

# GRESFORD



1829-1979

## EARLY HISTORY

When N.S.W. was first settled in 1788 by Capt. Arthur Phillip it was purely a penal settlement. It remained so, right through until the early 1820's. Commissioner Bigge was sent out to sort out the quarrels between Governor Macquarie and retired officers of the N.S.W. Corps, who stayed on in the colony as wealthy settlers. The Commissioner recommended that Macquarie be recalled and that the free settlers, instead of emancipists, be encouraged to take up land in the colony.

The resources of the colony were brought very prominently before the British people. Soon a stream of free settlers and other men of enterprise began to arrive. English capitalists turned their attention to the colony. The A.A. Co., with a capital of a million pounds was formed to develop the pastoral, agricultural and mineral wealth of the million acres they were granted mainly in the Port Stephens, Liverpool Plains and Newcastle areas.

Early explorers and cedar getters soon were travelling to the upper reaches of the Hunter and its tributaries. It was at this time and into this background that Gresford's beginnings were set. Grants of large areas were given along the Paterson and Allyn Rivers and their creeks. Quote from letter written by James Boyde, son of Charles Boyde to Mr. Rogers (Ex teacher of Gresford Public School 5th June, 1907). "My late father, Charles Boyde, George Townshend, and Alexander Park arrived in Sydney in Governor Darling's time. They had each to produce credentials that they were worth so much money and were prepared to support so many convict servants. Upon agreeing to do this they were allowed to select a grant of land. My father took the Allyn stream, George Townshend the Paterson and Alexander Park, Lewinsbrook. They lived at Trevallyn for a time, and then on their places respectively."

No doubt quite a few of our local place names came from places to be found in Northern Wales...Gresford itself is found near Wrexham, North Wales, and it was once famous for its coal mining. Its church, with its carillon of 12 bells is one of the wonders of Wales. The Allyn River runs through the town of Gresford in Wales and the Allyn does in Gresford here. Other familiar place names are Eccleston, Caergwrle, Halton, Summer Hill and Trevallyn. All are to be found by the traveller who visits Wales today.

Assisted settlers...English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh and German came to assist the grantees make small self-supporting settlements where they grew their own crops, ground their own grain and had their own tradesmen. As small communities they faced their difficulties together.

Roads as we know them did not exist. They were only mere tracks made by the settlers. The journey to Sydney took over a week. From Gresford they rode to Morpeth, took a boat to Newcastle and thence another to Sydney. Goods were carried on pack-horses or on bullock waggons from Morpeth, which at that time was the main port in N.S.W., north of Sydney.

The means of exchange was "barter"...Quote from Charles Boyde's diary, Aug., 14th 1830. "Received from James P. Webber, Esq. fifty-two head of horned cattle branded "F" as specified below, to keep for the consideration of giving one third of the increase."

The settlers had to grow their own wheat, grind their own corn or go without bread. Corn hominy was a delicacy - dished up in all conceivable ways.

Earliest crops were wheat, corn, turnips and tobacco. Also each little settlement grew its own grapes and made its own wine.

Tobacco presses were to be found and for a long time good tobacco was produced. Some of this tobacco even winning medals at International Exhibitions. Reduced prices, however, made the tobacco industry unprofitable and it faded out altogether.

Mr. George Townshend, at one time had a jam factory at Trevallyn. Apples, pears, peaches etc were grown. He even had a nursery for fruit trees and supplied many settlers. Earthenware jars were used as containers but these proved a transport problem because of their weight, which made freight costs high.

Townshend can be blamed for our cursed nut grass which he received with some imported fruit trees and thought it might be a valuable fodder grass. He is also said to have imported watermelon seeds into the area.

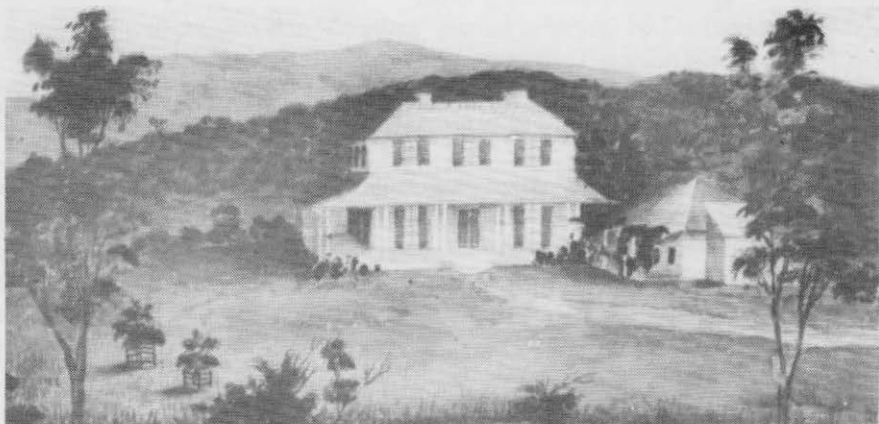
Later dairying and citrus orchards became popular and profitable. Gresford at one time had its own butter factory.

From the many small sawmills that were operated in the area over the years, cedar, ironbark, blue gum, mahogany, and turpentine were cut and planed for the local market. No timber mills are operating in the area now, but timber trucks still carry logs from our forests to East Maitland.

## OLD HOMES OF THE AREA

Early settlers of the area were very conscious of their isolation from their homeland. To compensate somewhat for this, some really charming homes were erected by the earliest free settlers in the district. "Built flat on the ground, these old homes were long and narrow, with shingled roofs, and with their rooms opening into one another; rooms with wide fireplaces and small paned windows, with bells to summon the servants, and doors with curious knobs and quainter knockers. Most of the rooms faced a long verandah, which fronted a garden, gay and sweet with old fashioned flowers, with an aviary for feathered pets and a summer house for lovers."

One such house was "Clevedon", owned at one time by Mr. James McCormick, and afterwards used by Mr. Edward William Doyle, and his wife. Mrs. Doyle was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McCormick.



"Trevallyn" (early 1830's) - reproduced from an unsigned, undated watercolour in the Mitchell Library. Trevallyn was the residence of George Townshend. This watercolour was probably painted in 1839 or 1840 by Emily Anne Manning (first wife of Sir Montague Manning) an aunt by marriage to George Townshend's wife, Elizabeth, who was daughter of John Edge Manning.

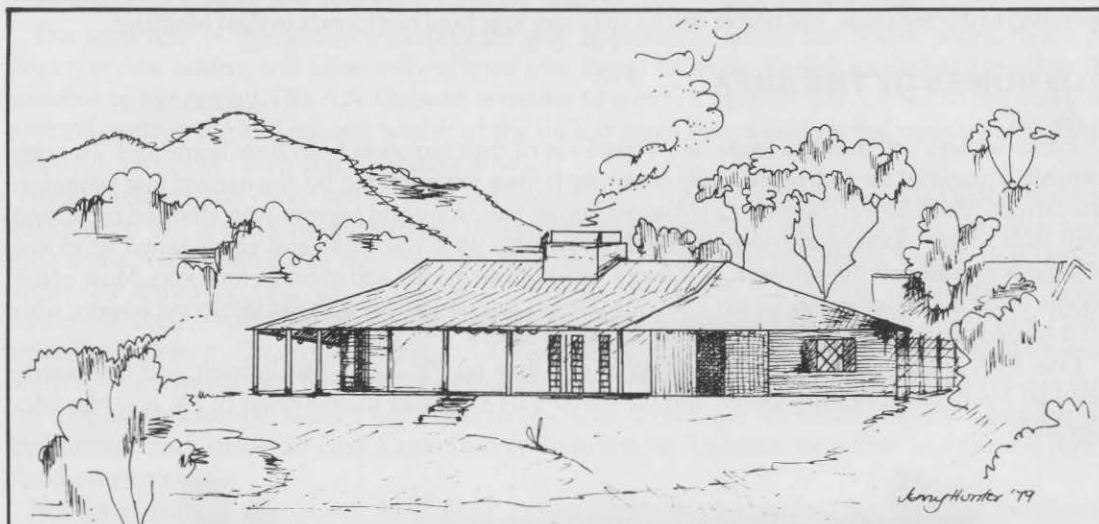
"Peacocks wandered through the garden, where hedges of red and pink roses sprawled away to the creek. Scarlet pomegranate flowers decked glossy leafed trees."

McCormick was first at "Belleville", later called "Talgah". Next he moved to "Mullinroo". His next purchase was "Clevedon" where he bred horses for the Indian market, a profitable source of income in those years. "Norwood", another early homestead on the Singleton side of Gresford was also one of his purchases.

"Kilburn", nearby, was owned by Mr. W. Jones. It was built of stout grey stones which stood the ravages of time until pulled down a few years ago. Mr. John Cant has built a new home nearby. A few miles nearer to Gresford was "Orindinna", the home of the Glennie family.

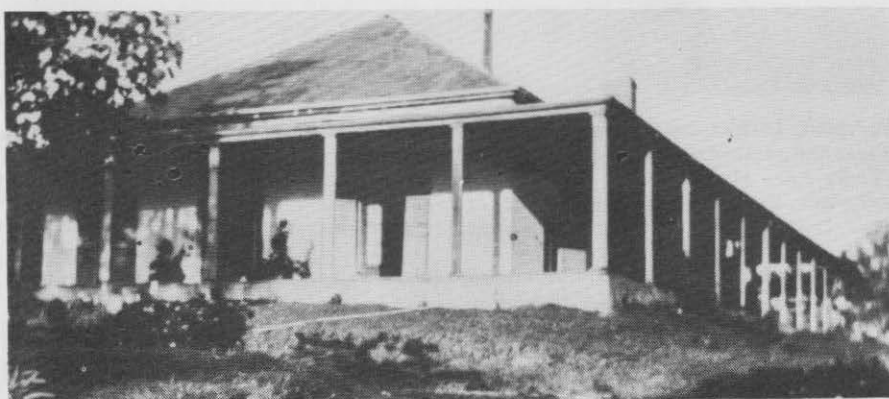
"Camyr Allyn" was owned and built by Charles Boydell. Here's an extract from his diary, "April 25th, 1830. Preparing verandah for the house, and determined to fill up my French windows and make it a little habitable. For truly, were it not for the honour of the thing, one might, with almost equal comfort, be in the open air."

This home has vanished into the past. The new "Camyr Allyn" built by the Champain family to take its place was destroyed by fire in May, 1977.



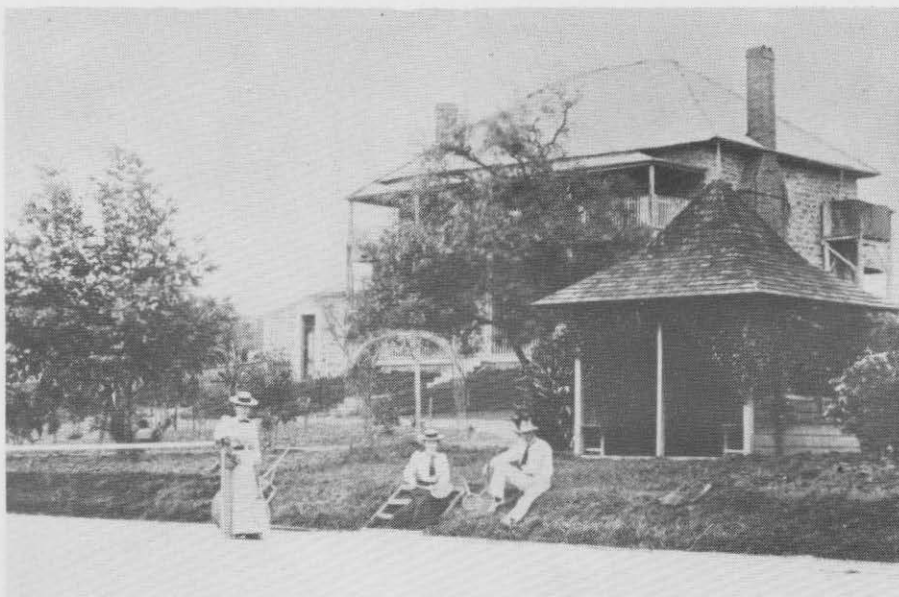
CAM-YR-ALLYN (1839) - Pen drawing by Jenny Hunter from an old pencil sketch in "Sketch Book - Scenes in Europe and New South Wales (1836 - 1839) by Emily Anne Manning. (Sketchbook in Mitchell Library).

