



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter President's Report

May, 2017

By John White



1947-2017 - Celebrating 70 years



The Anzac day commemoration in Mawson Park was again well attended by Campbelltown residents. Seeing so many community groups, schools and individuals laying wreaths supported the decision this year for Vice President Kay Hayes and I to laid a wreath on behalf of all our members. It has been several years since the Society was officially represented in this event.

On the 23rd of April I attended the memorial ceremony of the Appin Massacre at Cataract Dam. This is the first time I have seen this ceremony and must say it was impressive and conducted without undue recriminations.

During this month we have had 145 visitors to Glenalvon, as well as two wedding events. A very busy time for our volunteers whom we wish to thank, not only for the time they give us but for their contribution of energy and enthusiasm.

In February, Kay Hayes and I met with several members of the Council to ask support for a few initiatives we have planned, to help celebrate our 70th Anniversary. One of these was to honour Dr Ivor Thomas in the community, by naming the Local Studies Room at the H J Daly Library in his honour. We have in the last few days heard back from Council that they will support this idea and propose a civil function with Councillors and Society members to celebrate the opening of the newly named room. We are also hopeful that some of Dr Thomas's family will be able to join us on this occasion, as we have been in contact with Chris Thomas, Dr Thomas's nephew, working towards this year's Ivor G Thomas Lecture. As it is early days we now need to wait for more specific information but we are very pleased that the proposal was accepted.

With the recent letters to the editor in our local papers and comments on several heritage properties around our community being threatened, I think now would be a good time to remind you of the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society "Heritage Writing Challenge". Even members of the society are allowed to enter the challenge. Have a look at the information on the entry form and have your say on our heritage.

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'They Came by Boat'

The Campbelltown Art Centre is at present assembling an exhibition titled *They came by boat*.

We are pleased to know that as part of this exhibition the Centre is planning to display some rare and valuable objects from our collection. It is nice to have another platform to showpiece some of our objects. The gallery already has in its keeping some of our valuable paintings – that of John Scarr and his wife Ann painted in 1845. John Scarr was the first postmaster of Campbelltown, also Clerk of the Court of Requests, the Supreme Court on circuit and the Court of Petty Sessions. To this we have added a painting by John Scarr of his home 'Agar Cottage' in Woodbine painted in 1828 and also the seal used by him in the Court of Requests.

Also as part of the exhibition the gallery has borrowed 3 original lithographs by G J Broinowski. We understand they are sitting these with a book borrowed from the Mitchell Library showing more of his work. The exhibition will be opened on Thursday, 29 June in the Collections Gallery and will run for public viewing between 30 June and 15 October, 2017.



Vale : Virginia Lee Pearson Smith

Many of our long term members will remember Virginia Pearson Smith. She was very active in our society for many years and remained a member after leaving the district. A respected heritage architect, she shared her great love and knowledge of history, giving talks at Society meetings and helping to set up the exhibits in the Alex Goodsall Agricultural Shed on its completion by setting out a floor plan.

She joined the National Trust of Australia in 1962 and continued as a devoted member.

Virginia passed away on 27 April, 2017, aged 83



Cards for all occasions

In a group effort from several of our Committee members, we have made some very appealing cards for sale to our visitors and tour groups. They are themed, with the initial ones on offer being cameos from the Fitzpatrick curtains, Historic Campbelltown and Historic Glenalvon. We have in mind to extend the range to Glenalvon now, the Glenalvon garden and Native flowers of the area.

The cards are made up of either photos from our collection or photos taken by our Committee, attached to beautifully embossed, good quality card. They are blank inside for use on any occasion and come with a quality envelope.

They are selling at \$3 each or \$5 for 2.



Home Delivered History!

How many times have we heard a visitor say "I have lived here for years and did not know Glenalvon was here" and how many of us have travelled the world to look at the history but really don't see what is in our own backyard?

A telephone call from 'The Men's Club' at Chesalon Retirement Village at Oran Park, asking if we could talk to their meeting and maybe show some photographs, set us to thinking about this and how to make this interesting to people who may know little of nothing of Campbelltown's rich heritage, without sounding like a history lecture. Julie Crowley and Kay Hayes went to Chesalon on Monday 8th May and presented a wide range of photos from the Society's extensive collection. These included some of shops and buildings that could have been in any town in suburban Sydney in the 40's and 50's as well as a snapshot of Campbelltown through the years. It was very well received, with many comments of interest afterwards.

It is now our hope to be able to take this 'travelling show' to groups, clubs and retirement villages. If you know of anyone who would be interested let us know. As the much used phrase goes – have history, will travel!

BE MINDFUL!

Last year Campbelltown Municipal Council changed its official Seal, which was previously the old Puffing Billy wending its way to Camden, and adopted the crest of Elizabeth Campbell's family, after whom the town was named by Governor Macquarie. It was a most appropriate action, and gives us a far more dignified municipal emblem than the old-fashioned tram. Credit for the idea must go to the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, which adopted the crest sometime previously as its badge.

The Campbell crest itself, to describe it in heraldic terms, is "a swan proper, imperially crowned or," and the motto, which is really a very important adjunct is "Be Mindful."

Camden News : Thursday, 7 February, 1952

1947-2017 - Celebrating 70 years

Dates to Remember

Monday. 5th June: Open Day at Glenalvon. 10 am to 1 pm.

Saturday. 10th and 24th June: Open Days at Glenalvon. 10am to 1 pm

Saturday Members Meeting. 24th June Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon

Thursday 29th June: 6pm Opening of 'They Came by Boat' Exhibition
Campbelltown Art Centre

Saturday. Members Meeting. 22nd July Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon

Launch of Grist Mills: Emily Cottage and Rawson

THE "OLD MILL" TO BE PRESERVED

Donated To Historical Society

The historical landmark on the Sydney Road at Leumeah, known as the "Old Mill" is to be handed over to the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society.

This information was given to the annual general meeting of the Historical Society held in the supper room of the Campbelltown Town Hall on Friday, 4th June.

The meeting was informed that Mr. Percy Payten, of "Woodbine," had offered to transfer to the Society the stone building together with two acres, two roods, six perches of land. The President explained that the Committee had thanked Mr. Payten for his offer and had informed him that the Society would accept his generous gift as soon as it had appointed trustees. The meeting confirmed the action of the Committee and appointed as Trustees of the Society, Dr. Ivor Thomas, Mr. Keith Walker and Mr. Desmond Chernich.

Camden News: Thursday, 1 July 1954



Fred Rider

In our anniversary year we are spending some time revisiting old journals and papers. In the early Journals we read the names of the founding members and later, those that joined their ranks in 1948 and 1949. It is a who's who of the town for that time, but in between the names that were to be expected - Rose Payten, Angela Lysaght, Sam Bursill, Des Chernich, H S Reeve, we come to the name Fred Rider and in the following year Mrs Margaret Louise Rider.

So it was opportune but coincidental timing, a few weeks ago, that we were given this lovely portrait to scan for our collection. The photo is of Mrs J C Rider and her son, Fred.

John Charles Rider was a skilled glass engraver, operating out of the Strand Arcade and later in shared premises with his brother-in-law in the Royal Arcade. For those of us of an age to remember travelling to the city in the steam train might also remember that the railways provided passengers with a water carafe and two drinking glasses (what now seems a totally curious practice). J C Rider had the substantial contract to engrave these glasses.

He lived in Kiera-ville on Hansens Road, Minto before moving to

Condamine Street, Campbelltown with his wife and son, Fred, shortly before his death in 1934.

Fred married Meg King and continued to live in Condamine Street. Meg's sister Helen, (always known as Miss King,) lived in a flatette, still visible today, on the front of number 12.

Fred Rider was a quiet, sincere man, who would always be there to give a lift to a friend or take a phone message for a neighbour. Memories of the Rider family also include George, their cockatoo, in his cage and the fact that he had to be covered when the Vicar visited, in case he (George) did his party trick which was a little embarrassing although most dismissed it with a laugh.

Fred passed away in 1951.

Thank you to Gillian Blackstone for bringing this photo into Glenalvon. Gillian found it with other family photos in the collection belonging to her parents, Arch and Joan Walker. If anyone has photos in their family albums that could be of interest to us, anything that supports any aspect of Campbelltown in the past, don't hesitate to bring them in, we are always grateful.

Need a Justice of the Peace?

Greg Dillon can help you out!

Contact him via email on greg_dillon@iprimus.com.au

We acknowledge the assistance of the office of

Dr Mike Freeland MP for the printing of this newsletter.

Not quite the latest *News*

Local History

Sir,—Within eighteen months of the initial step for the formation of The Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society there has been issued the first number of its "Journal and Proceedings."

Practically the whole of the 48 pages of the journal are devoted to local history, much of it breaking new ground.

The articles on the founding of Campbelltown, one of the oldest settlements in the State, and on the historic St. Peter's Church, are particularly valuable contributions.

The inclusion of "Airds" in the society's title was a happy thought, as that was the name of one of the original districts of the County of Cumberland, which includes Campbelltown.

The name "Airds" was given to the district by Macquarie in honour of his second wife's family estate in Scotland.

G. A. KING.

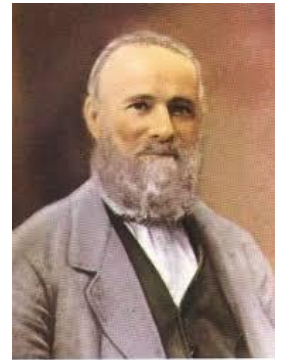
Sydney.

SMH : Friday, 14 Jan 1949

A recent article in the Sydney Morning Herald about the significance of the journals of James Tyson, prompted us to delve into the archives and discovered a wealth of stories, some we share with you.

Australia's First Cattle King

We use the phrase “legend in his lifetime” too easily these days, but there are some people who really were. One of these was James Tyson. He was Australia's first great cattle king and our first self-made millionaire. He is buried in St. Peter's Churchyard Campbelltown. When he died in 1898, the London Times and New York Times printed his obituary as well as the Australian papers. Banjo Paterson wrote a poem about him simply called T.Y.S.O.N.



JAMES TYSON.

Born in the Cowpasture area in 1819, James was the third of eleven children born to William and his wife Isabella, who had arrived in the colony in 1809. Isabella with a seven year sentence for theft and William and their son William came free on the same transport.

James started work as a farm-hand for the Vince brothers near Appin and after many different jobs including apprentice boot maker and pastoral labourer, he and his brother arrived at the Bendigo goldfield in 1852 with a small mob of cattle. They set up a slaughter yard and butcher's shop and so the legend began. Three years later they sold out for 80,000 pounds and they bought three sheep stations in the Deniliquin area. James began to expand his pastoral interests across the eastern colonies, overlanding cattle from Queensland and fattening them on his Riverina stations. He also owned land in Hay, Toowoomba and Brisbane. He was also a member of Queensland Legislative Council and a Magistrate and lobbyist. One property he owned – Tinnenburra was the largest property in Australia at the time.

But what about the man? At one time late in his life he was worth well over 5 million pounds and it could sound as if he was a lonely, quiet man who spent all his time droving between Victoria and Queensland - making money! Tyson was known as “Hungry” as he was very frugal but not miserly, never known to drink, smoke or swear and he always ‘camped out’ shunning hotel beds. Despite this he had a great sense of responsibility to his extended family; many of these had remained in the Campbelltown area.

In the same year of James' father's death, his sister Isabella, named for her mother, married George Donely, this was the first link in the long chain that was to join the Doneley, Tyson and Sheil families. George and Isabella owned a 60 acre farm in Appin, and had twelve children, eight of whom died in infancy or early childhood. Isabella is buried in St Bede's Churchyard in Appin. Peter, the youngest of James siblings married Margaret Sheil, daughter of Dennis and Mary Sheil. Mary was the daughter of William Bradbury of *Bradbury Park*. Mary donated the land for the original St. Patrick's school. The original building still stands as the Campbelltown Tourist Information Centre or Quondong. A hall in the current St. Patrick's College is named after her.

James' mother, Isabella married again in 1829, Thomas Clements a labourer who worked for the family. They had three children - Isabella outlived two husbands and five of her children. She died aged 87. Tyson never married and apparently had little patience with female company. He is quoted as telling a younger man -

“When a man marries a woman, he marries his master. The meek little thing he dotes on is a tiger in a sheepskin, and according to what I have seen, a man is a slave ever after.....

But family mattered to him – in all he had seventy-nine nephews and nieces, sixty-two surviving childhood. He was a key figure in the first three generations of the three families, Doneley, Sheil and Tyson. He was the legal trustee of one third of these nieces and nephews and he supported a further seventeen with grants, as well as employing as many as fifteen. Despite that he is still described as never being a generous benefactor of the family.

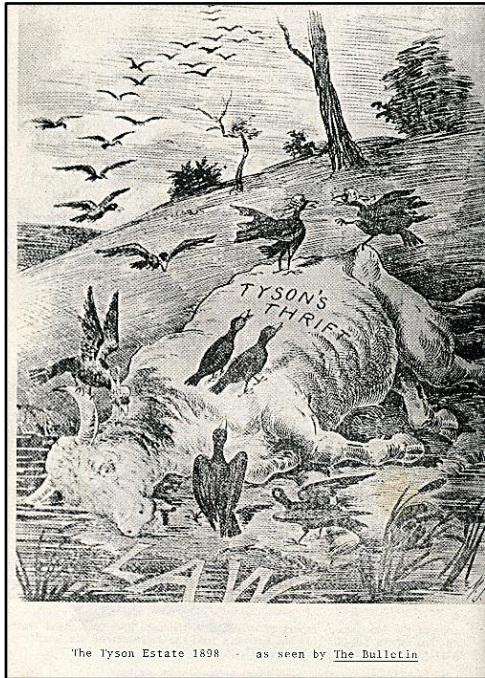
Anecdotes about James Tyson are numerous, including –

‘Tyson was probably the only natural born Australian over 12 who never hugged a woman!’

‘Tyson never smoked – “couldn’t afford it” but when he travelled he always sat in the smoking compartment so petticoats couldn’t hurt him.’

Any activity he didn’t do like attending the theatre, having a social drink or marriage was put down to “couldn’t afford it.”

James Tyson died ‘apparently of inflammation of the lungs’ - he was found dead in his bed at Felton Station on the Darling Downs in Queensland on December 4, 1898. He was buried in Toowoomba, but reinterred in the family vault in St Peter’s cemetery in 1901. Also buried here are his mother, father and other family members.



After his death *The Bulletin* in its issue of December 17 1898 published pages of stories, mostly myth about Tyson and many stories by “someone who knew him.....” But it is thought that nobody really did know him.

Tyson left behind property totalling 5,219,214 acres stretching over the three Eastern Colonies, and at one time his wealth was in excess of five million pounds. This had been reduced at the time of his death because of drought and the collapse of the banks in Australia in the 1890’s. Nevertheless it still totalled 2,364,762.8.9 pounds. A phenomenal amount in 1898!

But he did not leave a will. Surprising that such a methodical man would fail to make provision for the distribution of his hard earned wealth.

The matter went to court, firstly to establish his domicile, as he lived in properties in the three states, to assess for probate. It appears that was decided as being ‘Felton’ on the Darling Downs.

After an extended probate battle (which Queensland won) the wealth was distributed among his nearest thirty relatives, (*pictured below.*)

A collection of documents shedding light on the life and times of James Tyson has been inscribed on UNESCO’s Australian Memory of the World Register, which is designed to honour and protect the country’s documentary heritage. This collection which includes financial records, telegrams, ledgers, photographs and a single fragile surviving diary is spread between four places, the National Library of Australia, the State Library of Queensland, Queensland State Archive and the Deniliquin & District Historical Society. Some of the information used in this story comes from “Doneley, Tyson & Sheil” by Chris Sheil and kindly lent to us for this purpose by Joan Higgins, a great-great niece of James Tyson and a local Campbelltown resident.

