Sir Norman KATER.
- Eleanor SEFFERIDGE-SNOOKS was a famous midwife in the Parkes/ Orange district who lived until she was 97 -100. Eleanor practised as a midwife when living in Molong in the 1880's.
- Researching information on the HISTORICAL SOCIETY history, MOLONG SHOW, district VILLAGES and FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL activities continues.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the Society should be
written,

then posted or emailed to :-

PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866

molongmuseum@hotmail.com

Please include :-

- Your Name, contact number
- Reason for enquiry
(family research, writing book etc)
- Relevant information

No phone enquires will be accepted.

MOLONG SOCIETY DIARY

The Society usually meets on the second Saturday of the month at the Museum from 2PM.

**NEXT MEETING
will be held on
Saturday 10th May**

The meeting will be followed by afternoon tea

The Molong Museum will be open on the last Sunday of each month
**30th March,
27th April,
25th May.**

The Museum can be opened by appointment by contacting President or Secretary. (at least 48 hours notice required)

Molong Express.

Molong Races. — Messrs. Cobb & Co., we are informed, run a seven-horse coach during the days of the races — 16th and 17th instant — for the conveyance of passengers to and from the racecourse, meeting punctually up and down trains, consequently the many difficulties which heretofore existed as to the want of conveyance will be remedied. This meeting promises to be a very successful one, whilst the course will be in the best of order, thanks to the energy of our worthy secretary, Mr. P F. A. Kinna, and Mr. J. Williams, who are daily at work to make the running all that could be desired by horse owners.

Molong P. & A. Show. — The programme of prizes in connection with the above will be issued during the week, and will be found equal to that of last year. Valuable improvements are being made on the ground, in the erection of additional sheds, sheep and cattle pens, etc.

(Bathurst Free Press 16/3/1886)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- In 2014/15, The Molong Historical Society will be celebrating 50 years of existence. We are researching the history of the Society. In order to have a complete record we are looking for any photographs & memories of events and activities. If you are able to assist please contact the Secretary suemilne@colourcity.com or phone 0400425015

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

I am looking for contributions(any length) for future editions.

Please contact me on email suemilne@colourcity.com.

The deadline for the newsletter is Saturday 31st May 2014