

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the XV edition of *Tocal History Notes*. Once again we have a wonderful array of information collected by many generous and interested people.

It never ceases to amaze me how much information there is around about Tocal but it is a matter of putting it together and having it at your fingertips. *Tocal History Notes* goes a long way to doing this and has been helpful for people doing research on the property and its families.

This edition has some interesting items about people for whom there is not much written, for example, an article about E A Hunt, the biographical details of William Hardy Wilson, descendant of the Wilson family of Tocal, something about Hog Island in the Paterson River, and the list goes on.

We have updated the information on the name Tocal as more information has become available since it was last recorded in *Tocal History Notes*.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed, in particular our prodigious researchers Jack Sullivan and Harry Boyle.

I trust you enjoy reading this edition of *Tocal History Notes*.

A C ARCHER
Director

February 2005

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THE NAME Tocal

The name Tocal has always been said to originate from an Aboriginal word meaning 'plenty of ducks' but until recently we have been unable to find it documented in historical records, apart from E A Hunt's book of 1972 *A Tocal Story*. The following sources refer to the name Tocal:

1. Charles Boydell's diary
Boydell in his diary has the Aboriginal word 'tugal', meaning plenty/big. If this is correct the word 'Tocal' could possibly mean plenty of ducks.
2. The 1929 booklet *The Port Stephens Blacks - Recollections of William Scott* lists Tookal as the Gringai Aboriginal people's word for 'big'.
3. The *Maitland Mercury* of 25 July, 1896 has an article in it entitled Aboriginal Names by W A Squire. This has the name Tocal recorded as meaning plenty of ducks. This is the sole source found so far which ascribes this meaning to 'Tocal'.
4. An undated manuscript in the Mitchell Library titled *Allyn River - Australian aborigines vocabulary*. This gives the meaning of the word 'great' as Dtucal. Also in the manuscript the word plenty is recorded as being mundi. The manuscript also has meanings of words for Black duck - Womerakai and Wood duck as Noweelon.
5. An elderly gentleman writing in the *Maitland Mercury* August 21, 1877 under the pseudonym Memory records the following regarding Tocal:

I was asked one day why I was stupid, why did I say "Tocal"?, that that was not right, blackfellow call him "Tookle".

This statement was confirmed not very long since by the oldest living resident now in this district; his name is Cooper, he lives at Woodville, he is nearly blind, but I have no doubt retains a good recollection of very old times....

This man speaking to me a few years ago since of old times said "I was living then at Tocal, 'Tookle' we called it then" just as my black informant said.

This reference confirms the above derivation of the name Tocal and also the fact that the pronunciation Tookle could very well be similar to the other pronunciation for big, Tugal.

Conclusion: The evidence in these records would suggest that Tocal means big, great or possibly plenty in some areas. The possible linkage to ducks could be associated with the site being rich and fertile with abundant wetlands. Perhaps it was to do with the site being bountiful and the ducks were one way of describing that. Boydell's diary relates to Aborigines in the area of Gresford, Scott's Recollections are more to the east and the Allyn River Recollections are further to the north. None relate directly to the Tocal site.

James Webber first called Tocal Markham, however by 1831 the Tocal name was applied to the property and in 1834 it was advertised for sale as Tocal. Henry Dangar's 1828 map refers to it as Tocal as does the 1832 NSW Post Office Directory. The *Maitland Mercury* article of 1896 could have possibly drawn on the experiences of elderly people and others relating back to earlier in the 19th century. Its reference

meaning plenty of ducks is possibly a European derivation or interpretation of the Aboriginal name for the site. It is particularly interesting that the name Tocal refers to the natural resources of the area and manifests the environment of Tocal by way of the food it can provide for humans. Given the above, the weight of evidence confirms that Tocal means big/plenty/bountiful. It could possibly also mean 'plenty of ducks' but there is less evidence to support this conclusion.

