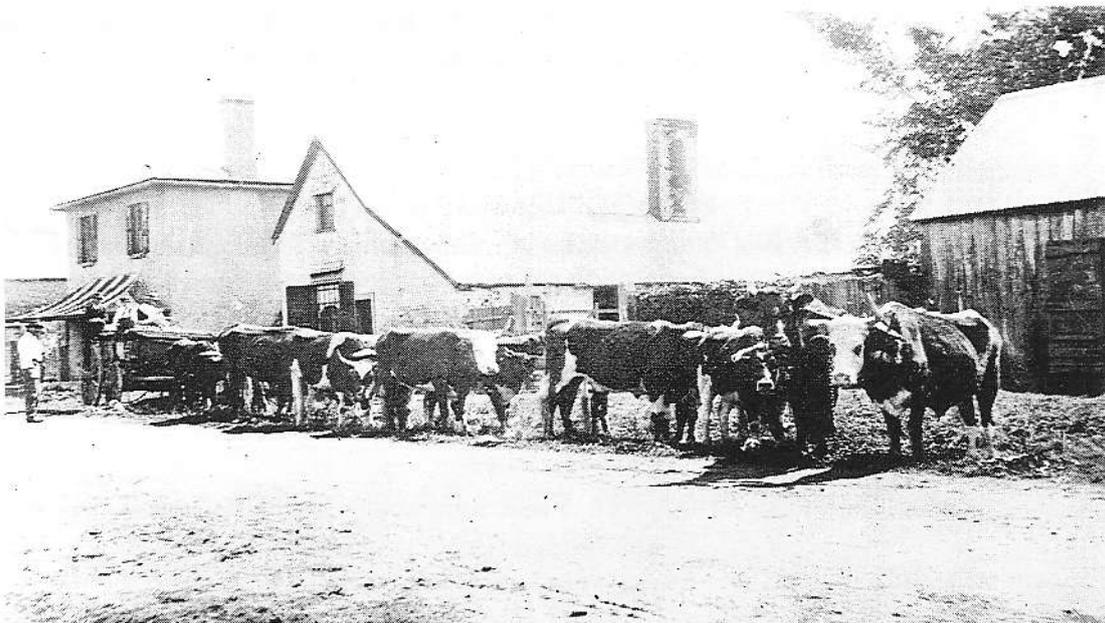




THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS



ROYAL OAK ARMS HOTEL WITH BULLOCK TEAM

PULLING A DRAY OF ORANGES c 1890s

THE AIM OF THE PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM
IS TO HOLD ITEMS IN TRUST
FOR THE PATERSON COMMUNITY
THE HUNTER VALLEY AND AUSTRALIA

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PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2002

AFFILIATED with Royal Australian Historical Society Inc. and Museums Australia Inc.

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MEETINGS PHSI meets the first Thursday of each month - 7.30 pm. - at the Paterson Court House Museum (Recess December/January)

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Annual subscriptions due February each year.

SUNDAY ROSTER MEMBERS

As we commence another busy year for everyone our society greatly appreciates members Cameron Archer, Pauline Clements, Shirley Threlfo, Pam Sivyer, Mary & Maurice Dunlop, Mabs & Bill Keppie, Jennifer Dunn, Michelle Ellicot, Kathy Lyall and Val & Bill Anderson for their continued support



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The public address "**Personalities, Pragmatists and Visionaries - The Origins and Federation of Australia**" to mark the Centenary of Federation given by our President, Cameron Archer to a packed St Ann's Presbyterian Church Paterson on 8th July 2001 has now been published by our society. In his introduction, Cameron said the project had enabled him to achieve a long held ambition to learn more of the Federation of Australia. This he did most admirably and is our society's major acknowledgement of this important event in the history of Australia.

"**Captain Thunderbolt - Horse Breaker to Bushranger**" by David Brouwer, senior lecturer at Tocal Agricultural College. Paul Kraus (NH 11th January 2003) reviewed the book as "a mini-historical masterpiece about one of Australia's best-known bushrangers, Frederick Ward, better known as Thunderbolt, whose early career as a bushranger in the 1860s took place in the Hunter." Kraus commended the CB Alexander Foundation for publishing a fascinating and thoroughly professional account of an important chapter of NSW and Australian colonial history. Our society members were closely associated with (and thoroughly enjoyed) collation of research material for this publication



(Cover Photo:)

ROYAL OAK INN

Once again, the Royal Oak Arms Hotel, locally known as the Royal Oak Inn is for sale. It is considered to be one of Paterson's oldest buildings and is strongly linked with the original settlement of Paterson and with its subsequent growth and development. The exact date of the building remains unknown, however it is believed that it was built in the late 1840's as a residence for Dr Isaac Scott Nind who was a surgeon stationed at Paterson to attend to convict gangs in the area.

FORESHADOWING of a Society Publication by Boris Sokolof on the Aborigines of the Paterson -Gresford district.

