

### **Where is Farvey's Money? - A Story of a Convict Life**

Over 40 years ago there dwelt at St Heliers, near Muswellbrook, a man with a history. He was a native of Lancashire, and having been transported for life in the early part of the last century he was about the middle thereof an assigned servant of Colonel Dumaresq's, the owner of the estate mentioned. The man was of taciturn nature, and dwelt in a hut by himself, apparently preferring to be alone, his blighted life having seemingly made him moody and melancholy. He cared little for the society of fellow-beings, and it is said the only time he would show animation was when recounting what he termed valiant deeds of a bushranger, who in the fifties exploited this district.

The convict, who may be termed Farvey, had, as the years rolled on accumulated a comparatively large sum of money. Which he was accustomed to hide in the bush, choosing different places from time to time to secrete his hoard. Much of his money being in bank notes it was on one occasion nearly destroyed by a bush fire, having been scorched to a considerable extent, but the occurrence is said to have been brought under the notice of the late Mr J H Keys, he succeeded in preserving the numbers of many of the burnt notes, and in that way was instrumental in obtaining more durable coins in return for Farvey, and thus saved a good part of his treasures.

Advancing years, as they do to most mortals brought illness to the convict, and he was sent to the Muswellbrook Hospital for succour. It was soon realised that his race was nearly run, and as some influential persons knew that he possessed money to the extent, it was said, of £500, he was advised to make a will and tell where his treasure was hidden.

He reluctantly at last agreed to do so, and said if he were driven to St Heliers he would point out where his "plant" was. When taken to the estate, however, he merely laughed ironically, declined to give the desired information, and was taken back to the hospital. Knowing that he was weakening rapidly he again volunteered, if conveyed to St Heliers, to disclose his hoard, but such a hold had a secretive disposition upon him that he a second time declined to tell those who accompanied him the whereabouts of his treasure.

Shortly afterwards Farvey died and some time after his decease anxious enquiries from high quarters were made about him, and the facts disclosed that he had been bequeathed £76,000, and granted a free pardon, so that had he lived he would have been able, had he so desired, to return to his native land and dwell in affluence. It had, however, been otherwise decreed by 'the Divinity that shapes the ends' of mortals, and Farvey, what ever his deserts were, died in obscurity. The morning of his early years were, perhaps, bright and joyous, but temptation came, and having been given way to, he fell, never to rise again. His career was one of the tragedies of life, perhaps common in the convict period of our history, but the phrases of it that were singular, as set forth in this brief account, were truly remarkable.

*Maitland Daily Mercury* 28 June 1907

Article donated by Rob Tickle. Interesting local history uncovered while conducting another research

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#### **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 Saturday of each month starting at 12.00 in the Society Room at the rear of the Muswellbrook Library. All members and visitors are welcome to attend the meeting.

##### **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>

## Arnott's

### Preceding Arnott's

In May 1907 Mr J S James purchased the Muswellbrook Bakery Business from Messrs. Dickenson Bros. and supplied the best of bread and confectionery. It was announced in November 1910, *'The Muswellbrook Bakery, situated in Market Street, opposite the railway station, and leased by Mr J S James, has just undergone a complete transformation.'* The bakery had been fitted with a new steel oven producing 380 loaves in a batch. The bake house doubled its former size. The article<sup>1</sup> *'he has large tanks for the storing of water, and his establishment is certainly one of the best equipped of its kind north of Newcastle. Six hands are employed in the business.'*

In October 1912 it was announced that businesses of Messrs Payne and Clayton and J S James, as bakers, confectioners, grocers &c will be amalgamated and known as Muswellbrook Baking Company.



