

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

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Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

September 2021

FROM OUR ARCHIVES - THE J.E. MOORE COLLECTION

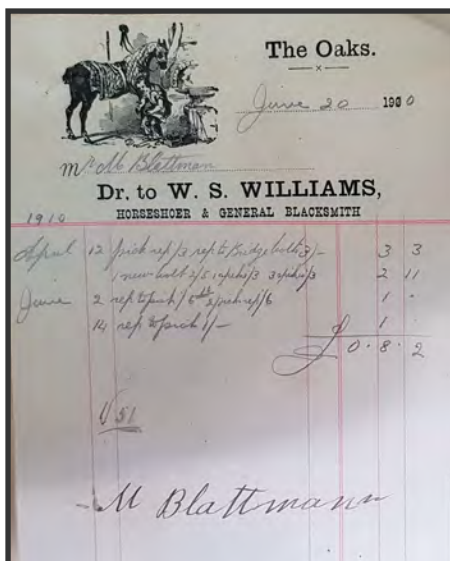
Compiled by Allen Seymour

John E. Moore was a councillor on Wollondilly Shire for many years and also the Treasurer. He kept detailed records and our archives include journals with receipts for payments made from the years 1910 and 1914 through to 1919. Of these the 1910 journal, item #17/18 is perhaps the most interesting containing over 600 entries. It appears that a receipt was attached to each cheque written and this had to be signed and returned, so these were kept in the journal along with the account if one was supplied. In 1910 the wages for the road maintenance workers were also paid by cheque. This must have changed, because the workers don't appear in the later books. I believe most of the workers didn't attend the office or depot and their time sheets were posted in each month and twice a year they received a refund for the postage costs. The time sheets also state where they were working. Some were permanent and others were part time, perhaps as funds permitted, or as the work required. There are some well known family names among these workers including M. Blattman, G. Blattman, A. McKenzie, W. Littlewood, B. Shoobridge, T. McGregor, D. O'Rourke, P. Liddy, W. F. McAllister, J. H. Moore, T. H. Byrne, J. Farrell, A. Luck, F. G. Haigh, J. W. Whitfield, F. Shoobridge, W. Rapley, C. Moore, W. F. Corby, W. Doust, J. Dunbar, J. Kelso, George Mann, John Mann, F. Littlewood, M. Devine & R. Gaudry. Others that appear during the year include: Isaac Wonson, Thomas Maxwell, W. Spearing, H. Hayes, A. V. Hayes, P. Maher, Charles Jones, E. Sandshaw, S. Pippin, T. Littlewood, A. Wonson, George Pearce & H. Carlon. Wages were paid monthly and varied according to the hours worked, ranging from 15/4 to £11/18/1 (pounds, shillings and pence).

Other employees were the Shire Engineer – R. D. Bayliss, who received £31/5/- per month, Shire Clerk – D. H. Macdonald, who received £16/3/4 per month. Other regular employees were Mrs Clout – office cleaning at 14/- per month, K. Shoobridge – sanitary work, 5/- per month and W. O. Pomroy did sanitary inspections. J. J. Rossiter was employed as required

doing valuations. Some councillors claimed for expenses incurred in going to meetings, and these included: A. L. Bennett, the Shire President (who also received a regular allowance), G. M. Onslow, A. V. Bartlett, J. Simpson and J. E. Moore.

Jas. King regularly hired a horse and dray to the council at a cost of 6/- a day. Other regular costs were newspaper advertisements in the Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, Campbelltown Herald (Joseph McGlynn) & Picton Post (A. L. Burgess). Sidman from the Camden News also did printing work as well as advertising. John Sands & Co and W. C. Penfolds supplied stationery and printing needs. The Law Book Company of Australasia supplied copies of the Local Government Acts when required. C. Butler & Sons are mentioned regularly for carrying work.



Blacksmithing was another regular cost, and a lot of this work was for the road gangs for sharpening picks and tools etc. and it appears this was done by the closest Smithy to where they were working. The blacksmiths include: W. S. Williams -The Oaks, E. Lavercombe -Mt Hunter, James

Pippen -Burraborang, W. J. Keane- Brownlow Hill, R. C. Hawkey -Menangle, James Lynch - Campbelltown, James Jones-Appin, W. Whitfield - Thirlmere and H. J. M. Cook - Burraborang.

