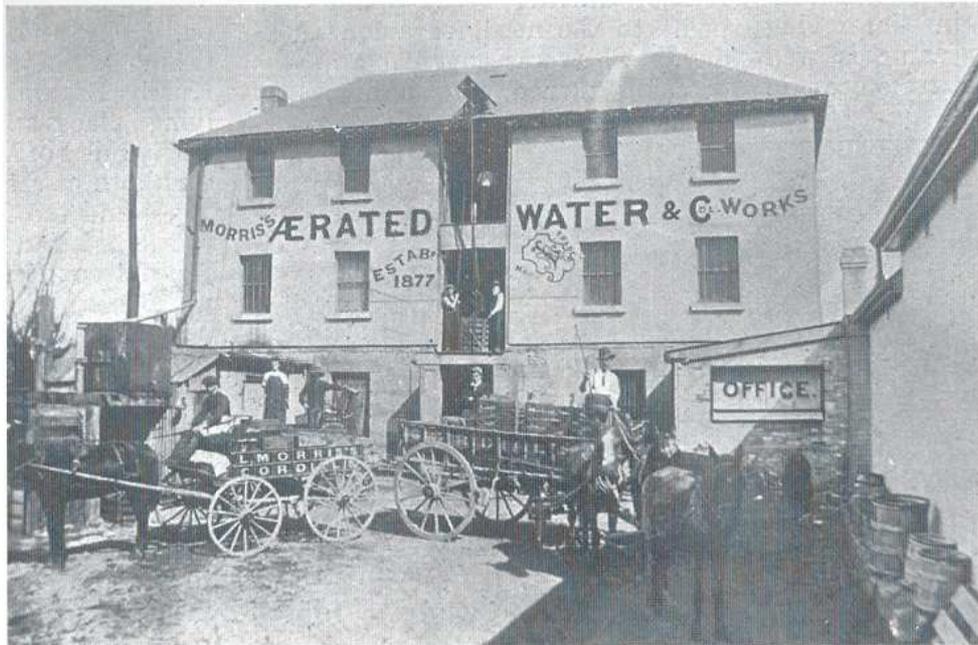


*Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

# **Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.**

(Established March 1977)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society and  
Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



**Morris's Aerated Water & Cordial Works**

Volume 20, Number 1

February 2013

*The Aims of the Society are to  
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the District*

## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

### **Cover:**

#### **Morris's Aerated Water & Cordial Works**

Photo from Maitland City Council Collection, copied from "Out of the closet: Maitland's Water Stories" by Cynthia Hunter, Maitland City Heritage Group, 2006.

**Correspondence :** P.O. Box 333, Maitland NSW 2320

**Telephone :** 0438 623 299

**Email :** [maitlandhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandhistorical@gmail.com)

**Website :** <http://www.maitlandhistorical.org>

Meetings are held at 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)

**Lecture meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations

**Business meeting** is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm

Membership fees : \$15 (single) and \$20 (double / family)

**Patron:** The Hon. Milton Morris AO

NSW Member for Maitland 1956-1980

NSW Minister for Transport 1965 - 1975

### **Current Office Bearers :**

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**Vice Presidents :** Peter Smith, Keith Cockburn

**Treasurer :** Kevin Short

**Secretary :** Tom Skelding

**Bulletin Editor :** Judy Nicholson

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**Bulletin contributions** are being sought. Please contact the Society via email

[maitlandhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandhistorical@gmail.com)

While every care is taken in the compilation and editing of the information contained in this bulletin, Maitland and District Historical Society Inc. and its editors do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