Sources of references:

1. *Boydell's diary*—Mitchell Library, Reel FM4/1532.
2. *The Port Stephens Blacks - Recollections of William Scott* prepared by Gordon Bennett. Printed and published at Chronicle Office, Dungog NSW 1929. Copy courtesy Jim Vile.
3. *Maitland Mercury* 25/7/1896. Copy courtesy Brian Andrews, Coalfields Heritage Museum, Kurri Kurri.
4. Anon (undated) *Allyn River - Australian aborigines vocabulary*, Mitchell Library Reel CY/2355. Courtesy of Harry Boyle.
5. *Maitland Mercury* Saturday, August 25, 1877. Copy courtesy Jack Sullivan.
6. *NSW Post Office Directory* 1832.
7. Dangar, H *Index and Directory* (London, 1828)

Endnote: The Cooper referred to in the 1877 *Maitland Mercury* article is possibly Alfred Cooper. He arrived as a convict on the ship "Phoenix" in 1828 and was assigned to James Webber at Tocal. He remained in the district after receiving his Ticket of Leave, and married at Paterson in 1840. He would have been about 70 at the time of the article, having worked at Tocal from 1828 to 1836.

A C ARCHER & B P WALSH
Recorders/Researchers

February, 2004

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM HARDY WILSON

His Ancestors

Among early family papers is a letter written in August 1803 to Mr Caleb Wilson of Chancery Lane, London advising of the arrival of the Box with the Coat and Epaulet. The writer is his friend, G F Howe, a soldier stationed at Dover awaiting the expected invasion of England by Napoleon's army. He goes on to inquire – 'How does Felix? I hope the little fellow continues to improve in growth.' The following year Caleb, his wife and two-year-old Felix left their home at St Ives in Huntingdonshire and obtained permission from Lord Hobart, Secretary of War and the Colonies, to proceed to New South Wales as free settlers, Caleb's occupation being listed as 'Taylor'.

Sadly, Caleb and Felix were alone on arrival at Sydney Cove in 1804 by the ship *Experiment*, as Mrs Wilson had died during the voyage. Caleb tried his hand at farming at Windsor and his signature is among those on the Hawkesbury River Settlers' Address to Governor Bligh in 1809 – an address of gratitude and grievances that beset the colonists. A particular grievance to Caleb was the shortage of tools, so he gave up farming life and by 1820 had established a hardware store at No. 28 George Street, Sydney. Felix eventually joined his father in partnership of what proved to be a very profitable venture.

In 1834 Caleb and Felix bought *Tocal* on the Paterson River from the original grantee James Webber who, in 1822, used the aboriginal name *Tucal*, meaning plenty, for his land. It was indeed a land of some three and a half thousand acres of plenty, with established vineyards, orchards, sheep and cattle runs, cottage, outbuildings and barn. Caleb was married again in June 1826 by the Reverend J Lang at the Scots Church to Mrs Catherine Ferrier. The Wilsons later built a magnificent Gothic house, *Caleb Castle*, on Potts Point which, because of the family ironmongery, was nicknamed *Frying Pan Castle*. (This house later became *Grantham*, the home of Henry Cary Dangar.) Caleb died in 1838, a successful merchant aged seventy years, and was buried by the Reverend J McGarvie of St Andrews Scots Church. He was survived by his son Felix, his widow and her daughter Elizabeth born in 1823.

Meanwhile Felix had married Esther Holt, a granddaughter of General Joseph Holt, at the Scots Church in June 1833. He took a great interest in *Tocal*, extending the acreage, and building the present house some time after a fire in 1835 ravaged the homestead buildings. The traditional interiors are well built and the remarkable fireplaces have grates and metal decorations typical of the 1840's – no doubt supplied from the ironmongery of C & F Wilson. As a feature to commemorate the lucrative crops of tobacco, American Indian masks were carved on the drawing room chimney piece. There are interesting outbuildings and the great timber barn is considered one of the finest in Australia.

In 1841 Felix bought several parcels of land in Paterson including the hotel *The Paterson Arms* which had been designed for the vendor, James Phillips, by the architect John Verge. It has always been rumoured that Verge designed *Tocal*; he could well have had a hand in it as at that time he was living nearby at *Lyndhurst Vale* on the Williams River. Also Felix would be aware of Verge's work for in 1843 he bought *Leitrim* at

Newtown, designed by Verge in 1832 for David Chambers, the Acting Crown Solicitor. In 1843 St Ann's Presbyterian Church was completed at Paterson and Felix donated the clock.



*Letterhead of Caleb and Felix Wilson's Store with the bill made out to Mr Edward Riley for tobacco
Collection: Mitchell Library from the Riley Papers.*

Despite the bountiful life on the Paterson, the Wilsons decided to live at *Leitrim* and leased *Tocal* to Charles Reynolds in January 1844. Felix, now a Man of Property, appears to have had a constructive mind and continued with business life at C & F Wilson; became a Councillor for Brisbane ward in 1842 and a Director of the Bank of New South Wales from 1843 to 1850. Felix died at his house *Pine Villa*, described by him as formally *Leitrim*, in Wilson Street, Newtown in September 1865 aged sixty-three. His wife pre-deceased him in 1859 and he was survived by four sons and three daughters. He left an estate valued at the large sum of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds and a will reputed to be the longest ever registered.

