The Toongabbie Story

TOONGABBIE – Aboriginal tuga, meaning thick wood.

In 1791 Gov. Phillip made Toon-gab-be the first place with the aboriginal name “by which the natives distinguish the spot.” The Tugagal clan had kept this land over generations. The convict farm on this site became Australia’s third settlement. For twelve years the harshly treated convicts cleared the forest and grew crops to feed the infant colony. Free men and women came to make this a thriving farm land. They were joined by new Aussies from all over the globe to create another Toongabbie, a place of trees.

My collection of the historical data of the area of my residency continues.
All the material here is for educational purposes only.


ryie
toohg?


the

While the ancient tree no longer stands, it's up to us to preserve the history it represents.

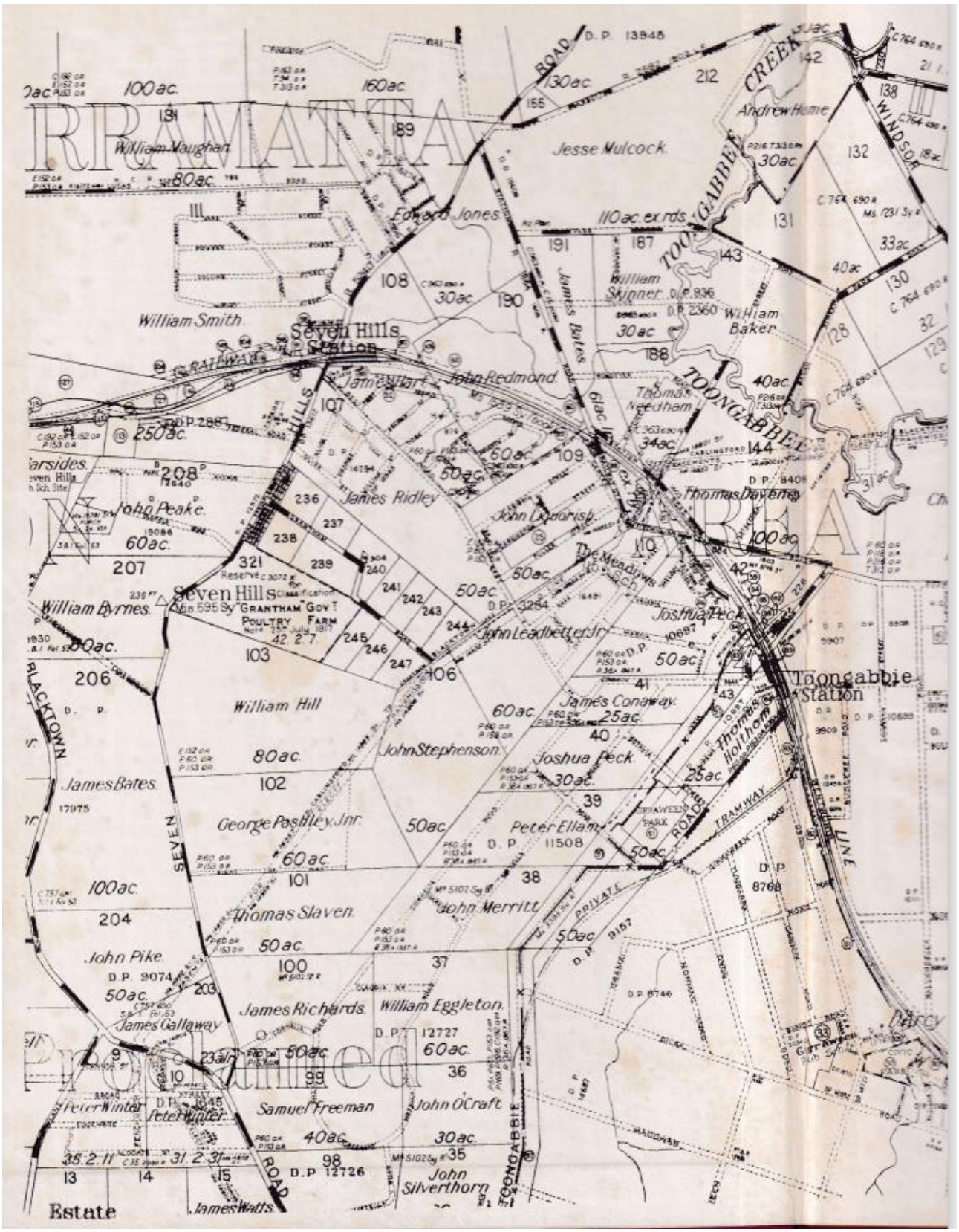
This was the original commemoration plaque.
One day, to our great disbelief, we heard from Walter, our dear neighbour, that the plaque just disappeared overnight. It was believed, that it was stolen. Walter has reassured us, that he will approach the authorities, and report it, and so, the plaque needed to be replaced.

Whenever I look at the new plaque, I remember the man, who was so diligently involved in the quest to engrave the history of the land, for the education of the present and future generations, while honouring and respecting the first Aboriginal peoples of Australia, from whom we learnt about the

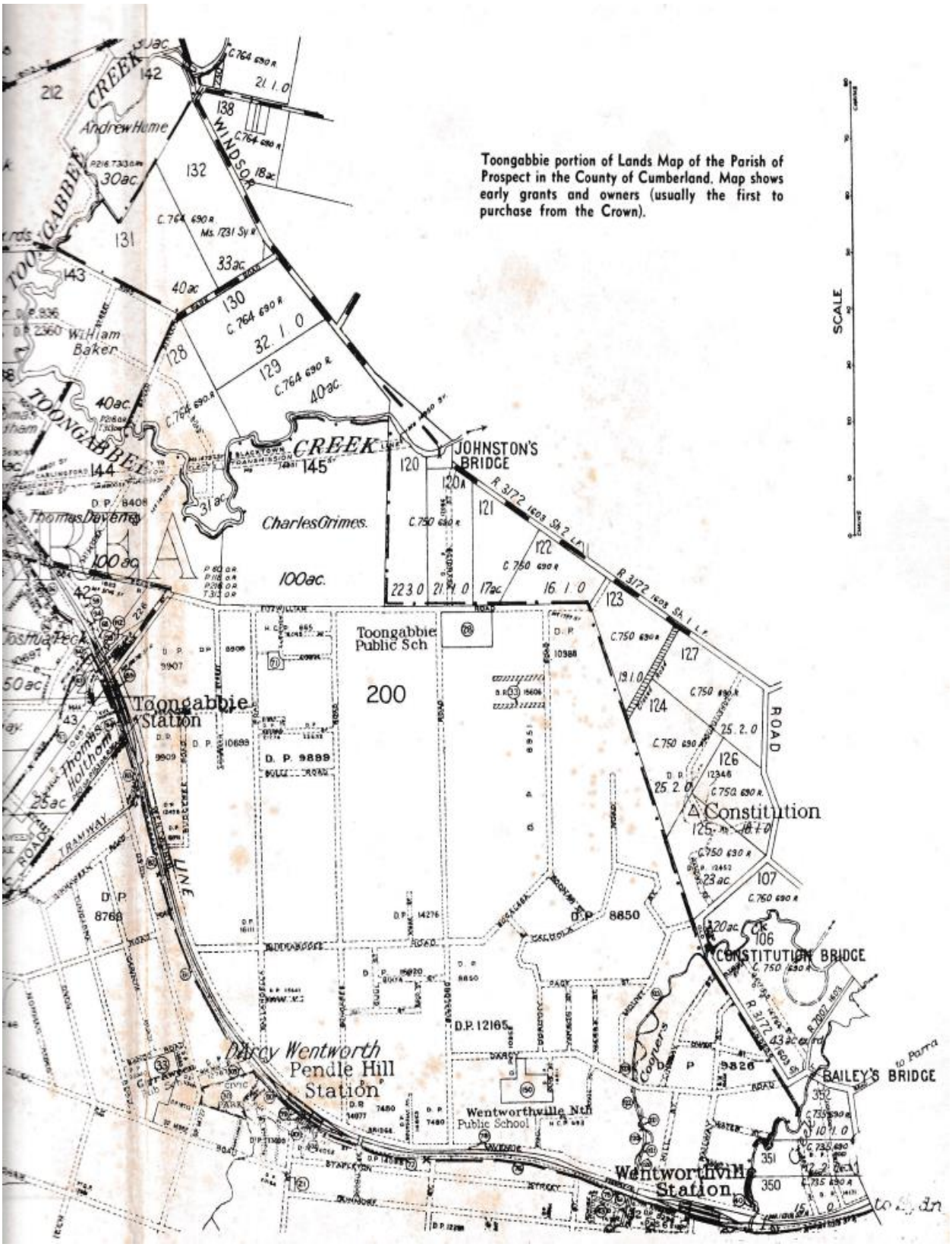
– tuga – the thick wood – the place of trees.


THE PARRAMATTA CITY COUNCIL
THE
3rd
SETTLEMENT
R·e·s·e·r·v·e
The site of the 1791-1803 Government Farm
at Old Toongabbee.
This plaque was unveiled on
Saturday, 12th November, 1988
by the Mayor of Parramatta, Alderman A. A. Hyam
for the local community to commemorate this event
in the Bicentennial Year.
J. R. Fenwick
City Engineer
L. G. Muddle
Town Clerk


THE PARRAMATTA CITY COUNCIL
THE OAKES ROAD BRIDGE
WAS OPENED BY
THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMAN A.A.HYAM
ON 1st JUNE, 1991
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
A. A. HYAM LORD MAYOR
J. C. BOOKS MAYORESS LORD MAYOR
D. W. FITZGERALD
P. J. GARLAND
P. H. GORDON
B. GREGORY
J. R. HAINES O.A.M.
C. G. HALE
A. ISSA
M. S. JESSIMER
R. L. JONES
G. D. McKAY
C. V. MAIO
F. J. RUSSO



Page 1 of 1 map, on the inner side of **The Story of Toongabbie** cover page.

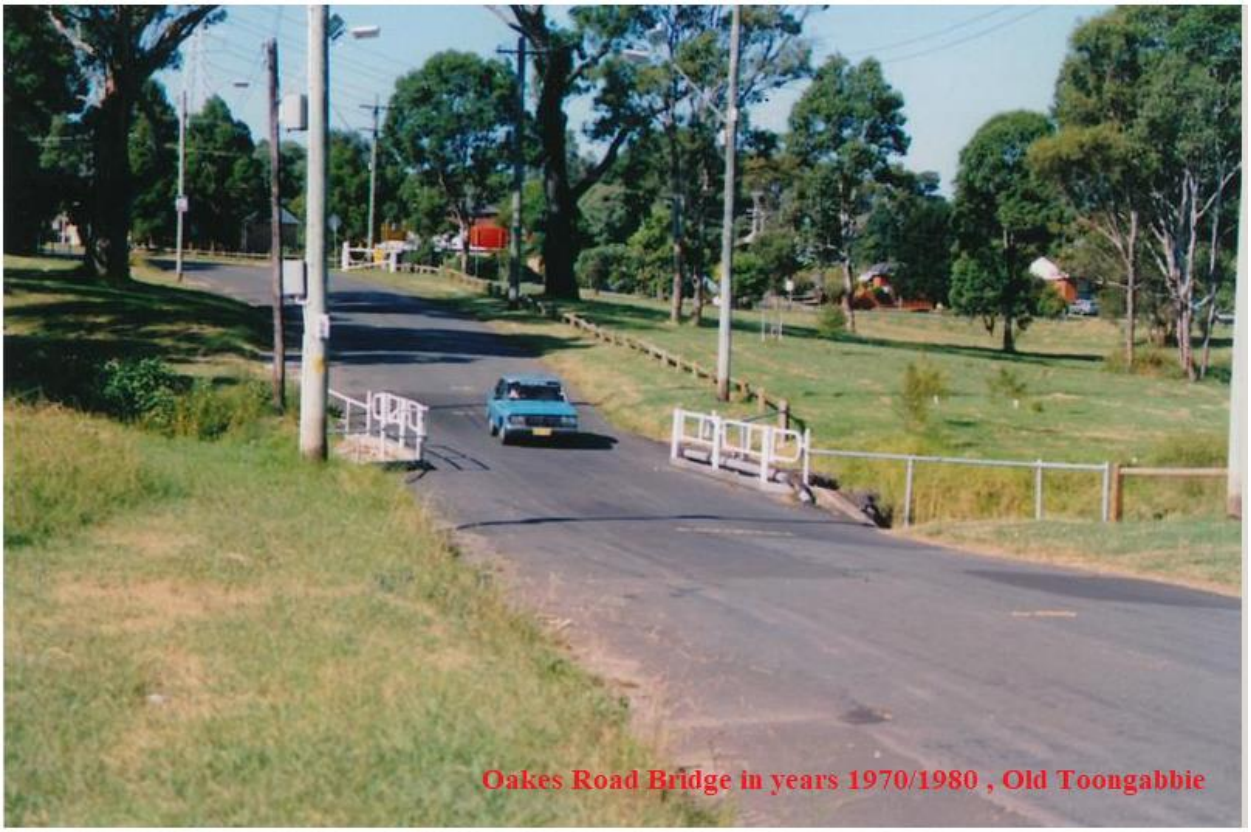


Page 2 of 1 map on the inner side of **The Story of Toongabbie** cover page.


TOONGABBIE – Aboriginal tuga, meaning thick wood


THIRD SETTLEMENT RESERVE

View on the Third Settlement from Peter Parade, Old Toongabbie in the 1990-s



Best Wishes
Doris Sargeant
17 June 1978

The word got around in our neighbourhood that at Toongabbie Public School on Fitzwilliam Road, Doris Sargeant, the author of "The Story of Toongabbie", was selling her books in the schoolyard. The school was known to us, as when we first moved to Old Toongabbie in 1976, our son was enrolled at the school. We moved here from Darcy Rd. Wenthworthville , where our son was enrolled in Darcy Road Public School.
At the time of me meeting Doris Sargeant, our son was already attending St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School in Winston Hills. Even so, the Toongabbie Publick School yard we walked through was friendly, well known and respected. I got the same feeling when meeting Doris in person.

Today, more than four decades later, that feeling is still with me now when I decided to digitalize the book(s) that Doris had written with much love, care and compassion. This collection of local historical knowledge will be highly valuable and sentimental to the sons and daughters of future generations of these great country of ours - Australia.

Irene Szanto, 10. January, 2022.

"This book has been produced primarily to bring before the children of the Toongabbie district some of the interesting history of its early days, ..."

***Doris Sargeant,* April, 1964.**

THE TOONGABBIE STORY

a compact history of the settlement established soon after Australia was founded in 1788 up to 1975

by

DORIS A. SARGEANT,

PUBLISHED BY THE PARENTS' & CITIZENS' ASSN.
TOONGABBIE PUBLIC SCHOOL, 1975

1st Edition 1964
2nd Edition 1975

DEDICATION

". . . to all those merry children, mindful parents, pioneers and settlers, the travellers gay, the redcoats and croppies and fettlers, who came by the way of old Toongabbie some how, some way, some with pity gone, some with joy now, today and yesterday."

National Library of Australia Card No. and ISBN 0 9598387 08

Printed by The Wentworth Press, 48 Cooper Street, Surry Hills, Sydney

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

When the first search for information on Toongabbie began in 1960, the driving force was to collect its history in words and pictures before progress wiped away the buildings and familiar scenes. Some of them vanished before the publication of "The Toongabbie Story" in 1964 and others have unfortunately followed.

Places that have gone are the first early Post Office at Old Toongabbie with its stone building and 1926 additions; the magnificently constructed 'Casuarina', with its vast cellar and sturdy walls—a blot on the methods of the developers for leaving it empty and at the mercy of souvenir hunters and vandals. The picturesque wooden Hammers Bridge has been replaced by a modern concrete structure that to the motorist is just part of the road. The old bridge, made dangerous by heavy flooding, has been removed recently and only photographs remain to show its picturesque appeal.

The interesting round church built by the Presbyterian congregation in 1962 on the corner of Barangaroo Road and Lamonerie Street, suffered two fires, one which burned out the centre, and shortly after a second which completely destroyed the building. Its members are attending either the historical St. Andrew's Church at Wentworthville or joining with the Girraween congregation.

The Methodist Church built in Cornelia Road in the township of Toongabbie in 1927 has ceased to function as a church and its members are involved in a new complex of buildings and outreach at Grantham Heights.

The Old Toongabbie Methodist Church and St. Mary's Anglican Church have added substantial halls to their properties to cope with the needs of Sunday School attendances and other church activities. The Old Toongabbie Church is planning another hall and is providing for community needs by the space it is able to give to other societies for day and evening functions during the week.

The Anglican Trinity Church, which was moved from Targo Road to Lamonerie Street during the 1960's, is now the Toongabbie Seventh Day Adventist Church. As the Parramatta Church became overcrowded this faith started a small group in Wentworthville and purchased the Toongabbie building in the early 1970's and has a growing congregation.

There has been a Seventh Day Adventist Reformed Church in Toongabbie Road for about six years.

The Catholic community in and around the Old Toongabbie area is now served by a complex of church and school buildings high on the historic Toongabbie hills, on Buckleys Road, Winston Hills.

During 1965 the Postmaster-General's Department decided to include these hills in the proposed "Winston Hills" area. Hundreds of people signed petitions against the name changes, inundating their Federal Member of Parliament, the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr E. G. Whitlam, with pages of protests.

Changes in the electoral boundaries took Toongabbie out of the Werriwa Electorate and Mr Whitlam (standing under the Arbor Day tree in illustration on page 54) no longer represented the area when he became Prime Minister of Australia in 1972.

To provide the reader with some measure of the development since 1964, the following summary of the schools gives a fair guide to the population growth.

Darcy Road Public School (Wentworthville): Opened 1955. Principals: Mr P. Williams, 1955-1964; Mr R. Taylor, 1965-1967; Mr W. Delbridge, 1968-1972; Mr D. Plumb, 1973-. Enrolment 1975: 400.

Toongabbie East Public School, Harris Road (Wentworthville): Opened 1966. Principals: Mr W. Reywood, 1966-1970; Mr G Keeley, 1971; Mr W. Gow, 1972-1974; Mr C. J. Ballard, 1975-. Enrolment 1975: 412.

Toongabbie West Public School, Ballandella Road (Toongabbie): Opened 1967. Principals: Mr A. H. Sharp, 1967-1970; Mr M. Wright, 1971-. Enrolment 1975: 430.

INTRODUCTION

This book has been produced primarily to bring before the children of the Toongabbie district some of the interesting history of its early days, something of its trials and something of its successes. It has been the keen interest of the young folk of today that has sent us back to the young folk of yesterday for their stories, and from them have come legends, letters, maps, pictures of the past, and the re-telling of many an old tale so that future generations may benefit from the recording of the story of the locality. It is a story collected from many people, many papers, many sources; inspired by the interest of many old, young, learned and ordinary folk inside and outside of the Toongabbie area.

Early in 1960, when plans were being made to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Toongabbie Public School, only two newspaper cuttings and the addresses of six former pupils comprised our history. Letters to the six early residents brought a speedy response, and within the week Mr. S. Bond had come to revisit, remember and reminisce. He took us on a tour of the district to introduce its landmarks and early residents still living within its boundaries. This enabled Mr. J. P. Jones, the principal of the school, to photograph many of the sites for the record, including colonial homes, cellars, churches and other interesting items before the effects of closer settlement appeared.

The Sydney Press published letters and the Parramatta district papers printed news items, and these sources brought a response from numerous former residents. Many came to visit, recalling the early days, to relate and later to write it. The Postmaster-General's Department sent along an enlightening account of early postal activities in and around Toongabbie and so inspiring was the information that an approach was made to other departments for relative information that might be available. The Department of Education, councils, churches and societies went through their files to assist. The late James Jervis, F.R.A.H.S., was contacted early in the search, and then and at all times took time to give advice and encouragement.

In October, 1960, the Reunion Day at the school brought together many early pupils and pioneer settlers to tell of the Toongabbie they knew many years ago, of the stories handed down to them by their parents and grandparents. For many it was the first meeting in fifty years and more, and their pride and love of this area of New South Wales was a joy to behold.

We had by this time quite a considerable amount of history of the local scene, but no story of Toongabbie could be complete unless it went back to the beginning, to the days of Governor Phillip and the first convict settlement, for the echoes of the stringencies of this time tinged many of the early settlers' tales. First investigations were made at the Royal Historical Society Library (with appreciation for their help) but more was needed, and so the Mitchell Library became part of our life. With the courteous assistance of staff in all sections, investigations were made through maps, documents, charts, books and many newspapers. Aborigine names, origins of land grants and even brochures were brought out in the search for information.

Finally, a special committee was formed. Mr. R. Willmot, J.P., representing the pioneering viewpoint, Mr. L. J. Carrington, J.P., and Mrs. Carrington, comparative

newcomers, and the Headmaster, Mr. J. P. Jones, to give a direction to the author on the material suitable and which illustrations would be most preferable. The Primary Mothers' Club loyally offered to back the expenses of printing even though it was a small club with a limited income.

The collection was sifted through to delete items that could not be checked with authoritative sources. Many side stories were added to answer questions asked by children, teachers and residents. The most suitable of the large collection of photographs, maps and illustrations were chosen. Unsought and unexpected had come an offer from Mr. Collinridge Rivett to edit the manuscript, a gesture greatly appreciated by everyone connected with the work. Through him additional material was received on the Installation of the Railways, the School of Arts Movement, the chapter, The Convicts Rise, and many other items.

All work on the book (with the exception of the printing) has been completely voluntary and all proceeds will be devoted to a special fund to benefit the children attending the Toongabbie Public School.

DORIS SARGEANT, April, 1964.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The publication of this work came about only through the co-operation and sincere interest shown in the project by many people — numerous local Toongabbie residents and their friends and relatives residing in nearby localities like Parramatta, the Hills District and Sydney's suburbs. Unlimited assistance was given by some of Australia's most enthusiastic Australiana scholars, researchers and students and much interest was shown in the work by the accomplished historian, the late James Jervis, F.R.A.H.S.

Records and files compiled by historians E. Maundrell, William Freame, Miss M. Swann and William Hanson were referred to where many clues were acquired and responsible writers at Toongabbie who originally gathered together the basic material for the manuscript were assisted, with much interest, by the custodians and librarians at the Mitchell and Public Libraries, Sydney, Parramatta City Council Library, the Lands Department and other Government offices.

Special thanks are extended to the many descendants of some of Australia's early pioneers, including members of the respected Sternbeck, Pye, Thompson, Bailey, Suttor, McDougall, Jurd, Oakes, Betts and Cuff families, who allowed the editor of this publication to acquire additional material of historical importance from the letters, maps, diaries and other documents in their treasured possession.

This book became possible through an idea sown at Old Toongabbie in 1960 which was cultivated and encouraged along toward its ultimate goal over a sometimes difficult three-year period. Among the local researchers who nursed the project along by providing information, assistance and encouragement were Mr. J. P. Jones, the Headmaster of Toongabbie Public School, Mrs. D. A. Sargeant, closely connected with the school, and Messrs. G. and H. N. Barnett, R. S. Willmot, J.P., S. Bond, G. M. Shaw, G. Woodward, J.P., C. and T. W. Lavender, G. Hillman, F. Tyrer, F. Bloxham, R. Gow, A. Champion, B. MacDonald, E. M. Neale, T. Millard and C. Clarke, Deputy Headmaster of the school, Mesdames Maud Johnston, M. Gale, E. Moulds and A. M. Webb of Jersey Islands).

Others who assisted by providing valuable data included members of the Sisters of the Home of the Good Shepherd, The Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions, Society of Australian Genealogists, Parramatta Art Society, Australian Art Associates, Royal Australian Historical Society, National Trust of Australia, Australasian Methodist Historical Society, St. Mary's Anglican Church, Toongabbie, The Methodist Church at Old Toongabbie, Blacktown Municipal Council, Department of Agriculture, Department of Railways, Australian Medical Association, Department of Education, Marist Fathers Seminary, Catholic Information Bureau, and other local churches.

Much assistance was given by staff members of The Sydney Morning Herald, the Daily Telegraph, Cumberland Newspapers Ltd. (Advertiser, Argus, Post, etc.), Cumberland Touring Club and the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Special thanks are extended to Mr. F. C. Barnes, public relations officer, Postmaster-General's Department, and Mr. O. R. Jones, Department of Education.

Valuable advice was received from Mr. Brian Fletcher of the Sydney University, and other university personnel, A. G. L. Shaw and Dr. Capell; Mr. F. W. McCarthy of the Australian Museum and Mr. Bruce Pratt of the Grolier Society of Australia.

Publications referred to include the Australian Encyclopaedia, works by David Collins and Watkin Tench, "The Cradle City of Australia" and other writings by James Jervis; and the following books: "Inns of Australia", "An Artist's Guide to Old Parramatta", "Art Union Story", "The Macarthurs of Camden" and "Parramatta's Town Plan: 1788".

The attention, co-operation and interest extended by these many people, together with the material furnished or acquired, contributes either in direct or indirect ways to make this publication possible. This joint effort, snowballing from the historic centre's original idea to produce a publication, reflects the genuine devotion and interest of Australians generally who willingly co-operate in order to undertake a project of some benefit to modern society. Through these combined efforts it has become possible for you, the reader, to acquire a copy of "The Toongabbie Story".

TOONGABBIE, 1964.

Toongabbie North (now changed to Winston Heights Public School), Buckleys Road, Winston Hills: Opened 1974. Principal: Mr E. A. Grant. Enrolment 1975: 280.

Pendle Hill High School, Knox Street (Pendle Hill): Opened 1965. Principals: Mr J. S. Monaghan, 1965-1967; Mr. G. Brown, 1968-1971; Mr. A. O. Kemp, 1972-. Enrolment 1975: 1234.

Toongabbie Public School, Fitzwilliam Road, Toongabbie. Principals since 1964: Mr E. Straker, 1965-1968; Miss J. M. Bruce, 1969-1971; Mr A. T. Buckingham. Headmistress of Infants School since 1967: Mrs D. Kennedy. Enrolment 1975: 1080.

It was during the time of Miss Bruce that the children of the primary school, under the guidance of Mrs S. Roadley, produced a pageant in the school grounds using "The Toongabbie Story" to work out a re-enactment of the landing of Captain Cook and depicting scenes of life as it may once have been at Toon-gab-be: the Dreamtime of the natives, the settling-in of the convicts and the effect of the coming together of convicts, soldiers and the aboriginals. It finished with the whole school —five hundred strong—singing the song "Old Toongabbie", written by John O'Boyle in 1964.

The song was written for the Folk Group of John, his wife Anne, Peter Barry, and Nils Nillson, all of Jindabyne, after John had read the Toongabbie book from the Cooma Library. The song was later presented to the Mothers' Club as a tribute to their publication.

It was also during the time of Miss Bruce that the new library was opened and the unveiling of the plaque naming "The Doris Sargeant Library" was officially performed by District Inspector Mr L. W. Barber, M.A., B.Ed. This event carried out the wishes of two eras of the Mothers' Club, the 1964 group and those in the Club in 1970.

Later in that year a Parents and Citizens' Association was formed and has been functioning successfully enough to undertake the reprinting of this book, the first edition having been sold out in 1970.

Thanks go to the School Principal, Mr A. T. Buckingham; the members of the Parents and Citizens' Association, especially the President, Mr John Rowling; the Honorary Secretary, Mrs Jean Gedney; the Honorary Treasurer, Mr E. Lawrence; and the Committee, Mr David Savage, Mr Derek Patston and Mrs Marion McGuirk.

Appreciation is extended to United Business Directories (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., for permission to use the local area map (page 69); to The Parramatta Advertiser for assistance with photographs and publicity; to Mr J. C. Clarke for his production of the original cover and his help with this one; to Mr Walter Stone for helpful advice; and to Wentworth Press for their fine reproduction of the book.

The author no longer lives in Toongabbie. It was during the year of 1970 that the Blacktown Municipal Council was approving plans for the building of Travenol Laboratories Pty. Ltd. which meant the acquiring of the Sargeant acres to complete its establishment, and so the Sargeant home disappeared and the valley behind it was levelled out and there is naught to show of the place where the writer-historian lived for twenty-three years.

It was at this time that the research for local historical verse was undertaken. This collection was completed in 1972 and was published by the Mothers' Club of the Northcott School for Crippled Children with the title "Focus on Parramatta". This book contains much that is picturesque and colourful about Toongabbie and its surroundings and is especially interesting since Toongabbie became a part of the historical Parramatta area in 1972, when it became the Toongabbie Ward of the Parramatta City Council.

The decision to reprint "The Toongabbie Story" was made so that both children and adults in this vast, fast-developing area will have a knowledge of what has gone before, some of it sad, some of it happy, a past on which to build for a good future, the history which is now in the making.

DORIS SARGEANT (June, 1975)

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CHAPTER ONE

THE STORY UNFOLDS

THE story of Toongabbie is the story of an area rather than a place, an area that has changed with frequency, an area that was settled by a mixed group of men and women, born in the Old World of Europe during the Eighteenth Century. Twenty miles inland from the New South Wales coast and some 12,000 miles from the homeland of England, the area had its foliage, soil and waters touched by the newcomers' hands early in the history of the white man in Australia. Soon after the land was cleared it became a Government farm, its original purpose to provide food for the new population and for those to follow. The Government farm with its excruciating life for early convicts was followed by a period when it was a Government grants locality where many ex-convicts and former soldiers tried to become farmers, with little or no knowledge, no proper tools and very little Government help. It also had a period of the large and wealthy land owner, with Major J. Foveaux dominating the locality with a holding of 1,770 acres where he bred from up to 1,000 sheep. To the smaller settlers the Major was the first "Squire of Toongabbee". His land was later acquired by another pioneer sheep breeder, the well-known Captain John Macarthur. Governor Lachlan Macquarie is reported to have applied for 2,400 acres at Toongabbie in 1817, as part of a request for 15,000 acres in the new colony, a request that was not granted. In later years another "Squire" of the district appeared, when George Oakes became the owner of a large part of the district. The Wentworth holdings consisted of approximately 2,200 acres and were held from 1813 to near the end of the century.

The warmth of the Toongabbie story was in the years when it was only a small compact settlement busy building for the future with school and post office appearing, many small and some large houses springing up, each one surrounded with its own orchard of fruit trees and vineyards. The highly polished Iron Horse was making its noisy trip up and down the line each morning and evening, and settlers were waiting for the coming of the then remarkable telegraph. The people had come, once again from over the seas, to settle and stay, they were planning for a community and churches and other civic buildings were required. Plans were being discussed for a School of Arts and other essentials of the life they had known in the villages they had left to make their way to this new country. The story of Toongabbie is the story around the "Old Toongabbie" spilling over into the surrounding suburbs, for these were all once a part of the Parish of Toongabbee.

In a few years' time the hills around the Toongabbie Creek will be covered with homes occupied by a new people. Will they look down in the valley below and sense some of the story of the early days? The story which began in the slopes and hollows around the creek and the story that shall remain, with its bitterness, its struggles and eventual rewards. There is little to show of those early days, a few markings on the rocks along the creek, a portion of the old Post Office which could have been there almost from the beginning; perhaps the homestead "Casuirina" built for George Oakes over 100 years ago, may survive the march of progress. Some slumbering ancient gums with the stories of years woven around them, now the pleasant home for many native birds, may live to hear new generations tell an old tale. A thought, too, for the little shop on the corner of Fitzwilliam and Old Windsor Roads, operated on this site by the Jarvis family in the 1880s; this could well be standing on the site of the original Government store established in the 1790s.

When Captain Arthur Phillip founded New South Wales on 26th January, 1788, with over one thousand people to be settled and fed, the first necessity was the provision of fresh food. With only a handful of sheep and cattle, Phillip, the first Governor of Australia, was faced with the responsibility of future provision of milk and fresh meat. Grasses along the coast were not suitable for stock and numbers of sheep died from eating poisonous grass, so that the arrival of further sheep in September, 1791, saved the flock from extinc-

tion. Even with extreme care, by November of that year there was still only one ram, 50 ewes and six lambs. Little did Phillip know then that sheep would develop in Australia to produce enormous quantities of sheep and wool, the qualities of which would eventually astound the world.

The first crop of wheat sown at Farm Cove was a failure, and the colony also suffered a loss when the cattle strayed away looking for better pastures which they could no doubt sense. For they were found later, large herds of them, running wild, at what is now known as the Cowpastures.

Rabbits, too, were brought out from England with the First Fleet in 1788, but in July, only six months after the founding of the settlement, a mere five survived, three of which were owned by the Governor himself. Those early settlers could not know then that the rabbits would one day become a pest to farmers in Australia when millions of them ran wild across the country, eating away grass and crops, destroying both wheat and much-needed sheep fodder. Even in 1837 rabbits were so scarce in the colony that they were sold for £3 a pair. It was in 1859 when they were liberated in Geelong, Victoria, that they bred so rapidly that they became a national problem.

Fish were difficult to catch; though boats were always out in the harbour it was rarely that great quantities were caught. Kangaroos were looked on as special fare, but the help of dogs was needed to catch them and they soon disappeared from the vicinity of the settlement once successful hunting parties were operating. As in modern times, snakes, lizards and bandicoots repulsed everyone except the natives. The provision of additional food remained a problem for many years.

Phillip himself named Toongabbie. He was a just and fine man, humane in an age of cruelty, adventurous in the new nation and deeply interested in the aborigines (referred to at that time as Indians). He was fair in his dealings and administration, treating all alike in rations, especially in times of famine, and this rationing was also his personal share.

With a knowledge of farming he speedily set the few men able to deal with the rough and primitive land where best they could be used. Only about ten convicts had a knowledge of agriculture, including Henry Edward Dodd, looked upon as the most outstanding of the group. He was placed in charge of the Government Farm at Rose Hill (Parramatta) but unfortunately died three years after arriving in the country. From Rose Hill, which was founded by Phillip in November, 1788, many exploring parties went out looking for suitable farming land. The land at Rose Hill was excellent, but additional land for cultivation was required, and Captain Watkin Tench, in his book "Sydney's First Four Years", includes a map of the outer western districts, showing the routes of the early explorations undertaken in search of fresher and newer areas.

Although covering the Toongabbie district, Toongabbie is not marked on the map, but Tench informs us of his first visit to the district on December 5, 1791, eight months after the Government farm at Toongabbie was provided with its first superintendent of convicts. This was Thomas Daveney, a free settler, whose day of official appointment was April 1, 1791. His task was to supervise the labour and lives of the convicts under his protection; these had been assigned the task of clearing additional land from the western Cumberland Park locality, the large Government Domain around where the Old Government House still stands in Parramatta Park, in a westward direction right toward the Toongabbie Creek and to where Old Toongabbie is now centred. Toongabbie had no official discovery in the true sense and no special announcement was made declaring it as a centre, but one thing is certain — Toongabbie could well be the first area in Australia officially given an aboriginal name.

Phillip made it his interest to inquire of the natives who lived in the whole of the Rose Hill district of their geographical knowledge and asked them by what names they knew the different locations and areas. He was told that Rose Hill was called Parramatta, and the outer area on the western limits of the domain, which was then undergoing extensive gains in cultivation, was known as Toongabbie. Phillip did not officially change the name of Rose Hill to Parramatta until the King's Birthday, 4th June, 1791.

Mrs. Macarthur in a letter to a friend in England gave the meaning of Parramatta as "the head of a river", and there are many who believe that the name means "the place where the eels lie down".

Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N.

The first Governor of New South Wales and the man who named Toon-gab-be.

(Reproduced from the original in the Mitchell Library with the permission of the Trustees.)

It was almost certain that the name Toongabbie was used by the new settlers and officials before 1791. Mr. T. Mutch, Minister for Education in N.S.W. for seven years, and a noted historian, made this statement and we can accept it as a correct finding of that time. So it could well be that Toongabbie became Australia's first European settled centre officially referred to by the original aboriginal name. "Toongabbe", "Toongabbee", "Toongaby", "Toongabby" or "Toongabbi" are among the spellings of the name appearing in records, letters, documents and journals written during the infant years of the colony.

How the present form, Toongabbie, came into use, and when, has not been found. Phillip referred to it as Toon-gab-be, its meaning: Meeting of the Waters or Near the Water. Of interest is a reference made by John Sternbeck, who settled on the MacDonald River,

and who wrote about his early experiences at Toongabbie. He said that the natives called it "Toon-gab-be" because it meant the "land of the hills near the water". Most collectors of the aboriginal dialects give it the former meaning. It certainly means and is an area associated with water. Before the many tributaries of the creek were filled in, the collection of water in the vicinity of Johnston's Bridge and Oakes Road during flood times must have been a spectacular sight. Even today consistent heavy rain can bring a flooding in this area that not only stops traffic but is breathtaking to the beholder.

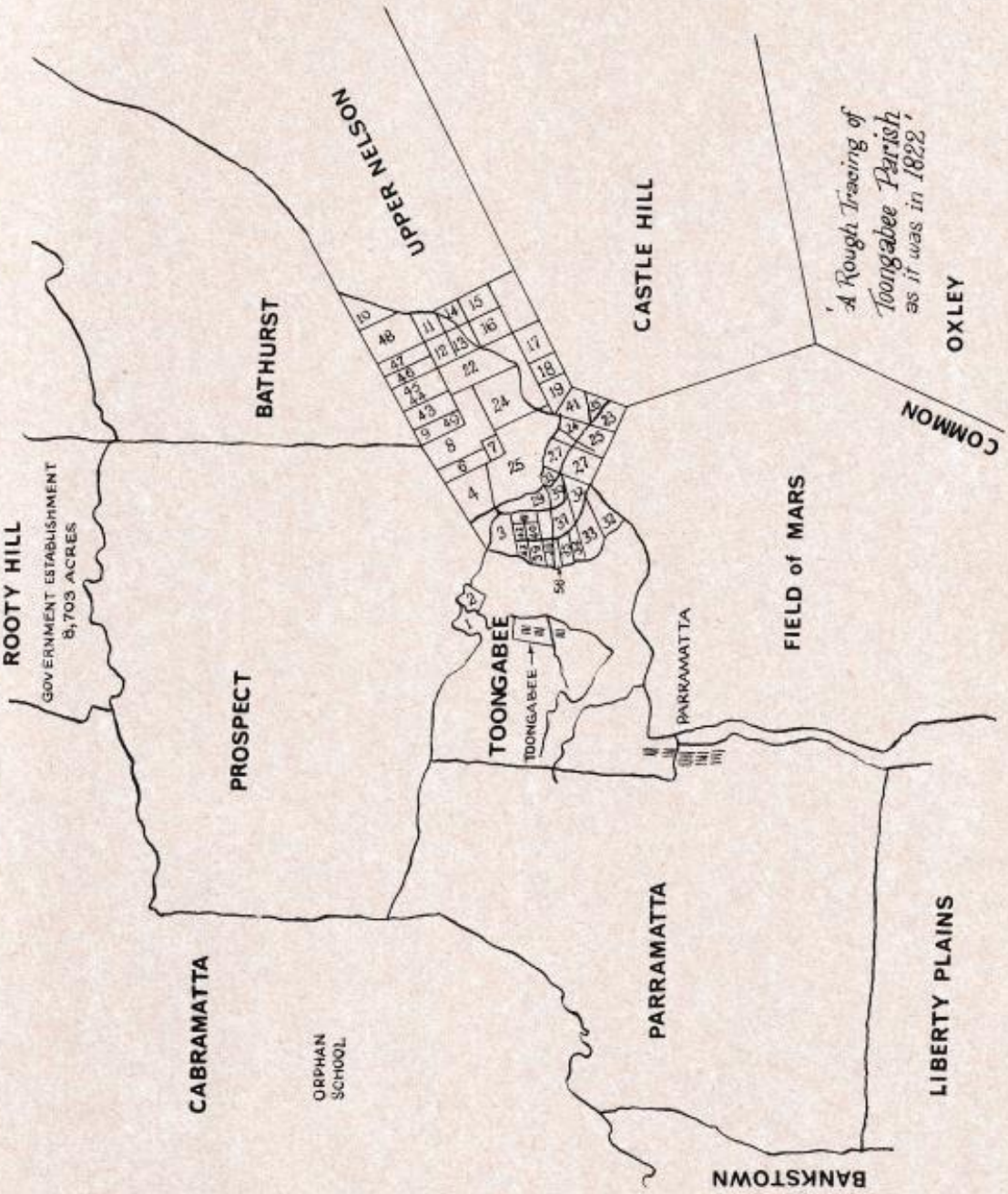
Captain Tench's account of his visit to the area on 5th December, 1791, gives us a realistic glimpse into the historic area. He wrote: "Made excursions this day to view the public settlements. Reached the first, which is about a mile in a north-west direction from the Governor's house (at Parramatta). This settlement contains 134 acres, a part of which is planted with maize, very backward, but in general tolerably good, and beautifully green. Thirteen large huts, built in the form of a tent, are erected for the convicts who work here. . . . Walked on to the second settlement about two miles further on (this was Toongabbie) through uncleared country. Here met Daveney the person who planned, and now superintends all the operation there. He told me that he estimated the quantity of cleared ground at three hundred acres; he certainly over-rates it by one-third, by the judgment of every other person; six weeks ago it was a forest; it has been cleared, and the wood nearly burnt off the ground by five hundred men, in the before mentioned period, or rather on thirty days, for only that number have the convicts worked. He said it was too late to plant maize, and therefore he would plant turnips, which would help meliorate and prepare it for next year. On examining the soil, I thought generally light, though in some places loamy to the touch . . ."

Daveney's own report on the number of men was some 460 working, the rest in hospital sick or "run away" to the woods. Each labourer was expected to work seven rods daily. The settlement comprised thirteen huts and to every hut there were two men appointed to carry out the duties of hut-keepers, to watch the premises in working hours, and to prevent robberies. Working hours during the summer season were: start 5 a.m. and retire at 10 a.m. Rest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., then work from 2 p.m. till sunset. This was not looked on as severe toil but the inadequate rations of imported salt provisions with very few fresh vegetables and no beverages like tea or coffee, only water, was not helpful for the labourers.

On November 3, 1792, three convicts were granted their warrants of emancipation and became free men. David Collins records in his "Account of the English Colony in N.S.W." of a new arrival at Toongabbie: ". . . one of which was in favour of a man who, whatever might have been his conduct when at large in society, had in that country not only demeaned himself with strict propriety, but had rendered essential services to the colony — George Barrington. He came out (from England) in the 'Active' and had on his arrival been placed by the Governor in a position at Toongabbe, which was likely to attract the envy and hatred of the convicts, in proportion as he might be vigilant and inflexible. He was first placed as a subordinate, and shortly after as a principal watchman; in which situation he was diligent, sober, and impartial; and had rendered himself so eminently serviceable, that the Governor resolved to draw him from the line of convicts; and, with the instrument of his emancipation, he received a grant of thirty acres of land. He was afterwards sworn in as a peace-officer."

Barrington became Chief Constable of Parramatta in September, 1796, two years after he had been dismissed from his Toongabbie office by the Macarthur-Grose combination. Barrington resigned his Parramatta post in 1800 and squandered his half-pay pension on liquor, the infamous currency of the period. By 1804 he was a "mere living skeleton" and died with his mind affected by his uncontrollable drinking.

Barrington was not the only "official victim" to perish under similar circumstances. Others associated with the administration of Toongabbie in the early days who became addicted to heavy drink included Thomas Daveney, who was dismissed from his post by Grose in 1794. He became very depressed about his dismissal and within a year died as a result of consuming a half gallon of Cape brandy, as fast as he could swallow. He left a deranged widow — and 86 goats which sold for £357/15/0d. at a public auction soon after his death on 3rd July, 1795. Macarthur, though not a drinker, also died in a state of insanity.



The Toongabbie locality as it was in 1822. The map by James Meehan, drawn in 1812, shows 84 names as owners or occupiers. The map of the Parish was identical to that shown.
(From the original in the Archives Office of N.S.W. Reproduced by permission of the Trustees.)

A very early reference to Toongabbie is found in a letter from Governor Phillip to the Hon. Henry Dundas, 2nd October, 1792:

"One thousand acres of ground are in cultivation on the public account, of which 800 are in maize, the rest in wheat and barley at Parramatta, and a new settlement formed about three miles westward of Parramatta, and to which I have given the name Toon-gab-be by which the natives distinguish the spot. The soil is good, and in the neighbourhood of this place there are several thousand acres of exceeding good ground. The quantity of ground in cultivation by the settlers is 416 acres and they have 97 acres more cleared of timber . . ."

Phillip was nearing the end of his term of office when he wrote the above letter, and Major F. Grose assumed office as Lieutenant-Governor and was sworn in on 31st December, 1792, as the temporary administrator of the colony. Grose favoured Captain John Macarthur and entrusted him "with the direction of the convicts employed there (i.e., Parramatta) and at Toongabbie in cultivation, as well as to take charge of the public grain . . ." Thus, the fiery Macarthur assumed his first duties and powers, which mounted as the years went by.

Thomas Daveney and Barrington had to answer to Macarthur who remained for some time as the "Master mind" behind plans on what should be done at Toongabbie, and where selected convicts should be detailed.

The historian Mr. M. H. Ellis has referred to the area as "the slave camp of Toongabbie", and many a former convict who later settled on the surrounding countryside wrote in the 1840s (when they were aged men) of the "horror enclosure" or "evil camp" at Toongabbie.

The convict Daniel Kelly, a former medical aid for the English Government before his transportation, was detailed to Toongabbie to attend the sick and worked under the instructions of Dr. T. Arndell. Kelly was held in high esteem by the convicts and felt that his duties, which was replacing a paid Government official, should be rewarded in some way. Macarthur did not favour this and it was not until Governor Hunter moved in to provide some recompense in the way of certain small "luxuries" that Kelly felt suitably rewarded.

In early records references are made of the severity of the thunderstorms and the hope was expressed that these might diminish as the land was cleared of heavy timber. We also read of the state of the natural landscape and its foliage coverings. A letter from an unnamed writer who was at Toongabbie on 30th November, 1792, appeared in the "Dublin Chronicle" and extracts include:

"The hills in general are of good black earth but the valleys which are well watered are an entire rock to the surface. Both hills and vales are covered with trees of an amazing height and in many instances nine yards in circumference. They grow perfectly straight and nearly 100 feet high before the branches shoot off. . . . There are an abundance of large red and white gum-trees, oak, fir, mahogany, apple, pear, cherry, etc., the fruit of the latter trees are, however, uneatable. Five hundred convicts were constantly employed for twelve months clearing 700 acres of land. . . . The Indian hoe is the principal instrument of husbandry. We have a great number of hogs, sheep and goats, 25 cows, 6 young bulls, two horses and seven mares with poultry in abundance. . . . Nothing can equal the salubrity of the climate. There are three hundred yearling vines of the most promising appearance."

Other interesting accounts of the area are provided in a private journal written by George Thompson, who sailed from the Old World in the Royal Admiral and who was among the hundreds of convicts who disembarked at Parramatta Wharf on 7th October, 1792. Thompson was a close friend of the noted pioneer convict artist, Thomas Watling, who was also an unhappy passenger on the Royal Admiral. Thompson wrote:

"About four miles from this place (Parramatta) there is another settlement — Toongabby — where the greatest number of convicts are and work very hard (there is also a good crop of corn standing, and promises very well). Their hours of work are from 5 in the morning till 11, then they will leave off till two in the afternoon and work from that time till sunset. They are allowed no breakfast hour because they have seldom anything to eat. Their labour is felling trees, digging up the stumps, rooting up the shrubs and grass, turning up the ground with their spades and hoes, and carrying the timber to convenient places . . . . From the heat of the sun, the short allowance of provision, and the ill-treatment they receive from a

set of merciless wretches (most of them of their own description) who are their superintendents, their lives are rendered truly miserable. At night they are placed in a hut, perhaps fourteen perhaps sixteen or eighteen together (with one woman, whose duty it is to keep clean and provide victuals for the men while at work) without the comfort of either bed or blankets, unless they take them from the ship they come out in, or are rich enough to purchase them when they come on shore. They have neither bowl, plate, spoon or knife but what they make of the green wood of this country, only one small iron pot being allowed to dress their poor allowance of meat, rice, etc., in short, all the necessary conveniences of life they are strangers to, and suffer everything they could dread in their sentence of transportation. Some time since it was not uncommon for seven or eight to die in one day, and very often while at work, they being kept in the field till the last moment and frequently while being carried into hospital. Many a one has died at the storehouse while awaiting for his allowance of provision merely for want of sustenance and necessary food."

Food was always short in the whole colony, not only at Toongabbie, and in 1790 the weekly ration per person was three lbs. of flour, 1½ lbs. beef or 17 ozs. pork and one lb. of rice. This ration was supplied to all persons, from Governor Phillip down to the most miserable convict. Collins informs us that one convict, not prepared to place aside a small ration of flour for consumption each day or every few days, decided to bake the whole ration into a batch of cakes, ate the lot and died a horrible death.

At this time farming was carried out with difficulty. For the most part only hoes were available to till the soil and only a very inferior type of axe was available to help in the felling of timber and clearing of the land, which was extending slowly westward toward the Hawkesbury.

Teamwork was essential and so teams of men were used to fell the huge trees and drag the timber away. Timber was used for building premises, small bridges, compound fences and of course for firewood for cooking. The first bullock teams did not come into use until 1795 and the work was greatly speeded up from that time by their use in hauling loads of material.

Macarthur brought the first plough into N.S.W. in 1795 but we have no record of when ploughs were used in Government farming. The first crops grown in Toongabbie were probably quite satisfactory as the soil would have been well covered with a natural mulch.

David Collins refers to the Toongabbie ground in cultivation in October, 1792, as: "Acres in wheat 17½, in barley 14, in maize 511." Good crops of maize were grown in the early years and their quality improved as the years went by. Farmers in the last century referred to their fields as loaded with plump cobs of corn. To this day excellent corn or maize can be grown in any part of Toongabbie.

Collins also recorded that the early crops of wheat were remarkably good with ears long and full, but some stacks, opened months later, were found without grain — rodents having eaten all the grain, a bitter blow with the food shortage so acute. The harvests at that time were reaped by hand, with a scythe, and stacked in a small type of haystack, always supervised by armed guards to try and control the pilfering of the grain. Later, the grain was threshed out, probably at first by beating the hay on the ground. Many a man who later became a successful farmer around the Hawkesbury settlements acquired his knowledge of farming at Toongabbie. Once granted freedom these men sought out the more suitable ground in the river areas for their farming activities.

In the now valuable volumes written by Collins a number of interesting illustrations were printed depicting topical scenes of the colony. One is entitled "Western View of Toongabbe", reproduced in this publication. The printers first produced the original volume in 1798, but two years later Collins came into possession of new material compiled by Governor Hunter, and in 1802 the second and enlarged volume appeared in London. The printers were supplied with engravings, or plates for the illustrations, by the English engraver, J. Heath. Heath had produced his engravings from coloured depictions produced by the English artist E. Days, but Days in turn had copied the original works of art produced in the colony of N.S.W. by Thomas Watling.

Watling was never fully recognised until recent years as the creator of the original depictions and received little reward for his work. He was granted some special favours

"A Western View of Toongabbe"

Perhaps the first published depiction of the early Toongabbie Government farm. The convict artist, Thomas Watling, is regarded as having produced the original work.

(Reproduced from the original in the Mitchell Library with the permission of the Trustees.)

by his masters, who acquired his work, among whom were Surgeon White and Captain Hunter. Because he was a convict his productions were not always signed as a "private" artist. In 1954 the Mitchell Library paid £1,375 for thirteen of his charming water-colours. Transported for forging notes on the Bank of Scotland he arrived in Australia at the age of 30. "Natives are extremely fond of painting," he once wrote, and he was one of the first Europeans to build up very close friendships with the local aborigines.

The "Toongabbe" illustration referred to appears to show the area across Toongabbie Creek in the Oakes Road vicinity. The work shows stacks of hay with a cereal crop still standing (probably maize) as well as the huts with their thatched roofing. As they all appear to have chimneys it was probable that the convicts kept warmer in the winter months than some reports sent to England would lead readers to believe.

Shortages of food affected the colony again in the summer of 1793 and Collins wrote about the situation in December of that year:

> ". . . the last pound of flour was served out. This total deprivation of so valuable, so essential an article of food of man, happened, fortunately, at a season when its place could in some measure be supplied immediately, the harvest having been all safely got in at Toongabbe in the beginning of the month . . ."

Governor Phillip had written home repeatedly for men able to supervise the convicts and who had a knowledge of agriculture, but his pleas went unheeded, and even after his return to England he stressed his requests on behalf of the colony. At Toongabbie the men continued to be herded into their dreaded gangs, divided into groups of between 20 and 30, with a convict "trustie" in charge of each gang.

Richard Fitzgerald, in his report to Commissioner Bigge in 1820, gave the following evidence on the farm at Toongabbie:

> "That in 1792 to 1793 there were nearly nine hundred (900) men and upwards of two hundred and sixty women employed at the farm. The men worked in gangs of twenty-five, and were allotted a task. The heaviest work was felling an acre of ground per week. One third of convicts employed were boys, but they were employed in lighter tasks."

As the time of imprisonment expired the men were given grants of land to farm in their own right, mostly in the Toongabbie area, the first twelve men selecting their portions of land in August, 1791. Many others went into service with landowners.

Thomas Daveney, writing to a friend at Wycombe, 1st July, 1794, refers to them in the following extracts:

> "At present everything bears the appearance of plenty, there being about 2,000 acres of wheat. I am now a farmer in my own right, having a grant of 100 acres of fine land well watered and in good cultivation. I have a 100 head of fine goats, and am hopeful by Christmas to have both horses, cows and sheep. . . . I have this season returned to His Majesty's Stores 1514 bushels of Indian corn at 5/- per bushel, and have now upwards of 1000 bushels on the farm, in order to pay for men's labour in building a dwelling house, barns, outhouses, etc. I have likewise purchased a farm called Egleton's containing sixty acres of land, felled and cleared, for which I paid sixty guineas and am going to sow the whole with millet.
>
> "Upwards of 4,000 acres of land being cleared, thunder and lightning are by no means as violent as before . . . there are nearly 300 convicts whose term of transportation is expired, and who live by their labour. I have six of these men employed on my farm at taskwork, who earn from 18s. to a guinea per week, so that no settler is at a loss for men to perform his work. . . . Goats thrive better than sheep here and fetch seven to ten pounds each."

William Freame, a Parramatta historian, in a collection of articles entitled "Our Old Towns and Institutions" included the following letters from freed men who remembered their existence at Toongabbie:

4/10/1845

> "I arrived 16 Oct 1791 was sent to Toongabbie. In those days we were yoked to draw timber, 25 in a gang. We held a stick between us, 6ft. long and 6 men abreast and dragged with our hands. One man Dixon came on the Pitt*. He began on a Thursday and died on Saturday dragging a load down Constitution Hill. How they used to die! The men were weak — dreadfully weak — for the want of food.

*The Pitt referred to was a ship.—Ed.

Punishment at Old Toongabbie

Toongabbie's convict farm became the colony's most infamous "concentration camp" where inhuman officials and overseers carried out sentences imposed on prisoners. As many as 70 men were "tendered 25 lashes" at the one time, usually at dusk after the chain gangs returned to witness the misery . . . by "order of the superintendent".

(Illustration: Collinridge Rivett. All rights reserved.)

"I have seen 70 men flogged at night at 25 lashes each. If a man was found out of camp he got 25. Dr. ..... was a great tyrant."

MacDonald River:

Oct 3rd, 1845

"I arrived in the colony 56 years ago in Gov. Phillip's time. There were only 8 houses in the colony then and I lived in a holloe tree for 17 weeks. I was 7 years in bond. I have often eaten grass. We never had a full ration unless a ship was in harbour. The motto was 'Kill them or work them, their provisions will be in store.' Many a time I have been yoked like a bullock with 20 others to drag along timber. At a place called Toongabbie 800 died in 6 months. I knew a man so weak he was thrown in a grave, when he cried out, 'Don't cover me up I am not dead'. His name was J..... G ..... and is now alive in Richmond. Old ..... (an overseer) killed three men at the saw by overwork. We used to be in large parties to raise a tree. When the body of the tree was raised he would call some of the men away then move. The men could not bear it. They fell, the tree on top of one or two, killing them on the spot.

"Afterwards I went to live with D'Arcy Wentworth and a better master never lived. Little Billy (William Charles) has often been carried in my arms. Old D'Arcy wanted me to take charge of his Home Bush property but I took up the river."

"J.S."

It is of interest to note the reference made to Constitution Hill as the name of the high hill dominating the Toongabbie-Wentworthville area by the writers in 1845. A number of stories concerning the naming of this hill have been heard, including the one that grew from

the feeling that it needed the strongest of constitutions to survive the toil over and round it. It is possible that this hill was known as Constitution Hill when these convicts were working in the Toongabbie district but the name could have come into use at a later date. Another story about its name appears in another chapter, and this is just as likely to be the correct origin.

When the settlement first began at Sydney Cove attempts to make friends with the natives was immediately made by the leading men and particularly by Governor Phillip. Observations of their habits and friendly approaches were made whenever possible. Some were captured and brought into the settlement so that the dialects could be learned and more knowledge of the new country acquired. These efforts did not yield very good results and throughout the early days many clashes occurred. Hunger drove the natives to make raids on both homes and farms and Collins records:

> "At Toongabbie, where Indian corn was growing, their (natives) visits and their depredations were so frequent and so extensive, that the watchmen were compelled to fire on them . . ."

Convicts in the early times were not locked up or even guarded to any great extent, once they were working on the farm. Some made their escape and a few were quite successful, settling in distant areas and learning by experience how to get the best results from the land they chose to make their own. There were others who thought that if they walked far enough northwards they would reach China. These usually headed in the right direction but did not get far, sometimes to the Hills districts, some even as far as the Hawkesbury River. Most of them returned, realising that the tortures of the bush, with its deadly spiders and snakes, poisonous berries and plants, lack of water and bushfires, and the constant fear of attack by the natives was a terrifying exchange for the life they had left at the colony. Many died of hunger, snake bite and the poisonous plants and quite a number were killed by the natives.

Collins wrote on one occasion about the escapees:

> ". . . it appeared that 44 men and 9 women were absent and unaccounted for; in which number were included those who were wandering in the woods, seeking for a new settlement, or endeavouring to get into the path to China."

He continues:

> ". . . although the appearance of these people confirmed their account of what they had undergone (i.e., those who were captured or had returned, Ed.) others were still ignorant and weak enough to run into the woods, impressed with the idea of either reaching China by land, or finding a new settlement where labour would not be imposed on them, and where inhabitants were civil and peaceful."

In reading over the early reports it must be remembered that though the First Fleet brought reasonably healthy convicts to the colony the Second and succeeding fleets were loaded with more sick than well. Their miserable lives in the hulks of England and the shocking treatment in the ships on the voyages out landed them in Port Jackson or alongside Parramatta Wharf in a wretched, starved and emaciated condition. Many of them died on arrival and scores were put straight into improvised hospital accommodation. Little wonder that the death rate at Toongabbie was so high. Nor was it surprising that some should attempt to escape to what they hoped would be better things. The many hundreds who served their time and settled into the life of their choice in later years found that toil and patience brought its own reward, and in their final years were able to look back on what they accomplished with some satisfaction.

Toongabbie continued to be a food-producing area when Phillip left the colony at the end of 1792 and was used for this purpose for some years after. However, the departure of Governor Phillip was followed by the officials parcelling out grants of land, first around the farm and gradually encroaching upon its borders.

Collins recorded:

> "At Toongabbe no addition had been made to the public ground since Governor Phillip's departure; but a survey made at the latter end of this month it appeared that the officers to whom lands had been granted, had cultivated and cleared 233 acres, and had cut down the timber from 219 more."

Land at Toongabbie was much desired and had become affected by "private enterprise"!

The farm continued for thirteen years, various officials came and went as supervisors, including John Jamieson, Richard Fitzgerald, Andrew Hume, Rowland Hassall and Charles Grimes as well as those already mentioned.

Heat waves, storms, bushfires and floods affected the area. Natives attacked the convicts and vice versa, and both natives and convicts would pilfer corn and vegetables. Captain Tench recorded with surprise that the convicts would pilfer even during times of full ration.

It must be remembered that in 1792 the Parramatta-Toongabbie locality had a population larger than the Sydney Town settlement at Port Jackson. In that year Sydney had some 1,170 people, and Parramatta - Toongabbie some 1,970, most of whom were convicts.

It was not uncommon for a high-ranking official in Sydney to threaten some unfortunate victim with an "opportunity of increasing the population in the interior", and stating "I'll send you to Toongabbie with a hoe in your hand". Although very primitive, life in Sydney was much more comfortable than anywhere in the interior.

One man who tried to spiritually assist the Toongabbie inhabitants was Rowland Hassall, a former member of the London Missionary Society, who became a storekeeper at Toongabbie.

Hassall preached regularly at Toongabbie to small congregations. The convicts, being of mixed religious beliefs, were not always prepared to attend a service unfamiliar to them. The traditions and customs so much the treasured possessions of every individual, convicted or otherwise, were not easily changed and the unhappy circumstances of life in the new land did nothing to help along the men who tried to bring the message of the scriptures to them. Many who died were buried in unknown graves and surely today we pass by hallowed grounds where perhaps a shamrock, rose or thistle bloomed to honour an unsung soul.

During Governor Hunter's time (1795-1800) various crude buildings at the Toongabbie farm were repaired. A new barn 90 feet in length, in which nine pairs of threshers could work, was built. The original structure erected in Phillip's time had collapsed. Stockyards for cattle were provided and records show that by 1800 there were on Government farms 488 sheep, 931 cattle and 32 horses. Privately owned: 1259 goats, 4766 hogs, 6259 sheep, 362 cattle and 211 horses. Ground in cultivation by the Government: 467 acres of wheat and 300 acres of maize. By private individuals, 4857¼ acres of wheat and 3564 acres of maize.

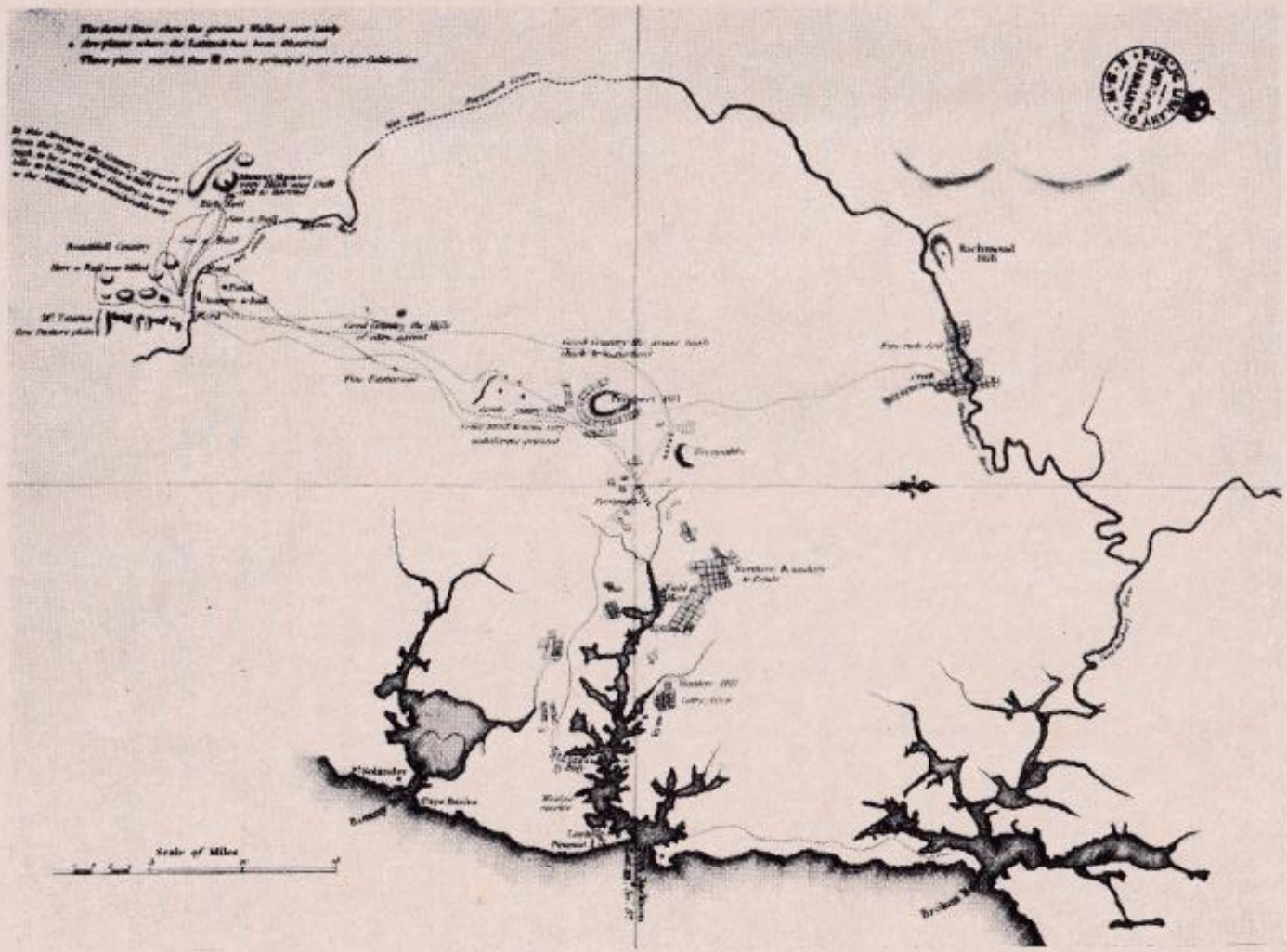
The colony had come of farming age and this was very evident at Toongabbie, then perhaps the richest food-producing part of the whole colony. Much of the land had been granted away to private settlers and officers, leaving only 300 acres for Government use. The returns of 1798 show 76 men employed at the Government farm.

Hassall, writing to London, estimated his weekly congregation as round 100 with different hearers as the congregation was unsettled and mixed. In 1800 he referred to the district as a "King's Settlement" where most of the prisoners were kept at hard labour. This does not mean that Toongabbie was a prison in the true sense of the word. Confined prisoners and the offensive criminals were sent to Norfolk Island, the coalmines at Newcastle, or were gaoled in Parramatta's infamous Convict Prison (now the site of Prince Alfred Park, Parramatta).

In 1797 a Public Works return showed that 74 men had made a large shed for cattle, built a new barn 80 feet long and 20 feet wide; repaired Superintendent Fitzgerald's house and built an oven, a new one, for the public baker, built chimneys and repaired all the Government huts, hoed up the ground and burnt off the weeds. They also prepared for from 299 acres, 112 acres of maize, sowed 642½ bushels of seed wheat — with the help of women, number unstated! The return also included:

"One barber: Shaveing all the servants of the Government.
One thatcher: Thatching of huts, wheat stacks, etc., &c.
One miller: In charge of the steel mills.
Seven men: Taking care of Government cattle.
Four men: Old and feeble, taking care of the huts when people were at work.
One shoemaker: Repairing shoes.
One taylor: Repairing jackets, trowsers, &c.
One man: Getting wood and water for the guard-house.
Eight constables: In charge of the barns, wheat stacks, granaries."

The "constables" mentioned in the Public Works report must not be confused with our present-day constables, or policemen, although the pioneer constables at Toongabbie were in fact empowered to act as officers of the law who performed the duties of peace officers, though not always efficiently. D'Arcy Wentworth was Australia's first paid policeman and



"The Ground Walked Over"

Watkin Tench, soon after New South Wales was founded in 1788, "explored" the Rose Hill, Prospect Hill, Hawkesbury and Nepean districts. Toongabbie can be found in the centre of his map.

(Reproduced from the original in the Mitchell Library with the permission of the Trustees.)

was appointed Metropolitan Police Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, and Treasurer of the Police Fund by Governor Macquarie.

