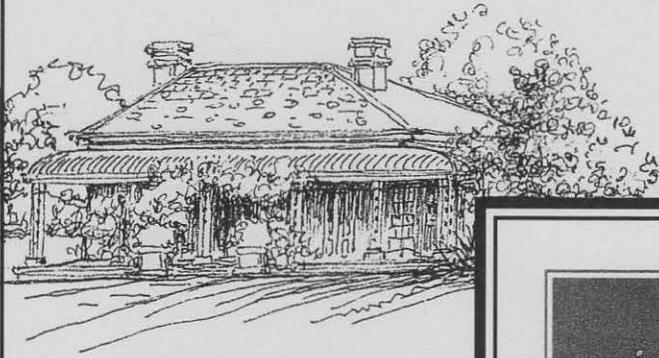


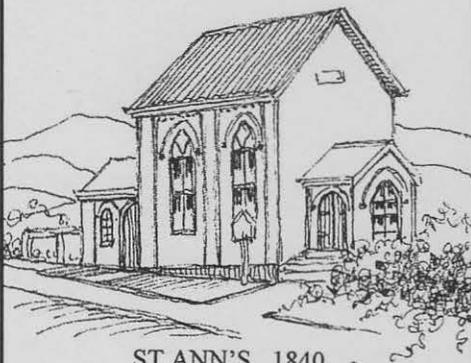
A SYNOPSIS OF
THE HISTORY OF THE PATERSON RIVER VALLEY



BELLEVUE



LEMON GROVE 1890



ST ANN'S 1840



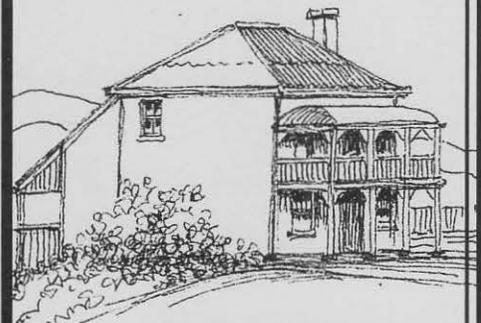
LT COL W PATERSON

HARRY F BOYLE OAM

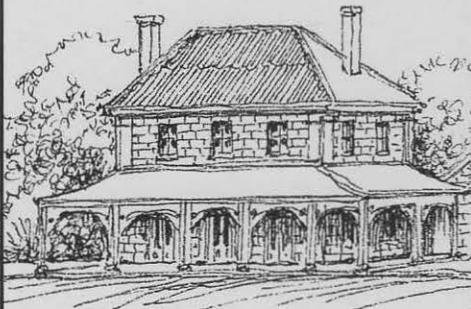
LESLEY GENT

VAL ANDERSON

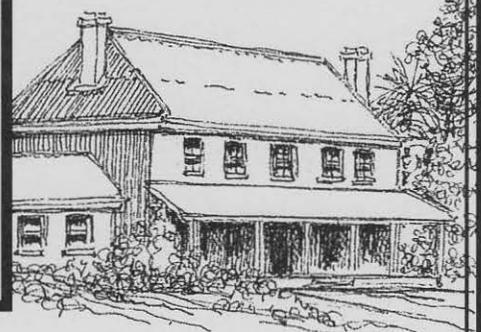
Illustrator



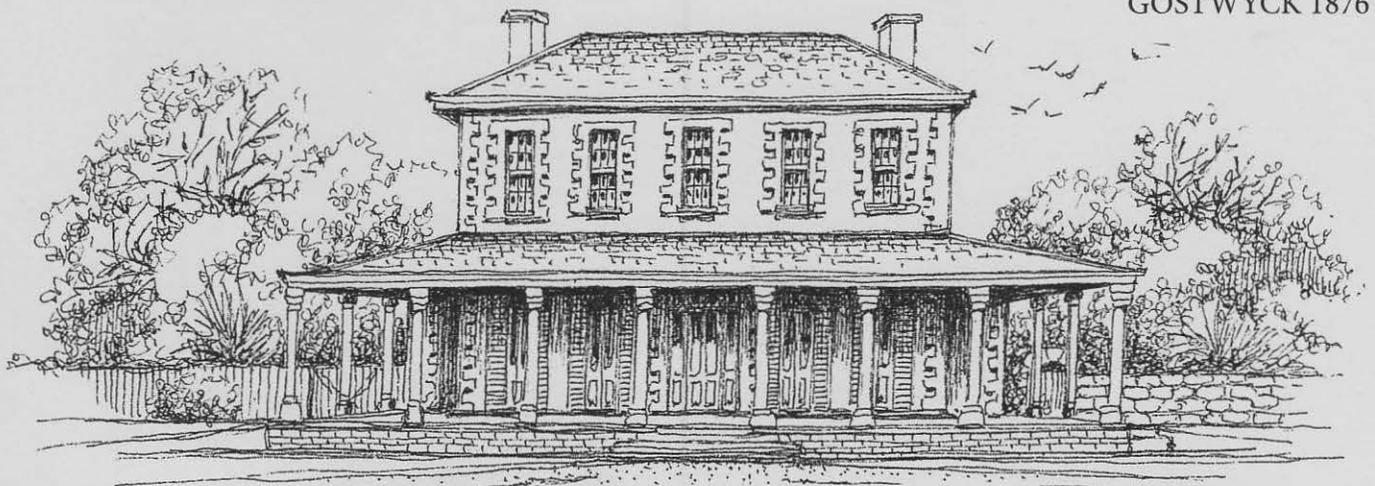
ROYAL OAK INN c1845



DUNMORE 1830's



GOSTWYCK 1876



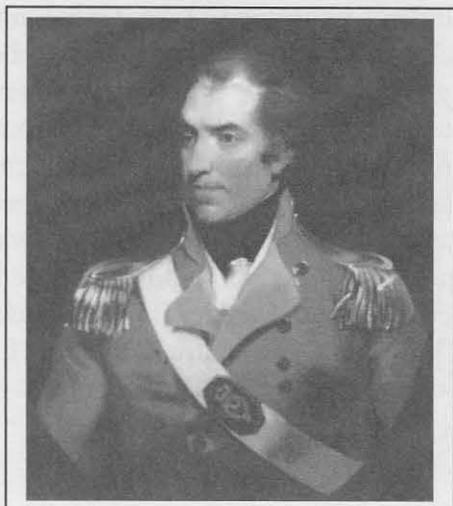
TOTAL HOMESTEAD 1841

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Val Anderson 2011

A SYNOPSIS OF

THE HISTORY OF THE PATERSON RIVER VALLEY



LT COL PATERSON

The Paterson River and its valley perpetuates the memory of an honourable man, Lt. Col. William PATERSON, the senior military officer in the colony at the time of its discovery and who was with the first exploring party up the Hunter River. Lt. Col. William Paterson rose to the rank of Lieutenant Governor. After a very useful career in the colony and in ill health he sailed for England on the *Dromedary* on 12 June, unfortunately he died at sea on 21 June,

1810. Paterson is a much revered man in South African history through his explorations from 1777 to 1779 where he travelled over 9,000 kilometres. Paterson was travelling with Robert Jacob Gordon in Africa when Gordon named the Orange River in honour of the Prince

of Orange. (Ref: Paterson's Journal) Paterson is also said to have found the first fossils in that Continent. He had a fine career in India and Australia and his interest in botany, birds and animals never lapsing. He was described as being "*less interested in public affairs than he was in fossils, lerp insects and the digestive powers of the Tasmanian Wolf*".