Scanned photograph c1912 showing shop of J S James Baker and Pastrycook on right hand side

At some time, Mr A J Burgess purchased the business. It was advertised in July 1921 *'Central Bakery Muswellbrook – A J Burgess wishes to announce that he has purchased Mr S J Torpey's Market Street bakery business, which he will conduct in future in conjunction with the Central Bakery.'*

In April 1924 it was announced *'that Messrs. Watkins and Hardy (Bakers from Merriwa) have purchased the bakery for many years run by W Burgess.'*

On 8 July 1924 in a column 'Personal' *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* reported *'Mr and Mrs G A Arnott, of Newcastle have come to Muswellbrook having purchased Messrs Watkins and Hardy' bakery business in Market Street.'*

Mr Arnott had taken a prominent part in local government, having served in both Carrington and the City of Newcastle Councils prior to coming to Muswellbrook. In 1925, he was elected to the Muswellbrook Municipal Council. He was granted three month's leave of absence after attending just one meeting, due to illness. Following an operation in Sydney, he passed away on the 26 March 1926, aged 55. Mrs Arnott continued to operate the business in Market Street following the passing of her husband.

**THE RAILWAY BAKERY**

Cakes and Pastry are Made Daily :: :: Telephone 148

Market Street,  
Muswellbrook,

1 AUG 1926 19

M<sup>r</sup> H. W. Humphries

BOUGHT OF

**ARNOTT'S BAKERY**

BAKER AND PASTRYCOOK

All Weekly Accounts made up from Monday to Saturday :: Prompt Settlements Respectfully Requested

No Account allowed to run more than two weeks unless special arrangements made

								TRY OUR DELICIOUS WHOLEMEAL BREAD
		Mon.	Tues	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Loaves
To Account rendered								133 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Amount received								
Balance								
				1	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			3
	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>				1			3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	1	1			1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		6
	1	1			1	1	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>						9
	1	1		2			1	9
Total loaves 28								
THIS AMOUNT WILL BE REDUCED TO £115 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>100</sub>								
IF PAID BY 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug.								
McClintock & Whittom 'Print Muswellbrook								£ 162

<sup>1</sup> *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* Saturday 12 November 1910

## Arnott's in new building

Messrs McClintock and Whitten, proprietors of *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* commissioned the building of new premises in Bridge Street (south of Lodge building) in March 1928.

'New Branch Shop' an article was published on Friday 7 September 1928;

*Mrs A Arnott has opened up a branch of her business (Arnott's Railway Bakery) in one of the front offices of the new "Chronicle" building. The shop has been tastefully fitted up, the fixtures being installed by Rixon, Hastie and Baker Ltd., furnished by L Cheatle and electrical equipment by M Campbell and Co. Ltd.*

The remainder of the building was utilized by the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* for its publishing, printing room and front office.

**ANNOUNCING**  
**THE OPENING OF A NEW BRANCH OF**  
**ARNOTT'S RAILWAY BAKERY**

Mrs. Arnott desires to intimate to her many Customers and the Public generally, that she is opening a Branch Shop in the

**New Chronicle Building**  
(Opposite Rennie's Garage)  
**AS FROM MONDAY, 3rd. SEPTEMBER.**

We take this opportunity of thanking our customers for their esteemed patronage, and assure them that the service, which has made our products famous in this town, will be maintained.

Note.—All our Goods are made in Muswellbrook.  
PHONE 148.



The new Chronicle office built in Bridge Street in 1928 with Arnott's sign on glass window. <sup>2</sup>

It is probable that Arnott's occupied an 'office' in the Chronicle building until they moved to the new shop in J Bell's new building in October 1935.

Also, in September 1928, Mrs Arnott, purchased some land on the opposite (Western) side of Bridge Street (south of the Methodist Church – later the Uniting Church) from Mr William Muller. He had conducted a market garden on the site and had occupied one of two cottages, for 57 years, both of which were demolished in August 1936.