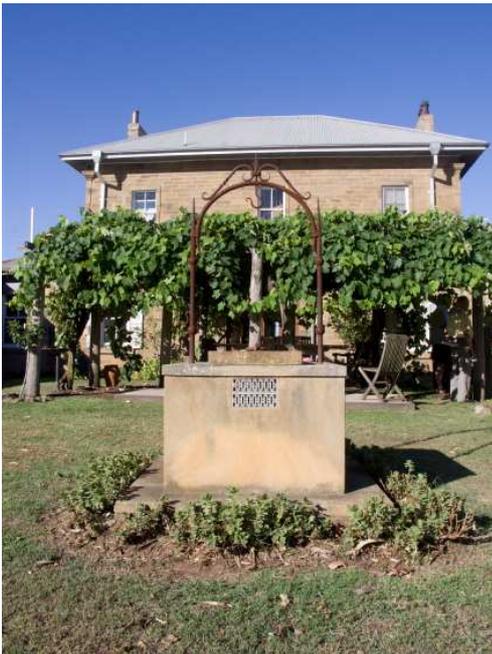
## Historical Society Activities

### Dunmore House visit

Members of the Historical Society again thank Paris and Mitty Osbourne for their courtesy and generosity in welcoming the Historical Society to Dunmore House, their historic property at Bolwarra Heights, in December 2012.

More information about Dunmore House is available in the August 2012 Bulletin of the Maitland and District Historical Society, available on the website.

<http://www.maitlandhistorical.org>



## Morris Cordials

### City's history is returned on canvas ☆

By REBECCA BERRY Nov. 12, 2012, 4 a.m.



FACTORY ART: Art conservator Duncan Harty with the painting.

#### Maitland Mercury 12 November 2012

*A valuable part of Maitland's retail history has come home in the form of an oil painting on canvas.*

*Tucked away in Sydney since the 1960s, the painting depicts a scene from Louis Morris's factory as it was in Bulwer Street, Maitland around 1900.*

*The aerated water and cordial works opened in 1877. The painting would have been framed and hung on the wall of the factory's office.*

*A friend of Maitland Historical Society found the painting and handed it over a month ago so it could be restored and preserved.*

*"It is part of our history that is no longer here," Maitland Historical Society member Ruth Trappel said.*

*"The painting had been folded into small squares, so whoever had it did not realise how valuable it is."*

*It is the work of Maitland artist Aland Watts who was also a signwriter and creator of theatre backdrops in the 19th century.*

*There are four horses drawing a carriage with a driver and his whip.*

*The words ginger beer, soda water, lemonade, hop beer, tonics, cloves, peppermint, ginger ale, fruit champagne, country orders, shops and picnics supplied and best and purest ingredients are written across the top of the painting.*

*Morpeth fine art conservator Duncan Harty said the work is valuable as a "lovely, historical document".*

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*Although it is dirty, scuffed and brittle Mr Harty is confident he can clean and repair the painting.*

*Maitland Historical Society benefactress Chic Cooper has donated the \$5720 for its restoration.*

**Many thanks Wayne Dempsey of Chatswood, for the donation of the Morris Cordial artefacts, October 2012**

### **The Morris Cordials Business**

Mr. W.E. Comfort came to Maitland in 1888, purchasing a **cordial factory**. The business was enlarged and improved with modern steam machinery. "By the late 1880s he had one of the largest cordial manufacturing businesses in the district, the output averaging about 2,000 dozen per week and providing employment for six men. He won numerous awards at agricultural shows at Maitland and Singleton."

Source: "Out of the closet: Maitland's Water Stories"

It was this business that **Mr. Lewis Morris** acquired, advertising this fact in the Maitland Mercury, **19 December 1889**.

**MORRIS'**  
(LATE COMFORT'S)  
**CORDIAL AND AERATED WATERS MANUFACTORY,**  
**ALBION-STREET,**  
**WEST MAITLAND.**  
**L. MORRIS**

**B**EGBS to inform Hotelkeepers and the public generally of Northern District that he has PURCHASED the above well and favourably known CORDIAL and AERATED WATERS MANUFACTORY, together with the entire Stock-in-Trade, Steam Machinery, &c., which has been for some years carried on by Mr. W. E. Comfort.

