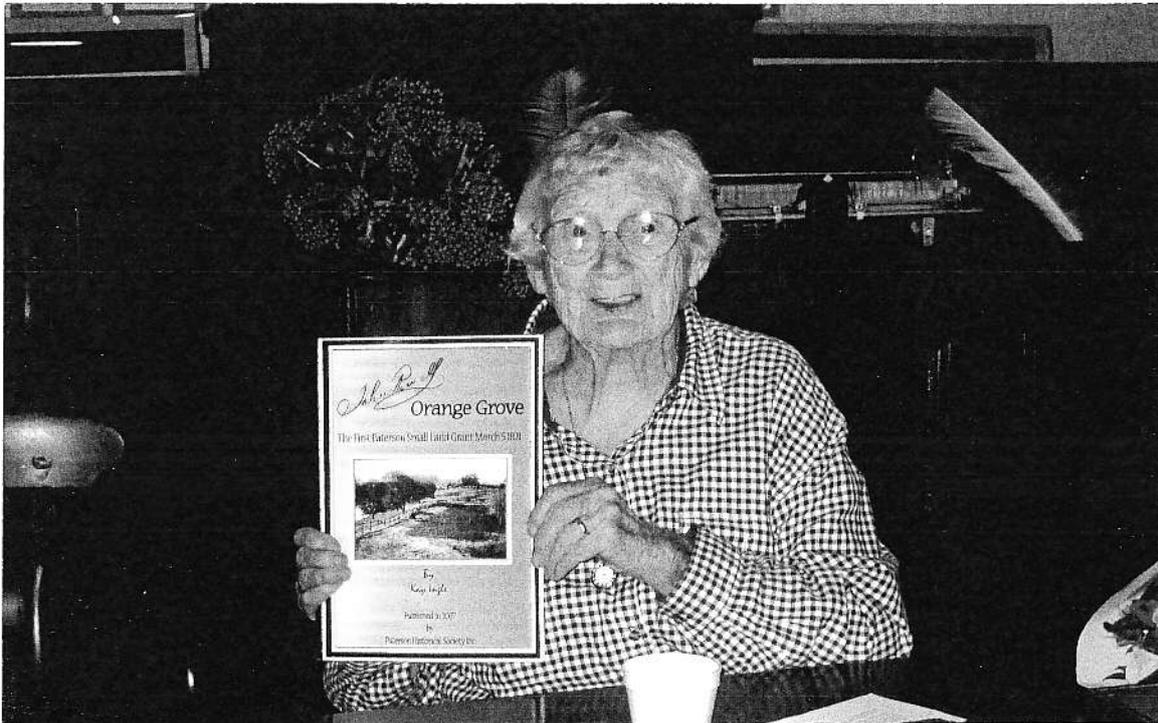




THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS



Kay Ingle presented her long awaited publication on
John Powell – Orange Grove – The First Paterson Small Land Grant March 5, 1821.

Kay has been working on this project not for years but decades and she has put together a fascinating history of the Powell family and their ownership of Orange Grove and their life in the Paterson Valley. Her research has enabled other Paterson historians to understand more about Orange Grove, as all that was recorded prior to this book was that John Powell arrived there very early, owned and farmed it. Orange Grove is an important property in the Lower Paterson Valley and it is now well recorded in the published history of the district.

Cameron Archer – President, Paterson Historical Society Inc

Photo: Kathy Lyall

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

VOLUME 14 # 3 ISSN 1321 4438 JULY, 2007.

Affiliated with:

Royal Australian Historical Society

Museums Australia – Hunter Chapter

RURAL MUSEUMS

are a reflection of their community's identity

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2006

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

PRESIDENT: Cameron Archer

SECRETARY: Pauline Clements

TREASURER: Shirley Threlfo

VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Lyall

JOURNAL: Pauline Clements, Val Anderson & Shirley Threlfo

MUSEUM CURATORS: Val Anderson & Bill Keppie

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Bill Anderson

RECORDER: Mabs Keppie and Shirley Threlfo

PUBLIC OFFICER: Cameron Archer

RESEARCH COMMITTEE: P Clements, S Threlfo, M & B Keppie, J Sullivan, C Archer, V Anderson, R Stevenson.