"Torryburn" was another early home. It was originally owned by a stern hard man, whose name is forgotten, but who was killed by his convicts. "Torryburn" was later purchased by Mr. Logan, one of Gresford's most enterprising pioneers. Dorothea McKellar, the Australian poetess, is said to have visited "Torryburn" quite often.



Lewinsbrook

"Lewinsbrook" built on the original grant given to Mr. Alexander Park in 1826, and left by him to his brother, Dr. Park is still standing. Its large rooms and very thick walls amaze the present day home builders.



"CAWARRA" (C 18156) Gresford - Photo taken about 1910. Photo - Mr. & Mrs. B. Capp

Still standing and well preserved is "Cawarra" owned originally by Dr. Lindeman, whose descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Capp still live there. Higher up the Paterson River stood "Coulston", the home of Mr. H.H. Brown, M.L.A. The old home was destroyed by fire last year.

Another old home to be burnt down was "Penshurst" at Mount Rivers. This home was built by Mr. Alfred Holden. It was constructed of timber. It was referred to as "The Old Homestead".

Mr. Frank McNamara's home on the Mount Rivers estate was constructed of stone. It was one of the earliest homes built in that area.

The home of the present Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boydell, "Caergwle", on the Allyn River at Allynbrook was built for Mr. William Boydell, a brother of Charles Boydell. Mr. William Boydell was an original grantee



"Colstoun" - Mr. & Mrs. Chesworth, Linda Chesworth, Hazel Chesworth, Gordon Chesworth, Dorothy Johnson



Allynbrook - "CAERGWRL" - Home of William and Mary Phoebe Boydell. (Built 1844?)  
Photo taken 1977 by J. Sullivan/H. Boyle

Each of these homes was a busy centre, surrounded with smaller huts or cottages and buildings. Vineyards and orchards were cultivated close by. The wine industry flourished around these small self-supporting settlements. Tobacco growing was also very profitable.

Acknowledgements to "Gresford Memories" by Ruby Doyle, 1932.



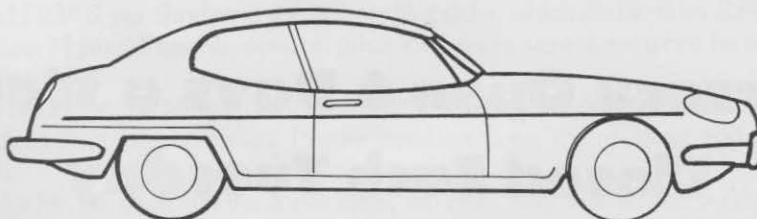
"Clevedon" - Gresford



The old foot bridge on the Paterson River. The house on the right was called "Ardna-Hane" ("on the side of the hill")

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## SCHOOL OF ARTS

The original School of Arts was established on a piece of land, (in Church St, West Gresford) - a gift from Mrs. Lindeman.

It was vested in Trustees, Messrs. Cooper, Logan, and John Glennie. Active hard working committees, urged on vigorously by Mr. George Grey, soon had buildings erected — a brick hall, adjoining supper room, billiard room and library. The billiard room and library was opened three nights a week.

With the decline of West Gresford, negotiations were opened in November, 1926, to sell the property to the local Church of England. After considerable delay caused by "red tape" and other items, the old School of Arts became the Parish Hall. The supper room, billiard room and the library were moved to East Gresford where they were re-erected with improvements on the new central site. Today the R.S.L. use the 'billiard' room as a meeting place. The old library room now houses the present library (an annexe of Dungog Library).

Money raised from the "BACK TO GRESFORD CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS, 1929" together with many other local efforts, race meetings, sports days, etc. enabled the present School of Arts to be built in 1930.

As an item of interest the office bearers and committee at the time were;

|                           |                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President . . . . .       | C. C. Hall                                                                                                                                   |
| Vice Presidents . . . . . | Messrs. D. Smith, H. Jones, T. Boyle                                                                                                         |
| Treasurer . . . . .       | A. O. Moore                                                                                                                                  |
| Hon. Secretary . . . . .  | E. W. Culbert                                                                                                                                |
| Committee . . . . .       | Messrs. W. B. Dark, L. Brennan, J. Jones, B. Brennan, S. Storey, H. Southcombe,<br>S. V. Drinkwater, H. G. Clements, W. Spencer, R. Lawrence |
| Trustees . . . . .        | H. G. Crew, A. H. Lindeman, D. Smith                                                                                                         |

The building was officially opened by Miss Kate Lindeman, on 20th March, 1930. The silver trowel used is still in the family's possession, at "Cawarra".

Record of Interview with Mr. Robert (Bob) O'Rourke at the League's Club on 30th July, 1979, in connection with the building of the East Gresford School of Arts in 1930.

Mr. Bob O'Rourke, a retired brick laying contractor, who will be 91 on the 5th October, 1979 said he did the brickwork on the East Gresford School of Arts in 1930. The job took a couple of months. The building contractor was Mr. Ben Idstein of Maitland, whilst the architect was Mr. Wal Pender. Other people working on the job were Harold Branscombe, Ken O'Toole and his (O'Rourke's) two sons, Bobbie and Frank.

The workmen camped on the job, returning to homes in Maitland for the weekend.

He was paid £2.14.0 per thousand for laying the bricks, which came from Bakers' brickyard in Morpeth Rd, East Maitland. For his work on other jobs, there were times when he worked for as low as £1.10.0 per thousand.

As well as working on the School of Arts he built the brick front on the Hotel and did the work on the East Gresford Post Office. Messrs. Pilgrim (brothers) were the architect and carpenter for the Post Office job.

He worked for Mr. Bill Dark and the Jones Bros, Jim and Harry, well known building contractors in Gresford during those times. He also remembers doing the brickwork for Stein's bakery in Gresford.

Denny Smith, the saddler used to take all his telephone messages.

At weekends he said it was a pleasure to take home to his family beautiful joints of meats from Gresford.

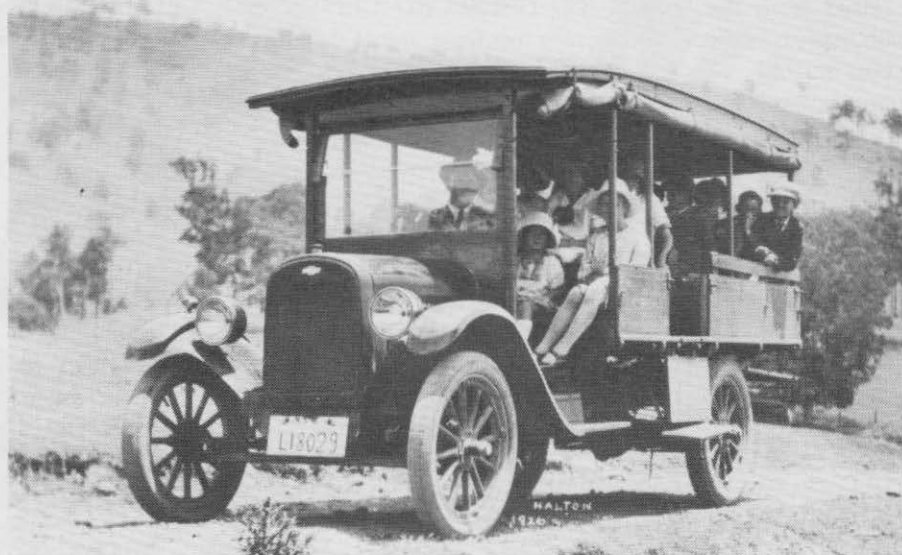
Bryan Spencer.

## THE STORY OF OUR SCHOOLS

Education in the area prior to 1867 was carried on by various denominational schools. For example records tell us that John Bush ran a church school in Gresford while Henry Fowler did the same at Lostock.

Since then however, there have been fourteen public or provisional schools in our area. Carrabolla, Strathisla, Lostock, Mt. Rivers, and Coulston (on Paterson River above Gresford). Gresford, Fishers Hill (on Paterson River)...Upper Allyn, Eccleston, Halton, Allynbrook, Bingleburra, Lewinsbrook and Campsie (Trevallyn) on the Allyn River and Park's Creek, present rather a long list, but numbers now are down to three, Mt. Rivers, Gresford and Eccleston.

In 1868 an application for a Provisional School at Gresford, signed by Rev. F.W. Addams, H.L. Lindeman, Charles Boyde, Robert Park and G.B. Townshend, resulted in the first "Public Education" for the town, with John Bush as teacher.



A bus at Halton in the 1920's

However, this was not the first public school in the area. On 4th Nov., 1867, "Mr. Geo. Hill opened the doors of learning in a Public School" at Eccleston, and Allynbrook had its first on 1st Feb., 1869 with J. Melville Unsworth as teacher. Mt. Rivers had Miss McNamara as their first public school teacher in Nov., 1875, while Lostock's first government school was in August, 1878.

1881 saw the application for a new brick school and residence at Gresford at what was then known as the Crossroads. These were completed by Dec., 1882. William John Parker was appointed in a temporary capacity to relieve Mr. Bush, who became ill. However, Mr. Parker remained in that position for 22 years. In 1909, he was transferred to Allynbrook, where he had the name of that school changed from Caergwile to ALLYNBROOK. He remained there until he died in Feb., 1915. St. Mary on Allyn Memorial gates were erected to his memory.

It is interesting to note that in 1909 an additional classroom erected at Gresford and measuring 20ft by 17ft 6in. wide cost just £193, and that ten years later in 1919, a relieving teacher managed to have a night school authorised at Gresford.

Eccleston, Fishers Hill, Allynbrook Gresford, Lostock and Mt. Rivers have all held wonderful school centenary celebrations where some very important, early historical facts were collected and

recorded in commemorative booklets, which are now treasured in many district homes.

Both Gresford and Lostock schools grew in numbers during the building of the Lostock Dam, Gresford increasing to 128 with five teachers and Lostock to 37 with two teachers.

One very fine co-operative effort has been the Gresford and District Public Schools' Amateur Sports Association (formed 1938), which has seen both parents and teachers co-operating in providing a wonderful day of athletic and games competitions.

## **EARLY POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES**

Gresford Post office was established on 1st Jan., 1841. Although James Ramsey was the postmaster on 24th Sept. of that year it is not clear whether he was the original one.

The Government Gazette of 21st Oct., 1840 invited tenders for the "conveyance of mails from and to Paterson and Gresford, three times weekly, for one year from 1st Jan., 1841."

Postage from Sydney, (45 miles by road, remainder by water) was 10d.

A record of 1851 shows that Mr. C. Boydell recommended the appointment of Mr. Bush as Postmaster with a salary of £20 per annum. The office was the school residence owned by the churchwardens of Gresford and when they asked him "to give up quietly and peaceably on 1st May, 1885, the house in which I (Bush) have carried on the post office for the last seven and twenty years" another place had to be found.

A large public meeting, held at Junction Inn, Gresford, and chaired by the Warden of the District, Dr. Park, decided to ask the Postal Dept. to find another place for a Post Office. Eventually Messrs. Lindeman of "Cawarra" agreed to build a residence and rent it to the Department at £20 per annum. These same Messrs. Lindeman later became the famous Wine Company and "Cawarra" is a famous wine name.