Felix and Esther had eleven children in all, but of the six daughters, three little girls died of scarlatina and of the five sons, one died young and three died unmarried, leaving William Joshua the survivor and heir to his father's properties.

William Joshua Wilson (1843-1899) was educated at The Kings School and became an accountant and agent. In 1877 he married Jessie Elizabeth Shepherd, not yet twenty-one years old, at the Presbyterian Church, Newtown. Jessie's grandfather was Thomas Shepherd, a nurseryman from London and founder of the art of landscape in Australia which he recorded in his *Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Wales* (1835) and *Lectures on Landscape Gardening in Australia* (1836). William and Jessie had four sons: David born in 1879, William Hardy in 1881, Lindsay in 1883 and Robert Shepherd in 1886.

William died at his house *Llanthes* in Emu Road, Burwood and left his estate to his wife and three youngest sons. The eldest, David, was provided for as he inherited *Tocal* from grandfather Felix by entail, a rare occurrence in NSW. In 1907 David Wilson, who had

chosen a career with the law, sold *Tocal* to Frank Reynolds after a remarkable lease of sixty-three years.

The name of Hardy relates to the Hardy family, jewellers of St Ives, Huntingdonshire related to Caleb Wilson, who probably encouraged them to come to New South Wales. John Hardy, jeweller of Sydney, was a cousin to Felix Wilson and married Elizabeth Holt, Esther Wilson's sister and the two families were close friends for several generations.

Throughout the nineteenth century the Wilsons chose to live in houses of some architectural quality; perhaps this trait was derived by a young man of the fourth generation in New South Wales who became an architect. His name was William Hardy Wilson.

Source: Written by Mrs Caroline Simpson in 1991 for an exhibition held to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Hardy Wilson. The catalogue was titled *William Hardy Wilson – a 20th Century Colonial 1881-1955*. National Trust (NSW).

Copy provided by Mr J O Fairfax, brother of the late Mrs Simpson and descendant of Caleb and Felix Wilson.

HOG ISLAND, PATERSON RIVER

These notes refer to a now non-existent island in the Paterson River known as Hog Island. It was directly east of the College campus and slightly south of the end of the main ridge running down from the campus to the Paterson River. The first record of Hog Island was in 1843 when a group of Aboriginals were captured by the police for some disturbances (see page 19). It is recorded on early maps eg Henry Dangar's early survey and GB White's map of the church and school reserve of 1831. These are in appendix map 3 and appendix map 7 of Hunter 1997.

The 1942 military map does not record Hog Island but does show the river widening slightly at that point. The 1958 aerial photograph shows the river being wider at that point and there is some resemblance of the eastern channel.

Jim Sparke grew up at Stradbroke just down the river from the island. His childhood years associated with the river were from 1948 until 1955 when he was home from boarding school and spent time on the river in boats.

He recalls it clearly as an island however the western channel was much more substantial than the eastern. At the time he believes there were various large trees on the island possibly eucalypts (probably Flooded Gum) and the edge particularly the eastern side was fringed with willows as was the eastern riverbank. His father told him at the time that the eastern channel used to be larger.

By the mid 1960s the eastern channel had become very small and full of fallen logs and willows however it could still be referred to as an island.

In Jim's time the western side of the island was quite a steep bank. This would be consistent with it being eroded away with more water going on that side than the eastern side.

Bill Keppie of Paterson recalls being told that the flying foxes from out in Cabbage Tree and other brushes on Webbers Creek migrated in and roosted on Hog Island for a while when the military was firing artillery. This was during the early 1940s.

Locals of Bill's era always knew of Hog Island as a locality but only those who were in boats on the river ever saw it. It was bounded on one side by Glendarra and by Stradbroke and Orange Grove on the other.

The island is just down stream from Powell's Rocks, which are a constriction in the river due to a seam of rock running across it. There is a steep rocky bluff opposite Hog Island on Glendarra. The island may therefore be due to underlying rocks associated with these other landforms.