In March, 1802, Governor King reported to the Duke of Portland:

> "The extent of the ground about Toongabbee designed by Governor Phillip for public cultivation has been mostly granted away to settlers leaving the Government a very circumscribed space not containing more than 300 acres of worn out land, which has been in constant cultivation. The manure from the stockyards, and folding the stock upon it, will allow its being sowed this year. A quantity of timber has been fallen at some distance from Toongabbee but the soil was found cold and clayey.
>
> "From the arrangements made in public labour in 1800, several men were drawn from other employments to public cultivation; and it requires time to clear away a place designed by Governor Phillip for a public farm (where a number of men have begun to clear away) it was necessary therefore to employ the rest usefully. After the public grounds about Toongabbee were sown and some weeks remaining of the season, no more public ground being clear and many private farms lying waste (altho' the property lies in the grantees and purchasers) one of the most productive was rented at fifteen shillings per acre which was cropped with wheat making the whole 476 acres of that grain sown for the Government, etc."

By 1803 the farm at Toongabbie had been turned into a grazing area for cattle intended to manure the land and the remaining camp of convicts were removed to the new penal holding centre at Castle Hill. Convicts continued to be assigned to work on nearby settlers' farms and on improvements to Toongabbee Road (now Junction Road) and the road winding up to the Hills District (Old Northern Road).

The free or former convict settlers around the Toongabbie area at that time had no real love of the centre, except that it provided them with material benefits. The early unhappy associations were not easily forgotten and they made no efforts to make it a community, preferring to go to Parramatta for their relaxation. The ambitious and more progressive, and the free settlers held positions and used their farms for experimenting with sheep, cattle and other food-producing activities. Toongabbie even possessed a popular minehost of Sydney in John Bolger who acquired land in Toongabbie in 1809 while holding a spirit licence for premises in Phillip Street, Sydney. He established a mill in Parramatta and later kept an Inn at Toongabbie. This is the only keeper of an Inn we have found in the records of life in Toongabbie until the Hotel Toongabbie was built in 1956.

In 1810 Governor Macquarie arrived in the colony—and with him arrived a new life for the convict dwellers, for Macquarie believed that once a man had expiated his crime by serving his sentence the crime should be forgotten.

Life became much gayer with the introduction of public holidays, horse racing and agricultural fairs. The first national holiday celebrated was St. Patrick's Day on March 17, 1810, a day greatly enjoyed by all men, women and children in the colony. Macquarie is also recorded as having celebrated the Anniversary of the Institution of the Colony in 1818 though the 26th January was not proclaimed as a public holiday until 1838.

Soon after his arrival Macquarie made his famous "Progress" and founded the five towns of Wilberforce, Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh and Pitt Town in and around the Hawkesbury-Nepean districts. On his return to Sydney he visited Toongabbie. It was his first visit to the area. Toongabbie was to become one of his selected localities where he had unsuccessfully earmarked land to form part of his expected grant as reward for his services to the colony.

From the time of Macquarie's arrival until later decades the recorded history of Toongabbie becomes sketchy. No more significant records are available, they may not have been very important but would have been of interest to this generation.

Colwell's History of Methodism mentions services at Toongabbie in 1842, so a number of settlers must have been in the district despite the attraction of better agricultural land opening up all over the State.

By 1850 most of the land had been returned to the Government and little was used for successful crops. The returned areas once more became the western sections of the Domain, to be sold again in the 1860s.

CHAPTER TWO

THE CONVICTS RISE . . .

WHEN the natives of the countryside, sometimes with irate blood running through their ancient veins, had watched the Europeans colonising the land, they wondered, in their primitive minds, what exactly the codes and rituals really were which had been introduced to their "Dreamtime Land". Some sixteen summers had gone by since the arrival of the first white men — some in redcoats and most in rags or special attire decorated with stumpy arrows. The aborigines were told they had been made British subjects, but that they could not enjoy the rights of the new settlement's "citizens". Perhaps the natives were better off anyway, at that particular time of 1804.

The aborigines were left to try and understand, the best way they could, what exactly happened on March 4, 1804, between the redcoats and the white men dressed in rags and suits of arrows.

1804 was not a happy year in Europe, but the colony had troubles of its own. The redcoats and convicts were not particularly interested in the "Code Napoleon" which had just been published or the new war between the English and French. The colony's whitemen weren't very interested in the fact that Holland had recovered "her" colony at the Cape of Good Hope in 1803 or that the "big white chief" of Europe, Napoleon, had sold a French settled colony called Louisiana to a new country west of Europe called the United States, but the convicts were interested in the news about their national hero, Robert Emmet, who had organised a new insurrection in Ireland against the occupying English. News of Ireland's latest planned revolt of 1803 had not long reached the ears of the colony's convicts, most of whom sympathised with the long struggles of the Irish, and the Scots, against England's landlords, officials and merchants who had set themselves up against the will of the people. But it so happened a great proportion of the colony's convicts were Irish, and many again had been unjustly clapped in irons and transported from their own native country because they had considered it best to fight for the preservation of their country as they themselves wanted it preserved. Many were transported without proper trials and most arrived without legal papers dealing with their alleged "crimes".

As the summer of 1803-1804 began to decline, in the colony plans began to take effect to overthrow the English officials in New South Wales. The convicts, led by some former Irish freedom fighters, were planning an insurrection, or revolution, of their own in the penal colony.

Minor riots had occurred in the colony, but the free settlers always feared a possibility of a major revolt, in which case the settlers and the "police", consisting of the redcoat soldiers and naval personnel, would be outnumbered by the rising convicts by odds of ten-to-one. It was feared, most of all, that a revolt would surely succeed if the convicts were properly organised along military lines, with whatever weapons they could acquire — stolen muskets, blunderbusses, pistols and even pitchforks. At Toongabbie, for example, there were numerous convicts and not many redcoats or officials. The position was the same at other centres, like Parramatta and Castle Hill.

But the settlers would have no fears of seeing triumphant convicts attempting to occupy the Governor's chair, officers' quarters or the rural mansions of the gentry. The revolt did take place, but the convicts had no real plan to take over the colony if they succeeded and they had no real organisation to carry out their naive plan to flee the penal colony to seek real freedom elsewhere.

The February of 1804 was the convicts' month of planning and underground organising, which was efficient in itself, but weak in long-range proposals and alternative schemes on just what should be undertaken if the original plans collapsed — as they eventually did. An old master underground organiser soon heard of the convicts' plans to revolt.

He was the Catholic convict priest Father J. Dixon, who had not long been given the official right to celebrate Roman Catholic services in the penal settlement. He had been transported to the colony for his underground assistance in the 1798 Irish Revolt, but he became very concerned for the followers of this faith who represented the greater number in the convicts' ranks. He himself was being paid a salary by the Government and he considered it only a matter of time before most, if not all, the convicts would be given tickets - of - leave, whereupon they might settle in the colony, a far better way of life, under the circumstances, than living in a blood-stained Ireland or seeking some fantasy land of freedom.

Father Dixon knew only too well many officials, especially those in London, would blame religion or the Roman Catholic Irish for a revolt in the colony. He begged of the men to reconsider their dream of real freedom which had become an obsession with them by early March of 1804. How unreal it all was, wanting freedom, not in the colony, but elsewhere which they would reach in ships seized at Port Jackson, the key sailing point towards their liberty.

More level-minded convicts also became horrified when the news reached their ears. They included men also caught up in the 1798 Irish Uprising who were not Catholics, but who supported the United Irish Movement of Cause. But claims would be made that the colonial revolt was a religious one, but that was not really so, as we will see.

By 1804 Toongabbie's "farm" had become nothing more than a compound, a holding centre for the remaining convict gangs not accommodated on the estates but housed there at night. The officer class had swallowed up the manpower and little, if any, work was applied to public needs, like road-making.

By this time the Castle Hill convict centre had become an important compound, or holding depot, for the day labouring party gangs. Their ranks were well filled with Irishmen, who were not bent on the idea of becoming Australians, as Father Dixon may have suggested. In fact most wanted to remain free Irishmen, if not in their own country, someplace else, even north in the colony some called China, only some "150 miles of pace", or beyond the Blue Mountains, where they believed there was a "Land of Liberty".

They had agreed to rise, plunder the settlers' homes for arms and supplies and make off to Sydney Town for the ships to carry them to liberty.

The stores throughout the colony, packed with food supplies, would be ransacked. They would arm themselves with the muskets and bayonets stolen from the guards, the settlers' homes and depots. This they did late on Sunday, March 4, 1804, when the convicts rose at the Castle Hill compound.

They were led by Phillip Cunningham, an ex-soldier and stonemason by trade, one well equipped to lead. There were some 200 rebels under his command. After the signal was given the convicts set off on their journey towards freedom. A fire was used to announce the uprising and a house was burnt down to signal out the revolt's message. The men broke into the Castle Hill guardhouse, seized all the arms and ammunition and proceeded along their infamous course of destiny.

Cunningham divided his force into platoons, or small groups, for the purpose of raiding farms in the locality, after which they were to proceed to the old Toongabbie farm for a rally-muster at the hill (Constitution Hill) before sweeping into Parramatta.

One platoon got as far as Frenchman DeClambe's farm and went no further. They seized every available firearm and helped themselves to the succulent foods in the store and cellar. The Frenchman's fine wines ended their immediate plans to reach freedom elsewhere.

The frenzy swept down into the vales and across the hills at farms owned by settlers, including the McDougalls, Smiths, Pearces, Pyes, Suttors and Brownings, where assigned convicts housed at the properties also joined the forces, as did the convicts around Prospect Hill and Seven Hills. As the night went on so did the rebel ranks, down into the fields towards Toongabbie and across the hilly slopes towards Toongabbie Road (Junction Road) to wind down to Hawkesbury Road and along Toongabbie Creek, through the old farm area and compound they knew so well.

Meanwhile, after the first house was burnt down, a watchman and several "trusties" raced off through the hills down toward Parramatta via the Darling Mills Creek. Earlier, one courier from Castle Hill had heard of the proposed uprising and informed redcoat officers at Parramatta on the Sunday morning, but his information was not taken seriously. But panic among the officials developed!

Captain Edward Abbott, the Rum Corps Commandant at Parramatta, called a general

alarm. The telegraph of this period — the colony's semaphore poles erected on high hills from Parramatta to Sydney Town — could not be used because it was dark. A courier was then despatched on the finest galloper in the barracks' stables to take Governor King the urgent message, which the Governor received at Government House, Sydney Town, soon after 11.30 p.m.

Acting promptly, King ordered out the main body of the Rum Corps to join the garrison personnel at Parramatta who were, at that late hour, carrying out protection warning manoeuvres and informing civil servants, innkeepers and the gentry to prepare for trouble. The Loyal Parramatta Association (Citizens Corps) was rallied to "fight the on-coming herd of Irish convicts".

Among the first to decide not to fight but to flee Parramatta was Rev. Marsden, who escaped in a rowing boat tied up at the foot of Elizabeth Farm House. Mrs. Macarthur and several others joined him to take shelter in Sydney. The clergyman refused any sculling assistance offered him by former convicts engaged in his enterprise or on Elizabeth Farm.

Cunningham was winning the "battle" which had not really started, because he had acquired armaments consisting of 136 muskets, 14 pistols, 136 bayonets, scores of swords, poles with pick ends and pitchforks and "side arms" consisting of a good assortment of handcuffs and chains to "clap the official dogs in to see how they would be liking them for a change".

Cunningham was aided by two field captains, Johnston, with 50-odd men and Hume with some 70, whose positions were not known late on Sunday night because of the lack of proper communications and pre-planned intelligence. Cunningham's chief-of-staff aides had begun to express concern at Toongabbie's lookout station, off Toongabbie Road (Junction Road), near where Lanham's Road is now, at the Mont Pellier Winery because the forces of rebel Hume and Johnston could not be seen. By this time Cunningham's Army had grown to nearly 400 well-armed men and the two remaining forces were needed to swell the ranks to perhaps 500. The rebel army numbered far in excess of the Government army of redcoats and volunteers, who had been swelled by the men and marines from the warship "Calcutta" then in Port Jackson.

While Cunningham and his captains were completing their final plans to pass through Parramatta, raise the flag, deal with Marsden and proceed to Sydney Town to seize the ships Governor King proclaimed Martial Law. The Governor himself had decided to gallop off to Parramatta, alone, as the remaining soldiers and armed civilians were posted around the coastal settlement at strategic points in case the Government forces failed to check the on-coming rebels' army.

The Rum Corps company proceeded on foot, joined on the way later by Major George Johnston, and arrived at Parramatta soon after 5 a.m. on Monday, March 5. The troops had been given a quick meal and battle orders were about to be given.

By dawn Cunningham's two flanking raiding parties had reached the outer western zone of Seven Hills, near where Blacktown is now located, but it was too late to rally down into Parramatta from Toongabbie's hill, where the leader had mustered his main army. He had positioned a smaller force further north. Their mission was to have entered into Parramatta across the upper reach of Parramatta River near where Toongabbie and Darling Mills Creeks almost meet. They were to "rid of the torturing keepers" at the colony's principal concentration camp, the unholy Parramatta Gaol, or "Torture Green" as the settlers called it, on the existing site of Parramatta's Prince Alfred Park Square. The gaol's inmates would be freed and those too weak or tortured to walk would be carried to freedom.

But the mission could not be carried out. Firstly, because the skilful Capt. Abbott had at once posted a strong battery of expert infantrymen inside the gaol who held excellent positions from the upper floor and behind the high walls where they would surely cut down every rebel who would dare race across the open fields surrounding the camp to approach the gaol, and secondly, because Cunningham's plan to rally down into Parramatta from the south through the Domain at Toongabbie did not eventuate. The rally down had been planned for before dawn and a fire from the hill at Toongabbie was to have been the signal for the "gaol mission" force. Perhaps this particular mission may have succeeded in the dark, before dawn, but this was not to be. When the Humes and Johnston pocket-armies failed to reach Toongabbie before dawn, Cunningham knew he would not have sufficient

troops to invade and temporarily occupy Parramatta successfully.

Major Johnston's scouts, a small band of horsemen who were the first to have breakfast of slices of sugar-cured ham and boiled eggs supplied by Mrs. Macarthur's house servants at Elizabeth Farm that morning, had already gathered valuable intelligence for the Government's "field headquarters" at Government House, in Parramatta's Domain. The scouts had "spotted" the "swingeing" rebels positioned on the eastern sections of the hills beyond the Domain on Constitution Hill.

"Prepare for engagement" was the order given and the redcoat troops mustered for chase, there being nearly 80 Government soldiers, the greater part of the Corp's strength. They were supported by the armed seamen and volunteers, the merchants, civil servants and some free settlers from Parramatta, providing a Government force of approximately 145 men.

How tired were the troops? They had left Sydney Town by foot about 1 a.m., and after breakfasting had assembled in the Domain by 6 a.m. They had covered their 15-mile journey in some three-and-a-half hours. But most of the convicts had been on their feet, often running during their raiding activities, since about 8 o'clock the previous night. Both forces were tired.

During the Martial Law turmoil Father Dixon was ordered to accompany the Government troops as a needed liaison, General Joseph Holt (a Protestant) was summoned from his Master's farm to "appear and explain", and James Meehan, the surveyor who took over the office from Grimes, was requested to "disclose sundry intelligence". The "religious" implications developed early.

Cunningham had no alternative but to retreat westwards when the forces of Hume, and his colleague Johnston, moved eastward towards Toongabbie. It would be better to centralise the whole rebel army and parry as one major force against the Government army.

Cunningham's pocket wing which had been detailed to free the gaol was the first to take flight when redcoats, under the command of Lieutenant Davis, swept across the north-western locality of the Domain. Rebel commander Charles Hill ordered his men to retreat westward, back toward Toongabbie Road where the men might link up with Cunningham's main force again.

Major Johnston at once ordered a large detachment to proceed to Castle Hill, after leaving the Hawkesbury Road at Toongabbie. The main force, with Father Dixon as "hostage", then moved westward through the Domain towards Toongabbie's hill, which Cunningham by this time had vacated.

Lt. Davis and his men linked up the Castle Hill detachment on the far north-west side of Toongabbie Creek near what is known as Hollywood, west of Model Farms. There were no proper roads in the area, but the settlers' farms provided good tracks and private lanes.

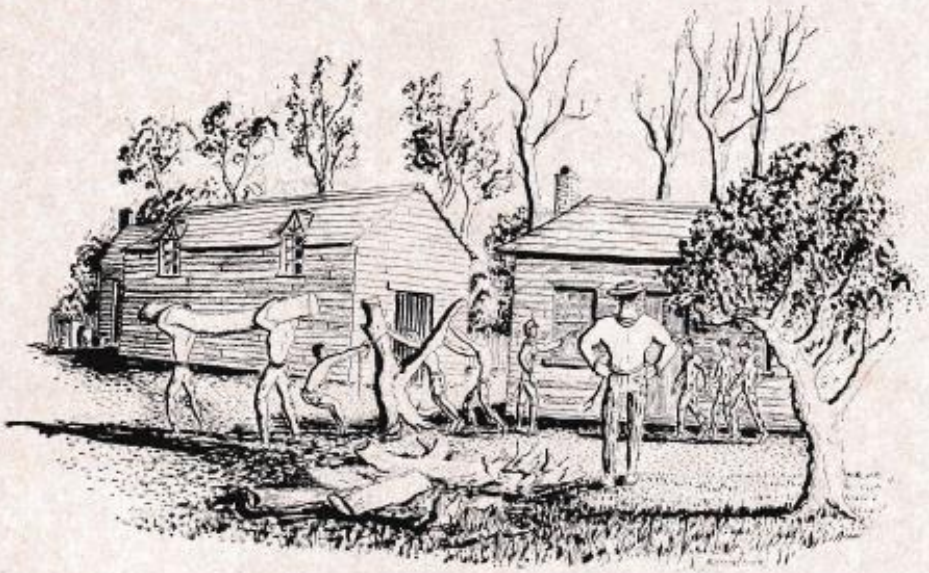
Some of the men in the straggling Humes' wing were among the first to be encountered, in the southern Seven Hills locality, but their number was small, no shots were fired and the men were "arrested".

However, Major Johnston's main army, their pace described as running, was brought to a "breather" at a spot then called "Swan Creek", not far from the present White Hart on the Windsor (new) Road, some miles east of Vinegar Hill (Rouse Hill). Major Johnston's scouts had returned to supply the intelligence that Cunningham's army was located "only some 4,000 paces west". This was soon after 10.30 a.m.

Major Johnston had earlier sent out a second flank from Toongabbie, to follow the high grounds in the southern direction of the road to Hawkesbury, where Humes' stragglers had been caught. The Major's main flank was returning from Castle Hill after scouts of that flank, under Lt. Davis, found the compound deserted.

Both flanks and the Major's main force were being joined by more settlers, without arms, because the convicts had stolen them the previous night. While Major Johnston prepared to race forward for the expected first volley-fire, Lt. Davis ordered a search of the unlicensed "Nowhere Here" Inn, on the track leading from Castle Hill to the Hawkesbury Road (at about a point where Kelly later established a licensed inn he named "Birds in Hand"). The "Nowhere Here" was a known haunt of Irish rebels and their aides, sympathisers and colleagues, including General Holt, Meehan and Rev. Dixon. Needless to say the inn, a mere cabin built from gum logs, was deserted.

Major Johnston's principal field officer was Quartermaster Laycock who carefully manoeuvred the troops into position for



"Toongabbie's 'Concentration Camp'"

Convicts engaged to work at Toongabbie's convict compound, or holding centre. The farm, by 1806, also became the Cumberland District's principal convict depot for gangs who were assigned out to work on large properties, including privately-owned estates. Most convicts were called "croppies". A croppy was an Irish rebel and a cropper was a person engaged on rural production, usually attending to grain production. "Croppies" was the common name given to all convicts.

action as the Government army moved across the fields and along the road toward Vinegar Hill.

It was almost 11 a.m., Monday, March 5, 1804. Major Johnston, thinking quickly, requested Father Dixon and a trooper, all mounted to proceed before the Government troops as a three-man armistice mission. As the three rode off the Major told the trooper to keep his hands away from his pistol, but to remain alert and to act if required, on the Major's order. Laycock ordered the Rum Corps personnel to "keep aim from the squat" in case the rebel army opened fire on the mission, or the Government army itself.

Major Johnston was not one to trust any of the convicts in the state they were—gripped with the obsession of revolution — and he ordered the priest and his trooper to remain mounted, indicating if they dismounted and went into the mob they could well be killed, thus creating a moral victory for the rebel army who would remain to see the Government forces without their leader. The Major refused to bargain with the rebels inside their ranks and the officer displayed his courage by venturing near the hundreds of men armed as they were.

"Once I enter your ranks you could enclose upon me and shoot me down with a pistol," the Major explained.

"Blood won't be spilt, Major, because we would be wanting our freedom to leave the colony without killing," called one of the rebels.

"We have been spirited enough to come among you to talk, and surely your captains can leave their ranks to come apart to speak with me alone," the Major replied.

The two rebel leaders, Cunningham and Johnston, left the ranks of the convicts and walked towards Major Johnston, his trooper and Father Dixon.

The following is Major Johnston's own account of the incident:

> "I immediately rode forward, attended by a trooper and Mr. Dixon, the Roman Catholic priest, calling them to halt that I wished to speak to them. They desired that I would come into the middle of them as their captains were there, which I refused,

observing to them that I was within pistol shot and that it was in their power to kill me, and that their captains must have very little spirit if they would not come forward to speak to me, upon which two persons (Cunningham and Johnston) advanced towards me as their leaders, to whom I represented the impropriety of their conduct, and advised them to surrender, and that I would mention them in favourable terms as possible to the Governor. Cunningham replied that they would have 'Death or Liberty'. Quartermaster Laycock with the detachment appeared in sight. I clapped my pistol at Johnston's head while the trooper did the same to Cunningham and drove them with their swords in their hands to the Quartermaster and the detachment, whom I ordered to advance and charge the main body of rebels then formed in a line. The detachment immediately commenced a well directed fire which was weakly returned, for the rebel line being soon broken they ran in all directions."

Major Johnston had succeeded in winning a moral victory by depriving the rebels of their principal leaders before the crisp grass growing across the folds of Vinegar Hill became stained with the blood of men who had planned to fight for the things they believed in.

The panic-stricken rebel forces broke under the swift onslaught which followed. The Government troops, well trained and schooled, rallied to take their first orders to fire. The first volley echoed a shattering blast across the countryside, which was heard in the distance by advancing troops in the southern locality led by Lieutenant Brabyn and the on-coming troops under the command of Lt. Davis.

The fire returned from the convicts' central force at the foot of the hill (just east of where the Rouse Hill Public School stands) failed to halt the advancing redcoat army. Major Johnston then ordered two flanks out on wide ground to suppress the rebel army from the north and south. He also sent a courier back to Government House, Parramatta, shortly before midday with a message: "Rebellious convicts encountered at distant hill without loss to Government personnel late this morning. Principal captains, Johnston and Cunningham now captives. Laycock commanding advancing troops to pursuit in westerly direction approaching Greens Hills whence the river will cause the convicts to be held for engagement. Dispatch to follow."

The unnerved Father Dixon watched rearguards "handcuff the beset Masters Cunningham and Johnston by the Hawkesbury track where some private settlers had assembled wood for the provision of preparing tea" while the battle went on. According to Hugh Kelly (the scribe upon whose memoirs we have depended for much of this chapter), some refreshment was given to the mortally wounded Daniels who fell in the sight of the priest who could not be prevented from falling to his knees in weeping sorrow.

The dead and wounded rebels littered the hill's crest and a trail of blood was to stretch out from the infamous spot to the banks of the Hawkesbury River and in the vales beyond where Riverstone and Pitt Town now are.

Nearly 30 men lost their lives, either in battle or as a result in their unsuccessful claim for freedom, in Australia's first fatal struggle between authorities and men who had reached the country either as proposed citizens or against their will as transportees.

Major Johnston reorganised his forces after the Vinegar Hill battle, which lasted only some ten minutes. The troops pursued the fleeing bands of convicts toward the river, firing shots at their backs, which developed into some kind of sporting hunt for many of the Corps' former convict troopers.

Martial Law was not lifted until March 10. Between Monday, the day of the Vinegar Hill battle, to Friday, the dead were buried in unnamed graves, the wounded were given aid (some had been patched up to stand trial only to be flogged) and hundreds were captured. When the men found they were without proper leadership or unity after the battle many surrendered, deciding against fighting it out with the Government troops. But there were several well-conducted pocket battles where many of the more spirited rebels provided strong encounters for the troops. By Friday the greater number of the rebels, numbering some 300, had been accounted for, but many successfully escaped to enjoy their St. Patrick's day on March 17, 1804, not at sea on ships sailing them to freedom somewhere, but in secret, in then isolated new settlements beyond the Hawkesbury, where they were given shelter.

Some of these remained to settle, unofficially, and form a new free society. It is from some of the descendants of these unexpected "freed" men that we owe our knowledge of the experiences encountered on that strange day of adventure in March, 1804.

The witch hunt that followed produced deep psychological repercussions which echoed down through the minds of generations of Australians to the present time.

The Corps' troops and especially Major Johnston were tendered the wholehearted approval of the anti-convict element, which can be understood, but some shocking developments transpired. Five leaders were given between 200 and 500 lashes, and 30 "associated leaders" were sent into the dreaded coal mines around Newcastle. The principals were all quickly put to death. They were hanged without flogging.

The hangings greatly disturbed many people, especially the Quakers living in Parramatta (Church Street, where most resided, was known as Quaker's Row) who, together with many other liberal-minded settlers, claimed although the convicts had done wrong, they had not killed anyone, and it would be better to "put them to work, productively, for the rest of their lives". The convicts had not in fact murdered and plundered the settlers as the original rumours had indicated. True, they had stolen firearms and in their "madness" they had burnt down some structures, but they had not "wrecked the homes of the settlers" as some had claimed.

Some kind of justice was provided for many of the men, hundreds in fact, when many free settlers themselves came forward and said they were prepared to "have their Government men back, in spite of what they did". This somewhat embarrassed people like Mr. Marsden who considered it better to "lash them all".

The officials introduced irony to accompany the capital charges found against the leaders. Charles Hill, who was bent on freeing the inmates at Parramatta, was sent there, together with his colleagues Humes and John Place, to be hanged. "Captain" Johnston, who had been a responsible planner for encouraging the revolt at Castle Hill, was taken with his associates Harrigan and Neale, to say farewell to the "Nowhere Here Inn", a centre of much Irish intrigue and underground planning, before saying "farewell to this mortal life". The three "Castle Hill schemers" were hanged at Castle Hill. Brannon and Hogan, the "masterminds behind the scheme to seize His Majesty's ships at Port Jackson" were hanged in Sydney Town. Cunningham, the leader, was taken to be hanged from the stairway of the public store at Green Hills (Windsor). The store was considered the principal Government storehouse in the settlement and the Government stores were among the principal concerns of the leaders who boasted the "foods produced by the sweat of the men" would be "returned" to them.

With the gallows providing the deaths of the 12 principal convict rebels, 30 others in the mines and Holt cast in the dungeons of Norfolk Island, the Governor again turned his attention to Father Dixon. Only four days before the Vinegar Hill Battle, King had, on March 1, reported that the priest provided no trouble since granting him a conditional pardon in 1803 (Dixon was not allowed to leave the colony) and there was not "the most distant cause for complaint", the Governor wrote. When the Pope heard of the priest's work as a "free man" in the colony, Father Dixon was appointed Prefect Apostolic of New Holland. But King, the Governor responsible for originally recognising the Roman Catholic Church in Australia, had to withdraw that recognition.

Rev. H. Fulton, an Anglican minister, who had allied himself in the peoples' cause in Ireland to gain their freedom from England in the 1798 uprising, had been transported and although he had no connection in any fashion with the Catholic Church he fought for the "proper rights of the Irish people". Rev. Fulton was permitted to carry out the duties of his Church, like Father Dixon, but at the time of the revolt he was serving at Norfolk Island. On his return to New South Wales some time after the "convicts' trial" he expressed his deep concern for what had happened. James Meehan, another transported intellectual "mixed up in the Irish Rebellion of 1798", was wrongly accused of having helped the convicts organise their 1804 revolt, which he had not, but nevertheless sympathised with the convicts. But Meehan, unlike his convict-fellows, had been provided with an excellent education and he had been placed in a good post in the colony as assistant to Surveyor-General Grimes.

But the witch-hunt's principal figure was the masterful General Holt himself, the skilled guerrilla leader in Ireland, perhaps the colony's most powerful political prisoner. Soon after his arrival in New South Wales he had been arrested in September, 1800, on suspicion of being a plotter against the colonial authorities. His plans to overthrow the Macarthur-headed

clique with the aid of the convicts was not a plan for "freedom elsewhere", but the establishment of an Australian republic, unlike the clique's plan to "take over" the colony under a military class dictatorship. Holt's plans were too well kept for the colonial authorities to acquire proper evidence against him, and although Holt openly claimed he was a political exile rather than a convict, no action could be taken against him.

But when the 1804 revolt broke out redcoats summoned him from his house on William Cox's farm, at Brush Farm, near Parramatta, where Holt was engaged as manager. Holt knew only too well about the proposed convict rebellion but the only reason why the general refused to continue his association with the movement was because of differences over "political policies". Father Dixon, perhaps, supported the plan in principle, if the men insisted on their uprising, as they had, but the priest would not agree with bloodshed. Holt, on the other hand, had originally encouraged the uprising but finally disassociated himself with the movement when Cunningham insisted on "winning liberty in the colony and sailing away". Holt said the plan was a "lot of childish nonsense" and because his own plans to establish a "republic" would not be entertained by the majority of the convicts, all loyal to Cunningham's views. Holt completely isolated himself from the movement — but he held some kind of unreal malice against Cunningham.

Holt's master, Cox, was the Rum Corps' pay-officer, a captain, a position and an office Holt himself was using for his own ends. Holt then "put in" the ringleaders, Cunningham and Humes. Lieut. Cox was shocked, to say the least, when Holt explained the details of the convicts' plan to find "freedom elsewhere".

During the witch-hunt many of Cunningham's supporters openly accused Holt of being the principal conspirator, which rebounded back on the Irish general. His informers were numerous, succeeding in their own countermalice. Governor King at once ordered Holt to be removed to the gaols of Norfolk Island, that was in April, 1804, and it appeared to the Governor the worst of the rebellious elements in the colony had at last been dealt with. But little did he know that two years after Holt's return, in 1806, the curtain would rise on the colony's most successful rebellion— the Macarthur-sponsored acquisition of the Governor's power which would be then occupied by Governor William Bligh.

After the rebellion, and after the convict trials were held, King had to submit to the colonial witch-hunters who claimed Father Dixon had been "chairman" at Sunday meetings where, instead of the Word of God being given, Dixon passed on the words of the Irish rebels.

The priest's salary of £60 a year was withdrawn and he was forbidden to conduct services. But during the following four years until he was allowed to return to Ireland Father Dixon did in fact secretly perform Church rites and conducted services at Parramatta and remote settlements beyond Richmond Hill, along the MacDonald River and in Sydney Town.

King had considered the "religious" turmoil had been put down and the convicts had been "put in their places". From a Government point of view this was so, but a large section of the population retained bitter memories which were handed down for generations. King thought it better to free Holt also, which he did. Father Dixon and Holt met on several occasions after Holt's return to New South Wales in 1806. Before leaving the colony Father Dixon suggested it would be better for the general to "forget all about these ungodly plans", which Holt did.

Three years later Holt was granted a pardon by his former secret enemies, the Rum Corps officers. Holt found the convict class successfully broken up in small groups scattered throughout the whole country, working on private farms, most of which were controlled by the officials. There were no large concentrations of convicts in compounds and any plans Holt may have had to organise them would not succeed. The Rum Rebellion had just exploded and Governor Bligh had been cast from his chair by the Macarthur clique. Holt was forced to remain in the colony to witness the introduction of genuine justice and true liberal administration which shattered the hopes and dreams of men bent on gaining power, overthrowing authority and practising exploitation.

Lachlan Macquarie had arrived.

CHAPTER THREE

THE COMING OF THE WORD

FROM the very beginning of the settlement in Toongabbie church services were held, not in any sort of church building though this came reasonably soon. Before 1800 there was a large Government hut in use as a church. The first services were preached by the Rev. Richard Johnson, who travelled from Sydney by boat, stayed overnight in Parramatta, and rode horseback or walked to speak to the convicts at Toongabbie in the early hours of Sunday morning. Just where the services were held is not known; perhaps on the slopes of Constitution Hill in the cold of winter to catch the sunlight and probably in the shade of the trees along the creek in the heat of summer. For the Rev. Johnson was a considerate man and had interest in the men and women in the convict settlements. He liked to visit them and wrote to a friend, "I declare to you, I have found more pleasure at times in doing this than in preaching."

Mr Johnson was appointed as chaplain to the First Fleet before it left England, at a salary of £182 per annum. His life in the colony was a busy one, and sensing the need for the sanctuary of a church he endeavoured to have one built especially for services, finally paying to have one built (the money was refunded). Unfortunately it was destroyed by fire after only five years of use. (It is remembered and illustrated in the memorial at the corner of Bligh and Hunter Streets, Sydney.) As well as ministering to the community Mr. Johnson was active in seeing that the children of the early days received some kind of education, and is reported as having been tutor to children at Sydney Town and Parramatta. He was also greatly interested in farming and is reputed as having considerable agricultural knowledge, so his visits around the farming districts were of benefit to everyone, both spiritually and materially.

Rev. Johnson spent twelve years in the colony and was joined by other men, Missionaries Crook and Burder and the noted Rowland Hassall, who helped with the Toongabbie work. Rev. Samuel Marsden was sent from England, arriving in 1794, and taking over most of the work at Parramatta. Perhaps he, too, made an occasional visit to the convicts at Toongabbie in his official capacity.

It was Rev. Marsden who opened the first Parramatta church, a humble log cabin built near the corner of George and Marsden Streets. This church was erected near the outside of the infamous public stocks where unfortunate convicts were placed as punishment for breaking of regulations. It is said that only about a dozen hearers assembled to hear the first service and disappointment at this poor attendance was recorded by Rowland Hassall.

Early attendances at Toongabbie are recorded as 600, which meant that all convicts attended the services. As time passed and the Second and Third Fleets brought more and more convicts to N.S.W., the different faiths of the people would have affected the number at services and compulsory church attendances proved embarrassing.

On April 22, 1800, Rowland Hassall wrote to the London Missionary Society:

> "The district of Toongabbie is a King's Settlement where most of the unruly prisoners are kept to hard labour. In this place we have a large Government hut for the worship of God. The congregation is unsettled, so that we have always new hearers of one kind or another, there being in general about 100. Until the departure of Mr. C———— for England there was preaching in both places each Lord's Day in both districts. (Now once a fortnight.)" . . . (Mr. C is thought to be Mr Crook).

Rowland Hassall was one of a band of 30 missionaries sent by The London Missionary Society to Tahiti in 1796. Many of them were forced to flee when the natives became hostile, and they arrived in Sydney in May, 1798, in the ship "Duff". William Shelley, James Elder

and Francis Oakes were others in the group, and these men all settled in Parramatta. Rowland Hassall, then aged 27, was a skilled man and his principal profession was Indian weaving. He continued his work as a missionary and the first Wesleyan Methodist services were held in his home. He opened one of the earliest stores in Parramatta, in George Street, where he also commenced Sunday school classes.

In 1800 Hassall was appointed in charge of the granary at Parramatta and Toongabbie, but after two years lost this position as the work was unsuitable for him. Apparently he failed to detect forged signatures on orders for grain, but his personal integrity was not doubted.

He continued to do valuable work as a preacher at Toongabbie, Kissing Point, Castle Hill and the Hawkesbury district. Writing to the Rev. Burder on August 8, 1801, he said:

> "The schoolroom at Kissing Point is very comfortable, but that at Toongabbie is very bad, having no floor, walls, windows or shutters; and at this time of the year the hearers tremble with cold, which takes their attention from the word; but I have not in my power to make any alterations at present."

Hassall lived for about twenty years in Parramatta and was buried in St. John's Cemetery in 1820.

Missionary Cook reported that fortnightly services were still being held at Toongabbie in 1804, though by this time the Government Farm was no longer operating.

Toongabbie can claim to have held the first Presbyterian services in Australia when several Scottish families settled in the district in 1802. By 1803 other families had arrived and taken up residence on the Hawkesbury River near Portland Head. They used to meet for worship, often in the open. It was 1809 before the first church was built in Ebenezer, under the guidance of James Mein.

However, as early as April 26, 1798, James Cover conducted services according to the forms of the Independent Church at Parramatta, and soon after 1800 there were strong movements throughout the colony to demand the provision of ministers representing the different faiths of the congregations. The new settlement had been functioning for fifteen years before Catholics were able to attend their own services. Two priests had applied to join the First Fleet but were not accepted though they were willing to pay their own expenses.

However, when Father James Dixon was deported from England to arrive in Sydney in 1803 it became possible for the position to be altered. Allowed to exercise his priestly function, the first Mass was officially celebrated on 15th May, 1803. Father Dixon, a convict, had been transported for his underground activities in aiding the Irish people in their rebellion against the English in 1798.

After the Castle Hill uprising in 1804, which was a revolt of mostly Irish prisoners, the privileges of the Catholic faith were withdrawn though most people did not feel that the rising was religiously inspired. There was no further official allowance of gatherings of the faith until 1817 when a Catholic priest came unofficially into the colony. The priest, Father Jeremiah O'Flynn, was allowed to remain in the colony by Governor Macquarie, pending the arrival of his official credentials. He was able to move around the colony to perform marriages, celebrate Mass, baptise people — both children and adults — and generally take spiritual comfort to the colonial flock at remote centres like St. Albans, Windsor, Richmond and, of course, Parramatta and Toongabbie.

By May of 1818 no credentials had arrived and Father O'Flynn was arrested and deported. As he had left England without the sanction of the British Government (in our day, without a passport) this deportation was a natural action, but the return to England by the priest created a vigorous outcry both in and out of the House of Commons regarding the religious intolerance shown toward Catholic convicts. As a result, in May of 1820 two officially recognised Catholic missionaries arrived in N.S.W., Fathers John Joseph Therry and Phillip Conolly.

By 1824 schools had been established in Sydney and Parramatta and they no doubt catered for all Catholic children in their areas. Regular services were being held in Parramatta in the loft above the old convict gaol in the "Torture Green", now the site of Prince Alfred Park. It was not till the 1830s that the first church was completed.

Of special interest is this heart-warming story from Mr. John Cuff (formerly of Parra-

Old Toongabbie Methodist Church
Built on an historic piece of land, the site of the first denominational church at Toongabbie.

matta) whose grandfather was employed by Matthew Woodward Pearce on the Pearce estates at Seven Hills about that time (1830s): "My grandfather and grandmother were quite young when they worked as hired hands for the Pearces, and Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, before they had their own chapel, drove my grandparents and other helpers on the farms, to Parramatta each Sunday in their family carriage. Mr. and Mrs. Pearce worshipped at the Anglican St. John's Church, but my grandparents were Catholics and the other helpers were members of other churches, who all went off to their own chapels around the town, to be met again by Mr. Pearce at four o'clock because everyone, after attending their churches, would picnic or visit relations and friends around the town for the remaining hours of the day." Mr. Cuff was an aged man when he recorded this some years ago; this is how things were in the Seven Hills-Toongabbie locality before residents were provided with their own chapels.

As the years rolled by the Toongabbie area gained people whose churches were perhaps unknown to the older residents, but always they were given respect and understanding, as they are to this day. Members of churches from the Ukraine and Greece, from countries in old Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, have come to build up the population of one of Australia's oldest settlements, to bring in new ideas and thoughts and link them with those already established.

Not so far from Toongabbie, at Wentworthville, there is an historic stone church standing as a fine memorial to the colony. It is the treasured possession of the Presbyterians —

Wentworthville's St. Andrews, built from a design by the famous architect and bridge builder David Lennox. It once graced the charm of noiseless Church Street, Parramatta, on the present site of the Commonwealth Bank, where it stood in days before the Gold Rush. In 1925 when the site was sold to the Bank, the church was removed, stone by stone, to its present site in Wentworthville. When it stood in Parramatta the Toongabbie members of that church worshipped there and no doubt many of them still do.

The farm population of the Toongabbie parish depended on the travelling ministers and missionaries for their early services and this continued for many years, even after the settlement became community-minded and had post office and school established. It was the custom for these men to travel by horseback, or, if they were a little richer, by carriage, to visit their flocks, sometimes helping with the tutoring of the children as well as administering to the spiritual needs of their congregations. Among these "saddleback pastors" were Rev. Walter Lawry, the Methodist minister, Rev. H. H. Bobart, the Anglican, Rev. T. Dove, the Presbyterian, Dr. Quaife, the Congregational minister, Mr. J. Morgan, the Baptist, and Father D. Power, the Roman Catholic priest.

The history of the work of the churches has a blank period, but it was recorded in the minutes of the Parramatta Primitive Methodist meetings of 1842 that preaching was taking place at Toongabbie.

James Colwell in his History of Methodism quotes, "Preaching has been established" said Mr. McKenny in 1842, "at Castle Hills, Toongabbie and Dural." How strong the following was has not been recorded.

The next reference to Toongabbie in the Parramatta minutes reads, "It was stated that services were to be held at Toongabbie, December, 1865." There was a Sunday school in 1866. It is thought that these services were held in the home of William Johnston.

The Primitive Methodist Church was well established in Parramatta in 1870 when a church was erected in Macquarie Street; built by Mr. C. Coates for £700, it was in charge of the Rev. H. Dash. It was from this church that the first move to build a church at Toongabbie was made.

On May 16, 1878, George Oakes transferred portion of his property, part of the old Government Domain, originally acquired by George Woodcock, to "the connexions of the Primitive Methodist faith (thereafter called the trustees) for the sum of ten shillings". Two closely-written sheets comprise the indenture (No. 328 in Book 180) giving instructions in detail of the disposal and future of the property, including a twelve months time limit in the erection of church and school, or the land to revert to the original owner. (A copy of this may be seen at the present Toongabbie Methodist Church.)

The trustees were Moses Roulston, a grocer of Parramatta, Henry Somerville, a shoemaker, and John Sutton, a collector, both of Parramatta. Local residents were Thomas Richeus, farmer, and William Johnston and George Hammer, fruitgrowers. The witnesses for the transaction were Toongabbie residents Katherine Hammer and Phyllis Hammer; John Dundas of Sydney, Jaber Ashmead and Betty Sutton of Parramatta.

Work obviously commenced quickly as Sunday School records show that Sunday School began in January of 1879, and it was likely that Christmas services were held in the church in December of 1878.

First children in the Sunday school were divided into three classes, teachers being T. R. Crutcher, William Johnston and Mrs. C. Jarvis. Children in class 1 were Sabina Klippert, Eleanor Birk, David Johnston, Catherine Hammer, Emily Jarvis, Mary Denzel and Rebecca Jarvis. Class 2: William Johnston, Elizabeth Johnston, Isabella Johnston, Louisia Birk and Steven Jarvis. Class 3: Henry Martin, Henry Johnston, Annie Martin, Lucy Martin, Catherine Klippert, Catherine Denzel and William Martin.

However, it was November, 1885, before an application was made to the Education Department to have schooling in the chapel, pending the erection of a school. The application was signed by Peter Bohringer, Henry Birk, George Hammer, James Smith and S. R. Watkins, with Messrs. Hammer and Bohringer being mentioned as Methodists.

Schooling began in the chapel, a weatherboard building 26ft. by 16ft. by 11ft. and valued at £200, on May 3, 1886. Rental paid by the Education Department to the Church Trustees was £9 yearly.

The following names are registered in the Methodist Sunday School Roll for May, 1886,

and with the addition of the Tyrer children would undoubtedly be the same children enrolling as the first pupils of the Toongabbie Public School: Alice Rosa Smith, Emma Smith, Sarah Ann Johnston, Catherine Hammer, Alice Watkins, Nellie Nutter, Fred Gates, George Gates, James Smith, Alfred Bohringer, Joseph Nutter, Jacob Bohringer, Henry Johnston, George Hammer, Henry Bohringer, Eddy Watkins, Francis Johnston, Daisy Barnett, Alexander Johnson, Susan Johnson, Bessie Johnson, Martha Johnson, Arthur John Barnett, May Johnson. The children were transferred from the chapel in what is now Old Windsor Road to the new school in Binalong Road on 24th February, 1887.

This little church was the centre of religious and social life until St. Mary's Anglican Church was built in 1889. Most of the children then attended both Sunday schools and very many happy and lasting friendships were made as a result. At the back of the Methodist chapel a bushhouse was built so that "eating out" was a feature of the many social gatherings.

The Methodist Churches, Primitive, Wesleyan and Free were united in Australia in 1902.

Early Methodist services were conducted by Rev. P. J. Stephen, in 1889, and he was assisted by Mr. David Johnston and Mr. J. Stringfellow. When the new brick church was provided in 1926 to replace the original timber chapel, Mr. Stringfellow was still a lay preacher at Toongabbie. The foundation stone for the new church was laid on October 26, 1926, by Rev. P. H. Slade, and the last service conducted in the old structure on 26th December was a sad one for many residents. Propped up with large timber poles to keep it there for the last service, conducted by Rev. R. J. Murray, everyone in the area came to bid it farewell.

The new church was opened on Saturday, January 8, 1927, by the President of the Conference, Rev. Geo. Hewitt. Seven ladies and gentlemen who attended the opening of the original chapel in 1878 were welcomed as special guests at this new dedication. Also welcomed was the builder, Mr. J. C. Page. Preachers in 1926 included Rev. R. J. Murray and Messrs. A. Boot, Dyer, P. James, A. P. Jones, R. Battenham, P. M. Macauley and J. Stringfellow. Services were held at 3 p.m. with an occasional special service at 11 a.m. from the beginning of the life of the church until 1963 when the change from rural to suburban living brought about a change in community requirements.

Anglican services were held in the home of Mr. T. Willmot of Toongabbie toward the end of 1888, the curates being Revs. Tait and D. Irvine. Sunday school activities also commenced at that time and the first teachers were the Misses B. Jarvis and Taylor. Later a large area of land, one and a half acres, was purchased from Mr. Fitzwilliam Wentworth for the purpose of erecting a C. of E. Chapel.

We hear from the Rev. F. Buchanan (local minister, 1960-64, who has been transferred) that the C. of E. seen so often on Anglican Churches originally stood for Chapel of Ease, so called to provide ease of worship for the members. As many people walked to services, often many miles, churches were built within a reasonable radius of the homes of the greatest number of members. As time went by the C. of E. became Church of England, a natural enough term applied as it was to the church of the English people.

Plans went ahead rapidly, and on Easter Monday, 1889, the Primate Bishop Barry, assisted by Archdeacon Gunther from Parramatta, laid the foundation stone of St. Mary's C. of E., Toongabbie. This was the last function performed by the Bishop prior to his departure for England and the occasion was a happy one for the many folk who came to see him. Contributions laid on the stone amounted to £54/16/1½ (the latter half-penny from a little fellow in knickerbockers). At the conclusion of the service, an afternoon one, everyone was driven in carriages as befitted the formality of the day to a picnic on Dorothy Mount.

Formality disappeared as all present, including the Bishop and Archdeacon, joined in pleasant games of the day. Skittles, rounders, Aunt Sally, bow and arrow shooting passed the time until the sumptuous tea was served by the ladies. Mesdames Willmot, Baker, Birk, Tyrer, Malcolm, Tremaine and the Misses Jarvis, Tyrer and Noakes produced baskets packed with their culinary skills. Roast ducks full of spiced apples, fillets of cold chicken seasoned with savoury creamed cheese and wrapped in lettuce leaves, slices of pickled pork wrapped around carrots cooked in fresh

grape juice, pumpkin scones with whipped cream, buttered billy bread, luscious cakes, refreshing lime and blackberry cordials; any and all of these could have been on the menu for that celebration tea.

Newspapers of the day were full of praise for the occasion, ably organised by Messrs. Willmot and Taylor. Mr. John Taylor owned portion of Dorothy Mount at that time and our reporter was lyrical in his praise of the view from the hill, "indeed a more pleasant panorama than the one presented to the eye from the summit of this charming eminence it would be difficult to find. In the distance South Head Lighthouse; nearer, Sydney and Randwick, and the south coast-line; closer still. Mortlake and other prominent points on the Parramatta River; while at one's feet, so to speak, lie Granville and Parramatta. Undulating hills to the left and rear—", and so on.

The bells rang out from the completed church on a cold day in July, 1889, calling all local residents to participate in the opening ceremony, and this they did, for Toongabbie was a united community, ready always to share success and failure together, and this was a day to share the joy of two well-established churches.

The new church, on the corner of Binalong and Burrabogie Roads, 45ft. by 25ft. with the chancel 10ft. by 9ft. and a small vestry at the rear, had been built by Mr. W. P. Noller for the sum of £400. The chapel was officially opened by Archdeacon Gunther, assisted by the Rev. H. Tate.

A feature of the church was, and still is, the memorial window erected by Goodlet and Smith on behalf of the friends and relatives of D'Arcy Wentworth. The window represents the three seasons, spring, summer and winter. The panel representing spring illustrates the Virgin Mother with the infant Jesus. The centre panel representing summer shows a scene of wheat, clusters of grapes and fruits. The bottom panel, winter, shows old Father Time in a reclining attitude, with cemetery and church in the background.

The memorial is intended to illustrate the span of life from infancy to old age, from birth to the grave. The inscription reads: "To the Glory of God, in memory of D'Arcy Wentworth Esq Surgeon died 7 Dec 1827." The brass plate below reads as follows: "This Memorial Window was erected to the memory of the Late D'arcy Wentworth esq by his grandson Fitzwilliam Wentworth esq. His wife Mrs. Mary Wentworth and their children Miss Dorothy, William Charles, Darcy, Fitzwilliam and George."

In his address the Archdeacon quoted Milman's dictum "In no country was Christianity so manifestly the parent of civilisation as among our Anglo Saxon ancestors."

Trustees of the church at that time were Messrs. J. Taylor, T. Willmot and J. J. Gillam, and they had their share of worry in regard to clearing the property from debt. The land had been purchased from Mr. Wentworth, probably early in 1889, the bank overdraft for the building had been guaranteed by the trustees, with a high interest rate of 12 per cent, and times were difficult. An area dependent on the products of its orchards and gardens for all the extra money that people wanted to give had begun to show the effects of drought and floods.

When Mr. Wentworth returned from his trip to England, in 1892, an approach was made to him regarding a number of land requests, and in granting the land for the School of Arts he also waived the debt the church owed him, and gifted the value of the sum owing, £75, to the church. Mr. T. Willmot also gave assistance by an interest-free loan of £167 thereby relieving the trustees of the necessity of finding the interest money.

Mr. Willmot kept his close association with the church for some 35 years. When he retired as Superintendent of the Sunday school on May 1, 1922, he was presented with an illuminated address which was signed by the Rector, Rev. A. Noble Burton, William Freame and Peter J. Fraser as Lay Readers, J. R. Parsons, W. Brunton and Edw. F. Snow as Church Wardens. Relinquishing office did not mean that Mr. Willmot retired from church association; he remained an active member until his death. The very impressive illuminated address, which includes a reproduction of the church, was produced by the Cumberland Argus Ltd. of Parramatta.

The church also features an Honour Roll and some impressive memorials to gallant Toongabbie residents, including Arthur H. Willmot (killed at Gallipoli, 1915), Ross R. West (A.I.F., killed, 1917) and to a remarkable soul of Toongabbie, Victoria Alland who died in 1914.

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Toongabbie
Built 75 years ago.

Some of the lay readers who assisted with the church work in the early days included Messrs. A. Paul, D. Jowers, H. Richard Preston and C. W. Lavender. Early Sunday school records offer a great range of families whose members were a part of the life of the church, and they included the names of Gillam (or Gillham) Birk, Tyrer, Harris, Tremaine, Foulkard, Green and Haydon. Sunday school records were faithfully kept and reasons for lack of attendances were noted, and 1889 showed that exceptionally wet weather kept many children away.

The Toongabbie Creek was flooded in 1896, too, when the Rev. W. Pettinger stripped off his clothes to swim across it, some three-quarters of a mile below Hammer's Bridge, so as to be on time for the prize-giving at the Methodist Sunday School Anniversary. This noble effort was reported by the local newspapers on 27th June, the middle of winter; we can assume that he must have carried his clothes in some sort of water-proof container for he arrived in time.

As the roaring 'twenties developed economically, so did Toongabbie and larger areas of land turned into five-acre farms devoted to poultry and market gardens, frequently as a sideline to the main employment of the master of the house. With the new people came new churches and other Christian activities were developed. Greater numbers of parents considered it best to have their children trained in the needed Christian principles, and these classes frequently commenced in the homes until finance was available for building.

In the spring of 1924, Anglican classes were being held in the Girraween School of Arts, Girraween being the new suburb across the line from the Toongabbie railway station. Under the Rev. N. Burton the new church was under construction in Tungurra Road, and in December of 1924 it was completed and opened for services.

Another Methodist Church was also planned, and Sir Arthur Rickard laid the foundation stone of the new church on the corner of Cornelia Road and Juniar Avenue on July 7, 1927. Rev. R. J. Murray was the minister in charge at that time, and for many years the church was known as the Girraween Methodist Church, but with the recent development of Toongabbie as a centre, the name was changed to Toongabbie West.

With a fine church hall recently completed, this group of church workers has been making a fine community contribution by organising an annual eisteddfod.

These churches had been served from Parramatta circuit or parish as was the Catholic community. Monthly visits were made to administer Mass in the Girraween School of Arts as early as 1927, and at that time the members of the faith decided to get together and build their own hall. This they did, and St. Enda's Hall was ready for use in 1928. When it became part of the Wentworthville parish, services were held more frequently, but it was not until 1950 that Father Canavon was appointed the priest of the newly formed Toongabbie Parish.

Schooling commenced for the children, too, in 1950, and in 1952 St. Anthony's School in Targo Road was opened. This school has grown rapidly and is nearing the 500 enrolment figure, at the time of writing.

During the time that the Sisters of The Home of The Good Shepherd occupied the "Casuirina" homestead, a wooden chapel was built on the property and this served the Old Toongabbie residents for a number of years.

When necessary the Marist Missionary Fathers' Seminary was also opened for members of the faith to attend. Now officially named the St. Peter Chanel's Scholastic, this seminary was first opened in May, 1938, when Archbishop Gilroy (later Cardinal) performed the opening ceremony. It was the first seminary of its kind to be operated by the Catholic Church and it has been watched with great interest. It has also been noted for its cattle breeding, and as a registered Australian Illawarra Shorthorn stud farm it has produced some of the finest shorthorn cattle in Australia.

This combination training of theology, agriculture and missionary work has enabled the college to send well-trained men to all parts of Australia and neighbouring islands.

With so many new folk moving into the area the need for a large place of worship was apparent and plans were well under way by 1960 to build a new church, next to St. Enda's Hall in Aurelia Street. Work was commenced in 1962, and on February 3, 1963, the St. Anthony Catholic Church was consecrated by Cardinal Gilroy.

An outstanding sight in the heart of the town, this modern building seats 450, with room for a further 100 worshippers in the choir stalls, and is visited each Sunday by members from many miles around it.

From an early brief time of Presbyterianism, it is not until 1949 that we find regular Sunday school classes being conducted in Toongabbie. In 1951 a church hall was built on the corner of Barangaroo Road and Lamonerie Street. By November of 1962 the energetic members of this congregation were able to open a very unusual new circular church building which is attracting the interest of travellers through the district.

In August, 1955, the Girraween Presbyterian Church was opened, and here again we see the fulfilment of the need for providing religious training for the young and ease of worship for a community. Even in these days of regular bus services and motor cars, parents still prefer to have their children attending Sunday schools and other church activities within walking distance of their homes.

The Salvation Army built a hall in Aurelia Street, Toongabbie, soon after the end of World War I and were a very active group over almost forty years in that position. However, in 1963, the march of progress made it necessary to have the hall moved to Targo Road. On this site a Citadel was erected and dedicated early in 1964.

Baptist Sunday school classes commenced in Toongabbie in 1939, and regular church services in 1946. The church in Metella Road was erected in 1950, and by 1954 additions had to be provided.

In the recent Commonwealth Statistician survey-report figures show that Toongabbie residents are among the nation's most active Christian church attenders, and very few people returned data to indicate that they were not worshippers.

We have not made a survey of how many churches are represented in the two Toongabbie areas, and we would not hazard a guess as to how many there might be in what was once the Parish of Toongabbe.

When St. Mary's Church was opened in 1889 a newspaper quoted the days of Rev. Johnston. Writing to a friend during his time in the colony in the 1790s, he said:

> "I have to perform Divine Service at three different places, viz., at Sydney, Parramatta and at a settlement 3 miles west of Parramatta (this was Toongabbie) and at never a one of these three places is there at this day any place of worship erected nor so much talked of."

Whether the church referred to by Rowland Hassall in 1800 was built as a church or only served as one at the times it was needed is not known, nevertheless, it was the first church at Toongabbie, possibly it was even the first building built for and used as a church in the settlement of N.S.W. The first congregations may well have been a mixture of many different faiths, but Toongabbie has developed into an area where every man and his family may attend the church of his own desire at the time he wishes and well within the reach of his capacity to travel.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE HIGHWAYS AND RAILWAYS

(including the Quarry Line)

TOONGABBIE possesses long stretches of Australia's first major inland railway line and highway — the Great Western Railway-line and the Old Windsor Road.

Originally the "far west outpost" of the infant colony, Toongabbie developed as a Government farm and centre for convicts. As new settlements began to grow around localities farther west, on the eastern approaches to the Blue Mountains, like Windsor (originally Green Hills), and other Hawkesbury areas, the provision of a proper road became necessary to link the outer districts with Sydney Town.

The first principal main road was constructed from Sydney to Parramatta, almost along the existing route of the modern Parramatta Road. Sailing ships and other craft were used to transport supplies, passengers and food to Port Jackson's Sydney township from centres like Windsor, St. Albans on the MacDonald River, Gunderman and other Hawkesbury River centres at Wright's Creek, Colo River and Webb's Creek. The ships sailed to and from Port Jackson via the Heads, Broken Bay and the Hawkesbury, and this kind of water transport was very satisfactory and to some extent quite cheap in those early days. As the number of horses increased and bullock teams began to haul produce, the building of roads became of great importance.

Gangs of transported convicts were engaged on road-making for many decades after the settlement was founded in 1788, and naturally enough most work of this type was carried out in the then developing districts of Parramatta, including Toongabbie. A mere primitive track soon developed from Parramatta to Toongabbie.

During the 1790s the officials decided to provide for a highway to the Hawkesbury from Toongabbie onwards. The road was blazed through heavily timbered country west of the Toongabbie farm, out to Vinegar Hill (now Rouse Hill) and across the low country to McGrath's Hill, near Windsor.

Many famous early settlers and pioneers began to use the road, including Andrew McDougall of Baulkham Hills, Matthew Pearce, of Seven Hills, John Lewin, the famous artist of early N.S.W., and John Sternbeck of the MacDonald Valley.

In 1794 Lieut.-Governor Major Grose ordered the construction of the new highway, which was originally known as the Hawkesbury Road. Starting at the old Government Domain at Parramatta, the road passed through Toongabbie and along to Seven Hills, thence to the present link with the new Windsor Road near the White Hart Inn, about half way between Kellyville and Rouse Hill. The road then ran toward McGrath's Hill.

From the original Hawkesbury Road, near Toongabbie, another road was provided to link the Government farm and convict centre with the then newly settled localities of Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill and Rogan's Hill. The winding new road led north and was known for many years as Toongabbie Road, but its name was later changed to its existing title, Junction Road.

The responsible Surveyor-General was a First Fleeter, Baron A. Alt, who was assisted by the Deputy Surveyor of Roads, Charles Grimes. Baron Alt did not enjoy good health, and by 1794 most of his work was being done by Charles Grimes. Baron Alt settled in N.S.W. (near where Ashfield now stands), and after his death in 1815 was buried in St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta.

Charles Grimes came to the colony in his official capacity as Deputy Surveyor of Roads, in 1791, on a salary of 5/- a day. He received a choice grant of land along the Toongabbie Creek and was appointed a Magistrate and also Superintendent of Public Concerns at Toongabbie where four convicts were assigned to

his aid. His income increased considerably in May, 1802, when he replaced Alt as Surveyor-General.

While at Toongabbie, Grimes carried out some of Australia's first major road surveying plans. The highway to the Hawkesbury was no easy task because many bridges had to be provided along the route, closely following the original tracks of Captain Tench's party in 1791. The road then became the first "thoroughfare into the interior", and many an ox cart, carriage, horseman or dray passed by Toongabbie in days long before towns like Richmond, Bathurst and Liverpool were founded.

Old Windsor Road is no longer the principal highway leading from the Parramatta-Toongabbie locality to the Hawkesbury, because soon after Governor Macquarie arrived he made his historic progress across the countryside and decided a new stretch of road should be built from near the present White Hart to the then developing Castle Hill - Baulkham Hills locality. That original track of road from near Westmead to White Hart fell into disuse as a main road soon after 1810 when the new link was provided, which now runs through Kellyville and central Baulkham Hills, then on to Parramatta's Church Street.

As the years went by the number of new roads increased, linking farms and homes to the main thoroughfares. James Meehan, also a noted surveyor, who was assigned to assist Grimes in 1800, would have been responsible for much of the work done in what was then the Parish of Toongabbe.

Toongabbie may well pride itself for possessing some of the most interesting "Australiana" names for roads or streets in the Commonwealth. There are many aboriginal names, and the usual collection of roads and parades named after the prominent early settlers, and a wealth of human stories can be found behind the names. Some of the streets and roads no longer bear a Toongabbie postal address, nevertheless, somewhere in time, we find the people they were named after were folk of the locality.

Many of the early-named streets and roads beginning with "B" were obviously furnished by one well acquainted with and appreciative of the legends, customs and language of the aborigine. The street namer remains a mystery to us, but he or she provided the area with pleasant sounding names like Ballendella, Binalong and Budgeree. The namer surely had an understanding of native dialects and their meanings as the names were very apt for the conditions of the countryside at that time, and many of them are very fitting to this day. For example, Burrabogie Road is located near where an arm of the Toongabbie Creek once ran and provided a natural lake. Burrabogie means "big bathing hole".

With the road or street deleted, here are other aborigine name examples:

Barangaroo: Native bear.
Budgeree: Good.
Ballendella: Name of the son of a native who accompanied Mitchell, the explorer.
Bungaree: Hut or tent and also "my country".
Binya: Big mountain.
Boonah: Swampy country.
Burra: Wait or stop.
Binalong: Toward the high place or sky world.
Bago: Bagoo means hill.

Bogalara — a versatile name and it could suggest "a number of small animals". Bogalara or Bogolara, if applied to the local Dharcok dialect, gives Lora to mean number; goola meaning native bear and bagor meaning squirrel. There were numerous small animals around Toongabbie, even up until Federation in 1901, and it is possible that this combination name could mean a number of small animals.

Bijiji presents an interesting name problem. After extensive research was carried out it was found that there is a Lake Bijijie adjoining the Darling River, some 20 miles upstream from Menindie. The Kamilaroi dialect of the Darling River district uses the word Biggi, meaning mouth, and it could be possible that under English enunciation this could have grown into Bijiji.

The Australian Rosella received its name in this way. First called the "Rose Hill parrot", this became "Rosehiller" and finally "rosella".

However, a gentleman from Natal named his N.S.W. property "Bijiji" introducing the name from South Africa, Mrs. Parker of Mosman, N.S.W., informed us, and this name could also be considered as the street was named after it was surveyed in 1924 when that portion of the area was subdivided.

Other aborigine names are Warra, meaning falling rain, and Caloola, meaning old fighting ground, or "to climb". Toongabbie itself, the "meeting of the waters" or "near the water". It is of interest to note that the Blacktown Municipality, in which Toongabbie is now incorporated, has in its official crest the figure of an aborigine. Parramatta City Council, the neighbouring local government, also has an aborigine in its crest.

The street Nirvana is not aboriginal but Oriental, meaning Buddhist beatitude, the cessation of individual existence or the absorption into the supreme spirit.

Girraween, the name given to the postal area across the line in the 1920s, is also aboriginal and means "place of flowers". The fields across from Old Toongabbie to the station and around it were for many years referred to as Buttercup Flat and Oak Wood, so the naming of Girraween was very appropriate.

The name Wentworth lends itself to a number of thoroughfares in the district because of the early associations of the Wentworth family. Darcy (also another street name) Wentworth was the family head who originally settled at Parramatta in 1799, though his christian name was spelt D'Arcy. Fitzwilliam (a noble of England, closely associated with the old Wentworth family) is thought to have been used to name a principal road at Toongabbie. D'Arcy Wentworth held large areas of land in the Toongabbie-Wentworthville district, a fact which is dealt with more fully in another chapter. Another member of the family, Dorothy, granddaughter of William Charles, is remembered in that Dorothy Mount was named after her. She never married and died in the mid-1950s.

Willmot is among the best-known Toongabbie family names and the local avenue was named after the family, whose district founder was Thomas Willmot.

Tucks Road was named after the Tuck family who settled there, and one daughter, Mrs. Parsons, resided in the family home till her death in 1960. Her love of the district was shown in the many cherished items of local interest, kept for her 84 years and made available to us for our collection.

Late last century the orchardist Buckley erected a fine home on his property, planting around it many ornamental trees. High on the hilltop these make a graceful picture around the homestead, a picture enjoyed by many for over seventy years and still untouched by the progress of closer settlement. In 1893 Julia Buckley married Charles Langdon and they built a home for themselves nearby. Thus off Buckleys Road came the Langdons Road. Mrs. Langdon died recently, aged 93, and remembered many tales of convict days, for her youth was spent looking down on the scenes of the early, turbulent Toongabbie.

Faulkner Street was named after the Faulkners of Toongabbie who had a large property in that area, which was finally subdivided for smaller holdings. Reynolds, too, lived in the Reynolds Street area when the remaining former orchard was subdivided after World War II.

Bond Avenue preserves another well-known family. From 1906 to 1933 the Bonds had a farm in the area which was once the Bohringer vineyard. Knox Street recalls the Knox family whose home (still standing) was built in Binalong Road, whilst Hammers Road is named after George Hammer, as, too, is Hammers Bridge. The first Hammers Bridge was made of logs, or trunks of trees, placed across the creek. As these were washed away by flooding, the logs were replaced, until the present bridge was built in 1900, a noted event photographed by many (and preserved for our viewing).

Barnetts Road was named after the Arthur Barnett family, and Oakes Road has come from one of the larger landholders, George Oakes. Noted builder J. C. Page is remembered in Page Street.

Johnston's Bridge crosses Toongabbie Creek at a very historical point, and is named after David Johnston who farmed the land adjoining before 1860.

From Mr. E. Maundrell comes the following information:

In the western area of Toongabbie Pye's Crossing is located near Junction Road and was named after John Pye, the very early settler, and there was once a humble bridge called The Oakes Crossing, linking the present Moxham Road with the eastern section of the large George Oakes' holdings. The crossing was erected across The Quarry Branch Creek. Moxham Road received its name from the well-known Moxhams of the Parramatta district, and one family member, Mr. T. R. Moxham, became a parliamentary representa-

The Toongabbie Railway Station, 1900
From R. Willmot's collection.
(Block by courtesy Cumberland Newspapers.)

tive. (A fine home, built in the 1890s, is an outstanding feature of Moxham's contribution to the Road.)

More east of Toongabbie a stone weir was erected by the locals in the 1840s across Toongabbie Creek and it became known as Briens Crossing, at Briens Road. Crossings were also built by local residents themselves, about this time, at what was known as The Old Sheep Station, between grants held by George Oakes and G. Woodcock, and across the creek at the southern end of where Tucks Road adjoined the creek. Oakes and Buckleys Roads, the creek and a section of Old Windsor Road bounded Toongabbie's old One Tree Hill golf links, and the golf club house was built near the sheep station. Residents made a crossing at the foot of Tucks Road, across properties owned by W. T. Pearce and James Bates to provide an easy access from the Buckleys Road area across to Fitzwilliam Road. (Mr. Maundrell has made a study of roads and bridges in the Parramatta and Hills districts.)

More streets and roads have been laid out in Toongabbie during the 1940s, '50s and '60s than for any other thirty-year period in history, this being a natural result of modern development, which requires additional land to provide new home subdivisions for a fast-growing population.