John Bush died, 13th September, 1887 and his widow Mary Ann Bush was appointed postmistress. When she died in Oct., 1899, her daughter, Emily was appointed in her place. She retired in Feb., 1900. By then the Bush family had given 49 years of service to the postal services.

Mrs. Lillian Clay, widow of the Telegraph Master of West Maitland, was appointed to Gresford Post Office on 23rd April, 1900.

Mention is also made in the records of the coach leaving "Gresford at 6.30am for East Gresford, Allynbrook, Lostock and Mount Rivers. Mails for these areas were made up at Gresford. The coach returned at 11am." Mrs. Clay's salary was reduced in 1911 so she resigned and Miss Katie Dark of Gresford was nominated to the position. However, as she was under age, her father, John Broughton Dark was appointed Postmaster on 1st Jan., 1912, with his daughter as assistant. This continued until January, 1913, when Mr. Dark resigned. Mrs. Ellen Furner replaced him and her daughter, Veronica was to act as assistant, but at her mother's expense. Mrs. Furner's salary was £75.10.0 per annum but this was later increased to £150.5.0 only to be reduced again later owing to reduction in post office business.

The first mention of a car being used by a mail contractor was in 1915, when one complained that there wasn't enough space in the office grounds for loading mail onto his car.

By 1916 the office again was moved to new premises next to the school.

Eccleston's first Post Office was established on 1st Jan., 1859, under the charge of Reuben Sivyver at a salary of £12 per annum plus a commission on the sale of postage stamps. The Sivyver family, Reuben himself, his wife, Sarah and his son, Sam served that area until 1951, a total of 92 years, surely some kind of record. Mr. Andrew Kenney was the first Eccleston to Gresford mail contractor who commenced the service in 1862.

The telephone exchange was opened with 19 subscribers in Dec., 1915. Phones were purchased from Anthony Horderns at £1 each.

A post office was opened at Lostock (proper) on 1st Jan., 1861 under Henry Fowler's care. Henry

was master of Lostock Church of England School. However, he resigned in March, 1863, and incorrectly reported that no person was capable of conducting a post office at Lostock. Consequently the Post Office was removed to the Mount Rivers property of Frank McNamara. It kept the name of Lostock.

Lostock (proper) became Upper Lostock (a receiving office). Frank McNamara took over 10th Aug, 1863.

In Aug, 1894, Luke Sullivan of Lostock (proper) wrote a letter endeavouring to get the Post Office of Lostock back where it belonged. The Postal Department refused. Again on 13th April, 1898 he wrote seeking approval for office to be relocated at Lostock.

It was not till 1904 that the Lostock post office at Mount Rivers became Mount Rivers and Upper Lostock became Lostock again.

Lostock's Telephone Exchange opened in April, 1922 with one subscriber, Mr. James Richardson, "Yamba Woota" 1.

Mount Rivers exchange opened on 1st July, 1917 with two subscribers - Lance Lee, "Leighford" 3, J.J. Pearse, "Penshurst" 2.

### **ALLYNBROOK POST OFFICE**

The Post Office was opened in the name of Lewinsbrook on 1st March, 1865 in charge of Mrs. Rebecca H. Fowler, wife of the late Henry Fowler, once of Lostock Church of England School and Lostock (proper) Post Office.

The name was changed to Allynbrook on 1st Nov., 1879. Mr. H.H. Brown, M.L.A. suggested the name as folk at Lewinsbrook and Lewinsbrook Station were getting their mails mixed.

Mails were first conveyed between Eccleston and Gresford by G. Jarrett of Eccleston, once a week, by horseback, for £20 p.a. The contract was held by Harry Jarrett in 1866 and 1868-70, Jas. Kenny in 1867, W.G. Sivyer 1872-3-4. In 1875 a twice weekly service began and Mr. H.J. Sivyer held the contract.

The first telephone line was to Mr. R.B. Boydell's home, in 1911. In 1914 or 1915 the Allynbrook exchange opened with 5 subscribers - 7M Bogan T. "Ann's Grove", 4 Boydell R.B. "Caergwrl", 8 Hancock T.R. "Orange Grove", 7J Hopson E. "Seven Oaks", Eccleston Warr J.

Carabolla on Upper Paterson and Trevallyn below East Gresford were small post offices that functioned for many years.

Acknowledgements to "Gresford Post Office History" supplied on 11th April, 1968 by C.S. Hertz, Acting Historical Officer, P.M.G. Dept.

The State Manager (N.S.W.) Australian Postal Commission, G.P.O. Sydney. per Mr. K.A. Frost. District Postal Manager, Maitland for Mt. Rivers and Allynbrook.

### **GRESFORD AND DISTRICT - AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

This was formed in 1927 and a Showground and Public Park was proclaimed in the town. According to the first Show Catalogue and Sporting Programme the association was then known as the "Allyn and Paterson Rivers and District A.H. and P. Association". The first show was held on the Showground, East Gresford on Friday & Saturday, 20 & 21 May, 1927.

The Original Office Bearers were — Patrons: S.L. Gardiner, M.H.R., W. Bennett, W.F. O'Hearn M.P., W. Cameron M.P. President: P. Legoe, Esq. Vice Presidents: Messrs Champain, John Hopson, W. Jupp, A.H. Lindeman, G.W. Osmond, Jas. Richardson, O.M. Smith, W. Reynolds. Committee: Messrs F. Baker, J.A. Beatty, V. Bogan, W.J. Boydell, H.G. Crew, S.A. Brooker, A.R. Brown, S. Cardow, R.

Chesworth, G. Doyle, E.W. Culbert, A. Doyle, T.R. Hancock, Fred Hopson, D. Horn, S. Hudson, W. Hughes, W. Hughes, K. Jarrett, H. Clements, C.C. Hall, J.W. Kealy, E. Kenny, A.H. Lawrie, R.G. Lawrie, W. Leake, L. Lee, F. Leggett, R.E. Marceau, H. Osborn, L.C. Powell, S. Saxby, D. Smith, S. Storey, S. Stubbings, J.H. Wells, R.R. White, A. Richardson, L. Richardson, Dr. Brown, W. Bird, E. Burley, K. Hyland, P. Hyland, A.S. Moore, J. Jones.

Secretary: Mr. C.K. Holden

Assistant Sec.: Mr. A.J. Ninness

Treasurer: Mr. A.H. Lindeman

Auditors: Messrs. E.W. Culbert & R.W. Nancarrow

The catalogue shows all sections were well supported. The sporting programme even included trotting. Ever since that first show, an annual show has been held. Over the years the Show Association has done quite a lot to improve their Buildings. They are to be commended on their achievements to date.

### **GRESFORD PARK**

A meeting of the Gresford Public Park and Improvement League on the 9th March, 1926 passed a resolution that the (Lands) Department be asked to transfer the Park Land to the Crown. At this meeting the President was Mr. P. Legoe. Vice Presidents Rev. FR. Kiernan and Mr. C.C. Hall. Secretary Mr. B.W. Dark, Treasurer Mr. W. Hughes. Guarantors at the bank were Messrs G. Gray, J.N. Doyle, A.R. Bridger, Rev. FR. Kiernan, and the Late R.B. Boydell. The Public Recreation and Show Ground was proclaimed on the 18th November 1927, and the regulations for the management of the park were issued by Sir Dudley De Chair, Governor of N.S.W. on the 24th September, 1929.

The Park is controlled by seven trustees. viz A.R. Brown Chairman, M.J. Hall, S.R. Everett, N.C. Jupp, J.D. Bogan, T. O'Driscoll, R.B. Capp.

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## THE ANGLICAN CHURCH Parish of GRESFORD

Before 1884, Gresford Anglican Church was attached to the Paterson district.

In 1839, Rev. J.J. Smith was appointed the first rector of Paterson. During his term of office, Bishop William Grant Broughton, the first and only Bishop of Australia visited Gresford. A service was held in a building designed as a store but at that time not used as such. One hundred and twenty people were at that service. At that time the Rev. Smith used to visit Gresford each fortnight.



St. Anne's Church, Gresford

Sad to say Rev. Smith was killed in an accident in 1846. He was succeeded by the Rev. F.W. Addams, Mr. Addams stayed till 1859. A locum-tenens, the Rev. C. Walsh, held office until the Rev. Addams resumed duties in 1860.

In 1884, the year Rev. Addams retired, Gresford became a separate Parish. Rev. A.J. Priest, became the first rector of the Parish. Other churches belonging to the Gresford Parish were St. Mary's on Allyn (Allynbrook), St. Paul's (Eccleston), St. John's (Lostock).



St. Paul's C. of E. Eccleston as a slab & shingle building before being re-built in 1924.

Following is a list of ministers since 1884.

1889 Locum-tenens, Rev. A. Martin, while Mr. Priest was on twelve months leave of absence, 1890 Rev. G. Moore, 1894 Rev. P.L. Luscombe, 1898 No minister, 1900 Rev. S. Taylor, 1901 Rev. C. Brown, 1914 Rev. C.N. Neil, 1916 Rev. R.B. Davison, 1918 Rev. C.M.O. Stretch, 1926 Rev. A.R. Holmes, 1933 Locum-tenens Rev. E. Hefferan, 1934 Rev. B.I. Hobart, 1941 Rev. F.W. Rush, 1952 Rev. B.E. Geary, 1961 Rev. J.R. Flook, 1967 Rev. M.J. Clarke, 1974 Rev. Desmond Stuart-Fox (retired May, 1979).



Allynbrook - St. Mary's Anglican Church



St. John's C. of E. Lostock

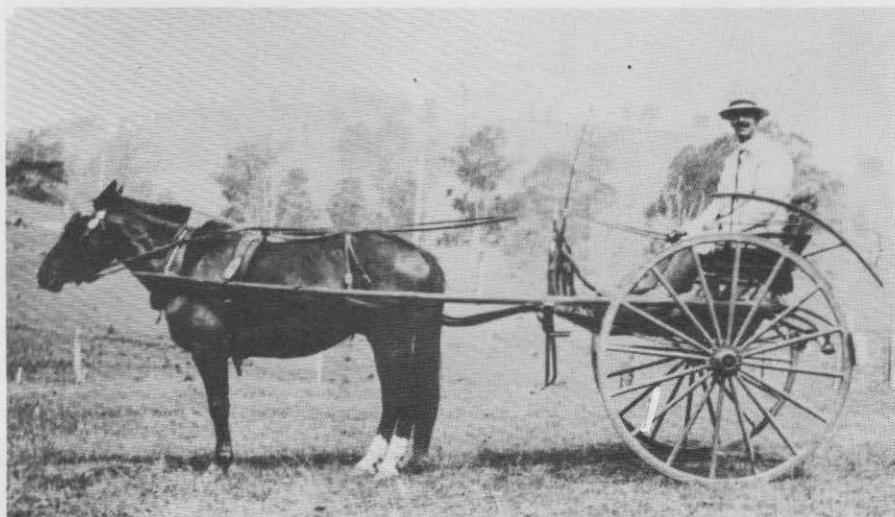
## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Eccleston was the centre of the Congregational Church. The first minister was Rev. R. Williams. He began services there in 1884. Gresford's Congregational Church was built in 1903 for £12. Gresford became part of the Eccleston Circuit.

Ministers who have served this church over the years were Rev. Hutchison, Rev. Figgis, Pastor Aubin, Rev. Pocock, Rev. Riley, Rev. Fisher-Webster, Rev. Frith, Rev. Harper, Rev. Bailey, Rev. Sheppherd, Rev. Buttle, Rev. Dyer, Rev. McLean, Rev. Brookfield.

For a few years after Mr. Brookfield left Mr. E. Warwick, an Eccleston school teacher, conducted the services at Eccleston. When Pastor Hermann arrived the manse was already let so he made his home at Salisbury and travelled to the churches at Gresford, Eccleston, Salisbury, and Underbank to conduct services. Mr. Hermann, later moved to Gresford. He travels to Salisbury and Underbank still to hold services.