Jim Sparke has noted how the river has changed during and since his time living at Stradbroke. In particular he has noted how much silt has built up on the eastern bank specifically below Stradbroke House where there is a growth of elms and on the western

bank up stream of Glendarra House where the river makes a sharp bend about the point. The bank on the Stradbroke side opposite this point has eroded quite severely.

Hog Island is now still clearly discernible from the air however it is no longer an island in any way whatsoever. It would seem it ceased being an effective island some time in the 1960s when further floods deposited silt and material on the eastern channel resulting in all water going to the west of what was once Hog Island.

**MAITLAND MERCURY
NEW YEAR'S DAY 1865**

EXCURSION TO THE PATERSON.

About two hundred persons availed themselves of the provision made by the trustees of the new Wesleyan Church, namely, the chartering of the steamer Bolwarra, to enjoy a trip up the Paterson River. The number would have been greater, we are informed, if many persons who had taken tickets had not feared that the steamer would be so crowded that it would be anything but a pleasure trip. As it was, however, the accommodation provided was amply sufficient for those on board; indeed, there was room for fifty more persons. About ten o'clock the steamer left Morpeth, and calling at the King's Wharf, Wallalong, and several other places on the road, steamed up the Paterson to Picnic Point, near the residence of Mr. W. M. Arnold, and a few miles below the Paterson township. The excursionists landed here about twelve o'clock, and enjoyed themselves on shore greatly until five o'clock in the evening, when all again assembled on board, and the steamer returned to Morpeth, where she arrived about seven o'clock. The day was a most agreeable one, and the excursionists enjoyed their very pleasant trip, which was also a very cheap one, the tickets only being 2s. each. The trip realised nearly £15, exclusive of expenses, we are informed.

[We understand Picnic Point is on Tocal's Glendarra property, right beside Stradbroke. It remains as a good place for picnics]

[Information supplied by Val Anderson]

**MAITLAND MERCURY
OCTOBER 15, 1872**

MEETING OF THE JOCKEY CLUB

The first general meeting of our newly-formed jockey club, was held at Mr. Wilson's, the Cricketers Arms Inn, on Saturday evening last, and was numerously attended, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed throughout the meeting in regard to the object of again getting up annual races in this district. F. Reynolds, Esq., was called upon to preside, and after transacting the usual preliminary business, the meeting proceeded to fully consider the rules as drawn up by the committee.- Some amendments were made, and

alterations effected, which having been done, the rules, thus altered and amended, were unanimously adopted. The meeting then proceeded to elect the officers of the club for the present year. F. Reynolds, Esq., was unanimously elected the President of the club, J. McCormack, Esq., was elected the Vice-President, Mr. J. G. Smith the Treasurer, and Mr. S. Stanbridge Junr. The secretary; and Messrs. S. Reynolds, U. Tinkler, F. Wilson, J. Oldfield, G. Cory, P. Bourke, H.H. Brown, S. Stanbridge, sen., H.S. Badgery, J. Milthorpe, W. K. Lochhead, and M. Lister, as the committee of management. Some discussion then ensued as to the best time for the first race meeting; many present seemed to think that New Year's Day would be the best, but the date was not decided upon. After which a conversational discussion ensued in regard to the programme to be brought out for the first race meeting. The general impression seemed to prevail that a Maiden Plate of from twenty to twenty-five sovereigns, and a handicap race of from twenty-five to thirty sovereigns, should be at once advertised, and the other races made up after. However, as the hour was then late, it was decided to adjourn the meeting until next Thursday evening, to meet at Mr. Smith's, the Plough Inn, when the matters will be duly considered, as well as the lease of the course, property secured by deed. In the meantime the course committee to meet on the ground at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, to measure and definitely mark out the precise turnings of the course, as well as the situation of the various posts required to be erected. The meeting then adjourned.

[Information supplied by Jack Sullivan]

**MAITLAND MERCURY
SEPTEMBER 30, 1875**

CAMPING GROUND BETWEEN PATERSON AND MAITLAND

The Government, in selling the church and school, and other Government land, on the Maitland side of Tocal, some three or four years ago, reserved a block, consisting of about sixty acres, for the purpose of a camping ground for teams and cattle – somewhere near the Lemon Grove Estate; but this reserve appears to have all been fenced in, and retained as their private property, by the purchasers of the adjoining lands. Endeavours are, however, to be made, we learn, to have the area opened for the purposes for which it was reserved. A camping ground for teams and cattle is very badly needed between Paterson and Maitland, and a more suitable spot than that reserved for the purpose could not be desired.