*The Muswellbrook Chronicle* described the cottages in an article published on 5 June 1936;

*Old buildings to go – built in 1864.*

*The march of progress takes toll of many landmarks with historical associations. The two cottages situated in Bridge Street between the Methodist Church and Mrs M A Arnott's shop will shortly be demolished to make room for new shops.*

*The cottages were built in 1864 by the late Messrs William Budden and Kenny.*

*They built well in those far-off days, as some of the timber in the building measures 15 inches in width, with a depth of three inches.*

*The larger cottage has been occupied by Mr and Mrs William Muller for 57 years.*

In October 1935 Mrs Arnott opened a 'modern food shop' featuring an all-electric cake kitchen, in new premises in Bridge Street near Rennie's garage. The shop was managed by experienced pastry cook Mrs L Davies. It is likely the shop was the northern most of two shops constructed for J Bell, later demolished and land subdivided. Southern portion sold to Woolworths and on the northern part MMI Insurance constructed offices in 1966.

About 12 months later in October 1936 Mrs Arnott began construction of a new two storey building consisting of three ground floor shops with her residence above on the first floor. She operated the shop at the northern end as a retail outlet for bread and pastries while still using the bakehouse in Market Street.

The Arnott's building in 1979

<sup>2</sup> Muswellbrook Shire Local and Family History Society photograph 2440-4



In a column 'Odds and Ends' in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* in March 1952, under the heading 'All Rounder' 'the grey we see dragging Arnott's Bakery cart around is quite an animal. He does his chores with the bread cart on weekdays and is a hunter during the weekend. Yesterday he won the open hunt (at the Upper Hunter Show). Its owners first got the idea of its hunting capabilities when it nearly wrecked the cart by trying to jump the railway gates. B Mc'

A listing of Muswellbrook Show Awards in the same issue shows: Ring events – Jumping – Campbell's open hunt – 1<sup>st</sup> Arnott's Bakery.

Funeral procession in Bridge Street 1949. Bakers Horse and delivery cart outside Arnott's. Society photo D2384

Arnott's Bakery later was purchased by Mr and Mrs Crebbin who conducted their business on both the Market Street and Bridge Street sites.



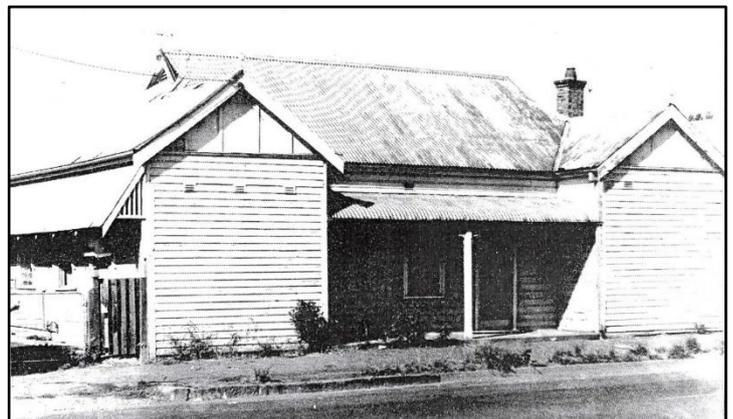
Arnott's building and Carter's Sports Store c1988. Society photo 2275.34

In 1955 Radio 2NM obtained the building and converted the top floor to studios.

### Market Street building

On 7 April 1955 the property known as Arnott's Bakery opposite the railway station was advertised for sale.

In 1978 the bakehouse and residence in Market Street were demolished and replaced by a showroom/warehouse for Hunter Valley Building Supply Pty Ltd. The Singleton based firm of Gould Brothers purchased this business until it closed in 2013. The building lay empty for two years until reopened in 2015 as a Hardware store called Home Hardware.



The old building in Market Street pictured before the start of demolition.

Bruce James and Bill Spicer March 2016

Updated December 2018

## Christmas Luncheon

This year the members of the Society met at the RSL Club on 26 November to celebrate with an enjoyable Christmas Luncheon. Our thanks go especially to Heather Meissner for her organisation. Thanks also to Garry, Margaret and Dorothy Dolahenty and Helen Ellis for their contributions which ensured the success of the celebration.



Our last day for his year will be Saturday 17 December and we will reopen on Saturday 14 January 2023. To everyone we wish a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

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## Samuel George Coulson - Tailor



This marvellous photo was emailed to our secretary Heather Meissner by Cynthia McQualter. The photo was provided originally by Denis Buckley. It shows Samuel G. Coulson, taken outside his business premises in Bridge St. It is believed the photo was taken about 1898-9. I shared it with Bill Spicer as we had previously examined another poor quality newspaper photo of this shop. The clarity of this photo is exceptional. It shows what is still out there and it is a joy when such a find comes to light.

Samuel George Coulson was born in London and came to Muswellbrook when a young man and set up in business as a tailor. Coulson resided in Muswellbrook for over 60 years. Coulson died in 1944, aged 86. It was reported in 1944 that he had carried on the calling until he was 81 years of age.<sup>3</sup>

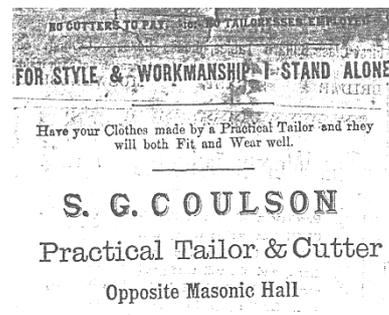
Coulson married Ada Amy Smithers in 1886. The couple had ten children.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Muswellbrook Chronicle Tuesday 21 November 1944

<sup>4</sup> New South Wales Births, deaths and Marriages register

Early records<sup>5</sup> reveal Coulson occupied a house and shop in Bridge Street, owned by William Muller, in 1895-96. Muller owned two adjoining houses immediately south of the Methodist (now Uniting) Church. The advertisement (right) was printed in *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* issue dated 13 August 1895 the words appearing on the top line state 'No cutters to pay – No tailoresses employed'. The location 'Opposite Masonic Hall' indicates the approximate position of Muller's houses and shop.



The rate books record Coulson occupied a house and shop in Market Street, owned by Sidney Lea, in 1897. However, there is also an entry in the same year showing his occupation of Muller's house.

Coulson moved to the shop and house (pictured above) owned by Abraham Clark, in c1898. An article, printed in 1911 states;

Mr Abraham Clark was born in London in 1833. He came to Victoria in 1854 when the gold fever was at its height and proceeded to the Bendigo (Sandhurst) fields where he delved with varying success for 8 years, going thence to the Lachlan diggings. In 1864, hearing much of Peak Downs he started for that place, but overwhelming floods cut him off somewhere near Muswellbrook and he elected to set up his household goods in this town. Inclining to the butchering business, he started that trade in the old landmark which is now known as Coulson's tailor shop in Bridge Street.<sup>6</sup>

An extensive search of the rate books has not been undertaken. No details of when Coulson ceased occupation of the subject building have been located.

Early newspapers contain references to Coulson. An example is:

'An Echo From Muswellbrook.

It comes from a well-known and highly respected citizen, Mr. S. G. Coulson, a Muswellbrook tailor. He wants everybody to know his experience. These are his words: 'It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the wonderful efficacy of Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills in curing indigestion...'<sup>7</sup> Similar articles containing Coulson's endorsement were printed for the next thirty years.

**COULSON** MAKES 'Trousers to measure from 15/6 Gents own material made up. For Fit, Style and Workmanship I lead. Next to Masonic Hall.

(*The Muswellbrook Chronicle*, Saturday 6 January 1900)

No doubt Mr Coulson saw many changes in Muswellbrook town in his sixty years, whilst plying his trade and raising his family.

Notes prepared by Bill Spicer November 2022.

### **New Member**

The Society welcomes Rod Scholes from Muswellbrook as a new member.

### **Sick Members**

A speedy recovery to members who haven't felt well in the last couple of months & also Glenda Murray & Tony Neate recovering from Covid

<sup>5</sup> Muswellbrook Municipal Rate Books

<sup>6</sup> *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* 25 November 1911 article by Edwin Howell B.A. Clark Bros' Verona Butchery

<sup>7</sup> *Evening News* Sydney Wednesday 8 December 1897