Pastor Hermann is now Rev. Hermann. Congratulations. He was ordained this year.



Reverend Frith - Congregational Minister at Gresford

## **THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH PARISH OF GRESFORD**

A portion of the property "Clevedon" and the sum £100 was donated by Mr. James McCormick for a Catholic Church and cemetery. He asked that the church be named after his wife, Ellen, who died 24th March, 1861, aged 53 years. As there was no saint by that name, the church was named St. Helen's.

On the 1st Nov, 1866 the Right Rev. Dr. Murray was made Bishop of Maitland. St. Helen's Gresford, officially opened in 1867 and became the second church opened during his term of office. Until 1892, Fathers Dwyer, O'Reilly and Roche, from Maitland, respectively served the people.

The Gresford Parish was established in 1892. Father Hugh O'Neil was appointed Parish Priest. It is thought that the present Convent must have been built about that time. Fr. H. O'Neil died in Sydney, 25th Feb, 1896.

Fr. P.J. Flanagan, it appears, officiated during the period 1896-1898.

Fr. Patrick Cullen was appointed in 1898, and served the area until 1911 when he returned to Ireland for two years. It was during his time that a small "Catholic" school functioned in the old buildings at the back of the Convent. Fr. Cullen's niece, Miss Lilian Cullen taught a number of Catholic children. Mrs. Nan Richardson recalls the place where she sat with her back to the window. Some of the schoolmates at the time were Muriel Barry, Mick Barry, Leonard Barry, Jack Barry, Cassie Hyland, Tom Fumer, Linda and Vince Richardson, and Myrtle Brennan.

When Fr. Kieman took over the parish in 1911, the school no longer functioned. He conducted Christian Doctrine classes every Sat. and Sun. at Gresford. In 1917, the records say there were 14 pupils at Gresford, - 9 Mt. Rivers children met at 10 o'clock each Sat., at Ann's Grove were 4 children and at Summer Hill 2. On Sundays special classes were held for children from Summer Hill, Mt. Rivers, Binglebra, Allynbrook, Trevallyn, (29 in all).



**St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, East Gresford**

Fr. Kiernan died in 1939. According to the late Mrs. E. Bird, "Fr. Kiernan died at the altar, He was gentle and simple-hearted. Rich and poor liked him. When he collapsed in the church, the men carried him on a stretcher to the Presbytery. As they carried him, he lifted his head and said, "Ah, you're good men, you're good men." Later that day he passed away.

Fr. Quigley then took over. He served the parish from 1939-1957. He died on 26th Dec., 1957.

Fr. Peters has held the fort since then. In 1964, a new Presbytery was built for his residence. The nuns took up residence in the old Presbytery and began their work as a "Motor Mission".



**First mass in Eccleston**



St. Mary's Anglican Church, Allynbrook

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## EARLY FARMING

The early settler's first task after providing shelter for themselves and their workmen was to make their land productive.

Early crops grown were corn, wheat, tobacco and turnips. These crops flourished. In the Maitland Mercury dated 10th March, 1855, Mr. C. Boydell advertised – "WANTED - a miller who has been accustomed to farm work and who will be willing to make himself generally useful when there is no work."

Mr. Boydell's first flour mill at the "Falls" was washed away in a flood. His second was closer to the homestead. When this mill was closed we are told in a Mercury article about "Penshurst" in 1894 that many farmers from that area then found that corn was not so profitable as a crop, because time and distance taken to cart corn and wheat to the mills at Singleton and Paterson added much to the costs. The farmers there, decided to grow pumpkins instead to fatten pigs. They had a ready market for pork, ham and bacon.

In 1851, Mr. Park reported that the wine grape crops were badly affected at times by severe hailstorms and very heavy rains. Lewinsbrook, Clevedon Orindinna, Trevallyn, Torryburn, Cawarra and Caergwrle had vineyards. Many of them winning prizes overseas for their wines.



Unloading wine casks - "Cawarra" Gresford

As the vineyards faded out Paterson River oranges took their place. These became quite famous at the Sydney Fruit Markets.

Tobacco growing thrived for many years in the district. An advertisement in Maitland Mercury, March 7th, 1855 read, "NOTICE - The undersigned has colonial manufactured tobacco of the best on sale - deliverable at Maitland. Charles Boydell, Gresford. Feb., 28th, 1855."

Many properties in the district had tobacco presses. Many of the growers won medals for their tobacco. Descendants of some growers still live in the area and they have these medals in their possession. The last tobacco factories to operate in the district belonged to J. Beatty, J. Sivyver and Mr. Lawrie of Gresford, Eccleston and Halton respectively.

Up till the 1890's cattle grazing was fairly successful, then the market slumped. Mr. James Boydell, son of Charles Boydell returned to his property he had leased out, and decided to change to dairying. Because of the success of this venture, Mr. Boydell set about building a creamery on his property where the milk from his and surrounding farms could be separated.

Reported in Maitland Mercury, Nov., 1894.

"In view of the extensive scale on which Mr. Boydell intends conducting his dairying business, there is at present on route to 'Camyr Allyn', a large cream separator, worked by a portable engine capable of putting through as much as 180 gallons an hour."



Lindeman's Cawarra Vineyard - Gresford

The cream was conveyed in a large van twice a week to Paterson and thence per small trading steamer "Belinda" to Messrs. Ireland & Co, Newcaslte. Mr. R. Boydell of Allynbrook also built a creamery for the same purpose.



At "Penshurst", Mt. Rivers, Mr. Holden had a cheese factory. "Penshurst" cheese was a noted cheese brand sold in Maitland.

From an old Maitland Mercury Oct. 21st, 1898, we learn that Mr. H.H. Brown MLA, Coulston intended building a cheese factory also.



Sivyers Orange Orchard - Eccleston

As time passed by individual farmers bought separators of their own. The cream was collected three times a week and taken to the factory at Gresford or to Peters at Gostwyck. When these factories ceased operations cream was sent to Morpeth or Hexham.

The early settlers were certainly very enterprising men who endeavoured to use their land to the best advantage. They are to be admired.



Jarret's milk truck - Eccleston

**Gresford Butter Factory**  
**Information supplied by Don Drinkwater from minute book**  
**Bowthorne Butter Factory**

**18th December, 1928:** The Dept. of Agriculture condemned the factory because of a) Its flat ceilings and b) Cold Room.

The Board of Directors prepared to carry on but could not finance repairs. In the meantime the cream was being treated satisfactorily at Morpeth — Position to be revised in six months.

**19th June, 1929:** It was decided that in event of suppliers' meeting being unanimous to rebuild the factory, the directors would have the work completed.

**16th October, 1929:** Dark's Ice Works Newcastle proposal to use Gresford Factory as a Rabbit Freezing Depot.

**5th November, 1929:** A discussion of the position ensued and the Board be asked to stay their hands on the matter of rebuilding in view of amalgamation proposals.

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**PTY LTD**

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**SEDAN, STATION WAGON,**  
**LANCER & SCORPION**

**Dealer of Gresford**

**PHONE 389 204**

## SPORT AND RECREATION

Cricket has been played in Gresford and district for very many years.

Whilst reading an article about "Orindinna", the home of Mr. J. Glennie, published in Maitland Mercury Dec., 1894, quote "The old Gresford Cricket Ground was in the immediate foreground of "Orindinna House." Perhaps no keener supporters of the good old game of cricket ever existed in the neighbourhood of Gresford than the late Mr. J. Glennie. It being on record that for upwards of 20 years he was never known to miss a match on the ground."

His son Mr. J. Glennie was just as keen a supporter.

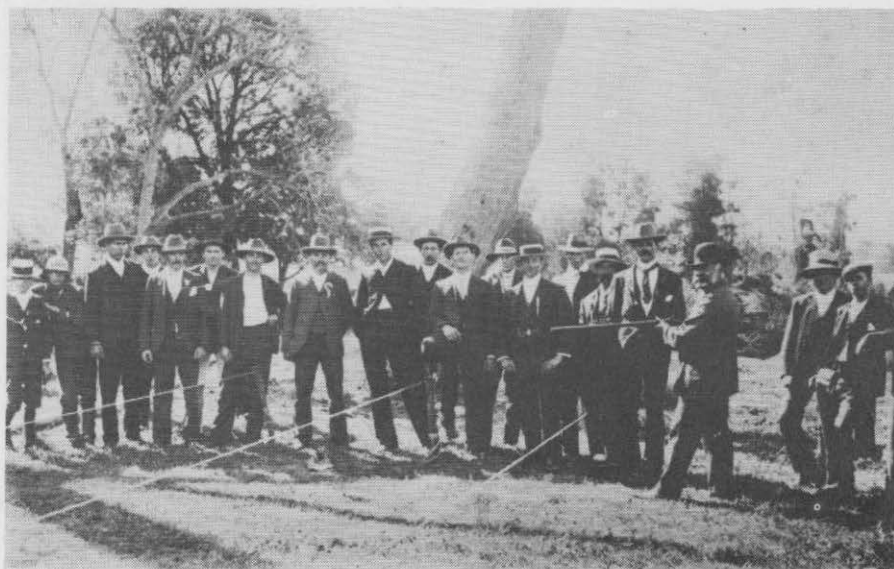
In the Maitland Mercury Sept., 1896, it was reported that the Cricket Club was organising teams and programme for the season. Sydney teams were to come up on Jan. 1, 1897, and Easter 1897. The surrounding villages formed cricket teams and the competition was very keen. The results of the matches were published each week in the paper.

Tennis is another sport that was very popular. Many properties in the area had a tennis court. Social games and competitions were played. The tennis court was the start of many romances. The first lighted court was at Mr. T. Boyle's, East Gresford. Both children and adults are well catered for at East Gresford today. The officers of the Association are very keen to improve the standard of tennis in the area.

Horse Racing was a very spectacular sport at one time. Each small village had its own racecourse. The old racecourses are still familiar landmarks.

Golf was played on the Showground for several years. Even a mini golf course was built. Other leisure activities were the Travelling Picture Shows put on in local halls. Later Mr. T. Boyle opened the "Garden Theatre" Mr. R. Stein conducted it for many years, also. Collison and Everett's garage now occupies the site.

Balls and Dances were held in halls at Gresford, East Gresford, Allynbrook, Halton and Lostock or in homes or sheds on properties. Local musicians provided the music. Some of them were Mrs. W.



New Year's Sports Day in Victoria Gardens

Dark, Mr. C. Hancock, Mr. Dagg, Mr. J. Warr, Mr. "Tot" Kenny, the Bird family of Allynbrook, Mr. P. Borham, Mrs. C. Mortensen, Mr. K. Riley, Mrs. N. Crew, Cecil Walker, and Mrs. T. Richardson.

A favourite spot for sport and recreation was the "Victoria Gardens", a cedar grove on the Allyn River down behind the "Victoria Hotel" now known as the "Hotel Beatty." On PUBLIC Holidays and weekends visiting bands would play and other entertainment would be arranged.

In the more recent times Rugby League and Soccer teams have been formed. Inter district matches have been played. Today Soccer is the more popular with the younger generation.

Netball for the girls and ladies was played until this season. Scouts, Cubs and Guides and Brownies have been very active. The Scouts and Cubs use the old Butter Factory as their meeting place, whilst the Guides and Brownies have their own hall opposite the Roman Catholic Church.

A more recent leisure time activity is bowls.

The inaugural meeting to set up Gresford's first Bowling Club took place on 11th July, 1953

Office Bearers were: President: P.W. Ninness; Patron: A. Fairhall M.H.R.; Vice Presidents: J. Dimmock and M. Hall; Secretary: W.W. Doohan; Asst. Sec.: D.S. Reynolds; Treasurer: W. Maher; Management Committee: R. Murrell, H. Lawrence, J. Dimmock, D.S. Reynolds, R. Chick, B. Doosey, J. Doosey.