After the first exploring party to Newcastle returned to Sydney and made their reports Governor King sent Surveyor Grimes, Francis Barrallier and William Paterson, among others, back to do a more thorough survey and they discovered the Paterson River, firstly called the New River. On the 11 December 1801, Grimes reports that cedar and kurrajong were more plentiful up the New River than any other part. For the next twenty years the district remained under the penal system. When it had served the purpose for which it was formed the settlement of the valley then began and by 1830 all the land had been taken up.

In 1812, Governor Macquarie ordered the Commandant Wallis to allow some settlement on the River. Fearing the influence these settlers would have on the convicts at Newcastle, the convicts were brought up the River for forty miles, in the vicinity of Woodville, and here the first settlement in the Hunter Valley began. By 1813 they had produce for sale thus establishing the antiquity of the area in the history of Australia. Local farmers were producing before a way had been found over the Blue Mountains.

Tragedy struck the infant settlement on 18 July 1815, when John Tucker Jnr., Catherine, his bride of the day before, and several of his neighbours were returning to their properties from the wedding celebration in Newcastle. The boat capsized and the bride and several of the settlers were drowned. This tragedy was repeated on 17 January 1821, when Mrs Allen and Mrs John Swan, her baby and two servants were drowned in a similar accident on the near Newcastle.