L. M. having secured, at great cost, the most modern appliances used in the business, hopes by strict attention and the manufacture of Cordials and Aerated Waters of the highest class to merit a fair share of the public patronage.

One trial will prove the fact that MORRIS' AERATED WATERS and CORDIALS are the best manufactured in the Northern district, while the prices in all cases will be found to meet the times.

Country orders will receive the immediate attention of the proprietor.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

**MORRIS' (late Comfort's)**  
**CORDIAL AND AERATED WATERS MANUFACTORY,**  
**Albion-street, West Maitland.**

7763

The business was expanding, hence relocation to High Street in 1890.

# Notice of Removal.

## MORRIS'

(LATE COMFORT'S)

### CORDIAL AND AERATED WATERS MANUFACTORY,

High-street, Opposite David Cohen & Co.'s,

### WEST MAITLAND.

## L. MORRIS,

WHILE THANKING HIS NUMEROUS PATRONS throughout the Northern District for their favours, begs to intimate that, owing to a great and unprecedented increase in his business, he has been compelled to REMOVE TO LARGER AND MORE COMMODIOUS PREMISES, where he has erected the NEWEST and MOST IMPROVED MACHINERY used in the Manufacture of Cordials and Aerated Waters. The Proprietor, from the first, has determined upon supplying to the people of the Northern District CORDIALS and AERATED WATERS of a quality which hitherto has not been supplied to consumers in this district, unless going to the expense of procuring the imported article.

L. M.'s object in erecting the most Modern Machinery and Appliances known to the Trade is in order to supply a long-felt want, and he feels sure that one trial will prove the fact that he is capable of equalling, if not excelling, the imported article. NOTE THE ADDRESS—

**L. MORRIS, CORDIAL AND AERATED WATER MANUFACTURER,**

OPPOSITE D. COHEN & Co.'s,

**HIGH-STREET, WEST MAITLAND. 7753**

MM  
Saturday  
15  
February  
1890



Gained Honours.—At the last H. R. A. and H. Association's exhibition, Mr. L. Morris, cordial manufacturer of this town, gained the Society's certificate for being the exhibitor of the best collection of cordials and aerated waters on the ground. Mr. Morris has now received the certificate, of which he is justly proud, and intends to have the same neatly framed. Mr. Morris has now the advantage of being the proprietor of some of the best machinery known in the manufacture of cordials and aerated waters, and with the approach summer weather he is reaping the benefit of his enterprise.

MM Saturday 8 November 1890

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**HEALTHFUL AND COOLING SUMMER DRINKS.**  
**PRIZE CORDIALS & AERATED WATERS**  
**MORRIS'**  
**CORDIAL AND AERATED WATER MANUFACTORY,**  
OPPOSITE D. COHEN & Co.'s,  
**HIGH-STREET, WEST MAITLAND.**

**L. MORRIS**, while thanking his numerous patrons throughout the Northern District for their very liberal support, begs to intimate that, having at his command the newest and most improved machinery, lately erected, for the manufacture of  
**CORDIALS AND AERATED WATERS,**  
he is now prepared to supply those beverages of undoubted excellence, and much superior to any before made in the district.  
Private Parties or Balls supplied on the shortest notice with ALL KINDS OF CORDIALS—Lemonade, Ginger Ale, Soda Water, &c.—either corked or in stoppered bottles. Acknowledged by all who have tried them to be equal if not superior to the best imported, and at prices very much lower.  
FIRST PRIZE was awarded to L. MORRIS for CORDIALS at the late Maitland Exhibition.  
**NOTE THE ADDRESS—**  
**L. MORRIS, Opp. D. Cohen & Co.'s, High-st., West Maitland**

---

MM Tuesday 3 February 1891

MAITLAND BENEVOLENT ASYLUM.-CHRISTMAS FARE.-We understand that the Mayor has signified his intention to the committee of the Maitland Benevolent Society to defray the cost of a sumptuous repast on Christmas Day to the inmates of the Benevolent Asylum. Mr. Lewis Morris, cordial manufacturer, has intimated that he purposes forwarding a quantity of lemonade and ginger ale to the inmates of this institution.