PATRONS

Mr M Morris OA

Mr R Baldwin MP

Mr G Souris MP

Mr G Wall

Mr J Thompson

MEETINGS: 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. \$5. Single \$10. Family.

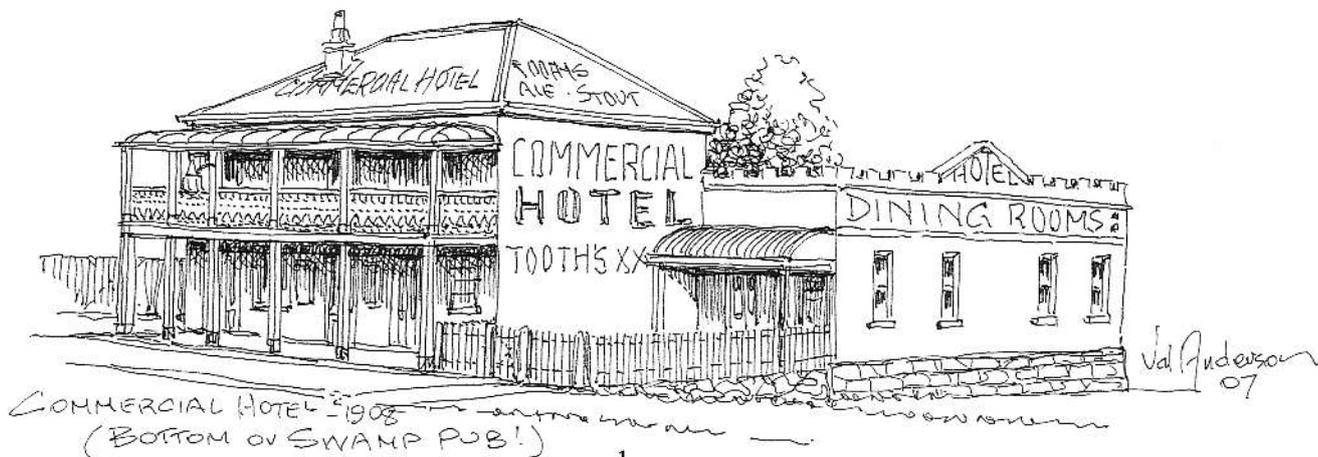


- **Member Jack Sullivan** was special guest at the Maitland City Library's inaugural "Look Who's Talking" evenings held at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery on 30 May – the topic, naturally, "Wine Making in the Hunter Valley."
- **P.H.S executive** attended the recent following events
 - Newcastle Maritime Museum, guest speaker Peter Haggerty, security officer at the Sydney Maritime Museum
 - History Council of NSW – venue Tocal College – emphasis on research available through government agencies.
- **Bill Keppie and Virginia Daniels** are continuing with their listing of rural artifacts in the museum – the side verandah has been completed – they are now listing the back verandah artefacts.



MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

- Paterson Memoirs of Bruce Dodds – Tarro.
- Early Photos of Paterson – Bruce Dodds – Tarro
- Gloucester District Historical Society Journal – Lesley Gent – Merrylands
- Trappel Family Tree Display Board – Geoff Brown – Charlestown
- Trappel Family Tree – 1852-1996 – Ruth Trappel
- School Slate c1937 – June Mayne – Forster
- Paterson School Centenary Cooking Book – Mabs Keppie



OLD MEMORIES OF YOUNG DAYS IN PATERSON

(as recalled by Bruce Dodds)

INTRODUCTION –

At our April meeting society members had the great pleasure to be taken back to Paterson's earlier times when Bruce Dodds of Tarro recalled his days "growing up" in Paterson – a place very dear to his heart and a town he still regards as "home".

Period: 1932 to 1952 continuously and then regularly because of family ties and a lasting love of the township and its location. I still regard it as "Home."