Paterson, 27th Sept., 1875.

[Maitland has always been a major selling centre for cattle. Tocal Road has been the main thoroughfare from the north, Paterson Valley, Dungog, Gloucester for cattle to Maitland Saleyards. Travelling stock were moved along this road until into the 1950s]

[Information supplied by Val Anderson]

MAITLAND MERCURY
4 OCTOBER, 1877

DISTRICT NEWS, PATERSON, 1877

(From our own Correspondent).

ACCIDENT. On Saturday afternoon last a sad accident happened to a young man of the name of Crittenden, son of Mr. Charles Crittenden, of this town. Young Crittenden was driving a team of two horses, proceeding along the Maitland road a little beyond Tocal, when another person by the name of Hartup rode past, leading another horse. From some unexplained cause, just as Hartup was passing, young Crittenden's team bolted, Crittenden being at the time sitting in the dray. The sudden start of the horses threw Crittenden out of the dray in front, and on to the leading horse, and from thence to the ground, when it appears the wheel of the dray passed over his right arm, breaking it a little above the elbow. Young Crittenden was also much shaken and bruised in different parts of his body, by falling on to the hard road and in amongst the horses' feet. It was a fortunate circumstance that the casualty was not of a more serious character, considering the manner in which the young man fell out of the dray; as it is, it will be some weeks before he will be able to resume his employment. Immediately that Crittenden fell out of the dray, the horses turned round, and raced down the road towards Paterson, as if mad, but fortunately the road being clear of traffic at the time, no further accident occurred, the horses being arrested in their mad gallop a little beyond Tocal bridge by the road party. Young Crittenden was taken to Maitland the same evening for medical attendance.

[Information supplied by Cynthia Hunter]

MAITLAND MERCURY
DECEMBER 3, 1881

THE PATERSON BENCH OF MAGISTRATES

PUBLIC MEETING AT PATERSON.

(From our Correspondent.)

On last Wednesday evening a public meeting of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood was held at Swift's Royal Oak Hotel to adopt measures to convey to G.J. Frankland, Esq., J.P., and John Swan, Esq., J.P., two magistrates of the district the confidence of this community in their magisterial capacity, which had been somewhat excelled by the action taken by some few individuals on a case of assault, recently heard, and adjudicated in by these two gentlemen. The meeting was tolerably well attended, considering the very short notice given, some twenty-five gentlemen being present. On the motion of Mr. John Brooker, Mr. P.P. Hungerford was called upon to take the chair, and opened the meeting by giving a brief outline of the purposes of the meeting.

MR. SYDNEY REYNOLDS moved the first resolution, as follows:- "That this meeting, having noticed with extreme regret that some nine individuals have endeavoured to cast

unjust reflections upon the decision of two of our magistrates – Messrs. G.J. Frankland and John Swan – sitting in the Court of Petty Sessions on the 15th November, in a charge of assault and battery, in which one Henry Fry was convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine of 50s. and court costs for such assault, by publishing as an advertisement a paragraph unjustly bearing upon such decision of the bench, which appeared in the *Maitland Mercury* of the 22nd November: this meeting having attentively considered the evidence taken in that case, feel called upon to publicly express their entire approval of the decision of the bench on that occasion, believing the verdict to be an impartial one, and the sentence tending to leniency rather than otherwise. And this meeting further believes that the reflections referred to were both unjust and uncalled for, and calculated to impair the administration of justice in the district.” – Mr. REYNOLDS, in briefly moving the resolution, stated that he fully endorsed the sentiments of the resolution which has been placed in his hands, believing the paragraph alluded to was perfectly uncalled for, and they must sustain the administration of justice above all things, for upon its faithful administration rested their liberties and their lives.