The contract for the construction of the new Clubhouse was signed on 1st June, 1967.

The Official Opening of the first Bowling Green was 7th Jan., 1956.



L. to R. - Jessie Everett, Edna Digby and Claude Digby at Cam-yr-Allyn Waterfalls

## WAR SERVICE

Some of our earliest settlers had served in the Battle of Waterloo before coming to the colony. One of these was a Mr. Rodwell, whose grave is in St. Anne's Churchyard, and another was Mr. T.R. Hancock, the Lockup Keeper at Paterson Plains who was interred at St. Mary's on Allyn.

In the Maitland Mercury, Mar. 3rd, 1855, a notice appeared that a meeting was being convened to form a Patriotic Fund to help the widows and orphans of the men slain at the Crimean War.

Down through the years there have always been those who have given their time and energy towards helping the men and women of the fighting forces.

Men from our district have fought in the Boer War and the Great War (World I). Men and women too, enlisted in World War II. The women served in spheres other than nursing during this campaign. Some men did not return.

During these wars the folk at home did their bit. Mrs. Laura Lawrence remembers when she was only a girl during World War I, being a secretary of an organisation that raised money for The Gresford Red Cross effort. It was the biggest function ever to be held in Lostock. During the day they had a busy sporting programme and at night a ball.

Once a month she used to ride from Birds' at Strathisla to Guygallen collecting for the various war efforts such as the Red Cross, War Chest etc. All money collected was sent to Gresford as part of the district contribution.

Besides this the ladies used to knit garments for the soldiers. One of the lasses who knitted socks during World War I was Bessie Osmond, Ken Osmond's sister. It was the custom to put the knitter's name and address inside. Bessie's socks went to Tom Bath of Walcha. This led to "wedding bells". I wonder how many more weddings happened as a result of these knitted gifts!

During the Second World War, Red Cross and the Comforts Fund again knitted, sewed, cooked fruit cakes and packed food parcels for the servicemen and women. Members of the C.W.A. made camouflage nets. The N.E.S. (National Emergency Service) was formed. It incorporated all organisations. People were trained in First Aid that would be needed in war time. A warden was appointed to supervise each area. Men also organised ways of taking livestock to safety over the Barrington Tops in case of an invasion.

The Postmistresses at Carabolla and Halton were appointed as plane spotters. Mrs. K. Brown of "Glenthorne" was another observer.

Here is a typical entry she made in her V.A.O.C. log book.

| Date          | Aircraft<br>seen<br>heard | Overhead<br>N.S.E.W. | Dist.<br>far<br>near | Dir.<br>Trav. | No<br>planes | No<br>eng. | Height | Time<br>a.m. p.m. | Remarks     |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|
| 23 De.<br>'44 | SEEN                      | EAST                 | NEAR                 | N             | I            | 2/E        | HIGH   | 8.44              | Beaufighter |

After each sighting she would have to telephone message. All telephone lines were cleared for these calls. ("Air Flash").

One school in the area has certificates from a) Allyn and Paterson Returned Servicemen thanking them for their contribution to the War Effort during World War I. b) The second one is a tribute for their effort during World War II.

The porch in front of the School of Arts was dedicated to the ex-Servicemen. The R.S.L. erected the Honour Rolls. I understand they are to update them to include those who served in Vietnam, in the very near future.

The C.W.A. erected a fence in front of their rooms in honour of those who left Gresford to fight for their country. A plaque suitably inscribed has been affixed to it.

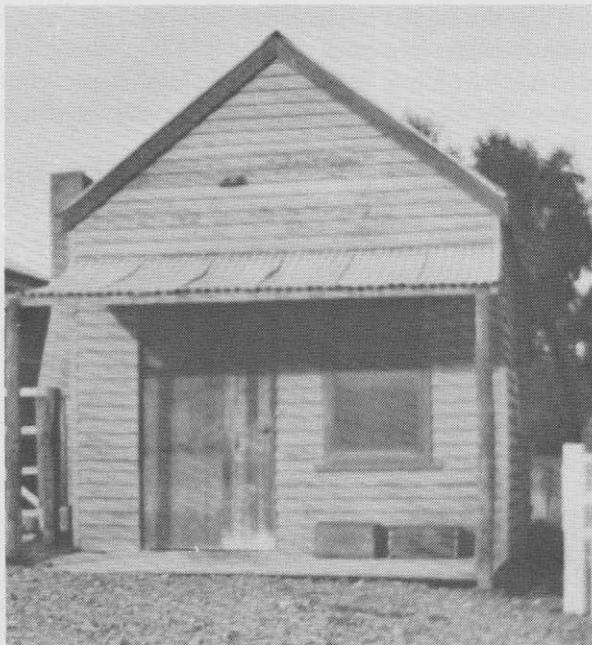
Today the R.S.L. and its Women's Auxiliary support Legacy which assists mothers, wives and families of men who have served their country in war, and are now deceased or incapacitated.

## **LEST WE FORGET**

### **FAST WORK A RECORD OF SPEEDY DECISION MAKING AND ACTION**

#### **OPENING OF C.B.C. BANK IN GRESFORD**

"While relieving the manager at Paterson, I posted a letter to H.O. on Wed. 4th March, 1914, recommending that the bank open at Gresford. H.O. received the letter on Fri. 6th March and decided to open. On Sat. 7th, I received a letter instructing me to open the branch on Tues. 10th March at 10am four days after the board first saw the proposition.



**The first bank in Gresford**

With the help of Paterson accountant, Huntly Scott, I arrived at Gresford with a packing case of stationery, £500 in notes, gold, silver and copper, a very heavy revolver which I had to carry in my pocket all the time, and a calico sign. I called on Mr. Dark, a local storekeeper and informed him of my errand and asked him if there were any unoccupied buildings from which I could choose premises. The only unoccupied building was let to a butcher who kept it closed to keep out a possible rival. I went looking for the butcher and found him at his killing yards. He was a very nice chap and was very pleased to hear the bank was to open, not only to have local banking facilities, but also because he could cease paying rent for a building he didn't use.

The exterior of the building was far from pretentious and I opened the door of my future office with some misgivings. I immediately observed that it had actually been used as a butchers shop and that it was very dirty, while the air was so heavily impregnated with a stale meat atmosphere that I recoiled in haste. I got the inside of the building cleaned and the walls slapdash painted.

The next morning I went to the premises at 7.00 o'clock, tacked the calico sign in a prominent

position, and having borrowed a table and chair, opened for business at 9.00am.

Lacking a safe, I still had the problem of guarding the cash, — and I had to sleep. My bedroom at the hotel was the best available but the whole lock had been broken off, so before retiring each night I pushed the heavy chest of drawers and my luggage against the door. I concealed the gold and large notes in small calico bags inside my pyjamas. The bags of gold I tied around my legs just above the knee and the notes around my waist. The silver and copper I kept in a leather bag against one of the bedposts hoping that if a burglar got into my room he would grab the bag and the weight would make him think he had everything so that he would happily get away quickly. The revolver and pound notes I kept under my pillow. I was extremely uncomfortable.

On my return to Head Office I learned that Mr. W.H. Pinhey, the northern inspector, was very surprised that I opened the branch so quickly but the thought paramount in my mind was 'Get the branch opened.....no delay.'

Extracts from the Bank Magazine "Current Accounts," dated 18th March, 1961, written by John D. Nisbett, the first manager.

## **HOTELS, WINE SHOPS, INNS.**

To the traveller in the early days hotels, wineshops and inns provided a most pleasant respite from the rigours of long and tiring journeys.

In the "Gresfordian", a school paper, May 1922 we learn something of a very early inn called the "Junction Inn".

Quote. "It was an old weatherboard building at East Gresford. The last occupants were Mr. W. Rooney and his family. It was pulled down by a Mr. H. Smith, himself an older identity than the building, and a native of the district. He wanted the iron from this building for his son's home.



**John Beatty's Victoria Hotel, East Gresford**

This building stood for about 60 years. It was leased on a 32 year building lease by Mr. Jas. Boydell. It was a combined hotel, saddlery, Pharmacy and joinery, all under the one roof.

Evidently things did not prosper for a Newcastle merchant took over the place and sold the entire contents. It was then occupied by a Mr. A. Phillips as a caretaker.

Mr. W. Walker opened a wineshop there but after a short time he sold the balance of his lease (about 20 years) to the late Jas. McCormick of "Clevedon" for £20 p.a.

The late John Beatty, 'Mrs. V. Richardson's Grandfather', leased it from Mr. McCormick and opened a hotel and tobacco factory. After about 20 years this Mr. Beatty, who had been very successful with his tobacco handed the place over to his son Mr. J. Beatty. 'Mrs. V. Richardson's father'. This hotel was called the "Junction Inn".

When Mr J. W. Boydell had the present hotel built, Mr Beatty transferred the licence to there. He called it the "Victoria Hotel". The present "Hotel Beatty" is the same hotel. It has been in the family for quite a long time.

## HANCOCK'S HOTEL

At the Crossroads, Gresford, on the site where Mr. R. Brimble's home now stands, there was a hotel. It belonged to Mr. J.J. Hancock, Mrs. Earl Lawrence's grandfather.

Sad to say it was destroyed by fire in 1922. It is reported that the very next day the Gresford schoolboys, very keen gardeners, asked Mr. Hancock for some of the ashes.



Crossroads Hotel Gresford

## ARD-NA-HANE

Ard-Na-Hane (Scottish for 'on the side of a hill') is situated across the Paterson River from St. Anne's Anglican Church and is the remains of a building which has been a hotel, wineshop and residence during its time.

It is thought that it could have been one of George Townshend's houses. It was convict built not long after the first settlers arrived. Part of it has been destroyed by fire, and structural alterations have been carried out. Captain Allison is thought to have added the balcony about 80 years ago.

The walls are 18in. (45cm) thick. This commodious home has an attic as well as cellars.

Mr. Fry who ran mail and passenger coaches in the area, lived there. The first St. Anne's Church was on the same side of the river. The first Sale yards were there too. It is said that it was around the site of this building that the town was expected to develop.

## **BIRD'S INN — BIRD'S AUSTRALIAN WINES**

A familiar landmark to many weary travellers was the wine shop at Allynbrook. It was first owned by Mr. James Towns, then McCann, Ned Bird, Pat Bird (Mrs. E. Bird's husband). For many years after her husband's death she carried on alone.



**"Reynella" - Bird's wine bar and boarding house - Allynbrook**

During the late 1960's Mrs. Bird sold the licence to a Mr. Drayton at Pokolbin. Mrs. Bird celebrated her 100th birthday there.

Many people used to stay there years ago. A school inspector, Mr. Kevin passed away there. He is remembered as the one who started school libraries. Inspector Kevin was also a poet. He wrote about places and people in the district.