The coming of the Great Western Railway boosted the settlement in the area in the 1860s, and the entry of that historic Iron Horse was certainly an event in the history of transport, not only for Toongabbie residents, but all folk farming in outlying districts. Principal roads had been laid out not long after the first N.S.W. train reached Parramatta (at Granville) in 1855, during the Gold Rush era, and plans were immediately made to extend the railway line westward, through Toongabbie, to Blacktown and, later, across the Blue Mountains.

Toongabbie property owners made way for newer surveyors after the railway authorities acquired a wide strip of land from Parramatta to Blacktown. Not a lot of properties were affected and none would complain when the coming of the railway meant real progress, enabling them to look forward to the day when their produce as well as their families could be carried by this "rail monster". The days of long treks to Parramatta and to Sydney with horse and cart, and often on foot, were over.

So they gathered to welcome this first sure sign of advancement. They gathered to watch it come — and waited — and went home disappointed, because on this first occasion it did not arrive as had been promised. The first train did not creep quietly out into the bushland of Toongabbie and Blacktown but created a situation of drama and discussion still of interest to this day.

A few days before the seven miles of one-track line was due to be opened under the banner of the N.S.W. Executive Council, three sections of the line were "scandalously torn up and cast aside".

Our first industrial wreckers made their debut in what one irate colonial official said was a "sinful act in an age far removed from such wilful practice". It was a "reflected horror of England's Industrial Revolution", he said, "which had no right to be transported to the new colony".

The "boss" of this crew was masterful colonial constructor John Gibbons, who became very friendly with a number of Toongabbie farmers in the late 1850s when he was supervising the rail construction. He liked the people and he liked their wines, fruits, preserves and rich creamy cheeses. Gibbons held the contract to provide the rail from Granville (then known as Parramatta Junction) through the Government Domain (Parramatta Park) and across into Toongabbie, and then westwards to old Black's Town as it was then called. He completed the line by the end of June, 1860, and his contract carried the sum of £56,897.

The opening of the new railroad to the Blacktown settlement (founded by the cheerfully optimistic Governor Macquarie for displaced natives) was officially set down for 2nd July, 1860. However, the work had not been officially certified by Mr. Whitton, the railway's Chief Engineer, who was busy at Goulburn at the time. Mr. Gibbons made requests to the Railway Commissioner, Mr. Martindale, to certify the line so that it could open as scheduled. The Commissioner was not prepared to go over the head of the appointed engineer and refused the request. This angered Mr. Gibbons, who felt that it was an insult to his work, and he publicly declared that the line would never open. He called a meeting of his men to discuss this red-tape method of officialdom. Loyal to their master in his request, the men soon acted on instructions and removed three portions of the track near Parramatta.

One can imagine their reluctance as they must have been waiting with pride for the sight of the Iron Horse rolling over the lines they had so carefully built. The "destructive work witnessed by screaming children" came to the ears of the Commissioner in Sydney Town, and he hopped on the first available express train (!) to the scene.

On arrival at Parramatta he called out the local constabulary, saying that he would have no "Toongabbie convict riots or Vinegar Hill revolts" over his department's lines; again refusing to certify the work.

Parramatta's Chief Constable then approached Mr. Gibbons and said: "I arrest you in the name of the Queen's Colony for tearing up portion of the western line and obstructing traffic."

In those days of post-goldrush glories and sincere Victorian melodramatic adventure, heroes and villains were usually gauged by the size of their moustaches. Mr. Commissioner had a large neat moustache, Mr. Gibbons wore a massive beard and the Chief Constable was equipped with both a large moustache and an extra massive beard!

So Mr. Gibbons finished up a prisoner locked inside the town's infamous Watch House. He was eventually taken to Sydney and given bail. In court he defended himself, and his men, by claiming that it was he who would not permit the line to be opened before it was duly certified. This was on 1st July, 1860.

The return of Mr. Whitton gladdened the hearts of everyone concerned — Mr. Gibbons, the Commissioner, the railway line workers and even members of the New South Wales Police Force to be. The dispute was soon settled, the line was replaced and all parties joined in the celebration without prejudice.

How disappointed the settlers were along the line from Parramatta to Blacktown, especially the children, on that morning of the 2nd of July when the expected train did not arrive. Many of the families had packed special picnic lunches for the occasion and wore their Sunday-best clothes to give it welcome. As they waited all along the seven

[In Woodville Road, near Dogtrap Signal Box, a neat memorial to commemorate the opening of the first railway may be seen.]

miles, they were not aware of the trouble that had prevented the magnificent train from commencing on schedule. Communications were slow before trains and it sometimes took a week for a message to be delivered 25 miles.

On board the historic west's first Iron Horse went 21 members of the Legislative Assembly who were among "about forty of the Colony's esteemed gentlemen". The train left Sydney Station at 10 a.m. on July 4, 1860.

Emotion and surprise gripped the pioneer passengers in the box-type carriages of the train on the afternoon of the 4th July when the train set out on its return journey from Blacktown. For all along the line, clustered in little congregations, the settlers and farmers and their families from Model Farms, Toongabbie and Seven Hills and Baulkham Hills, folk from everywhere had come to welcome the Iron Horse — on its way back to Sydney! They had heard its whistle, its clanging and shunting, its tooting hip hip hooray, echoing through the vales and hills, across Toongabbie Creek, across the vineyards and orchards and across the meadows. They dropped everything to give welcome to the spick and span steam machine with its highly-polished brass and rich red and green paint, its billowing smoke and spitting steam. "The Iron Horse is here!" the children cried, and down along the fences beside the line they ran to cheer.

Dogs barked and wild birds flew, stallions in their paddocks bolted and fowls scattered. Uneasy ponies reared and snorted, cattle bellowed in amazement and people stood by with gratitude and pride in this achievement. The tranquil district had burst into life, and the first sight of the machine age was one of joy. The beginning of greater transport and communication achievements; and soon the line was extended on to Richmond and across the Blue Mountains.

A second line was eventually provided, and it is only very recently that the puffing and blowing of the steam trains has been replaced by the diesels and modern electric masterpieces. To many, the excitement of the steam train and all it conveyed is a nostalgic memory, a whistle in the night, smoke billowing in a valley, the romance and excitement of a time gone by!

Would there be a story about the early Toongabbie Station? The first little box-like building did not appear until twenty years after the western line was extended. "Beyond the Domain line" was Toongabbie, and "after the return of the train the inspection party divided in two and enjoyed the hospitality offered by Mr. J. Byrne and Mr. G. Oakes", a correspondent of an 1860 edition of the "Sydney Mail" informs us. These gentlemen were well known in the Toongabbie and Parramatta areas. They were among the influential people who said they would like to see a station provided at Toongabbie, but the first station was not opened until April 26, 1880. There was no station master or ticket office, and passengers had to hold up a rod during the day, or a green light at night, to signal the train driver that there was a passenger to take aboard. This practice continued for many years. The rod was about three feet long and had a twelve-inch green disc attached to one end. This system of stopping a train was still in use at Clyburn Station in 1960.

Pioneer passengers using the train service from Toongabbie, when travelling east to Sydney, had to hop off at Parramatta Station, purchase their tickets and hurry back to their carriages. At all times speed was essential!

Toongabbie Station was a busy "stock yard" and "produce junction" where fruit, grapes, milk and other farm produce was loaded on to trains by the farmers themselves, and these included men from Baulkham Hills and Castle Hill, who brought their produce in horse-drawn vehicles along the Toongabbie Road (now Junction Road) to the station at Toongabbie rather than going to Parramatta.

In later years a special "train" or tram service was provided for the Hills district from Parramatta, and on the Windsor Road's junction with the Old Toongabbie Road a "station" or platform was provided. That is how the name of the road changed from Toongabbie Road to Junction Road.

Farmers found it difficult to load their products on to the trains at Toongabbie because no proper loading facilities were provided for many years. This was so during the 1880s till well after Federation in 1901. Additional platforms were constructed at the station in 1886 when the newly duplicated line to Blacktown was laid down. This new station was opened for use on 11th March, 1886. The farmers had to carry their packages

and cases some 60 yards down the line and across the level crossing. Some of them took their horses and carts along the narrow bumpy track to the station. This was a dangerous practice and a young man lost his life racing out to get his horse away from an oncoming train.

Appeals were made for an attendant at the station. To help along their request the station got "very busy" and a constant stream of vehicles could be seen at all times of the day transacting necessary (!) business.

And so the first Toongabbie "station master" was appointed, but with a difference. It was Miss Amy Arnold.

In the late 19th century rail charges were not cheap, especially for the carriage of parcels. Mr. G. Oakes made it known in May, 1894, that he had to pay a rail service fee of 1/10d. to send a rat trap from Sydney to Wentworthville. The trap had cost him the sum of 3/6d.

World War II upset the Railway Department's plans to provide Toongabbie with a modern station, and it was not built until after the war, in 1946. It was officially opened on October 30th of that year.

Since the introduction of the electric train services in 1955, the Toongabbie station has become increasingly busy and will no doubt continue to do so.

Do the people who speed through the Toongabbie of today give a thought to the story of Old Toongabbie? Do they look out of the train, across the tops of the trees toward the high hills — Constitution Hill and Dorothy Mount — and the stations they may never set foot upon at Toongabbie and Wentworthville! Do they wonder how once, similar trees were dragged over those hills to make crude log cabins for people to live in?

A story that we hear is that William Charles Wentworth once made a journey of exploration over those hills, and while resting upon them named them. One hill for Dorothy, his daughter, became Dorothy Mount, and the other, because he was drafting the constitution of the colony at the time, became Constitution Hill. It is, you will agree, a nicer story than the many that are told about the early days of the hill.

THE QUARRY LINE

ONE avenue of employment available to men in Old Toongabbie, and later those in Toongabbie, was in the stone quarries in the Prospect area. As early as 1870 a stone quarry had been opened to supply blue metal to Sydney Government departments.

Messrs. Walding and Warrins built and operated a narrow-gauge tramway from their quarry to the Western Railway at Fullager's Bank, 4½ miles in length. At the quarry there was a double line incline skipway from the face to the crushers, worked by rope haulage, the full trucks pulling up the empty ones. The main tramway was horse worked from the crushers to the siding. The partners had fifteen trucks, five of which were built by R. A. Ritchie of Parramatta, the remaining ten were built by Walding and Warrins themselves at the quarry, the ironwork being provided by Ritchies. Each truck had a capacity of five tons and trains of four wagons were run on each trip to and from the quarry and the railway siding. In the latter place bins were built over the railway siding into which stone was tipped from the tramway trucks and passed into the railway trucks below.

This tramway, known as the Fullager's Bank Line, had gone before 1900 and it is not known how long it was in operation.

The Emu Gravel Company opened a quarry at Prospect near the Greystanes Estate, late in 1901. Work was immediately commenced on the construction of a standard gauge railway line to connect the quarry with the main western railway line at Toongabbie station. This was a single-line track leaving the main in the "up" direction and curving to cross Targo Road at right angles, continuing in its own right of way in a generally south-easterly direction, crossing Portia Road and Gilba Road. It then followed alongside Toongabbie Road to the Great Western Highway which it crossed on the level, going on through open paddocks in a wide reverse curve to enter the crusher yard at the quarry, a distance of three miles, thirteen chains.

A long loop or exchange siding was provided on the southern side of Targo Road where

Local residents aboard the picnic train to Prospect. Taken in 1905 with Engine-Driver Waters standing beside the engine (front of group).

(Block by courtesy B. MacDonald.)

the company's engine would stage the waggons for pick up by the Government locomotives.

At the quarry itself there were several sidings which served the crusher, locomotive shed, weighbridge and waggon storage. At a later date a loop siding was provided immediately on the northern side of the highway to serve storage bins which had been erected to supply road metal to local councils for the building of roads.

These tracks were built by the firm of Willmot and Morgan and were officially opened for use on April 7, 1902.

To work the line the company purchased a second-hand engine (possibly from Hoskins Ironworks at Lithgow), an 0-4-0 saddle tank locomotive believed to have been built by Robert Stephenson & Co. for the Newcastle Coal & Copper Co. in 1857. This engine arrived in Toongabbie on March 17, 1902, and commenced work with Mr. Jack Waters as engine driver and his son, Jack Waters, as fireman. Truckloads of stone were moved from Prospect to Toongabbie by this engine for some years.

As well as a working unit the train was also a source of pleasure and was used to transport members of staff and their families to the quarry on annual picnic days and other social functions. The picnics were held on the flat country near the quarry, and a picture of a well-loaded train has been preserved over the years and is shown above. The employees (and their families) of the Emu Plains company joined the locals for these functions, travelling down to Toongabbie by special train. On arrival at the siding they transferred from their train to the open trucks to be hauled by the company's engine to the picnic site.

In March, 1913, the company purchased a locomotive from the N.S.W. Government Railways: a 2-4-0 tank engine by Beyer Peacock (2263) and known in Government service as number 357 of the "F" class. After the arrival of this engine the old faithful No. 1 was sent to Clyde Engineering Company for repairs, but examination revealed the necessity of extensive replacements, which in view of the age of the engine would not have been economical and so it was scrapped.

In 1921 the company purchased two locomotives from the Metropolitan Water Board who had been using them on the Potts Hill reservoir construction. These were both 0-4-0 saddle tanks by the Vulcan Iron Works of Wilkes Barre, U.S.A. (2289, 2290) in 1912. These engines worked at Prospect until 1924 when 2289 was transferred to the quarry at Emu Plains to be followed by 2290 in 1926.

In 1926 the quarry passed into the hands of a new company, the N.S.W. Associated Blue Metal Company, and a very extensive modernisation programme was embarked upon. The "F" class engine was scrapped and another of the same class, Number 367, built by Henry Vale of Auburn (N.S.W.) (40) was purchased.

In addition a 3ft. 6in. gauge tramway was built in the quarry itself and was used to transport the stone from the quarry face to the crusher, the waggons being of wood construction and of the usual contractor's side-dumping design. The line was worked by an 0-6-0 Kitson tank locomotive (260 of 1888) purchased from the Commonwealth Government. This engine had 3ft. diameter driving wheels and 11in. × 15in. cylinders. In 1929 it was joined by an 0-4-2 tank by Hudswell Clark (550) transferred from another quarry on the south coast of N.S.W. This engine had 2ft. 6in. driving wheels and 10in. × 14in. outside cylinders.

This tramway system was in use until 1935 when it was replaced by motor lorries, and the two locomotives lay idle for some time until the Kitson was scrapped and the boiler of the Hudswell Clark was sold for use in a steam river boat. The other parts of the engine lay about the property until 1959 when they, too, were cut up for scrap.

During 1937 the company purchased two locomotives from a dealer who had recently purchased them from the N.S.W. Government Railway, being Numbers 2554 and 2567 of that system. Both were built by Beyer Peacock in 1885 (2550 and 2556) of the 2-6-0 type with 4ft. diameter wheels and 18in. × 26in. outside cylinders. After the reception of these engines the Vale 2-4-OT was scrapped at the quarry and from then on until the closure of the line in 1945 the two larger engines worked all the service.

During the 1939-45 War the military established an encampment near the quarry and the line was used for their traffic also. A catch point was placed in the line between the camp and the quarry terminus to protect the lower end in the event of two trains being on the line together.

After the closure of the line the two locos were stored at the quarry terminus until they were sold for scrap in 1957.

As the majority of the company's products were loaded directly into Government Railway trucks for transport to various parts of the State, the company did not own a great stock of their own vehicles, the extent being about ten side-tipping American dump cars for the traffic between the quarry and the bins adjacent to the main highway. It is possible that they did also own three or four old-type four-wheel discharge ballast hoppers which could have commenced their service with the Government. The writer observed the remains of three of these on a visit to the quarry about 1949.

The rails of this line are still in place and serve as an additional hazard to golfers in the area just beyond the highway, which has been developed as a golf course.

As children, the Willmot boys and their friends were able to accompany Mr. Willmot on his trips to and from the quarry while the lines were being installed and equipment put into place, another sideline of the firm of Willmot and Morgan. At their disposal was a hand-operated rail trolley which often carried more than its designated number of occupants.

Another daring pastime for energetic youngsters was to joyride in trucks parked at the Toongabbie siding over weekends. A truck was unhooked and pushed back up the rise for a considerable distance, everyone climbed into or on the vehicle and coasted down. Excitement was high if there was any likelihood of observation by the police, in which case everyone fled into the bush for cover leaving the policeman to chase after the truck and apply brakes where necessary. No accidents were ever caused by these escapades. The junction points of the line are still in existence.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE SCHOOLS, TEACHERS . . . AND THE CHILDREN

TOONGABBIE makes no great claims in the field of education, but the district can claim a very human story of determination, spirit and endeavour. The area can well serve as a model Australian village whose residents helped to pioneer the facilities to provide the younger generation (and adults, too) with learning and knowledge, fitting into the overall educational pattern which began in the colony and developed progressively to the present.

Education, as we know it, had no place in the Toongabbie which was established in 1791 as a Government farm. It was not until the area was settled by a compact, intelligent community of citizens, large enough to have a united voice, that the sound of the school-house bell was heard across the valley. And that was many years after transportation of convicts ceased in the early 1840s.

But in a rather loose way Toongabbie can well claim a share in having provided a basic knowledge in agriculture to some of Australia's pioneer farmers, wool growers and graziers. Over 90 per cent of the unfortunate convicts assigned to the Toongabbie farm during the infant colonial days had no knowledge of farming, yet they were expected to till the soil, sow grain, grow vegetables and harvest the crops.

The transported former citizens of Great Britain had spent their early years in closely settled industrial and urban environments and had little opportunity to acquire any knowledge of food production. Some were lucky enough to be experienced in trades such as carpentry, wheelmaking, bookkeeping and perhaps storekeeping, most would have been factory workers and the long hours of work of that period would have prevented any opportunity of even seeing what country life could be like. In spite of these handicaps those who managed to live through their first unpleasant years of life in the colony to remain, instead of returning to their former Home countries, received grants of land and became good farmers.

The Toongabbie farm, and the surrounding holdings held by free or private settlers where many convicts were assigned to work, became a primitive kind of "agricultural college" for them. The great number of farmers, former artisans of England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland, who settled and progressed at centres like Prospect Hill, the Hawkesbury, the Mac-Donald Valley and elsewhere, acquired their training in agriculture at Toongabbie. Here, too, many a teenage convict obtained basic training in bakery, hairdressing, tailoring, and even first aid, as the convicts who were skilled in these trades were assigned junior assistants. They could be called the first apprentices of Australia.

Toongabbie claims the first Arbor Day school celebration held in New South Wales — the public celebration so familiar in the United States where many places observe it as a holiday, and in our own South Australia — when trees are planted for the beautification of the locality. Additional mention of this pioneer achievement will be dealt with later in the narrative.

Toongabbie also had the benefit of one of the most admired and respected teachers in the old colony — Mr. Harvey Murray. After some years as a teacher in many different centres Mr. Murray became a School Attendance Officer, and his pleasant disposition and wide experience in the field of education won him many friends in the community. A serious accident in which he lost a leg made it difficult for him to continue to travel as an attendance officer in the Riverina, and his return to teaching brought him to Toongabbie as its first teacher.

The provision of a local School of Arts reflected the strong desire of the local people to introduce higher learning and culture to their own territory, and the district was later

selected for the establishment of a Seminary for the training of priests, the first of its kind in Australia.

As the districts around Parramatta became settled by free settlers from Great Britain and Europe the need for schooling was apparent, and the first Government or State school was opened in Parramatta in 1810. Prior to this there were a number of private teachers conducting schools, and private schools continued to be part of the progress of the district. It is reported that the children in Parramatta in 1791 were taught by a convict woman named Johnston.

Some families in outlying areas engaged private tutors and governesses, and others made arrangements to have the children conveyed to Parramatta by carriages. Probably quite a number rode long distances on horseback. Once the train service commenced some children would have been able to travel by train, but the service on the Toongabbie line was only a morning and evening service for many years. Many children walked to school in the early days. Adults, too, walked miles to visit and to attend church services. A group of Toongabbie folk who missed the last train home from Sydney thought nothing of walking home, sixty years ago.

Mr. James Jervis tells us that at the time the Government Domain was under lease to James Byrnes and John Richard Harding, March 1, 1856, to March 1, 1857, they erected a notice forbidding the public entering the ground, thus preventing the children travelling from Toongabbie to Parramatta to school from reaching their destination.

The Department of Education had already established schools at Baulkham Hills and Seven Hills when an application was made from Toongabbie for a public school in November, 1885. The application was signed by Peter Bohringer, Henry Birk, George Hammer, James Smith and S. R. Watkins. There were 13 families with 27 children listed, and it was stated that the Primitive Methodist chapel was available for use as the school building, pending the erection of a school. The request was supported by Mr. McCulloch, the Member of Parliament for Central Cumberland.

Mr. Inspector Hookins, in reporting for the Department, said that the local population was 70 and that the district had been occupied for some years. The residents were nearly all fruit-growers owning their own farms, and all were in comfortable circumstances. He did not advise the purchase or erection of buildings, finding the chapel suitable and in good condition. His report included:

> "The proposed school is only three miles from those at Baulkham Hills and Seven Hills, but these are very inconvenient of access, in one case from lofty hills intervening, and in the other from the presence of a deep and dangerous creek in wet weather, and a swampy tract on the other side. A piece of land could be obtained from G. Oakes half a mile nearer Parramatta. This school would meet the wants of the residents of Wentworthville where there is a good prospect of settlement."

At that time George Oakes owned almost all the land in Old Toongabbie, Northmead and what is now Westmead.

Apart from the schools mentioned, the nearest school was at Parramatta, the Post Town of the district.

The Chief Inspector, Mr. Maynard, agreed that a school should be established, but he did not think it should be in the chapel:

> "It has been already decided that places of worship are not to be used for public school purposes, except no other course is open."

Maynard recommended that a building be erected and the school be opened when it was completed.

However, after some consideration the chapel was leased for one year for the annual rental of £9, and Mr. Harvey Murray was appointed the first teacher. All the materials required for school purposes were supplied by Collins and Co., and the necessary school furniture came from old stock in the hands of Mr. George Coates, a well-known Parramatta businessman.

On 3rd May, 1886, the first Toongabbie Public School opened its doors, with an initial enrolment of 27 which had grown to 39 by the end of the year.

As soon as the school was fairly started the Department began to make arrangements for the erection of vested premises. A site of two acres on the corner of Fitzwilliam and Binalong Roads was bought from Mr. Fitzwilliam Wentworth for £90, and plans were made to build a school and residence. Work commenced in November, 1886. The school

measured 20ft. by 16ft. by 9ft., with a verandah on one side, built of weatherboard with an iron roof. The residence of four rooms and kitchen was also of weatherboard with iron roofing. The work was carried out by Cranney and Greenway of Parramatta for the cost of £440. The buildings were completed in February of 1887, and the chapel was vacated on the 24th of that month.

By April of 1888, Mr. McCulloch, M.L.A., was lodging complaints that the building was too small. The average attendance of 36.8 had increased in the preceding six weeks to 41.7, and it was felt that the heat of the building in the summer would affect the attendance. This proved correct, and it fell to an average of 34.2 by the end of the year, even though three green holland spring blinds for the windows were purchased from Murray Brothers of Parramatta for 21/-!

By 1889 the attendance rose to over 45 and it became clear that the building was no longer adequate. Apparently a suggestion was made to move the building nearer Wentworthville so as to serve both communities, but in December a petition from as many as 24 families was sent to the Department requesting that the school remain in its existing position.

The large number of children attending the school at Toongabbie caused some interest. The Hills District historian, Mr. E. Maundrell, provided this information many years ago: "Many parents in the Southern Baulkham Hills, Model Farms, and Wentworthville district knew of Mr. Murray's reputation as one of the finest teachers in the colony, and in spite of his age, he was a very capable tutor, dearly admired and loved by both older generations and the youngsters. These parents in the nearby settlements 'arranged' to have their children schooled at Toongabbie — only because Mr. Murray was the principal."

The local newspaper (Parramatta) in 1889 published an article about the state of the school:

> "The condition of the Toongabbie Public School is a positive disgrace. A diminutive building, shockingly ventilated and low roofed, built to accommodate about 30 children, is now used to accommodate over 50. Did the accommodation allow, the attendance at the school would exceed 70, but the parents decline to send their children to this stuffy and over-heated structure."

Mr. Murray reported that the walls were only 8½ft. high, the iron roof was almost flat, and the ventilation poor, so Mr. Hookins recommended that a new brick building be erected on the existing site and also that a new school be established at Wentworthville.

Tenders were invited in March, 1890, and that of John Crew, for £290/11/11, was accepted. Mr. Crew was well known for not submitting tenders "at round figures" and worked his estimates out to the very penny.

The children of the school did not spend all of their time in the uncomfortable classrooms. November of 1889 was the occasion for a notable picnic. The warm early summer had arrived and parents, residents and teacher arranged a school picnic on the estate of Mr. Fitzwilliam Wentworth. The occasion was a celebration for the birthday of the Prince of Wales, and 250 picnickers arrived on foot, in their carriages and on horseback, per the Iron Horse or Hansom cabs from Parramatta. The Messrs. John Taylor, Gow, Willis, Gillham, Willmot and Hammer and their families were amongst the crowd.

Arrangements for the banquet were under the supervision of Mesdames Murray, Malcolm and Tremayne, the provisions being furnished by a number of Toongabbie residents. Bearded gentlemen, ladies with their lace parasols and bonnets, children with their neat sailor costumes and hoops and newly-washed pups provided a rich assortment of colour to the green slopes of the estate.

Various sports were indulged in, the prizes being distributed by Mrs. Hookins, wife of the inspector. There were ample prizes, donated by friends around the district of Toongabbie and Parramatta, including six from Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth who were at that time in England. Mr. Murray, too, provided prizes, special ones.

At the conclusion of the pleasant programme Mr. John Taylor gave a detailed history of Toongabbie, dating his personal knowledge as far back as 1839, to the very interested gathering.

In reporting this occasion, the "Argus" of 16th November, 1889, recorded the highly successful attainments of the children, the efficiency of the teacher and the favourable reports of the Inspector, but deplored the lack of accommodation and the trying time both teacher and children experienced in the summer months.

Under the Arbor Day Tree in 1960

Mrs. A. M. Webb showing Mr. E. G. Whitlam, M.P., Q.C., the Arbor Day tree she planted in 1890. Others in the picture: Mr. F. Gates, Mrs. E. Moulds, Mrs. A. McElvey, Mrs. E. G. Whitlam and Mr. F. Tyrer.

(Reproduced by Mr. C. Clarke from a colour slide.)

It was undoubtedly a day for celebration when the new brick building was completed in August, 1890, on the Fitzwilliam Road side of the school area. The old building, facing Binalong Road, was left on the site for a weathershed. Mr. Murray had the honour of being the first master in the new building, and his first thought was to beautify the grounds and at the same time provide some shelter from the hot summer sunshine.

A "penny for penny" agreement was adopted by the Department when the children and parents decided to provide a fund for ground improvements. The children collected the sum of £3/16/-; with the amount doubled, the money was used to clear the ground and the Department provided trees for the children to plant.

This was the first Arbor Day ever held in New South Wales, and the following year the Department proclaimed 21st August as the official Arbor Day for schools in the State, and this date has continued to be the celebration day ever since.

The Toongabbie children excelled themselves in 1891 and collected £7, to which the Department added £8 in recognition of the work the parents had done to help with ground preparation and tree planting.

In 1960 when a Reunion Day was held at the school, Mrs. Alice Webb flew from Jersey Islands to stand under the tree she had planted on that first historic Arbor Day in 1890.

As Alice Watkins she had been a first pupil of the school at its beginning in the Methodist Church, continuing her schooling at the new building and being among the very first tree-planters. Possibly "her tree" was the only one to survive the first planting. She had watched it grow with great pride, and seventy years later she came back to stand under it and tell of its history. Our illustration (taken from a colour slide) shows her joy as she talks to Mr. E. G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P., early schoolmate Mr. F. Gates, her sister Mrs. E. Moulds, another early resident Mrs. McElvey (the former Miss A. Powers), Mrs. Whitlam and Mr. F. Tyrer, also a first pupil.

In October, 1962, another ceremony was held under the tree when the Mayor of Blacktown, Alderman A. Ashley Brown, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the planting of this tree on that first tree planting occasion.

One could wonder how Mr. Murray would have felt had he known, as he watched the original children planting so busily, that one of them would fly across the world to remember it all . . . and that the occasion would become a page of history . . . that such a simple beginning would be looked on as a source of pride for the school so many years later.

Mr. Murray made an impressive mark on the formation of the school and the character of its pupils in the 4½ years he spent at Toongabbie. His teacher - parents - pupils get-togethers were a beginning to many periods of the same co-operation in the school. The community pride of the children in their school, the most important place in the area, has carried on to this day, and these early pupils continue to visit the school on important occasions and have been able to contribute greatly in the compiling of the history of the district.

When the Wentworthville school was opened in 1891 Mr. Murray went to it as the first master. In applying for the position he pointed out that as the Toongabbie school was so far from the station he was forced to keep a horse and buggy (owing to his lameness) and he found this expensive. He had been in service with the Department for over twenty years and he had heard that the Wentworthville school was to be "a Model agricultural school on a small scale", adding:

> "I was brought up on one of the best farms in Scotland, and learned in early life Scotch farming in all its branches. For several years after my arrival in this colony I was Working Overseer and Stockdrover on several stations in the Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee districts, and learned stock farming in all its branches. For the past five years I have been devoting close attention to orchard farming, and have acquired a fair theoretical and practical knowledge of that branch."

It can be seen that Mr. Murray used his time at Toongabbie to further his farming knowledge among the many successful orchards surrounding the school.

The accident in which Mr. Murray lost his leg occurred on a moonlight night in April, 1884, between Deniliquin and Balranald. Among the passengers in a Cobb and Co. coach, which left Deniliquin at 6 p.m., the first trouble happened when the off wheel

caught in a stump. The pole broke, the horses bolted and the driver was thrown to the ground and severely injured. The pole was strapped and fresh horses procured, and after a few miles the driver, Mr. A. Fawcett, became so ill that he handed over to Mr. Murray, the only passenger able to handle the vehicle. Some forty miles farther on, after careful driving, the lashings on the pole gave way, but as the coach was near Moulamein and it was near 5 a.m. it was thought wiser to proceed. Crossing over a country-style bridge the insecure vehicle capsized, falling on the legs of Mr. Murray whose tight hold on the reins saved any worse effect, the horses dragging him partly away from the falling coach.

After recovering from the accident he was appointed to Moor Creek, a small school near Tamworth, and after a short period there he took over the Toongabbie school.

In 1895 a win in Tattersalls brought good fortune to him to the extent of £6,750, which according to local stories enabled him to spend his latter days in travelling.

The opening of the school at The Meadows in 1890, and the new brick building complete with brick residence, at Wentworthville in 1891, led to a fall in the enrolment at Toongabbie when Mr. Alfred Wilkins commenced his term as the master.

One of Mr. Fred Tyrer's happiest school recollections was the day Mr. Wilkins took the wide-eyed pupils into Parramatta to hear the wonder of the age, a phonograph! The early Edison cylindrical records and their "talking trumpet" were a magic moment for the children. Even more so than our own first view of television, for this we had come to expect, but the first machine to transmit not only sound but all the glory of world-famous voices singing new as well as favourite old songs, and comedians with their hitherto unheard hilarious patter must have been an excitement unknown to our modern age.

Closely upholding the strong communal ties established at Toongabbie by Mr. Murray, Mr. Wilkins organised and founded a Band of Mercy (to birds and animals). The movement was directly associated with the school with Mr. Wilkins as the secretary-treasurer and Mr. T. Willmot as its president.

Of interest is a modern survey made by the St. Luke's Society, an organisation protecting wildlife and flora. The society informed Parramatta Council in 1963 that society members had visited the Toongabbie Creek area and found there were some 70 species of wild birds inhabiting the area. Perhaps Mr. Wilkins was responsible, so many years ago, for providing a more understanding and efficient scheme to preserve birds — still living so happily in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Wilkins enjoyed organising the nature study outings and the numerous entertainments associated with the Band of Mercy, and the school. There were social spelling bees, magic lantern shows and lecture demonstrations. Adults paid 6d. admission and children 3d.; sometimes a "pound night" was arranged when sugar, flour, butter, etc., became the entrance fee.

"Around the World in 100 Minutes" was the title of one show, but the audience at Toongabbie "saw the world" in ninety minutes! The hire of the lantern and slides was 7/6, but later shows were given by Mr. Willmot when he purchased his own machine. The proceeds were used to buy books to stock the library, and the hire of a piano for use of the children, both in school time and for entertainments. The piano was hired from Murray Bros., Parramatta, for £1 monthly, but was returned when Mr. W. L. Oakes loaned his piano for the benefit of the children. A number of books were purchased and later transferred to the School of Arts.

A record of these Band of Mercy meetings, first held in the school residence and later at St. Mary's C. of E., covering the period from February, 1891, to March, 1897, is in the hands of the church trustees.

There were no Parent & Citizens organisations at that time, and complaints, etc., went to a School Board which supervised Blacktown, Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Prospect and Wentworthville. Among the four members were Mr. R. H. Lalor (Seven Hills) and Mr. G. Woodward. One complaint they received was that Mr. Wilkins had kept a hen sitting on a nest of eggs, in the classroom! Surely a strange but interesting way of teaching nature study!

From Mr. Woodward's son we received a gold-embossed invitation to a "Distribution of Prizes" for the year 1894, another sign of the progressive stage of the school under Mr. Wilkins.

The first photograph of the children of the school was taken in his time, also. A bearded

Outside the Toongabbie School of Arts

Cast of The Mock Trial, taken about 1914.

Back row: Fred Birk, Frank Johnston, Mr. Casper and Councillor J. C. Page. Second row: includes Mr. Birk, H. Seward and Captain Drake. Third row: Syd Bond, Mick Roddy, T. Willmot, snr., Isaac Jones and Will Bond. Front row: Stan Bond and George Bull.

gentleman standing proudly with his 49 pupils, this increase in numbers was surely a tribute to the activities of the school as well as a sign of the growing settlement in the district. This photograph was presented to the school by Mr. F. Tyrer in 1960, with only two students not recognised by the early students — it is a valuable record.

Mr. Wilkins was succeeded by Mr. Henry Page in 1895, but before this the residents of Toongabbie had begun their plans for having their own School of Arts.

In March of 1892 the Toongabbie-Wentworthville Progress Association meeting reported having met with Mr. Fitzwilliam Wentworth, on his return from England, and that he had promised to give 2½ acres of land for a School of Arts and Park. The responsibility of administration and care of the property was vested in three trustees, the first three being Messrs. W. L. Oakes, Edwin Rice and Thomas Willmot junior. This piece of land was located between the public school and the home of Mr. J. Nuttor, the timbered area now part of the school grounds.

In June, 1964, the Department of Education commenced building additions to the school on this land.

By April, 1892, the deeds agreement had been completed and plans were made to raise money for the erection of the building. The bank collapse in the mid-1890s and the drought which affected the Cumberland district in that period did not help the ambitious proposal.

When Mr. Page arrived the plans were stagnant, but a new committee was formed in 1896 and Mr. Page received permission from the Department to act as Honorary Secretary. The old school building was leased to this committee at a peppercorn rental. Conditions included the stipulation that the school children should be able to use the verandah of the old building as a weathershed, that the building be used only between 6 and 10 p.m., and that no political or religious meetings should be held in the building.

It was intended to build the School of Arts Hall as soon as possible, but continued droughts and bad seasons prevented the local people from raising the money, and the lease was renewed each year until 1911.

It is thought that 1911 was the year the building was completed. Our illustration is thought to have been taken about 1914.

Many happy occasions are remembered in the time the School of Arts was part of the Old Toongabbie scene. The following facts about this movement have been provided by Mr. Collinridge Rivett and will undoubtedly be read with interest by many who, seeing the buildings still exist in many places, could not know of their origins.

"The School of Arts movement was a very familiar instructional medium for many at Toongabbie. Parents had long associated themselves with the Parramatta institute, which operated in various premises around Parramatta from the early 1840s, then at the movement's first building in Macquarie Street (near Smith Street) which opened in 1867, and finally at the last of the movement's buildings, in the same Macquarie Street (now AMP building site), where it opened in 1886.

"Local Toongabbie residents, like people in other surrounding districts around Parramatta, encouraged their senior children, especially boys, to enrol at the Parramatta School of Arts classes. The parents, too, travelled to Parramatta to attend what we could call 'evening classes'.

"But first we must trace this unique Australian movement from its beginning because it's a little-known story of the thirst for knowledge by ordinary citizens. And Toongabbie played a role in a small way.

"The School of Arts movement developed from Art Unions — the term 'art union' suggests a lottery or a draw for the dream cottage or new motor-car prizes. The original purpose and meaning of the art union had nothing to do with the now familiar lottery, at least the way a modern lottery 'serves' the public.

"The original art union medium belonged to groups of organised artists and their friends and supporters who conducted the cause in the interests of culture and the oft' struggling artist. The first seeds of the idea were sown during the reign of William IV of England. During the early 'twenties of the 19th century an institution became known as the 'Art Union' in Munich, Germany. 'Art' meant visual creation, like paintings, engravings and sculpture, and 'Union' meant the uniting together of artists with the community generally, the non-artists, or laymen.

"This kind of unity between artists and laymen swept Germany by 1833. The scheme worked on the principle that art lovers and artists should contribute to an 'Art Union' fund, an annuity, which entitled donors to an exchange of original paintings acquired by the appointed committee. The art selectors, or 'adjudicators', became the managers of the movement. The money subscribed paid for works of art and covered costs of administration. Donors or subscribers were then entitled to draw for exhibits, and so the first real art unions came into being.

"The idea was introduced to Edinburgh, Scotland, and in 1834 the first Scottish Art Union subscriptions were called for at one guinea a year for the exchange of art and the acquisition of engravings. The interest grew and the movement later included art lectures and demonstrations at public halls where artists were engaged to deliver lessons — to anyone, irrespective of social standing. Art did not belong to any one particular class of people, it was the 'property' of all people, the Scots said.

"The art union movement matured into establishments of learning and the fine arts were given a tremendous impetus among the lay community. Libraries were formed and the classes expanded, and soon followed special books on culture, including the noted 'Art Union' volumes. Artists' materials were produced as never before and it was this aspect which established for British manufacturers leadership in art material production.

"The transportation and migration of people to New South Wales from the Home countries

introduced the art union scheme — and its unique Australian off-springs in cultural and educational fields for the ordinary people. Most of the original founders of the movement in New South Wales were Parramatta and district residents, or people who spent many years in Parramatta. They included William Griffith, Henry Curzon Allport, Joseph Dennis, W. J. Welch and F. A. Montague, all artists, and Count Lucien de broel Plater, a Pole, his wife, the former Miss Charlotte Duffus, and other members of the Duffus family, John McKay and Dr. Patrick Hill. Most had arrived in the 1830s and by 1841 these early settlers, together with others interested in encouraging culture and learning, including George Oakes, James Elder, Major Cotton, Mr. E. Mason, Mr. B. Isaacs and Dr. M. Anderson, combined to found a primitive 'School of Arts' at Parramatta.

"It was the infant Parramatta Mechanics' Library where it was proposed to make available books, teachers and lecturers to assist the whole community, to teach trades to boys, to provide plays, art exhibitions, discussions on professions and politics and debates on all topical subjects. The first library service and lecture room was provided in Elder House (now site of Woolpack Hotel, Parramatta), and Major Cotton was the Institute's first president. The movement was under way two years before Sydney Town's Mechanics' Library opened.

"Art unions were held, but indirectly associated with the movement at first, where subscribers paid 21/- for a ticket in a 'lottery' for several prizes — all original works of art. The lucky subscribers whose ticket numbers were drawn from a hat selected their prizes from an exhibition. The artists were rewarded because they had sold their paintings to the managers who organised the art unions, and patrons enjoyed the events, especially the lucky ones whose numbers were drawn.

"The first significant event held in the colony was naturally conducted at Parramatta, in 1845, and it was known as the 'Scottish Art Union', conducted by Howard Bower. It would be correct to assume many Toongabbie residents at that period were among Australia's first art union exhibition visitors, even subscribers, as the display was free and was arranged in the gallery inside the Australian Arms Inn, Parramatta.

"Two years earlier, in 1843, William Griffith presented Australia's first art show in the gallery, and we can also be sure some Toongabbie residents visited that exhibition because the artist himself recorded that:

> '. . . and the mine host, Master John McKay, was well pleased with the patronage several inhabitants of Windsor, Castle Hill, Toongabbie and Prospect having accorded their appreciations upon visiting the gallery room.'

"The Mechanics' Library developed into the School of Arts and Sciences at Parramatta, and in 1867 the movement, backed by sincere members of the gentry who approved of 'higher learning' for the 'labouring classes', built its own impressive school building. The movement was a combination of entertainment, learning, culture and a library. It was supported by every section of the community, a real people's movement, which did not depend on State aid, but in 1854 it received 'official' backing. In that year Henry Parkes was elected to the N.S.W. Legislative Council; the artists' friend and advocate of education saw in the School of Arts movement a ready-made opportunity for the extended education of the colonial people. He assisted the cause where and when he could.

"Although the art unions began to vanish from the Australian scene during the Gold Rush years — the original art union schemes — the School of Arts movement matured to impressive standards. Music, drama and general instruction in many trades progressed and hundreds of people enjoyed the institution's benefits. Education was indeed taken to the people on a large scale, and around the School of Arts numerous debating, musical, art, dancing, handicraft and general study groups or clubs developed. The members were residents of Parramatta and the surrounding districts.

"The movement flourished until the early 1890s when the whole community became affected by the 'Banking Panic'. Earlier the Government had supported the movement in all centres, but the G. R. Dibbes Government was forced to curtail funds to support the institutions. Instructors were withdrawn and classes closed.

"The committee at Parramatta managing the School of Arts was forced to look for new financial support and the rooms were hired out for private meetings, businessmen and

even 'billiards-room agents'. Money could not be found to enlarge the library's technical section and the decline of the once powerful 'people's educational institute' began . . . at a time when Toongabbie's residents were determined to establish their own School of Arts."

The original reasons for having the building may not have materialised, but it served a much-needed community purpose until World War II when the population of the district had no great use for it. The building was still in debt so the trustees at that time, Messrs. A. & P. Milne, sold the hall (which was removed) to pay the remaining debtors. The land was purchased by the Department of Education, and surplus money was returned to revenue.

When Mr. Henry Page took over as teacher in January, 1895, he applied for additional accommodation in the school residence; with seven children the home was too small. An additional bedroom was added and painting and repairs carried out by Vickery and Gibson for the sum of £128.

It has been recorded that in August, 1895, 1,000 invitation cards were ordered for the distribution of prizes at the school. Could this have been a mistake or did the school have 1,000 friends? Enrolments at the time were 34 in 1893 and 50 in 1896. (One can but hope that the school has 1,000 friends by 1965 for the purchasing of the first edition of the history!)

At the end of 1896 the average attendance had risen to over 50, and Miss Eva Laird was appointed assistant teacher.

By 1897 the dry seasons were beginning to affect the attendance and also the building, for it was found necessary to put a belt of asphalt six feet wide all around the building to keep the ground moist around the foundations, and so prevent shrinkage. This is reported as having been successful, the work being done by Mr. Zoeller.

Bad seasons were forcing the farmers to sell their properties or take their children away from the school to assist with the farm work, and Miss Laird was removed at the beginning of 1900.

In 1905 Mr. Page reported to the Department that:

> "For some weeks past we have been carrying water half a mile, for drinking and cooking. We are now carrying water for the school children."

Shortage of water was not confined to the Toongabbie area nor to that period of history, but has been a major problem right through the years and still causes worry in the outback of Australia.

The Toongabbie school was equipped with square tanks to catch the rainwater from the roof. Water that came from the creek could well have been clear enough to use, but that which came from muddy areas and dams (which were sunk by the farmers on vantage catchment points of their properties) was usually emptied into tanks or large containers and "cleared" with the addition of lime, ashes, or wood charcoal, which sent the mud to the bottom leaving clear water which was boiled before use.

A tank on wheels, drawn by one horse and known as a furphy, was a common sight before the conservation of water. Country railway stations had large tanks for the receipt of water which was collected, for a small fee, by householders. This was used for drinking and cooking, when supplies were available. It was possible to clear the contents of a large dam by adding a sack of lime and this could be carted or pumped (mostly by windmills) to the homes of farmers who were often in a better position than the town dwellers, at least while the dam contained water.

White ants, fires in the schoolroom, snakes coming up through the floor and decreasing attendances were among the problems Mr. Page had to cope with. On the brighter side was the addition of wash-house and copper in 1905, renovations in 1906 and a new stove in 1910.

In November, 1903, he reported to the Department that Mr. Willmot "has kindly offered to give phonograph entertainment with his £25 Edison phonograph" to raise money to buy books for the school library and food for the school picnic. The entertainment was officially approved.

However, by April, 1911, the attendance had dropped to around nine. Mr. Page was transferred to the Seven Hills school and Toongabbie children went either to The Meadows or Seven Hills for their schooling for the rest of that year.

Maude Page, a daughter, married David Johnston and lived for many years in Toongabbie in a brick cottage off Fitzwilliam Road.

In December, 1911, Messrs. T. Willmot and J. C. Page applied for the re-opening of

Toongabbie Public School, 1924
From the collection of the late Mr. E. Snow.

the school. Inspector Murray approved this application and the school year, 1912, was commenced with Mr. James Funnell as teacher.

New families had moved into the district. No mention of the end of the dry season is made in records, but one likes to think that the hills and valleys were covered in green shoots, that the blossoms on the fruit trees had developed their fruit, that vegetables and flowers flourished again in the gardens, that fat cattle and horses were contentedly enjoying the lush period that follows an Australian drought.

It had fallen to Mr. Page to teach the children during the interesting period of Federation in 1900, and the opening of the first session of Parliament of the Federated States in 1901, Federal Parliament, by the Duke and Duchess of York.

It was in this time, too, that we first hear of bicycles being used to take children to and from the school. From around 1908 onwards when the first bicycles appeared, their number undoubtedly increased, but it was not until 1962 that the first bicycle racks appeared in the school grounds, donated by Mr. R. Gow and built with the assistance of the Men's Auxiliary.

The following information on bicycles comes from Mr. T. Millard:

"The invention of the present 'continuous cycling' principle in the construction of the bicycle is credited to a Scotsman named Kirkpatrick MacMillan. He developed a bicycle with a rear-wheel drive which was lever driven. MacMillan produced his masterpiece in 1839, and has the somewhat dubious claim to fame of being the first cyclist to be convicted of a road offence, when in 1842 he collided with a curious small boy.

"There were, however, early forerunners of MacMillan's bicycle. A Frenchman, Chevalier de Sivrac, introduced a 'Velocifere' into Paris in 1792. This was a 'pedal-less' bicycle which was propelled by the rider, who sat astride and pushed alternate feet on the ground.

"The cycle era as we know it today, dates back to the first pedal-driven 'Velocipede' of

1865. A Frenchman by the name of Pierre Michaux was the first man to think of fitting cranks and pedals to the front wheel of the Hobby Horse.

"Running right through this period of design and counter design, was the famous 'Ordinary' called the 'Penny Farthing', with its tremendous 55in. to 60in. front wheel and 18in. to 20in. rear wheel, it was capable of some respectable speeds and eventually in 1882 performed some remarkable feats.

"The advent of the first safety bicycle in 1885 with rear chain drive and direct steering is the design of the bicycle very much as we know it today. In 1888 J. B. Dunlop designed a bicycle fitted with pneumatic tyres, the greatest development since the invention of the wheel.

"One of the first bicycles ridden in Australia was in 1869. Telegraph boys were supplied with bicycles in 1881, and in 1892 police were mounted on bicycles instead of horses. By 1889 cycling clubs were fairly well established in Australia — tours were arranged and Saturday and Sunday jaunts were the order of the day.

"Bennett and Wood, established in 1882, were the pioneers of the cycle business in Australia and are still the largest manufacturers in this country. Mr. C. W. Bennett, who established the company, was one of the leading racing cyclists in the Penny Farthing days."

Mr. Funnell commenced his time at Toongabbie with 21 pupils and a renovated school and residence. The pupils of this period could stand at the gate and watch an occasional horseless carriage rumble by.

The motorists, dressed in their long dust coats and big goggles, were usually Doctors J. Kearney or W. S. Brown passing by on visits. Visits that they had made during the lean seasons, too, the parents remembered, were visits made without a "fee reminder". The doctors had brought some of the children into the world and now they were school age, books in hand, or perhaps a hoop and stick, with their lunches of home-baked bread and garden produce and local fruit.

The children were pleased to see the local Boy Scouts in their uniforms, for Toongabbie Troop was formed in 1908. They looked, too, with interest for the new postage stamps appearing on letters passing through Mr. Birk's tiny Post Office. The stamps showed kangaroos and the word Australia on them — something new after the early colonial issues of Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales. Perhaps, too, they had been able to watch the erection of telegraph poles and later the poles to carry electricity into towns and possibly into some of their homes. Many of them parted with father, brother or uncle when the First World War commenced in 1914, many of them never to return.

Despite the war, school enrolments rose and in 1916 there were 40 children attending the school.

Mr. Funnell took an active interest in the newly-built School of Arts. One of his activities was to edit the Manuscript Journal produced by the committee. Articles were contributed by local identities, adults and children, each writing their contributions on foolscap which was bound together and circulated among the populace until all had read its contents. A copy, produced in 1915, was recently donated to the school by Mr. R. Willmot.

In October, 1919, Mr. Edward Snow became the master. Enrolments increased to 99 in 1923, and 178 in 1928 to 1934, dropping again to 152 in 1937. Assistants varied accordingly. One in 1923, three in 1928 and four in 1932. Among them were Miss Halloran and Miss Taylor, now Mrs. Hunt. The late Mr. Snow taught for twelve years at Toongabbie, leaving when the Depression was at its peak. Both Mr. Snow and his wife were held in deep affection and esteem by his numerous pupils and their attendance at the Reunion Day in 1960 was the occasion of the greatest joy to the many former pupils present. Their delight in meeting again was a tribute to a fine headmaster, a man who was gifted with the ability to bring out the best in his pupils, a talent which every one of these grown men and women appreciated and showed in their expressions to him on this day.

Mr. Snow was to see new buildings added, the first brick classroom in 1923 to accommodate 56, bringing total accommodation to 98. Acccess between the new and the old classrooms was provided by making an opening in the old classroom wall. Part of the verandah was enclosed for a headmaster's office and a weathershed was built. The total cost was £1,283.

Two more brick classrooms were added in 1928, each holding 56 children, bringing total

accommodation to 210. The work was done by Mr. F. Walker at the cost of £1,100. In 1956 the two classrooms were damaged by fire but were restored to their original condition. Further weatherboard classrooms were added in 1959 and a modern brick structure is expected in the near future. Buildings in the infants' school section were commenced in 1955 and added to as required — with a modern brick double kindergarten section completed in 1963.

The two acres originally purchased (official transfer from Mr. F. Wentworth, July 5, 1888) was added to by resumption in 1945 when another two acres were acquired. The two acres purchased from A. & P. Milne in September, 1950, the School of Arts land, brought the school block to a valued six acres.

The vested residence, home of the headmaster for so many years, was disposed of about 1926. A report dated 20th July, 1932, from Mr. McCurdy (then headmaster) stated:

> "About six years ago the residence was condemned. It was shortly afterwards sold, but I cannot get definite information as to whether it was sold by tender or by auction. The building realised either £30 or £50: one person says £30, the other £50."

It is assumed that the building was demolished and removed. Mr. and Mrs. Snow spent the rest of the years at Toongabbie in a private residence.

Mr. Gaisford McCurdy followed Mr. Snow as headmaster and held the position for six years with Mr. James Beatty taking over in 1936. Mrs. Beatty often walked from their home in Wentworthville to take sewing classes. Walking was not looked on as a hardship at that time; bus services were not frequent and if one missed the bus one just walked!

It was while Mr. Beatty was headmaster that the Mothers' Club was formed in 1942, with Mrs. L. M. Evans as first president. This club has the charter usually given to the P. & C.

Mr. Lindsay Hamilton was appointed in January, 1947, Mr. Jack Woods in January, 1949, and Mr. Eric Bott in January, 1951, holding the position of headmaster until his death. Mr. James Dwyer commenced his service in February, 1955, a time of expansion in the school.

It was in Mr. Dwyer's time that the Infants' School became a separate department under the supervision of Miss L. Campbell. She was followed by Miss Butson in 1956, Miss E. Hancock taking over as headmistress during the year and remaining for five years. During six months' leave of absence her place was taken by Mrs. A. Ross. Mrs. E. Clift was headmistress from 1961 to 1963, with Miss L. Campbell returning to take over what has grown to an A Grade Infants' School, in 1964.

Mr. J. P. Jones commenced as headmaster in 1960, and was still in the position at the time this book was printed. Under his guidance the school has achieved a high reputation in the local area and has become known in many overseas schools. The use of the tape recorder as a teaching aid has been used to capacity, so much so that many assistant teachers have acquired their own. A well-established tape correspondence has given much pleasure to teachers, parents and children, each class having contact with a different school in different parts of the world.

As in the early days no greater successful social function than those in which parents and children attend together has been instituted. Instead of lantern slides they are now able to watch films and slides of the children in their school activities filmed by teachers who are at all times ready to use their time and talents for the betterment of the pupils in their care. With the School of Arts no longer available and the township of Toongabbie over a mile from the school, many of these functions have been held in the school grounds, with many a sigh for that missing hall!

It has been the influence of the present Headmaster, Mr. J. P. Jones, and his great interest in local history that has inspired the collection of these items resulting in the printing of this book.

It would be unfair to conclude this section without paying tribute to the Primary Mothers' Club. From its inception in 1942 it played a major part in the progress of the advancement of the school at all times, accepting the requests of the Headmaster of the time and raising the money to supply requirements. A separate Infants' School Club was formed in 1956, handling the necessary efforts for supply of this part of the school. The clubs work together in large affairs such as fetes and public stalls, and the major sports carnival, and have been considerably assisted by the menfolk who formed an Auxiliary in 1960. Social events, concerts, etc., and the handling of monies are the lot of each club individually.

It was the Primary Mothers' Club that organised the highly successful Reunion Day at the school in 1960 which brought to light so many historical items and brought into being a renewed interest in the school by many ex-pupils. Office bearers at the time were: President, Mrs. D. A. Sargeant, Hon Secretary, Mrs. O. Taberner, and Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. B. Champion.

It has been the support of the Primary Mothers' Club and the willingness of the members to provide the money to pay for the printing of this book, at the same time keeping up necessary supplies to a growing school, that has finally brought it to fruition. Office bearers at the time of going to print were: President, Mrs. D. A. Sargeant; Hon Secretary, Mrs. L. Peterson; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. K. Briggs.

Enrolments at the Toongabbie Public School at the beginning of 1964 were 730, with a staff of 21 teachers plus cleaners. Buildings approved and due to be erected in the near future will enable a total enrolment of 840. It is expected to feature Principal's and Deputy Principal's offices, separate men and women's staff rooms, clinic and storage rooms and a place for a library. This is a library that will house some very interesting historical documents and pictures, many more than can be included in this book.

HEADMASTERS OF THE SCHOOL

Name	*Date appointed*
Harvey Murray	April, 1886
Alfred Wilkins	January, 1891
Henry Page	January, 1905
James Funnell	January, 1912
Edward Snow	October, 1919
Gaisford McCurdy	January, 1931
James Beatty	January, 1936
Lindsay Hamilton	January, 1947
Jack Woods	January, 1949
Eric Bott	January, 1951
James Dwyer	February, 1955
John Jones	February, 1960

As this is a Toongabbie School production we have not gone into a detailed investigation of the surroundings schools, feeling that this is their privilege. However, some information is called for and is of interest.

The Meadows Public School was established in 1890 and has grown to an enrolment of almost 700. Mr. C. Muscio, Headmaster from 1949-64, has recently retired and is succeeded by Mr. M. D. Etherington.

Schooling in the Girraween area commenced in the Girraween School of Arts on April 1, 1919, and later that year moved into the completed school building. The school is well equipped, having had excellent parent organisation over the years. Headmaster, Mr. P. R. Goodwin, reports enrolments as 646 at the beginning of 1964.

Both of these schools are nearer the Toongabbie shopping centre than the Toongabbie Public School.

The Darcy Road School was established as an Infants' School in 1955 and grew to a Primary School. Taking children from the Old Toongabbie and North Wentworthville area it now has an enrolment of 599, with Headmaster Mr. P. Williams continuing his role as first Headmaster.

The children of this school and the Toongabbie Public School are to form the First Year students of the contemplated High School serving Toongabbie expected to be in use off Knox Street in 1965.

A DEDICATION TO THE TUTORS

The passing years, graced with the blessings of countless joys and tears,

have fluttered by, yet loving eyes of inheriting tutors remain to try

and hear again, those echoes of far flung steps now claimed with tender fame

at a distant corner, far afield from their familiar valley flora

at perhaps an abbey, or a shifting craft so far away from old Toongabbie.

CHAPTER SIX

A POSTAL STORY

POST OFFICES, as we know them today, were not common in the colony until 1828 when authorities decided to establish them at principal settlements. A post office had operated in Sydney when Mr. Isaac Nicholls was appointed in charge of an office for the distribution of parcels and letters, on 25th April, 1809, by Lieut-Governor Paterson.

This post office was provided so settlers could call and ask whether the office had any mail for them. The residents were restricted, however, because the facilities were not staffed with any sort of efficiency. The settlers included people living and working in other centres such as Windsor, Parramatta and Toongabbie as well as Sydney.

People who picked up their mail had to pay a fee. A letter from England, or anywhere outside the colony, was taxed 8d., and 4d. was the fee paid for a letter sent to the office from anywhere inside the colony. There were no stamps as we know them, in fact stamps were not issued in N.S.W. until 1850. It was difficult for residents around Parramatta to acquire their mail and sometimes carriers or friends obtained permission to pick up mail from the office; there were no postmen or proper mail deliveries.

In 1828 it was decided to establish a number of post offices and appoint postmasters in the major centres, and Parramatta was one of the settlements selected where a postmaster was appointed, together with a carrier, or postman.

In the early days the postmasters, especially in Sydney, arranged for a list of names to be published in the newspapers of the day, announcing that there were letters waiting for individuals. This practice became obsolete when more carriers began to deliver mail, not always regularly but adequate for the demands of the period.

Even after the Parramatta office had been operating for many years surrounding residents, including Toongabbie, had to call personally at the office to collect their mail because the carrier did not deliver outside the Parramatta boundary limits.

When post offices were established at Baulkham Hills and Seven Hills confusion arose as correspondents writing to Toongabbie residents gave no information on the envelopes as to where the letters were to be collected — Parramatta, Baulkham Hills or Seven Hills Post Offices. Mail sorters in Sydney were likely to send the letters to any one of the three.

By 1886 the residents of Toongabbie were looking to the various Government departments to provide needed public facilities for their district, the first request the local inhabitants decided on was for the provision of a post office. Most of the residents were newly arrived from overseas and mail from their dear ones left behind was of the greatest importance. They drew up a petition, a common practice for the citizens of that period, and forwarded it to the Postmaster-General, asking that the location of the post office be in the vicinity of the new public school. After inquiries had been made by the department it was claimed that only about 20 letters a week would be posted at Toongabbie and so the petition was rejected.

No record of how many letters the local residents were receiving through the three post offices was available. The reason so few letters were likely to be posted locally was simply that a number of the settlers were businessmen in Sydney or Parramatta and posted not only their own mail but also that of friends and neighbours in boxes close to their place of business.

The first petition to the department was signed by the following: James Smith, Henry Birk, George Hammer, G. Weilands, David Johnston, S. R. Watkins, R. M. Harris (of Stratton Villa), Edward Reiby (or Reilly), Arthur Barnett, Edwin Rice, John Breen (caretaker), G. Jarvis, Peter Bohringer, W. Buckley,

J. L. Bohringer, C. Klippert, Fred Gates, M. H. Nuttor, E. W. Otto and F. A. Smith.

These men were keen to see their district become a community and this first rebuff to their request did not deter them from their plans. Within three months another petition was on its way with most of the early signatures supplemented by the addition of a number of new supporters. Among them was the local grocer, W. T. Coops, the schoolmaster, Mr. Harvey Murray, John Anderson, T. Gaffney, F. Martin, Henry Birk, John Erskin, H. Lopalier, A. S. D. Harston, E. Dundass, Joseph Green, Geo. Woodward, John Evans, Jacob Denzil, R. M. Oakes, Wm. Huttley and W. W. Best.

The residents did not have long to wait for their reply — again rejected! So Christmas of 1886 saw them again wending their way to Seven Hills, Baulkham Hills and Parramatta looking for their Christmas letters and packages. No doubt many a caustic remark was made to Mr. Varney Parkes, the district Parliamentary representative, as he drove around the neighbourhood in his carriage to give Festive Greetings to his constituents and their families.

"A wee postal office would be the finest New Year present you could give us," one Scot told Mr. Parkes. In February, 1887, Mr. Parkes, MP, officially requested that a "mounted postal boy" be provided from the Parramatta Post Office (built in 1878) to deliver mail to the residents of Toongabbie. Again the Postal Department refused though horseback delivery boys were not unusual.

Within a few months of this setback the men of the district were again set for further effort. If no post office was forthcoming near the school a try for an office elsewhere might bring success. So a third petition was drawn up, every newcomer in the district, and there were quite a number, was approached to sign this evidence of a desire to have a community of their own with all its civic rights and amenities. If ever a group of citizens deserved success in their efforts it was these early Toongabbie settlers, and this time they were successful! The department agreed to open a post office at the home of Mr. Henry Birk.

Among the men who supported the new petition were John W. Tyrer, of Ballendella Road, and Walter L. Oakes of "Casuarine", two men who were to do much for the district in its early days, in all manner of undertakings. Others were G. Oldham, E. Lucas, Wm. Buckley, J. J. Gilham, J. W. Dukes, W. S. Jones, G. Doormann, B. Walker, Samuel Wenban, M. A. Harris, A. Barnett, L. H. Wunderlich, H. Martin, E. Wiggins, Joseph Green, W. Coop, B. Broujch, James Dunn, Chas. Watt, Jacob Denzel, Wm. Shirley, K. Hammer, John Deering, B. Lucas, John Erskine and J. R. Bray.

Mr. F. Balow, of "Vineyard", and Mr. A. Brook, of Windsor Road (now Old Windsor Road, Ed.) supported the petition — and so did the three heads of Chinese families, mostly engaged in market gardening and herbage preparation. These men were Kong Hop, Ah Lan and Ah War, and the scene of their gardening activities was along the banks of the Toongabbie Creek in the vicinity of Oakes Road, a position similar to that occupied by the first convict farm (as shown in the illustration "A Western View of Toongabbie") but bearing more toward Johnston's Bridge. These families were Christians and members of St. John's Anglican Church, Parramatta, where a Chinese-born minister had been especially appointed for the then rather large Chinese population around the greater Parramatta district of that time.

Mr. Walter L. Oakes organised the third, and final petition, and in an accompanying letter he mentioned to the Postal Department that the estate of Fitzwilliam Wentworth was then for sale. This was an obvious hint to the department that land was available, but after departmental officers re-visited the locality the compromise was agreed upon. The home of Mr. Henry Birks became the Toongabbie Post Office on 1st August, 1887, and this cottage remained the home of the postal activities until 1961 when the office became part of a new home in Old Windsor Road, just next door to it.

Mr. Birk was paid an annual salary of £10, plus £15 a year for carrying the mail each day, on horseback, to and from Seven Hills. Mr. Birk was something of a "Pony Express" mailman and it may be wondered why the mail bags were not conveyed by train because both Toongabbie and Seven Hills were centres along the path of the Great Western Railwayline. The Postal Department found it more convenient to commission carriers, as they did

Mr. Birk, to carry the mails by horseback, rather than to engage "runners" to load and off-load the mail bags from the trains, which did not run too frequently at that time.

Philatelic-minded folk or cover collectors would no doubt still treasure envelopes bearing the post office impressions of either Seven Hills or Toongabbie with "opposite" addresses on them, because all the mail between the two areas was carried by "Pony Express" during the late 1880s and 1890s.

Mr. Birk was postmaster at Toongabbie until 1903, when his son Mr. F. W. Birk became postmaster in his place and commenced duty on 1st January, 1904. Mr. F. Birk remained in the position until 1922 when he sold the office (with the farm attached to it) to Mr. Russell. Mr. Russell and family stayed only two years.

On November 14, 1924, Mr. D. Johns began his term as postmaster (and farmer). Right up to the time of his death in the 1950s he was a familiar sight, collecting mail from Toongabbie Station with his horse and sulky. Since his death Toongabbie has had his daughter, Miss L. Johns, as postmistress (the land attached has been sold). Over the years Miss Johns (and others like her) has been much more than mistress of an office. Guide, counsellor and friend to the newcomers in the district, cheerfully overcoming language difficulties there are many who hope that the happy postmistress will survive the march of progress and remain in charge of our small but much loved post office. For the station area of Toongabbie also has a postmistress.

As the heavily-timbered land was cleared and settled after World War I many people began to find Toongabbie an attractive place to live, with good soil for market gardening and a fine area for poultry farming.

The Toongabbie West Post Office opened in a tiny weatherboard cottage in Wentworth Avenue, and right across from the railway station, on March 2, 1922, with Mrs. A. Riley as Receiving Officer. It was not known as the "West" post office until after representation was made to the department and the official name Toongabbie West came in on November 15, 1923, thus clearing up the confusion caused by having two Toongabbie Post Offices.

Miss Riley became postmistress on March 1, 1941. After her marriage she continued in the office, as Mrs. Parsons, and moved with it into the new premises provided in Portico Parade on December 5, 1960. With the move came again a change of names. This time the "west" was removed and it is the Toongabbie Post Office, with Mrs. Parsons still the postmistress at the time of this publication.

On December 5, 1960, the original Toongabbie Post Office was officially named the Old Toongabbie Post Office, in a new building, but still in the Old Windsor Road.

The original post office is still in use, as a home. The stonework of the early portion of the building is of much interest, but as no records exist it is not possible to ascertain the time of its erection. One would like to think that it may have stood since convict days, that they may have built it as a home for an overseer, or as a shop or place of business; from its age and type of stonework it could have been so. It is now owned by Mr. Gaspari. The left wing was added to the building some forty years ago.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR TIMES

THE beginning of Toongabbie may have no equal in the annals of Australian history, but its more modern community is similar to that of many an Australian township. Down through the decades, from the beginning of the settlement, peoples of countless nationalities have come to live, to work, to settle and rear their families and to provide in the Toongabbie area a community akin to many others in our land.

When new settlers came from the countries of Europe after convict transportation ceased in the 1840s, and especially during the Gold Rush years of the 1850s, the Toongabbie district received its fair share. There are stories of the local Toongabbie families which provide us with typical tales of families, as may be found in many parts of Australia, and we have collected here a broad array of the "times and ways, doings and says, of folk of other days" — a line from a ditty, by an unknown colonial poet, which goes on to rhyme, "who walked, and talked, long before we held the chalk".

Early craftsmen have left us with a fine series of maps drawn in the beginning of the exploration of the country. Some of these are available in published books, others have been preserved in the Archives Office of N.S.W., all are of great interest.

The first of these maps, published by Captain Tench in his book, "Sydney's First Four Years", shows the routes of his explorations during the years 1789, 1790 and 1791. Though he covered the Toongabbie area and reports on the settlement, it is not marked on the map or named in the early edition of the book.

There were a number of settlers, the first grants having been made by Governor Phillip, relatively early after the foundation of the Government farm. Grants were 25 acres to G. Chestland, 30 acres each to Owen Martin, Pye, George Best, N. Rogers, William Marshman and William Skinner. Thomas Daveney and C. Grimes each received 100 acres and T. Pierce 170 acres, and these grants may be seen on the Lands Maps printed in this work.