Mr. JOHN BROOKER seconded the resolution, and stated that it was the bounden duty of the public to support the right and proper administration of justice. He looked at the recent action of the few individuals who had attached their names to the paragraph alluded to as attempting to ridicule the administration of justice, and if they did not rise up and support their magistracy in the execution of their duty, they would have no gentlemen to sit upon our bench.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. S. STANBRIDGE proposed the second resolution, as follows:- “That the substance of the foregoing resolution be embodied in an address, which, together with an expression of entire confidence of the community in the integrity and impartiality of Messrs. Frankland and Swan in their magisterial capacity, after being duly signed by the residents of the district, be publicly presented to those gentlemen.” – Mr. Stanbridge, in moving the resolution, briefly stated that it was with regret that he felt it to be his duty to take some part in the movement; but it was the bounden duty of every citizen who felt any interest in the peace, harmony, and good feeling which should exist in a community, to support and uphold the magistracy in the execution of their duty. The worst feature of the whole affair, in reference to the advertisement which appeared, and conveyed the unjust reflections upon the two magistrates who adjudicated in the case of *Hume v. Fry*, was the fictitious aspect that presented itself by some three or four persons out of the nine whose signatures were attached to that advertisement, that they never contributed anything whatever towards the amount which they asked Mr. Fry to accept, and it has further been represented that Mr. Fry had himself solicited the names of some of those who attached their names to the advertisement referred to, thus showing the fictitious aspect of the affair. He regretted to see that any person should so bemean himself as to lend his name for such an unworthy object, particularly when by so doing they were endeavouring to shield a person from justice, and cast unjust reflections upon two gentlemen who, without fee or reward, devoted their time and valuable services at various times, no doubt with much inconvenience to themselves, for the public benefit. He would move the resolution he had read.

Mr John WHYTE seconded the motion, and, on its being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously

Mr. S. PATFIELD moved the third resolution as follows- “That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to obtain signatures to the address, and to make all necessary arrangements for publicly presenting the same:- Messrs. P.P. Hungerford, S. Reynolds, John Brooker, John Whyte, Stephen Stanbridge, Samuel Patfield, J.G. Smith, James Wells, Thos. Swift, Wm. Corner, Wm. Nickerson, S. Jackson, George Osmond, Wm. Burgess, Edward Jackson.”

The motion was seconded by Mr. W. Nickerson, and on being put from the chair, was carried unanimously.

Mr. S. STANBRIDGE moved that the following be the address to be presented to Messrs. Frankland and Swan.

“To Messrs G.J. Frankland and John Swan, Esqs., J’s.P.

“Gentlemen.- We, the undersigned residents of Paterson, having noticed with extreme regret a certain paragraph which appeared as an advertisement in the *Maitland Mercury* of the 22nd November, which is calculated to cast unjust reflections upon your decision when sitting upon the bench in the court of Petty Sessions, on the 15th day of last November, in a case of assault and battery, in which one Henry Fry stood charged with assaulting John Hume, and who was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of 50s. and court costs, for such assault.

“We desire to state that we have carefully considered the evidence taken in that case, and now beg to convey to you our sentiments of entire approval in the decision that you then made, believing that the sentence inflicted tended to leniency rather than oppression for the brutal insult inflicted.

“We would also avail ourselves of the circumstances offered to convey to you our deep sense of the obligation under which we labour, for the valuable services you are always ready to render in the administration of justice on our bench.

“And we would also convey to you our sentiments of entire confidence in your integrity and impartiality as magistrates of our district.”

The adoption of the address was seconded by Mr. Jackson, and on being put to the meeting, was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Wells proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding over the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. George Osmond, and carried by acclamation, and responded to by Mr. Hungerford, and the meeting closed.

Paterson, Dec. 1, 1881.

[Information supplied by Jack Sullivan]

CHINESE GARDENERS

MAITLAND MERCURY

SEPTEMBER 2, 1884

CHINESE GARDENERS.- Notwithstanding the great productive powers of the locality, for some time past gardeners, etc., from Largs and elsewhere have found a ready market for their produce here, which may seem strange. It arises from the fact that our farmers, or most of them, appear disinclined to retail or hawk their produce, which they seem to think unworthy of the time and attention it would incur, and owing to this our townspeople have found it sometimes difficult to obtain their requirements in the vegetable line. But it seems that this need is now about to be supplied by the introduction of the much abused Chinese labour. A certain Chinaman, named we think Ah Pong, who has been employed in the district for some time past, observed the want and has taken a piece of fertile land, about three acres, near the punt, and has got two of his countrymen at work upon it, with a view of forming a vegetable garden. So we are not likely to require imported vegetables, etc., very soon. Of course the new comers are not regarded with unmixed favour, but from what we have heard of them they are likely to set us an example of industry and perseverance which is worthy of being followed.