**Gresford Hotel**

**1900** The Governors at Cowleys and Lawrences

**1903** Gresford Congregational Church built (12 pounds)

**1911** Railway line opened to Dungog

**1915** Mail contractor used a motor car.

**1922** Gresford Hotel destroyed by fire.

**1925** Gresford School's first wireless

**1927** First Gresford Show

**1929** Centenary Celebrations

**1930** School of Arts opened

**1937** Electricity connected

**1953** Water supply established for Gresford.

**1956** "Glevedon" Hospital became an annexe of Maitland Hospital.

**1967** St Helen's Centenary Celebrations. Fire brigade commenced.

**1968** Gresford School Centenary

**1972** Lostock Dam opened

**1975** Mt River's School Centenary

**1978** Lostock School Closed

**1979** Year of Child

**1898** Douglas Scott Mitchell left his library to Sydney.

**1901** Boer War - Federation of Australian States

**1912** First automatic telephones (Melbourne)

**1914** World War 1 commenced

**1915** Anzacs at Gallipoli

**1919** First England - Australia flight

**1923** Canberra Begun

**1932** Sydney Harbour Bridge opened

**1939** World War 11 commenced. Population reached 7 million.

**1945** End of World War 11

**1949** Snowy Mt. Scheme Begun

**1956** Australian Olympic Games (Melbourne). TV introduced to Australia.

**1958** Lucas Heights Nuclear reactor opened.

**1965** -1972 Australia involved in Vietnam War.

**1973** Sydney Opera House opened

**1975** Gov. General dismissed Mr. Whitlam

**1979** Year of the Child

**1903** First Aeroplane

**1914** World War 1 commenced

**1918** End World War 1

**1926** Baird invented TV

**1929** Penicillin discovered

**1930** First jet plane

**1933** Hitler came to power

**1939** World War 11 commenced

**1945** First atomic bomb dropped. World War 11 ended. U.N.O. founded.

**1947** India became independent

**1953** Coronation Elizabeth 11. Hillary climbed Everest

**1959** Russian moon rocket

**1961** First manned space flight

**1969** Man on moon

**1974** Vietnam War ended

## EVENTS UP TO THE SESQUI-CENTENARY

| GRESFORD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | AUSTRALIA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | THE WORLD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1829</b> Gresford began</p> <p><b>1830</b> Charles BoydeU began his diary. (now in Mitchell Library)</p> <p><b>1845</b> Bishop Broughton laid foundation stone St. Mary's on Allyn.</p> <p><b>1845</b> Bishop Broughton laid foundation stone St. Mary's on Allyn.</p> <p><b>1855</b> Patriotic Fund began (orphans of Crimean War)</p> <p><b>1861</b> Mt Rivers P.O. opened</p> <p><b>1868</b> First public school at Gresford.</p> <p><b>1879</b> Lewinsbrook P.O. changed to Allynbrook P.O.</p> <p><b>1884</b> First telephone to Gresford</p> <p><b>1886</b> First money orders available</p> <p><b>1887</b> John Bush died</p> <p><b>1888</b> Death of Dr R.Park</p> | <p><b>1829</b> West. Aust. colony began</p> <p><b>1828</b> Sturt down the Murray</p> <p><b>1830</b> Trial by Jury established</p> <p><b>1831</b> 1st steamship to come to Australia</p> <p><b>1840</b> Transportation of convicts ceased.</p> <p><b>1850</b> University of Sydney began</p> <p><b>1855</b> Sydney to Parramatta Railway.</p> <p><b>1860</b> } Burk and Wills Expedition</p> <p><b>1861</b> }</p> <p><b>1862</b> John McDouall Stuart across Australia.</p> <p><b>1869</b> First free Public Library (Aust).</p> <p><b>1870</b> Overland Telegraph Line</p> <p><b>1879</b> First Steam Tram</p> <p><b>1880</b> Ned Kelly captured. Public Instruction Act.</p> <p><b>1885</b> Tamworth lit with electricity</p> <p><b>1890</b> First electric tram (Sydney)</p> | <p><b>1830</b> Stephenson's "Rocket"</p> <p><b>1834</b> Louis Braille system of reading</p> <p><b>1837</b> Morse's Telegraph Queen Victoria to throne</p> <p><b>1840</b> Rowland Hill introduced 1d postage.</p> <p><b>1854</b> Crimean War</p> <p><b>1855</b> Florence Nightingale in Crimea</p> <p><b>1856</b> End of Crimean War</p> <p><b>1861-65</b> American Civil War</p> <p><b>1869</b> Suez Canal opened</p> <p><b>1873</b> Bell invented telephone</p> <p><b>1877</b> Edison invented phonograph</p> <p><b>1879</b> First electric lamps</p> <p><b>1887</b> First Daimler Car</p> <p><b>1895</b> Marconi invented wireless</p> <p><b>1898</b> Radium discovered by Curies</p> <p><b>1898</b> } Boer War</p> <p><b>1901</b> }</p> |

## ALLYNBROOK HOTEL

This hotel is now the home of Mr. K. Lawrence. Mrs. Nan Richardson's family once owned it. The Whites of Allynbrook too. Mrs. Bridget White has some mementoes of those times. Falkiners and Barlings are other names associated with the hotel.



Allynbrook - "Cross Keys" Hotel

### FROM MOO to YOU MILK

Nature's most perfect food.  
Fresh - each delivery - to your door

#### PRODUCTS CARRIED

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| ● Milk           | ● Sour Light Cream |
| ● Cream          | ● Dairy Custard    |
| ● Flavoured Milk | ● Butter           |
| ● Milk Coffee    | ● Yogurt           |
| ● Cheese         | ● Fruit Juices     |

**D. H. WELLS**  
Reg'd Milk Vendor  
**EAST GRESFORD**

### H. G. & C. A. FURNER

### GENERAL STORE

**Phone 389 224**

**61 Park Street,  
EAST GRESFORD**

## TRANSPORT

Horses or horse and bullock drawn vehicles (drays) were used to get to and from the district in the past. When the wheelwrights became established fine sulkies, buggies and coaches were built and imported ones repaired. To get to Maitland meant a long tiring journey with a stay on the way there, and back.

Paterson was an important river port. Early settlers travelled on horses, horse and dray or bullock waggon to get there and boarded a small boat to Morpeth or Newcastle. There they changed to a bigger boat for the trip to Sydney.

A Mr. Fry who lived at "Ard-na-Hane", Gresford ran a Mail and Passenger coach service to Paterson at one time. When the railway opened at Paterson, Messrs. Grey and Hancock used a solid tyred truck as a bus from Gresford to Paterson.

As the township and surrounding areas grew, Rover Motors began a bus service from Gresford to Maitland. There were about four buses down and back. These were well patronised too. The late bus on Friday nights used to run out as far as Cross Keys Road at Allynbrook.

Some of the farmers from the outlying areas, before they owned cars of their own, used to travel on mail cars or milk lorries. On the lorries they were shuttled from one lorry to the other like the cream cans. Sometimes there would be so many passengers on the vehicles that some had to stand on the running board and hold on for dear life.

After World War II most farmers bought their own cars or trucks. Less and less people travelled on lorry, mail car or bus. Because of this lack of patronage bus timetables have been drastically reduced.



A relic of the past. Old Allynbrook horse-drawn hearse, operated by a man named Smith, who, besides conducting an undertaking business, was also the local blacksmith. The hearse (minus wheels) is now in the Glenbawn Dam Museum, near Scone. Photo J. Sullivan/H. Boyle, 1977.

## HEALTH CARE

The first medico most surely must have been Dr. Park of Lewinsbrook. According to a Maitland Mercury report which read —

"the undersigned begs to acquaint the inhabitants of the Paterson district that he will not visit any more patients after 1st Jan., 1863. Robert Park. Lewinsbrook, 1st Dec., 1862."

Dr. Park was the son-in-law of Charles Boydell. He died at home on 14th April 1888 and was buried at Gresford Church of England churchyard on Sunday, 15th April, 1888. Another early Medico buried in the same Churchyard was Frederick Lockwood Logan M.D. Born 11th April, 1840. Died 2nd July, 1879, still quite a young man.

These early doctors were supported by midwives-self made nurses. Much later trained nurses, known as "Bush Nurses" travelled the district caring for the sick. The Late Mrs. Joe Watson was one of them. As time progressed Gresford had a visiting Doctor and dentist who came to the town on Sale Days and held clinics. Later still, resident doctors came. Dr. Kem Yee was probably the first.

Dr. U.L. Brown started a hospital called "Calala" at West Gresford.

Some of the other doctors to serve Gresford were Drs. Lloyd, Stephenson, Zeigler, Murphy, Plunkett, Short, Long, Peter Smith, Wilson, Clark-Stephens. Dr. Freeman and Dr. Patkin of Dungog visited for a time. Dr. Rosemary Sheather is the present resident Doctor.

In the early 1950's Sister Bracy started a private hospital in the Thalberg Homestead on "Clevedon". In 1956, it became an annexe of Maitland Hospital. At this very time, 1979, the residents of Gresford are fighting to keep it open. At present, a District Nurse from Dungog visits sick people in their homes once a week. A visiting Baby Health Centre Nurse holds a regular clinic at the C.W.A. rooms.

People of the area subscribe to the St. John's Ambulance of N.S.W. Dungog and Maitland are the closest. The first Pharmacy was in the same building as the old "Junction Inn".

Mr. Boume opened his chemist shop in the early 1950's. After he left, Mrs. N. Watts of Dungog opened her chemist shop in the old C.B.C. bank. She is still providing the district with a valuable service.

Every few years the Mobile T.B. Clinic visits our town. Chest Xrays are compulsory for everyone over 35 years. Schools are visited by doctors, nurses and dentists also.

To assist invalids still at home the Meals on Wheels Service, manned by voluntary labour provides meals at a reasonable cost three times a week. A Day Care Centre meets one day a week at Gresford. It is a very busy activity centre where folk, young and old, can meet, talk, play and work together.

## SERVICE CLUBS IN THE AREA

Hereunder is a list of Service Clubs functioning in the area at the present time.

R.S.L. and it's Women's Auxiliary.

The Women's Guilds of the Various Churches.

The Red Cross Assoc.

The C.W.A. Assoc.

The Apex Club.

The Hospital Auxiliary.

The Local Associations for the Guides and the Scouts.

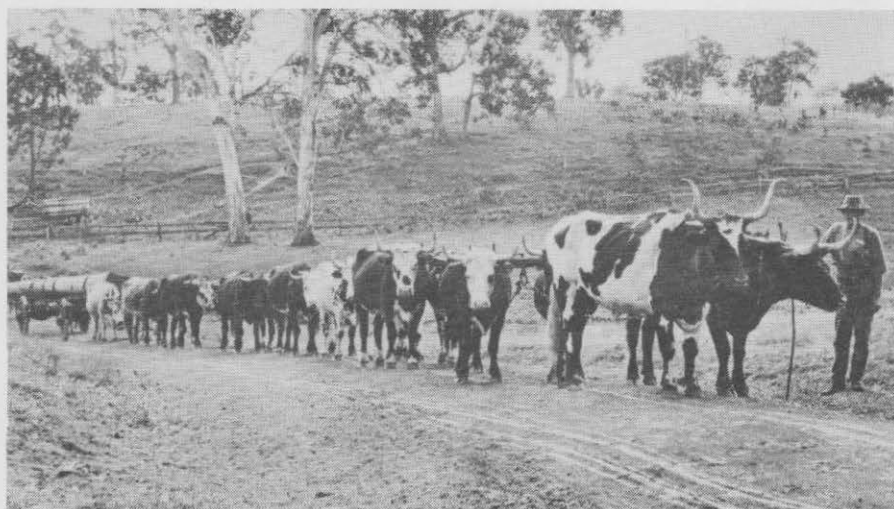


Gresford Garage

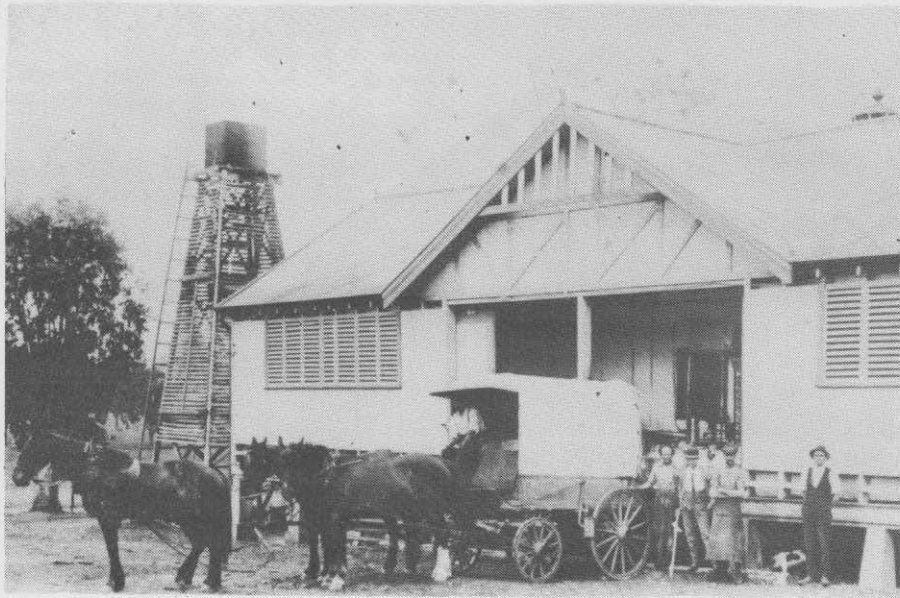
### **EARNING A LIVING (JOBS).**

Many and varied were the occupations of the early settlers. Besides being farmers tilling the soil and tending their stock, seasonal grape pickers were employed. Coopers, who made and repaired the wooden wine casks were to be found on all the vineyards.