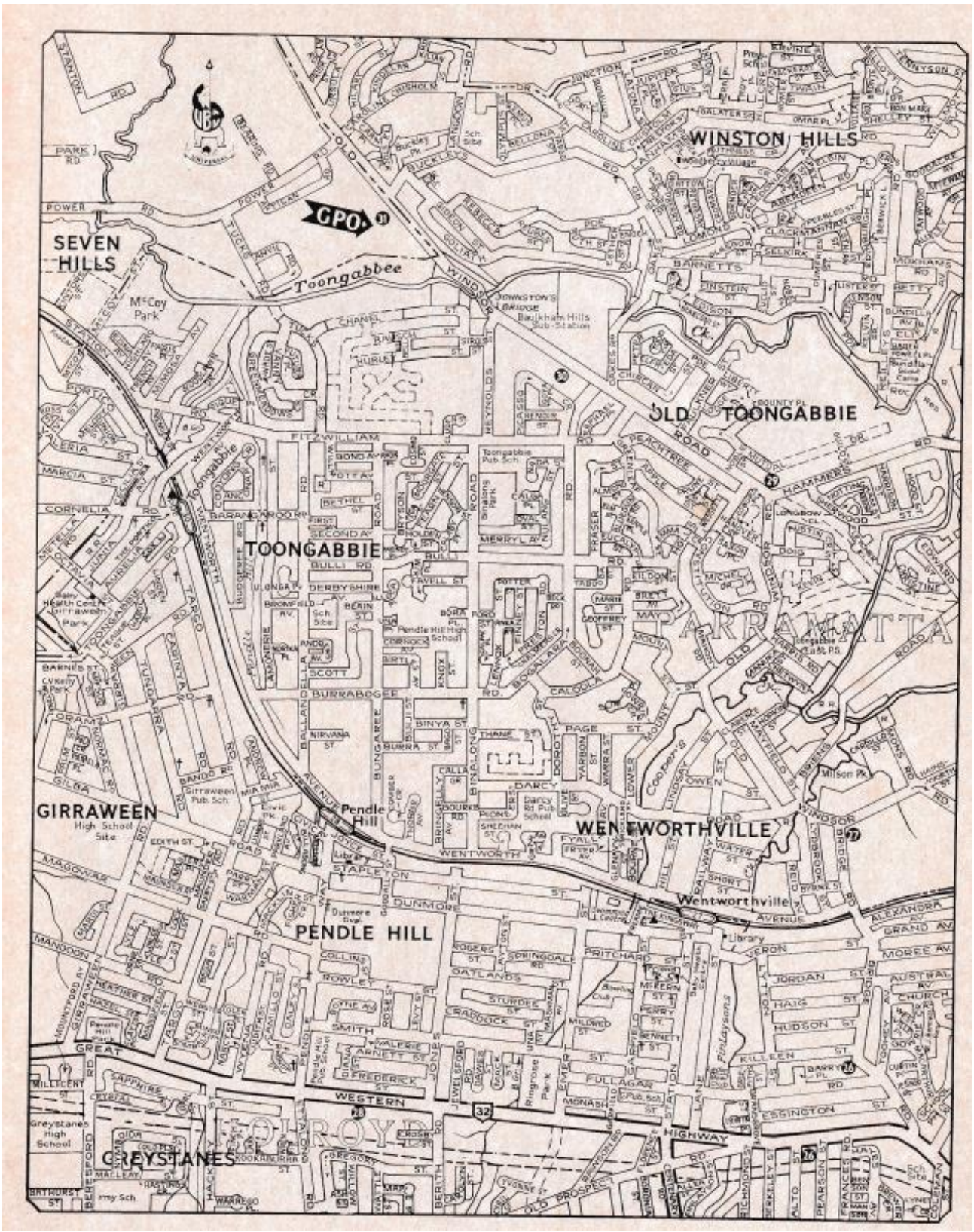
Captain John Hunter provided a map of much of the country as it was in 1796 (drawn 20th August), which was published in "An Account of N.S.W." by David Collins. (This book was published May 26, 1798, by Cadell & Davies, Strand.) At this time the name of Rose Hill had been changed to Parramatta.

Collins tells us some interesting human stories about the lives of the convicts engaged in working at the farm. Mr. W. Magee, an American who arrived on the "Halcyon", visited this area and was impressed with the results achieved. "This person," wrote Collins, "on seeing the Toongabbe hills covered with a promising crop of wheat, declared that he had never seen better in America." That was in the summer of 1794. More men were sent to Toongabbie to "prepare the ground" soon after Christmas of that year, and in January, 1795, "the wheat belonging to the Government was considerably injured" during a nasty storm.

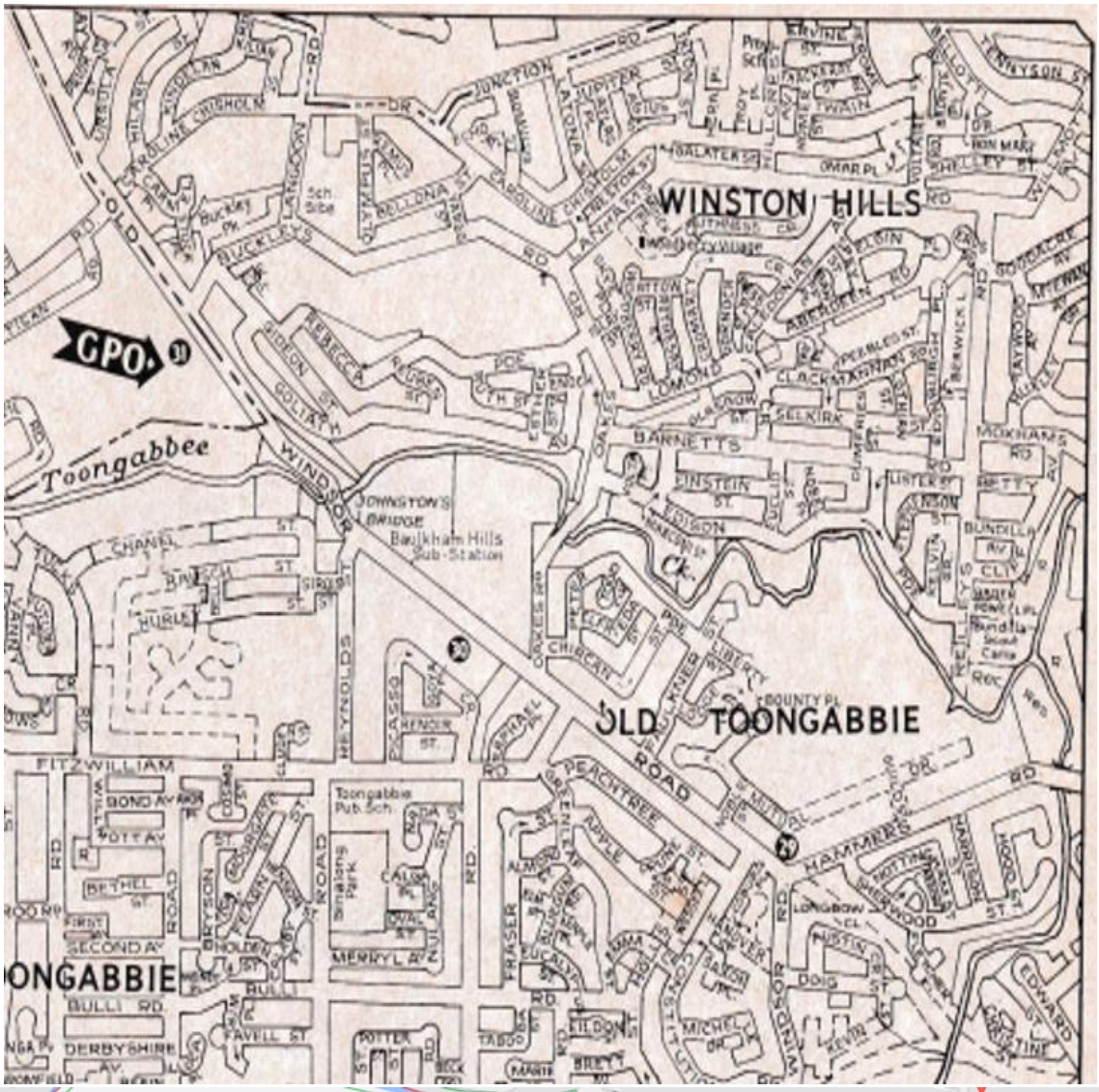
In April he made the announcement: "The Toongabbe hills being reported to be worn out, it was determined to let them remain fallow for that season; and a spot called the Ninety Acres (at Westmead), and the hills between Parramatta and Toongabbe, which had been prepared, were now sown."

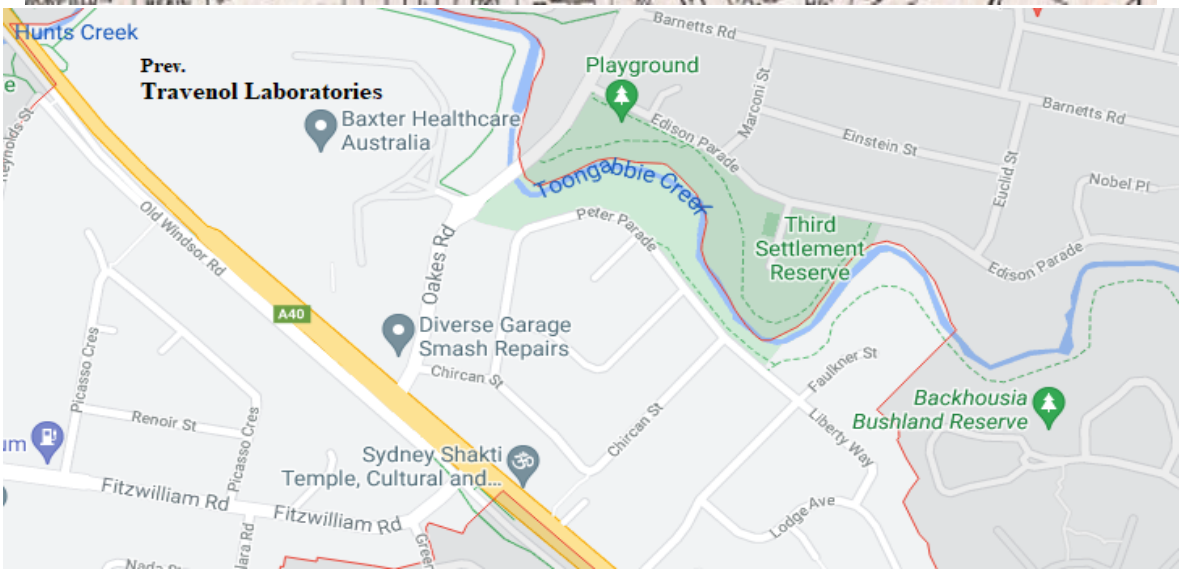
In August "at Toongabbe, a circumstance most acutely felt, a very large barn and threshing-floor were destroyed and several cattle lately arrived perished from the severity" from another storm which struck the whole Cumberland district.

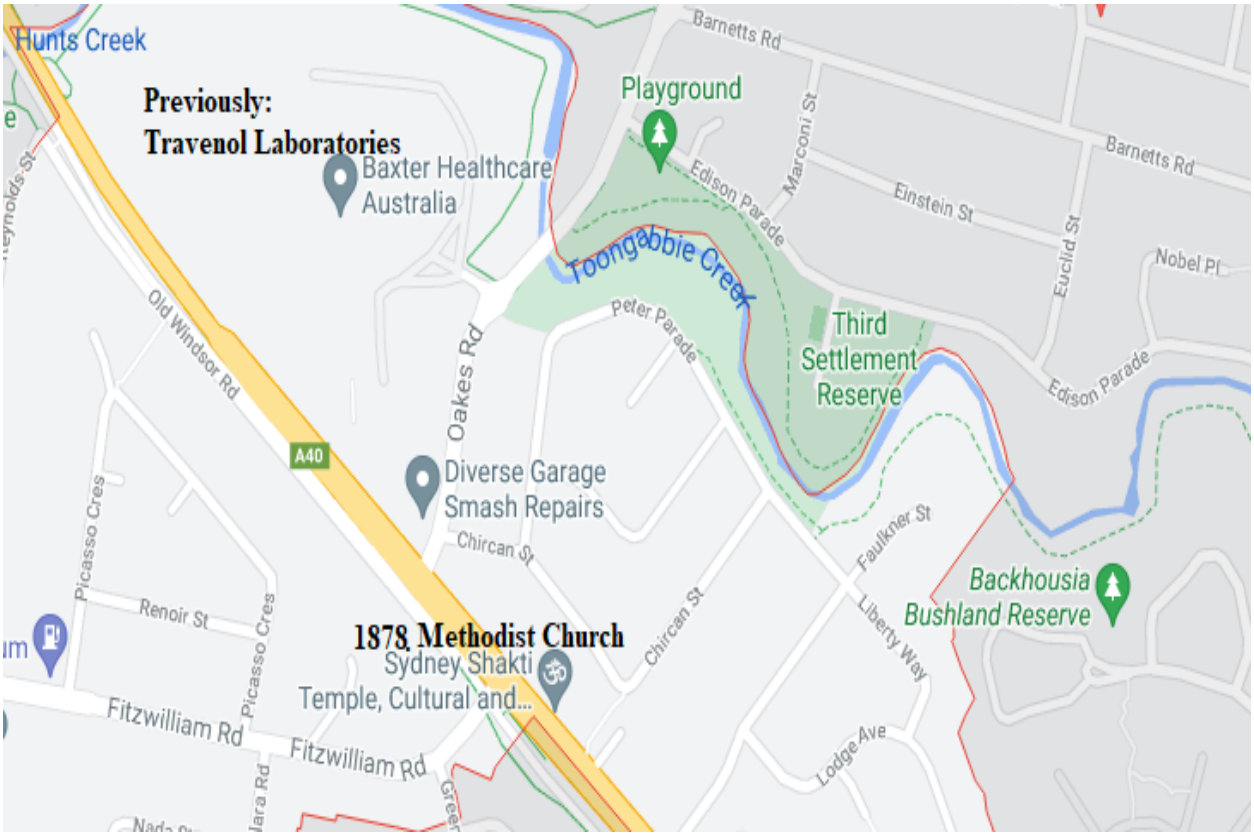
In January, 1797, Collins records that a stack of 800 bushels was burnt down in a fire which started one evening, perhaps a bushfire, which spread rapidly. "The wind was high, the night extremely dark, and the flames had mounted to the very tops of the lofty woods that surrounded a field called the Ninety Acres, in which were several stacks of wheat,"


WINSTON HILLS
SEVEN HILLS
GPO
Toongabbee
McCoy Park
OLD TOONGABBIE
TOONGABBIE
PARRAMATTA
GIRRAWEEN
High School Site
Pendle Hill
WENTWORTHVILLE
Wentworthville
PENDLE HILL
GREYSTANES
Greystanes High School
HIGHWAY

Page 69


WINSTON HILLS
GPO
Toongabbee
OLD TOONGABBIE
ROAD
ONGABBIE


Hunts Creek
Prev.
Travenol Laboratories
Baxter Healthcare Australia
Playground
Barnetts Rd
Edison Parade
Marconi St
Einstein St
Euclid St
Nobel Pl
Toongabbie Creek
Peter Parade
Third Settlement Reserve
Old Windsor Rd
A40
Oakes Rd
Diverse Garage Smash Repairs
Chircan St
Faulkner St
Backhousia Bushland Reserve
Liberty Way
Picasso Cres
Renoir St
Sydney Shakti Temple, Cultural and...
Fitzwilliam Rd
Lodge Ave



and to Wentworth Press for their fine reproduction of the book.

The author no longer lives in Toongabbie. It was during the year of 1970 that the Blacktown Municipal Council was approving plans for the building of Travenol Laboratories Pty. Ltd. which meant the acquiring of the Sargeant acres to complete its establishment, and so the Sargeant home disappeared and the valley behind it was levelled out and there is naught to show of the place where the writer-historian lived for twenty-three years.

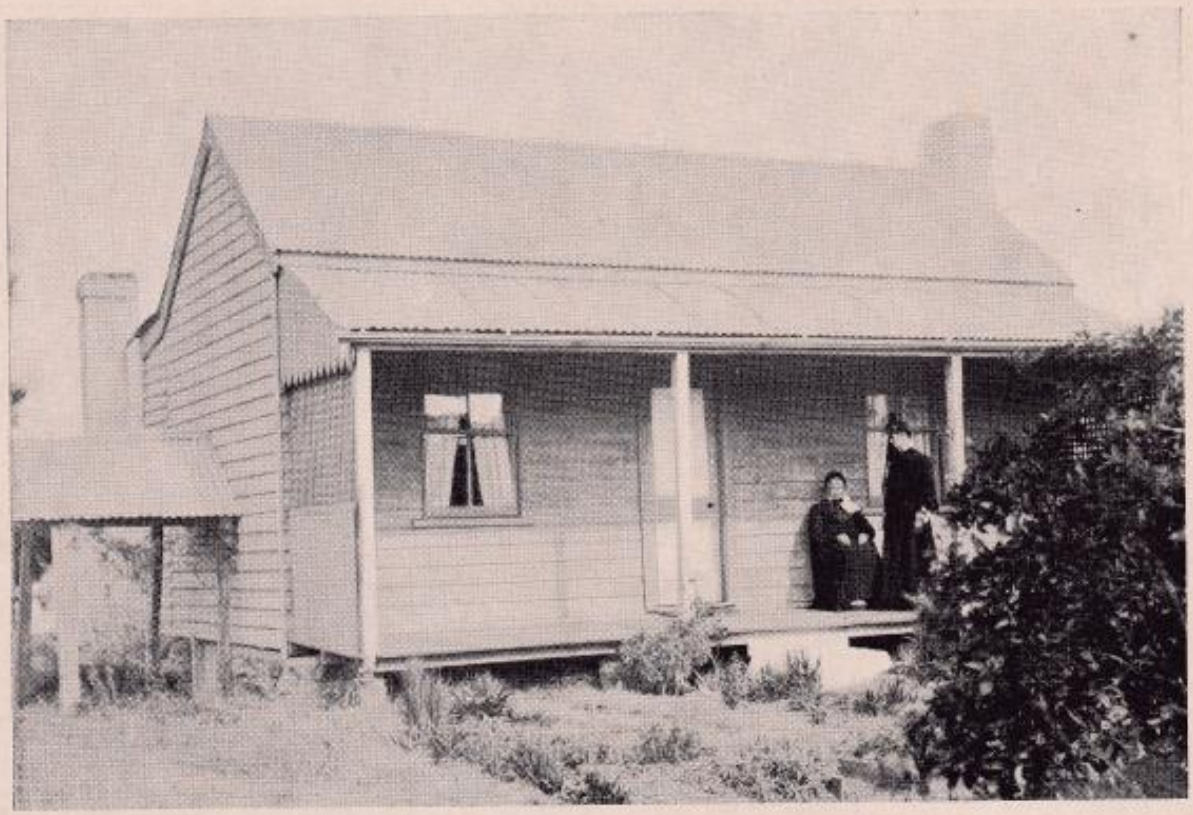
From the 1970s Travenol Laboratories, today Baxter Healthcare Australia, the ground where **Doris A. Sargeant** lived for twenty-three years.

Travenol Laboratories Pty Ltd

Box 88, Oakes Rd, Toongabbie, NSW 2146
Australia.

[redacted] [redacted]

Supplies radioimmunoassay kits and reagents as well as other diagnostics and pharmaceuticals; products of Baxter Travenol Laboratories Inc, US.



Typical of the early weatherboard cottages in the Toongabbie district; this one adjoined the school. The structure on the left covers the entrance to the cellar. Photographed in 1906, picture shows Mrs. Nutter, snr., and Ellen Mary Nutter. The building was demolished in 1960.

(From the collection of Mrs. J. Miller.)

he wrote. "The appearance was alarming, and the noise occasioned by the high wind, and the crackling of the flames among the trees, contributed to render the scene truly awful. It became necessary to make effort to save this field and its contents. The jail-gang, who worked in irons, were called out and told that if the wheat was saved by their exertions, their chains should be knocked off".

One man, who handed down the following story to his children (the family settled near Wright's Creek) said that there were 23 men chained in the gang, who while dragging their heavy iron loads of balls with them, were equipped with tea-tree bushes and successfully put out the fire. They fought all night, saving much of the grain, and were supplied with extra rations in the morning. Their chains were unfastened, their clothes were black with ash and smoke, many suffered from burns, the first of a long line of bush-fire fighters!

Collins also makes a reference to the establishment of additional stock facilities at Portland Place, some two and half miles from the Parramatta Domain, where excellent ponds were located. This name was revived around the 1920s when a large holding on the Girraween side of the railway was known as Portland Place, and it is thought that the naming of the Portico came from this origin.

We turn to a map drawn around 1803 by a very talented craftsman, which shows Toongabbie with 84 allotments. Time has made some names unreadable, but the following holdings are listed: Jones, Holmes, Riley, Nuttor, Harding, Lowry, Becket, O'Harra and J. Pye with 30 acres each. Martin with 50, Sophie Doyle with 60, and Griffith, Bolton,

Harley each with 100 acres. Suttor had 106, Evans 135, Edwards 150, Browning 160 and Best 185, quite large farms for that time. Largest holding was that of Foveaux with 1770 acres.

Historical Records of Australia show Thomas Daveney as having been granted 100 acres in April, 1794, while he was the Superintendent of Convicts at Toongabbe. The same month 30 acres were granted to Andrew Hume, who "attends the delivery of provisions at Toongabbee".

An account of lands granted or leased in His Majesty's Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies by His Excellency Governor Hunter from 1st August, 1796 to 1st January, 1800, includes the following at Toongabbe:

Thirty acres each to convicts William Skinner, John Pye, John Rogers, George Best, William Marshman, Nieenlas Rogers,* Owen Martin, William Yarley, Samuel Allan, John Leadbeater (lease), Thomas Jones, William Skinner, Francis Holligan, Edward Kelly, Daniel Mosely, James Lowry, Bryan Reilly, Michael Simpson, Patrick Brennan and John Holmes.

Thomas Martin received 50 acres, Francis Fowkes 85, Michael Nowland 130 and Christopher Dodd 80. All these people had served their terms and following the policy of Governor Phillip they were granted land to establish themselves and their families.

Toongabbie land was in demand at that time and free settlers, privates and officers of the N.S.W. Corps were also among the grantees. George Cheatland, a private, and Ronald McDonald, a musician noted for his playing of the cornet, both received 25 acres. Richard Richardson, also a private, received 160 acres. William Goodhall, a non-commissioned officer, received 270 acres, whilst Captain Edward Abbott, Esquire, received 700 acres. Major Joseph Foveaux is listed in two grants, 190 and 980.

Free settlers Charles Griffith, John Anson, Thomas Bradley and Mr. John Jamieson, storekeeper at Toongabbee, all received 100 acres; Andrew McDougal and James Smith* each received 150 acres, and William Browning, late of the marines, 160 acres.

*Land grants show these as Nichlas Rogers and John Smith.

These grants took a considerable acreage out of the choice land that was meant to be used as a Government food-producing farm.

When Governor Macquarie arrived his desire for a comprehensive survey of the holdings in New South Wales was entrusted to James Meehan who became Deputy Surveyor-General in 1812. A book covering the whole of the settlement holdings was published separately from the maps. Toongabbie shows 84 allotments on the map, but the holdings listed do not show 84 names so a number of the allotments apparently belonged to the larger properties.

Samuel Allen, James Becket, Patrick Brannon, Bernard Dennison, John Holmes, O'John Harra (2 lots of 30), Samuel Harding, Francis Holligan, William Hall, Thos. Jones, Edward Jones, Joseph Loury, Owen Martin, Daniel Mosely, Thomas Needham, John Pye, Bryan Riley, William Skinner (2 lots) and William Yarley all held 30-acre blocks.

Bolton Junior had 50 acres, Sophia Doyle, William Kentwell and John Redman had 60 acres, while John Vardy held 36. Thos. Jones had a lease of 65, John Pye held another 70-acre lot and Charles Beasley had 80 acres.

Larger properties of 100 acres were held by John Ansey, Michael Ansey, John Anson, Thomas Bolton, James Bean, Bolton Senr., Daveney, Charles Grimes, Elizabeth Graham, Thomas Harley, John Hillis (with another 150 in trust), John Jones, Lewis Jones, Jas. Rayner, John Tivett and John Whewin. Wm. Browning 160, George Best 185, McAndrew Dougle (thought to be Andrew McDougall) 150, Humphrey Evans 135, Edward Edwards 150, John Grimes 168, William Joni (?) 105, Jessie Mulcock 110, Michael Newland 130, Rich Richardson 160 and John Smith 150 were among other large holders.

William Goodhall held 270 acres, J. Math Gibbons 200, with Joseph Foveaux listed as the largest holder with 1770 acres (plus another 125 at Richmond Hill).

This large acreage was used mostly for food production, but there would be no doubt that many of the keen farmers walked off the properties to take up farms in the inland of N.S.W. once the crossing of the Blue Mountains had been accomplished.

By 1822 the Parish of Toongabbe, though still the same in size, was showing only 48

allotments, names of owners unfortunately unavailable. With river areas proving so successful for vegetable production and the success of dairying along the coast, the move to the inland for sheep breeding and wheat growing interests, plus the attraction of the Gold Rush, caused the population of Toongabbie to fall considerably from that time onwards until around 1860.

The grant made to Charles Grimes, in 1794, was choice land near the creek. Grimes came to the colony in his official capacity as Deputy Surveyor of Roads in 1791, on a salary of 5/- per day. He became Surveyor-General in December, 1802. Though he spent much of his time in surveying the new country it appears that he spent some time at his home in Toongabbie, as in 1803 an order was issued instructing settlers to apply to him there, to correct anomalies in their grants. He was appointed a Magistrate and also Superintendent of Public Concerns at Toongabbie where four convicts were assigned to assist him.

Grimes' farm property was sold in 1809 to E. Bolger and was added to the D'Arcy Wentworth holdings in 1813. It was purchased by S. R. Watkins in the 1870s, West and Manning have been mentioned as owners at one time, and it is now the property of the Marist Fathers of St. Peter Chanel's Scholastic Seminary.

Andrew Hume reached Port Jackson in the "Lady Juliana" on June 3, 1790, as superintendent of convicts and agricultural adviser, a much needed man in the colony at that period. Phillip sent him to Norfolk Island to investigate the flax industry, which was not considered successful and he returned to N.S.W. in 1792. His wife, who was known

Boy Scouts' Camp at Willmot's Paddock

This photograph was taken about 1911 at the original Toongabbie Scouts' Ground. The ground was subdivided not many years after World War II and the N.S.W. Housing Commission built homes on the land. The late (Sir) Errol Knox is in the background.

Block donated by Toongabbie Bowling & Recreation Club. *(From the collection of R. Willmot.)*

as Mrs. Matron Hume, was the principal of the Female Orphan School in Parramatta.

Hume held a number of official posts at the Toongabbie farm, including that of livestock overseer. In 1800 he was discharged by Governor King, reinstated by Major George Johnston in 1808 only to be dismissed in September of that year by Major Foveaux.

The Hume farm, off Old Windsor Road about a mile from Johnston's Bridge, was granted to him in 1794 and he farmed it as well as it was possible to do at that time. It was not good land, and after his last fall out with Major Foveaux the farm was sold by auction and the family moved eventually to Appin where Governor Macquarie gave them a grant of 100 acres. After their unhappy time at Toongabbie and being flooded out at Windsor, the farm at Appin became a very satisfactory home for them. Hamilton Hume, their eldest son, was born while they were living at Toongabbie (18th June, 1797) and it was from the farm at Appin that he began his valuable explorations of our country.

Hume's position at Toongabbie was taken over by J. Jamieson at a salary of £100 a year. He also had a grant of 100 acres of land made to him in 1798 but not much is known of it.

Major Joseph Foveaux was with the New South Wales Corps from 1792 to 1801, devoting most of his time in the colony to his farming interests at Petersham and Toongabbie. He experimented in sheep growing at the Toongabbie farm, having a flock of around 1200. The Old Sheep Stn. is marked on the Lands Map near Oakes Road.

When Foveaux was posted to Norfolk Island in 1801 he sold his farm and stock to John Macarthur. On 1st March, 1821, Macarthur returned the Toongabbie land to the Crown in exchange for other more useful land in the County of Camden.

Thomas Daveney arrived in Sydney on June 3, 1790, on the "Lady Juliana" along with a number of superintendents. He was granted his land in 1794 along with Charles Grimes, Andrew Hume and John Redmond. He appeared to enjoy farming and purchased Eggleton's farm three months after receiving his own grant. He was appointed Superintendent at the Government Farm at Toongabbie on 1st April, 1791, and was dismissed from the position by Lieutenant-Governor Grose in 1794. He was greatly distressed at his dismissal and drank so heavily that it was not discovered that he was dead for some time due to the fact that he was so often incapacitated by liquor. His farm is now part of the Seminary holding.

A small headstone in St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta, with the engraving T. Daveney, 1791, is thought to be a son, which could account for the deranged intellect of Mrs. Catherine Daveney, a state she was in for some time before the death of her husband on 3rd July, 1795.

Two enterprising gentlemen, Messrs. Burton and Kent, applied for 1,000 acres of land for grant or lease, for the purposes of manufacturing hemp, on 25th May, 1809. They proposed to bring from India, 20 natives, or Chinese, acquainted with the process of preparing hemp and making rope cordage and canvas. They asked for a £300 subsidy to cover the expenses of conveying the workers from Bengal to Port Jackson. Lt-Governor Paterson granted them 500 acres near Toongabbie, allowing Kent a further 1230 acres at Cobbity.

Nothing came of this proposed venture but a Rope Works was established at Toongabbie, in Tutts Road, in the spring of 1884. Known as the New South Wales Rope Works, it was established by Mr. T. J. Laby, and the local newspaper reported, "and already, under the fostering influences of this premier local industry two stores have taken root, and workmen's cottages are to be seen in all directions".

Residents remember it as a place where workers were "shanghaied" off ships in Port Jackson to provide labour in its early years of operation. Delinquent boys were also assigned there for disciplinary training, according to local stories.

The factory was burned to the ground in May, 1890. Between 20 and 30 workers were employed and the owners valued the Works at £10,000. It was insured for £7,500 which was paid in full. Some of the machinery was salvaged and is reported to be still in use in another factory.

John Pye became one of the more successful of the early Toongabbie farmers. He was

not a man from the land but a young foreman with a brilliant talent for organisation, from Bristol in England. He arrived in Sydney on the "William and Ann" on August 28, 1791, at the age of 24. He was granted 30 acres of land on December 30, 1796, and his neighbour, George Best, recorded that within two seasons he had "produced an assortment of crops far superior to anything reaped at the Government farm". The Pye farm progressed so well, as did that of George Best, that an additional 70 acres was granted to John Pye on March 31, 1802. As well as being neighbours the two families were firm friends.

When Lachlan Macquarie made his famous "Touring Progress" in 1810 he visited the properties of Best and Pye and recorded:

> "I was highly gratified with two of them, namely those belonging to Best and Pye, two very industrious, respectable settlers who have their farms well cultivated and in excellent order, with good offices and comfortable decent houses."

Commissioner Bigge wrote:

> ". . . they have been distinguished for the propriety of their conduct in the Colony, for their respectable characters, and for their unremitting industry; and the state of their farms attest, in a conspicuous manner, the united effects of good conduct in New South Wales and of industry well applied."

Macquarie granted Pye an additional 135 acres, which were officially provided on April 5, 1821. Pye opened an inn which he called the "Lamb and Lark" on March 22, 1822, at Baulkham Hills.

Pye's properties provided much employment for a number of rural workers and their families, and his own four sons, John, Joseph, Thomas and James, became managers for the many enterprises established by their family founder, and Mrs. Pye, who "assisted in no mere accord because she is a woman of many outstanding abilities", Best commented. James Elder referred to the four young men as "being lean young gentlemen of tall carriage and provided with many handsome qualities".

Master Pye, as the pioneer founder was often called, became a very successful sheep breeder and supplied wool to the Government factory at Parramatta from his Toongabbie flocks, and later to woollen mills established along the Parramatta River at that centre, especially after 1810.

John Pye, Junior, became the head of the family when his father died in September, 1830. He inherited the inn but disposed of it about eight years later.

The pioneer, John Pye, was laid to rest in St. John's Anglican Cemetery, Parramatta (reg. 25/6/'30).

John Pye became master of "Pye Farm"; Joseph established "Pyebrook Farm" at Eastern Creek, "Dog's Rocks" at Campbell's River, "Rockley" and "Uddagaul" at Lower Belabula. Thomas founded "Bunnamagoo" at Campbell's River and "Yeugowra" (Eugowra), "Waagan" and "Bundon" stations, on the Lachlan River. James established the famous "Rocky Hall", at North Rocks, the home of one of the colony's early famous orangeries.

James served as a Parramatta councillor for many years from 1862 onwards. He served as Mayor in 1863 and died in 1885.

Joseph and Thomas were among a party of pioneers who went beyond the Blue Mountains to found a new country after Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth "found the way" in 1813. With them went other locals from the district, including William Henry and Thomas C. Suttor of Baulkham Hills, along with members of the Lawson family, their goal being Bathurst.

James Pye was called the "Father of Parramatta's Water Supply". In the early 1850s he acquired land at Hunt's Creek, North Rocks, and gave it to "The Parramatta Water Commissioners".

Not only did he give the land but served on the committee who built the dam and supervised the ultimate construction. The plan devised was that the water be brought by pipes to Parramatta, and fountains erected at convenient distances so that water carts could draw water from them.

It is of interest to note that it has been recorded that there was opposition to this "ridiculous proposal", for "if townspeople wanted any water other than that supplied at their doors by nature, let them go with their buckets and fetch the foreign water!"

An article by E. J. Statham, about 1921, also refers to the fact that early discussions

The Willmot homestead

The villa was erected in 1887 by a local builder, Arthur Barnett.

(Photographed in 1960 by J. P. Jones.)

on possible sources of water supply to Parramatta included the possibility that water could be obtained from the southern and western sources of the Toongabbie Creek. However, the Rev. W. B. Clarke, the father of Australian geology, advised keeping away from the shale of the Toongabbie Creek as the Hawkesbury sandstone was the best gathering ground for a water supply.

The committee in charge of building the dam, Messrs. D. Forbes, J. Pye, M.P., A. Finch, Holden, Suttor, M.P., and later F. O. Dowall and Gould, supervised the construction of a dam of solid masonry, about 80 yards in the open, 15 feet thick at the base, and 8 feet at the top, and 30 feet high, from the bed of the creek. This dam supplied Parramatta with water for many years until it became necessary to turn to the resources of the Nepean for a larger supply. The dam, brought into existence by the efforts of James Pye, is now the popular Lake Parramatta.

The name of Pye is perpetuated in Toongabbie at Pyes Crossing.

D'Arcy Wentworth became, at one time, the largest land owner in the colony of N.S.W. and some of his holdings were located in the eastern Toongabbie area and around the neighbouring suburb named after him, Wentworthville. His first property was acquired on October 10, 1799. It was a lease and was located around the Fitzwilliam Street area of Parramatta.

The tall, handsome Wentworth held a commission in Lord Charlemont's Volunteers during the latter years of the American War of Independence though he did not leave his homeland, Ireland. Later he was apprenticed to a village medico, Dr. Patton, and in 1785 travelled to London to get hospital experience. He eventually secured the patronage of Earl Fitzwilliam of Wentworth Woodhouse, and they became lifelong friends.

The young Wentworth was an adventurous youth and was fortunate in escaping the consequences of his many escapades. He reached Sydney on 28th June, 1790, as the assistant-surgeon on the "Neptune". On this ship and

the "Scarborough" at least 200 extremely sick convicts were off-loaded as soon as they arrived at Port Jackson.

"The appearance of those who did not require medical assistance was lean and emaciated," David Collins wrote. One hundred and sixty-four people, including 11 women and two children, died on the "Neptune" alone, before it reached Sydney, and many unfortunate people perished in their chains as they were taken in their small boats from the two ships when they anchored.

The sight of the dead and sick around the wharf and shore was horrible, Collins wrote, and young Wentworth had witnessed it all and did what he could to save the wretched convicts and their families. Soon after his arrival in the colony he was sent to Norfolk Island. At the island he and his devoted Catherine Crowley, one of six convict lasses in the party, established a humble home. It was there that their sons William Charles (in 1792), D'Arcy and John were born.

In 1796 Wentworth returned to N.S.W. and selected himself a holding in Parramatta, where he later built his principal home, "Wentworth Woodhouse", named after the family estate in the United Kingdom. He returned to Norfolk for a further short period, and in 1799 was appointed surgeon for the Parramatta district.

Catherine fell ill and died in 1800 and the grief-stricken father decided to send William Charles to England for his education. John Tull, the local teacher, agreed that William was an "alert, capable, and good-natured young man", although he was only a boy of eight, should be provided with an opportunity to acquire a "sound education". The three boys were all sent to England for their schooling where Lord Fitzwilliam kept a fatherly eye on them.

William Charles returned to the colony in 1811 and in 1812 was granted 1,750 acres of land on the Nepean, known as the farm "Vermont". He became acting provost-marshal for Governor Macquarie at that time. In 1813, with Gregory and Blaxland, he made the first crossing of the Blue Mountains and received a further grant of 1,000 acres. His career as journalist, lawyer and statesman is well known in Australian history.

D'Arcy (the second son) became the first Australian-born commissioned officer and eventually retired to Tasmania.

The third son, John, joined the Navy and was drowned at sea in 1820.

D'Arcy Wentworth served the colony in many ways. He became principal surgeon, metropolitan police magistrate, superintendent of police and treasurer of the police fund. Macquarie frequently commended him for the work he did and he was granted a pension of £200 yearly by the British Government for his work as principal surgeon. He made good use of the opportunity that existed, to work his farms with convict labour, a method not always approved by other farmers, but one that put his estates in a fine financial position. He purchased good land that was available, including portions at Toongabbie. After his death in 1827 the 2,200 acres Toongabbie-Wentworthville holdings eventually came under the control of his grandson, Fitzwilliam Wentworth.

Fitzwilliam took an active interest in the growth of Toongabbie and his name appears on many land transfers. The name "Fitzwilliam Place" appeared for many years on what was apparently the main farm, the original Charles Grimes farm, where the entrance to the Seminary now exists.

In 1892 Fitzwilliam gifted 2½ acres of land to the Toongabbie-Wentworthville Progress Association for a School of Arts and park (this land is now part of the school grounds).

At this time, also, he waived a debt on the 1½ acres of land on which the St. Mary's Church had been built, virtually making them a gift of the land.

Wentworthville was named in 1883. The Wentworth Estate was broken up into small farms by 1894.

Family friends feel that Fitzwilliam Road, Toongabbie, was named after the Earl Fitzwilliam. Many streets in the Parramatta, Toongabbie and Wentworthville localities bear names such as Fitzwilliam, Darcy and Wentworth which preserve the close association of the family in these districts.

George Oakes purchased his large Toongabbie holdings between the late 1850s and early 1860s.

A typical old wine cellar at Toongabbie

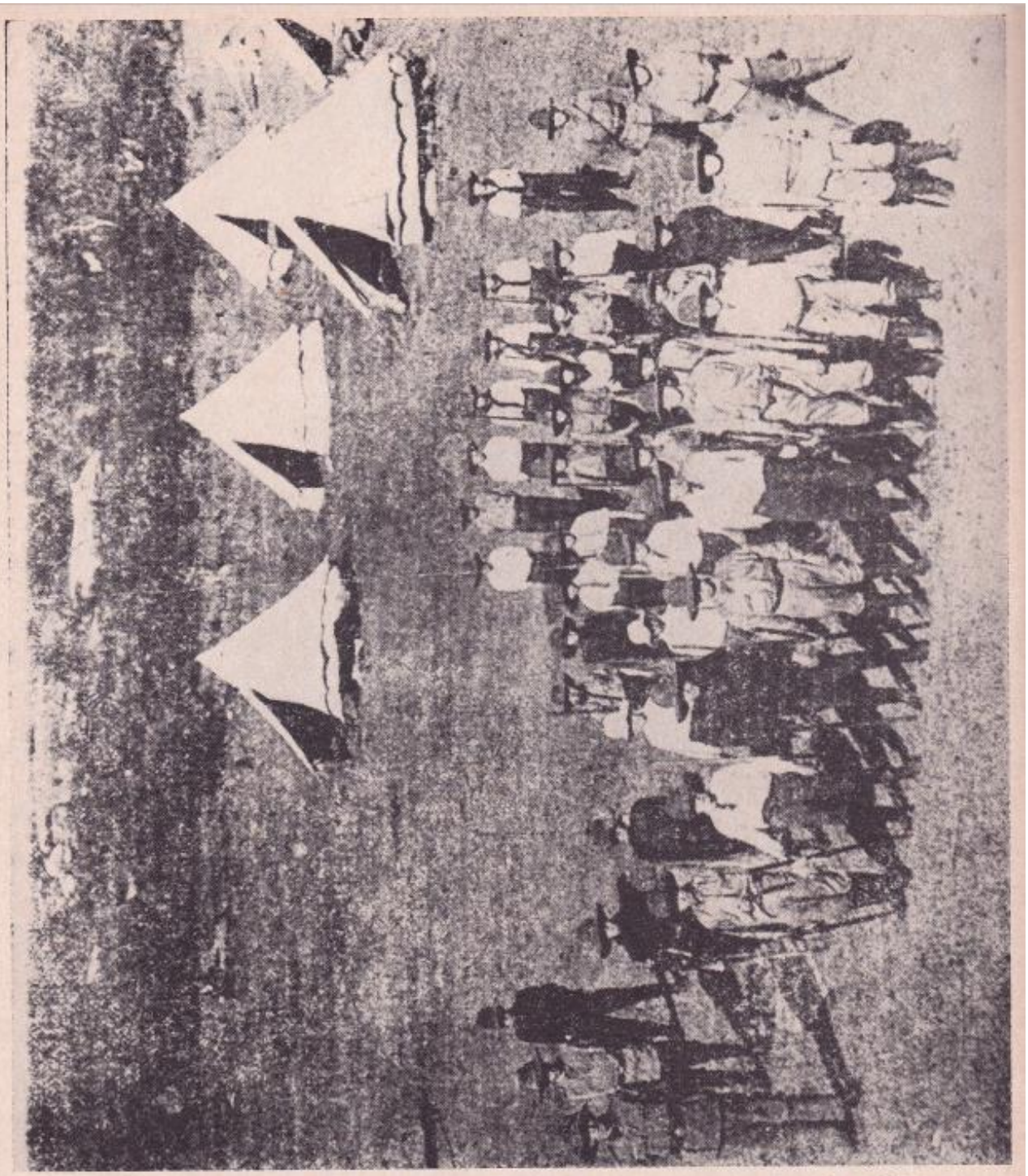
The remains of the master cellar at Klipperts' property. From 1889 to the early autumn of 1892, phylloxera struck the district and crippled most of the grape vines. The insects were responsible for ruining Toongabbie's flourishing wine industry.

(Photographed by J. P. Jones.)

Much of the land in the eastern locality had been returned to the Crown by former settlers. These properties again formed part of the original Government Domain, which had a number of names, including Cumberland Park, Macquarie's Domain, the Government Domain and finally Parramatta National Park. In the 1850s a section of the domain was still under cultivation but much of it was covered with good timber trees. This timber was much in demand and the Government was able to lease out contracts to timber-workers when the trees were large enough to be used for milling timber.

Private negotiations to sell the land in the late 1850s proved unsuccessful so the properties were put up for auction. George Oakes, who had already acquired small sections of the area, is recorded as saying that "very few farmers would be interested in acquiring land with soil too poor to grow profitable crops". His prophecy was correct as there were no bids at the auction at Parramatta on December 7, 1861. The amount of land that Oakes eventually purchased can be seen on the Lands map included herein.

George Oakes was one of twelve children born to Francis Oakes and his wife, formerly Rebecca Small. Francis Oakes was a member of the South Seas Missionary group who came from the islands to settle in Parramatta in 1798. He married Rebecca Small, the first girl born in the colony to free settlers, in 1807 and they lived in their home near the north-



First Scout Camp ever held in New South Wales. Held at La Perouse from 4th to 7th January, 1909

First Toongabbie Troop in front row. Left to right: Unknown, Roy Lavender, Cyril Lavender, Woodward, Arthur Willmot, Bill Metcalf, Stan Willmot, unknown. Q.M. Scout Tasman Lavender rear of leaders on the left. Petersham patrol also took part in the camp.

(From the collection of T. Lavender from the "Sunday Times".)

east corner of Church and Phillip Streets. Francis Oakes was Chief Constable in Parramatta and took an active part in the activities of the time.

When Mrs. Rebecca Oakes died at the original home on January 30, 1883, she left behind many recorded incidents of her experiences in the colony, some of which we have been privileged to use. She recalled the happy day her 24-year-old son George married Ann Shelley, a daughter of another former South Seas missionary, William Shelley, who also settled in Parramatta. This marriage took place in 1837.

George Oakes became one of the two local pioneer members in the N.S.W. Responsible Government of 1856. The other elected member was H. W. Parker. George Oakes, "extensively associated with pastoral pursuits", had also been elected to the original people's government, the 1848 Legislative Council of 36 members . . . 24 elected on property qualifications and 12 nominated by the Governor. The old council was dissolved in 1855 and Oakes was elected, with Parker, to the new Legislative Assembly. He held the seat until 1860. From 1872 to 1874 he became M.L.A. for East Sydney, and in 1879 became a member of the State Legislative Council, and held office until his death in 1881.

He found time to devote much of his attention to the Parramatta Hospital and other institutions. During his long association with the Hospital Board he served as president (the second) from 1850 to 1856. Perhaps his most remarkable achievement as a public figure was his foresight in advocating for a railway system in the colony. In September, 1848, seven years before the railway eventually opened, he attended a special meeting to form a railway company. He was one of the principal planners and on October 10, 1849, a Bill to incorporate a company called "The Sydney Railway Company" was passed. However, many difficulties prevented an early completion of the Sydney-Parramatta line and finally the Government took over control of the project and the railway was opened in 1855.

George Oakes commissioned the noted colonial architect, James Houison of Parramatta, to design a home for him in George Street, Parramatta. This was completed in 1841 and is known as "Perth House".

It is not known when the homestead "Casuirina" was built at Toongabbie, off Oakes Road, but it is thought to be soon after 1861.

Landscaping, roadwork and the formation of a swimming area in the creek near the homestead is also thought to have been done while George Oakes was the owner. There are, however, a number of local residents who feel that the building was erected years before Oakes purchased the land.

The family of Mr. H. V. Cocks, who leased the farm from William Rose from 1919 to 1922, was told that the homestead was over one hundred years old at that time. The story was that it had been built by convict labour as was the work on the creek. The wall erected to make the storage of water possible has since been washed away, but the steps down the side of the bank and into the pool still exist. The pool served as the local swimming centre for many years.

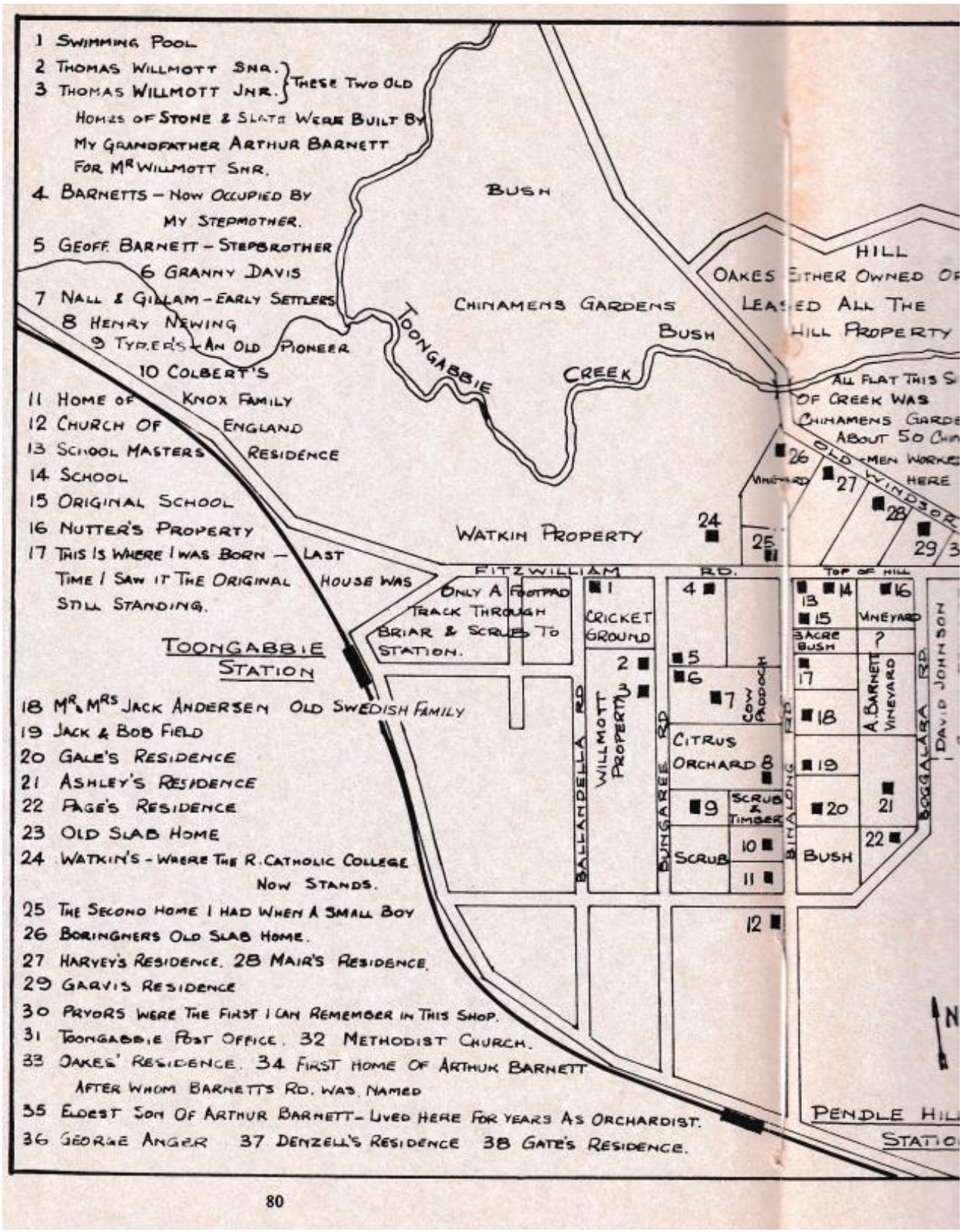
The homestead with its large stone blocks and slate roof, with its ample cellar should make interesting research for students of early architecture.

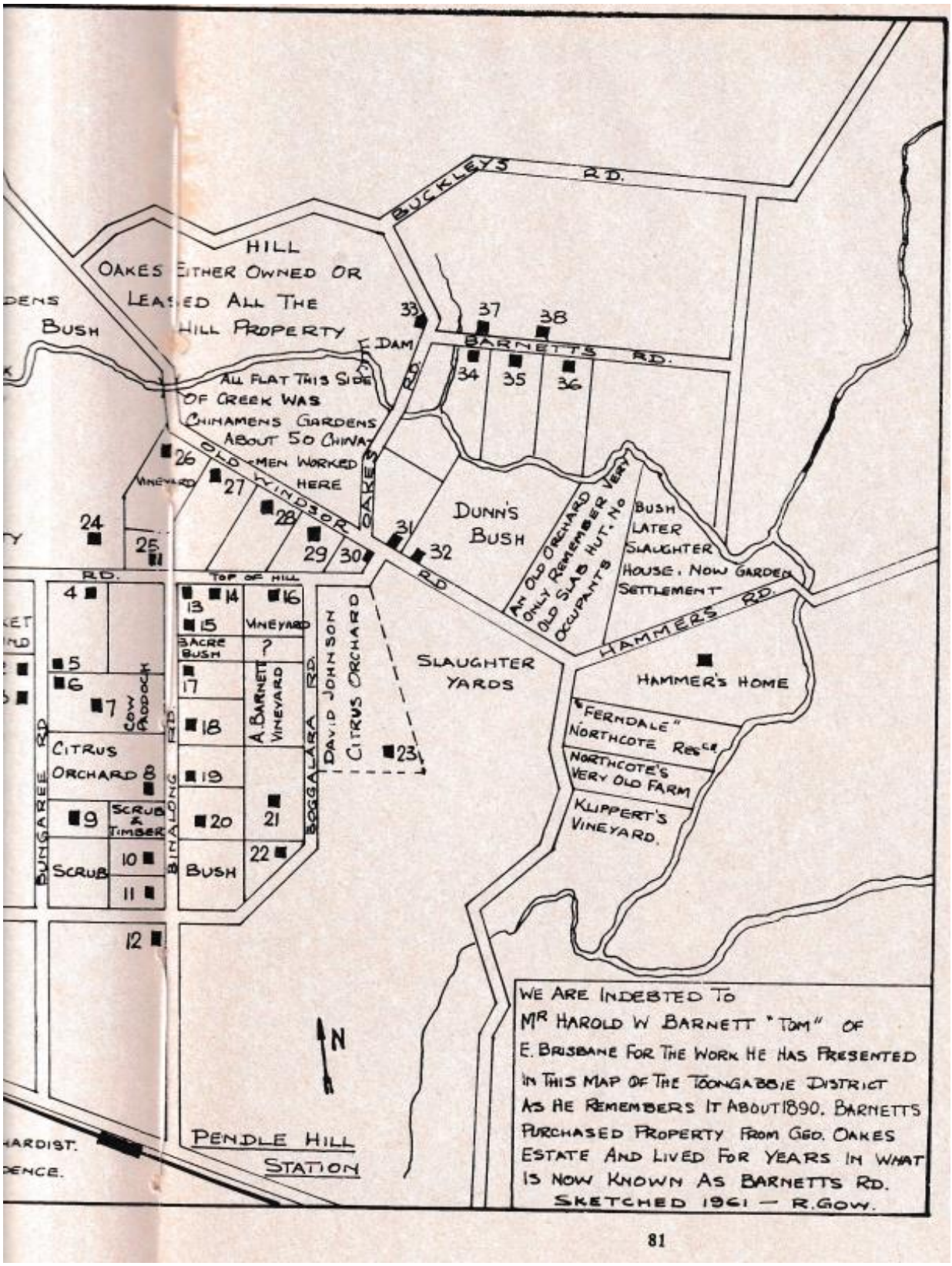
George Oakes made the Toongabbie farm productive and bred fine horses and cattle, as well as producing fruit and vegetables. His interest in the local community was shown when he transferred portion of his property to the Primitive Methodist Church trustees for the token sum of ten shillings, at the same time seeing that a proviso, for the use of the land within twelve months for a school and church, was added. He also gave two acres of land to the Anglican Church authorities but the land was not central for their church needs and was sold.

This fine man met a tragic end, becoming the first fatal victim of the city tramway. He was leaving the Legislative Council building late in the evening of August 10, 1881, when he was struck by a tram in Elizabeth Street, his death causing widespread grief.

The Oakes Estate was managed for some time by Walter L. Oakes who took an active part in local affairs. The large barn on the property was used by the local dramatic society and some fine entertainments were staged there before the School of Arts was completed.

The estate began to be broken up in 1883 when newspapers reported that 125 blocks had been sold, probably around the Westmead area.


1 Swimming Pool
2 Thomas Willmott Snr.
3 Thomas Willmott Jnr. } These Two Old Homes of Stone & Slate Were Built By My Grandfather Arthur Barnett For Mr Willmott Snr.
4 Barnetts – Now Occupied By My Stepmother.
5 Geoff. Barnett – Stepbrother
6 Granny Davis
7 Nall & Gillam – Early Settlers
8 Henry Newing
9 Tyrer's – An Old Pioneer
10 Colbert's
11 Home of Knox Family
12 Church Of England
13 School Masters Residence
14 School
15 Original School
16 Nutter's Property
17 This Is Where I was Born – Last Time I Saw It The Original House was Still Standing.
Toongabbie Station
18 Mr & Mrs Jack Andersen Old Swedish Family
19 Jack & Bob Field
20 Gale's Residence
21 Ashley's Residence
22 Page's Residence
23 Old Slab Home
24 Watkin's – Where The R. Catholic College Now Stands.
25 The Second Home I had When A Small Boy
26 Boringners Old Slab Home.
27 Harvey's Residence. 28 Mair's Residence.
29 Garvis Residence
30 Pryors were The First I Can Remember in This Shop.
31 Toongabbie Post Office. 32 Methodist Church.
33 Oakes' Residence. 34 First Home Of Arthur Barnett After Whom Barnetts Rd. was Named
35 Eldest Son Of Arthur Barnett – Lived Here For Years As Orchardist.
36 George Anger 37 Denzell's Residence 38 Gate's Residence.
Bush
Chinamens Gardens
Toongabbie Creek
Bush
Hill
Oakes Either Owned Or Leased All The Hill Property
All Flat This S. Of Creek was Chinamens Garde About 50 Chi Men Worke Here
Old Windsor Rd.
Watkin Property
Fitzwilliam Rd.
Top of Hill
Only A Footpad Track Through Briar & Scrub To Station.
Cricket Ground
Willmott Property
Ballandella Rd
Bungaree Rd
Cow Paddock
Citrus Orchard
Scrub & Timber
Scrub
Bush
Birkalong Rd
Vineyard
3 Acre Bush
A. Barnett Vineyard
Boggalara Rd.
David Johnson
Pendle Hill
Station



block 32 on Old Windsor Road is the place of the 1878. Methodist Church

A number of different owners have been on the Old Toongabbie portion over the years. The Sisters of the Home of the Good Shepherd have been among the most recent, and during their time were happy to receive visits from overseas guests who remembered the estate during the time of the Oakes ownership and spoke of their associations with the energetic politician, businessman and farmer and his geniality as a host.

EARLY TOONGABBIE IDENTITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

David Johnston

CROSSING the Toongabbie Creek at Old Windsor Road is Johnston's Bridge, which became known by that name when David Johnston farmed there as far back as 1859. His vineyard extended from Fitzwilliam Road near the school, down where Reynolds Street now exists, to the creek. His vineyard had to be destroyed in 1899 when the dreaded phylloxera was found in the grapevines. The 2,000 vines were 12 years old and provided an income of £50 yearly. He was paid £50 compensation for the vines. He sold the property and moved to another section of the valley, where three brick homes, near the bend of Fitzwilliam Road, were built by masterbuilder J. C. Page for members of his family. David Johnston was a regular lay reader in the Old Toongabbie Methodist Church.

The Harvey family also lived on this property and some local residents refer to the bridge as Harvey's Bridge but it is officially named Johnston's Bridge.

Bohringer

The family of Bohringer had the property adjoining David Johnston and they also lost their vineyard in 1889, being paid £90 for the destroyed vines. This farm was also sold but members of the family continued to reside in the district. The name of Peter Bohringer appears on the application for the commencement of schooling in 1885.

One former resident spoke of Granny Bohringer's plum tarts which were apparently a highlight of social teas at the Methodist Church. This was remembered at the 1960 reunion so we pass on an old family recipe which we think might well be the same as Mrs. Bohringer's: "Line a tart plate with pastry made from 4 ozs. S.R. flour, 4 ozs. plain flour to which is added 4 ozs. sugar. Rub in 4 ozs. butter or substitute and mix with water. Slice plums, prune or angelina are the only suitable variety, over the base of the pastry. Sprinkle plums with sugar and cover with a mixture of breadcrumbs, sugar and cinnamon, the latter according to taste. Bake in a slow oven and serve hot or cold."

The Bohringer farm was purchased by Mr. G. Hillman who sold it to Mr. Bond in 1906. The Bond family lived there until 1933. Mr. Bond worked as an employee of the Blacktown Shire Council for many years, and one son, Stanley, represented the district as councillor for some time. The council has remembered this civic-minded family in the naming of Bond Street.

Stan Bond has given much valued assistance toward the compilation of this publication.

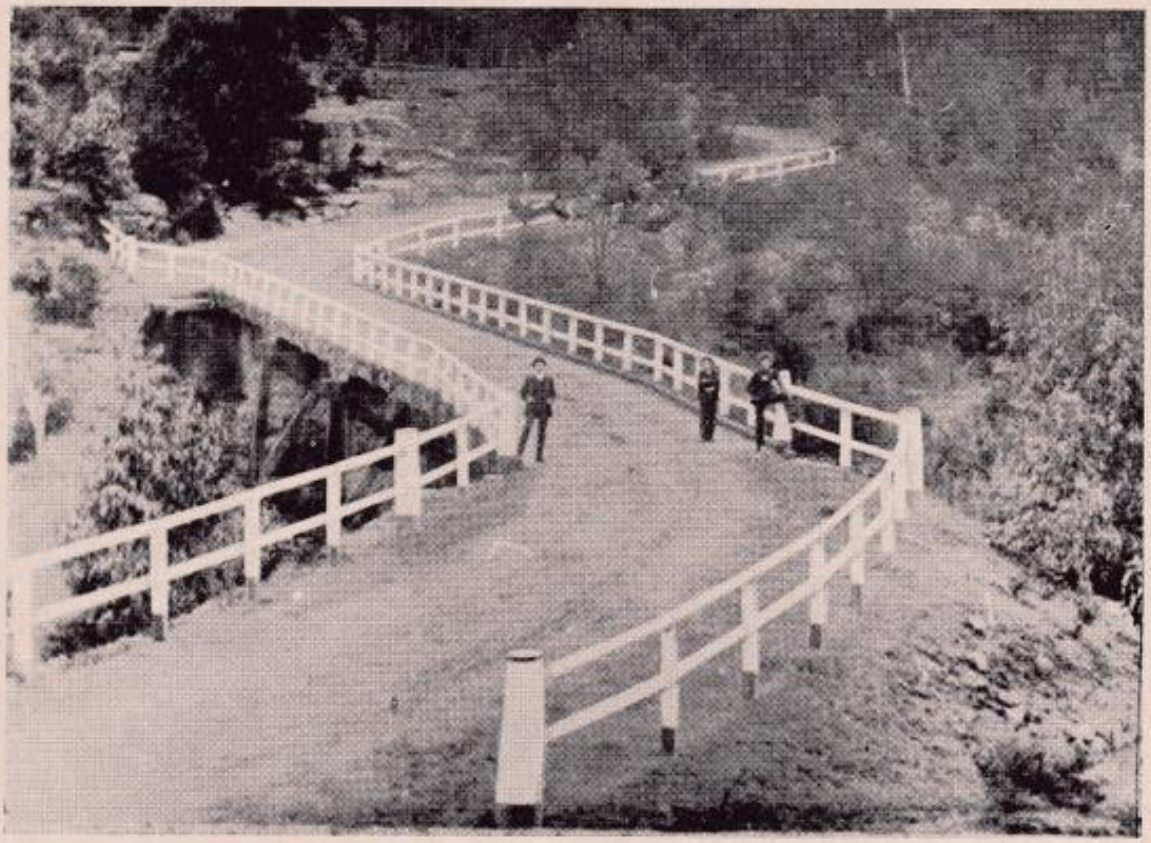
Sylvanus R. Watkins

Sylvanus R. Watkins was another name on the school application. Coming from Hereford, England, at the age of 17, he spent some time on rural properties in N.S.W. before purchasing portion of the Wentworth estate. The cottage of New Zealand pine built by him stood on the property until 1963. He was a prominent cattle and horse breeder and his teams of horses were used in the Water Board project at Prospect and for local damsinking, including the "Willmot Paddock Swimming Hole". Local children enjoyed riding in the spring carts used on the property, for horse-drawn vehicles were not numerous. His family was born at Toongabbie and attended the local school until they moved away. This farm also lost its vineyard with the phylloxera outbreak, but the orchard was noted for its fine apples.

In later years S. R. Watkins was well known as a breeder of Guernsey cattle. The family had a long friendship with Fitzwilliam Wentworth, and we are informed that some of the stonework at Vaucluse House was the handiwork of S. R. Watkins.

George Hammer

Another very early settler to make an effort to have the community functioning was George Hammer, whose name appears on



Hammers Bridge
Built across Toongabbie Creek in 1900.
(From F. Tyrer collection Photograph taken in 1900.)

both school and Primitive Methodist Church records. It is not known just when this family moved into the district, but the stonework on the first built portion of the family home, nestling in a picturesque hollow not far from the creek, indicates it is about a century or more in age. The family probably lived there for some time before the home was built.

The original Hammers Bridge (and also the Pyes Crossing and Briens Crossing bridges) was constructed by the settlers from huge gum logs. When carried away by floods the logs were simply replaced. The present bridge was built in 1900 and was greeted with great admiration by local residents as photographs taken at the time are still prized family possessions. The winding approach to the bridge is a pleasant sight but it does not meet with the requirements of present-day motor traffic, and local government authorities are planning to provide a more modern crossing of the creek at a more convenient approach. The muddy dusty road that was once Hammers Lane is now a busy bitumen street, with bogged horse-drawn vehicles only a memory.

Klippert

The nearby family of Klippert have also been established in the vicinity for around 100 years. Their original home, a fine stone building, had to be demolished in the 1950s due to white ant infestation, but the picturesque remains of large cellars give a reminder of the interesting days of the vine-yard era.

A touch of the early adventurous life is retained in their home in the large wooden box brought to "Sudney" (as it can still be read on the outside) by the maternal grandparents, and which has a story of its own.

The Klippert family and members of the Hammer household became the victims of a bushrangers' party in their early days at Toongabbie. A knocking-on-the-door of the Klippert home one evening brought, not some family friends, but a party of bushrangers, and with them, held at gun-point, were members of the Hammer family. The bushrangers had failed to find anything of great worth in the Hammer household and to prevent the family from going for help, marched them to the nearby Klippert residence. Using an axe they smashed open the locked box, expecting to find it packed with the family treasures. They were doomed to disappointment as these farming folk knew better than to keep large sums of money in their homes, and the bushrangers departed with very little for their evening's effort.

As well as having an interest in wine-making from their own vineyard, Mr. Klippert kept bees and produced a valuable honey. An article by Mr. S. Klippert, which appeared in the local Manuscript Journal in October, 1915, would undoubtedly be of interest and use to present-day beekeepers.

Joseph Knox

Joseph Knox also had an interest in the processing of wine, but of a different variety, for he made the whole of his large crops of oranges into wine. Local residents recall its fine quality, light in colour and very tasty. His homestead still exists in Binalong Road but the orange groves disappeared many years ago. The whole of his first vintage was acquired by a Co-Operative Society in Sydney, a firm which at that time, 1896, had an annual trade of £3,500. Later, through agent D. D. Henderson of Parramatta, a well known Parramatta Bowling Club personality of the period, another Sydney company ordered a consignment of the wine.

This story set us off on an effort to trace such wines and through the columns of Ray Castle in the "Daily Telegraph" in 1960 a recipe, untried by us, was received from Pat McCormack. An extract from "Recipes for Millions" — Orange Wine, London, 1891:

> "To 5 gallons water add 14 lbs. loaf sugar and the whites of three eggs. Boil for 15 minutes, removing scum as it rises. When cold add 5 dozen (the recipe said Seville oranges but this is a bitter orange in Australia) and 4 or 5 lemons with 2 teaspoonsful of yeast. Ferment for 4 days then put into cask. Bottle in six weeks."

A second recipe from Mrs. Meekin of Oatleigh, which she has tried and reports as enjoyable, but likely to blow the corks off the bottles:

> "Orange Wine from Every Days Every Way Book," Melbourne, 1925: Peel six oranges, brown skins in the oven. Pour a quart of boiling water over them. Cut up the six oranges. Pour three quarts of cold water over them. When liquid is cold mix all together and stir every day for 8 days. strain off . . . add 4 lbs. white sugar and stir every day for another 8 days. Strain off and bottle.

Mr. Knox was president of the Toongabbie Debating Society, which was very active in the 1890s, frequently making journeys to surrounding centres to take part in debates. The society functioned in the school building which was leased from the Department of Education. However, such current topics as the coming of Federation and other political interests of the day had to be debated elsewhere as these subjects were not open for discussion in the department buildings.

He took a leading part in activities of St. Mary's Church as did his daughter, Ivy. Son Errol was noted for his work with the First Toongabbie Scout Troop, and became a Major in the First A.I.F.

Thomas Willmot

Thomas Willmot came to Australia from Bristol, England, in 1887. He purchased forty acres of the Fitzwilliam Wentworth estate, paying £40 per acre, a substantial amount for land at that time. He built two homes on the property, both standing, one being occupied by Mr. R. Willmot and family at the time of publication. This home retains its Victorian air, and the charming atmosphere has not been disturbed by the addition of modern amenities.