MM Thursday 24 December 1891



A Runaway.-Yesterday morning Mr. Lewis Morris, cordial manufacturer, carrying on business in High-street, returned to his factory after serving his customers with cordials. He gave directions to a young fellow in his employ to feed the horse. He threw down a quantity of lucerne in front of the horse, which was attached to a waggon, and removed the blinkers from the animal. The horse cleared off, and the waggon came in contact with a post at the entrance to the yard. The vehicle was overturned, and the contents of the same thrown on to the roadway.

Thursday 21 January 1892

INFANTS' PUBLIC SCHOOL, HORSE SHOE BEND.

The Public Infants School in the Horse Shoe Bend has for many years been noted for its annual festivities on the occasion of the presentation of prizes...

Gingerbeer, lemonade, and gingerale in abundance was supplied to every- body present thanks to the generosity of Mr Louis Morris, cordial manufacturer of this town, and the partakers thereof declared by their approving smiles that Mr L Morris' cordials cannot be excelled.

**MM Saturday 17 December 1892**

**Mr. Lewis Morris' large Aerated Water and Cordial Factory**, between Elgin and Bulwer Street, with entrance from the last-named street, forms a conspicuous landmark in West Maitland, as it can be seen from all parts of the town, while his catrs bearing the aerated waters and cordials are to be met daily on the roads leading to Cessnock, Mount Vincent,



Kurri Kurri, Branxton and other outlying places within a radius of thiry miles of Maitland. Mr. Morris was born at sea on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1856, and the following month, on the completion of their voyage from the old country, his parents came up to the Maitland district, so that he is almost a native of the Hunter.

After some years in the building and contracting trade Mr. Morris purchased the present business over seventeen years, which in his hands has steadily increased ; but now that his son, who has been assisting his father for over six years, is able to assume control of the management, Mr. Morris, sen., can devote more time to municipal and other local matters in which he is interested.

Like many of the old residents, Mr. Morris has always taken an active part in any ovement for furthering the interest of the district or the assistance of some deserving institution or other charitable object. For three years past he has been an alderman of West Maitland Municipal Council, but it is in connection with the work of the Volunteer Water Brigade during the disastrous floods in 1893 that Mr. Morris' name will always be remembered. The brigade comprised ober 150 men, of which Mr. Morris was captain, with nine boats, and it was due to the pluck of this grand body of men that so many lives were saved that, but for their exertions, would have been lost.

**Cyclopedia of New South Wales, 1907.**



## **1893 Flood – George Boyle White connection**

The following letter, published in The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser Tuesday 21 March 1893, was written by Henry O'Sullivan White (1831-1901) the son of surveyor George Boyle White.

Maitland flood historian and Historical Society member Peter Bogan came across the letter when researching the 1893 flood and has provided some comments that have been included after the Henry White letter, below:

### **ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE. FLOODS IN THE HUNTER.**

(To the Editor of the Maitland Mercury.)

SIR,-At such a time of disaster and desolation as this flood brings to Maitland, I trust it may not be considered unseemly for me (though an unknown individual to the public) to write on this fearful calamity, and give to the inhabitants of the district the knowledge I possess, gathered from the experience of my late father, George Boyle White, the first (or nearly so) Government surveyor of the Hunter. He it was who first laid out East Maitland as a town, and subdivided the land, where the town of West Maitland now stands, into farms for agriculture purposes - what nature intended it for, not the use it has since been put to.

My father's knowledge of Maitland dates back to the year 1826, and at which time in this same month of March came a similar visitation to the one just passed, and I fancy slightly higher than it has been. At that time no buildings existed in West Maitland, other than the huts of cedar getters. All was in a primitive state with cedar brush and swamp; no obstruction was there to the spread of the waters. And they then covered the land on which the town stands, with one small exception, and that is a small piece of ground where the Bank of Australasia and Mr. Isaac Gorrick's buildings now stand, and that was awash with the flood; and one vast sheet of water extended from Campbell's Hill to the surrounding high lands, reaching to within 66 feet of the old East Maitland lockup.