Perfection: For me the entry into Paterson via Tocal is a pure joy. Graceful willows, grazing animals, swamp land (sorry "wetlands") old world disordered setting of shops and town facilities, Tucker Park, bridges and the one-time life-line of the township, Paterson River. Follow this river from bridge to bridge around the "big bend" at Corner's old place and you will be soothed by the waters, fanned by the breeze, encounter bird life in abundance on the water and in the swaying willows, perchance a sight of platypus and leaping mullet. What a perfect location for a rural village!

Reflections:

- Rod and handline fishing for mullet, herring, eel, and occasionally the odd bream and flathead.
- Carting water from the swamp to keep vegies and a few flowers alive – pole and two buckets used.
- Watching and chatting to cattle drovers and bullockies when the herds and wagons came past William Street.
- Shooting and trapping rabbits and foxes. Ferretting too was big time. Rabbit meat sold to locals; skins to Auckett's
- Learning to dance from Gordon Rooney in the School of Arts Hall. Attending Rev. Norm Pullin's "Youth Fellowship (Romance)"
- Playing cricket on Paterson Showground in 104 to 108 degrees, agility needed to survive the rabbit holes and animal dung.
- Pastimes such as clay modelling, making kites and bows and arrows, bicycle riding, gardening, four movies per year.
- School lessons – painful at times but generally deserved. Great introduction to music and rhythm via violin of Headmaster. Learnt basic dance steps and "Maypole" display. Whole school concerts of songs, plays and dances. A great beginning really.

People Recall: As a youngster I seemed to relate well to mostly aged and "different" people. Here are some I recall fondly:-

- Augusta Schuminide. "Augy" was of German descent, hump backed, super large feet and long arms which were very strong. Lived alone first house on right entering via Maitland. Much mocked and tormented. Great ability to gauge weather changes. "Need four inches of rain Missus", was his standard cry. He sold milk by the billycan or bucket. Tolerant, kindly old man.
- Hooky Reid. Lived beneath Gostwyck Bridge in rough humpy. Amputated forearm replaced by hook. It paid not to aggravate him but he was a great and resourceful bushman. He would ask for a fish if I caught more than three. "Feed family first", he always said.
- Frank Auckett. Skin, hide and citrus buyer and grader. Had large shed not far from rail station. Great sense of humour and always most generous in weighing my rabbit skins and doling out citrus "culls" for a few pence.
- Mrs John Tucker. Played organ at Anglican Church, loved nature and birds in particular. She also rowed a flat-bottomed 10' boat which she kindly let me (a non swimmer) borrow. Great person in every way.
- Alice Brereton. Lived in slab and iron cottage south side of Fry's home. Always had a kind word and biscuit for her dog and of course, me. Rocked away in her chair all day when it was fine weather.
- Gordon Rooney. Lived and worked on the orchard near Tucker Park. Taught dancing very well. Small man light and graceful in his movements.

- As well you could add: Herb Crouch & Sons, Bill Keppie, auctioneer, Mr Raw at Post Office, Geggie & Parsons Station Masters, O'Connor and Clifton school heads, Stan Fry, Clive and Archie Smith, the Priestleys and the Jordans, and the Duggans.



The School: Brick, weatherboard with slate roof and enclosed verandah. High pitched roof and ceilings in the two main classrooms. One main, original classroom housed Lower Division (K, 1, 2), the other classroom held Upper Division (3,4,5,6). Between them was a General Storeroom also used as Sickbay, Sewing lessons for girls and now and then Craft for boys.

Headmaster in my time was Charles O'Connor who taught the seniors and Miss Norris attended to the juniors. At a later date a Miss McCann replaced Miss Norris. When Mr O'Connor was quite ill we had a very stern Mr Carter. Instruction and lessons were constantly "ground" in and slap, feather duster and cane were resorted to as deemed necessary to improve our efforts if not the results. We were fortunate to have a talented Head who played violin and I can recall that School Concerts and performances; despite the pain; were always enjoyed. Around the main building were located the following:-

Toilet blocks and Bell post in north-east corner of yard. A Tennis Court on east side between entrance steps and railway cutting. A well with pump south of the court and a cricket pitch (concrete) placed obliquely across the ground. The Weather Shed was against the western fence and three tanks were grouped to collect roof water. There was a Flagpole and level assembly (dance) area just to the south of the building.