Thomas Willmot was a constructing engineer, and with partners, was responsible for carrying out many major projects around the Sydney metropolitan area. His firm did the woodblocking of George Street, Sydney, the work on the Clyde-Carlingford railway branch line, the Toongabbie-Prospect quarry line and several main suburban railways.

Mr. Willmot was a foundation member of the Blacktown Shire Council, served as a councillor from 1906 to 1913, and was President for four years.

To many boys of those days the memory of happy days spent in Willmot's Paddock live on. The paddock with its cricket pitch, and later a swimming hole, built and fenced for protection, was the meeting place for the youth of the day, including the six Willmot sons. This recreational area was located where the Housing Commission homes now stand and it is believed the swimming hole was at the rear of the home at No. 6 Willmott Avenue.

A member of the Royal Society of N.S.W., Mr. Willmot, only three years after his arrival, formed the Toongabbie Mutual Improvement Society (in 1890), the members meeting at his home.

His home also became the first meeting place of the Church of England worshippers in the years before St. Mary's was built. He served as the Sunday school superintendent for the church for 35 years and was a frequent lay reader.

Many lectures were given for the school and church benefit by Mr. Willmot who owned the first phonograph in the district. Eagerly listened to through the original earphones these were replaced by the horn as soon as it was available. His purchase of the "Magic Lantern" enabled him to give many colourful lectures, astronomy being one of the favourite subjects. Everyone in the district attended these evenings wherever they were held, school, St. Mary's or the School of Arts.

Thomas Willmot was a man of inestimable heart, nothing too large or too small to give time and thought to; his name appears in every record, in every letter, in every memory. His interest in the community and everyone in it was large and no person suffered a setback where Mr. Willmot could help. He always found time to write letters for help or in defence of the character of one who might be affected by trouble.

When the Willmot property was broken up for home subdivision the Blacktown Council named Willmott Avenue after Thomas Willmot.

J. C. Page

Another local man who served the residents as councillor was J. C. Page, the builder of many brick homes in the Toongabbie-Wentworthville area. His own unpretentious home was built in Binalong Road and was still in use at the time of this publication. He was a man very interested in the welfare of the public and always supported public health, park and educational projects while in office as the representative in local government. He served as the Shire President of Blacktown Shire Council in 1920 and again from 1932 to 1934.

He was chairman of the School of Arts committee for 14 years and he, too, was presented with a finely scribed address, the work of the Cumberland Argus Ltd. of Parramatta. The foundation stone laid for the Methodist Church in Old Windsor Road, Old Toongabbie, in 1926 bears his name.

Mrs. May Parsons

One well known local identity who collected together valued mementoes of her life in the district was Mrs. May Parsons. As May Tuck she attended school at The Meadows and Toongabbie and remembered assisting in the training of the younger pupils of Toongabbie when she was eleven years of age. Her personality added an old world charm to the locality and her death in 1960, at the age of 84, came as a great loss. Her activities in St. Mary's Church were as old as the church itself. In early days she collected all the children around in her "horse and sulky" driving them to Sunday school and home after services. In the days of her youth there were two slaughteryards active in the Constitution Hill area and one of the Tuck boys served his apprenticeship on Constitution Hill later becoming a butcher.

Mrs. Tuck lived all of her life in the Tuck Road homestead, the name becoming a permanent one from the association of the family.

The Barnett Family

Arthur Barnett purchased his first land from the Oakes estate and built a cottage on the small farm. The road which came into being at that time became known as Barnetts Road. The weatherboard cottage, and many others of a similar design, built by the Barnetts are still in use as homes. The family lived in a number of different locations around the valley and many descendants have settled permanently in the district. The cottages built

The old entrance to Ambrose Hallen's home
A typical Toongabbie rural setting of the late nineteenth century.
(Photographed in 1960 by J. P. Jones.)

by the first members of the family were much in demand during the years from 1890 to 1910, a time of advancement in Toongabbie. The "Bird's Eye View" map shows something of the family history and their interests in the district.

John W. Tyrer

John W. Tyrer came to Toongabbie in the late 1880s and had quite a large farm between the railway line and the public school. His position as assistant manager for the tramways in Sydney did not prevent him from taking an active interest in cultural, educational and church activities in the district. Because of the distress the family suffered after their home was raided by a demented man, a portion of the land was sold and they moved to Sydney for some years. Mr. Tyrer returned in 1916 and built "Iona" in Ballendella Road, living once again in the rural aspect at the farm. His children were among the first pupils at the Toongabbie Public School.

Son Fred was another man who went in for beekeeping in the area. The blossoms which provided the rich honey no longer show themselves as during modern times when honey is obtained it is rough and no longer edible. Mr. Fred Tyrer has also provided many items and photographs of interest for this manuscript and the school collection.

Ambrose Hallen

Ambrose Hallen became a legend at Toongabbie in his own time, and was often toasted as one of the most remarkable farmers in the

colony. Dumbfounded citizens were amazed as they would watch the farmer tell the colour of a hen or rooster simply by the feel of the birds. For Ambrose Hallen had been blinded at the age of six and the colourful things of life were only a memory to him. He did, however, live a colourful life and had the admiration of every child and adult who knew him. He came of an adventurous family for he was the grandson of the explorer William Lawson.

Ambrose Hallen spent his life as a successful farmer on his property off Ballendella Road, and through these gates he could make his way, unassisted, to the railway and to Parramatta to conduct all the business a busy poultry farm required. He was looked on as one of the most enlightened, intelligent and able gentlemen of the time.

On the farm he built his own bridges, set his own traps for the catching of marauding wild animals, mended fences and cared for his birds as well as any farmer. So much so that in 1893 his farm was awarded first prize in the colony, an award made by the Department of Agriculture. The award of £15 may not have seemed a very large prize, but the sensation it created in the colony was most rewarding. Lady Duff, wife of the Governor, and her daughter spent the morning on a special visit to the Hallens, carriages and coaches of gentlemen from the city streamed out to Toongabbie to pay their respects to this accomplished farmer and his wife. Newspapers reported many details of the exciting event.

Son Lance served in the First World War and after his return was able to exhibit some of his fine paintings in a one-man show in a Sydney gallery (reports are that it was at Anthony Horderns).

The home of Ambrose Hallen with its surrounding trees and old-world atmosphere remained in Toongabbie until January, 1964, when whilst unoccupied, the home and trees caught fire, making a blaze visible for miles around and bringing forth a crowd of people who were unaware that they were witnessing the departure of an historic landmark.

William Freame

William Freame, the historian, was not a Toongabbie resident but the area became one of his most "treasured hunting grounds for Australiana", as he once wrote. And write he did, with much feeling for the little things in life — the unsatisfactory public transport timetables, illegal rubbish-dumpers and the unkind who left their unwanted dogs, cats and even lame horses to wander around the streets or paddocks of the localities he represented in local government, which included the southern sections of Toongabbie. He was a pioneer member of Sherwood and Prospect Council (now Holroyd), a poet, historian journalist, lay preacher and an efficient charity organiser.

Freame was born in 1867 and died in 1933, to be put to rest among the ancient souls of early Australia in the historic St. John's Cemetery at Parramatta. He was a lay reader for the St. Mary's Church at Toongabbie and his name appears on church documents.

He has written many works about early local patriots, publicans, preachers, policemen and politicians — the Wentworths, the Oakes, Pyes, Hassalls, Humes and Moxhams. He was a local government representative for 25 years and entered journalism in 1889. For long periods he was the correspondent at Parramatta for Sydney newspapers, but he was better known locally as a journalist on the Cumberland "Times" and later the Cumberland "Argus".

Like most historians he was vitally interested in old cemeteries, jotting down in his notebooks the fading inscriptions of tombstones. He was intensely interested in the veterans, the children of some of Australia's first citizens — the pioneer cottage-builders, the rankers from the "04 Rebel Army" as he would call them and the wheelwrights who had repaired many a carriage belonging to the noted, including Governor Fitzroy's sons, Jane Watsford the early "coach woman" and the famous sons of George Suttor.

Freame was a member of the Parramatta Historical Society and the (Royal) Australian Historical Society, where he often delivered his very human lectures.

One of his poems, "Toongabbie", printed on an embossed card, undated, came to us from the collection of the late Mrs. M. Parsons. His "records of old griefs and tears, have vanished like an empty dream" in his poem reveal a very tender place he had in

his heart for the area's unfortunate beginning. But read the poem here, because we feel it is of worth:

TOONGABBIE

The warm bright sunshine softly plays
About the church and orchard trees.
The country sleeps in summer haze
Lulled by the humming of the bees.
The long red roadways stretch away
Past cosy cot and wooded hills.
The soft blue sky of peaceful day
Looks down upon a landscape still.

No other creek in all this land
Seems half as cool and clear and bright.
No other trees by Autumn's hand
Reflect for me such golden light.
Within yon roadside little shrine
My "Sursam Corda" I exclaim
Though life's springtime's no longer mine,
I feel the touch of youth again.

Unspoilt it greets the changeful years
The wooded hill and rippling stream.
The records old of grief and tears,
Have vanished like an empty dream.
And old friends of the long ago;
Whose memories hang in gilded frames,
Whisper low in the after glow
Where few have seen their chiselled names.

They come back this Christmas night,
To fill the empty chairs of mirth.
And with their love, that's ever bright,
Re-kindle embers on the earth.
Toongabbie, pleasant vales and hills,
Where dream like pass the summer days,
With flowering fields and modest rills;
Accept this meagre meed of praise.

The Moxham Family

Moxhams Road acquired its name from the well known Parramatta family who bred stud horses on the Toongabbie farm. The beautiful home built by them around 1890 illustrates their pride in the property.

This was one of several homes built by the family in the Parramatta district, perhaps the best known being the Georgian-type stone cottage erected by the pioneer Moxham himself, a master stonemason, in the late 1830s on the north-west corner of Windsor Road and Factory Lane, or as it is now known, Church Street and Factory Street, North Parramatta. The interesting old cottage became an antique shop after World War II and later the "Coach Inn" restaurant.

The pioneer Moxhams leased the Government quarry at Toongabbie and much stone used for some of the early mansions, including "Tara" (demolished at Barrack Lane/George Street, Parramatta, 30/6/63) and "Macarthur House" in Thomas Street, North Parramatta, came from the "masterful hands of the Moxham gentlemen of Toongabbie", the colonial architect, James Houison once said. Near the Toongabbie home, the family undertook profitable pursuits apart from supplying stone, which included the manufacture of stone birdbaths, monuments, tombstones and dripstones.

T. R. Moxham was the local Member of Parliament from 1901 to 1916. He was also a Parramatta Council alderman and was Mayor from 1897 to 1901 and opened the Parramatta Medical Institute in 1908.

Powers, Fruit and Progress

The family of Mrs. Amelia McKelvey has lived in the district since 1866. The property, partly in Seven Hills, was purchased by her father Robert Powers, an historic piece of land that had been granted to convict Joshua Peck, sold to Francis Peisley, exchanged over to John Leadbeater who sold it to Powers.

From this farm a case of apples was sent to Queen Victoria in 1888, thought to have been the first apples sent to England from the mainland, though Tasmania had exported apples in 1884. Letters in praise of the fruit were sent from Windsor Castle to the family, including one from Queen Victoria, and are a treasured family possession.

Alf Powers is remembered for his prowess as the champion ploughman of the area. Winning his first trophy at the age of 16 at Rogans Hill, he won many competitions at Prospect and Baulkham Hills and other places. All land was cultivated at that time with teams of horses pulling the various types of ploughs. The man who could keep his horses in line and guide his plough in the straightest furrow was the envy of the district as all farm men took pride in their ploughed fields. Powers was winning trophies as far back as 1883 and the competitions undoubtedly continued until the advent of tractors. Mr. Powers died recently at the age of 89.

Oranges were sent from the Cumberland area to Dublin in 1880, in a cask, and some were sent via a passenger (thought to have been Miss Ivy Knox) to England in 1890, from Toongabbie, probably from the groves of Joseph Knox. No record of how the fruit arrived in England is available.

Mr. J. Nutter, who lived next to the school for many years, was a dealer and is reported as having sent the first consignment of oranges to New Zealand, from the local area.

For a time the fruit-growing industry was most successful, but eventually the many pests and diseases that breed on trees began to make orcharding a difficult sideline, which is what it was in most cases. The orchardist who ran poultry flocks among his trees also fared better than others as the poultry provided the nitrogenous needs of this particular soil.

The vineyards were not all subject to phylloxera, but the promising start certainly suffered a severe blow when many of the vines had to be destroyed in January of 1889. Phylloxera is an aphid insect that feeds on the roots of grape vines, and the only grapes that can be grown in infected areas are those grafted on American root-resistant stock. No doubt many local growers experimented in this method of reviving their vineyards, but by 1920 the industry had all but vanished. The Mont Pellier establishment at Old Toongabbie occupies the cellars of one of the oldest vineyards, and there are a number of old cellar remains still to be found around the neighbourhood.

Another vineyard to suffer destruction in 1899 was that of the postmaster, Mr. H. Birks. His 500 vines were 18 to 20 years old and were returning the annual sum of £40 when, along with others already mentioned, they were destroyed. The action caused some discontent as the owners felt that they should have been allowed to pick the crop before the vines were eradicated. The Department of Agriculture paid the sum of £25 to Mr. Birks as compensation.

With the passing of the orchards came a swing to dairy farming, market gardening and poultry production, and this mixture of farming continued in the Toongabbie district until the lifting of the Green Belt restrictions in 1960.

There were other setbacks, too, in the 1890s. The country was having a recession and unemployment affected the local people. Droughts and bushfires were causing much distress. Snakes created problems and, where much of the land was overgrown with bush, folk learned to carry at all times a "snake-stick", cut usually from the canes of wild quinces. There are many stories of snakes coming up through the floor in the school-room, tapping at windows at night in their efforts to hypnotise frogs in the gutterpipes, hanging on to the long skirts of the women, and even taking over the clothing of men who were having a leisurely dip in the Toongabbie Creek. Snakes were important enough to be news and were reported in the "Cumberland Argus" quite frequently during the summer months in the 1890s.

Despite the many setbacks the community was a happy one. The children had a wonderfully adventurous time exploring the district and listening to the many tales of the early days. Relics of the past they found, too — convict chains and leg-irons, old firearms, coins and medals of early vintage, farm implements, interesting bricks and pieces of stonework. Old wells that had been sunk for water supplies yielded many things for their young minds to ponder over.

Adults took an active part in the Debating Society and the Mutual Improvement Society which was meeting regularly in Mr. T. Willmot's home from 1892 onwards. Young people formed the group which provided entertainments in the barn on the Oakes property and other places.

A Minstrel and Variety Entertainment was provided by this company in Mr. D. Horwood's hall at Baulkham Hills on September 1, 1898. Songs, comic items, recitations and a farce (a game of words) was presented by the Misses S., R. and E. and Mr. F. Birks, George Green, Fred and Miss Tyrer, Master Nall, Miss D. and Mr. J. Barnett, and the Messrs. H. Johnston, J. Anger, J. Nutter and H. Watkins. Prices for admittance were, front seats 1/- and 6d. in the back with children at half-price. The young entertainers depended on the patronage of businessmen in the district, too, for support, and they willingly inserted advertisements on the concert programmes. Our programme, dated 1898, which came from F. Tyrer, includes the names of Wash-

Blacktown Shire Council's pioneer members

Top left: R. S. Donaldson, H. Reid (Shire Clerk), M. S. Pearce and J. J. Pye. Lower: N. T. Pringle, T. Willmot (first president) and James Angus (who owned Minchinbury vineyard). The Council was formed in 1906.

(From R. Willmot's collection.)

ington H. Soul, A. J. Leabeater, Malings Musical Depot, Fawley of Church Street, F. Hall, Mr. L. A. Simpson, Dental Surgeon, and D. B. Horwood himself, all those years ago.

Local Government

Like many another community of that time local government affairs created something of a problem. The provision of good roads and bridges was at all times important. Usually a committee of four gentlemen was appointed to administer the programmes and they became trustees of the money allocated for the particular project.

Quite often people living in settlements had to provide money themselves for the provision of highways or bridges. An example of this occurred when a bridge was required to cross the Toongabbie Creek (or a tributary of it) in Ballandella Road. Collections were made and Mr. Willmot received the sum of £49. The Minister for Public Works approved the building of the bridge, which was constructed at a cost of £109, the rest of the amount being subsidised by the Government as was the custom.

The procedure was to make an appeal to the local Member of Parliament for the work required. He had it approved and collected the necessary money. The necessary action in having the work carried out became the task of the trustees, who acted in an honorary capacity, receiving no payment themselves.

Mr. F. Farnell, Member for Cumberland in 1890, and Mr. Jacob Garrard, M.L.A. in 1892, both contributed to the welfare of the Toongabbie - Wentworthville residents. So highly respected was Mr. Garrard that the local people requested that the name of Hammers Lane (now Hammers Road) be changed to Garrards Road, as a gesture of their appreciation, an honour refused by Mr. Garrard.

The local progress association was responsible for planning and demanding many necessary public works. In 1893 the president of the Toongabbie - Wentworthville Progress Association was Mr. Rice, with W. H. Bean as secretary. Members included Messrs. W. L. Oakes, T. Willmot, Snr., and T. Willmot, Jnr., S. R. Watkins, Birks, Klippert, Hammer, Bohringer and Nutter.

The state of the roads in those days caused great concern, and in April, 1893, a report that a local resident named Godbie was working on a flying machine brought forth the comment that if he was successful he could book as many orders as possible as the roads were impassable to all but a flying machine!

In 1906 the Blacktown Shire was created by the Local Government Act. A temporary Council was appointed comprising Councillors Angus, Smith, Sherlock, Pearce and Major Walters. Their first meeting was held at 10.30 a.m. on June 13, 1906, in the Rooty Hill School of Arts. Mr. M. W. Hawkins was appointed Temporary Shire Clerk at a salary of £10 a month.

This was followed by a spirited canvass for votes for the first councillors. Many aspiring members and their families walked miles along the dusty roads and lanes of the shire to inform voters of their policies and plans, visiting all homes in their respective areas.

The first meeting of the elected Council was held in the Public School House, Blacktown, at 4.15 p.m. on December 8, 1906, the members being Messrs. T. Willmot, R. S. Donaldson, J. J. Pye, M. S. Pearce, James Angus and N. T. Pringle.

Mr. T. Willmot was elected the first President and held the position from 1906 to 1910, when Mr. Shirlock occupied it for one year, with T. Willmot returning as President from 1911 to 1914, when he retired from the Council. He was called on to lay the foundation stone of the new Blacktown Council Chambers in 1938. Mr. Willmot retained a close association with the Shire Council after he retired, often acting as an advisor. He presented the Council with many needed articles including a safe in which to deposit the gathered rates.

The first permanent appointment of Shire Clerk was that of Mr. Hugh Reid of Blacktown Road, Blacktown, gentleman. The first Engineer, Mr. J. Fordyce, was shared between the Shires of Hornsby, Baulkham Hills and Blacktown at a total salary of £375 yearly, plus £30 travelling expenses.

Another Toongabbie man to take the Presidential chair in the Council was Mr. J. C. Page who was President in 1920 and again 1932 to 1934. Other men to serve as

councillors included Mr. S. Bond and Mr. J. Milne, both early residents of the area. Representative at time of going to print is Alderman R. Hills.

Fifty-six years after the shire was formed, Blacktown became a municipality. In 1962 Alderman A. Ashley Brown of Seven Hills became the first Mayor of the Blacktown Municipality.

Electricity was turned on in Blacktown in 1934, but many homes in the Toongabbie area were using electricity in the 1920s. The first electric train services from Parramatta, through Toongabbie to Blacktown, commenced in 1955. The electricity undertaking in the municipality was transferred to the Prospect County Council in 1957.

The Scout Movement

Among the letters received in 1960 was one from Mr. Cyril Lavender, and we quote the following extract:

"Three of us brothers, Tasman, Roy and myself, helped in numbers to form the first Toongabbie Troop of Boy Scouts under the late Sir Errol Knox, then a university graduate, later to become a successful Melbourne journalist. Our Scouts Hall was an old barn at the rear of his parents' home, and we paraded in Willmots paddock. We were second only to Mosman Troop to form in Australia, and with them had the first Boy Scouts' camp at La Perouse."

The Scouts' Association records show that Toongabbie and Mosman Troops were formed in 1908. Mosman held a celebration for their fiftieth anniversary in 1958.

However, newspapers in January, 1909, report the camp at La Perouse with First City and Toongabbie Troops and Petersham Patrol. It was held from 4th to 7th January. The officers were: Senior Scoutmaster H. Cohen, in command; second in command and quartermaster, Scoutmaster E. H. Knox (the Toongabbie leader); attached officers, Scoutmasters Lloyd and Moses (above officers were all in the University Scouts); Sergeant-Major, Patrol Leader Nash; Quartermaster-Sergeant, Scout Lavender (Toongabbie); Color-Sergeant, Patrol Leader Bradley.

Toongabbie Scouts performed first guard duty from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Bathing parades, ambulance drill including the provision of emergency stretchers from sticks and coats, boxing, tracking, and other Scout activities filled in the four days.

The First City Troop had its headquarters at Fort Street.

The present First Toongabbie Troop Scout Hall in Bungaree Road is on part of the original Knox property; the land was donated to the Troop in 1934 by Mr. G. Garnett.

Other Scout Troops have formed in the district. First Girraween began around 1919 but lapsed for some years and was reformed in 1941. They have been given the original Girraween School of Arts as their permanent hall and it has been moved to their land near the railway line.

The First Toongabbie Girl Guides was formed in 1962. They have been granted a block of land in Junia Avenue and are at present raising funds to build a hall.

Fire Station

Some interest was focused on the local Fire Station in 1963 when the newly-formed Toongabbie Ratepayers' Association requested Holroyd Council to support its campaign for a Fire Station to be located in the Township of Toongabbie.

The Fire Station, located at what is now known as Old Toongabbie, was officially opened on 15th February, 1927. Staffed with a captain and four men it was equipped with one hand-reel cart. The first fire they were called on to attend was one in a weatherboard cottage in Ballandella Road, Toongabbie.

The group was motorised on Friday, December 19, 1930, when Motor Engine No. 102 became the Toongabbie Fire Engine. In February, 1931, the team was increased to a captain and five men.

The station is a part of the Parramatta organisation and the men can be called on a bell hook-up from the headquarters in Parramatta, or the home of the local captain, the bell hook-up going into the home of each man. This call method notifies all homes within three seconds of the receival of a fire call, and the men are able to proceed with speed to the Fire Station. The men are not

The homestead Casuarina, thought to be built for George Oakes in the early 1860s.
(Photographed by J. P. Jones in 1960, while occupied by the Sisters of the Home of the Good Shepherd.)

full-time fighters but receive a small retainer and are paid a fee for each fire they attend. The present captain (Mr. A. Champion) has been a member of the team for 22 years and has been captain for 10 years. He has a team of seven men.

The present Motor Engine No. 269 carries 1,600 feet of fire hoses, and is equipped with a two-way radio which allows messages to be sent to headquarters as to what methods are being used to fight the fire, details of progress and a stop signal when the fire is out. The engine attends fires at Toongabbie, Seven Hills, Lalor Park and Blacktown. Teams from these areas work back Toongabbie way when larger fires occur, and this interchange of engines provides more equipment when the need arises.

A new Fire Station is to be built at Old Toongabbie in the near future.

The Toongabbie Township

The Toongabbie township is divided by being on the borderline of the Blacktown Municipality and Holroyd, and the many people who shop at Toongabbie would never know whose ground they walked upon. With Parramatta Council on the eastern front and Baulkham Hills across to the northern locality and the continuous changing of postal names the district has battled to retain its identity.

In 1953 the Chamber of Commerce was formed and in 1962 there were just over 80 retail or commercial interests in the area. This figure had moved up into the hundreds at the time of writing, and the township, with its parking areas and modern shops, is attracting many people into its friendly atmosphere.

The town itself only came into being after the end of World War II. Records show the enlistment of 102 men and eight women from the district — it could have been more. With the return to peacetime conditions the suburbs around Sydney were soon settled with small farmers interested in market gardening and poultry farming. Large holdings were soon converted to smaller farms and shops began to appear. The date of the first one to open for business is not available, but there were several when the Post Office commenced its operation in a small cottage along Wentworth Avenue in 1923.

The Rocket Theatre was completed in 1952 and converted to the CinemaScope screen in 1955. Films had been showing for many years in the local hall and the theatre proved very popular when it commenced screening. It is one of the few remaining theatres to continue screening films in the wide area between Parramatta and Blacktown.

Banking facilities were provided in 1957 by the Commonwealth Bank, and a new building was opened in 1963. The National Bank of Australia opened a branch in 1962, and in 1963 were able to move into new premises in the Picadilly Arcade.

The Hotel Toongabbie, the first inn in almost 150 years, appeared in the district when it opened at Toongabbie in 1956.

A branch of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales was formed in 1954. So active have these ladies been that they have had a hall of their own since 1962.

In 1962 a Baby Health Centre was established in Octavia Street, in the Holroyd Council area. This was another example of public effort as the appeal for funds began in 1958, its ultimate success a credit to the vigorous committee.

The Toongabbie Bowling and Recreation Club was formed in 1958, opening an attractive clubhouse in 1960, which has since been enlarged. This club is in the Blacktown Municipal area, while the very active Soccer Association has its playing fields in Holroyd. Both are completely successful.

Many other recreational groups, mainly formed for the benefit of the children, are functioning and fulfilling the needs of the rapidly growing population.

With the coming of closer settlement and the rapid growth from peaceful rural holdings to busy suburban streets, many of the early cottages and farm houses have disappeared or been remodelled. With them has gone many of the early recorded local items which could have contributed much to this story, for much of the establishment of both Toongabbie and Girraween has at one time or other been recorded in family albums and notebooks, unfortunately since destroyed.

History is something that grows at all times and should not be banished with the passing of the aged, whether it be spiritual or material, and things that are happening as one is being born are most surely of historical importance by the time one reaches the allotted three score years and ten. Valuable records are held at the Old Toongabbie Methodist Church and at St. Mary's Anglican Church and by some of the old established families, but all too much has vanished.

One of the features of Toongabbie that has not vanished is the vista of trees visible from every part of the district. From the early days when timber was in demand for the building of huts, bridges and yards, trees have featured in the Toongabbie story, highlighted by their size and variety (many of which no longer exist), the fruit trees and the first Arbor Day ceremony!

In spite of the continuous eradication of timbered areas they speedily re-established themselves and still do as can be seen at the turn into Oakes Road (from Old Windsor Road) where a young forest has appeared in the last few years. The vista of trees from the public school across to the Toongabbie Creek inspired the children in 1960 to include stately gums when they designed the school emblem which appears on the title page of this publication.

A Little on Legends (?)

Legends have risen around the trees of Toongabbie, too. High on the hill of the Oakes property and near Buckley's former home, there stood for many years a tree which legend titled "the hanging tree". The widespread branches of a fine old tree along the banks of the creek, near Johnston's bridge, also carries the tale of having been a hanging tree.

Many early recordings of life in the colony bear entries on Toongabbie, but there are no references to hangings in the area. The tales are not new tales but could be regarded as folklore, for the tree that stood on One Tree Hill until at least 1960 (though bereft of all save its skeleton trunk) is referred to as a "monster so ashamed of itself that it shed its first killing bough on December 31, 1809, and its last on May 22, 1840, when violent storms struck Old Toongabbie.

There is significance in these dates as it was on December 31, 1809, that Governor Lachlan Macquarie first set foot upon Australian soil, whilst it was on May 22, 1840, that the British Government ordered an end to the transportation of convicts to the Australian continent.

As to why the hanging tree by the stream was not also struck or affected by the storms came the reply that, "Because the fiends who turned it into a gallows paid their full price to the spirits long before our Lachlan arrived." We pass it on as a "tale that has been told . . ."

Legends will live on, no amount of facts or figures would kill off a legend, but it can be hoped that perhaps this old tree on the banks of the creek might be given a chance to live on as the illustration of a legend. Perhaps buried in the soil in the vicinity may be more evidence of the violent days of the convict era. As the soil is levelled off in portions of land between Constitution Hill and the creek, and huge Water Board projects tear up the land along the creek, mementoes of early days are still being brought to the surface, not always recognised by busy workmen intent on the job in hand.

We present here another tale that has been told, and this one was not a legend but portions of the old ditty "Moreton Bay":

1. "One summer morning as I went walking
   by Brisbane waters, I chanced to stray,
   I heard a convict his fate bewailing, as
   on the sunny river bank he lay,
   I am a native of Erin's isle, although
   banished now from my native shore,
   They tore me from my aged parents,
   and from a maiden whom I adore.

2. I've been a prisoner at Port Macquarie,
   at Norfolk Island and Emu Plains,
   At Castle Hill and at cursed Toongabbie,
   at all those settlements I've worked in
   chains,
   But of all places of condemnation, and
   penal stations in New South Wales,
   To Moreton Bay I have found no equal,
   excessive tyranny each day prevails.

3. For three long years I've been badly
   treated, heavy irons on my legs I wore,
   My back with flogging is lacerated, and
   painted with my own crimson gore,
   And many a man from downright starvation lies mouldering now underneath
   the clay,
   And Captain Logan he had us tortured
   at the pillories down at Moreton Bay."

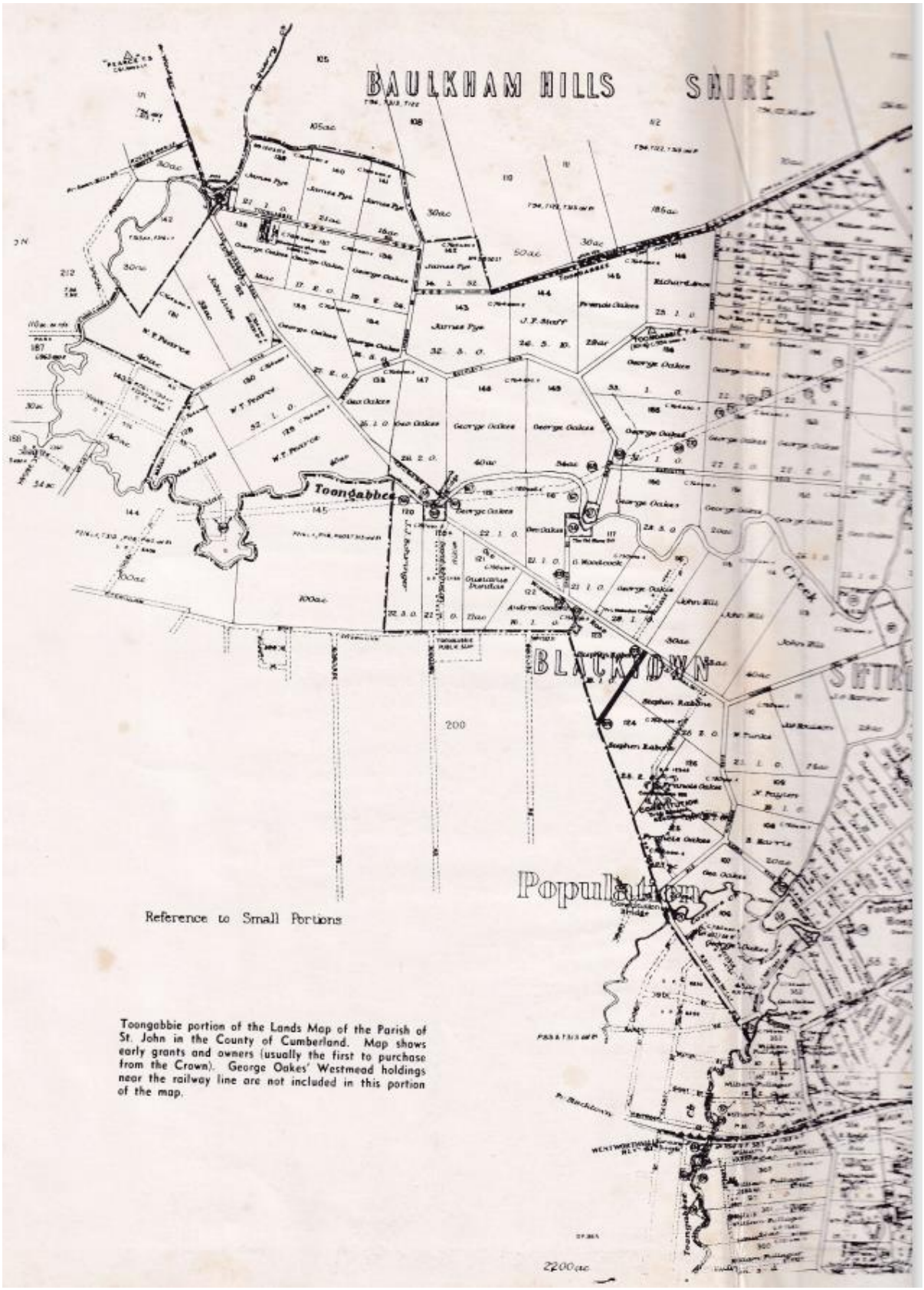
This folksong well illustrates a passage of time in Australian history, a passage of time at Toongabbie that many tried to forget and yet it was a testing time for many who lived through it to establish fine Australian families. Could they look in on the Toongabbie of today they would indeed feel that their early labour was not in vain, their place of toil and deprivation has blossomed into streets of happy children, gardens and bright new homes.

There was an earlier tale of Toongabbie that has never been told, that of the natives, the early aboriginals of this part.

Perhaps when the pupils of the school give a demonstration of the modern twist and stomp they are performing much the same dance as was performed on the same grounds through the centuries of time before the white man disturbed the peace of their remote land. Perhaps the Toongabbie creek birds saw the miming of the kangaroo in dances, heard the call of the curlew in corroboree, watched the beating of the rocks along the banks of the stream to drive out fish, and witnessed the many fun-provoking rituals of the old age art of these early exponents of the out-door theatre.

This is a story yet to be told . . .

THE END



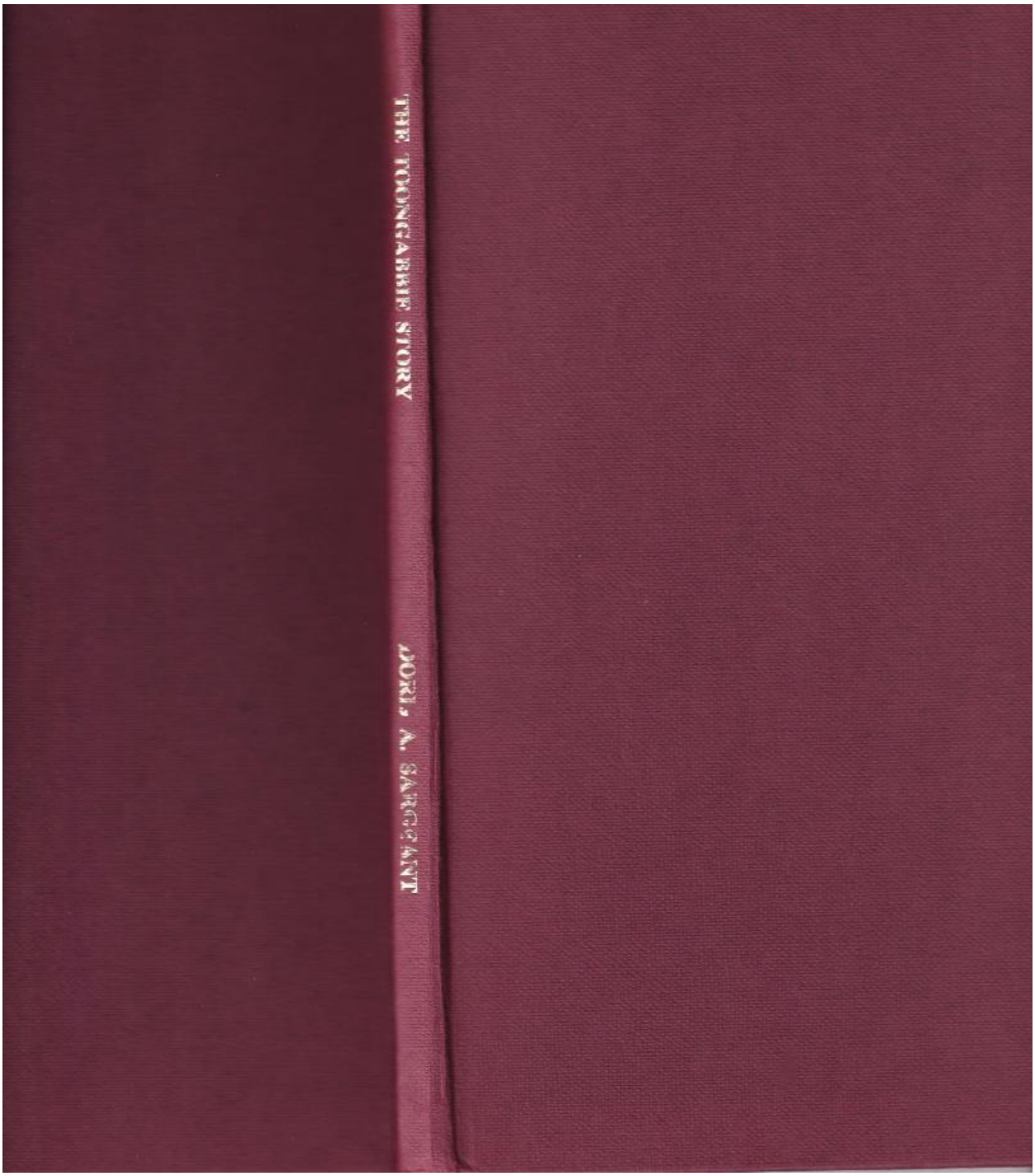
Inside page of back cover 1.

inside page of back cover 2.

Enlarged map of the Third Settlemant area.

Our area from Peter Parade to Old Windsor Rd. was the property of G. Woodcock.

There is no amount of appreciation and thank You, that can express the gratitude to the writer-historian Doris A. Sargeant for her educational work.

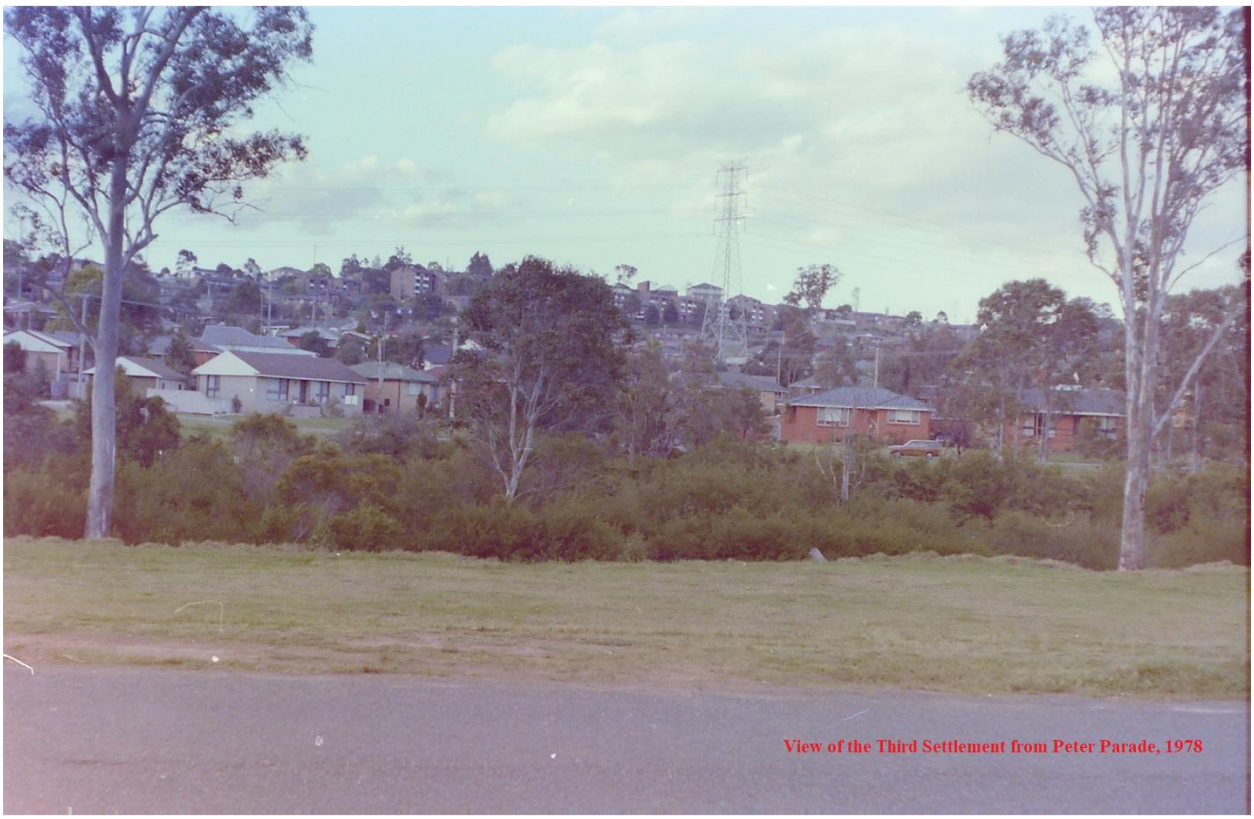


Doris A. Sargeant, 1975

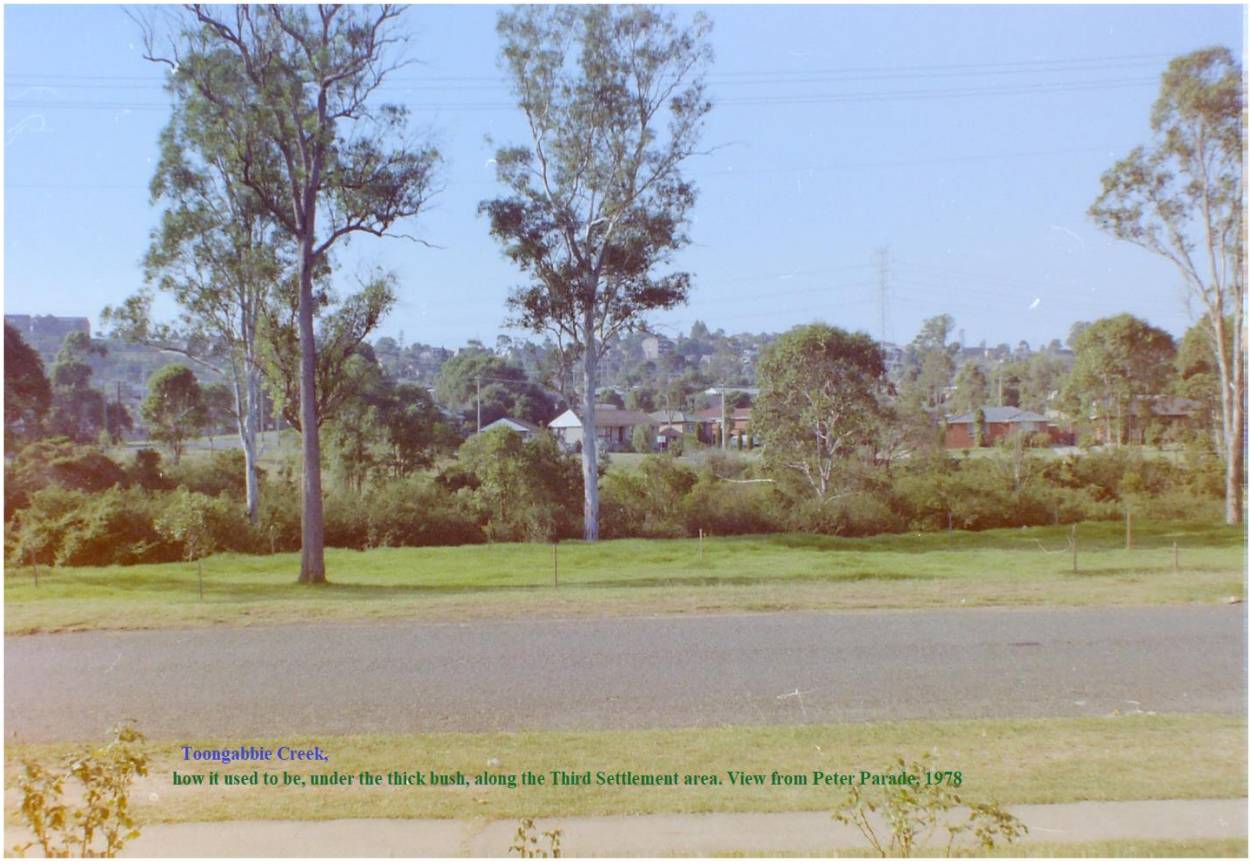
On the 17 June 1978, Doris A. Sargeant dedicated this copy of her historical research to Irene Szanto at Toongabbie Public School located on Fitzwilliam Road.

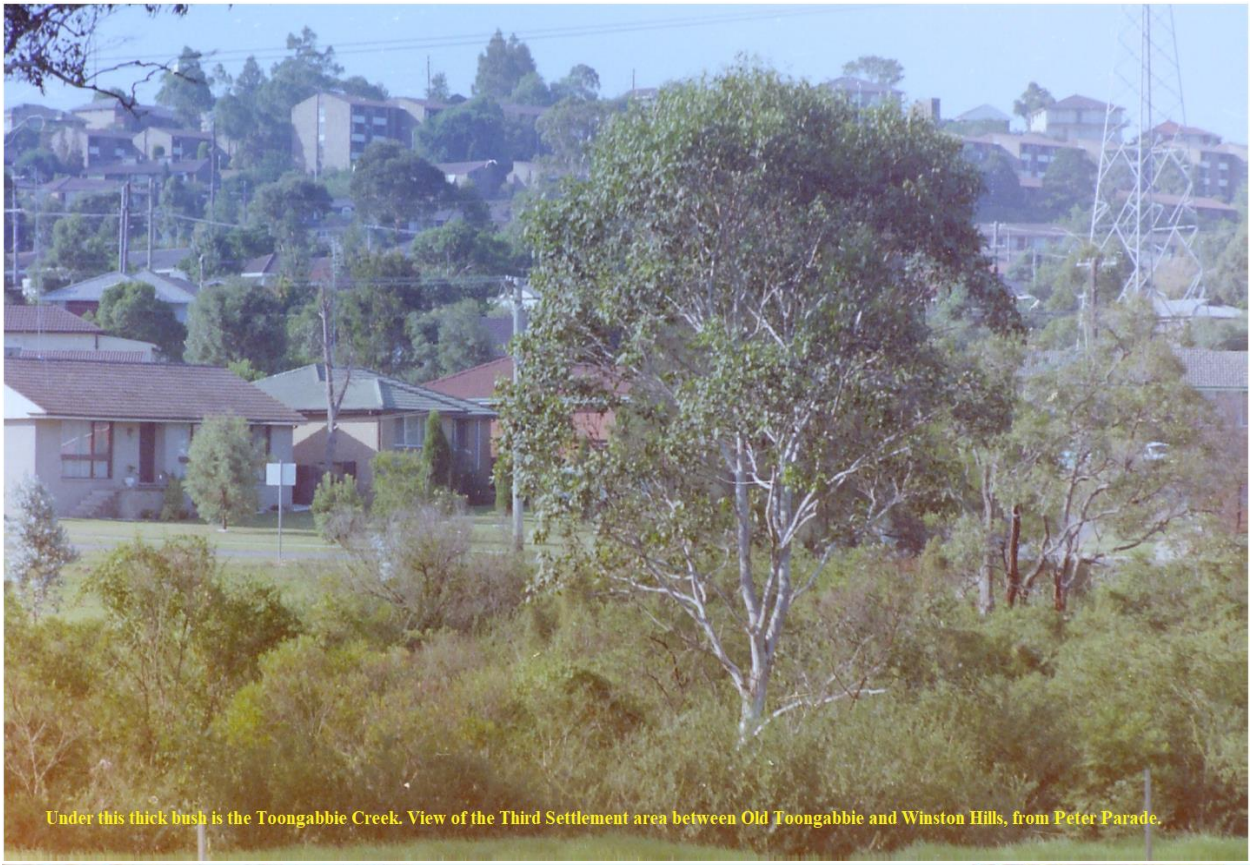
Some photos ***Down Memory Lane***. Third Settlement area view, from Peter Parade.

The Toongabbie Creek is winding under the thick shrubbery.



Winding deep behind the thick bush is the Toongabbie Creek





Under this thick bush is the Toongabbie Creek. View of the Third Settlement area between Old Toongabbie and Winston Hills, from Peter Parade.

28 Peter Parade, 1978

Student at Toongabbie Public School on Fitzwilliam Road , in 1976

Student at St. Paul The Apostle Primary School, Winston Hills, from 1977


TOONGABBIE
PUBLIC SCHOOL
1976
YEAR 3G


ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
1977
YEAR 4

We only just planted, the today luxuriantly growing and flowering, little Bottlebrushes.

During periods of heavy rainfall the little old bridge on Oakes Road would be emersed under the flash floods.

The milkman run into our Yucca plant a few times, so the Yucca had to go…..

Despite the thick bushes along the Creek, there was still a clear view to the houses on the Winston Hills side of the Toongabbie Creek. There was no concrete step edge - curb - on the road in Peter Parade yet.

As Paul Hogan would maybe say: This is a San Pedro cactus. It was growing dangerous, had to go.

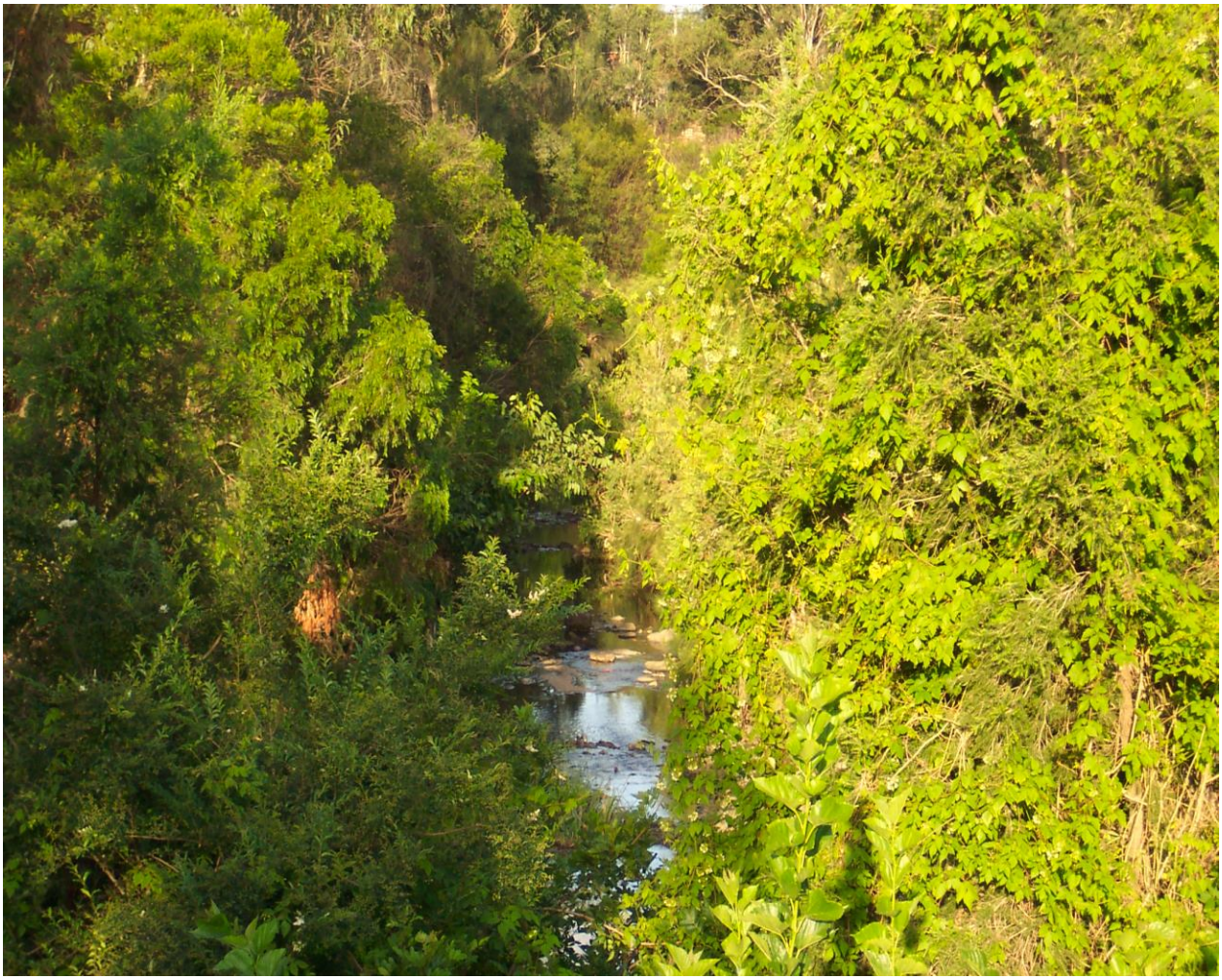
Travenol Laboratories and the Oakes Road bridge area is in the background of this photo. Travenol Laboratories is now the Baxter Healthcare Australia.

No concrete step edge -curb- on the road in Peter Parade yet.


12/12/2003

I am telling You, behind me is the Creek, under that lush bush.
I know, b'cause my Nanna and Fafa told me so.

Third Settlement Reserve view from Peter Parade

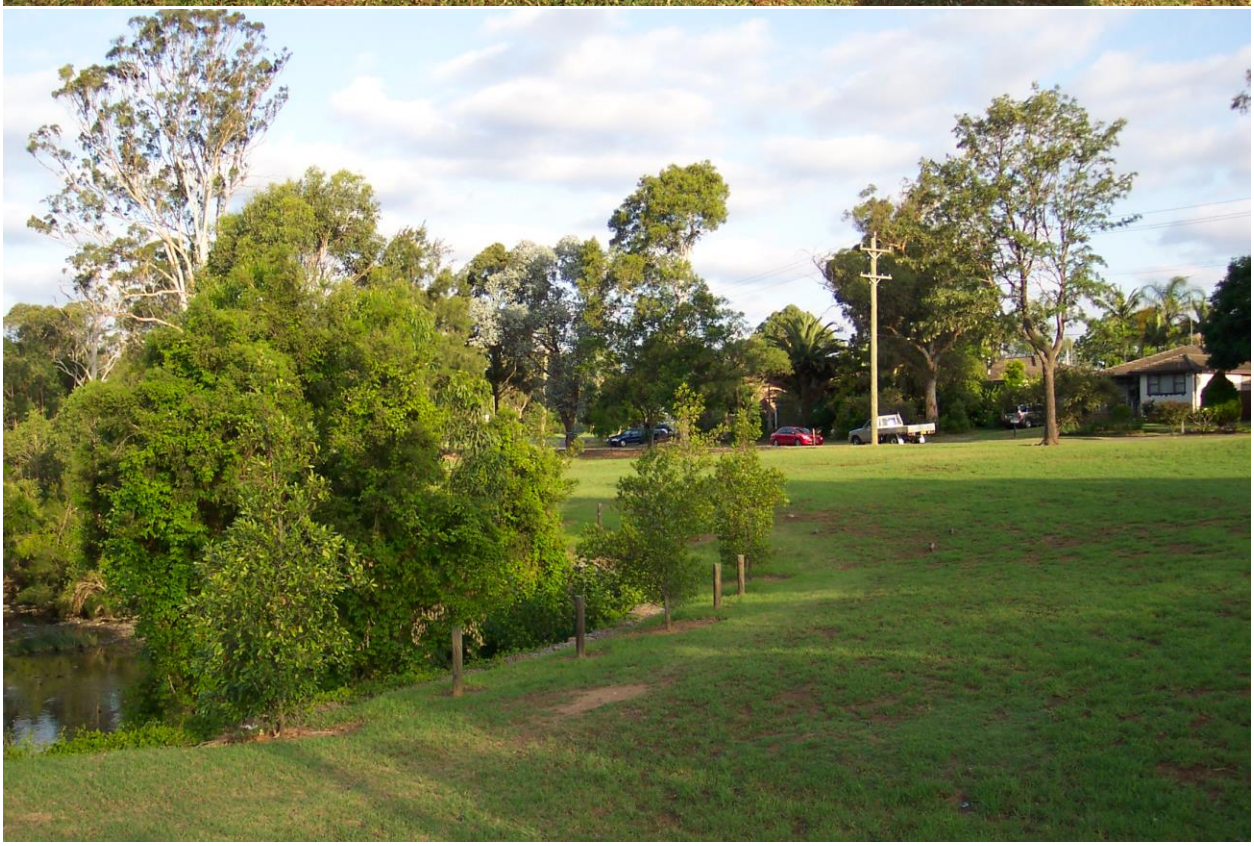


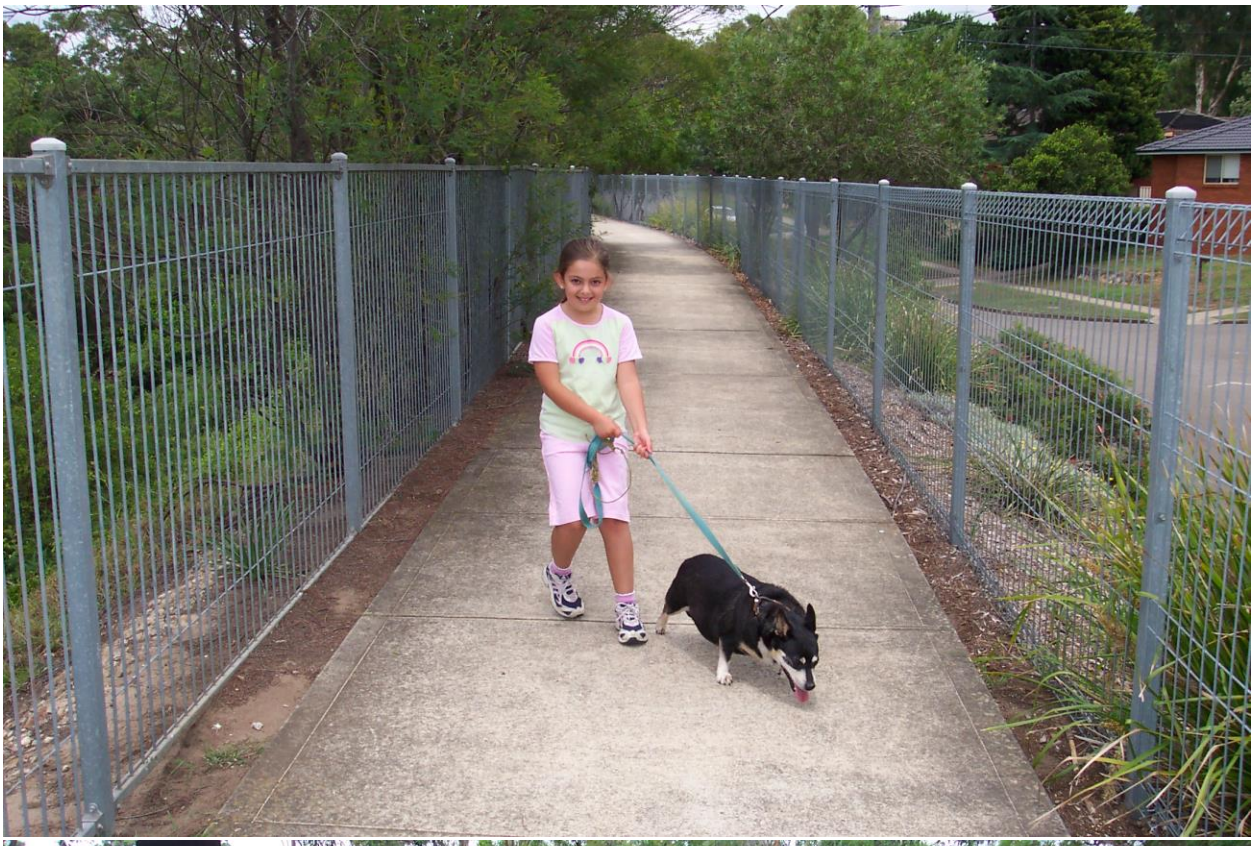
The Toongabbie Creek, deep under the thriving bush

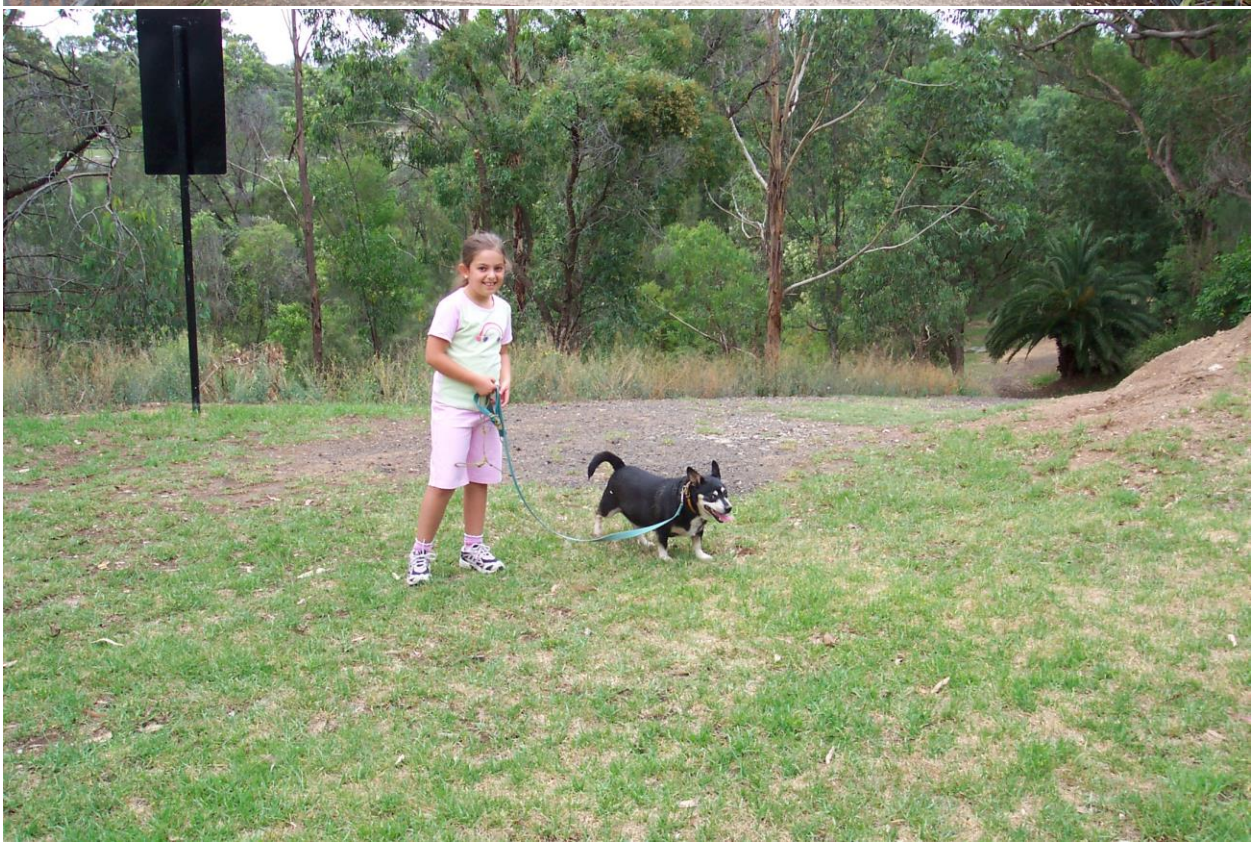

10/30/2006

On the top of the hill, St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primery School. View from Peter Parade.


10/30/2006





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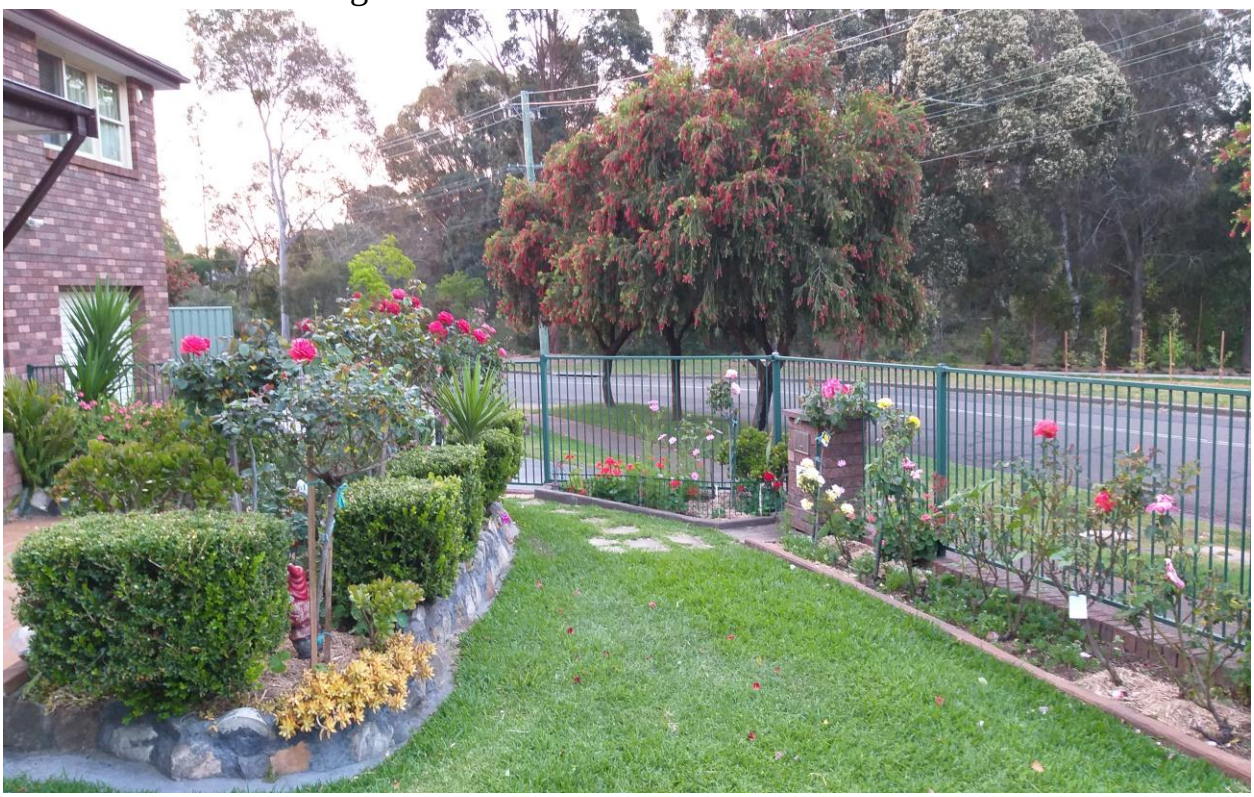
Third Settlement Reserve view from Peter Parade

Our garden and view before the Bottlebrushes



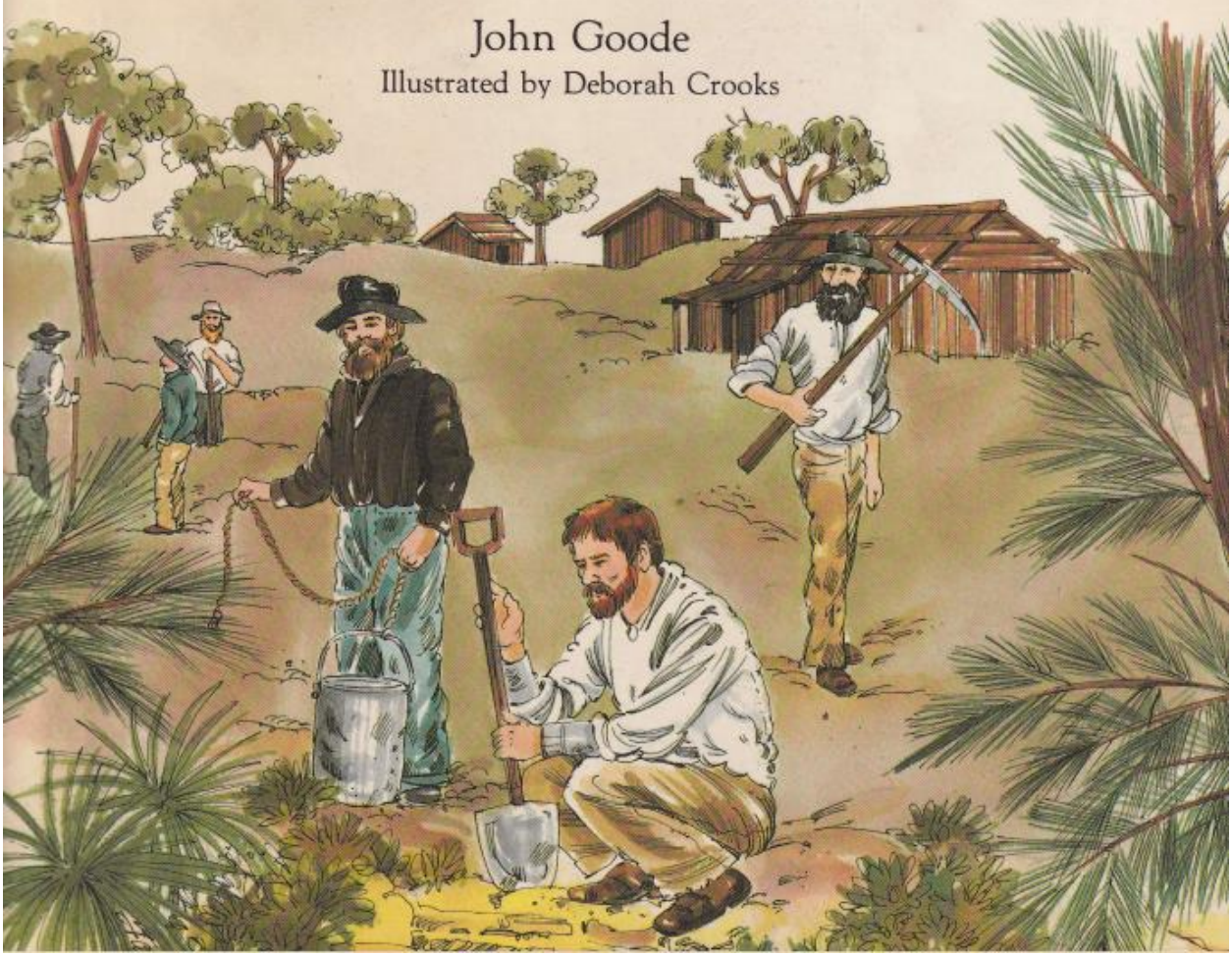
and now with the thriving Bottlebrushes.