A plough was rented from James Harvey for three weeks at a cost of 5/- a week. George McClellan, F. Parnell, George Bridges and M. Day all received payments for breaking stone. This worked out to about 5/- a cubic yard. E. Grundy was paid for drawing stone (no idea what this involved but I'm guessing it didn't involve a pen and paper). Contracts were advertised for various projects and regular payments were made on these. One contract was to George Adams for the Nattai River to Yerranderie roadwork. Another was to Arthur Clissold for the Menangle to Picton Road. F. Doust had the contract for doing work on the Basin Creek Dam, shortly after completion it was damaged by heavy rain. Continued back page.....



President's Report

Hello there again members and friends. How time flies, in lockdown and between newsletter editions. Well the most visitation at the museum this month was the attendance of both Rentokil and Chubb Security to follow up their respective services along with the proper Covid practices.

The advent of spring is visibly evident with splashes of colour inside our 5k radius and I'm supposing beyond but I'm not too sure. A nice drop of rain came at the right time to enhance growth, both pasture and garden. The only downside at the moment is the raucous wattle bird at the crack of dawn.

The History Council's National History week starts on 4th September and Sue has been working with June Hickey, our webmaster to create an online version supplemented with facebook posts so see Sue's report on the following page for further details.

I wonder how many of you utilised the family history tips

and hints Sue included for family history month in our last newsletter?

To keep you on your toes I have included some local pics of our blooming spring here & back page so lets see if you know where they are!



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Despite lockdown we have had some activity and received through the mail memorabilia from the Dunn family for George Iley Dunn. George lived at Spring Creek, Mt Hunter and was one of the first to enlist signing up on August 22nd 1914. He served at Gallipoli with the 1st Light Horse, and then returned to Egypt. He was discharged on November 16th 1916 as medically unfit, suffering from periostitis (inflammation of connective tissue surrounding bone). The items we have received include his medals and ribbons which were the 1914/15 Star, Victory Medal and the British Medal. There is also a Returned from Active Service Badge and his discharge certificate. George served for 2 years, 87 days with 1 year 319 days being overseas. What can't be accounted for is his corporal's certificate. This is dated October 1917, and states that in April 1917 he passed his Corporal's exam at Menangle with the 9th Light Horse. There does not appear to be any record of George's continued involvement with the military following his discharge. Other items included were his framed certificate from Wollondilly Shire Council for his war service, and a

badge from the Church of England Men's Society.



In World War 2 George again enlisted on August 3rd, 1941, and was a Lance Corporal with the 2nd Australian Garrison Battalion. He served a total of 874 days, 630 of these being active service in Australia. He was discharged on January 3rd, 1944. The Garrison Battalions were part of the army reserve within the CMF Militia for homeland defence. The 2nd was formed in October 1939 and used as a coastal defence unit, based at Sydney Showground, Long Bay and North Head.

Included in the WW2 memorabilia is one of his dog tags, discharge document and a returned from Active

Service badge. There are also photos from WW1 and one of him in uniform (pictured) in WW2.

We are indebted to the family for their donation of these items which I am sure will be displayed once we reopen ■



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

I hope you enjoyed researching your family as part of National Family History Month in August! I enjoyed helping one researcher who approached us through our website. She was wanting some information on the Anglican Cemetery at Wilton. Her ancestor, Levi White, had come to Australia as a convict and after being pardoned was the first postmaster at Wilton. The "Naming Wollondilly" database that we worked on in 2019, gave information on White Street that was named after the postmaster. The database can be found on the Wollondilly Shire Council website. Another useful resource was a recent database that we have accessed on the Wollondilly Shire Council's website that lists sites that have Environmental Heritage. It is so handy to have online resources during this time when we are required to be at home.

An amazing online resource is the NSW State Archives that I have mentioned many times before. They are currently conducting a Q&A session, around a nominated topic, each Friday at 11am. The next one is about the Insolvency and Bankruptcy files. These files can tell us much about people and their relationships with others in their community. To attend, you just need to register with the State Archives. If

you want to ask a question then they need to be submitted on the Wednesday before the Friday session. Last week I asked a question about licensees at The Oaks Hotel and was very pleased with the information provided.