During the War years, a pupil-dug slit trench zigzagged down the slope south of the cricket pitch. It may or may not have saved your life but it certainly bred mosquitos and crawchies.

A very limited library array of books was supplemented by a delivery by rail of lending box library plus of course the graded School Magazines each month. I remember it all!

Information

- The Common: The oldies, such as my Grandparents referred to a large vacant block of land between William and Sloan streets as The Common. Here small circuses or tent shows could be accommodated rather than "way out" at the Sports Oval. It was used by local children to play team games on or ride bikes or fly kites.
- Shops that existed at the time were:- Cann's General Store, Ingram's Shop, Williamson's Cafe, Steadman's Shop, Crouch's Garage, McGill's Butchers and I can just recall a Common's Shop and Barbers.
- The two Hotels were always known by locals of old, as the Top and Bottom Pubs (or Bridge and Swamp).
- Games at School were: Red-Rover Cross Over, Rounders, Brandies, Horse & Jockey, 3 Legged Races, Tip & Chase, Spin-the-Top and Marbles (Pot-Holes/Big & Little Ring)
- Games at Home: Cap Gun Shootouts, Bows & Arrows, Firing Shanghais (Gonks), Air Rifle Shooting, Throwing Crackers etc. (Boy, where has all the fun gone?)
- Family Activities: Walks, Collecting kindling and firewood, Cutting clothes props, Carry water by bucket & yoke, Home visits by sulky or Hose and Cart, Knitting (me too) Fireside reading of story or Book, Balls, Dances, Euchre Cards, Radio Listening, Gardening.

- Red Brick Cottage on hillside behind Catholic Church was occupied in my time by Jack and Rose Herd. They had three children: Mona Tommy and Ray. There were of indigenous or islander descent.
- Slaughter Shed. I can vaguely recall that McGills may have killed their beasts at one time. The place was located in a gully behind the Anglican Cemetery out near the Sports Oval and Golf area.



My Family and I

Grandparents:

Walter and Elizabeth Martin (nee Hunt) – both deceased. “Wal” was a bush worker, labourer in general but spent quite long periods on the SS Maria plying the Hunter, Paterson & Williams Rivers as cargo hand/fireman and later as a quarryman at Martins Creek. “Lizzie” had almost no schooling but was able to speak and write fluently. She kept cows off the rail crossing raised three daughters and kept a clean house.

Aunts

- Dorothy May Hancock; eldest of three daughters was a domestic maid, and receptionist for Dr Kem Yee and Dr Windyer. Husband Walter Hancock was a natural on horseback and knowledgeable bushman. Worked at times at Tocal for the Alexanders and later Curtisses. Spent some years as furnaceman at Commonwealth Steelworks.
- Edith Clair Martin youngest of three remained a spinster. She was a bright student and very capable worker in any capacity. She was a Maid for the Cann family for many years and later Cook at the Tocal College

Mother Ella Mary Dodds middle of three daughters. Employed as a domestic at Sid Brown’s for years then as School Cleaner at Paterson for a long period.

Father: Lennie Dodds was of Norwegian descent and started out in that country’s Merchant Navy. In Australia he became gardener/chauffeur for Dr K Kline of Morpeth.

Yours Truly Leonard Bruce Dodds born 17 April 1932. Schooled at Paterson 1938-44. Maitland Boys High 1945-49. Newcastle Teachers College 1950-51. First Teaching Appointment, Teacher in Charge at Mandagery, a one teacher 15 pupil school on February 1952. There followed nine other much larger schools before retirement as Principal of Edgeworth Public School late in 1989 after 38½ years of service.

I neglected to mention in my notes some homes, which, in my child and teen years, I thought were quite superior: Like “Valencia”, “Sunnyside”, “Hatherleigh”, “Bona Vista” and “Tocal” homestead. To these you could add dwellings of the Duggan’s, Dixon’s, Auckett’s, Corner’s, Priestley’s, Hempson’s and McGills’.