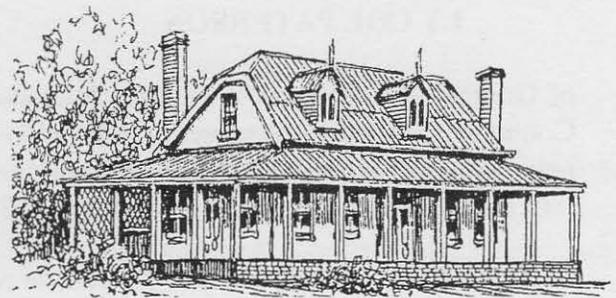
A military outpost had been established at Old Banks, south of present day Paterson, to protect the cedar cutters and the settlers from the aboriginals and escaped convicts. The aboriginals, who were a benign race, rarely caused any concern to the settlers but succumbing to introduced diseases, soon passed on. By 1835, it was remarked how few they had become. In the late 1860's

the Wonarua and Paterson River tribes combined only numbered twelve. The last of the Paterson River tribe, Scrammy Billy, died in May 1894.

The settlers of the Valley who received land grants up to 1830, in the order of their location from the confluence of the Paterson with the Hunter River were: Robert Coram Dillin, Lawrence Standish Harris, James McClymont, Walter Scott, Alexander Livingstone, John Galt Smith, George Lang, William Evans, John Tucker Snr., John Tucker Jnr., Richard Binder and Robert Whitmore, who transferred to the Williams River, John Swan, John Powell, William Dun, James Phillip Webber, James Phillips, F.B. Gibbs, later associated with Norwood, where his young French wife is buried, George Augustus Middleton, Susannah Matilda Ward, George Williams, John Herring Boughton, Edward Gostwyck Cory, John Chapman, James Cann, William Cann, George Frankland, John Cory, James Adair, William Bucknell, George Townshend, Edward Kealey, Alexander Park, Charles Boydell and John Phillip Webber. Others who came late by purchase or other conditions, included Henry Lindeman, Felix Wilson, William Barker Boydell, James McCormack, Charles Reynolds, Thomas Hancock, Edward Doyle, Alfred Holden, H.H. Brown, William Munnings Arnold and others too numerous to mention. All contribute to the history of the Valley.