Our next event is History Week (4-12 September) which is conducted by the History Council. The theme this year is "From the Ground Up". We are revisiting our exhibition of The Valley of Dispossession. This exhibition outlines the journey of the land known as the Burragorang Valley. It starts with the Aboriginal Dreamtime Story, 'Gurrangatch and Mirragan'; Indigenous life in the valley; the arrival of white man and the establishment of settlements; and finishing with families moving out for the flooding of the valley to enable a new water supply for Sydney with Warragamba Dam. There will be some extra posts on our website (www.wollondillymuseum.org.au) and Facebook page (Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum) as we can't open our Heritage Centre just yet in the pandemic. These can be seen all through September and not just during History Week. Here are some of the pictures you might see...



Happy researching in this time when we need to stay at home during the pandemic!



PIONEERS BRYAN CARLON & JOHN JAMISON PART TWO

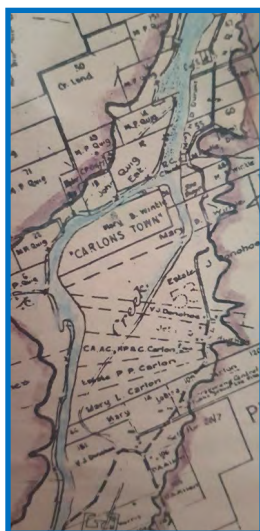
Bryan Carlon was a convict who quickly gained a reputation for an 'irreproachable character for industry, sobriety and honesty' (contradictory to the charge that had seen him migrate involuntarily-Ed.) So after just 2 years in the colony, Bryan, a 'lifer', forwarded through to the Colonial Government a humble petition praying that Lieutenant Governor Darling would recommend to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, a passage to bring his family to the colony. This was also well recommended by Sir John Jamison however the petitioner feared it never reached the intended destination. Bryan continued as a general servant under Sir John at Evan and Regentville. In May of 1826 he forwarded a petition similar to that of 1822: *'That petitioner has left behind him a wife Ann and two children, all of whom dwell in Bailieborough, alias Moybologue in the County of Cavan and are desired to come to the petitioner.'*

The curious and interesting feature was that 'the humble petition of Bryan Carlon' was signed by Bernard Carlon. Perhaps Bryan was reverting to his original name, also this petition represents the first time that the *Carlon* name was adopted in Australia. Significantly, the Secretary of State accepted the petition which paved the way for the arrival of the rest of the Carlon family in 1828. Eight years after Bryan's involuntary migration, the Carlon family of wife Ann, daughter Margaret and son Patrick arrived and were included in the first Census of the Colony. Other Irish convicts who successfully petitioned for their families to join them included Robert and Thomas Reilly (who were co-involved in the Co. Cavan murder) and Michael O'Rourke, a convict who had arrived on the *Three Bees* in 1814. The significance of the O'Rourke family is that a son Thomas would marry Margaret Carlon at Bankstown in 1835.

The Carlon, Reilly and O'Rourke families were some of the first Irish to receive a passage at the expense to the penal colony, to join their relatives. In the National Archives of Ireland, are papers called *Free Settlers*, covering the years 1828-1855. The papers list those convicts whose good conduct had entitled them to apply to have their wives and children sent out to join them in New South Wales and the names of those who embarked for Australia. Overall, the scheme seemed a genuine attempt to ease the hardship and loneliness of those compulsorily separated from their homes and families in Ireland as well as trying to increase the numbers of women in the colony, who at the time were in a minority. List 'D' includes the petition of the convict Bryan Carlon, made in 1826. After the reuniting Bryan received his ticket-of-leave on 26 December 1828. The granting of such a document was dependent upon a convict having a sober, honest and industrious character and having enough money to support themselves. The

arrival of Bryan's family with sufficient money to establish themselves would have satisfied the later requirement and the character references provided by Sir John Jamison fulfilled the former.

Farming had been the main livelihood in County Cavan, so too a main industry in early colonial New South Wales and the Carlon's were eager to acquire land. Soon after Bryan received his ticket-of-leave he became a tenant of Sir John Jamison, renting a small farm. With a family now to support and a strong determination to succeed, Bryan's son Patrick petitioned the Colonial Secretary's Office in Sydney; *Memorialist arrived in the Colony per the ship Borodino in the year 1828 under the patronage of the home government with a free passage for the purpose of joining his father who is now a tenant of Sir John Jamison. Memorialist having been brought up farming most respectfully solicits from Your Excellency a small portion of land so as to be the means of the memorialist's support.* The petition also included a reference by Sir John Jamison, *I beg leave to recommend him (Patrick) as being a sober and industrious young man.* This reference, after only a short period in the Colony, reflected the sturdy impression that Patrick, like Bryan, had made. After considering the petition the Colonial Secretary's Office replied: *The memorialist in my opinion deserves the above highly respectful recommendations.*