CONVENTION AT PATERSON

Saturday 3rd March saw an influx of visitors to “our town” when more than 70 representatives from Historical Societies and other interested bodies came to Paterson for the 35th Annual convention of Historical Societies. Visitors came from Singleton, Cessnock, Hornsby and all points in between to attend the Convention.

The Convention was opened by Mayor of Dungog Shire Council, Glen Wall, who welcomed the visitors and presented an interesting history and peek into the future for the Dungog Shire and all its residents. John Price, M.P., was also present to welcome visitors to the area.

President of Paterson Historical Society, Cameron Archer was chairman of the Convention and entertained the visitors by relating the early history of St. Paul’s Church. The history also included the life and work of one of the earlier Rectors of the Church, Rev. R.M.H. Rupp, who made a special study of the native orchids of Paterson and Barrington Tops areas during his time as Rector here in the late 1920’s. The visitors then made an inspection of the Church and Cemetery.

During the business section of the Convention, reports were given by representatives of Societies attending and focused on the many methods other Societies are pursuing to retain and preserve the history of their own areas.



Back: Mari Metzki – Cynthia Hunter – Boris Sokoloff – Robin Stevenson – Peter Johnson – Rex Kingston
Centre: Cameron Archer – Maurice Dunlop – Jack Sullivan – Wayne Patfield – Val Patfield - Shirley Threlfo -
Sue Sokoloff – Kathy Lyall – Lesley Gent
Front: Mary Dunlop –Maureen Kingston – Pauline Clements.
Photo: Bill Anderson.

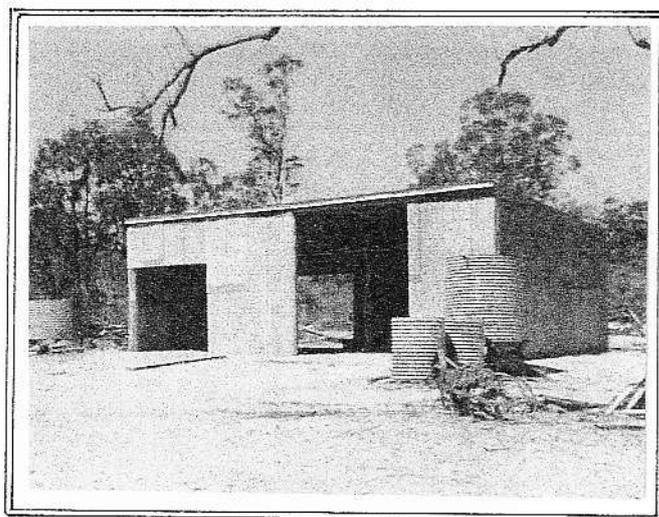
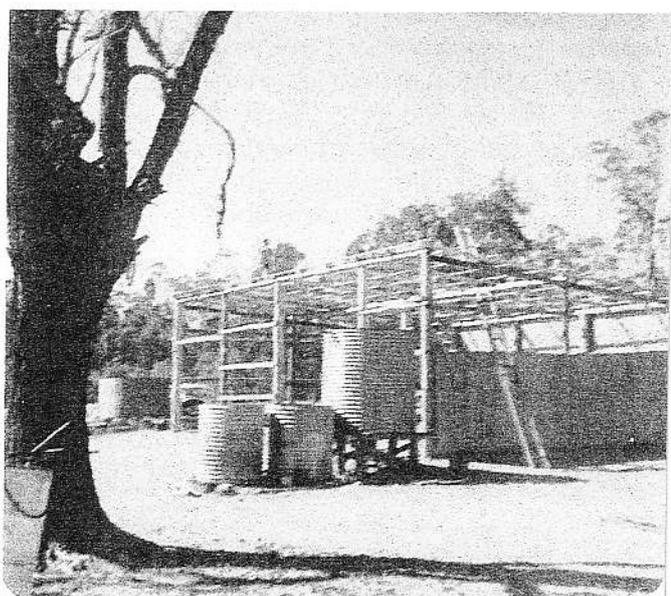
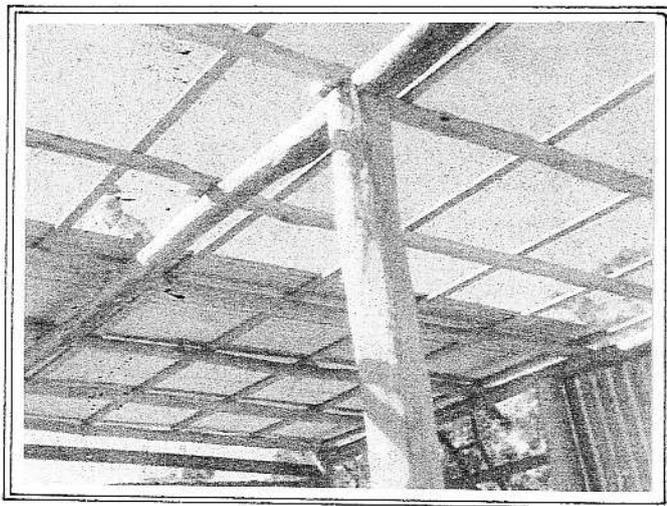