**ABORIGINES OF PATERSON-GRESFORD DISTRICT
EFFECTS OF SETTLEMENT - Boris Sokolof**

This analysis is based on observations made by correspondents in the media of that time: Maitland Mercury, Dungog Chronicle, The Australian, Sydney Herald. I am grateful for the contribution of Jack Sullivan who, in his regular visits to the Local History Library, has gleaned the extracts upon which this article is based.

Once settlement had begun in earnest from the 1820s in the Lower Hunter Valley, friction developed between the indigenous inhabitants and the settlers. Both made use of the land, but their methods differed remarkably from each other.

The clearing of trees for timber had been observed earlier along the major river courses. Cedar cutters formed parties that penetrated up river. Habitation was limited and the numbers involved were relatively few. With the granting of land and the occupation by landed gentry, the settlement became more intense. Clearing of the bush for increased pasturage and growing of crops became more important. Habitats for wildlife were disturbed and their numbers reduced by direct depredation as well as the longer term effects of reduced reproduction of the species. This impacted on the hunting-gathering by the Aborigines.

Breakdown in the social fabric of Aboriginal society and communities was inevitable. Mutual retaliation for varied reasons were the outcome. Reports in the newspapers focused on: the hunting by Aborigines of introduced stock; robbery and assault; rape and murder. Inquests were held to determine the causes and guilt of perpetrators.

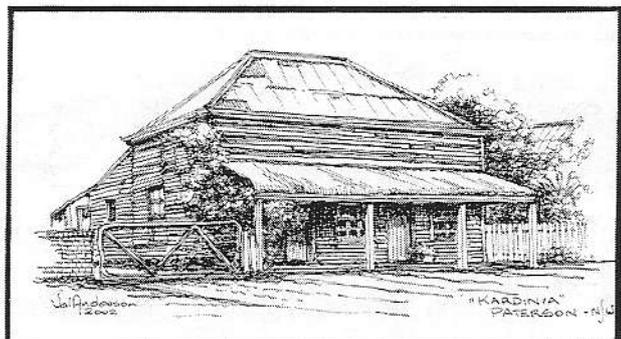
Eventually the indigenous inhabitants became reliant on the Europeans for handouts to supplement their normal sources of sustenance - at settlers homesteads and settlement centres. These were in return for performing useful tasks, such as wood cutting. Effects of contact included alcoholism, reduced population and tribal conflict.

Indifference or hostility characterised the attitude of settlers towards the Aborigines. There were exceptions such as the Boydells and local magistrates like Thomas Cook



**INDIGENOUS GRINDING GROOVES
SOCIETY MEMBERS AT GREEN WATTLE CREEK
DUN'S CREEK - 1993**

Photo: Bill Anderson



Courtesy National Trust - Photo: C. Lucas 1967



View from Court House Hotel, 1946.

KNOW YOUR TOWN SERIES - "KARDINIA" - Pauline Clements

The National Trust photograph of the house "Kardinia" was taken in 1967 by Clive Lucas. It is a memory now, but I can still see the house as it stood in King Street, Paterson.

The pen-sketch of the house in the recent issue of the "Museum News" reminded me of the old building standing in all its unpainted glory. If the house had ever had a coat of paint all trace of it had vanished by the 1940's. The unpainted grey weatherboards seemed to hang together by sheer good luck, many of them were loosened and indeed had slipped below their allotted place on the walls. The verandah of the house was built flush with the footpath, as many cottages were in the mid-1800s. Various flowering vines wound their way around the verandah posts, and seemed almost to be holding up the verandah. The high tin roof was well rusted and altogether the structure presented a rather sorry state, but when first built it must have been a fine sight to its proud owner.

It is unknown exactly when the house was built or indeed who built it, but the house was occupied for many years by a long-time resident of Paterson, William James Butler, and his family. Speaking to the grandchildren of Mr. Butler (now middle aged men and women) they remember how they used to visit their grandparents for holidays, and how they enjoyed staying at the old house. The front door opened into a hallway with the sitting room, and a bedroom on either side. There were three other bedrooms, and a kitchen, all these rooms under the one roof. The roof itself was unusually high-pitched and contained an attic area across the full width of the house. The attic was reached by extremely narrow and steep stairs located in the kitchen. I was told how grandfather Butler used to dry tobacco leaf in the area. As well as being used for storing household items, the children played their childhood games there also. The old house was certainly a well-loved home and had many happy memories for the family.