TICKET OF LEAVE DETAILS

NUMBER 28/551
Name Bryan Carroll
ARRIVAL 1820
TRIAL DATE Lent 1819
SENTENCE Life
TRIAL Cavan

So on June 23, 1831 Patrick was promised a small grant of 80 acres on the Wollondilly River Burratorang, County of Camden by Sir Ralph Darling. The description read: *Commencing at the North West corner and bounded on the North by a line bearing East twenty chains; on the East by a line bearing South twenty chains; on the South by a line bearing West sixty-one chains to the Wollondilly River and on the West by that river to the North West corner aforesaid.*

On 27 September 1831, Patrick Carlon was authorised to take possession off the said grant, however the actual deed in favour of the grant was not made until 18 February 1840. And so life in the Burratorang began for the Carlons, soon becoming a respected Burratorang Valley family, prominent landowners and a foundation Catholic family ■

Extract from Carlon's Town by Damian Gleeson in our reference library . Pictured is 'Carlon's Town' section of Burratorang Valley map

(I have used the 'Carlon' spelling throughout but there are several deviations of the name documented including Carolan, Carlin and Carroll, the Irish pronunciation with a long 'R' probably resulted in recording various interpretations of the name-Ed.)

FROM OUR ARCHIVES—THE J.E. MOORE COLLN cont..

The NSW Treasury was reimbursed for the cost of resumption of land from T. M. Inglis and Donohue for the Big Hill deviation. The contract for this was later awarded to George Adams of Werombi. Samuel Ellis, H. Ellis, J. Ryder & H. Dowle all received payment for snagging the Nepean River at lower Mt Hunter Weir. The money for this came from a Government grant of £25. Arthur Allen Seymour was paid for drawing logs from under the bridge on Lacey's crossing. Harry John Bell from Upper Picton was paid 10/- for burning a dead bullock.

Local businesses such as Byrne & Devitt also supplied goods such as pick handles & turps. Blasting powder was obtained from Whiteman's and C. H. Pickard, stores at both The Oaks and Thirlmere, while Furners in Camden supplied tar brushes.

Many items had to come from Sydney and generally came by rail and collected from the station. James Sandy & Co supplied 6 cwts of white lead oil in 1 cwt kegs at a cost of £8/11/-. W. J. Carlon from Burratorang did the cartage on

this at a cost of 15/6. Briscoe & Co in Kent Street in the city supplied four flanged steel truck wheels and two axles and cartage on these was done by Carlon as well.

Another unusual item was the refund of vehicle & driver's licences—wagon licence for J. E. Harvey, W. G. Nicol & George Nicol at a cost of 12/6 each.

The Shire Clerk often had to attend court on various matters, many involving unpaid rates. These were usually at either Camden or Picton. There were two cases that went much further than this and involved rates for the mines at Yerranderie. One of these was against J. V. & A. C. Bartlett, whilst the other was against the Colon Peaks Company. Both these cases went to the appeals court and required the services of Sydney law firms and the attendance of both the Shire Clerk and J. J. Rossiter, the valuer, for a number of days. Both cases finished up in the Supreme Court, involving more expenses for the Shire Clerk.

There is a wealth of information in this collection and they are a very important and irreplaceable part of our collection



Reminders, News & Info

Details of the Spring Garden Competition event are:

- Entries Close 14 September 2021
- Judging 27 September– 1 October 2021
- School Judging 16 -17 September 2021
- Spring Garden Expo 30 October 2021

Winners to be announced at the Spring Garden Expo – Saturday 30 October (these dates are all subject to advice from NSW Health)



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION 2021

ENTRIES OPEN 19 JULY
Close 4pm 14 September 2021
Scan the QR code or visit www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au for more information

Wollondilly Shire Council | P 4677 1100 | E council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum, 43 Edward St. The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. Due to Covid restrictions and lockdown our meetings are currently suspended. Our patrons are Richard Booth and Judith Hannan. The Oaks Historical Society Inc. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles, papers or reviews that appear in this newsletter. The statements made or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Oaks Historical Society Inc. Copies of the minutes are available.



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