MAITLAND MERCURY

NOVEMBER 21, 1885

CHINESE INDUSTRY.- Some time ago we mentioned that two Celestials had begun to form a vegetable garden near the punt. Of course various were the predictions of knowing ones concerning the probable success of the enterprise. John, however, cared apparently very little about what people said or thought, and went to work with a will in his usual style. The consequence is that the land he took in hand soon grew fertile before him, producing more vegetables than our townspeople required. This caused John to look for a wider round of sale, and a horse and cart were got in due course, and Woodville, Hinton, and Morpeth were visited, and their green-grocery wants supplied. In time another cart and horse were obtained. Then their borders were extended by taking a neighbouring garden, and the working staff increased from two to five. All this went on very well till the dry summer weather has set in, causing vegetables to require copious supplies of moisture, making a necessity for increased and continuous irrigation. But their garden is so situated that they have not convenient and adequate water supply, the only reliable supply obtainable being from the river, which is so far away and so high-banked that it meant very little better than slavery. Ching (the boss) was soon convinced that something must be done if his garden was going to prosper. A pump from the river was at length fixed upon, and a hand lift and force pump was set, but the supply thus obtained has, it seems, proved inadequate, and now a horse power is to be obtained. It will be seen from this that these visitors from the "Flowery Land" are displaying the industrious and persevering traits of their character here as well as elsewhere. Whatever may be said for or against them, they are an example in these respects to some Europeans.

Nov 20, 1885.

MAITLAND MERCURY
AUGUST 2, 1890

PATERSON.

OUR CHINESE GARDENERS.- For some years past our town and neighbourhood has been supplied with vegetables by a number of Chinamen, residing on a small farm at the lower end of the township. Their lease having lately expired, they are about to quit this locality. It will be needless for me to say we will miss their vegetables, although they are a race of people we do not all appreciate. Still these were an exceptional good lot, for, during the number of years they lived here, they behaved themselves remarkably well, and gained the patronage and respect of the inhabitants.

July 31.

MAITLAND MERCURY
OCTOBER 9, 1894

Ah Chin, the proprietor of our Chinese vegetable gardens, who was so brutally mutilated and knocked about by some dastardly larrikins at the Maitland Union last week, is still suffering from the effects of the brutal treatment he then received. We would be glad to see the cowardly offenders suffering the utmost rigour of the law.

Paterson, 8th October, 1894.

PROSECUTING SOCIETY
MAITLAND MERCURY
JULY 8, 1865

PROSECUTING SOCIETY.- The monthly meeting of the committee of the Paterson Prosecuting Society was held at the Court House, on Tuesday. There were present C. Reynolds, Esq., in the chair, and Messrs. Frankland, Corner, and G. Cory. The business transacted was merely of a formal nature.

Paterson, June 5.

[The information on this page and the previous page was supplied by Val Anderson, Jack Sullivan and Harry Boyle]

MAITLAND MERCURY
MAY 5, 1894

DISTRICT NEWS.
[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS]

PATERSON.

An aboriginal known as Scrammy Billy burst a blood vessel and died yesterday (Sunday evening). He was a very old fellow and the last of his race in this district, and he has been supplied with rations by the Government for several years. An inquest was quite unnecessary in connection with his death, and the poor old fellow was buried to-day with not one of his tribe to make lamentation over him, or follow him to the borders of the "Happy Camping Ground."

A surprise wedding took place at St. Paul's here on Saturday afternoon, when Miss Lydia Bowker, daughter of Hon. Dr. Bowker, of "Avoca," Darling Point, Sydney, and "Bona Vista," Paterson, was united in marriage to T. Robin, Esq, barrister-at-law, of Wentworth Court, Sydney. The Rev. P.J. Simpson, of East Maitland, performed the ceremony, which was carried out without the slightest ostentation or display, and only the nearest relatives of the bride present.

The weather continues unsettled and threatening.

Monday, 30th April, 1894.

MAITLAND MERCURY
APRIL 16, 1892

DISTRICT NEWS.
[FROM OUR VARIOUS CORRESPONDENTS.]

PATERSON.

A large number of the celebrated Tocal horses were despatched to Sydney by train to-day to be offered for purchase at the large Easter sales in Sydney.

Paterson, 14th April, 1892.

[Information supplied by Jack Sullivan]

DUNGOG CHRONICLE
OCTOBER 14, 1910

Dungog and Round About
(By our Special Representative)
INSTALMENT XXXXIV.

GUYGALLON.