Toongabbie

THE 3rd SETTLEMENT

John Goode

Illustrated by Deborah Crooks



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In particular, the tireless efforts of members of The Third Settlement Bicentennial Committee, in searching for information, co-ordinating the various aspects of research, and offering help in so many ways, really go beyond description.

The author would also have found his job impossible without having access to *The Toongabbie Story* by Doris A. Sargeant and *Toongabbie Public School, 1886-1986* which have both been used extensively; and to the reminiscences of Mavis Klippert and Reg Willmot.

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The Third Settlement Bicentennial Committee wishes to thank Parramatta City Council, Holroyd Municipal Council, and Baxter Healthcare Pty Ltd for their financial support of this project, Mr Fred Power for the Title Logo and in particular wishes to thank Mr Bill Gobbe for his guidance and advice.
Ross Hope – Chairman

Grandfather is Fafa which stands for Father's Father in the Danish tradition. This was the nicest present we could have from our children, as by then I gave my copy of these book to our visiting relative from Italy, a school teacher who is fluent in the English language. Today, with just as much joy, I am digitalizing this copy of ours, for all the children, parents and grandparents, who wish to know, and cherish the history of the ground we are walking on.

Nanna - Irene Szanto , 13. January, 2022.
Fafa - Joseph Szanto, *Old Toongabbie*

As stated by the autor, the foundation for this book was the work of **Doris A. Sargeant**.

Toongabbie

THE 3rd SETTLEMENT

John Goode
Illustrated by Deborah Crooks

THE THIRD SETTLEMENT
BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

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The Third Settlement

Toongabbie was one of Australia's earliest settlements.

Today, nearly 200 years later, its greening hills, its tree-lined creek and its panoramic views make Toongabbie a pleasant place where people may live.

This picturesque reputation is not new. In the past, before flood-prevention measures were applied to Toongabbie Creek, in times of flood people would come long distances to one of the natural lookouts on high ground. From such places there was a spectacular sight of this beautiful valley. For hectare after hectare of country where normally farms, market gardens and orchards could be seen, there was just a vast expanse of floodwater.

Today, you can still stand on top of Constitution Hill or Dorothy Mount and see the constantly growing skyscape of Parramatta. Beyond, you can even identify Sydney by the conspicuous tower that stands atop Centrepoint.

At such times, it is worth remembering that after Sydney Town and Parramatta, Toongabbie was the third mainland settlement to be established by Europeans, not just in New South Wales, but in the whole of Australia.

And during the past 200 years, Toongabbie has been in the strange position of all too often being a bridesmaid—never a bride!

It might be thought that because it was the third settlement, Toongabbie would have become an important centre with its own Municipal Council.

But this was not to be!

The powers responsible for setting-up

local councils and defining their boundaries, seemed to have viewed Toongabbie as a place to be shared. Portions have been given to one neighbour or another so that even today, a resident has to think twice before knowing in which municipality he lives!

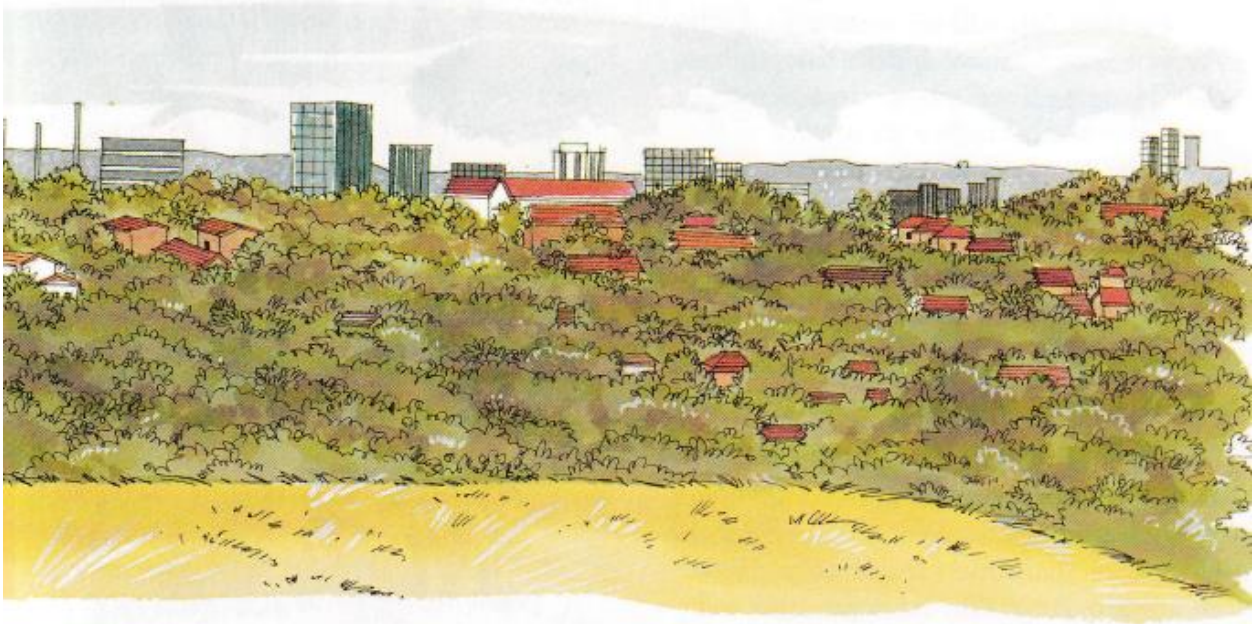
In 1906, it was decided by the State Government under the Local Government Act, that Toongabbie would become part of what was then the Shire of Blacktown.

However, in 1969, Toongabbie became part of three municipalities. Blacktown retained control of those areas west of the railway line. The southernmost streets are in Holroyd, while Parramatta looks after the east and north including those parts of Old Toongabbie now included in Winston Hills.

Despite this split control, the people of Toongabbie share a sense of identity that rises above such day-to-day matters as council boundaries. Never was this better demonstrated than when Doris A. Sargeant wrote her book, *The Toongabbie Story* in 1964; and again, in 1986 when Toongabbie Public School published a book celebrating its first one hundred years.

Toongabbie, the third settlement on the Australian mainland, has a place in history and its people feel (indeed know) that they belong to the place.

This book, then, is an attempt to show how this has come to be during the years that have passed since people who arrived aboard the First Fleet came ashore. They began a new life in what until then, was a land unknown to Europeans.



The land and its inhabitants

Long before any Europeans ever arrived in eastern Australia, the land between the coast and the Blue Mountains consisted of rolling hills covered with high forests and lower scrub.

The area is known as the Cumberland Plain and in places it is crossed by rivers and creeks. Somewhere near its centre is where Toongabbie was built.

The wildlife of this region was more numerous and varied than might be believed at first. Possums and gliders lived in holes in fire-damaged trees that could also house the nests of birds and those of native bees.

The highest branches of some trees were used as roosts by hundreds of bats that arrived to eat the fruits and seeds of certain trees and shrubs.

Some trees were very old and had a huge girth and an almost unbelievable height. The last such tree in Old Toongabbie can still be seen in Goliath Avenue, on a vacant block. Known as the "Hanging Tree", its girth is about nine metres and before its upper branches were cut to protect the roofs of houses on either side, they were up to 35 metres high. Experts estimate this tree as being at least 250 years old.

Reptiles were well represented by lizards, snakes and sometimes freshwater tortoises that shared the creek waters with mullet and eels. There were also many insects whose types and numbers changed according to the season.

Human bones found in Australia show that more than one race of people lived in ancient Australia. At some time in the past, some of these people, who may or may not have been ancestors of the present Australian Aborigines, came to the Cumberland Plain. Archaeologists have discovered that one group camped beside the Nepean River, near the present town of Castlereagh, about 13,000 years ago. This date was discovered by using radio-activity to find out when carbon from the ashes of fires was made.

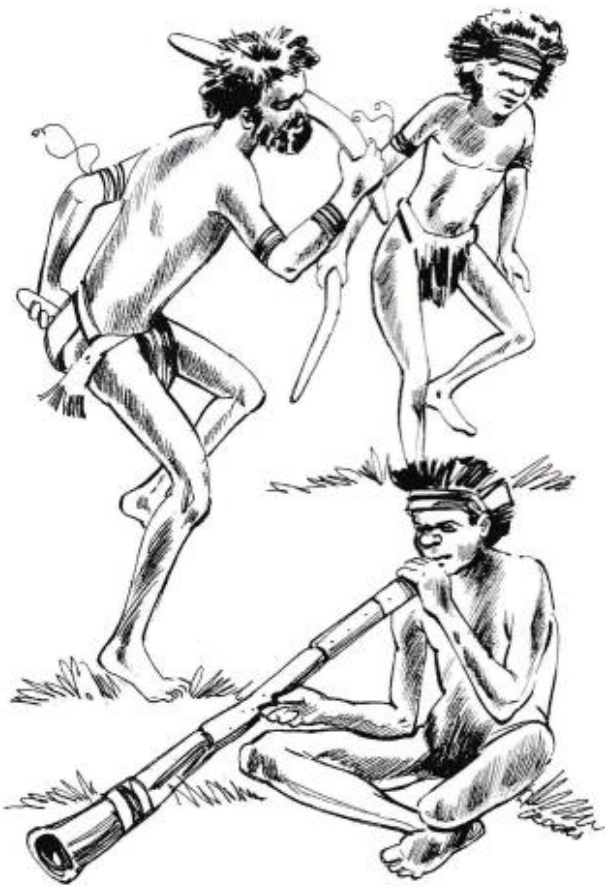
The Aborigines

Only a few traces have been found of Aborigines who lived for so long in this area. When the first explorers sent out by Governor Phillip reached the present location of Parramatta, the people living there, and those from the Hawkesbury in the north to Appin in the south, spoke the Dharug language. It is now believed that in 1788, less than 1000 Dharug speakers lived on the Cumberland Plain. They consisted of small groups of related families that seldom exceeded 50 or 60 people.

They were known as hunter-gatherers and were nomads who constantly needed to search for food. The men hunted animals and speared fish and reptiles. The women and children dug roots, picked berries and collected other food—grubs; ants and ant-eggs; and mussels from the creek. They believed that they came from the land itself, and they conducted sacred ceremonies and dances known as corroborees.

Governor Hunter described how they hunted possums in a hollow tree. "One man", he wrote, "climbed a tree after making foot-holes with a stone axehead". At the top of the tree, with a club at the ready, he sat beside the hole. Below, another man made a fire inside a lower opening, putting on lots of green leaves or grass to create smoke. When the smoke reached the possum or glider, it tried to escape. And whether it ran up or down, there was an Aborigine waiting to kill it.

The people who lived in the Toongabbie area were known as the Toogagal. They may have been a *clan*, a



group with sacred sites on their territory; or they may have stayed together just to make hunting easier.

When the people decided to make a camp, the men used their stone axes to strip large sheets of bark from larger trees. These were placed against a framework of saplings and branches to form a "lean-to" shelter, sometimes called a *gunyah* or "windbreak".

How long a group stayed anywhere seemed to depend on how much food they could find. In one place there might be enough for a week or two. Elsewhere, they might have enough for several months.

For hunting and fighting, the men made spears from a type of cane. Short

lengths were glued together with resin melted from the roots of the blackboy or grass tree. The spearhead would be a sharpened stone, or a piece of bone, or even a piece of hardwood made harder by heating in a fire.

As well as spears, fish hooks attached to cords made from human hair or plant fibres, were used to catch freshwater mullet, eels and tortoises. Among the foods that women collected were wild "yams", a name used to describe all tubers and roots that could be eaten.

They also collected the purplish white fruit of the lillipilli tree that was sometimes called a "native banana", though it is related to the custard apple. And they ate flowers from a type of *Banksia*, sometimes known as a "bottlebrush".

When they could find them, they would make a paste from fern roots, ants and their eggs. These would be pounded together into a cake that was then baked in the ashes.

The huge nuts of the *Macrozamia* are poisonous, but the Aborigines knew how they could be transformed into good food by pounding them, and soaking the paste in running water until the poison was washed out. Then it was cooked before being eaten.

The Aborigines and Europeans

When Europeans from the First Fleet arrived in 1788, their impact on the Aborigines of New South Wales, and particularly those within 150km of Sydney, was like a bombshell.

Parties of marines and convicts who went into the bush, either to hunt for food, or explore for better land, often found remains of fires and Aboriginal shelters—but they rarely saw many of the people!

Yet there must have been some contact because we now know that the Aborigines, who had no resistance to diseases of Europeans, soon became infected by smallpox, measles and other ailments they had never known before.

The results were catastrophic—far worse than if the first settlers had gone into the bush to kill the Aborigines with guns. It is estimated that within two years, the local Aboriginal population had been reduced by half. One group, the Cadigal, which numbered 50 in 1788, had only three survivors in 1790.

There were so many deaths near Sydney that the surviving Aborigines couldn't cope. Instead of following tradition by burning elders who died, or burying younger people, they left them where they died or threw their bodies into the harbour.

The Aborigines were quick to use some European items. They soon learnt that broken glass from bottles was sharper than shells or stones, and it was used to make scrapers or spearheads.

Although some newcomers made accurate records of the way they could see Aborigines behaving, lack of understanding of their languages, and the way they thought, made it impossible for them to understand Aboriginal beliefs that bore no similarity to those of Christianity.

Pe-mul-wy— A protester

While many Aborigines seemed prepared to let the marines and convicts of the First Fleet live in peace, one who strongly objected to the intruders was Pe-mul-wy, a very tall man with a turned eye, who, Benelong said, was leader of his tribe.

Pe-mul-wy first attracted attention in December 1790 when he speared a convict employed as a hunter for Governor Phillip, and from a range of only ten metres. The convict later died from the wound and Phillip said Pe-mul-wy's people must be punished.

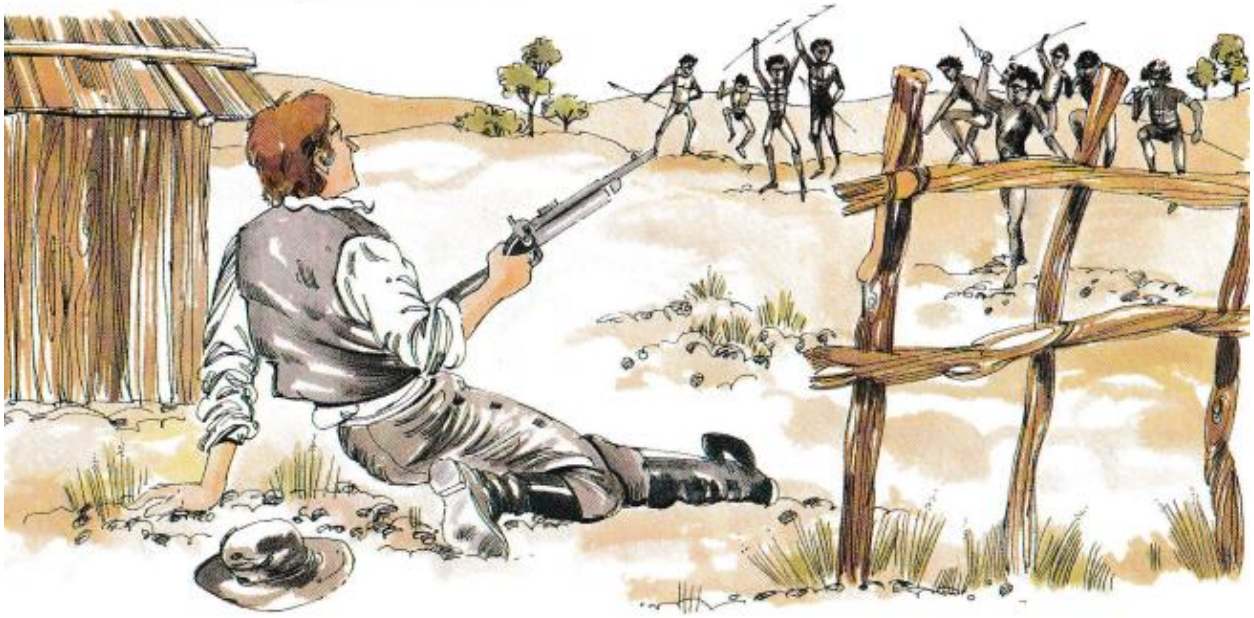
Fifty marines set off on a three-day trip to the head of Botany Bay where the tribe was said to live. The soldiers returned without a captive because, they said, "The natives fled with incredible swiftness!"

Because Pe-mul-wy was so easily recognised, he was reported from many places during the next few years. In 1797 he led a band of Aborigines in raids on farms near Toongabbie. They stole food and clothing and killed a white man and woman. Soldiers gave chase and near Parramatta, five Aborigines were killed. Pe-mul-wy was riddled with buckshot from a musket. He was put into Parramatta Hospital with a leg iron to anchor him there. However, he recovered from the wounds—and escaped. This gave rise to a legend that he could not be hurt by white-men's bullets.

He made more attacks on European settlements in 1798 so Governor King offered a reward for Pe-mul-wy's capture—"dead or alive!"

Only in 1802 was he surprised, shot and killed by two settlers. His head was cut from his body, preserved in alcohol so that he could be identified, and taken to the Governor. He, in turn, sent it to Sir Joseph Banks in England.

A strange, weird end for a man who today is considered to be a hero by modern Aborigines.



The Government Farm

When Governor Phillip arrived at Sydney Cove in January 1788, with more than 1000 marines and convicts, all had to be fed. There was an urgent need to grow grain and other crops, but Phillip soon learnt that the soil in Sydney was not good enough.

As early as November 1788, better land was discovered, some 25km to the west at a place named Rose Hill. It could be reached by walking in six to seven hours.

Phillip renamed Rose Hill, the second mainland settlement in the Colony of New South Wales, as "Parramatta" in June 1791.

From there, other parties went to find still more land for farming. They discovered "The New Grounds" some 5km to the north-west.

The third settlement, the Government Farm at New Grounds, was named "Toongabbie" in June 1792 after Phillip had asked local Aborigines what they called the area.

Thomas Daveney was appointed superintendent of the third settlement, and he took some 500 convicts there in April 1791. Early work was slow. Food was short, and huts for shelter had to be made from trees the convicts felled. They were roofed with thatch of grass or reeds, and cracks in the walls were filled with mud.

Inside each hut, between 14 and 18 men found shelter. Assistant Surgeon Thompson later said they were "without comfort of a bed or blankets unless they had brought their own".

Nor were convicts given any plates, cups, knives or forks. Instead they had to "fashion" (carve) them from soft green pieces of wood. Working hours were from dawn until ten in the morning, and again from 2 p.m. until sunset. They could not work hard because they had so little food.

Sick convicts were sent to the hospital at Parramatta, leaving no more than 450 to work at the farm. Others ran away, hoping to "walk to China". Most of those who escaped died from lack of food and water. Others were attacked and killed by Aborigines.

Clearing land was hard and slow. Trees had to be felled, often with tools of poor quality. Then branches had to be placed in piles to dry, before being burnt. Other men used hoes and mattocks to dig up roots that were far

more widespread than those on trees in England.

There were no ploughs and convicts had to use spades and hoes to prepare the soil before it could be planted. By December 1791, about 80 hectares had been cleared and planted with turnips. A year later, some 280 hectares were being used to grow corn, wheat and barley.

Although good crops were harvested at first, some land was declared "worn out" in 1795. At no time, it seems, was any attempt made to use manure to fertilise the soil, or to rotate crops.

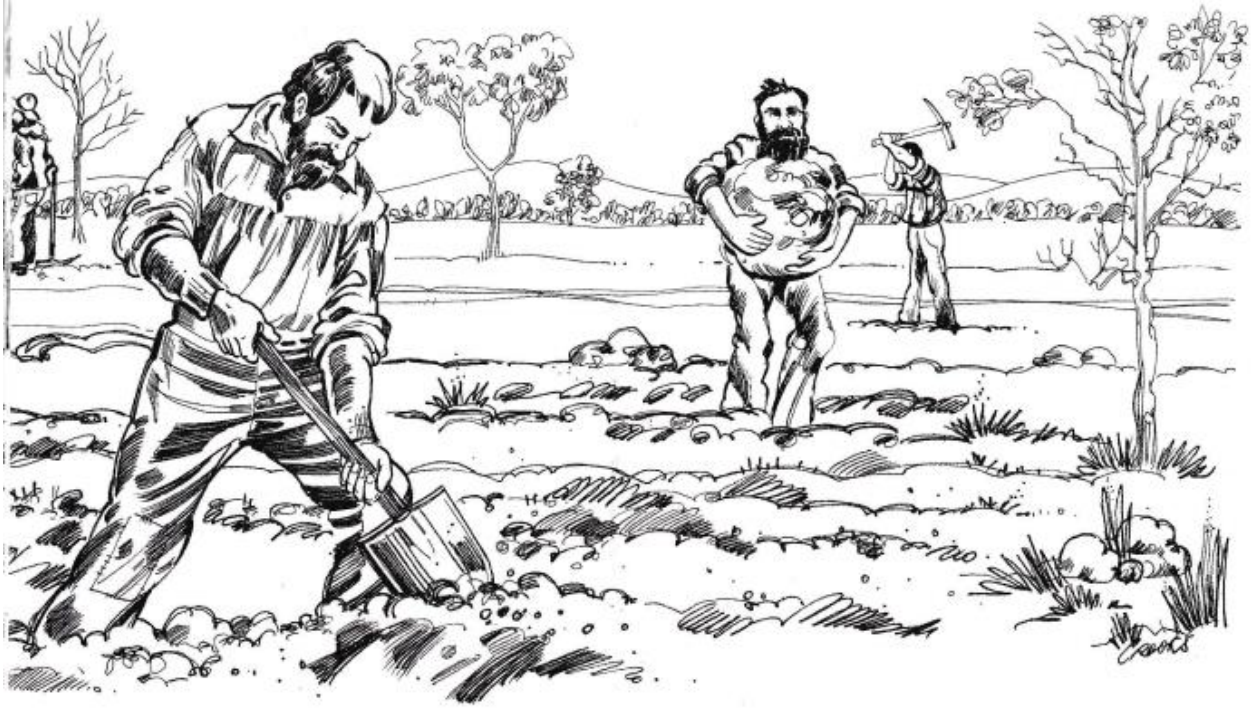
Often the men sent to Toongabbie Government Farm were trouble-makers and life was made very hard for them. A few women were sent there too. Each hut had a woman to keep it clean and cook food in one large pot. It was mostly a stew of rice and vegetables.

Meat might have been added when a possum or wallaby was killed.

There were accidents from nature too. In September 1795, a storm destroyed a large barn where grain was threshed and stored. Two years later "800 bushels of wheat" were destroyed by a bushfire.

David Collins did not think highly of the farm. He wrote that more work could have been performed by "200 families of decent labouring farmers" if they had been sent out as settlers and given a few convicts to help them. And, he added, cultivation would have been much farther advanced.

Instead, after eleven years, the Government Farm at Toongabbie was closed and the land given as grants to settlers and to convicts who had served their term.



Land grants

From the earliest days of settlement, Governors of New South Wales had the power to make grants of land to "deserving" people. The grants could be a bonus on top of normal pay, to encourage Government staff and officers of the New South Wales Corps to stay in the Colony and become farmers after their period of service had ended.

Land grants were also designed to give convicts who had served their term (emancipists) a second chance, by letting them stay in Australia and possibly grow enough food for their own needs, and to sell. If they were successful, it might stop them wanting to return to their home country which was overcrowded.

"Big" men, such as military officers, received the biggest grants. The largest early ones in Toongabbie seem to have been more than 700 hectares to Joseph Foveaux, Lieutenant-Colonel in the N.S.W. Corps and Governor of Norfolk Island from 1800-1803.

Free settlers were next. Charles Grimes, Deputy Surveyor of Roads (and a future Surveyor-General of the Colony) received one of the first land grants at Toongabbie where he farmed from 1794 to 1809.

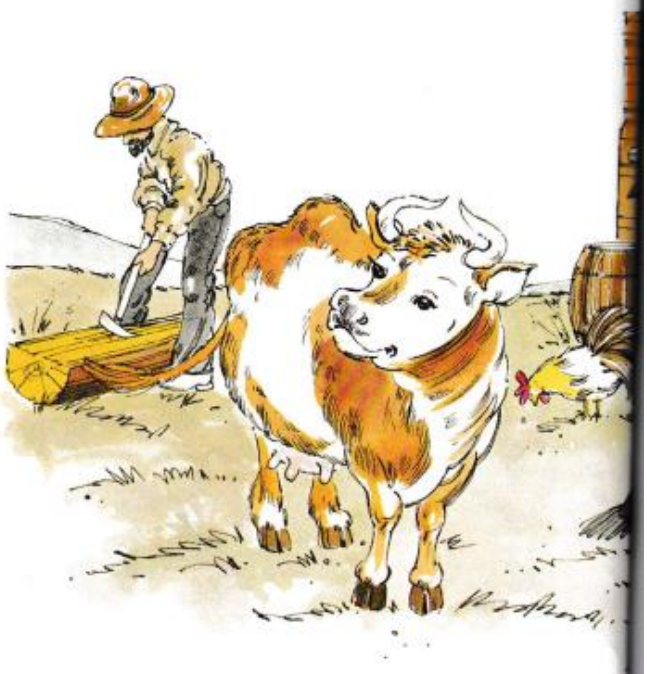
Thomas Daveney was given 40 hectares of land there after Grose dismissed him as Superintendent of Government Farm, Toongabbie in April 1794, and he raised a large flock of goats.

About the same time, Andrew Hume, a former superintendent on Norfolk Island and later the livestock overseer on the Government Farm at Toongabbie, was given 12 hectares on the west side of what is now Old Windsor Road, just beyond Pye's Crossing.

In 1796 Hume married the senior mistress of the Orphan School in Parramatta. Their eldest son, Hamilton, later to become famous as an overland explorer, was born at their Toongabbie property on the eighteenth of June 1797. Later the family moved to Appin.

Convicts who had served their sentences received smaller grants of land. An unmarried man was given 12 hectares, but when he married, he could get some more land to grow food for his wife and when each child was born, he received another four hectares.

The aim was for people who received land grants to try to become self-supporting by growing most of the grain they needed for flour, their own vegetables, and by raising livestock such



as chickens and pigs.

Although many grants of land were made at Toongabbie, not all the land was suited to farming. Often land might be sold or exchanged and owners moved elsewhere.

When Foveaux was sent to Norfolk Island in 1801, he sold his land and his 1200 sheep to John Macarthur whose family continued to use it for 20 years. Then it was given back to the Government and in return Macarthur received more land at Camden.

One man who stayed and succeeded in Toongabbie was John Pye, a former convict. He arrived in the colony in 1791 and was granted 12 hectares in 1796. With his neighbour George Best, they considered that in their first two seasons, they produced better crops than anything grown at Government Farm.

Because he was such a good farmer, Pye was given another 28 hectares in March 1802. Later Governor Macquarie praised his farm when he visited Toongabbie in 1810. A more substantial reward, a grant of 55 hectares more, was made to Pye in 1821 and in the following year he opened a hotel at Baulkham Hills. Pye was a man who made good after his punishment ended.

D'Arcy Wentworth

A man with much charm and the "gift of the gab", D'Arcy Wentworth came to Australia in 1790 as an army officer and a surgeon who had arrived under a cloud of suspicion. Although juries had found him "Not Guilty", he had been tried in England three times on charges of Highway Robbery!

Yet this tall, handsome man with blue eyes who became so popular with people in all walks of life, was to become a major influence on the Colony and an important landlord in Toongabbie.

He first went to Norfolk Island where he was promoted to be Superintendent of Convicts. In 1796 he was made assistant surgeon in Sydney and later performed the same work in Parramatta too. Although his first land grant from Governor Hunter in 1799 was only 70 hectares at Toongabbie, he received more grants from other governors and he also bought land (including Charles Grimes' farm in 1813). By 1821, his total holdings in the Colony were some 7000 hectares and included land held by his family right into the present century.

As well as becoming Principal

Surgeon, Wentworth was one of three men who, for a monopoly on imports of spirits, built the "Rum Hospital" for Governor Macquarie. Restored sections can still be see on Macquarie Street, Sydney and include the "Mint" and the frontage of Parliament House.

Wentworth was also a founder of the Colony's first bank in 1817. Once called the Bank of New South Wales, it operates today under the name of Westpac.

His eldest son, W.C. Wentworth, achieved fame when he crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813 with Blaxland and Lawson. When D'Arcy died in 1827, aged 65, he was the richest man in the Colony.

D'Arcy's grandson, Fitzwilliam, inherited the Toongabbie Estates and the family is still remembered by the suburb named Wentworthville. Those Toongabbie farms were run by him until 1894 when they were sold.

Rebellion!

Toongabbie was placed firmly on the historic map of New South Wales on the morning of Monday the fifth of March 1804, when Irish convicts assembled on the top of Constitution Hill during the first attempt by any convicts in Australia to organise a rebellion against their captors.

It resulted in Martial Law being proclaimed for the first time; and in the first "battle" to take place since the Colony was established sixteen years earlier.

During that time, about a quarter of all the convicts sent to New South Wales came from Ireland. While some had committed crimes such as robbery and assault, others had been transported for political reasons—because they had served in, or supported, the Irish Rebel Army, defeated by the British in 1798.

Many of the Irish arrived in Australia without documents and some were made to work as punishment when they might have been entitled to live normal lives, but in exile.

There had been rumours for several years that the Irish might cause trouble, but only in 1804 was an attempt made. It began with 200 convicts working on the Agricultural Settlement at Castle Hill, some 7.5 kilometres north-west of Toongabbie.

Known later as "The Rising", it began on Sunday, the fourth of March 1804 when Irishmen led by Philip Cunningham raided farms of free settlers to obtain guns and other weapons—and to force convicts working on those farms to join them.

That evening they set fire to a hut to signal that the rising had begun. They captured Robert Duggan, the cruel flogger at Castle Hill, and let him feel what his punishment was like.

Their plan was to storm Parramatta Gaol later that night, capture its armoury, and free all the prisoners. Everyone was to meet for breakfast on top of Constitution Hill in Toongabbie before they marched to Windsor to collect 900 more Irish prisoners. They then planned to return to Parramatta, plant "the Tree of Liberty outside Government House" and march to Sydney. There boats would be captured

Toongabbie on 5. March, 1804.

to take them to America.

But something went wrong!

News of the rising reached Sydney about midnight on the Sunday. Major George Johnston with 56 men of the New South Wales Corps, set off on a forced march to Parramatta where they arrived at dawn. The Governor declared Martial Law which gave Johnston the right to do anything he thought was needed to stop the rebellion.

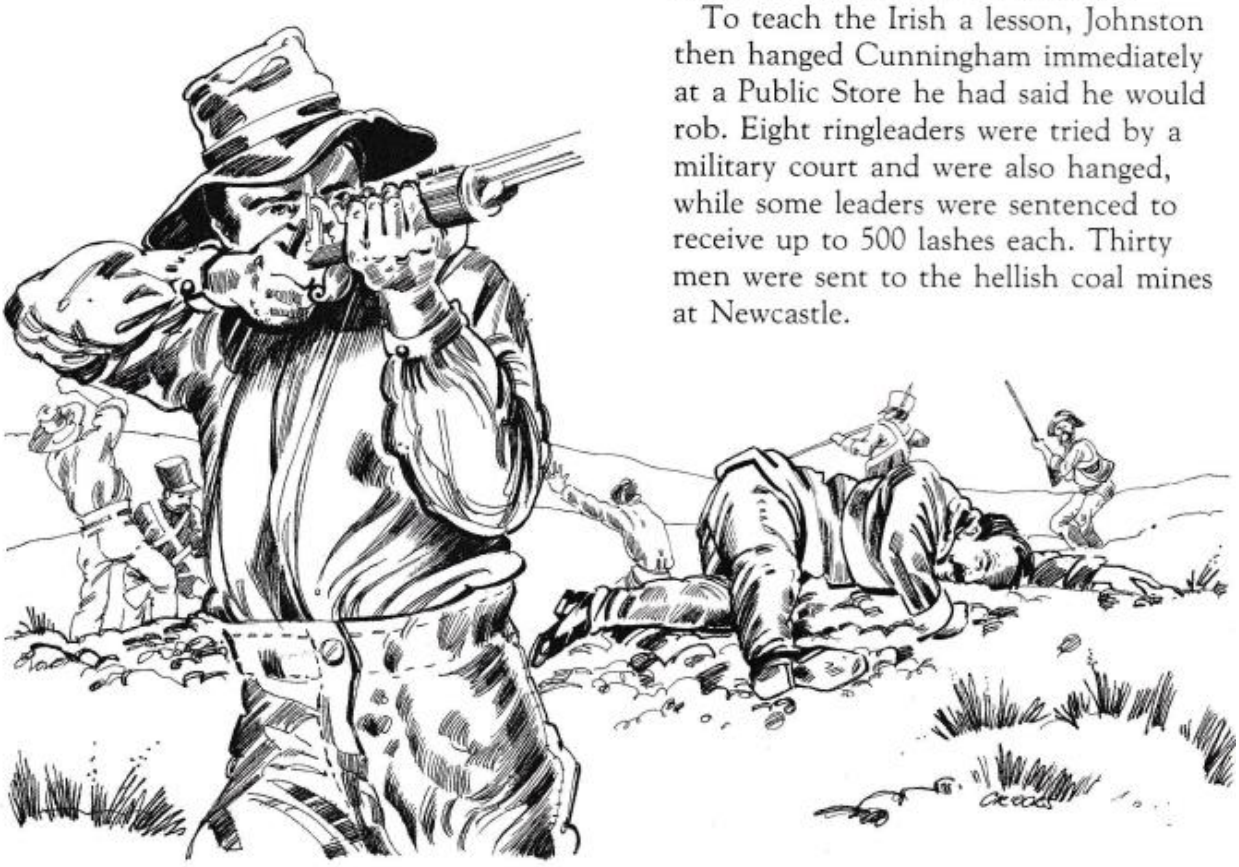
Johnston learnt that "some 233 men armed with Musquets, Pistols, Swords etc." were on Constitution Hill, but by the time he got there, the Irish had moved 11.2km north to Vinegar Hill, near the present Rouse Hill.

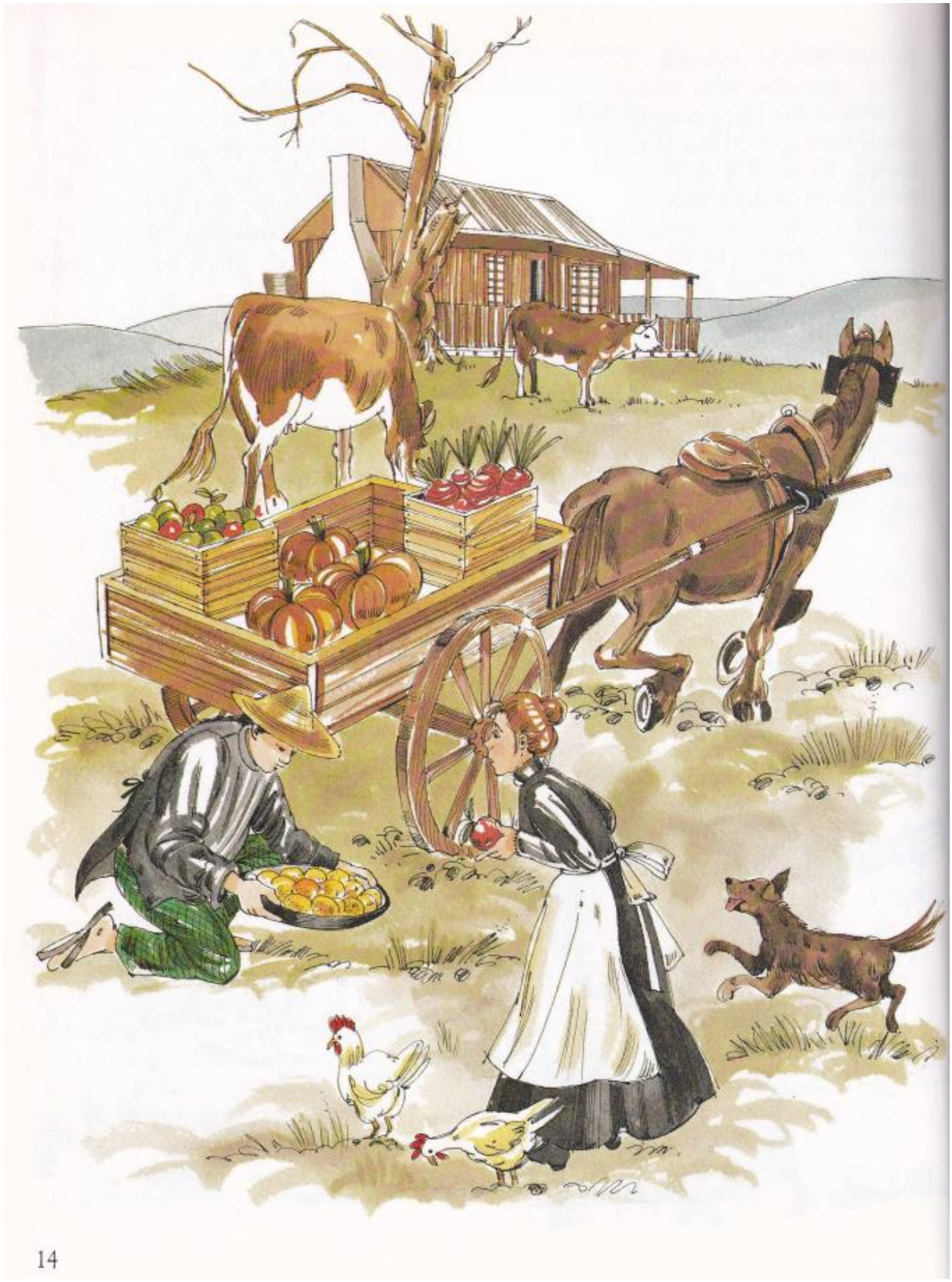
Johnston, with only a trooper, went close to the rebels while some of his men stayed behind. Another party of soldiers tried to get behind the Irishmen.

When Johnston met Cunningham and another Irish leader, he told them to surrender. They answered, "We want Death or Liberty"—which was the slogan of United Irishmen.

At that moment, Johnston saw his reinforcements come into view. He whipped out his pistol and held it against Cunningham's head while the trooper did the same to the other leader. Johnston told his men to attack. They fired at the rebels, who fired back, but retreated. By the time they reached the Hawkesbury River, fifteen rebels had been killed and others recaptured.

To teach the Irish a lesson, Johnston then hanged Cunningham immediately at a Public Store he had said he would rob. Eight ringleaders were tried by a military court and were also hanged, while some leaders were sentenced to receive up to 500 lashes each. Thirty men were sent to the hellish coal mines at Newcastle.





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A succession of farmers

The types of farming introduced by the earliest pioneers were often continued for many years. Before 1800 Joseph Foveaux pioneered livestock breeding with his flock of 1200 sheep in Toongabbie. Forty years later, George Oakes bought much land in the district and became a horse and cattle breeder.

Oakes was the son of a missionary who arrived in Parramatta in 1798 and became chief constable. He was born in 1813. In 1848, he became a member of the first Legislative Council for New South Wales. He was elected to the first Legislative Assembly in 1856. His large estates were sold after George, in 1881, became the first man to be run over and killed by a Sydney tram!

Livestock breeding continued in Toongabbie after the Marist Fathers Seminary opened in 1938 when it became an important breeding stud for Illawarra Shorthorn cattle under Dr Woodbury. It only ended in the 1960s.

Planting of vineyards for winemaking also began within the first fifteen years of settlement in Toongabbie. By 1804, a Frenchman, De Clambe, had a flourishing vineyard and a cellar to store his wines, and it was raided by some of the Irish who took part in the rebellion.

David Johnson was a winemaker in Toongabbie from 1859 to 1899 but his vineyard, like many others, had to be destroyed in the 1890s after phylloxera, a louse that attacks vine roots, became established.

Later, the Australian wine industry was able to recover, but not in Toongabbie, and only after new grapes that were grafted on phylloxera-resistant roots became available.

Not all migrants to Toongabbie in the nineteenth century came from Britain. The Bohringer family, who planted vineyards and a citrus orchard, arrived from Wurtenburg, Germany, about 1855. One of the daughters, Amy, married John Klippert whose family were also fruit growers from Germany. Today, more than 100 years later, Rose and Mavis Klippert live in a house that stands on a corner of what was the original vineyard of their great-grandfather.

In 1888, Robert Power sent a case of apples grown by him in Toongabbie, all the way to Queen Victoria in England. His son, Alf, became a champion ploughman in the 1880s, and lived until he was 89 years old.

A link between Toongabbie and the goldrushes is to be found on a map that shows who lived there in the 1890s.

On the flat alongside Toongabbie Creek, south-east of Johnston's Bridge is marked, "Chinamen's gardens". After the gold was gone, some Chinese from the goldfields came to Toongabbie and planted vegetable gardens. It has been claimed that they were the first people to introduce Australians to eating fresh vegetables. The Chinese not only planted and harvested them, but they became hawkers who went from door-to-door selling produce from a barrow or a cart.

Christianna Bohringer also took home-grown vegetables and wine to sell to her neighbours. In those days, people would take a horse and cart to Parramatta to get their shopping. It was an important outing.

A struggle for recognition

Sometime during the 1870s, farmers at Toongabbie developed a community spirit that did not seem to have been present in earlier times. Perhaps it was because they saw that Toongabbie did not have services that could be found in neighbouring towns.

It might also have been spurred by comments from newer arrivals who were surprised that they could not find in Toongabbie what they had taken for granted elsewhere.

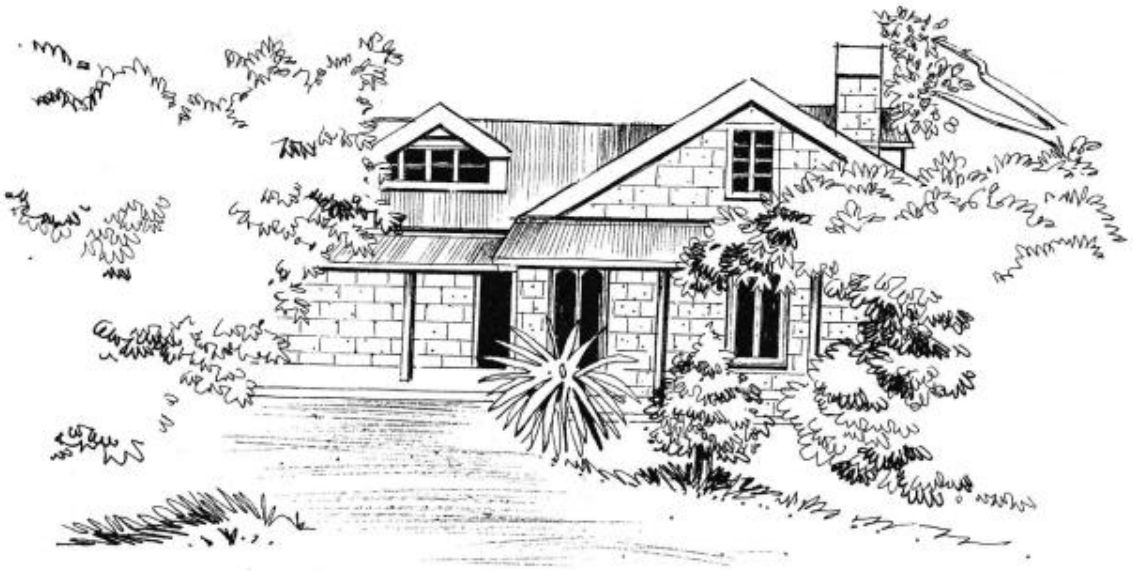
Some of these public spirited people have been remembered by having roads named after them. George Oakes built a homestead on what is now known as Oakes Road, just opposite the present entrance to Lomond Road. Named "Casuarina", it was demolished by builders in the 1960s, but George Oakes will also be remembered for the land he gave for the first church to be built on Old Windsor Road.

The oldest house still standing in Toongabbie, and looking very much like it did in the past with its sandstone walls and galvanised iron roof, is Hammer's Cottage. Located on Harrison Street, that appropriately runs off Hammers Road, its present owner believes it may have first been built as a police station.

George Hammer arrived about 1838 from Germany and what he then saw might still be recalled from looking at the heavily-timbered slopes of Toongabbie Creek where it is crossed by Hammers Road.

On the list of trustees for the long-forgotten Primitive Methodist Church (now the Old Toongabbie Uniting Church) George Hammer is described as a "fruit grower". In 1880, and joined by others, he successfully wrote to the government asking that a railway station be opened at Toongabbie.

After those achievements, Toongabbie people began to have a sense of belong-



ing. They made another joint effort in November 1885 when George Hammer was joined by fellow German Peter Bohringer together with Henry Birk, James Smith and other parents in asking the government for a school. After it was agreed there should be one at Toongabbie, it opened in the Primitive Methodist Church in May 1886 until a new building could be built.

About the same time, these people, and many others, asked the Postmaster-General to open a Post Office. He was "a harder nut to crack". Twice they were refused and only after the local member of parliament had written separately, and a third petition had been sent, was Toongabbie allowed to have its own post office. Even then, it was to be in Henry Birk's private house on Old Windsor Road, opposite Fitzwilliam Road, and he would be postmaster. With different owners, the same house was used for 81 years!

A newcomer who became very active was Thomas Willmot, a construction engineer, who arrived from Bristol, England, in 1887. Smartly dressed, quietly spoken and with a neat moustache and brushed-back hair, Willmot helped other men to form the Toongabbie-Wentworthville Progress Association. Not only did he buy 16 hectares of land from Fitzwilliam Wentworth (bounded by Fitzwilliam, Bungaree and Ballandella Roads) but when Blacktown Shire was created in 1906, Thomas Willmot was elected, and became the first president.

The original homestead, "Wisteria Lodge", that Thomas Willmot erected in 1887, on Bungaree Road, and the similar home "Trafalgar", he built for his father on Bethel Street, are being restored. Thomas Willmot's grand-daughter, Mrs Nell Gawthorne, still lives next door to one of these houses on what was once part of her grandfather's estate. She is a sprightly artist with a keen interest in Toongabbie history.

The Word of God

By 1792, there were more people living in Parramatta and Toongabbie than there were in Sydney Town. To give them spiritual comfort, the Reverend Richard Johnson, chaplain to the First Fleet, would visit Parramatta by boat every second week. There he held an open-air service for convicts and their gaolers before going to Toongabbie on horseback, where he also held a service.

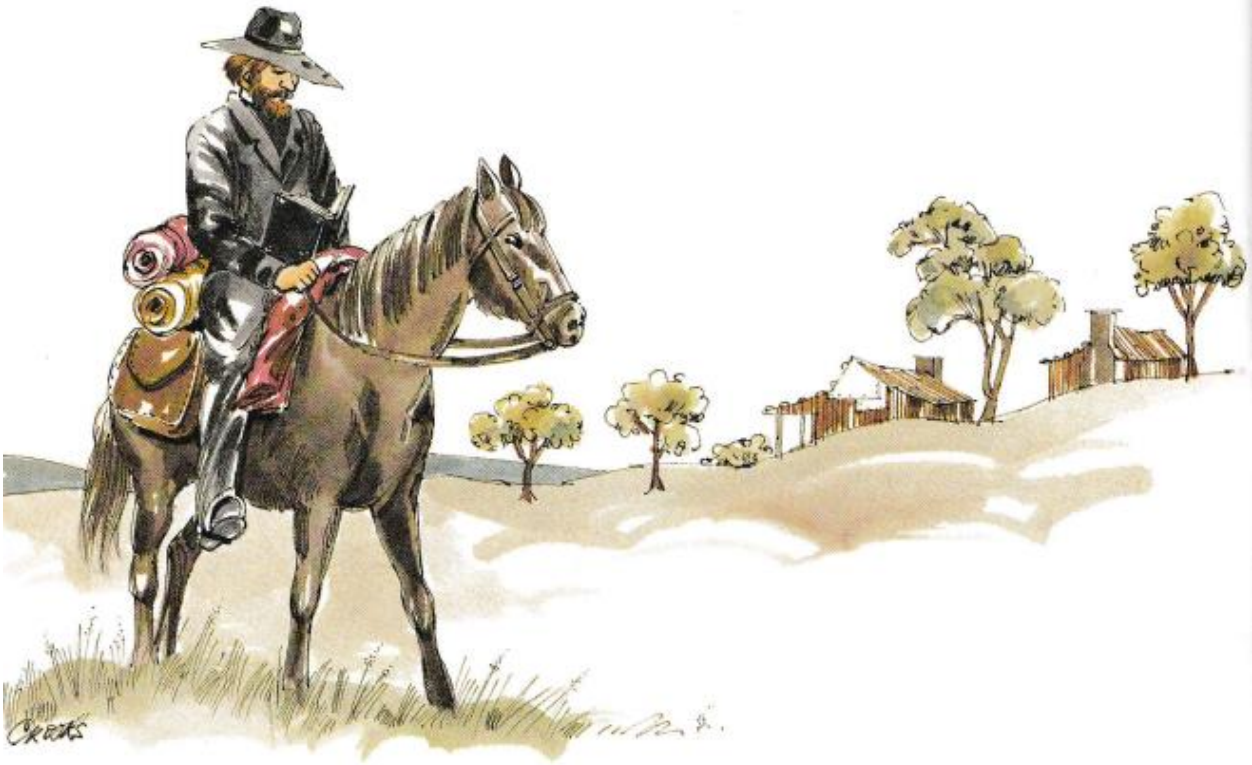
Rowland Hassall, a former missionary to Tahiti, arrived in Parramatta with Francis Oakes in May 1798. He was appointed as keeper of the granary at Toongabbie in 1800 and he also held services there. He wrote to the London Missionary Society in 1800:

> "Toongabbie is a King's Settlement where most of the unruly prisoners are kept at hard labour . . . we have a large Government hut for the worship of God. The congregation . . . about 100 . . ."

That was the first mention of any building used as a church in Toongabbie. Hassall also wrote that in 1801, there was a "schoolroom". He later gained brief fame because he preached at Castle Hill on the same day that the Irish Rebellion began.

For many years after the Government Farm was closed, the churches at Parramatta were the nearest for Toongabbie people to attend. If it was too hard to get there, some people were served by "saddleback pastors"—clergymen who made regular visits on horseback to hold services in private homes.

Often, visiting clergymen represented different religions that reflected the



composition of the colony. Hassall was a Wesleyan Methodist while James Mein held Presbyterian services for Scottish settlers.

The first government-approved priest for Catholics only arrived in 1820.

The first church in what is now Old Toongabbie was built on land given by George Oakes for the Primitive Methodists. Opened in December 1878, the weatherboard chapel was used for 49 years until a brick Methodist Church replaced it in 1927. As the Uniting Church, it still stands on Old Windsor Road, almost opposite Fitzwilliam Road.

As late as 1888, members of the Church of England relied on clergymen who held services in Thomas Willmot's house. Only in 1889 was St Mary's opened at Toongabbie, its bells pealing on a cold July day that will be celebrated by a centenary birthday celebration in 1989. That stalwart of the district, Thomas Willmot, acted as superintendant of the Church of England Sunday School for 35 years.

St Mary's still stands on the corner of Binalong and Burrabogee Roads, its white walls and black roof framed by elegant gums while colourful flower beds decorate the entrance.

Inside is a memorial window to D'Arcy Wentworth, and a memorial to Toongabbie residents who died while serving in World War I. One name on the list is Arthur W. Willmot, killed at Gallipoli in 1915. Another is W.E. Hart, the first man to be issued with a pilot's licence in Australia, who, as well as being an aviation pioneer, was also a member of St Mary's congregation.

The Salvation Army opened an outpost in Toongabbie in 1924 and six years later, had a full corps with its own band.

In 1928 the Roman Catholic church bought land near Toongabbie railway station where St Enda's Hall was opened on Aurelia Street on the twenty-third of March 1929. It was used both as a church where Mass was celebrated, and as a place of public entertainment. Dances were held there as well as picture-show screenings.

The Roman Catholic parish of Toongabbie was only formed in 1951 and 12 years later, Cardinal Gilroy opened St Anthony's on Aurelia Street. The first Catholic school in Toongabbie was opened at St Enda's in January 1950 by the Sisters of Mercy who travelled there each day from Parramatta. In 1956, the present Catholic school, St Anthony's, opened in Targo Road.

Other Catholic activities included occupation of George Oakes' home, "Casuarina", by the Sisters of the Home of the Good Shepherd; and the arrival of the Marist Fathers in 1938. An impressive Catholic Church, St Paul the Apostle, was opened recently on the ridge known as Buckley's Hill, part of Old Toongabbie but now called Winston Hills.

The Baptists came from Blacktown and began with an open-air Sunday school in Cornelia Road. Only in 1954 was a proper church built, to be remodelled in 1975. In the early 1980s, the Toongabbie Baptist Community School was opened.

By 1987, the whole school was housed in modern premises in Metella Road and Octavia Street.

Bush tracks and iron horses

Although Toongabbie has a famous creek that can become a raging torrent after heavy rain, it has never had enough water to allow reliable river transport.

Boats used to travel between Sydney and Parramatta but from there, anyone wanting to reach Toongabbie had to walk, ride a horse, or be carried in a horse-drawn carriage or cart.

Some roads, including the one to the Hawkesbury that we know now as Old Windsor Road, were cleared in the 1790s, but for far more than 100 years, even the best were no better than rough bush tracks.

They were unsealed and even in fine weather, the iron-shod wheels of heavy carts, and the hooves of bullocks and horses, soon pitted the surface with pot-holes and corrugations that became worse whenever it rained.

Long after the shire of Blacktown was formed, road making was still crude. A road was formed using a horse-drawn plough with gravel for the roads carried by horse-drawn carts or drays. There were no bulldozers or graders and as late as the Great Depression of the 1930s, pot-holes would be filled by men using a pick or shovel, with sandstone carried by wheelbarrow from a quarry alongside Johnston's Bridge.

Not until the gold rushes of the 1850s was the New South Wales government spurred to develop the railways. The first line, between Sydney and Granville, was completed in September 1855 and extended to Blacktown in 1860. In July of that year, the first "iron horse", a gleaming, smoke-belching monster, thundered its way through the paddocks of Toongabbie while people came for miles to watch its progress. July the fourth might have been Independence Day in the U.S.A. but in Toongabbie, in 1860, it brought only hopes of rapid travel to Sydney.

The people were represented on that first train by George Oakes, their member of parliament, but 20 years were to pass before he could arrange for trains to stop at Toongabbie. The first to do so was on the twenty-sixth of April 1880. Even then, the so-called station consisted of a platform made from old wooden sleepers and a shelter shed. There was no one to sell tickets, not even a signal box or a crossing with gates. There was only one line until 1886 and you stopped the train by holding out a wooden rod with a green disc at its end. At night, a lamp was waved. If the train was running late, the guard hardly gave people the chance to close the carriage door before the train moved on. People going to Sydney had to jump off at Parramatta, buy a ticket there, and rush back on before it left again.

When you returned, you had to tell the guard at Parramatta that you wanted the train to stop at Toongabbie. If you forgot, you would be carried on to Seven Hills and it was a very long walk home from there.

Toongabbie became important as a place where farmers could despatch their produce and milk to Sydney markets, and where parcels were delivered for farmers to collect in their carts.

Crossing the line could be dangerous,

but only after a horse-drawn dray was hit by a train, and the horse and driver killed, did the railways erect crossing gates and appoint Miss Amy Arnold to operate them.

When electric trains were introduced in 1955, there were many more trains to Sydney. Once again, while the line from Sydney to Parramatta was electrified in May 1929, that from Parramatta to Blacktown had to wait for another 26 years.

But it was worthwhile. The new trains were smoother and cleaner. People could live in Toongabbie, work in the city of Sydney, and they could travel there and back every day.

This was possibly the biggest revolution in transport and mobility for Toongabbie people.

Postal links with the past

Among mature people living in Toongabbie, one with vivid memories is Miss Lilian Johns. For many years she was postmistress at Old Toongabbie—doing far more than selling stamps and weighing parcels. In the years that followed World War II, when so many migrants from Europe began to come to Toongabbie, Lilian Johns also acted as a guide, adviser and friend. She helped many people who had only a little knowledge of English, to learn how to cope in the new land.

Her efforts were rewarded in 1979 when on Australia Day, she was awarded the Order of Australia.

Although post offices were opened in Sydney and Parramatta as early as 1828, smaller centres had to wait much longer.

By the 1880s, there were post offices at Parramatta, Baulkham Hills and Seven Hills, but when a letter was sent to someone living in Toongabbie, unless the envelope stated which post office it should be sent to, no one seemed to know where it would go!

Such letters went to and fro – one week to Parramatta, to Sevens Hills the next. As there were no deliveries to farms or homes it meant that people, if they expected a letter, had to go to the post office and ask if it had arrived.

It took several petitions before a post office for Toongabbie was opened in Henry Birk's cottage on Old Windsor Road, that stood next door to the chapel of the Primitive Methodists.

Henry Birk, a fruit grower, owned the house and was paid ten pounds ($20) a year as a wage and an extra fifteen pounds ($30) to cover the cost of carrying mail on horseback, six days a week, between Seven Hills and Old Toongabbie and back. This was because in those days, the Sydney GPO sent mail by the Great Western Railway and its trains stopped only at Seven Hills—not the unattended platform at Toongabbie.

In 1903, F.W. Birk, Henry's son, married Eva Laird, the attractive assistant school teacher at Toongabbie Public School. Later, he took over from his father and ran the post office and the orchard until 1922. In September 1923 Daniel Johns bought the house and farm, and for the next 30 years, regularly went the 2.4km to Toongabbie Station to collect the mail with his pony and sulky.

Daniel Johns was not a fruit grower so he "grubbed out" the fruit trees and planted pastures and crops, and bought dairy cattle. Farming and running a dairy took much of his time and from the earliest days, his daughter, Lilian, looked after the post office while her father worked the property.

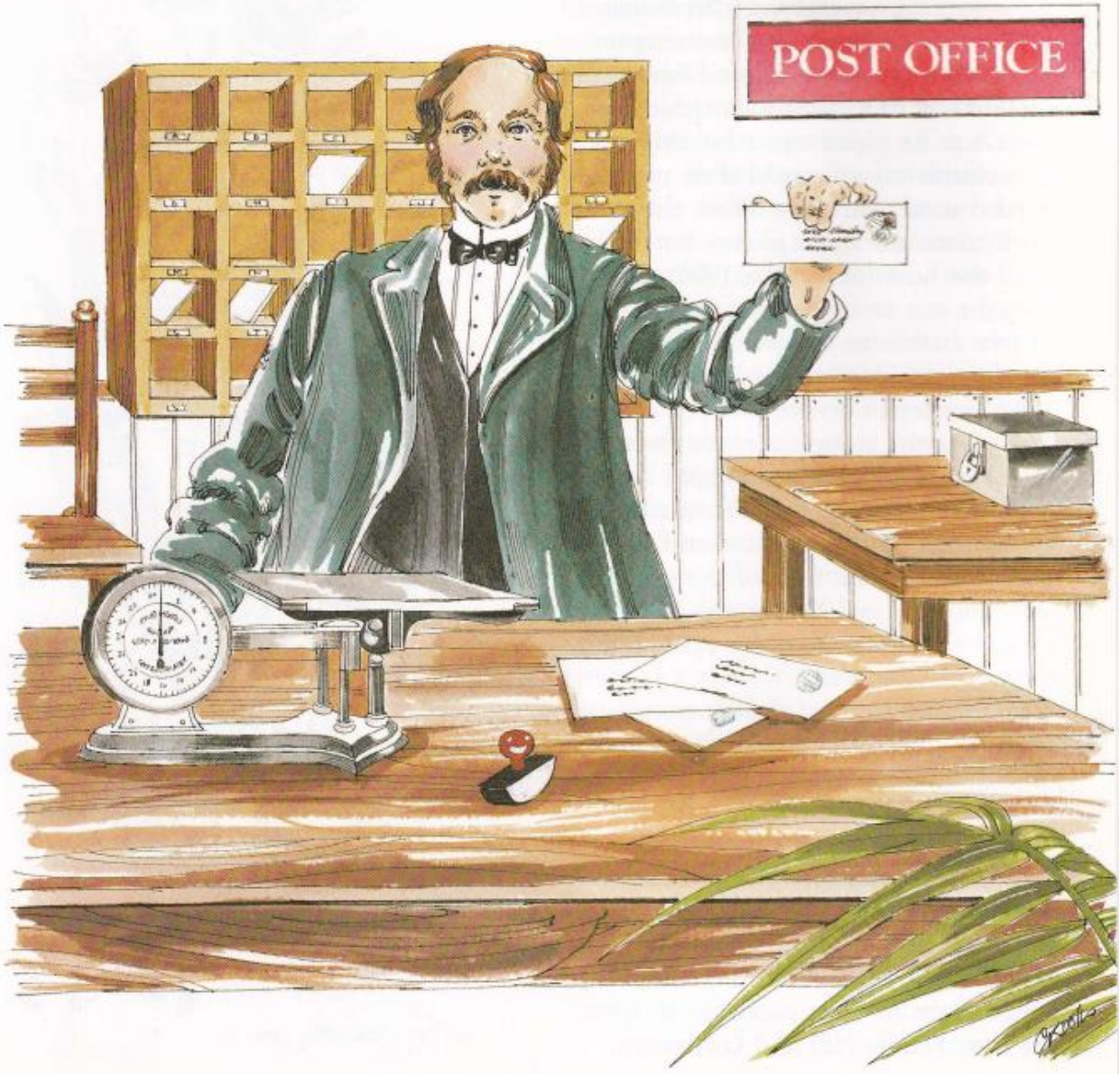
Her official appointment as postmistress was made on the tenth of October 1953 and the post office, renamed Old Toongabbie in 1960, continued to be in the Old Birk farm house until 1971 when that building was demolished and Miss Johns moved into a modern home next door.

In 1922, when more people moved to properties near the railway, Toongabbie West post office was opened in Riley's general store to the north-west of the railway station. After World War II, when more shops were built on the west (or Girraween) side of the railway line,

that post office was moved to Portico Parade in 1949. The present modern building in Aurelia Street opened in July 1971.

In 1977, after Lilian Johns was robbed and attacked, Old Toongabbie post office was moved to Emma Crescent, behind Constitution Hill.

Today Miss Johns lives in retirement on the same block of land where Old Toongabbie post office stood for so many years. She is a member of a rare club for Order of Australia award winners. They meet several times a year to recall old memories and visit different parts of Australia—a fitting hobby for such an important woman.



Other places to work

As late as the 1880s, the number of people living in Toongabbie was very small when compared with the numbers living there in the 1980s. At that time it was reported that there were only 70 people in the district and 27 were children.

Nearly all were fruit growers, owning their own farms, and were "in comfortable circumstances". This was true in years when there was a good harvest. If there was a drought (for in those days there was no piped water for irrigation of orchards or vineyards) then people needed somewhere else where they could work to earn enough money for food, until the next harvest. In 1906, the drought was so severe that farmers had to take barrels to Prospect Reservoir to get water for drinking.

An important source of work after the 1870s was the stone quarry at Prospect, to the south. Opened to supply blue-metal for road building, the quarry had its own railway branch line and operated until the turn of the century. It was followed, in 1901, by the Emu Gravel Company that also opened a quarry at Prospect.

In the late years of the nineteenth century, Cranna's Rope Works was built on the bank of Toongabbie Creek, but it did not last long.

About the same time, and until the 1920s, there were two slaughter yards in Toongabbie. Drovers who had travelled hundreds of kilometres with large herds of bullocks from inland cattle stations, rested them in huge paddocks in what are now Pendle Hill and Girraween.

One slaughter yard was bounded by Old Windsor and Hammers Roads, the other occupied land that is now crossed by Ferndale Close and Hart Drive.

In later years, people who lived in Toongabbie tended to work in factories in nearby suburbs. Shannon's Brick and Tile Works was established at Wentworthville in 1912 as was Bonds Industries Spinning Mills sometime later. Others obtained work as fettlers maintaining the railway tracks, on council road repairs and in servicing industries.

The only major factory to be built at Toongabbie was opened in 1973. Known as Baxter Healthcare Pty Ltd (since November 1987) but better known by its earlier name of Travenol Laboratories, it employs 600 people from the Toongabbie area.

Baxter Australia is a subsidiary of the world's largest international hospital supply corporation. For 25 years it has made and supplied a wide range of medical products and services to hospitals and health-care organisations throughout Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the South Pacific and South-East Asia.

The Toongabbie plant makes sterile products for use in blood transfusions and kidney dialysis, as well as for treatment of cancer. It also makes equipment used in open-heart surgery and provides computer software for use in hospitals.

This local life-saving industry is not only vital to Australian health care but it also offers jobs to people in Toongabbie and neighbouring suburbs.

The school—barometer of progress

Because the *Public Instruction Act* of 1880 only allowed a community to have a government school if there were enough children to guarantee an average of 20 pupils, the history of Toongabbie Public School for the past 100 years has acted like a barometer in reflecting the situation in the area.

When the school opened on the third of May 1886, most land was used for orchards and vineyards. There were 13 families and 27 of their children were old enough to attend school. The number rose to 39 by the end of that year and the average was 40 by 1900. But the fire that destroyed the rope factory in 1890, coupled with the effects of phylloxera on vineyards, and a series of bad seasons for other fruit, forced some people to move elsewhere. By 1910, the number of pupils had dropped to 10 and Toongabbie Public School was closed in April 1911.

However, by the following February,

21 pupils were able to attend and the school reopened. Numbers of pupils rose steadily until 1930 when 178 children were enrolled at the start of the Great Depression.

By the 1930s, market gardening and poultry farming were the main occupations of the people and to cope with so many children, the school had grown from a single classroom with one teacher to four classrooms (two of brick) with a headmaster and five assistants.

In those days discipline was strict and some teachers made no allowance for children who had to work before going to school. Or between the punishment for boys and girls!