It is not certain when the Butler family came to live in the house, but when Mr. Butler died in 1949 some of the family's history appeared in his obituary, printed in the Maitland Mercury of 26th October, 1949*MR. J.W. BUTLER. By the death of James William Butler, at the age of 84, Paterson has lost one of its oldest and best known residents. Mr. Butler was the son of William Butler, gamekeeper of Sandhurst, Birkshire, England. While yet an infant his parents moved to Hampshire where he spent his boyhood days. When old enough he learned his father's trade. Life and work were hard in those days in England, and so in 1883 he migrated to Australia. The voyage*

out proved a very eventful one, as the ship was wrecked and Butler, together with others, was picked up in a distressed condition. All his money and belongings had gone down with the ship and he himself finished the journey on crutches. Some time after his arrival here, he joined a ship engaged on survey work along the coast of Australia and estuaries of the coastal rivers.

In 1889 he married Elizabeth Ross of Gresford. For many years he was engaged by Mr. H.A. Fry as a coach driver to and from Gresford and Paterson. He later took up land and followed dairying pursuits, but owing to very low prices paid for butter, sold his property. Then for some years he was employed on the Government Railway and finally at the Martin's Creek Quarry. Upon retirement he went to live at Paterson. After a short service at the house, the cortege moved to the Church of England portion of the General Cemetery at Paterson.

Mr. Butler's wife had died in July, 1948 and he was survived by four sons and four daughters. Of his children four remained in Paterson. Bill had married and lived in Paterson, Barry and Mark remained single and lived at the old house with their unmarried sister Eirina.

When Miss Eirina Butler married Mr. Ted Lewis in the 1960s the old white-ant ridden house was demolished, and the present day small cottage built in its place.

Mr. Ross McGill who lived next door to the old house, remembers James William Butler well, and was constantly amazed at the vitality of the old man. Up till the time of his retirement from the Martin's creek Quarry, Mr. Butler walked to and from the Quarry every day, and was a most energetic gardener. The home was built on a large block of land which ran to the river, and here Mr. Butler carried out extensive gardening. Both vegetables and flowers were grown, but his speciality was Iceland Poppy growing. He grew masses of these flowers and gave many of them to the Maitland Hospital as well as supplying the Newcastle market with them. His grandchildren told of him packing the poppies, still in their budded stage, into the old Bushells tea chests, and the children transporting them in a wheel-barrow to the Paterson Railway Station to go by train to the Newcastle markets. All happy childhood memories for the adults of today.

All we have left of the old house named "Kardinia" are the happy memories of the family members, and the memories of some of the townsfolk, of a house in their town which had seen better days.



TOTAL BRIDGE *Maitland Mercury* 1st August 1849 - Cynthia Hunter

The bridge across Tocal Creek, on the road leading from Paterson to Maitland, is now nearly completed, the planking being nearly half done. The frame work is composed of substantial squared ironbark timber, and is put together in a most durable and workmanlike manner. The structure reflects great credit upon the spirited contractor, Mr. C D Haylock, who has spared no expense to fulfil his contract in every particular. Considering the many difficulties and delays Mr H has had to contend with, such as obtaining proper timber and workmen, the bridge has been brought to its present forward state in a short time, and I am only sorry to state that Mr Haylock will be rather out of pocket by the contract. (Our correspondent's report of the excellent and workmanlike manner in which the bridge has been erected is fully borne out by the opinions we have heard expressed by many parties who have inspected it - Ed. M.M.) 29th July 1849



DEATHS - Barbara Brown

On Thursday, the 28th instant, at Paterson, Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. James Keppie, aged 26 years.
Maitland Mercury 30th May 1846
Died, on the 14th instant, William Cozens, infant son of Mr. George Lindley, teacher, Paterson.
Maitland Mercury 17th June 1846.



MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

Port Stephens Blacks - (Scott) - Cameron Archer - Paterson.
Bread Slicer - Marjorie Richards - Paterson
Queen Bee Cage - Mabs & Bill Keppie - Paterson
Snake Bite Kits - Mabs & Bill Keppie - Paterson
Bullock Team Drag Chain - Jenny Lamb - Torryburn
Photo - Halton School c1955 - John Marr - Gresford
Tocal Book (White) - Jennifer Dunn - Tocal Homestead
Egg/Garlic Basket - Bill Anderson - Martins Creek
Torryburn- Pender House Plans - by purchase
Torryburn Pender Fire Grate & timber surround - Jenny Ferguson - Torryburn



NEWCASTLE REGIONAL MUSEUM'S NEW CURATOR



Julie Baird, the new curator of the Newcastle Regional Museum has come from the National Motor Museum, Birdwood, South Australia where she was senior curator for almost five years. Julie has lived and worked in NSW, SA, Canada, the Netherlands, the UK and the United States but is delighted to find she has links with this area. Two of her ancestors were convicts, sent to Newcastle and then to work on farms in Maitland.



TOBACCO ON THE PATERSON - *Maitland Mercury* 21st May 1870 - J Sullivan

TOBACCO.—A gentleman from Sydney connected with one of the principal manufactories there, has been through the length and breadth of this district, buying up all the leaf tobacco to be obtained. We learn he has succeeded in buying some thirty tons of old leaf. Some twenty drays laden with the leaf passed through the town on their way to Morpeth last week for shipment.