As the various settlements grew and prospered shops began to appear. The general store that supplied many things from needles, food and clothes and furniture, was first. Soon specialist shops were set up. There was the saddler, tailor, hairdresser, bootmaker, cobbler, chair mender (known as 'Cane Bottom'), butcher, baker, blacksmith, auctioneer and undertaker.



A bullock team hauling logs in the 1920's



**Gresford Butter Factory, L. to R. — Driver - L. Lawrence, bald head - Jim Warr, a visitor, Stan Duggan in the apron and Arch Albert, the manager.**

At Allynbrook Mr. King (an American) had a soap factory. He made "Yankie Magic" soap. Hawkers, usually foreigners, travelled the district on foot, sulký, or van displaying their wares. They filled a great need for the isolated families of the area.

Because of the Cattle, Pig and Horse Sales held regularly many farmers and their wives and families came to town for the day. Tea Rooms and hotels catered for their meals.



**Leslie Grey's funeral from Grey's Store. The hearse was drawn by horses.**



A bush saw pit at Eccleston

At Mt. Rivers, an antimony mine was worked for several years. As the larger properties were split up and sold many new jobs were created. Men to clear the land and to fence were required. Builders to construct new homes, dairies, sheds and bridges were in demand. Itinerant brickmakers travelled the area. Brickyards were established at Gresford and Allynbrook. Sawmills, using steam power were set up. Timber, plain and dressed, was carted by bullock team to various parts of the district. What a busy time the bricklayers and the carpenters had!



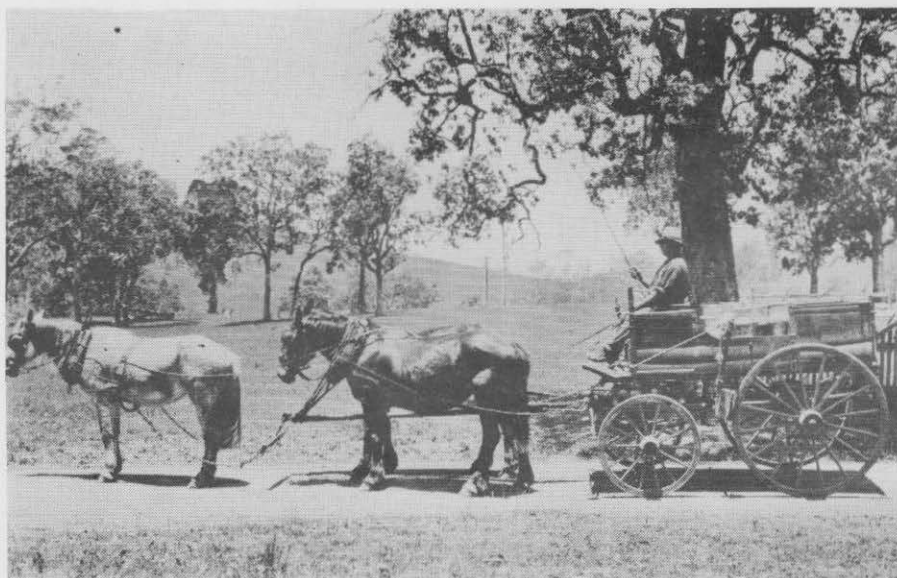
Logging in the 1920's - a 42' log on a bullock team in front of Eccleston Congregational Church. Most of the logs came from the Allyn River. Hancocks had a sawmill some miles up the river, and Norman Joliffe had a mill between Eccleston and Allynbrook.



**A Cream Boat on the Paterson River**

Prior to World War II the demand for rabbit skins was very high. Each Monday morning trappers would arrive in town to sell their bundles of skins.

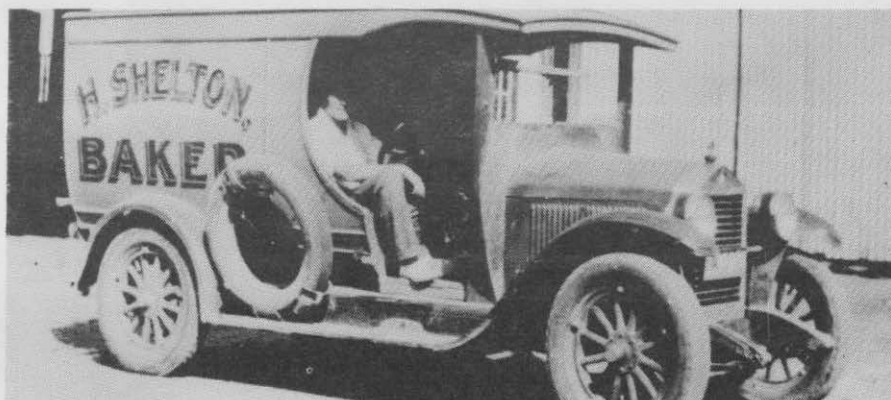
As time marches on and technology advances at such a pace, very few jobs are now available here for many of our citizens. Many people have moved away from the land to find work in industry or council and government services in the cities.



**Photo of Sol Hopper driving the cream waggon. It is not certain how many times a week he took the cream to Gresford. He usually had loadings of groceries, etc. Bruce Dark also made regular trips from Gresford to Eccleston with a large van. Eccleston in 1918 was very isolated and was the end of the road.**



W. Spencer and Shop

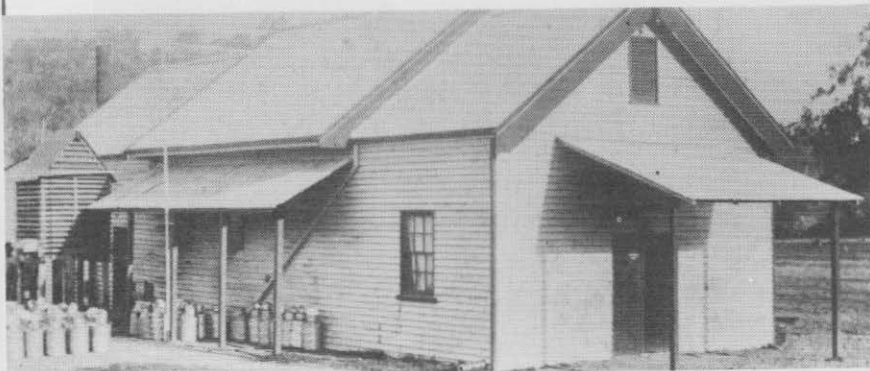
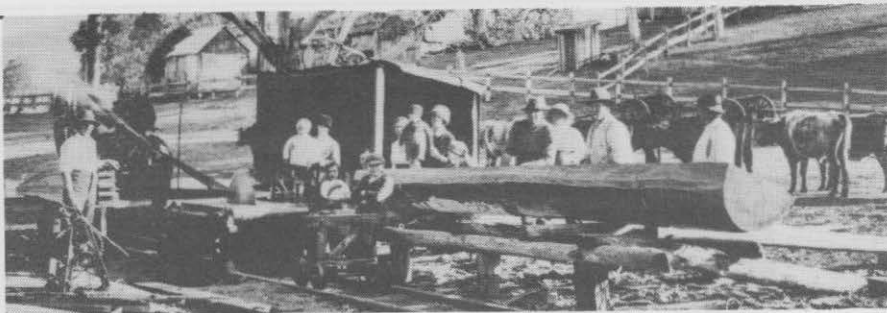


The truck belonging to H. Shelton, Baker



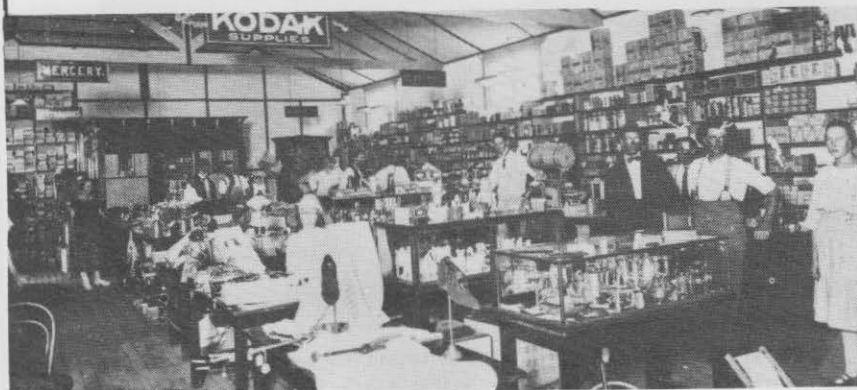
Ramakhan (an Indian Hawker) at Cawarra. This photo was taken around 1916.

Saw mill on  
the Allyn River



A Creamery

Halsted's Store



Interior of a store  
in earlier days



Halsted's Store - East Gresford



Inside Halsted's Store - Gresford

## POLICE STATION

From Zena Hancock's (Late Mrs. C. Arthur) article in the "Gresfordian" May, 1922, we learn that the first constable was Constable Smith, the next Murray. They lived at the old government surveyed town near the Pound Crossing. The first police came around the 1860's or 70's.

Later a slab building was erected by Mr. Jas Boydell for the local policeman and his family at East Gresford. The building was of slabs with a shingle roof. The shutters of wood on the windows were hung with leather hinges. The first to live in the old building was named Forrest. The last to live in the place was Constable Prentice, father of Mrs. Harold Smith (senior) of Lom. He was also the first to live in the new brick residence.

Sergeant Danks was the next to take up residence there. His son gave to Mrs. Alex Hancock a water colour of the station painted by an itinerant painter. IT WAS DONE BEFORE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY BECAUSE THE FLAG ON THE POLE IS NOT THE Australian one.

All the policemen up to Constable Lonsdale (later an Inspector) travelled the district on horseback carrying out their duties. These duties included inspecting dairies and collecting the Livestock returns. After horses, motorbike became the policeman's mode of transport.

During the last two decades the police have had comfortable cars or land-rovers to visit the various parts of the area.

It is over a decade since court cases were held in the Court House. When the Police Station was repaired and renovated recently, the old Court House became part of the policeman's comfortable residence.



**A & M GEORGE**

**Park St., East Gresford**  
**PHONE 389295**  
**for prompt attention**

**GRESFORD'S**  
**QUALITY BUTCHER**



J. SISSION

**GRESFORD**  
**GENERAL**  
**DRAPERY**

• Agent for Akubra Hats •

Can't-TEAR-EM  
MOLESKIN TROUSERS  
JOHN BROWN SOCKS  
AND CARDIGANS  
DRI-GLO TOWELS  
EXACTO WINDCHEETERS  
KOALA BRAND PYJAMAS  
T-SHIRTS AND  
GLOSTER SHIRTS



A caricature in "Country Life Stock and Station Journal" 23/6/1939.  
The article was entitled "Up the Paterson"



Gresford Centenary Procession November 2, 1929

## ALLYN VALLEY SIMMENTALS

"Glenthorne" East Gresford,  
N.S.W. 2491. Phone 389467  
Alex and Shirley Brown,  
Herd Manager Russell Brown.  
Herd designation AAR.