Mollie Clarke remembered that when Mr James Beatty was headmaster (from 1936-46), he "did not make any allowance for a pupil having to milk cows . . . before 9.30 a.m. when school began. If you were not in lines before the bell rang, you received two cuts with the cane", she wrote.

During World War II, attendance was steady at 137 but it soared to 194 by 1950. With local families having more children after their fathers returned from the war, plus the effects of a new wave of migrants that arrived from Europe, pupils had nearly doubled by 1955.

With so many children, more land was needed. The school grounds were enlarged by a third to two-and-a-half hectares in 1950, new buildings were erected and by 1960, there were about 500 pupils.

In the same year, a "Back to Toongabbie" lunch was held to celebrate the seventieth birthday of the school building erected in 1890. Among the many people who came from far away was Alice Watkins. She was one of the first pupils in the 1880s, and she travelled half-way across the world, from Jersey in the Channel Islands, just for this celebration.

The boom continued in the 1960s and by 1965, there were 750 children. As former farms were replaced by housing estates, the peak was reached in 1975 when there were 1051 pupils. Again and again, the school had to be enlarged to cope with so many children.

By that stage it had 18 Primary Classes and 15 Infant Classes and a staff of about 40. The mixture of remodelled old buildings and new ones gave it the appearance of a self-contained village, made more beautiful by regular planting of trees, and gardens provided at first by the mothers who also tended them. As a reflection of the changing face of Australian people, by 1987, the pupils represented families from more than 30 different countries including Australia.

School of Arts

In the days before picture theatres, radio and television, a School of Arts provided people with a place where they could obtain knowledge and entertainment.

In 1892 Fitzwilliam Wentworth gave a hectare of land in Toongabbie for such a building and a park, and from 1895 to 1911, the Committee used the old school until enough money could be raised for a new building.

Among many projects, Thomas Willmot gave talks on astronomy that he illustrated with a magic lantern—a crude form of slide projector. A special treat was to listen to Nellie Melba and other singers on a phonograph—a form of record player with voices recorded on wax cylinders. At first, listeners used tubes like a doctor's stethoscope to hold to their ears. Later a horn-shaped "speaker" was fitted.

Entertainment ranged from dances and Euchre (card game) evenings to table-tennis contests.

After 1911, members produced their own "Journal". It was like a magazine, but hand-written by different people. Because there was only one copy of each issue, they had to take it in turn to read articles that ranged from humour and verse to a report from the battlefields of World War I.

The Christmas 1918 edition had a carefully-drawn cover by Frank Hall and real photographs of the editor, J. Funnell, as well as a white-haired Thomas Willmot, a balding F.W. Birk (who was then vice-president) and other committee members.

The School of Arts in Toongabbie continued to be used after World War I though in later years, it acted mainly as a lending library. By the early 1940s, it no longer seemed to be needed and the building was demolished. The land was sold to the Department of Education and used to extend the grounds of Toongabbie Public School.

Between the wars

Possibly the period of greatest change for Toongabbie was between World War I and the end of the Second World War. As early as 1916, building blocks were sold on Dorothy Mount, the advertisements claiming that the soil was good for poultry farms and mixed orchards.

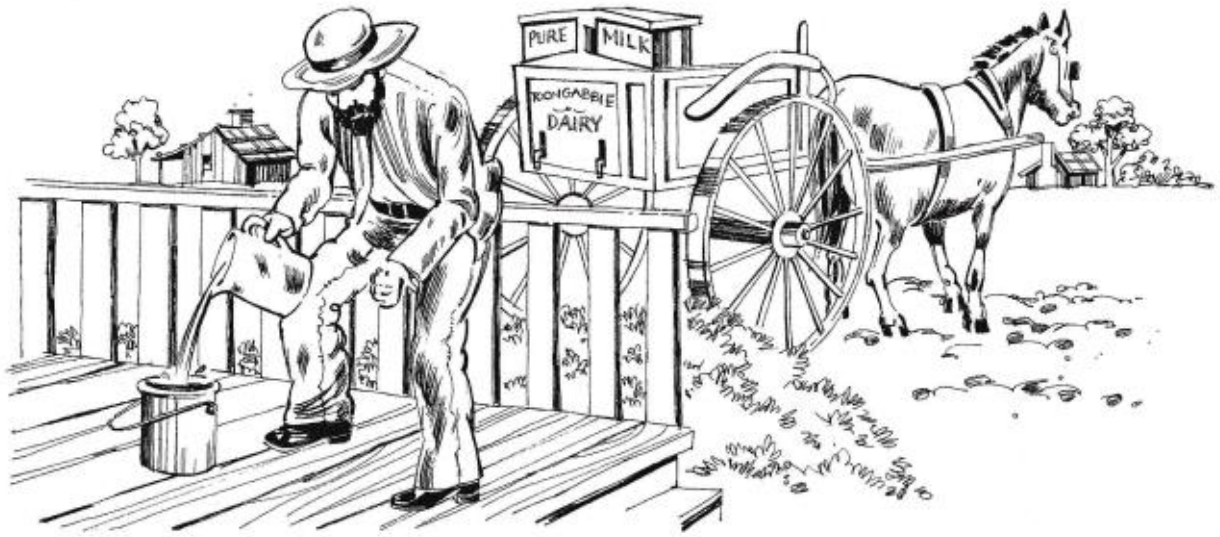
In the same year, Toongabbie began to expand west of the railway when land at "Toongabbie Park" was sold south of Toongabbie Road. Blocks there were much smaller than those in Old Toongabbie, but 125 homes were built and several shops opened to service them.

Another housing estate, "Portico Park", on the other side of Toongabbie Road, was subdivided in 1922. With 18 steam trains to Sydney and back each weekday, promoters suggested that people who worked in Sydney could live in Toongabbie and travel by train to work every day.

Despite the Great Depression, development boomed near the railway station. By the 1930s, there were three church halls and eight shops in Portico Parade and Aurelia Street. Three more could be found across the railway line on Wentworth Avenue.

In those days you could buy lamb chops for the equivalent of 14 cents/kg, and housewives had tradesmen who called every day. People who did not have a cow had calls from one of several milkmen and they also sold eggs, butter and cheese from their carts. Before there were any refrigerators, huge blocks of ice for the ice chest, were delivered twice a week.

Colin Ralph still recalls a Mr Hurdis who called once a week with a colourful display of fresh fruit and vegetables in a basket. Other tradesmen brought fresh fish while bicycle-riding "rabbitohs" arrived with newly-killed rabbits hanging from their handlebars. The ice-cream vendor arrived on a tricycle and even the shops made deliveries. One of the best remembered was Mr Thom, the grocer on Portico Parade, whose shop was next to Hickman's taxi garage.



Then and now

Older people can remember when many houses in Old Toongabbie each stood on a block large enough to have several fruit trees, not to mention a cow and poultry. Some even had a glasshouse to raise early tomatoes.

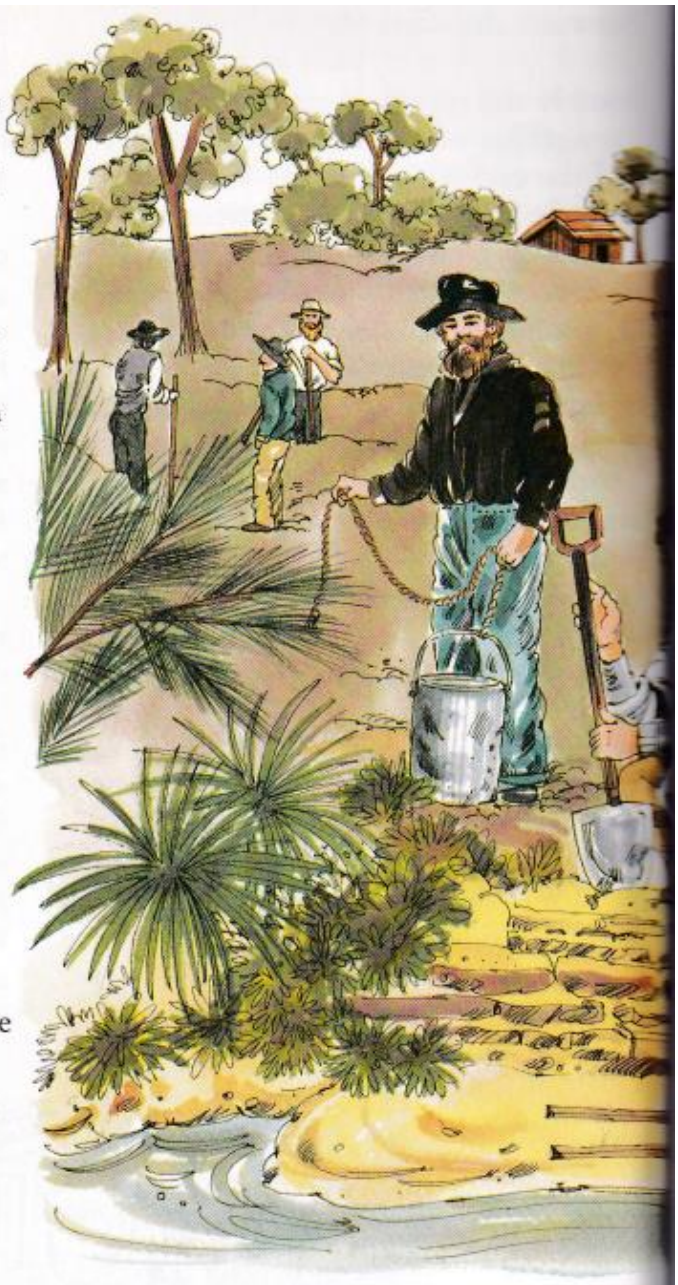
In those times, Blacktown was a place that people visited by train "but only when rates had to be paid". One person remembered, "It was a hot and dusty place and we had to make sure we got there at the right time as everything closed for lunch!"

For school uniforms, children were taken by bus or train to Parramatta. Anything special was bought at Anthony Horderns in the city of Sydney. "They could supply just about anything", someone recalled, "and delivery, even to Toongabbie, cost nothing."

The first picture show at St Enda's Hall was on the twenty-third of April 1923, it cost sixpence (5 cents) for children and one shilling and threepence (12 cents) for adults to see the famous dog actor, Rin Tin Tin in "A Race for Life".

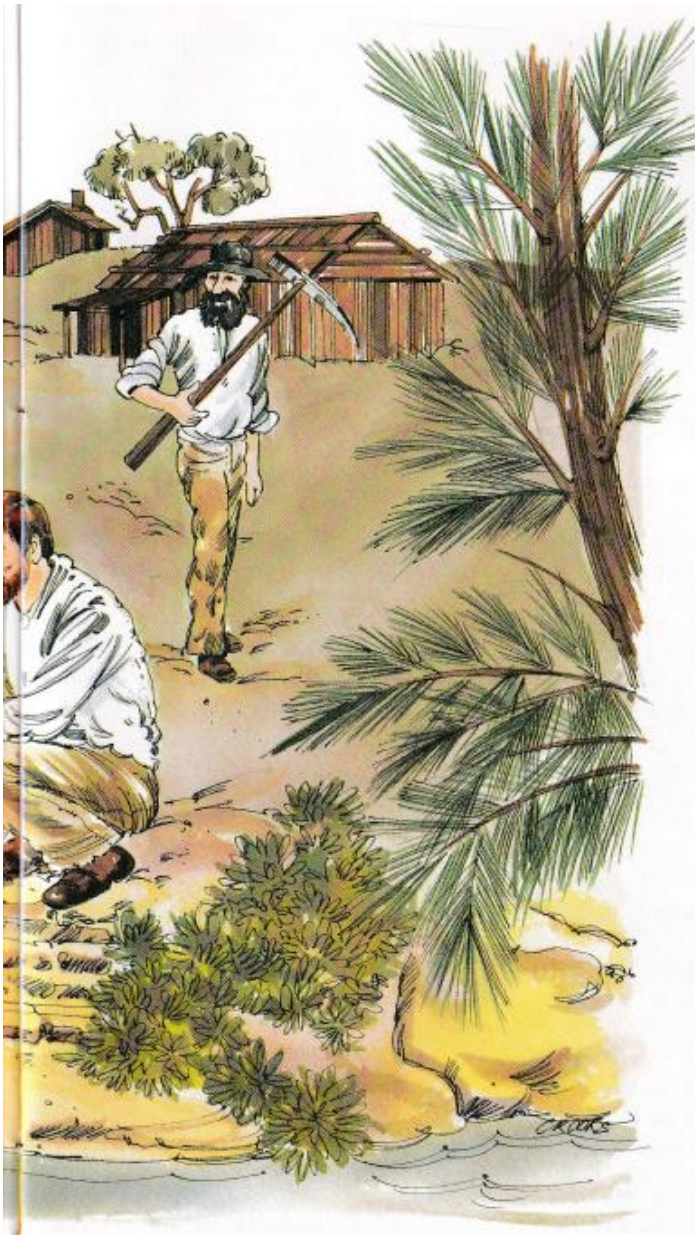
In those hard times, a penny (one cent) "bought a bag of lollies as big as yourself. Jaffas were too expensive!" There were no takeaways as we know them nowadays. The first fish-and-chip shop only opened in the 1940s. Otherwise hot pies or sandwiches could be bought at a snack bar.

In those times, people had less money to spend and far more food was prepared and cooked at home. Much of it could even have been grown there!



Toongabbie was connected to the electricity in the mid-1920s but there was no gas or sewerage until the 1960s.

Landmarks in the change from poultry farms and market gardens to a suburban area began in the 1940s. The Rocket Picture Theatre opened in 1952 to be followed by the first doctors and a



dentist's surgery. Surprisingly late, the first bank, the Commonwealth, only opened in 1957.

Many new houses were built by the Housing Commission starting in 1946 with a large estate west of the railway. Known as "The Meadows" and bounded by Cornelia and Best Roads, it provided low-cost housing for many people including newly-arrived migrants from Europe who came during those post-war years.

In 1956, the Hotel Toongabbie, the first to be opened there, enabled local people to have a drink close to home instead of having to go to a neighbouring suburb.

Nor was recreation forgotten. Tennis courts were completed in the 1950s and the Bowling Club opened in 1958.

By 1988, the scars of building new housing estates and other developments had been hidden by the planting of gardens and lawns. Trees of many types had grown big enough to give character to the new broad and sealed roads that now allow free travel from one end of Toongabbie to the other.

Despite so much new development and many expensive new homes, there are still traces of earlier times. The view from Bogalara Road of the distant green slopes of Buckley's Hill is probably not that different from what convicts could see nearly 200 years ago.

Beside Toongabbie Creek, to the west of Oakes Road, several wide steps survive among the casuarina groves that shade the Reserve. Whether they were cut by convicts working on the original Government Farm, may never be determined. It is enough to remember that even if no one was ever hanged from the "Hanging Tree" on Goliath Avenue, its massive trunk stands as a reminder. A reminder not only of the colourful history that the people of Toongabbie share with other inhabitants of New South Wales, but also with the rest of Australia.

Glossary

banksia: any Australian plant in the genus *Banksia* (named after Sir Joseph Banks) with leathery leaves and cylindrical flowers that may also be called "bottlebrush"

blackboy: a grass tree which, when seen against the light, is said to resemble an Aborigine carrying a spear and wearing a grass skirt

cloud of suspicion: a suggestion that someone is in disgrace, even if it has not been proved

emancipist: a convict who has served his or her sentence and has been pardoned

to fashion: to make something, by carving or moulding

forced-march: a march longer than troops would normally make and often without stops for rest and/or food and drink

Great Depression: period of poor trade and low prosperity in the late-1920s and early-1930s when many people lost their jobs and had to live on dole payments or handouts of food

"harder nut to crack": a more difficult problem to solve

hawker: a person who sells goods in the street from a cart, as opposed to a pedlar who carries the goods himself

hunter-gatherers: people who eat what can be killed by hunting or gathered from things that grow naturally; or who neither cultivate food crops or have domesticated animals

iron-horse: imaginative name for a railway locomotive or engine

King's Settlement: polite way of referring to a prison colony or place where criminals are sent to do hard labour

monopoly: to be the only person or group able to buy or sell a particular product, in this case alcoholic drinks

nomad: someone who has no fixed place to live but moves about seeking food

"rabbitoh": a street seller, with rabbits for eating, who advertises them by calling, "rabbitoh"!

seminary: name for a place of learning where Roman Catholic men are trained to be priests

servicing industry: a business that provides services such as banking or entertainment, but does not make anything

sulky: a light two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage

trustees: people appointed to look after or run something on behalf of others

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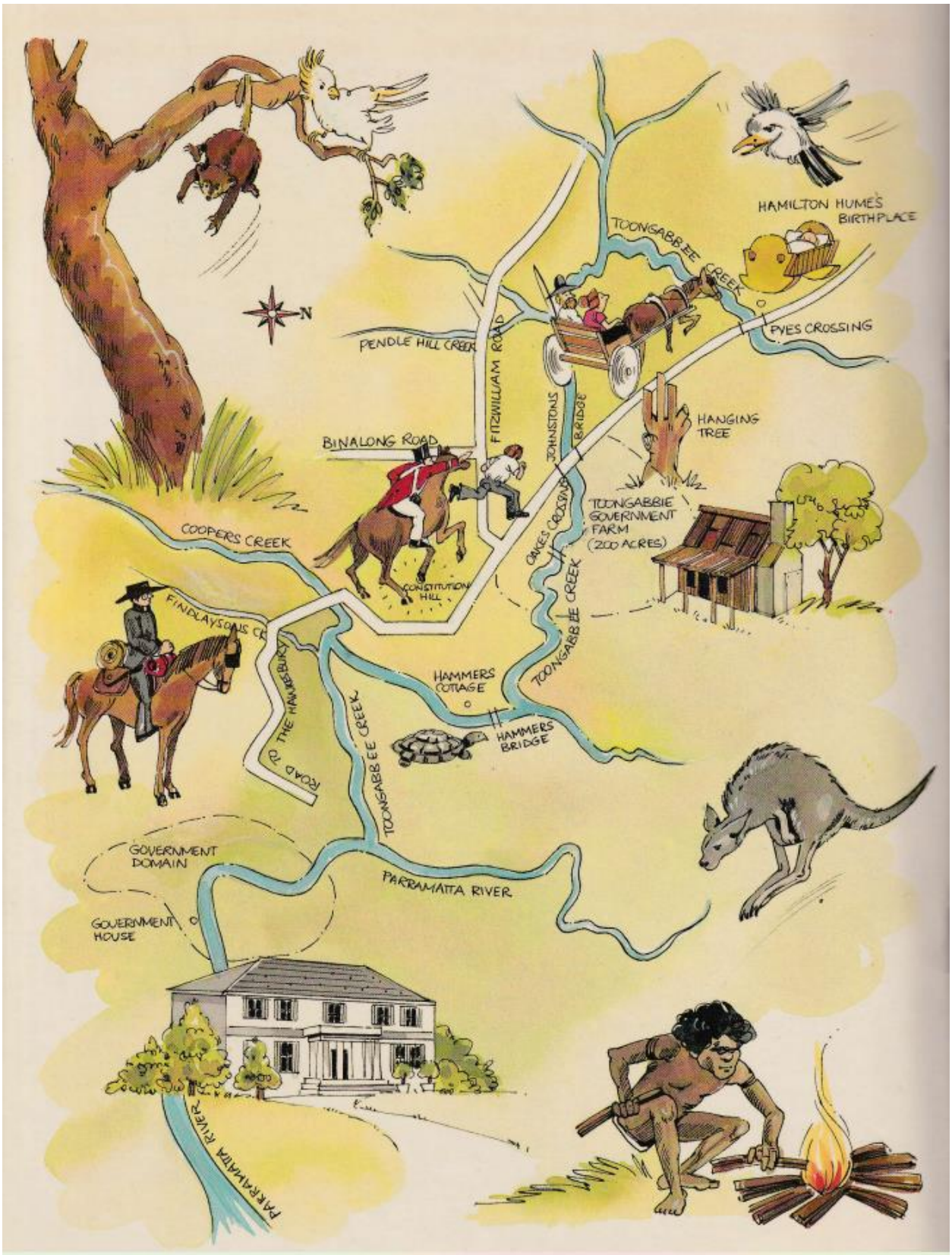


The back cover of these book

View of the Third Settlement Reserve from Peter Parade, Old Toongabbie

Picture taken in November, on holiday in Germany, around the time when Irene and Joseph will become the happiest Nanna and Fafa on this Earth.

Oakes Road and Baxter are at the far end on this photo

The outer cover of
my other cherished book by Doris A. Sargeant

Focus on Parramatta presents a new style history — in verse. Commencing around 1800 history has been captured in verse, covering a variety of subjects with something for all tastes.

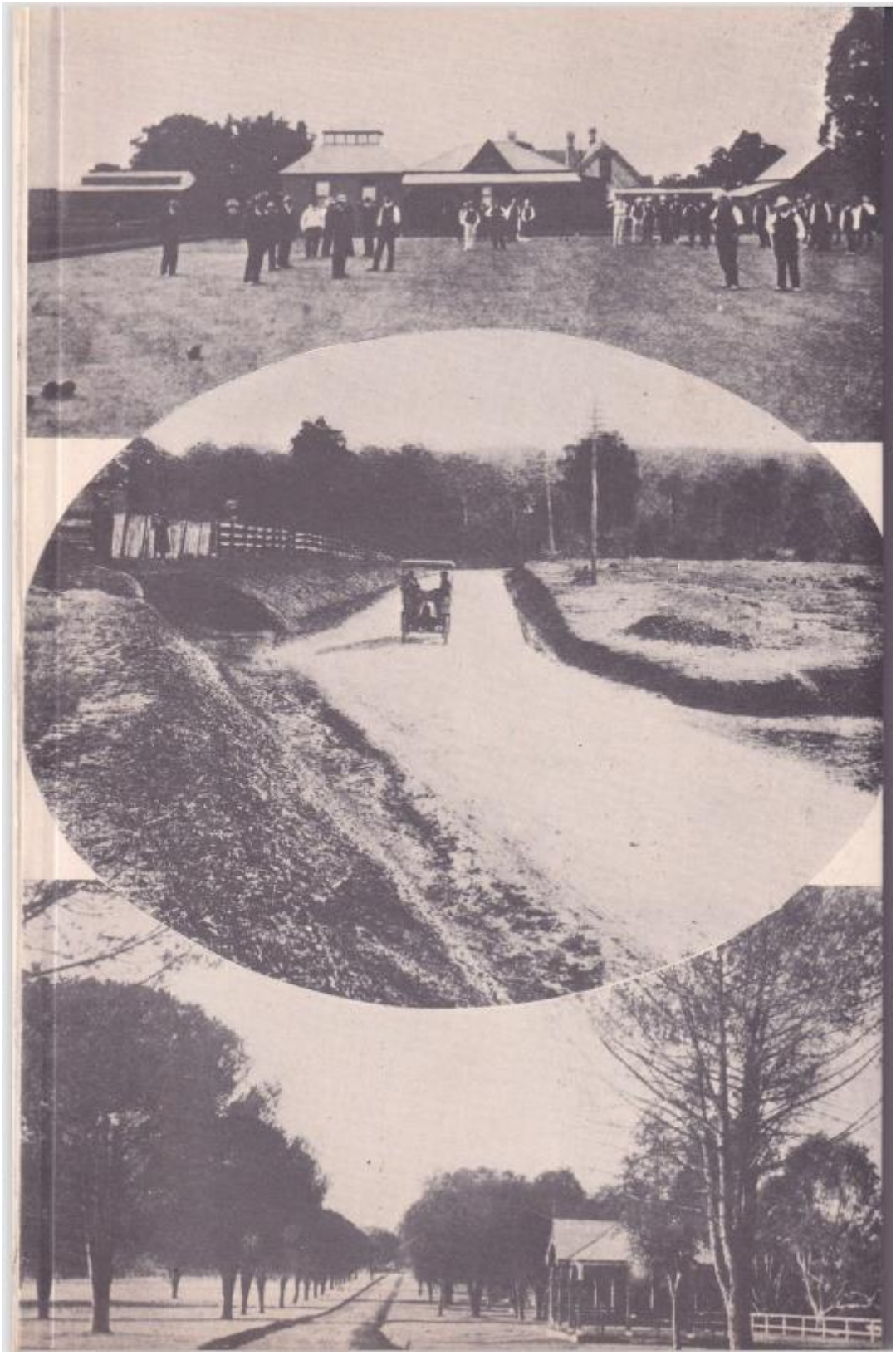
Style of writing varies and there are excellent examples from the different periods; The Pennant and Ryde Hills being noteworthy among the nature poems which filled many columns in many publications.

The illustrations, chosen to fit the mood of the poems have much historical interest.

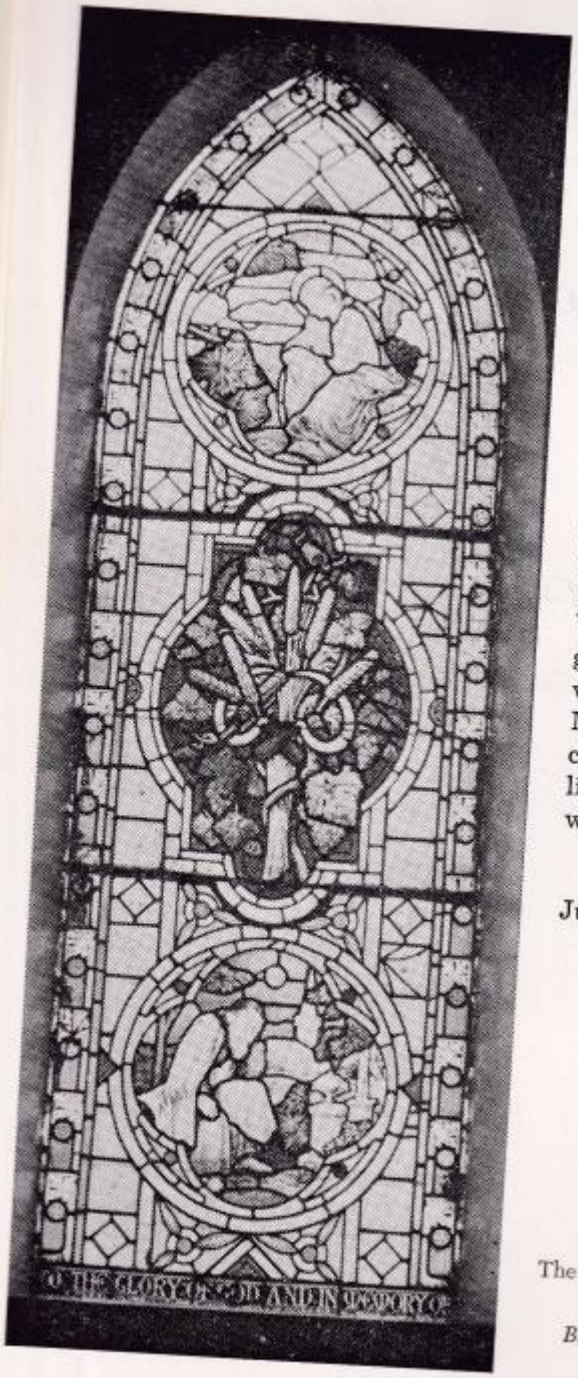
The accent is on Parramatta and its environments. One hundred and twelve items from its people, poets and historians, present to us a picture of the past.

This book is the
property of
Irene Szuto

25-1-2007. Old Toongabbie
AUSTRALIA DAY



The front cover of the paperback



It would appear that the only memorial to D'Arcy Wentworth (1764-1827) is this Memorial Window in St. Mary's Church, Toongabbie. The inscription reads: "To the Glory of God in memory of D'Arcy Wentworth Esq., Surgeon, died 7 Dec. 1827."

The brass plate below reads: "This Memorial Window was erected to the memory of the late D'Arcy Wentworth Esq., by his grand son Fitzwilliam Wentworth Esq. His wife Mrs. Mary Wentworth and their children Miss Dorothy, William Charles, Darcy, Fitzwilliam and George.

The church was opened in July, 1889.

—Photograph Courtesy
J. P. Jones

The D'arcy Wentworth Memorial Window.

Block donated for Peta Powell

The inner side of the front cover

FOCUS ON PARRAMATTA

POEMS, ILLUSTRATIONS

AND ITEMS

OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

selected by

DORIS A. SARGEANT

OTHER WORK BY DORIS A. SARGEANT

THE TOONGABBIE STORY

FIRST PUBLISHED 1972
The Mothers' Club of the Northcott School for Crippled Children
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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all the children who receive education, whether wholly or in part, at Northcott School and especially to Guy, Martin and Bruce, who have shown the paths that may be taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation and thanks are extended to The Mitchell Library, especially to the staff connected with the newspaper room; The King's School, Parramatta; The Parramatta City Library; Cumberland Newspapers Pty. Limited and Cumberland Press; Messrs. R. Chiplin; L. Sheridan; B. A. Clark; Mesdames W. Harrison; G. Clark; and June Marshall for assistance and encouragement.

Except for printing expenses the entire proceeds of this publication will go to the Northcott School for Crippled Children. Thanks go to the parents who donated the costs of the blocks for the illustrations and to the Voluntary Drivers who contributed toward the cost of the cover.

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INTRODUCTION

Consider the dictionary meaning of poem as "Any composition characterized by intensity and beauty of language or thought: a prose *poem;*" and history as "The branch of knowledge dealing with the records of the past, especially those involving human affairs" (Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary), then everything herein, with the exception of comments, is both history and poetry.

In selecting verse from the vast quantity of poems on politics, sport, typewriters, new babies, the nicotine habit, battles with the law, Dodge cars which begat more and more Dodge cars, the joys of motoring, and domestic situations, there should be within these covers something to appeal to each reader. The poems have been chosen for subject matter, sometimes for the vernacular introduced, but mainly for historical and social significance.

Poetry was featured in all newspapers in the colony, most of them published twice a week and selling from one penny to fourpence, right through the last century into the twentieth, only ceasing during the 1939-45 war. The beauty and peace of nature — the bravery and uprightness of men at war — great love as a panacea for the trials of life, and verses aimed at making children behave like little angels, provided much of the context.

The Parramatta papers, there were often two, reported news from a wide area; Hornsby to Dural, Hawkesbury River across to Liverpool and all places therein. The ability of staff to write their material in verse was remarkable. Enough sporting and political material to fill anthologies appeared in the Cumberland Argus alone, and regular columns appeared under headings such as The Blotting Pad in the Granville Express, which featured the only Centenary Celebration poem found.

The feeling of people towards their town — their hopes and dreams and disappointments show similarity throughout the period. However, the lighthearted rhymes of students

at King's School in the 1920s on the subject of mosquitoes and the mouse show strong contrast to the words of a 1970 student on the subject of ants.

"The complicated crackle of the ants
Incinerating dryness of the past
Working in a frenzy, in a silent sunken city
Away from the hub of humanity.

Gathering for the winter
In harmony, forgotten
While man hates on —
Creating, killing fellowman.

Your lesson learn from Nature
Of gathering and of busy silence
Constructive scurrying learn,
And wars forever cease.

In presenting a collection such as this, one can but hope that it will provide inspiration for further research and creative contribution from the youth of today and that some effort may be made by the community to enlarge the historical collection in the Parramatta Library by gifts from private collections or in the undertaking of reproductions of otherwise unobtainable local publications.

Doris Sargeant 1972

EARLY DAYS

The Words of a Humble Adventurer
As recorded by Captain Watkin Tench in
"SYDNEY'S FIRST FOUR YEARS"

JAMES RUSE

"I was bred a husbandman, near Launcester in Cornwall. I cleared my land as well as I could, with the help afforded me. The exact limit of what ground I am to have, I do not yet know; but a certain direction has been pointed out to me, in which I may proceed as fast as I can cultivate. I have now an acre-and-a-half in bearded wheat, half-an-acre in maize, and a small kitchen garden. On my wheat land I sowed three bushels of seed, the produce of this country, broad cast. I expect to reap about 12 or 13 bushels. I know nothing of the cultivation of maize, and cannot therefore guess so well at what I am likely to gather. I sowed part of my wheat in May, and part in June — that sown in May thrived best. My maize I planted in the latter end of August, and the beginning of September. My land I prepared thus: having burnt the fallen timber off the ground, I dug in the ashes, and then hoed it up, never doing more than eight or perhaps nine, rods in a day, by which means, it was not like the government-farm, just scratched over, but properly done; then I clod-moulded it, and dug in the grass and weeds — this I think almost is equal to ploughing. I then let it lie as long as I could, exposed to air and sun; and just before I sowed my seed, turned it all up afresh. When I shall have reaped my crop, I propose to hoe it again, and harrow it fine, and then sow it with turnip-seed, which will mellow and prepare it for next year. My straw, I mean to bury in pits, and throw in with everything which I think will rot and turn to manure. I have no person to help me, at present, but my wife, whom I married in this country: she is industrious. The governor, for some time, gave me the help of a convict man, but he is taken away. Both my wife and myself receive our provisions regularly at the store, like all other people. My

3

The road we travel daily, the James Ruse Drive

opinion of the soil of my farm, is, that it is middling, neither good or bad. I will be bound to make it do with the aid of manure, but without cattle it will fail. The greatest check upon me is, the dishonesty of the convicts, who, in spite of all my vigilance, rob me almost every night."

November, 1790, at Rose Hill.

Captain Tench described James Ruse, convict "as a humble adventurer who is trying his fortune here" (at Rose Hill). He was among the first convicts and upon claiming his freedom in August 1789, was granted an uncleaned piece of ground, on condition that he cultivate it. This he did until 1793 when he sold the land, Experiment Farm, to Surgeon John Harris, who built the cottage in Ruse Street which is now under the control of the National Trust.

When Ruse died, after pioneering around the Hawkesbury district he was buried in Campbelltown and the following inscription appears on his tombstone.

I. H. S.
Gloria in Accelsis
Secred
To the Memrey
of James Ruse who
Departed this Life
Sept. 5 in the year of
Houre Lord, 1837, Natef
of Cornwell and arived
in this Coleney by the
Forst Fleet. Aged 77.
My Mother Reread me tenderly
with me she took much Paines
and when I arived in this Coleney
I sowd the forst Grain And Now
With My Hevenly Father I Hope
For Ever To Remain

A CONVICT'S LAMENT ON THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN LOGAN

I am a native of the land of Erin,
And lately banished from that lovely shore;
I left behind my aged parents,
And the girl I did adore,
In transient storms as I set sailing,
Like mariner bold my course did steer;
Sydney Harbour was my destination —
That cursed place at length drew near.

I then joined banquet in congratulation
On my safe arrival from the briny sea;
But, Alas, Alas! I was mistaken —
Twelve years transportation to Moreton Bay.
Early one morning, as I carelessly wandered,
By the Brisbane waters I chanced to stray;
I saw a prisoner sadly bewailing,
Whilst on the sunlit banks he lay.

He said: "I've been a prisoner at Port Macquarie,
At Norfolk Island, and Emu Plains;
At Castle Hill and cursed Toongabbee —
At all these places I've worked in chains,
But of all the places of condemnation,
In each penal station in New South Wales,
Moreton Bay I found no equal,
For excessive tyranny each day prevails.

Early in the morning, as the day is dawning,
To trace from heaven the morning dew,
Up we are started at a moment's warning,
Our daily labour to renew,
Our overseers and superintendents —
These tyrants' orders we must obey,
Or else at the triangles our flesh is mangled —
Such are our wages at Moreton Bay!

For three long years I've been beastly treated;
Heavy irons each day I wore;
My poor back from floggings has been lacerated,
And oftimes painted with crimson gore.
Like the Egyptians and ancient Hebrews,
We are sorely oppressed by Logan's yoke,
Till kind Providence came to our assistance,
And gave this tyrant his fatal stroke.

Yes, he was hurried from that place of bondage,
Where he thought he would gain renown;
But a native black, who lay in ambush,
Gave this monster his fatal wound.
Fellow prisoners, be exhilarated;
Your former sufferings you will not mind,
For it's when from bondage you are extricated,
You'll leave such tyrants far behind!"

(As published in Will Lawson's Australian Bush Songs and Ballads (Sydney 1944). This from "True Patriots All." The words sometimes differ — as under the title "Moreton Bay".) Captain Logan was killed in 1830 and the song was probably composed shortly afterwards.

BOTANY BAY COURTSHIP

The Currency Lads may fill their glasses,
And drink to the health of the Currency Lasses;
But the lass I adore, the lass for me,
Is a lass in the Female Factory.

Molly's her name, and her name is Molly,
Although she was tried by the name of Polly;
She was tried and was cast for the death at Newry,
But the Judge was bribed and so were the Jury.

She got *"death recorded"* in Newry town,
For stealing her mistress's watch and gown;
Her little boy Paddy can tell you the tale;
His father was turnkey at Newry jail.

The first time I saw the comely lass
Was at Parramatta, going to mass;
Says I, "I'll marry you now in an hour,"
Says she, "Well, go and fetch Father Power."

But I *got into trouble* that very same night!
Being drunk in the street I got into a fight,
A constable seized me — I gave him a box —
And was put in the watch-house and then in the stocks.

O! it's very unaisy as I may remember,
To sit in the stocks in the month of December;
With the north wind so hot, and the hot sun right over,
O! sure, and it's no place at all for a lover!

"It's worse than the tread-mill," says I, "Mr. Dunn,
To sit here all day in the *hate* of the sun!"
"Either that or a dollar," says he, "for your folly,"
But if I had a dollar I'd drink it with Molly.

But now I am out again, early and late
I sigh and I cry at the Factory gate,
"O! Mrs. R——, late Mrs. F——n,
O! won't you let Molly out very soon?"

"Is it Molly McGuigan?" says she to me,
"Is it not?" says I, for she know'd it was she.
"Is it her you mean that was put in the stocks
For beating her mistress, Mrs. Cox?"

"O! yes it is, madam, pray let me in,
I have brought her a half-pint of Cooper's best gin,
She likes it as well as she likes her own mother,
O! now let me in, madam, I am her brother."

So the Currency Lads may fill their glasses,
And drink to the health of the Currency Lasses;
But the lass I adore, the lass for me,
Is the lass in the Female Factory.

Sydney Gazette, 14 July, 1832.

Sung in the Theatre Royal by Mr. Bert Levy.

The Female Factory was built early in the 1800s and functioned as a gaol and repository for women with problems until 1848, when it became part of the Asylum. Its position was near the present Girls' Training School in Fleet Street.

TAKE ME BACK

Oh, I have passed through many lands,
And been in many a spree,
But still Australia, after all,
Is not the place for me;
If in London I was back again,
No more I'd wish to roam —
Then take me back to Petticoat Lane,
For Houndstitch is my home.

Let others talk about New York,
And its famed Broadway,
Of famous Castle Gardens too,
And Brooklyn girls so gay;
My heart is in another spot,
Across the briny foam —
Then take me back to Petticoat Lane,
For Houndstitch is my home,

If Sydney were my native place,
Its alleys I'd adore;
If Parramatta gave me birth,
I'd love it more and more;
Though pleasant times in both I've spent,
I'll dream of days to come —
Then take me back to Petticoat Lane,
For Houndstitch is my home.

Written and sung by Charles Thatcher.
From the book, "Thatcher's Colonial Songs" 1864.

AN ELECTRIC FIRE-BALL WRECKS GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PARRAMATTA

On Saturday last, Government House at Parramatta was visited by a tremendous thunderstorm. Between nine o'clock and ten o'clock in the morning, after an immense burst of thunder, the house was struck in the roof by an electric

fire-ball, which descended from one floor to another, until it finally made its passage out, partly by the windows, shivering them in pieces, and partly through the solid wall itself, which it perforated in His Excellency the Governor's Office, leaving a hole rather larger than that of a musket ball.

The lightning entered through a dormant window in the roof, thence burst through the upper ceiling, and pulling down the plaster for the space of about a yard square, it struck the chamber doors with such violence as to drive several of them off their hinges, and to throw them in the opposite sides of the rooms, shattering them, and their casements in several places; thence ranging along the lobby, it descended by the great staircase into the back hall; where it committed similar destruction as above.

Entering His Excellency's Office it struck the chair His Excellency was accustomed to sit on; but providentially he was at the time absent on his tour through New Western Country. This portion of the electric matter, after shattering also an umbrella, passed through the wall and became spent, only afterwards breaking a hole through a pane in a window at the end of the house.

The other portion of the electric matter burst through the back windows of the hall, and then became finally expanded. Several hundred panes of glass were broken into minute particles by this terrific explosion and the house was almost in one instant of time nearly a wreck, and full of suffocating smell of sulphur. Indeed, the smoke was so great, that it was for sometime imagined that the house was on fire, but this was nothing more than the result of the bursting of the immense ball of electric fire.

Perhaps there was never a more awful visitation of the kind, than this; and it is a matter of astonishment, that no personal harm was sustained by any of the numerous family contained in Government House. Most providentially it happened, that Mrs. Macquarie, with her darling boy, had that morning breakfasted in an apartment which was the only one in the house not visited by this scourge, and to this cause may be attributed their almost miraculous escape.

Tuesday, 9 November 1820.
Printed in the *Sydney Gazette*, 11 November 1820.

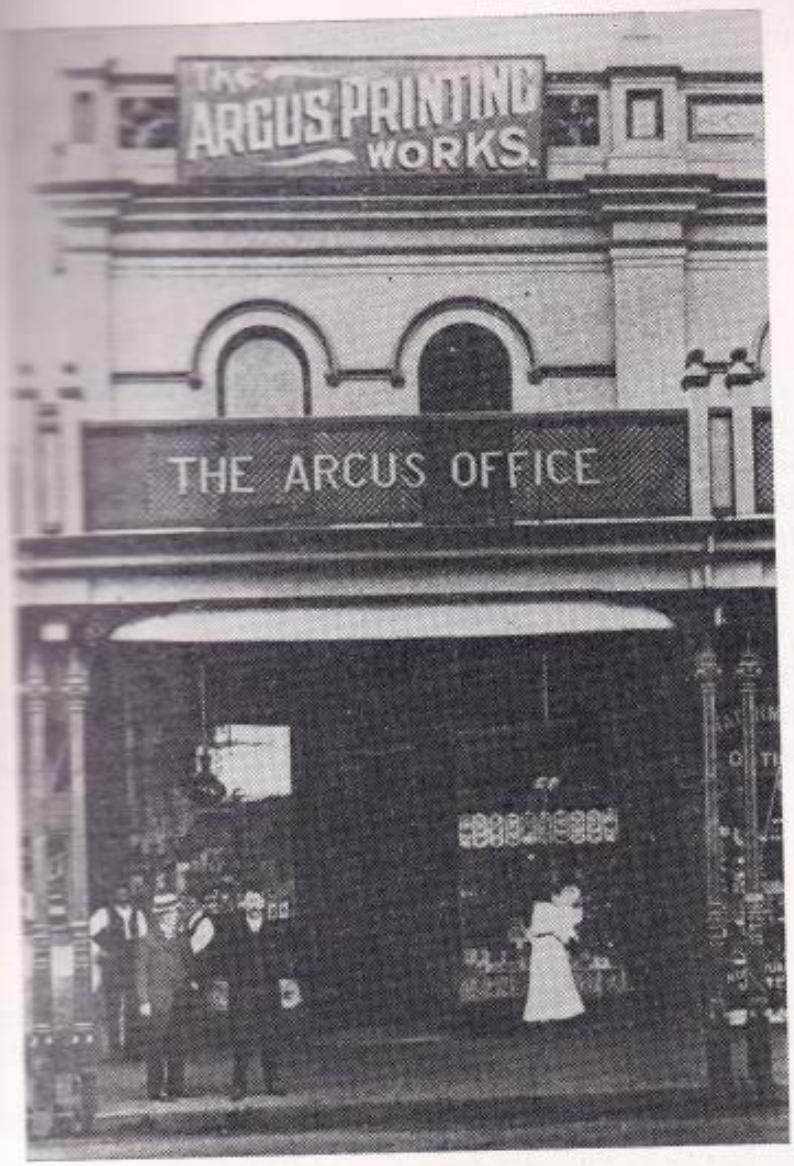
Aquarium, Cafe Chantant, Skittle-alley, Tennis-Court,
Site and shelter well devised for every kind of Sport —
Arena for the athlete; pavilions for those
Who love to twirl to Music on terpsichorean toes;
Groves umbrageous, shady grots where "whispering lovers"
glad

The old old story re-enact (as ma once did with dad):
Her District Hospital rebuilt, and found with each appliance
Required in such establishments by very latest Science:
Her district area intercrossed by various railway lines,
Tapping the "orange country" and eke the "land of vines";
Her several railway stations with well-kept gardens gay,
And leafy trees at intervals along the metalled way:
Her cemetery well laid out, as God's Acre should be,
Speaking of hope and rest and peace with its flowers and
greenery —

Cumberland Argus, December 1899.
Followed by page of local advertising.

PARRAMATTA DISTRICT HOSPITAL, 1907 — FOUNDATION STONE LAID IN 1896

Block donated for Barbara Abraham



THE ARGUS OFFICE, CHURCH STREET, 1908

From behind these doors came much of the material used in this collection. The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Gazette (published from 1887 to 1961) yielded many poems, the strong trend to versification ceasing with the 1939-45 war.

Many worthwhile local publications were printed, including "Jubilee History of Parramatta 1861-1911" by J. C. Wharton, and "Bowls in Parramatta 1868-1951" by H. E. Quigley.

The office was an active area in Church Street until 1953 when the company moved into its present Macquarie Street premises. Accent on the historical scene continues and "This is Parramatta", first published in 1965, is re-printed as required.

Block donated for Andrew Ward

MESSRS. TOWERS AND MUSTON WITH THEIR STAFF OUTSIDE THEIR WELL ESTABLISHED BAKERY IN 1898

The Muston family were brickmakers prior to venturing into "Muston's Bread". Their first kiln was in the vicinity of Grace Bros. Aird Street store — later moving to the Granville area. The bricks, marked with a heart, were used extensively in railway cuttings and bridges as well as in cottages and many may still be found.

Block donated in memory of David Newell

A WHISPER FROM OUR LATE WESTERLY WINDS

Will you listen while I whisper
A word into your ear?
As it concerns you and others,
It is right that you should hear.
If you are entering into business,
And want to make a name,
You must fall into line with others,
And adopt a labour-saving game.
This is what struck Mr. Muston,
A little while ago,
To introduce some better method
To manipulate his dough.
And the interest of his customers
Also being at stake,
He thought he must endeavour
Some better bread to bake.

41

This book is a little hard to fit into my scanner, so pages are missing.

The corn was springing fresh and green,
The fruit trees waving high!
Our hearts were gay as we thought of hay
When he tempted us to buy.

The place is little changed, Mary,
It's just as good as then;
The Leghorn Song is in my ear,
And the crops are green again.

Your health has been the best Mary,
Our bills we easily pay
And life is sweet in this retreat
We wisely bought from Kay.

W. F. KAY, Property Salesman
Granville, 1910

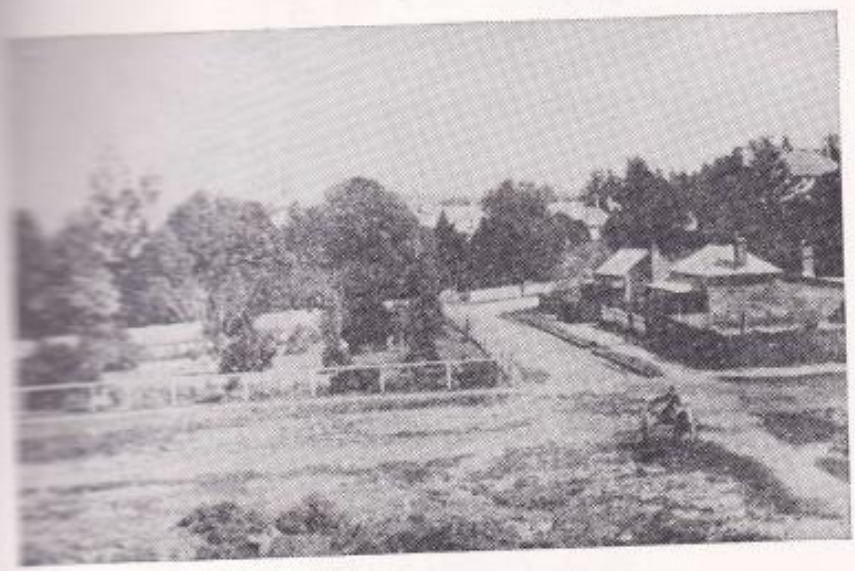
THROUGH PENNANT HILLS ROAD, 1904
Block donated in memory of Peter Davis

...with sides caved in; flat stones, deep sunk and ... of position; headstones, fallen to one side, or wholly on ... their face. . . .

... Surely these are historic graves; this is an historic ... Why does NSW neglect them?

30/9/1886 Newspaper cutting (Mitchell Library)

The cemetery was in use from 1790 and was granted ... St. John's in 1857.



PARRAMATTA ASYLUM

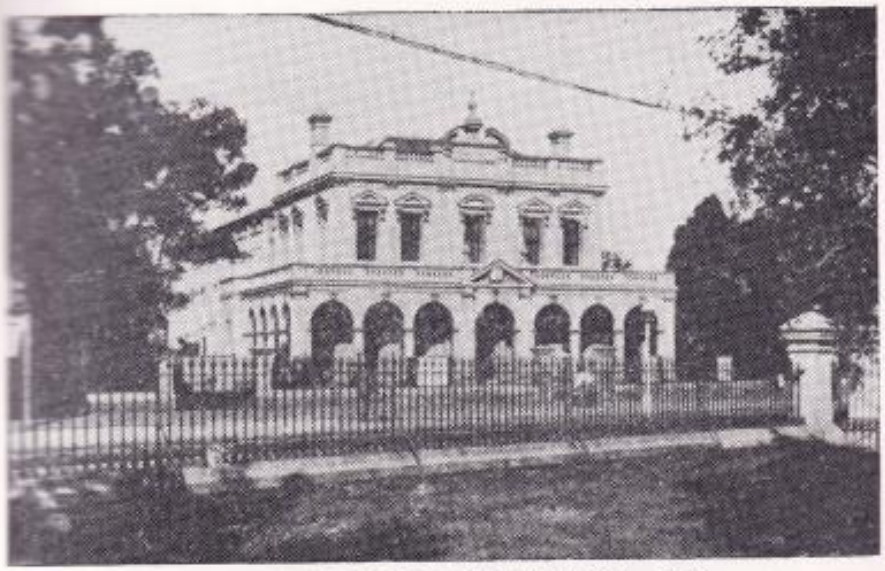
The Fleet Street entrance to Parramatta Asylum as it appeared in the Cumberland Argus in December, 1899. It appears to be the same entrance now in use at the Parramatta Psychiatric Centre. Some of the buildings are still being used.

Block donated for Ann Connellan

A CITY OF ASYLUMS

Of Asylums, there's a City
On the Parramatta's banks,
And each week they, more's the pity,
Add unto their inmates' ranks
Idiots, thieves or mere sundowner,
And deserving poor as well,
Government take up as Owner.
To this city send pell mell
Till the buildings huge, unsightly,
By the river steamer's tram,

Ere for Sydney you entrain,
Go and vote!
You may not get back again,
Go and vote!
Though at crossing roads you're skilled
You might happen to get killed,
With your duty unfulfilled—
Go and vote!
Be your plans whate'er they may,
Go and vote!
With the issue you're au fait,
Go and vote!
Though it's true that Tom Woods said
Parramatta North is dead,
Musto says it's gone ahead,
Go and vote!
All the arguments you've heard,
Go and vote!
Some you may think are absurd,
Go and vote!
Do your duty faithfully,
Apathetic do not be,
Or a lazybones like me—
Go and vote!



THE TOWN HALL, PARRAMATTA, 1907
Built in 1880 — The side hall was added in 1911.

PARRAMATTA PARK

We have a park here, as perhaps you know
Was given to the people long ago,
To be a breathing space beside the town,
Where nature still may smile, tho' cities frown.
To keep this Park in order, as the years
Crept onward, with their train of mirth and tears,
The Government appointed life Trustees
To manage its affairs as they might please,
These men are honest, but alas! inept,
And only at mismanagement adept.
They cast the people forth, in order that
The Park site may become a grazing flat,
Whereon lean cattle may win sustenance,
And fill the pockets of the Park Trust's pants.
('Tis hop'd the members will not take offence;
As we don't mean it in a privy sense.)
Now, money talks; still, one can make a noise
About the kind of grammar it employs;
And so we think the time is over-ripe
The rights, and wrongs, of this affair to gripe.
The men who gave the Park in simple fee
Intended it to be for you and me
For all time, and they never meant, of course
Its wide demesne to be suborn'd to horse,
But eagles never stoop for dung-hill flies,
And gourmets all disdain potato-pies;
E'en so our Park Trustees (O Local Kings!)
Have set their wondrous minds on higher things
Than you and me. They think the Park is meant
For cattle; and accordingly, it's lent.
This fills the Trust's exchequer day by day
And, as the members state, it makes things pay!
The hand that signs the cheque-form rules the world,
We know; but hair that's cropp'd is seldom curl'd,
And, tho' the Trustees make a pound or two
By this device, 'tis paid by me and you.
We cannot take our children on the grass
To gambol as the twilights softly pass;
We cannot wander, in the cool of eve,
To play at in-the-country-make-believe;

In short, we're forc'd to ramble other ways,
Because the cattle need the place to graze.

Extract from the beginning.
The poem continues into matters of the time . . .
Frank Walford in
"The Jumbly History of Parramatta"

Printed and published by Frank Walford at The Cumberland Times Printing Works in 1915. (From the Mitchell Library.)

HAYMAKING IN PARRAMATTA PARK, DECEMBER, 1903

Block donated for Russell Leith

IN DAYS AGONE

The stately gum trees in the Park
All topp'd with heavy limbs and tall;
Casting shadows deep and dark,
Shedding wisps of fluted bark,
While harking to the zephyr's call.

The western mail has long since pierced the night,
The green-eyed Possum long regained his lair;
Soon red-faced crowds will tramp in growing light
To work beneath the smoke-smudged aching glare;
But now a fragile wonder greets the sight
Of such still magic in the crystal air.

M. H. S.

Kings School Magazine, December 1960

DRIVE IN PARRAMATTA PARK, 1907

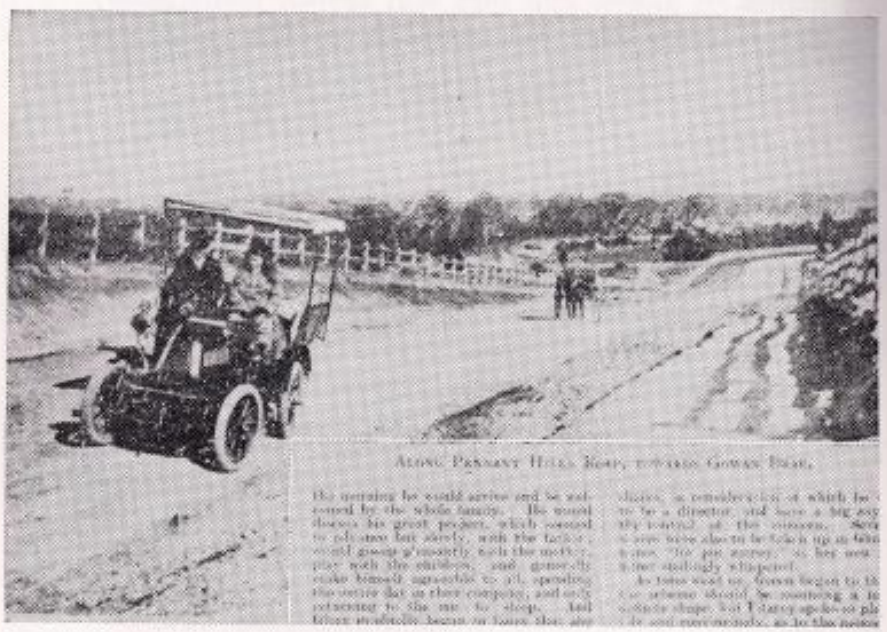
In memory of John Nicholls

And where bush track, with slow-paced bullock team,
For our young commerce long all need supplied,
Your trailing white shews where train's rushing steam
Bears freight for ships from every ocean tide.

Or glimpse where Parramatta's stream flows by
Your lower slopes, blue bays and inlets show,
Like lakes of deeper azure than the sky,
Which cloudless, spans, the landscape far below.

So when great city's rush and worries wear,
And jaded mind and body long for rest,
These sylvan heights, bright scenes, and balmy air,
Waft cares away, and give life fresh-felt zest.

J. Arundel, Parramatta 1898.
Cumberland Argus, January 1899.



ALONG PENNANT HILLS ROAD, TOWARDS GOWAN BRAE, 1904
Block donated for Daimen Kuipers

THE OLD HOUSE, PARRAMATTA

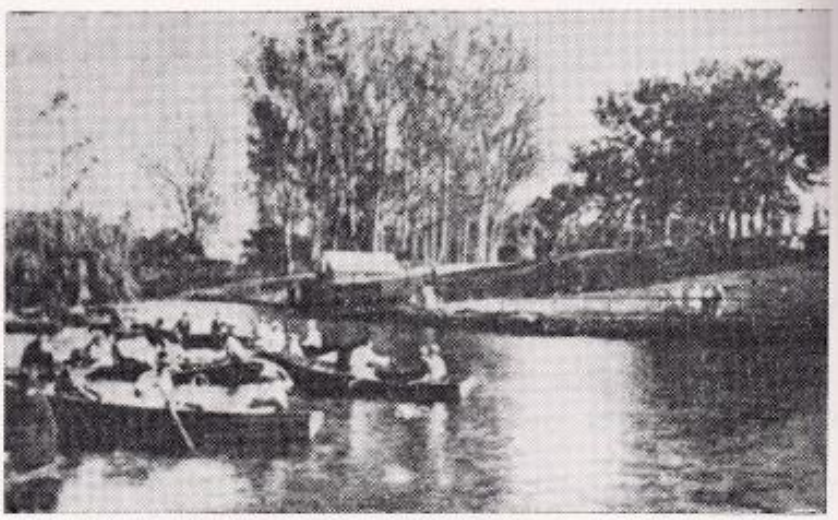
I love the fine old mansion,
With its thick and massive walls,
Its quaint, old-fashioned windows,
And its corridors and halls,

When the things that make him take it an' keep gettin' up his feet
Are the river an' the willows an' the grand old grey-walled School.
Oh, they're something more than Fancy—
They're too big, too fine, too clean;
They're the very soul of Honour, Truth, and Duty nobly done,
Can a fellow live for, stand for, all they stand for, all they mean—
Then I reckon he's a winner, and the School will call him "Son".

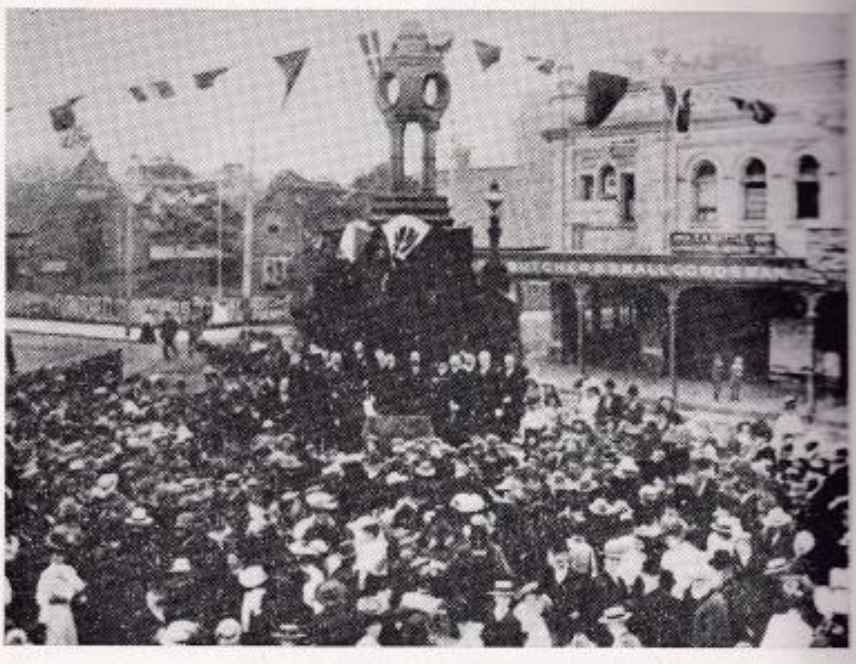
W. M. B. Laycock.
King's School Magazine, September 1915.

Roads near Sydney strewn with leaves
Breath of Manly's reaches.
Parramatta's oak-flanked trails,
And her copper beeches.
By the King's School Chapel,
In the autumn weather,
Sunsets red and burning tree
Flame in gold together.

Unsigned.
King's School Mag. 1918.



BOATING ON THE RIVER IN PARRAMATTA PARK IN 1929
Block donated for Gregory Dowley



A GALA OCCASION IN CHURCH STREET, PARRAMATTA
DURING DECEMBER, 1907

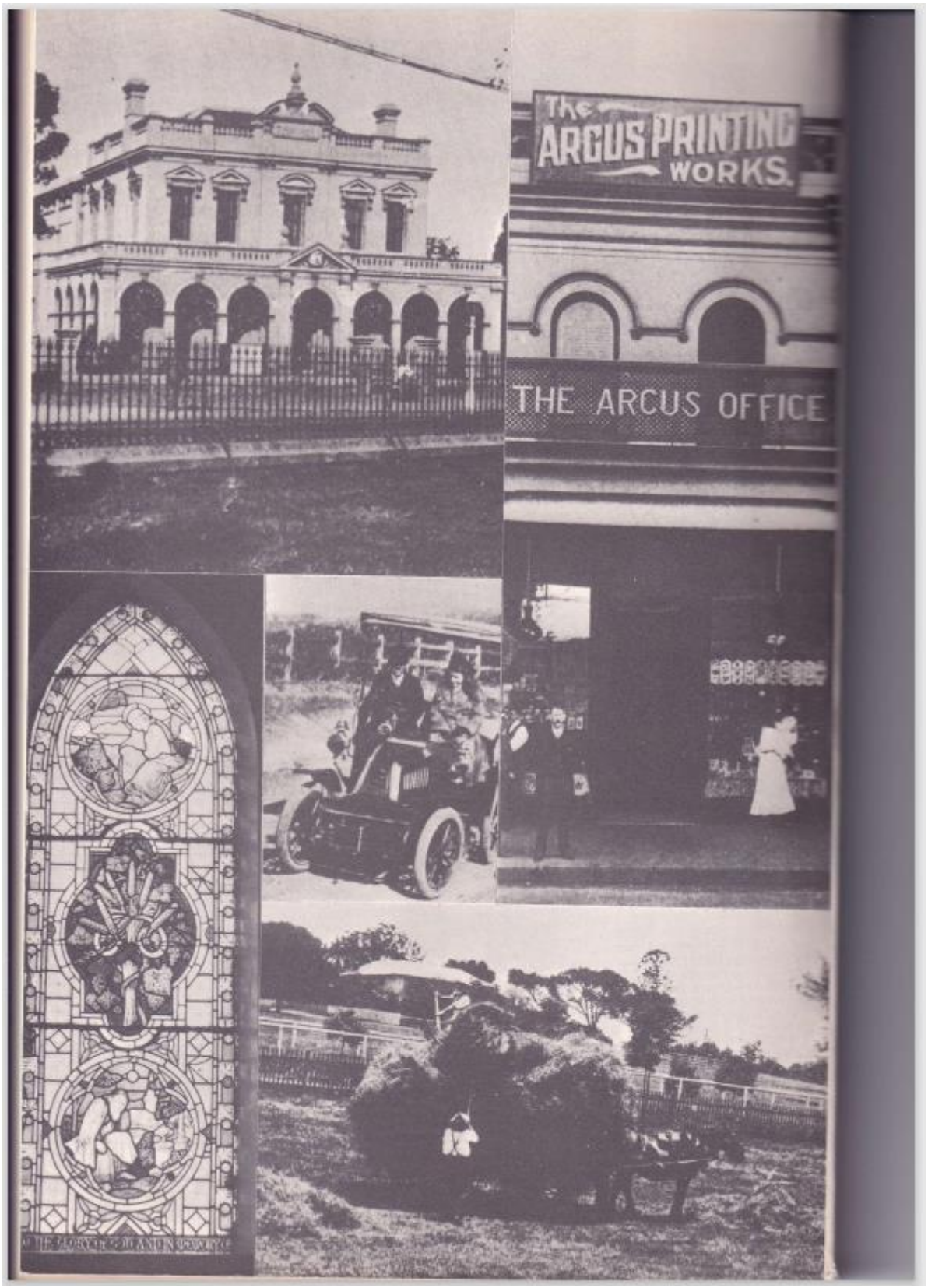
Block donated for Kathy Colbran

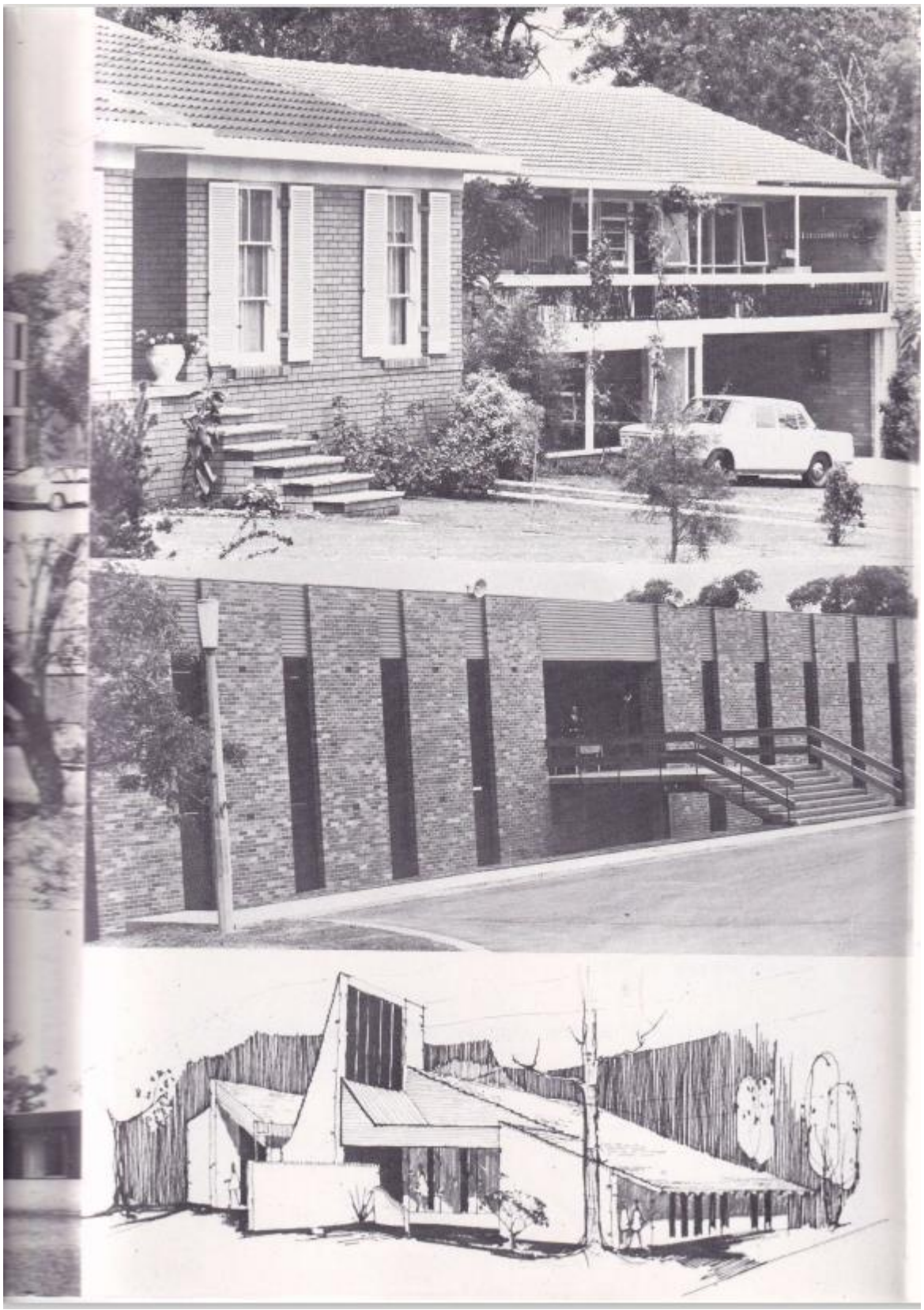
WHERE SCIENCE FAILS

In a wondrous age we're living,
Wondrous are the works of man,
Science unto us is giving
Everything that science can.
Men like birds above are flying,
And their messages we hear;
Man with man is ever vieing
'Mid the wonders of the sphere.