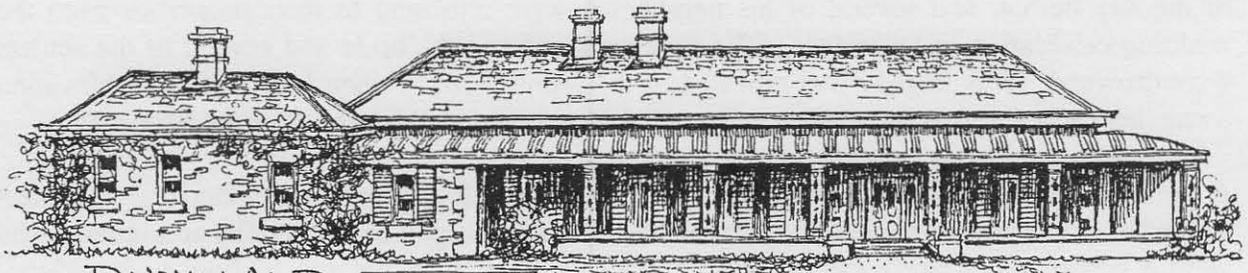


GOSTWYCK 1876



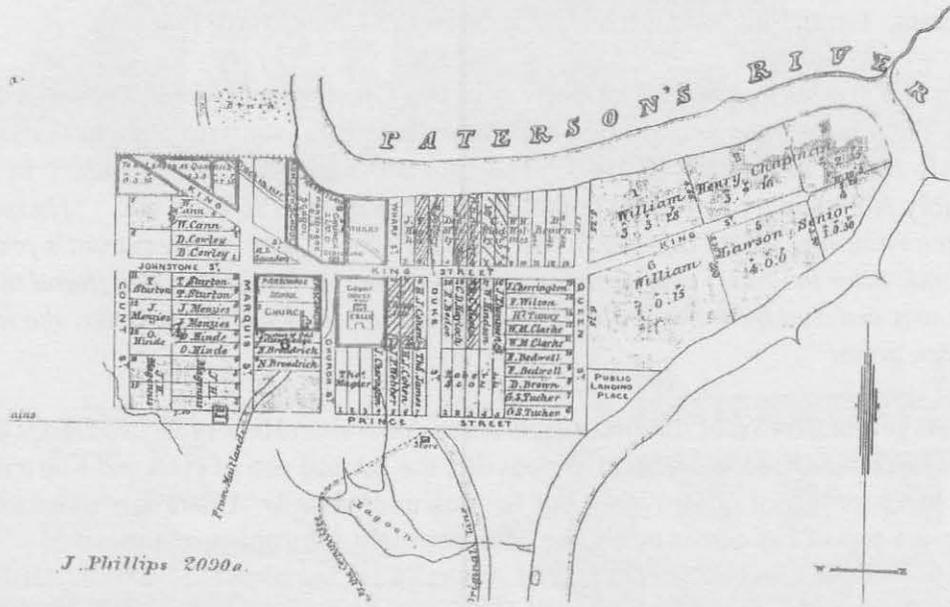
BONA VISTA 1876

In the first electoral roll, in 1859, places, as well as the well known central grants mentioned were: Bona Vista, Bird Hill, Belgrave, Bluey, Brecon, Brisbane Grove, Brinkburn, Beckham Farm, Belle Vue, Bray, Butlers Flat, Clevedon, Caergyrlle, Cader Idress, Coulston, Cory Vale, Coopers Flat, Creebank, Cintra, Cardoness, Chisenden, Charlton Place, Combwell, Clifford, Duninald, Dog Trap, Dunmore, Dunvagan, Elmshall, Emerald Vale, Eden Vale, Gostwyck, Guygallon, Glenthorne, Grove Cottage, Gelnalbin, Green Creek, Halton, High Park, Kowendale, Kelburn, Kempzie, Kings Flat, Lennoxton, Lemongrove, Lewinsbrook, Longside, Mullenroo, Mary Vale, Mount Pleasant, Mowbray, Moneybung, Newtown, Norwood, North River Flat, Orindinna, Portnahinch, Peshurst, Ravenscroft, Razorback, Sugarloaf Creek, Seven Oaks, Stokey Farm, Sherwood, Summer Hill, Stradbroke, Strathallyn, Strathisle, Tocal, Torryburn, Terrors Flat, Tuckbear, Tressingfield, Vineyard, Wollingham, Wallara, Whitfield and Wortwell.



DUNINALD 1876

The plans for the village were drawn up in 1833 and the building lots soon sold. It was not, however, until 20 March 1885 that Paterson was proclaimed a town.



The history of the Valley's churches has been well documented. The oldest Baptist Church in Australia still holding services is at Hinton. St Ann's Presbyterian Church at Paterson was, until very recently, the oldest operating Presbyterian Church. Other beautiful churches in the Valley include St Anne's, Gresford with the unique vine motif and the beautiful, peaceful St Mary on Allyn with its lovely legend. All Saints at Woodville remains in good condition due mainly to its use now as a commercial venture. In addition at Largs is the oldest continual operating school in Australia. It was established firstly as a Presbyterian School in 1838 and became a National School in 1849. Paterson Public School had opened in a hall in 1875 and in 1878 the brick school was completed.



ST PAUL'S CHURCH 1845



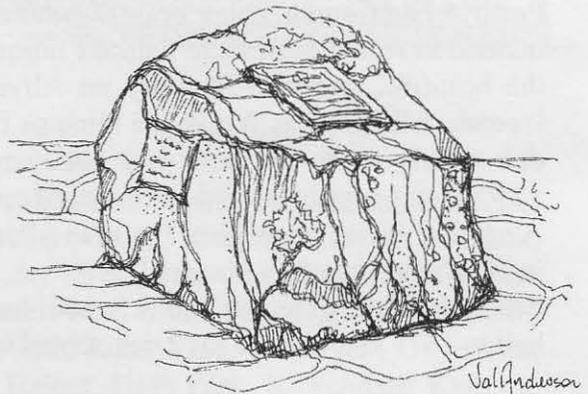
LARGS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Lieutenant Frederick Bedwell, RN, was serving on the *Northumberland* when Napoleon Bonaparte was transported to exile on St Helena. He also accompanied King on surveying voyages around Australia and in retirement lived on *Valentia*, which was part of the original *Cintra* land grant. He and his wife are buried in St Paul's Churchyard, Paterson.