Among the first in Australia to have one, of the oldest breeds in the world, herd books dating back over 2000 years.

Simmentals are the only proven dual purpose cattle in the world. "Allyn Valley Simmentals" are the only herd

in N.S.W., being officially herd recorded, for milk production, butter fat and solids not fat, they certainly hold their own, with other breeds.

Allyn Valley Simmentals, open for inspection and sales.

## ABORIGINAL TALES

At the time of Mr. Charles Boydell's arrival at "Camyr Allyn" the Gringai tribes roamed the land about the area. Mr. J. Boydell told the story about his father's first encounter with the Gringai. I quote.... "When the wild blacks first saw my Father on horseback they imagined it was one animal, and were astonished when he got off his horse. All at once they came running towards him calling out, "Turraby". Now Turraby was the name of a chief that had died some time before, and whom they said was like my father and they could not account for his appearance amongst them in any other way, than (to use their own expression) 'that he died a blackfellow and jumped up white fellow'.

They then proceeded to introduce him to his uncles, his aunts and his cousins. From that day my Father's word was law amongst the Gringai tribe and I have always been Turraby's son and had equal power over them."

A story told by the late G.J. Champaign.

When the first arrival of the steam boat to Paterson was due certain citizens of Gresford thought it would be interesting to see how the Blacks might react to such a spectacle and invited them to attend.

Travel was by horse and buggy and the blacks ran down afoot in little more time, and a considerable assembly awaited the boat's maiden arrival. When it appeared around a bend of the Paterson River, squat and puffing smoke, the blacks remained calm and expressionless with no sign of emotion.

When asked, "What you think that fella?" the reply was, "Uh, Boss, likum black duck smokum pipe."

## BOWLS . . . BOWLS . . .

**Come along and roll them**

**Games Nights . . .**

**Socials . . .**

**Cabarets . . .**

**Bona fide visitors  
always welcome**

**Just come along and  
join your friends**

**GRESFORD BOWLING CLUB  
Park Street,  
East Gresford  
389 368**

**For all your cartage needs  
contact**

**R. M. & B. M. WARR**

**Livestock and General  
Carrier**

**162 Durham Road, Gresford.  
2491**

**Phone 389 293  
22 years experience  
in business**

## Advertisements used in 1929...

### **BROOKER & LINDEMAN**

**AUCTIONEERS, VALUERS,  
STOCK & STATION AGENTS**

**Stock Sales of Fat and Store Pigs and Cattle,  
Every Alternate Friday at 11 a.m.**

**Gresford Union every Monday, at 11 a.m.**

**Orchard and Farm Produce  
Property, Land and Clearing-out Sales, Conducted  
in any part of the District.**

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### **PERCY MERRYFIELD**

**HAIRDRESSER, EAST GRESFORD.**

**Tennis Repairs. Umbrellas Repaired.**

**Scissors Sharpened.**

WHEN IN WANT OF ANYTHING

There is no need for any inconvenience—no need for  
hesitation.

Your Problem may be Solved at

# Knight's Store

for we have a LARGE RANGE of your  
Everyday Requirements in all Departments—

RIGHT HERE ON THE SPOT,

having anticipated your patronage.

We are here at your Service

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Our Prices are Right, and you will get a Square Deal.

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So come right along—and “get the habit” of doing  
your shopping at

**KNIGHT'S STORE**

**EAST GRESFORD.**

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF

# School of Arts

IF NOT  
WHY NOT

?

Subscription, 2/6 a Quarter.

Splendid Library.

Billiards

Ping-Pong

---

UNITY IS STRENGTH.

JOIN UP!

---

THE SECRETARY OR ANY MEMBER OF THE  
COMMITTEE will be glad to welcome you.

## **ALF. WATSON**

**GRESFORD. 'Phone: 17.**

**GENERAL CARRIER.**

**EAST & WEST MAITLAND TRIPS DAILY.**

**CREAM & MILK COLLECTION DAILY.**

Prompt attention to all orders. A trial solicited.

My motto: Promptness and attention.

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## **C. G. ARTHUR**

**PATERSON,**

**THE NEW LIVE BAKER & PASTRYCOOK.**

**Fresh Bread Delivered Daily.**

My Motto: Serve to please, and Please to Serve.

**'Phone: 39 Paterson.**

HABIT IS SECOND NATURE.

Get the Habit of going to

**E. BURLEY'S IDEAL STORE**

You Won't Regret It.

PRICES ARE LOW. GOODS ARE THE BEST.

Attention and Civility to Everyone.

If you cannot call, 'Phone 2 Gresford.

We want your custom, and after you have given us  
an order you will want us.



SOFT DRINKS, VICTOR'S ICE CREAMS.

CHOICE FRUITS direct from the Orchards.

Refreshments Served at All Hours.



MAKE NO MISTAKE:

WE LEAD:

WE ARE ON THE TOP OF THE HILL.

We are on top for anything you want.

BURLEY'S STORE, EAST GRESFORD.

# FARMERS!

READING MAKETH A FULL MAN  
WRITING AN EXACT MAN

BUT CONFERENCE MAKES A READY MAN.

JOIN THE AGRICULTURAL BUREAU,  
and discuss subjects nearest to your pocket.

G. N. DOYLE, Hon. Sec.

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## C. C. HALL

EAST GRESFORD,

will BUY any class of CATTLE.

PODDY CALVES AND VEALERS A SPECIALITY.

'Phone: 43 Gresford.

# Gresford Bakery

T. BOYLE, BAKER, PASTRYCOOK.

BREAD OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.

CAKES AND PASTRY SUPPLIED.

Wedding Cakes a Speciality.

My Goods Speak for themselves.

ONLY FIRST-CLASS QUALITY SUPPLIED.

'Phone: 1 Gresford.

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## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF GRESFORD DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

If not, you are OUT OF FASHION.

FALL INTO LINE.

A. R. BROWN, Sec.

# Shelton & Fisher

GARAGE AND SERVICE STATION.

Agents for

ESSEX and  
FORD CARS  
And TRUCKS

All Classes of Repairs. Complete Stock of Accessories.

TYRES — BENZINES — OILS

At Competitive Prices.



DAY AND NIGHT SERVICE.

'Phone: 36 Gresford.

When requiring MEAT, leave your order with

**LES. LAWRENCE**

**THE QUALITY BUTCHER,**

Where Quality and Service go hand in hand.



**My Motto: Cleanliness, Civility, Attention.**

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WHEN YOU GET A GOOD THING  
REMEMBER WHERE YOU GOT IT.

**W. M. WATSON**

**THE BOOT STORE      EAST GRESFORD.**

**'Phone 49.      Green Coupons Given Freely.**

THE LEADING BUTCHERS.

## DRINKWATER BROS.

We Supply Best Meat at Lowest Prices.

MEAT KILLED DAILY.

We Act up to our motto: Attention and Civility.

A Trial Proves. We are here to satisfy.

'Phone: 2.            Green Coupons Given Freely.

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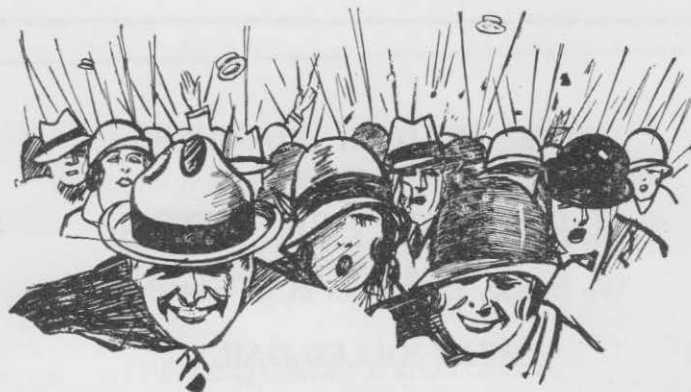
## SID WATT

GENERAL CARRIER,

FIREWOOD, TIMBER, RIVER GRAVEL, Etc.,

at Shortest Notice.

'Phone: 36 Gresford.



## **EAST GRESFORD MAKES WHOO-P-EE !**

Our native sons will soon be back with us.  
Old friendships will be renewed, and we're all looking  
forward to Back to Gresford Week being as Merry as a  
Wedding.

### **CHANT'S THE LEADING STORE OF EAST GRESFORD**

Will be able to take care of all your requirements for the carnival occasion.

You will, no doubt have visitors and you will want to show them a  
good time.

Everything for home and farm is here at the same moderate prices  
that made CHANT'S Store in West Maitland famous.

Should you require anything that is unobtainable in our East Gresford  
Store, you will have our big West Maitland stocks upon which to draw.

Shop in person, Shop by 'Phone, or Shop by Post. Chant's have  
unusual facilities for serving you and can execute Country Orders with  
despatch.

### **CHANT & CO. LTD. WEST MAITLAND & EAST GRESFORD**



D. Smith

Saddle and Harness Maker

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ALL CLASSES OF SADDLES AND  
HARNESS STOCKED  
AT PRICES TO SUIT THE PUBLIC

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NEW STOCKS OF SPORTING GOODS  
CRICKET, TENNIS, FOOTBALL, GOLF  
VIGORO, PING PONG, BOBS, QUOITS

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The Sports Depot

## THE GOVERNORS – THE BREELONG BLACKS

A correspondent reported in the Maitland Mercury, Mon. Sept., 17, 1900 "great excitement in the Lostock neighbourhood today. A party of 13 armed men, police and civilians arrived at "Penshurst" about noon to tell that the Governors had stuck up D. Cowley's at Carabolla the night before. At 5pm they had another report from Mr. Drummond, the Upper Lostock school teacher that the Governors had stuck up Edward Lawrence's at 2pm. They took from Lawrence's blankets and enough rations for a fortnight.

During the usual stock sales at Gresford on the Friday news got abroad about the Governors robbing the huts in the district. It was not long before the saleyards were deserted, as most people made for their homes to protect their wives and families.

It is said that large numbers of people slept at the residence of Mr. H.H. Brown, of Coulston, on Friday and Saturday nights, also at Hancock's and Beatty's hotels in Gresford.

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

In "Fighters of the North" written by Bob Power and published 1976, is the story of Paddy Slavin. Paddy was born at Brecon Village near "Elm's Hall," Vacy on 8th Feb., 1862.

However after the good strikes of gold had been reported at Hanging Rock and the Moonan fields his parents went with the gold seekers up to the source of the Allyn River, past Carey's Peak, and down to near "Belltrees" Station on the Pages River. His first fights were bareknuckle fights. He proved himself to be a good fighter in Australia and England.

When he retired from the ring he settled down as sheriff of Dawson City. When World War I began the then 52 year old ex-heavy weight champion of Australia and all England joined the Canadian Forces. He served in France as a member of the famous Princess Pat Regiment. He was invalided home to British Columbia before the end of hostilities. He died in Oct., 1930 some forty years after his departure from Sydney.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Maitland Mercury  
Newcastle Herald  
Mr. Jack Sullivan  
Mr. Harry Boyle  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Capp  
Mrs. V. Brooker  
Mrs. E. Lawrence  
Mrs. W. Everett  
Mrs. G. Everett  
Mrs. H. Smith  
Mrs. Marquet

Mitchell Library  
Jenny Hunter  
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(Post Office Histories)  
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Hunter Valley Dairy Co.  
Mr Boydell Champaign

Mrs. C. Lawrence  
Mrs. M. Hall  
Mr. D. Bogan  
Mr. Don Drinkwater  
Mrs Hazel Hancock  
Mr & Mrs D. Forde  
Mrs Molly Crew  
R.J.E. Marceau  
Ms Adele Peacock