The home of the Hereford, is a great big estate, owned by Mr Reynolds of Tocal, and managed by Mr Sam Lill. It stretches along the road quite a space and loses itself on either side of the road, being dotted all over with the familiar white-faced beefers. Hereford owners are generally jealous of the grand breed; I know of a station up New England way where hundreds of guineas are paid for a bull, and after he has served for three years he is shot, the owner not wishing to spoil his own stock by too close breeding, and unwilling that other breeders should profit to, mayhap, his detriment. So, at the end of three years, bang goes several hundreds of guineas! It's a costly game, but it pays in the long run. And we are all after the long run.

Unfortunately, I did not get particulars of this estate: I don't know whether to praise the country, or the cattle, or the courteous manager first, and as this foregoing paragraph strayed so far away from Guygallon that it would get footsore trying to get back, and give up in despair, I am tempted to do the same. I will, too! I must mention though, that the stalwart Bill Lill continues to extend the cheerful smile to acquaintances visiting Guygallon or those passing through it.

[Information supplied by Jack Sullivan]

MAITLAND MERCURY
OCTOBER 5, 1889

DISTRICT NEWS.
[FROM OUR VARIOUS CORRESPONDENTS]

PATERSON.

PATERSON LICENSING COURT.- (Before Theo. Cooper and F. Reynolds, L.M's.)
The District Inspector's report respecting hotels in the district was as follows:-
Courthouse Hotel and Commercial Hotel, Paterson; Junction Inn, Gresford; and Cross Keys Hotel, Allynbrook. Condition of premises and fittings good, except the stabling at Junction Inn, which is only fair. The Half-way Inn, Vacy: Condition of premises and fittings very fair; stabling requires repairing. The Magistrates stated that the stabling accommodation must be attended to, otherwise the licenses would not be renewed. The Inspector was also instructed to keep a sharp lookout that the back premises of all hotels in the district were kept in good order. The following licenses were renewed: Joseph

Green Smith, Commercial Hotel, Paterson; Patrick Findlay, Cross Keys Hotel, Allynbrook; George Osmond, colonial wine license, Paterson. Following received coach licenses: Henry Fry (2), George Fry, Jas. Hancock, and J.G. Smith. Slaughtering license was granted to J.G. Smith of Sherwood.

MAITLAND MERCURY
OCTOBER 26, 1926

MRS. ELIZABETH OSMOND
DEATH AT PATERSON.

The death of Mrs. Elizabeth Osmond (relict of the late George Osmond) at her residence, Paterson, on Sunday last, has removed another of the very old residents of the district. She had been in failing health for some time past, and although 96 years of age she possessed such a wonderful constitution that many expected to hear of her celebrating her one-hundredth birthday.

She was born at Yeovil, Somersetshire, England, and at the age of 21 came to Australia. With her were the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Osmond, well-known in this district, and who died a few years ago at the good old age of 101 and 80. The voyage out in a sailing vessel occupied six months, and after landing in Sydney the party came straight to Paterson. During her 75 years in Australia Mrs. Osmond had resided in the Paterson district. The first part of married life was spent at Gostwyck, after which her late husband was appointed manager of "Bona-Vista" Estate for the late Dr. R.R.S. Bowker, where they remained for about twenty-five years. They then took over the old Paterson wine shop and accommodation house, remaining in occupation for nine years, and then returned to Bona-Vista from which they retired to live privately in Paterson about 30 years ago. The late Mr. George Osmond died at Paterson 27 years ago. There is a surviving family of one son and five daughters, also thirty grandchildren and forty-five great-grandchildren.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon last, the remains being interred in the old cemetery of St. Paul's C. of England, beside those of her late husband, this being the church in which they were married. The service at the church and grave XXXXXXXX R.M. Rupp, and there was a large attendance of old friends present. The pall-bearers were relatives – Messrs. E. Connolly, W. Swaddling, M. Edwards and Las. Osmond. All the surviving members of the family were present, as follows: Mr. Dudley Osmond (son), Mesdames T. Studdert, M. Connolly, Jas. Jackson, G. Vogele, and W. Wilson. Other relatives present were Mrs. Dudley Osmond, Mr. Jas. Jackson, Messrs. John, William and Jas. Osmond, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ebbeck, Messrs. A. Coote, H. Fraser, Miss B. Connolly, Mrs. Mudd, Mr. and Mrs. Swadling, Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Watson, Mrs. V. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. E. Connolly, Messrs. G. Osmond, A. Osmond, F. Connolly, Mervyn Studdert, B. and T. XXXXXXXX.

A very large number of wreaths, cards and letters of sympathy were received.- Our Paterson correspondent.