While staying at *Torryburn*, a family property between Gresford and Vacy, Dorothea Mackellar witnessed the breaking of a severe drought and some five years later wrote about that experience in *Core of My Heart*, published in 1908. The title was changed to *My Country* in 1911 and became possibly Australia's most loved poem. In an interview in 1964 she said "*There had been a drought, then rain, and we all danced in the flooding rain. I was on my parent's property out of Maitland and, after the rain I was on the verandah writing a long letter to a friend in England. The paddock was cracked from the drought, a dark colour. As I wrote the letter, the land to the horizon became green*"

The Valley has produced two of the finest fighters in Australian History in Les Darcy and Paddy Slavin. Les Darcy was born in 1896, at Woodville, the second son of Ned and Margaret Darcy. Les Darcy's life was full of controversy but he was undoubtedly Australia's most outstanding fighter and at the top of his career being the Middleweight Champion of the world. He died in the USA in 1917 and his body was returned to Australia for burial in the Catholic cemetery East Maitland. He is remembered with a magnificent bronze statue in the park at East Maitland and an imposing headstone marks his grave.

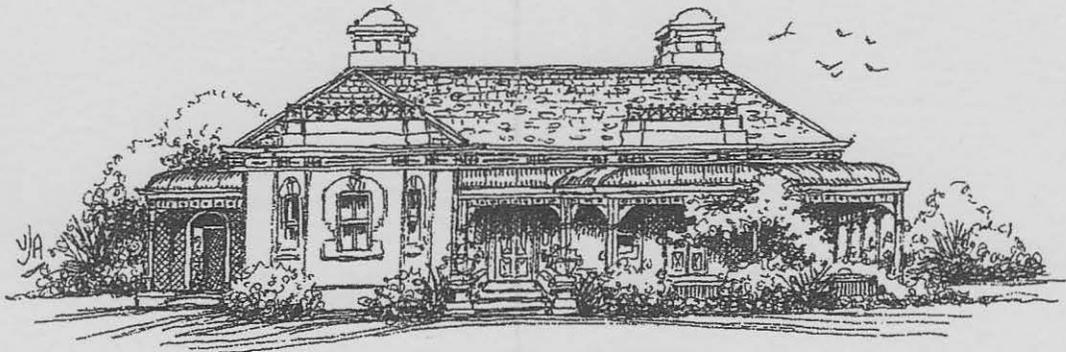
Paddy Slavin was born in 1861 at Vacy to tenant farmers Michael and Julia Slavin. The family moved to Moonan Brook when the boys were young. Paddy first took up boxing during the time he and his brothers, Will and Fred, worked on the Barrington Goldfields. He went on to win the Australian Heavyweight Championship in 1889 and then the Bare Knuckle heavyweight championship of all England. He fought his final American bout in 1896 before migrating to Canada where he fought in the Yukon Territory with success. He became the Sheriff of Dawson City and served during World War I in France with the Canadian Forces. He never returned to Australia but is not forgotten as one of our most famous pugilists. A plaque attached to the Vacy War Memorial commemorates his memory.



**VACY WAR MEMORIAL
PADDY SLAVIN'S PLAQUE TO LEFT**

The Paterson River was navigable as far as Cory's mill at *Gostwyck* making it easy to bring in supplies and send produce to the city. The river was the life-blood of the township of Paterson and the Valley but the coming of the railway in 1911 forced the closure of some businesses and the loss of the river trade.

The Paterson Valley has been referred to as the most scenic valley in Australia and is an integral part of Hunter Valley history yet isolated in its mountain locked plain. With its scenic beauty, history, historic homes, churches, schools and its proud residents the PATERSON VALLEY has an assured future.



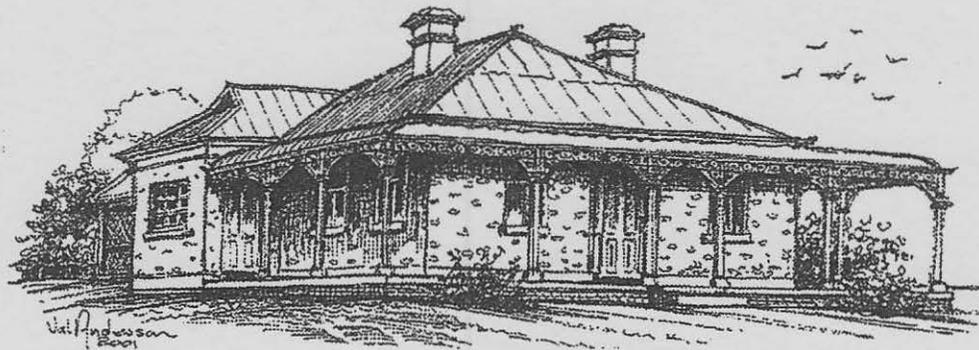
TORRYBURN 1881



KALIMNA 1876



ANNANDALE HOUSE 1839



ELMSHALL 1867



STRADBROKE - 1840-1850



PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM