

# NEWSLETTER

MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC (Founded 11<sup>th</sup> June 1958)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society

ABN 34611778680

PO Box 450 Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Editor Lionel Ahearn

No. 1 February 2020

## Congratulations to Sister Dorothy, one of our members, who celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her religious profession.

Dorothy Dolahenty commemorated her 60th anniversary, or Diamond Jubilee, of her religious profession as a Sister of St Joseph on Sunday, January 5. She entered the convent at Lochinvar in 1957; completing her novitiate two-and-a-half years later. Sister Dorothy was then professed on January 5, 1960.



And, she has served her parishioners in Muswellbrook for the past three decades. "It's a big achievement," her sister Margaret said. "To mark the occasion, she enjoyed a luncheon at Balmoral House with family and friends.

It was only last year that Sister Dorothy hung up the keys as a piano teacher in town. Along the journey, she taught former Australia's Got Talent contestant Matt McLaren and Neal Peres Da Costa who was head of the keyboard section at the Sydney Conservatorium.

State Government Certificate of appreciation from Michael Johnsen Member for Upper Hunter

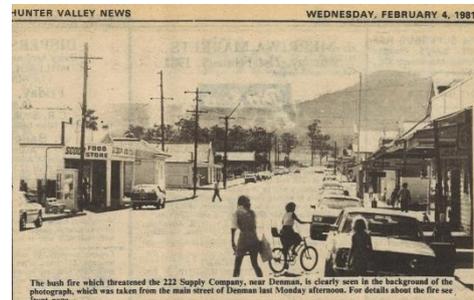


## Ogilvie Street Denman

The photo opposite was brought to my attention recently in the Hunter Valley News. The Society now has a number of photos of Ogilvie Street taken from almost the same spot.

This allows us to view the development over many years. We are always on the look out for photos which allow comparison of the same scene.

If you have an interesting picture to share please contact us.



## 'The Prince of Wales Hotel – History of the Site' was provide by Rob Tickle.

I would like to thank Rob for sharing it with us and allowing it to be inserted in our Newsletter. As usual it has been carefully researched. However, any errors in placement and setting out are due to the Editor's ongoing fight with a program that wants to do things its way. Numerous harsh words have been found to do little but relieve stress.

### DETAILS ABOUT THE SOCIETY

#### Objectives:

- To collect, preserve and promote the social, cultural and physical history of Muswellbrook Shire, its environs and its people for future generations.
- to promote public access to our collections and research facilities, and
- to provide information, advice and assistance to individuals, community groups, organizations and businesses.

#### Meetings

The Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7.00 in the Society Room at the rear of the Muswellbrook Library. All members and visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and stay for a cuppa, biscuit & a chat after.

#### Premises

The Society maintains its records in a section of Muswellbrook Library. You will find us at the rear of the Library. The Research Centre is open every Saturday from 9.30am to 1.00pm. The Research Centre may be opened at other times by appointment. Bus & tour groups are most welcome.

#### Annual Fees

Single \$25 Double \$35 Pensioner Single \$15 Pensioner Double \$25

The Hon Secretary may be contacted via the post office box or email [mei2@bigpond.com](mailto:mei2@bigpond.com) The Society also has a web presence thanks to Darrin Khan and Lionel Ahearn at <http://www.mbkhistorical.org> and a research site at <http://research.mbkhistorical.org>

## PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL: HISTORY OF THE SITE



- Crown Grant to Sir Francis Forbes, possession granted 10 October 1831, deeds granted 9 April 1835.<sup>11</sup>
- Sir Francis Forbes died 1 July 1837 and the property passed to his widow Dame Amelia and two sons, Francis William and David Grant Forbes.<sup>22</sup>
- By the early 1840s the Forbes family were in financial difficulties. To raise capital the land to the south of the government town of Muswellbrook was surveyed and divided into suburban blocks. During 1842 and 1843 16 blocks were sold. The area was initially known as Forbestown, but became South Muswellbrook.
- On 15 June 1843, Pierce Hegarty purchased Lot 5 Section 1 of half an acre for £30.<sup>3</sup> Hegarty may have been renting premises in Muswellbrook as he informed the residents of the area that he had received a new consignment of goods from Sydney on 24 June 1843.<sup>4</sup> In September 1843 he announced that his new store would open on 1 October 1843. He was aiming for a small profit, but a large turn over and accounts unpaid after quarterly statements would be charged 10%. He was willing to take hides, tallow, corn, wool and other colonial produce in exchange for goods.<sup>55</sup>
- On 30 August 1847 Hegarty sold Lot 5 Section 1 to John Rickards, draper of Sydney for £400.<sup>66</sup> It appears that Hegarty continued to reside on the premises and conduct his store.
- On 4 November 1848 Hegarty offered the store for sale or rent. The building had a frontage of 40' with depth 25'. The shop was 30 x 15 feet and there were four other rooms along with a detached kitchen and dry store.<sup>77</sup>

Over the next three years Hegarty tried to dispose of his store. Lewis Lipman advertised that he would hold a four-day sale at which all stock in trade, household furniture, cattle, horses and dwelling would be auctioned. The dwelling contained a very large shop front, back parlours, two bedrooms, servants' room, kitchen, storeroom, stabling and coach house. There is no mention of what the building was constructed.<sup>88</sup> In the advertisement there is no mention of the land being for sale.

- Pierce Hegarty set himself up as a storekeeper in Honolulu and it is unknown what happened to his premises in Muswellbrook. On 1 July 1854 James Cross, innkeeper of Muswellbrook purchased Allotment 5 Section 1 from John Rickards for £750. Cross may have been renting the premises from Rickards.<sup>99</sup> At the same time, Cross mortgaged the property to Rickards for £350 at 8% due in 1856.

<sup>1</sup> LPI Grant No 34 p 75

<sup>2</sup> <http://adh.anu.edu.au/biography/forbes-sir-francis=2052>

<sup>3</sup> LPI Old system Bk 4 No 670

<sup>4</sup> Maitland Mercury 25 June 1843

<sup>5</sup> Maitland Mercury 9 September 1843

<sup>6</sup> LPI Book 13 No 402

<sup>7</sup> Maitland Mercury 4 November 1848

<sup>8</sup> Maitland Mercury 12 February 1851

<sup>9</sup> LPI Book 38 No 293

- James and Susannah Cross arrived in Sydney from Devon in 1840. They appear to have lived in the lower Hunter initially, where two children were born. By 1846, they were in Muswellbrook where James worked as a carrier. Early records are confusing as to when James started the Cross Keys Inn.
- Cross purchased Allotment 5 Section 2 South Muswellbrook from George Bowman for £25 on 12 October 1850. The price indicates that this was an empty allotment.
- NSW State Archives indicates that James Cross took out a publican's license for the Cross Keys Inn on 19 April 1853. This early date is confirmed by a death notice for their daughter, Betsy.<sup>10</sup>
- GW Phillips, had a number of articles published in the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* during the 1930s covering who was living in Muswellbrook in 1856. He stated that Cross lived in an enlarged house known as the Cross Keys Hotel. It was a single storey building constructed from stone.
- In the same year, Isaac Moses advertised that he was to conduct an auction of household furniture and six draught horses on behalf of James Cross.<sup>11</sup>
- It would appear that though James Cross was the licensee for the Cross Keys he might have left the management of the inn to his wife or someone else. At the baptism of his son William in 1855 he gave his occupation as butcher, at the baptism of Charles, 1858 and Edward 1859 he is operating as a carrier, 1862 baptism of Susannah a sexton and at the baptism of Herbert in 1864 he is finally listed as innkeeper.<sup>12</sup>
- It is possible that he did not utilise the building as an inn continually. In 1858, Cross advertised the building for let. It was described as being suitable for a general store or hotel containing eight rooms and kitchen, with two bedrooms detached, commodious stabling together with a good garden stocked with fruit and vegetables. The building was formerly known as the Cross Keys Inn and had been kept by him.
- In 1865, the building was known as the Prince of Wales Hotel and licensed by James Cross, he held the license until his death in 1867 when it passed to his wife Susannah.
- From 1865 until 1908 the license of the Prince of Wales was held by a person connected to the Cross family except for 1875-76 when it was held by George Seabrook. See Appendix 2.
- 1868, Susannah Cross married Thomas Mullens, but he died two years later. She then married John Cooper in 1879.<sup>13</sup>
- 1884, death of Susannah Cooper, previously Mullens and Cross.<sup>14</sup>
- On 19 October 1889 William Clendinning, auctioneer of Muswellbrook advertised that he would put up for auction the Prince of Wales Hotel along with all furniture, fittings and an Alcock billiard table. Also would be offered 1/4 acre allotment next to the hotel of 66' x 165'.<sup>15</sup>
- The *Maitland Mercury* reported that the hotel had been sold to Donald Sutherland for £735 and the allotment to Frank Budden for £2 1s per foot.<sup>16</sup> It would appear that the sale to Sutherland fell through. Frank Budden built a two-storey timber building on his allotment.
- 1898, William Fuller, licensee of the Prince of Wales died aged 42 leaving a widow and six children. He had a long and painful death.<sup>17</sup>
- 1899, death of John Cooper aged 66 years. He was the step-father of Mrs Fuller.<sup>18</sup>
- 1931, death of Mrs Susan Fuller at the age of 69, she had been a daughter of the late Mr & Mrs James Cross, she was the widow of the late William Fuller.<sup>19</sup>
- What style of building was the Prince of Wales Hotel? Phillips described it as being single storey and of stone. The Muswellbrook Municipal Rate Books provides the annual value of the building from 1870 to 1907. During that period it varied from £50 to £80 giving no indication of a major renovation or rebuild. During the same period for comparison, Eaton's Hotel was valued from £150 to £250. The 1907 Municipal Valuation Book stated that the building was constructed of brick.
- *Who was Who in the Hunter Valley in 1888* states that John Cooper, landlord of the Prince of Wales kept a 'small though compact house, replete with excellent fittings and possessed every comfort possible.'

<sup>10</sup> NSW State Archives 4/84 Reel 5063. *Maitland Mercury* 4 January 1854.

<sup>11</sup> *Maitland Mercury* 26 January 1856

<sup>12</sup> C of E record of baptisms, Muswellbrook

<sup>13</sup> NSW BDM Marriage 1868/3127, Death 1870/4755, Marriage 1879/3980

<sup>14</sup> NSW BDM Death 1884/10147

<sup>15</sup> *Maitland Mercury* 19 October 1889

<sup>16</sup> *Maitland Mercury* 12 December 1889

<sup>17</sup> *Muswellbrook Chronicle* 3 August 1898

<sup>18</sup> *Muswellbrook Chronicle* 8 February 1899

<sup>19</sup> *Muswellbrook Chronicle* 20 January 1931

- A photograph held by Muswellbrook Shire Local & Family History Society shows the Prince of Wales Hotel as a two storey rectangular building with veranda and balcony on the side facing Sydney Street. The building has Stewart, Prince Wales Hotel painted on the north end. Stewart became licensee in 1900.

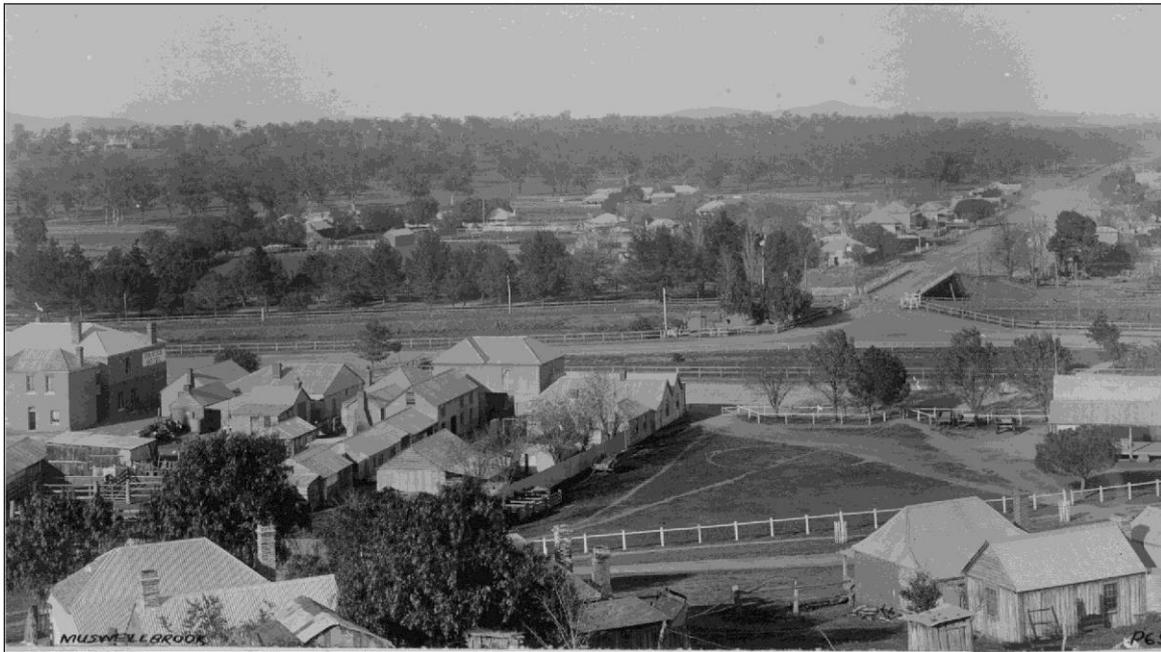


Plate 01: View of South Muswellbrook. MSLFHS Photo 0065

- After 1900, it is difficult to determine if the publican holding the license for the Price of Wales Hotel was also the owner. Some of the publicans have been Gus Lawler, R O Walker, Tom Carter, J McLaughlin, Tom Tipping, W Neery, Bert Quinn, Maurie Weller, Claude Hornery, Dave Simpson, Lindsay Pryor, T Conlan, M Wavell, Norman Gibson, Les Hutchinson, Hurbert Arnold, Keith Myer and Gordon Taylor. This list is incomplete.
- By 1928-29, George Evelyn Rooke was the owner/licensee. The Prince of Wales Hotel was examined by the Licenses Reduction Board. This Board was constituted by the Liquor (Amendment) Act 1919. The purpose of the board was to reduce the number of publican's licenses in NSW by selecting public houses to be closed and fixing compensation payments. The Board recommended that the license for the Prince of Wales Hotel be cancelled or the building be demolished and rebuilt.<sup>20</sup>

In 1929, G Rooke let a contract to J S Cook, builder of Muswellbrook for the erection of a new building estimated to cost £6000. This is the oldest part of the present Prince of Wales Hotel.

- There were no major changes to the building until the late 1970s when R Kemp of Newcastle purchased the building from Gordon Taylor. Kemp appointed David and Gay White as managers. Three years later after spending about one million dollars the building was transformed. The 1930s two storey building was retained, but single storey additions were made to the north and east. The additions consisted of a large lounge bar/bistro which could seat up to 120 people, smaller "Wayne Harris Bar", public bar and a bottle shop.<sup>21</sup>



P of W 1924



P of W 1929