LATEST PUBLICATION—The first in a series of books recording Heritage Photographs of Paterson is now available. Since the formation of Paterson Historical Society in 1974, when the nucleus of the photographic collection was collated, a steady stream of photographs has been donated by residents of Paterson, descendants of pioneer families and visitors to the Museum. Series I is dedicated to Mabs and Bill Keppie, foundation members who also contributed to the final photo selection. Assisted with a grant from the RAHS from funds allocated by Arts NSW the new format is most attractive and judging from the initial reactions it should be very successful. Edited by Cameron Archer, Series I will retail at \$16.00.



LES DARCY TRIBUTE—Ken Goodwin (a great supporter of the late Harry Boyle OAM when establishing the Les Darcy Memorial in East Maitland Park in August 2000) called in to the Museum 3 June to let members know that Les Darcy had been inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame – Canastota NW – USA, 13 June 1993. This had only come to Ken’s notice and he presented to the Museum a copy of the induction award. The Museum has had a permanent exhibit to Les Darcy for many years.





BUSH CARPENTRY AT ITS BEST

Bill Keppie and son Geoff at work building a shed on their property "Glenlossie" at Paterson in 1980. The four sides were recycled roofing from a renovated house at Cessnock and, apart from a small quantity of dressed timber, the framework was bush timber felled on the property.

Photo: Mabs Keppie.



PATERSON ORANGE ORCHARDS – "BINGLE BURRA" – GRESFORD

Some Recollections of Bill Keppie – Val Anderson.

Bingle Burra was one of the highest fruit yielding orange orchards in the Paterson District. As shown in the c 1922 photograph, Bingle Burra orchards were planted in steep terrain but well suited for growing conditions.

Bill Keppie worked on Bingle Burra in the 1960s with Laurie Darr for Fred Myles. Due to the steep contours of the various orchards, the fruit when harvested would be placed on a boxed slide/sled and pulled by two draught horses down to level ground – the quantity on the slide/sled equivalent to 15 fruit boxes. First job for the day was to collect the horses from the yard at the homestead.

In early days the fruit would be loaded onto waggonettes and later onto a Dodge utility. If the season was plentiful, surplus fruit would be stored in a staddle-type situation and then shovelled onto a truck usually supplied by Aucketts of Paterson.

Bingle Burra was limestone country. One section in the left hand orchard was heavy gravel and good soil was needed to fill the holes when planting young trees.

Laurie Darr would make his own picking ladders, 20 feet long saplings taken from the local bush. The saplings were soaked in the dam and the cut down the centre with a hand saw. The rungs were made of spotted gum. In time Laurie bought 3" x 2" Oregon timber runners from Pender of Maitland.