If to life as we perceive it
Our ancestors could return—
If before they had to leave it
All its wonders they could learn—
Our advancement would astound them,
Like a miracle 'twould seem,
Modern science would confound them,
They would think it all a dream.

Wholly set up and printed by
CUMBERLAND PRESS, PARRAMATTA


The ARGUS PRINTING WORKS.
THE ARCUS OFFICE



The Northcott School is conducted by the New South Wales Society for Crippled Children in conjunction with the New South Wales Department of Education.

It serves the needs of physically handicapped children in Parramatta and surrounding districts.

Facilities are provided by the Department of Education, for instruction within the school from pre-school level to senior secondary forms and the opportunity of proceeding to outside tertiary level study is given to pupils desiring higher education. Medical supervision and treatment is given by trained staff to develop physical capabilities of the children while welfare staff provide social help and support.

At its inception the school was a wholly voluntary organisation and today the burden of maintaining the present building and non-teaching staff still remains a voluntary financial responsibility.

Focus on Parramatta is Doris Sargeant's second book. The first was "The Toongabbie Story", a history of the area west of Parramatta, with its beginnings involving convicts and a thriving grape industry.

Mrs. Sargeant led a committee of mothers from the Toongabbie Public School to produce "The Toongabbie Story" and all money raised from its publication bought library books and other items for the school.

It won recognition as a valuable contribution to the historical records of the nation.

Mrs. Sargeant's son, Bruce, is an epileptic and spastic who received his early education at the Toongabbie School. Later he went to the Northcott School for Crippled Children, at Parramatta.

He became school captain on two occasions and gained the Higher School Certificate in 1970, the first student to undertake this examination within the schools of The Society for Crippled Children.

Bruce obtained a position with the Commonwealth Public Service in 1971.

Profits from this new venture will aid the Northcott School.

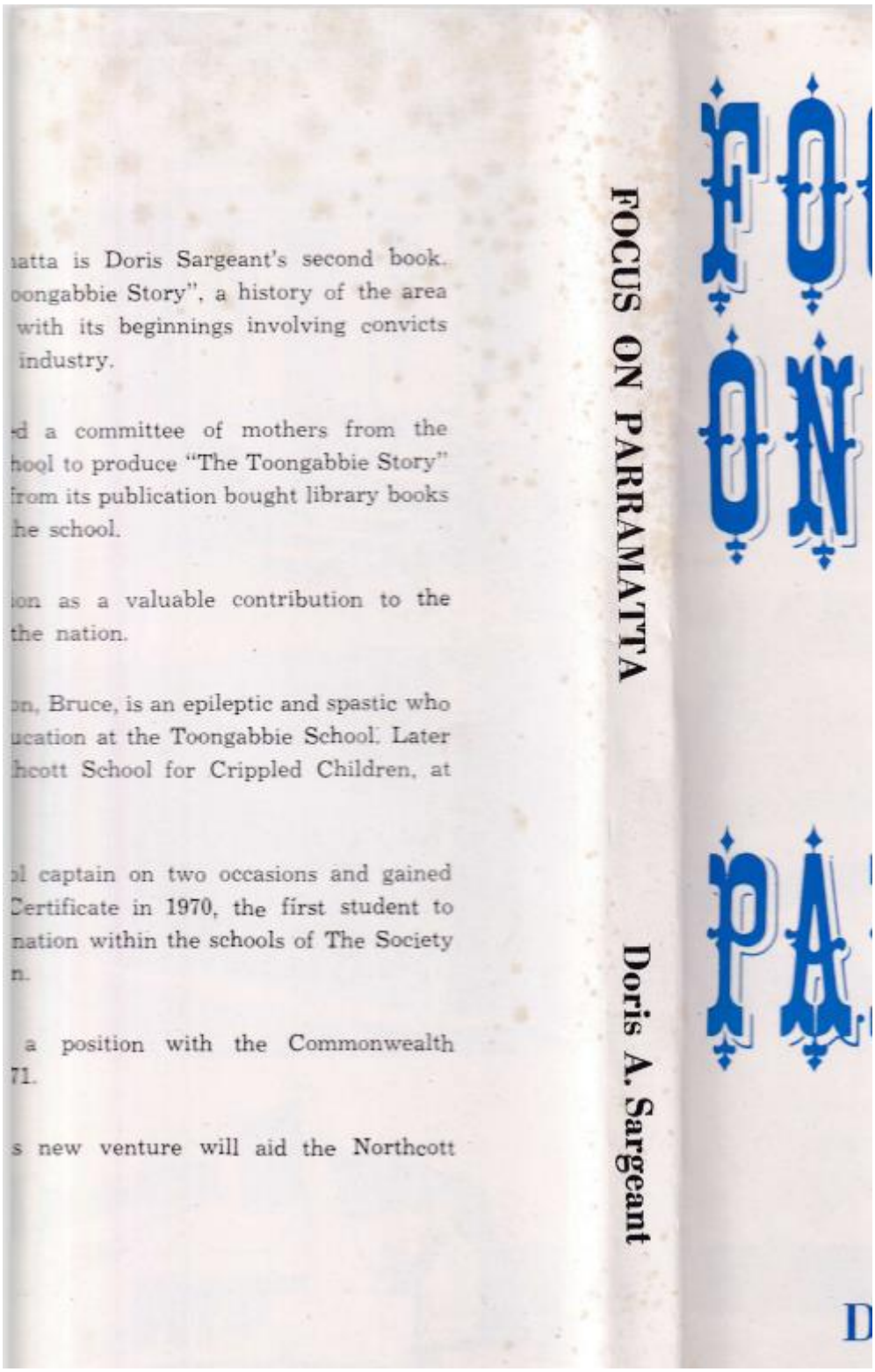
FOCUS ON PARRAMATTA

Doris A. Sargeant

FOCUS ON PARRAMATTA

by

DORIS A. SARGEANT



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FOCUS ON PARRAMATTA

Doris A. Sargeant

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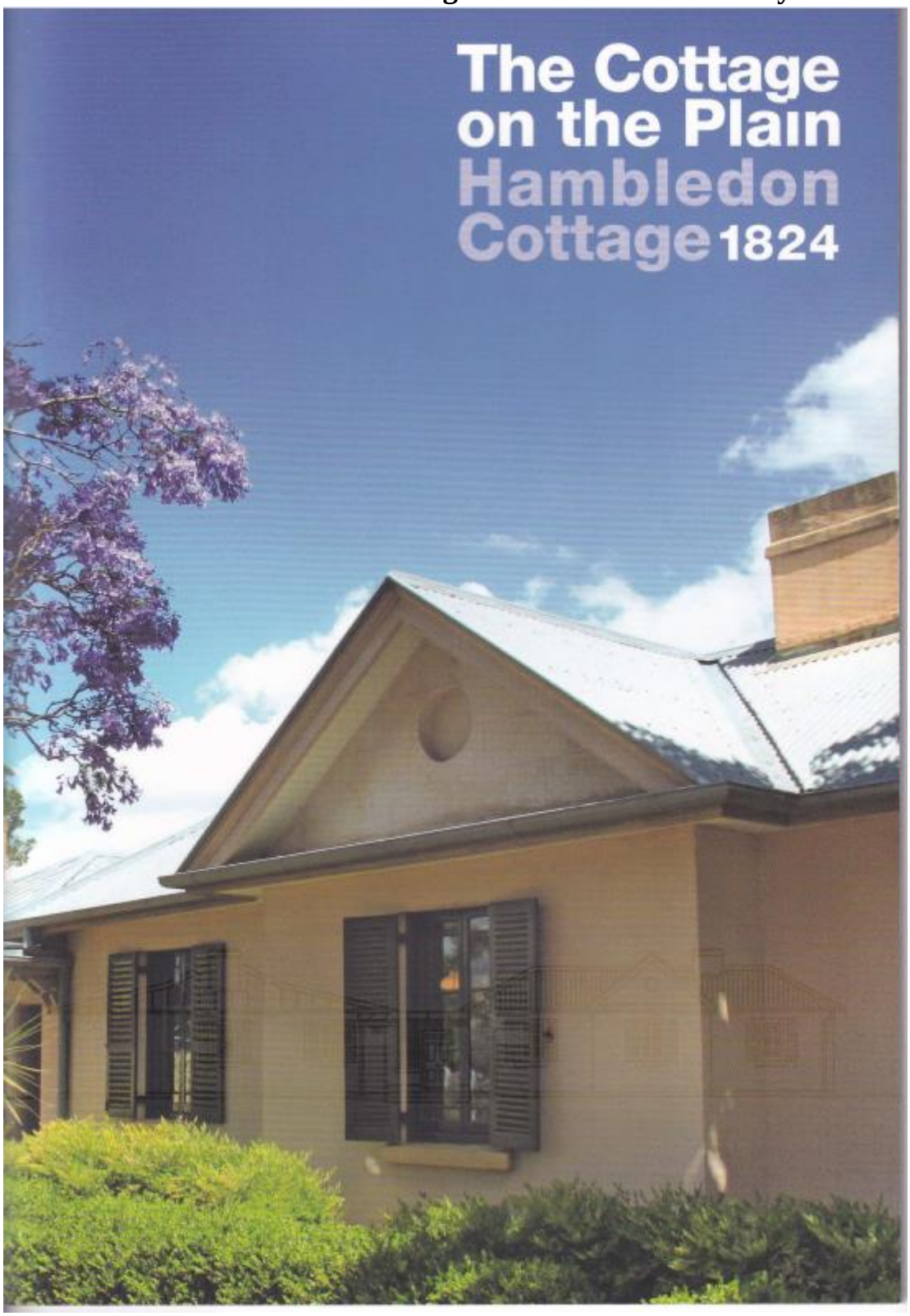
And some more knowledge for the lovers of History



Hambledon Cottage is a New South Wales State Heritage Register listed Colonial Georgian cottage ornée. It was built for John Macarthur in 1824 on his Elizabeth Farm estate as extra accommodation for family and friends.

It is set in Hambledon Reserve, an attractive parkland of two acres containing several trees including English Oak trees and a Cork Oak tree transported from England in 1817 by Macarthur on his return from nine years exile. These were planted to remind him of an English parkland.

The property was acquired in 1953 by Parramatta City Council and has been leased since 1965 to Parramatta and District Historical Society. It is used by the Society as its administrative headquarters and the cottage is displayed as an historic house museum. It has been restored to the 1820s Colonial Georgian style and furnished with authentic furniture by the Society to reflect the 1820 to 1890 period, covering the time of the Macarthur family's ownership.

Visitors, both young and old, can experience 19th century lifestyle and view original furniture of the period, some with Parramatta provenance. These guided tours make history come to life.

The fine examples of furniture and woodwork are indicative of the standard of craftsmanship then available, while the Colonial kitchen is a reminder of the work required of the domestic staff of the day.

Original version researched and written by Beryl Louis FPDHS, in 1992

Revised by Ken Smith OAM, FPDHS, in 2013

Assisted by Parramatta City Council through Community Capacity grant

Photography: Trevor G. Patrick

Front cover: Hambledon Cottage and gardens

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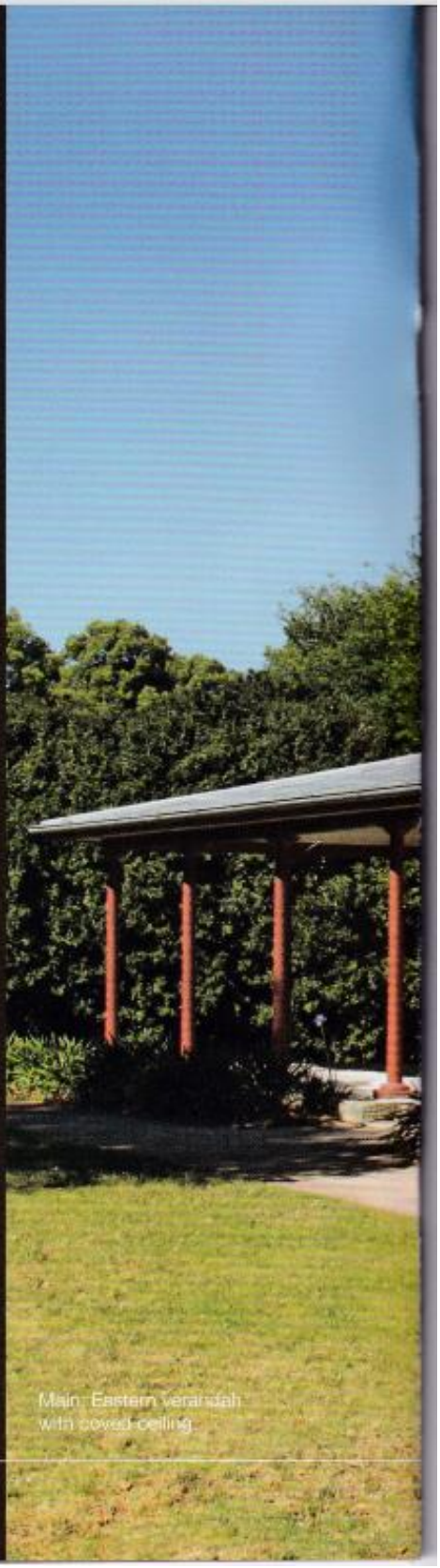
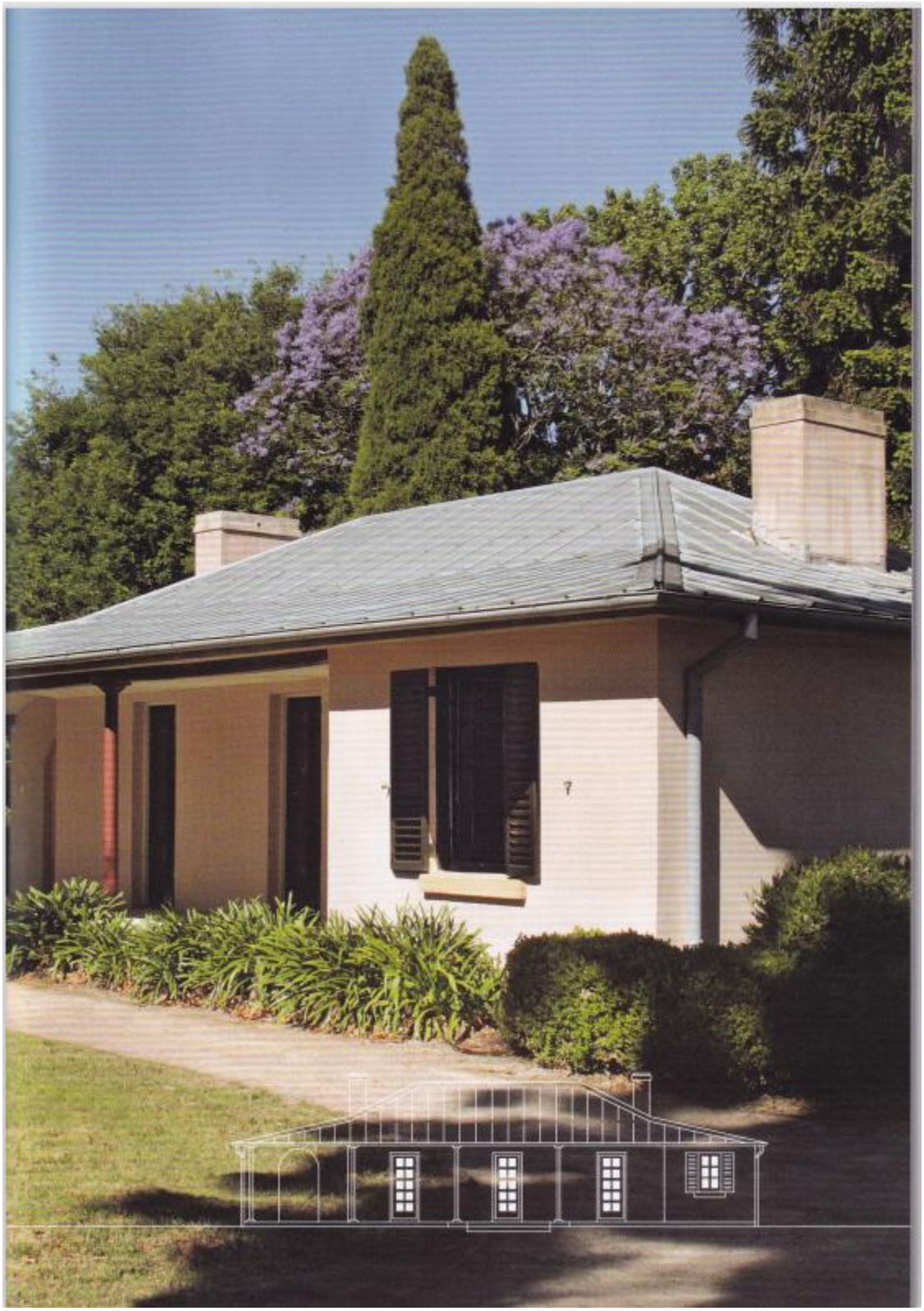
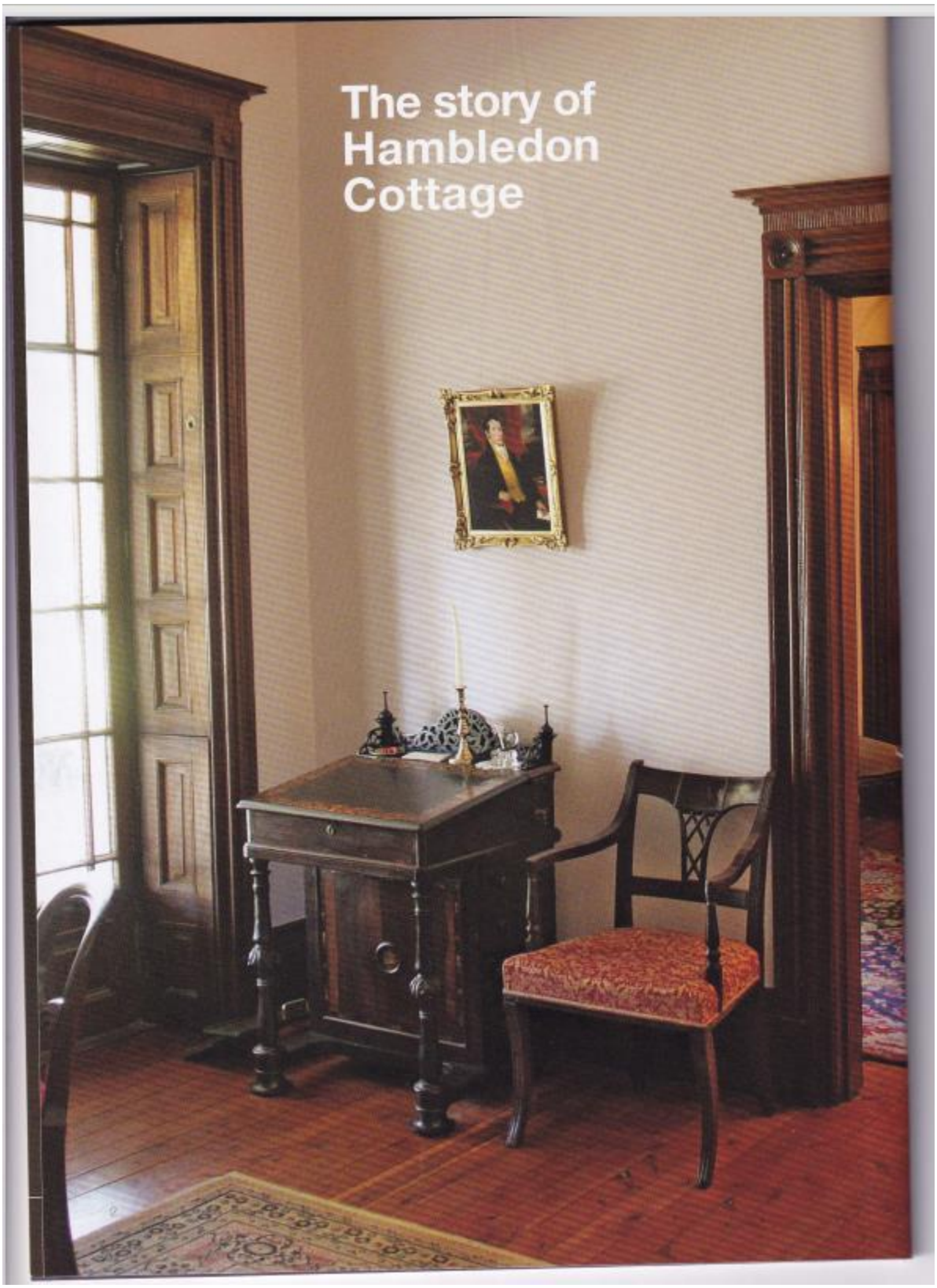


Main Eastern verandah with coved ceiling




The story of
Hambledon
Cottage

Following his return from political exile in 1817, John Macarthur turned his attention to the expansion of his family enterprises. Central to these activities was a building programme which included additions to his Parramatta home, Elizabeth Farm, and the erection of supplementary accommodation on the estate, then referred to as *'the cottage on the plain'*, now known as Hambledon Cottage.

With a shortage of bedrooms at Elizabeth Farm, Hambledon Cottage accommodated the Macarthur children, grandchildren and close family friends for varying periods from several days to many years.

Henry Kitchen (1793-1822), a young architect seeking patronage in the colony, completed designs for a building for Macarthur at Camden which was described as a 'small but extremely beautiful dwelling in the cottage fashion'. The design which featured French windows opening onto a wide verandah leading to park-like gardens so impressed Macarthur that in 1820 he instructed Kitchen to prepare plans for a similar cottage to be erected on his Parramatta estate.

Due to Kitchen's premature death in 1822, Macarthur sought the professional help of **Henry Cooper**, a competent draughtsman, who was able to transfer Kitchen's original and innovative designs into working plans for the building of the distinctive and elegant Colonial Georgian style domestic bungalow which we now refer to as Hambledon Cottage.

The external walls are of sandstock brick, rendered and painted with imitation stonework courses etched into the render. The roof is galvanised iron tiles which have replaced earlier timber shingles.

The walls are mainly sandstock brick without a cavity, with one being lath and plaster, and there are coved ceilings in some rooms, and on the verandah. The main eastern wing of the cottage was completed in 1824 in time for a visit by Edward, eldest son of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, on leave from his regular army duties in England.

Opposite: The withdrawing room. A portrait of John Macarthur hangs above a rosewood Davenport writing desk, circa 1850.

Above, from left: John Broadwood square piano, 1836.

Australian red cedar four poster bed, circa 1840.

Thomas Hobbes Scott was the second occupant, taking up residence in 1825 and staying 18 months. Recent investigations suggest that the present coach house was built in about 1890 as an addition to the 1826 building, of which only a portion of an external wall still exists.

The date of the construction of the service wing, incorporating the kitchen, is inconclusive although its external appearance is similar to Kitchen's drawing for the stables. It is considered it was completed by 1832, by which time John Macarthur, through illness, had banned all females from his Elizabeth Farm home.

When the Archdeacon [Thomas Hobbes Scott] removes to Woolloomooloo we shall have the cottage vacant. Mrs Lucas has determined on removing to it. The Archdeacon has planted and got the garden in good order and built stabling and a coach house, so that the little tenement will be tolerably complete for our old friend's occupation and a pleasing auxiliary to our home establishment.

ELIZABETH MACARTHUR TO EDWARD, ON ARMY DUTY IN ENGLAND, 17 DECEMBER 1826

The cottage was used by Penelope Lucas, along with various family members, from 1827 until her death in 1836. As a link with her former house in Hampshire in England, she chose the name '*Hambledon*' for her Australian home.

Above: Rear view of Hambledon Cottage with Hoop Pine (centre) and Bunya Pine (right) towering over it.

The kitchen.

Subsequently the cottage was occupied by various family members and servants. While Edward was on duty as Deputy Adjutant-General of the British Army in Australia and New Zealand from 1851 to 1853, the service wing was joined to the main cottage to form a new entrance.

Edward as the eldest son inherited the Elizabeth Farm estate, including Hambledon Cottage, after his father's death in 1834, although his mother had life tenancy of Elizabeth Farm cottage.

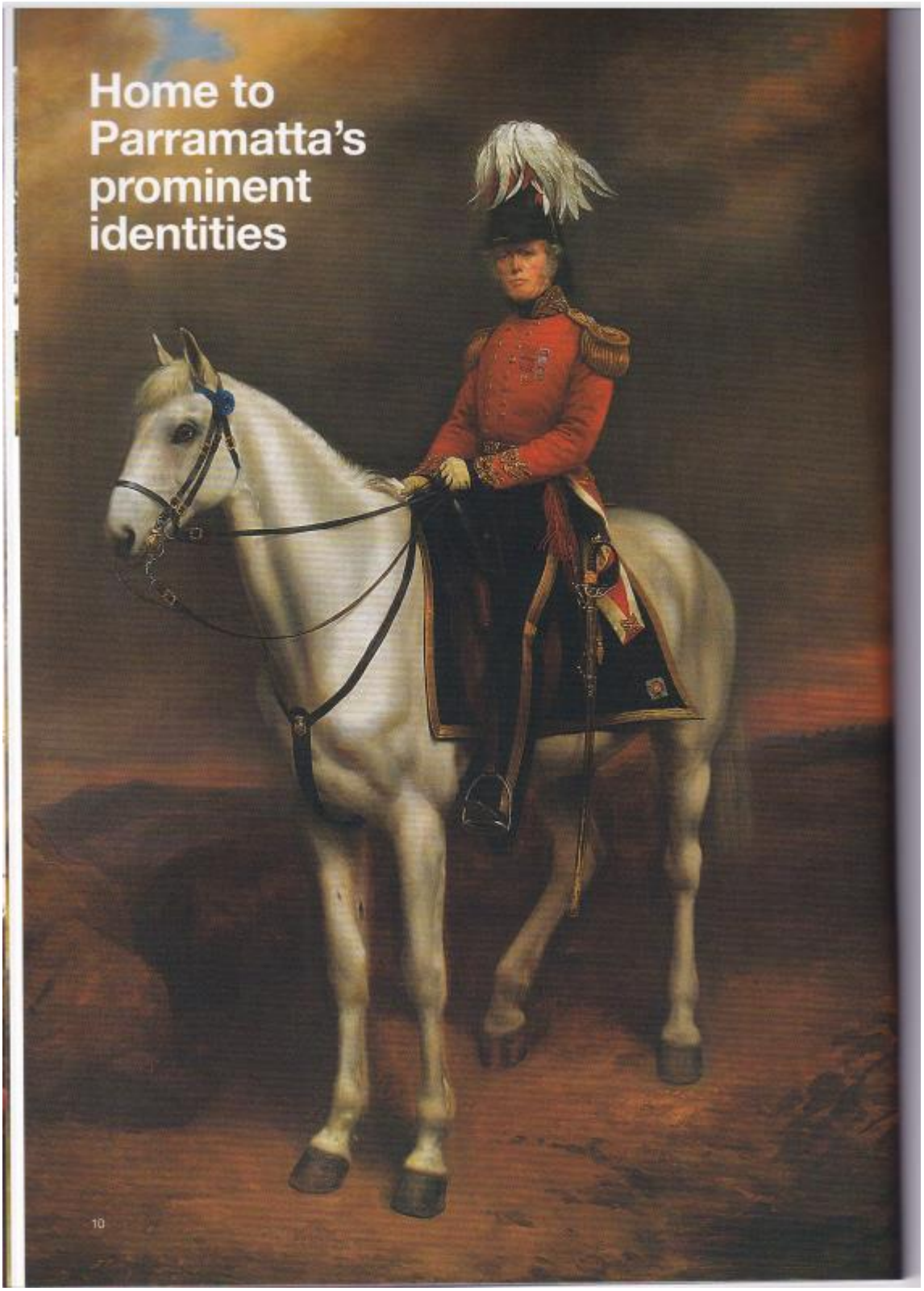
Following Edward's death in 1872, his wife Sarah was bequeathed a life interest in the estate although it was managed by Edward's brothers, James and William. The cottage along with the entire estate had to be sold in 1881 to meet financial obligations.

Above, from top left: Symmetrical placing of doors in the dining room. The door to the left is a cupboard.

Hassall Street frontage.

Dripstone and mangle on the rear verandah, near the kitchen.

Stages of development of Hambledon Cottage.


Home to
Parramatta's
prominent
identities
10

Hambledon Cottage remained in Macarthur family ownership for almost 60 years until 1881, and was home to many prominent Parramatta identities.

John Macarthur built Hambledon Cottage on the north-west corner of the original 100 acres of land granted to him in 1793 as extra accommodation for family and friends. At the time, Elizabeth Farm, named after his wife, was not in good condition as Elizabeth wrote in 1822:

> '... our poor Parramatta house is tumbling down, it is quite a ruin.'

John Macarthur's mental state deteriorated in subsequent years and in 1832 he was declared incapable of managing his own affairs by a commission which met at Hambledon Cottage.

The following year he was moved to his property at Camden and died in 1834.

Edward Macarthur was an officer in the British Army, his lifelong career. Whilst on leave in Australia in 1824, he became the first occupant of Hambledon Cottage, staying for less than a year.

He returned in 1851 when posted to New South Wales as Deputy Adjutant-General of the British forces in Australia. From then to 1863, the cottage provided temporary accommodation for him during his various visits, and for his relatives and friends.

From 1855 to 1860, whilst serving as Commander of the British forces and when he was Acting Governor of the colony of Victoria, he was pleased to offer the cottage to distinguished guests as a weekend retreat.

In 1860, he returned to England and in 1862, surprised the family by marrying at the age of 73 years. As Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Macarthur, KCB, CB, he died childless in London in 1872, aged 83 years.

Opposite: *Equestrian portrait of Major General Edward Macarthur*, 1857. William Strutt.

Reproduced with the permission of the Victorian Parliamentary Library.

Above, right: 19th century spectacles and case.

Governor William Denison stayed at the cottage frequently during his term from 1855 to 1861, and **Sir John Young** (NSW Governor 1861-1870) often came to Parramatta for country weekends.

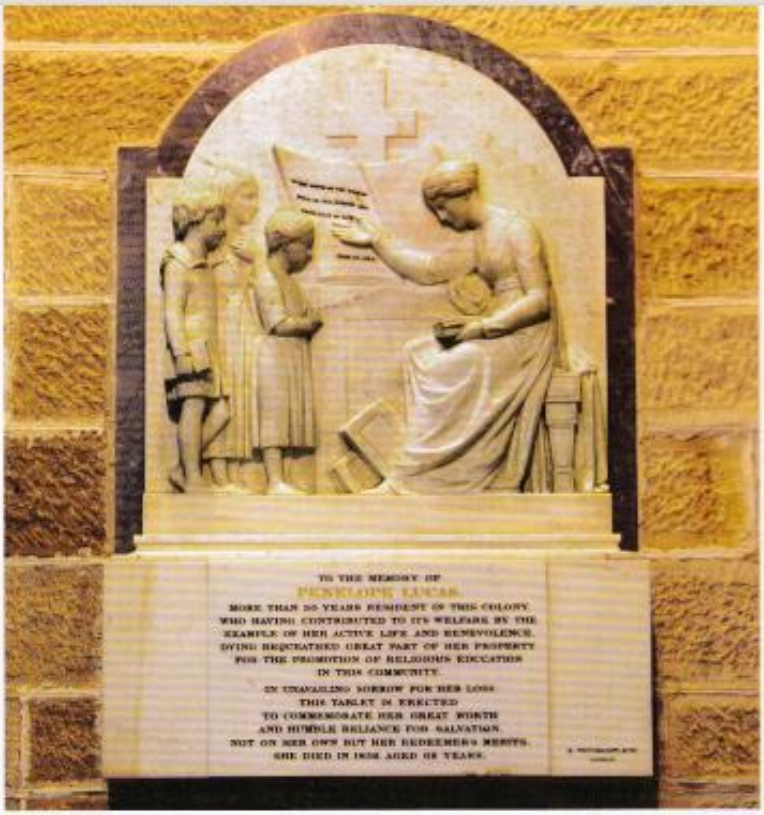
Sir Hercules Robinson (NSW Governor 1872-1879) always enjoyed Parramatta's three-day racing carnivals whilst staying at the cottage.

Thomas Hobbes Scott visited the colony from 1819 to 1821 as secretary to Commissioner John Bigge, his brother-in-law. He returned to New South Wales in 1825 as the first Archdeacon of the Church of England, taking up residence for 18 months. He was a friend and admirer of John Macarthur.

The Archdeacon had almost complete control of the colony's ecclesiastical affairs, with a rank and precedence next to that of the Lieutenant Governor.

He left the cottage in late 1826 to live at Woolloomooloo, and resigned his position in 1829 to return to England. Scott maintained his connections with the Macarthur family through Edward and John junior, officiating at the wedding of James Macarthur and his bride, Emily Stone, in 1838.

Above: *Parramatta Races, Boxing Day 1861.* State Library of NSW. a152826.



Penelope Lucas, a lady of independent means owning property in London, had been engaged by John Macarthur to accompany his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, on the return voyage to the colony in 1805. Reporting their arrival to a friend, Mrs Elizabeth Macarthur commented that

> 'A lady of the name of Lucas came out with Elizabeth – a very respectable person, tho' a little ancient for a Miss.'

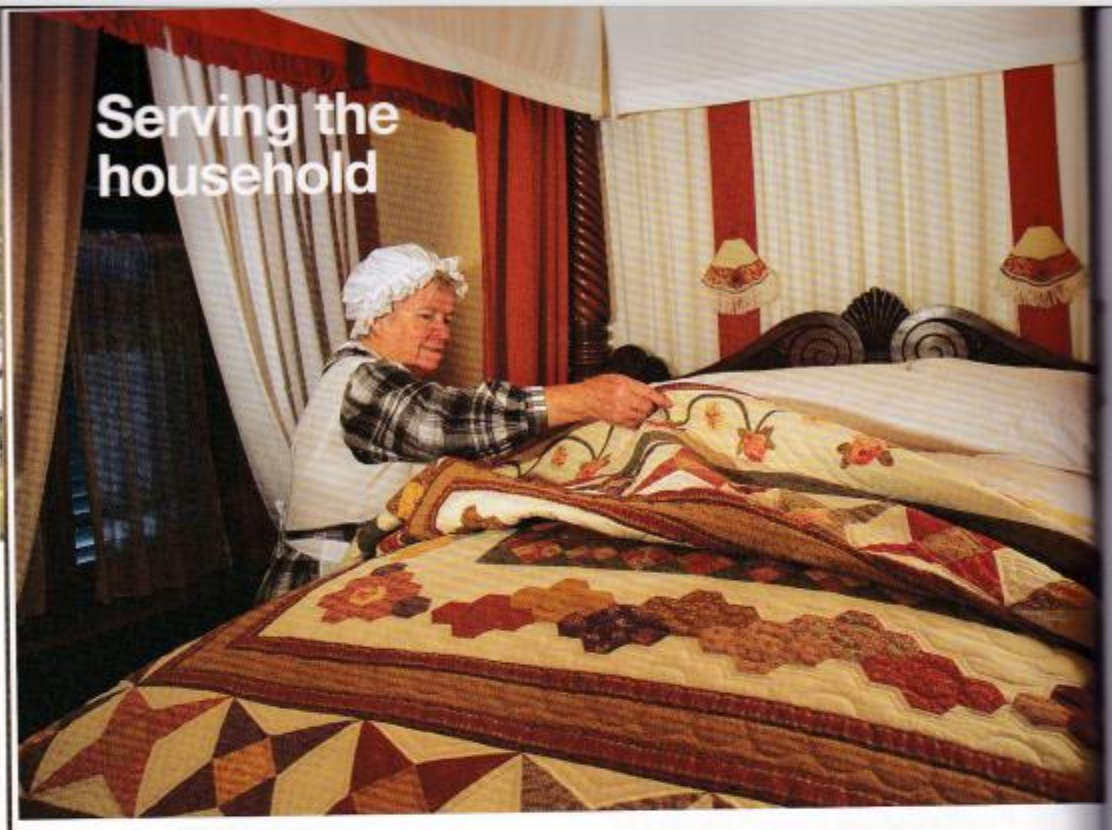
In deference to the social conventions of the time, the courtesy title of 'Mrs Lucas' was bestowed on her. Penelope became governess to the three Macarthur daughters.

When John's mental condition began to deteriorate in June 1832, Hambledon Cottage became a refuge for his youngest daughter, Emmeline, as well as providing accommodation for visiting members of the family.

Following John's death in 1834, Penelope was granted a small annuity and life tenancy of Hambledon Cottage. She continued to reside there until her death in 1836, and was buried in St John's Cemetery, being honoured by a marble memorial plaque in St John's Church.

Above: The memorial plaque honouring Penelope Lucas in St John's Church, Parramatta.

Serving the household



After 1837, the cottage was occupied by various Macarthur employees and family members, such as when son James returned from England in January 1839 with his new wife, Emily. They stayed there before taking up residence at Camden.

Thereafter, until the mid-1850s, rooms in the cottage were permanently reserved for their accommodation. James made frequent use when, as a member of the Legislative Council from 1839 to 1856, he would stay overnight on his way to and from Camden.

Dr Matthew Anderson occupied the remainder of the cottage between 1839 and 1847 when he was in Parramatta. He made four voyages to the colony as Surgeon Superintendent on convict transports between 1819 and 1824, before accepting appointment as Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Left: *James Macarthur*, watercolour on ivory miniature, circa 1820. Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW. a128656.

In 1827 Elizabeth informed her sons there was a

> 'worthy man at Parramatta that has charge of the hospital there, Dr Anderson, R.N. He visits your father daily and quite understands the nature of his complaints.'

Anderson remained the family's physician and was their esteemed friend.

He was prominent in Parramatta affairs as, in addition to his duties as founder and Resident Surgeon at Parramatta Hospital (until 1838), he was surgeon to the Female Factory and the Female Orphan School.

Anderson also maintained a private practice. Matthew served as a member of the Parramatta District Council and Honorary Resident Magistrate in the 1840s. He was active in building All Saints' Church of England in Parramatta and instrumental in establishing a dam on Hunts Creek (Lake Parramatta) for a much needed water supply for Parramatta.

In 1846 Elizabeth wrote to Edward telling him that Anderson continued to reside at the cottage

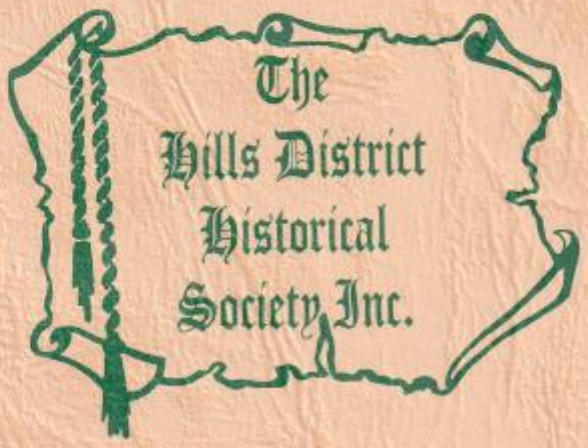
> 'which with the garden and little paddock he keeps in perfect order and with the cottage in comfort and respectability.'

He died in 1850, unmarried, aged 61 years, and was buried in St John's Cemetery, with a memorial to him in St John's Church.

Above, left: Chauncey Jerome clock in bird's eye maple case, circa 1840.

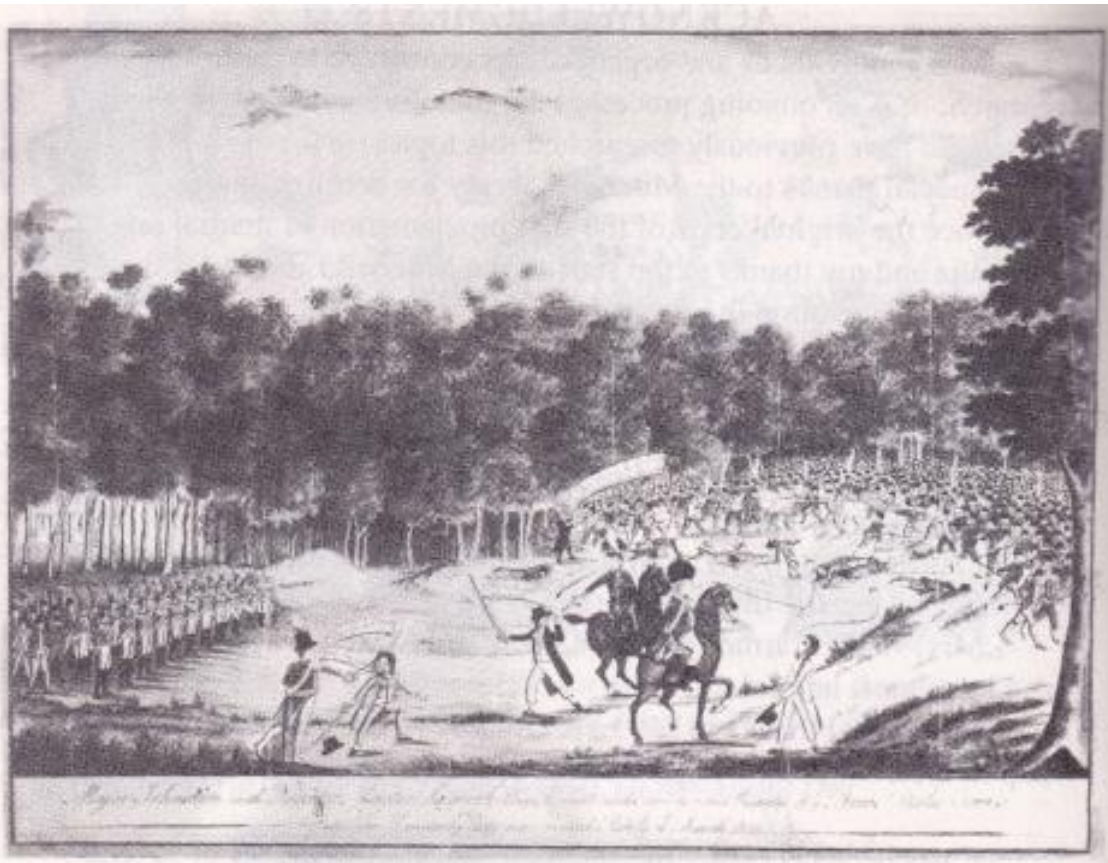
THE CASTLE HILL REBELLION OF 1804

By JAMES G. SYMES, B.A.



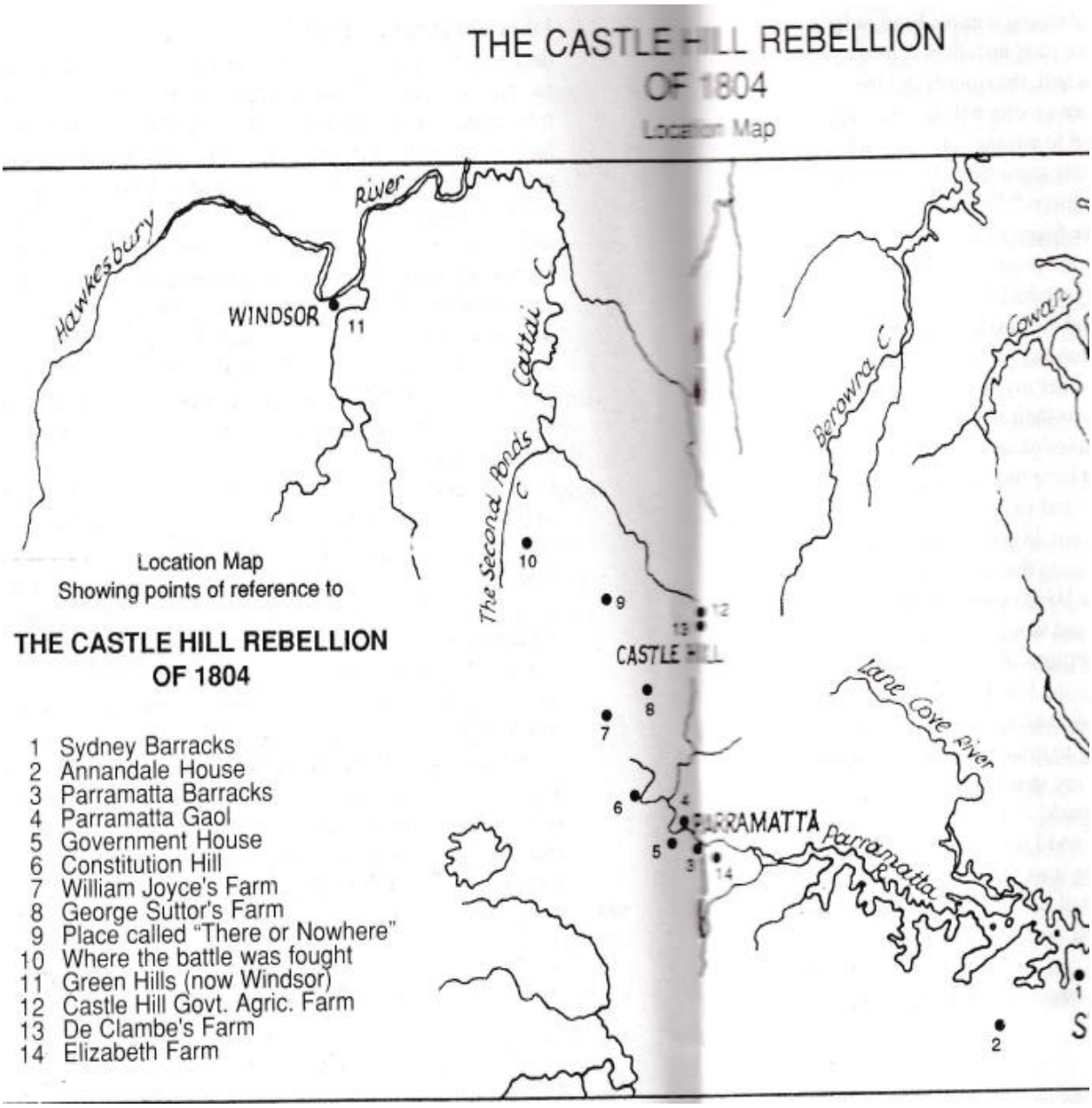
A contemporary artists view of Vinegar Hill, just outside Enniscorthy, the principal camp of the Wexford rebels and the scene of their defeat on 20th June 1788. Note the windmill in the foreground which is mentioned in the confession of a rebel who was hanged at Vinegar Hill, Co. of Wexford, on 24th August 1799.

Photograph of the ruins of the windmill on Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy, taken when my wife and I visited the hill in 1981.



Reproduced from a watercolour in the National Library of Australia, Canberra.
Unknown artist.
[Convict uprising at Castle Hill, 1804]
watercolour 31.2 x 41.3cm
Rex Nan Kivell Collection.

Written on the painting is the following "Major Johnston with Quartermaster Laycock, one sergeant and twenty-five privates of ye New South Wales Corps defeats two hundred and sixty-six armed rebels, 5th March 1804".
Father Dixon is shown, dressed in black, standing on the ground, saying "Lay down your arms my deluded countrymen". In fact he was on horseback, on both occasions when he spoke to the rebels before the battle.
Phillip Cunningham is shown speaking to Major Johnson before the battle and also being struck with a sabre by Quartermaster Laycock.
William Johnston is shown with Trooper Anlezark holding a pistol at his head and also his execution by hanging four days later.
Whilst Charles Hume's hanging three days later is also shown.
The soldiers of the New South Wales corps are shown, some firing also with the soldiers are shown several of the civilians, armed, who also marched with the detachment.
Note also the action is taking place on the Windsor Road.


THE CASTLE HILL REBELLION
OF 1804
Location Map
Hawkesbury River
WINDSOR
11
The Second Ponds Creek
10
9
12
13
CASTLE HILL
8
7
6
4
PARRAMATTA
5
3
14
Lane Cove River
Parramatta River
Berowra Creek
Cowan
1
2
Location Map
Showing points of reference to
THE CASTLE HILL REBELLION
OF 1804
1 Sydney Barracks
2 Annandale House
3 Parramatta Barracks
4 Parramatta Gaol
5 Government House
6 Constitution Hill
7 William Joyce's Farm
8 George Suttor's Farm
9 Place called "There or Nowhere"
10 Where the battle was fought
11 Green Hills (now Windsor)
12 Castle Hill Govt. Agric. Farm
13 De Clambe's Farm
14 Elizabeth Farm

Bryan McCormack stand further charged with resisting, opposing and attacking his Majesty's Forces in opposition to his authority, while said Forces were on their march from Parramatta to Hawkesbury, by Order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief."

PLEA - NOT GUILTY

Fourteen witnesses gave evidence on behalf of the Crown, as follows:-

WILLIAM JOICE being Sworn, deposes that William Johnston took him a prisoner, and acted as a leader of the Rebels, and had a cutlass in his hand. That he saw Charles Hill with the Rebels at Toongabbie (apparently very active) with a musket on his shoulder, that he saw him at a small distance from the Rebels taken prisoner, at the time his action with H.M. Forces took place; at that time he had no arms in his possession.

WILLIAM WATKINS being Sworn, deposes that when H.M. Forces were in sight of the Rebels, they the Rebels, formed a Line. That he saw William Johnston and Cunningham (deceased) acting as commanding Officers at the head of them with a Cutlass in his hand, that he saw Johnston advance towards Major Johnston the Com'g officer of H.M. troops, and saw the Major take him prisoner. That this was on Monday Morning the 5th Inst. That he saw Geo. Harrington with others pursued by H.M. troops after the Action took place, and at that time he had a Musket in his hand - Cannot Say who disarmed him Johnston - Witness further Swears, that he saw Timothy Hogan Snap a piece at a man Viz. Thos. Bates - That he further Saw John Bourke with a musket in his hand during the pursuit.

WILLIAM BEARD, clerk of at Castle Hill, Sworn, deposes that he saw William Johnston very active at Castle Hill, forcing people to join him, frequently crying "death or liberty," and at that time he was armed with a cutlass - That he saw Jno. Place dragging from under the bed Robert Duggan out of Depts. house. That John Brannon was principally concerned in taking Robt. Duggan out of his house, and that he had a musket in his hand and presented it to Depts. breast Saying "Damn him I will blow his brains out and set fire to his house about his head," and he saw him present his piece at John Beard, that it burnt priming when prisoner John Brannon presented his piece at Dept. Says further that John Harrington beat most

25

"…he saw …… with the rebels at Toongabbie (apparently very active)…."

-and so gaining the historical knowledge of the past, can go on, and on.

As the famouse quote goes, by one of the renowned English poet, playwrtight and actor, and the world's greatest dramatist, born in 1564 in the UK:

- "What is past is prologue**. <u>There is a history in all men's lives.</u>**

In scorn of nature, art gave lifeless life**. " – William Shakespeare** .

The new Oakes Road bridge is, above the floodwaters now,

and Old Toongabbie is really a tranquil place of TREES.

At the Home of our ancestors **: Budapesht**

In Budapest – pronounce Budapes**h**t – like **<u>sh</u>e, <u>sh</u>ein, <u>sh</u>iraz, fi<u>sh</u>, wi<u>sh</u>, whi<u>sh</u>**

Sh Words (Beginning)		
Shabby	Shaggy	Shape
Shack	Shake	Share
Shade	Shall	Shark
Shadow	Shame	She
Shaft	Shampoo	Sheep

Sh Words (Ending)		
Bash	Fish	Rash
Blush	Flesh	Rush
Cash	Hush	Slash
Dash	Mash	Stash
Dish	Mesh	Wish

458 × 446

B'cause Budapest is correctly pronounced – **Budapesht** .

I should know, as my mothernal grandfather was born in the

county of Pesht --- Pest megye

BY The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica | View Edit History

every Hungarian on this Earth is pronouncing Pest -- Pesht -- *Pesht* .

Pest, *megye* (county), central Hungary. It borders Slovakia to the north and the counties of Nógrád and Heves to the northeast, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok to the east, Bács-Kiskun to the south, and Komárom-Esztergom and Fejér to the west. Pest is by far the most-populous and most-industrialized county in Hungary. Budapest, the national capital, is

♣ ♣ ♣

Let this work be, just the beginning of much further research and preservation of all available data, about the history of the land we walk.

⁂ ⁂ ⁂

I wish to extend my thanks to my granddaughters for providing review comments.

Irene Szanto, 29. January 2022.
Old Toongabbie

one page is always left empty, for reminder that we should write, and write …

Lake Mungo, dried-up lake and archaeological site in west-central New South Wales, Australia, located in and around Mungo National Park. Lake Mungo is one of 17 dried Pleistocene Epoch (about 2.6 million to 11,700 years go) lake beds in the Willandra Lakes region, which was designated a World Heritage site in 1981.

Mungo Man

Skeletal remains of Mungo Man, which are approximately 40,000 years old and were found in 1974 at Lake Mungo, New South Wales, Australia.

Image: Photo: Jim Bowler with permission of Traditional Owners

Lake Mungo, which dried up about 14,000 years ago, became one of the world's most important archaeological sites when geologist Jim Bowler unearthed the remains of a young Aboriginal woman in 1968. The bones of the skeleton, referred to as Mungo Lady, had been burnt before burial, making them the world's oldest evidence of cremation and ceremonial

WIKIPEDIA

Lake Mungo remains

The **Lake Mungo remains** are three prominent sets of human remains that are possibly Aboriginal Australian: **Lake Mungo 1** (also called **Mungo Woman**, **LM1**, and ANU-618), **Lake Mungo 3** (also called **Mungo Man**, Lake Mungo III, and **LM3**), and **Lake Mungo 2 (LM2)**. Lake Mungo is in New South Wales, Australia, specifically the World Heritage listed Willandra Lakes Region.[1][2]

Mungo woman (LM1) was discovered in 1969 and is one of the world's oldest known cremations.[1][3] The remains designated Mungo man (LM3) were discovered in 1974, and are dated to around 40,000 years old, the Pleistocene epoch, and are the oldest *Homo sapiens* (human) remains found on the Australian continent.

Geologist Jim Bowler, who discovered the remains of Mungo Man. Photograph: Paul Daley/The Guardian

Share Mungo Culture

Mungo Lady and Mungo Man

Who was Mungo Man?

About 42,000 years ago, Mungo Man lived around the shores of Lake Mungo with his family. A time of abundance in the Willandra Lakes system was drawing to a close, but he could still hunt many species of game, including some of the soon-to-be-extinct megafauna. Mungo Man cared for his Country and kept safe the special men's knowledge. By his lore and ritual activity, he kept the land strong and his culture alive.

When he was young Mungo Man lost his two lower canine teeth, possibly knocked out in a ritual. He grew into a man nearly 1.7m in height. Over the years his molar teeth became worn and scratched, possibly from eating a gritty diet or stripping the long leaves of water reeds with his teeth to make twine. As Mungo Man grew older his bones ached with arthritis, especially his right elbow, which was so damaged that bits of bone were completely worn out or broken away. Such wear and tear is typical of people who have used a woomera to throw spears over many years.

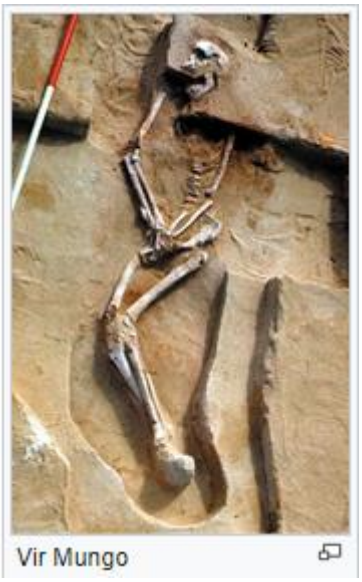
Mungo Man reached a good age for the hard life of a hunter-gatherer, and died when he was about 50. His family mourned for him, and carefully buried him in the lunette, on his back with his hands crossed in his lap, and sprinkled with red ochre. Mungo Man is the oldest known example in the world of such a ritual.

> Mungo Man was around 50 years of age and the condition of arthritis was so advanced that he would not have been able to fully extend his arm or turn his hand properly. It is easy to picture him sitting, slowly rubbing the ancient elbow in front of his fire on a cold ice age night.
>
> *Steve Webb, anthropologist*

Őslakos ausztrálok

Az őslakos ausztrálok vagy az ausztrál **első nemzetek** [2] olyan emberek, akik családi örökséggel rendelkeznek, és azokhoz az etnikai csoportokhoz tartoznak, akik a brit gyarmatosítás előtt Ausztráliában éltek . [3] [4] Ide tartoznak Ausztrália őslakosai és Torres-szoros szigetlakói . Gyakran előnyben részesítik az **őslakosok és a Torres-szoros szigeti népei** vagy az adott személy kulturális csoportját, bár az Ausztrália Első nemzetei, Ausztrália első népei és Első ausztrálok kifejezések is egyre gyakoribbak. [2] [a]

Az első emberi lények kontinensre és a közeli szigetekre érkezésének időpontja vita tárgya a kutatók között. Az Ausztráliában talált legkorábbi emberi maradványok Mungo Man LM3 és Mungo Lady maradványai , amelyeket körülbelül 50 000 évre datáltak . [5] A szén és az emberi felhasználást feltáró műtárgyak elemzéséből származó legújabb régészeti bizonyítékok már 65 000 BP-re utalnak. [6] [7] A lumineszcenciás kormeghatározás szerint Arnhem tartományban éltek már 60 000 évvel ezelőtt. [8] A délnyugat-viktóriai tüzek bizonyítékai arra utalnak, hogy "120 000 évvel ezelőtt az emberiség jelen volt Ausztráliában", bár további kutatásra van szükség. [9]A genetikai kutatások már a BP 80 000 évre utaltak a lakhatási időre. Más becslések 100 000 évig [10] és BP 125 000 évig terjedtek. [11]



Vir Mungo

Mungo Man set to return home by November 2017

ABC Mildura-Swan Hill / By Lauren Henry and Matt Tribe

Posted Thu 2 Jun 2016 at 6:30pm, updated Fri 3 Jun 2016 at 11:55am

Mungo Man, discovered by geologist Jim Bowler in 1974, is yet to return home to Willandra World Heritage Area. *(James Bowler)*

The return of the remains was welcomed with a traditional ceremony

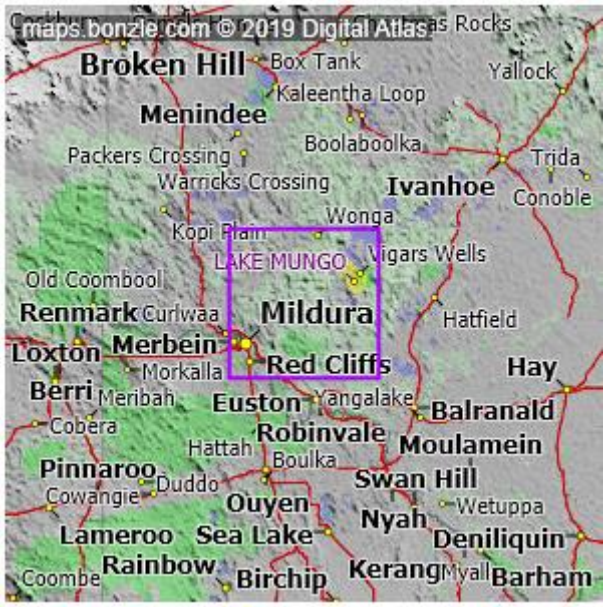
For decades, Australia's oldest human remains - an Aboriginal man who died about 42,000 years ago - have been stored at a university in Canberra.

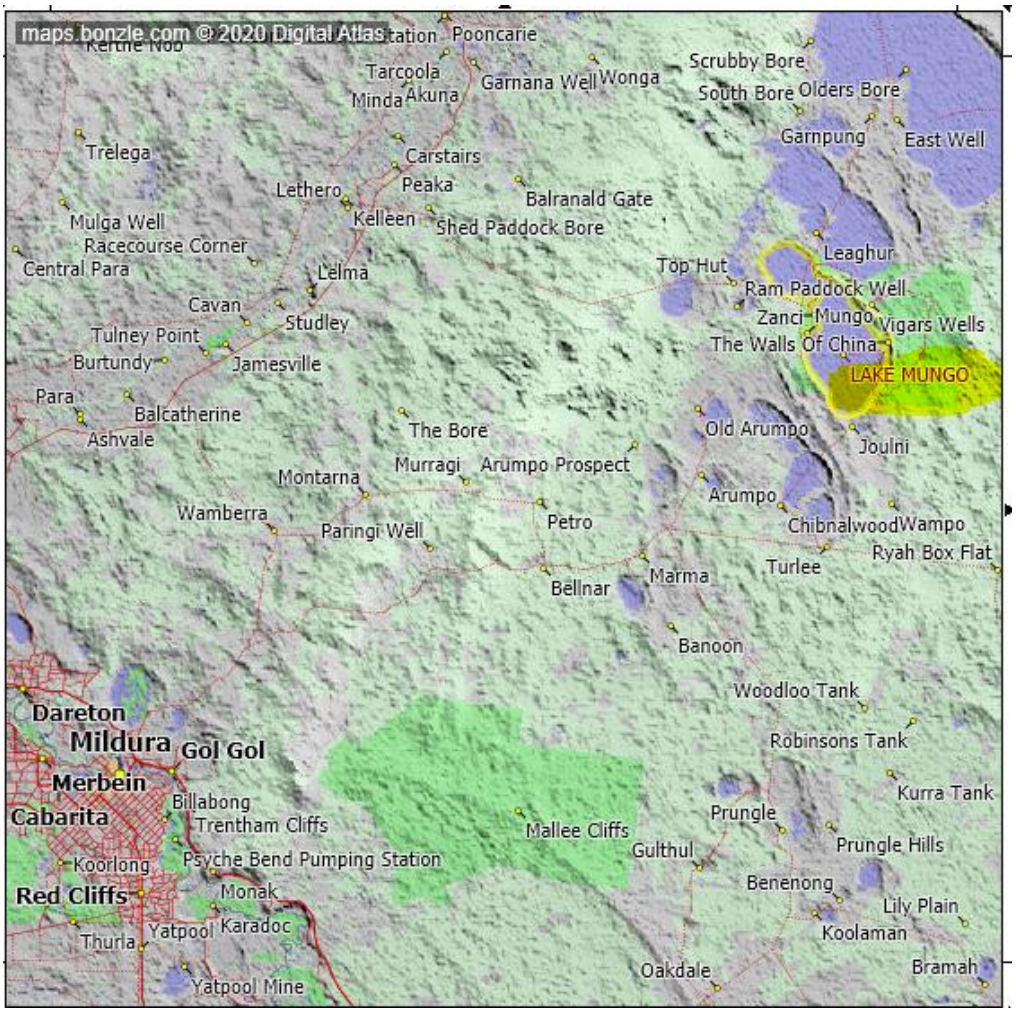
But on Friday, the skeleton known as Mungo Man was returned to his traditional home in New South Wales and honoured with a ceremony.

It marked the end of a long campaign by indigenous Australians to return Mungo Man to his original resting place.

The discovery of the skeleton in 1974 helped rewrite Australia's history.

Research determined that Mungo Man had been buried in a complex funeral ritual, redefining scientific understanding of early Australians.


maps.bonzle.com © 2019 Digital Atlas
Broken Hill
Box Tank
Yallock
Kaleentha Loop
Menindee
Packers Crossing
Boolaboolka
Trida
Warricks Crossing
Ivanhoe
Conoble
Wonga
Kopi Plain
LAKE MUNGO
Vigars Wells
Old Coombool
Renmark
Curlwaa
Mildura
Hatfield
Loxton
Merbein
Red Cliffs
Morkalla
Hay
Berri
Meribah
Euston
Yangalake
Balranald
Cobera
Robinvale
Moulamein
Hattah
Boulka
Pinnaroo
Duddo
Swan Hill
Cowangie
Ouyen
Wetuppa
Nyah
Lameroo
Sea Lake
Deniliquin
Rainbow
Kerang
Myall
Barham
Coombe
Birchip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Pooncarie
Tarcoola
Minda
Akuna
Garnana Well
Wonga
Scrubby Bore
South Bore
Olders Bore
Garnpung
East Well
Trelega
Carstairs
Lethero
Peaka
Balranald Gate
Mulga Well
Kelleen
Shed Paddock Bore
Racecourse Corner
Central Para
Leaghur
Top Hut
Lelma
Ram Paddock Well
Cavan
Zanci
Mungo
Vigars Wells
Studley
Tulney Point
The Walls Of China
Burtundy
Jamesville
LAKE MUNGO
Para
Balcatherine
Ashvale
The Bore
Old Arumpo
Joulni
Murragi
Arumpo Prospect
Montarna
Arumpo
Wamberra
Petro
Chibnalwood
Wampo
Paringi Well
Ryah Box Flat
Turlee
Marma
Bellnar
Banoon
Woodloo Tank
Dareton
Robinsons Tank
Mildura
Gol Gol
Merbein
Kurra Tank
Billabong
Cabarita
Trentham Cliffs
Prungle
Mallee Cliffs
Gulthul
Prungle Hills
Koorlong
Psyche Bend Pumping Station
Benenong
Red Cliffs
Monak
Lily Plain
Yatpool
Karadoc
Koolaman
Thurla
Oakdale
Bramah
Yatpool Mine

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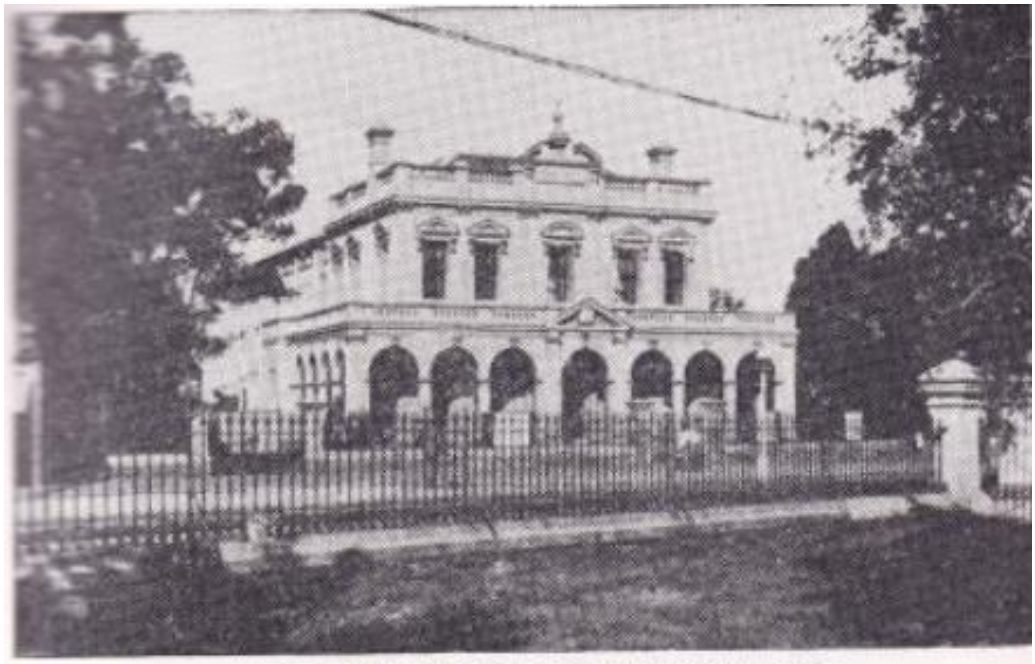
Parramatta Town Hall c. 1910



THE TOWN HALL, PARRAMATTA, 1907
Built in 1880 — The side hall was added in 1911.

parramatta-town-hall

Citizenship ceremony

A citizenship ceremony is where you make the Australian citizenship pledge of commitment. For most people, this is the final step in the journey to becoming an Australian. The ceremony is usually held within six months of hearing about your approval.

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