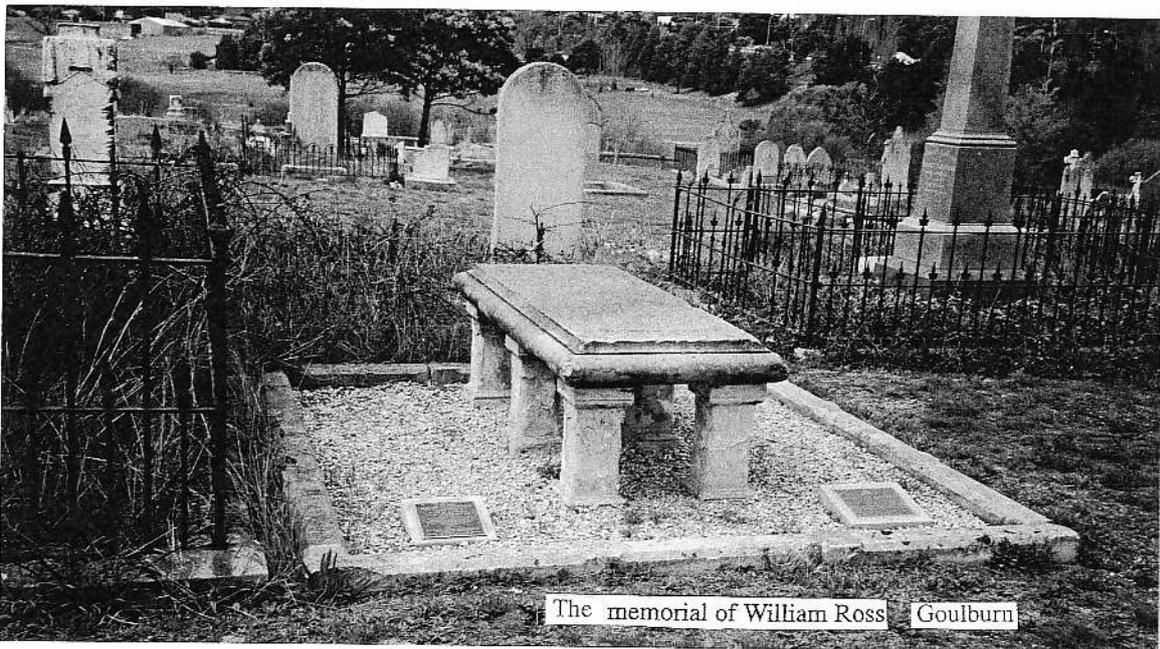
From Jack Sullivan's Files

Sydney Herald – 1843

PATERSON—The Church of St Ann, Paterson, in connexion with the established Church of Scotland, has now been fully completed, and the Colonial architect has surveyed it for the last time, and approved of the work.

The church is a neat plain building, sufficiently commodious and capable of containing three hundred persons. It must be satisfactory to the parties who subscribed so liberally towards its erection, that their money has been expended on the work for which it was solicited, and it must also be a source of much pleasure in them, that by their means the first church has been erected and completed in the fine district of Paterson. Felix Wilson, Esq of Sydney, who has taken a lively interest in the promotion of the Scotch Zion here, has expressed his intention of presenting the church with a clock, which will be of great use to the inhabitants of the township as well as ornamental to the church itself. At the opening of the church, in August last, the ladies of the Paterson and Maitland presented the Rev. William Ross with a handsome pulpit gown, as a mark of their respect and esteem for him as a clergyman, and a faithful disciple in the vineyard of Christ.

In the course of some time it is expected a parsonage will be commenced for our clergyman, and it is hoped that those who aided the building of the church, with their means, will not be backward in lending their assistance in getting up a parsonage.



The memorial of William Ross Goulburn

Photo: Peter Hill – Paterson.



Maitland Mercury 15 December 1863, District News Paterson – Cynthia Hunter

Brown's Creek Bridge:- Nothing has as yet been heard from the government respecting the erection of this bridge, which the late government promised should be commenced without delay, and for which plans were being prepared.



Maitland Mercury 15 December 1863, District News Paterson – Cynthia Hunter

Public Wharf:- The inhabitants of this town and district are anxiously looking for the estimates of the present government to ascertain if they contain a grant for the erection of a public wharf at Paterson, for which a petition was forwarded some time ago, and a sum of money placed upon the late government's estimates. The public wharf is much needed.