From that time up to the year 1832 the river was quiet, no rise of consequence taking place, but then again it came up into flood, and although not so high as that of 1826 did more damage. Lots of land had been cleared, and coming at harvest time it destroyed the crops, the heads of the wheat at Singleton, nearly five feet high being only visible above the water and men trying to gather them in baskets.

After this a period of eight years passed without a flood when again the river woke up, and in January 1840 rose 40 feet at Singleton, again submerging Maitland but much lower than the previous floods spoken of. From that time to the year 1857 (with which many now living are conversant) no fresh occurred; in fact, for a period of three years the river ceased to run at Singleton, and for miles its bed was dry, with here and there a water hole. This great drought took place in '47, '48, '49.

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This spell without floods made people think they were a thing of the past. The clearing of the land and opening of the country, they argued, had done away with them, and though repeatedly told by my father that they and their belongings would someday be carried to the ocean, they laughed at him. When 1857 came they changed their note and saw their error.

Since then fruitless attempts have been made to save the town from inundation to the detriment of the surrounding lands, hundreds of acres have been destroyed and will continue to be so, if these futile efforts are continued.

My late father always maintained no engineering could save West Maitland from these visitations because of the want of fall, the south east gales that always accompany these heavy rains sweeping as they do over the wide Pacific Ocean into the river mouth raise the sea to such a height that the river cannot flow, rendering Maitland nothing but a basin which fills in while the gale and rain last. No remedy is there for this but breaking the rim of the basin and that is the ocean. How is it to be done? If such is the case, which my late father always affirmed was so, straightening the river and cutting canal's is but money thrown away. Trusting you will see proper to publish this, - I remain, etc. H. O. S. WHITE.  
17th March, 1893.

### **Notes by flood historian Peter Bogan:**

The 1826 flood was much lower than 1893, official ESTIMATE 1826 equivalent to 32 ft on Belmore Gauge, 1893 37 ft 3 inches. There would have been more than cedar cutters huts in 1826, there would have been the huts of original convicts and an amount of ground under cultivation. Alan Wood in *"Dawn in the Valley"* wrote "A message from Newcastle stated on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1826 that the recent heavy rains had done a considerable amount of damage to the settlers at Wallis Plains, and : Lieut. Blomfield would suffer severe loss and great quantities of timber had drifted down the river.

In suggesting no floods until 1832 writer ignored two floods in 1831. On this again from Woods we have this in a letter from Mrs Christina Blomfield of Dagworth, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 1831 "We had the prospect of an abundant harvest, but just as the luxuriant crops were ready for reaping almost all were destroyed by flood. Our wheat, barley and potatoes were many feet under water and several acres of maize coming up were destroyed. Our flock of breeding ewes got the rot from the wet weather and we lost 300."

The flood of May 1831 was well reported in Sydney papers. As an example: "By the Northumberland from Hunter's River, we learn that the floods have been felt severely in that district, cattle, horses, sheep, &c. have been swept away, and perished in the flood ; the Maitland bridge has also been carried away, and the crops in the neighbourhood have been destroyed by the destructive element. The Sydney Herald Monday 16 May 1831.

## **History of Newcastle (Anglican) Diocese Before 1847**

**By Kevin Short**



As a follow-up to Alan Thomas' article on Archdeacon Lovick Tyrrell in our Society's November Bulletin, Kevin Short thought it appropriate to write a brief overview of the Anglican Church in the Hunter up to the establishment of the Diocese of Newcastle in 1847.

It needs to be remembered that the 'Church' greatly influenced early colonial society and that the Church's hierarchy sat next to the Lieutenant Governor in social status and importance. The Church and State were inseparable bedfellows!

The Church came to Australia with the First Fleet in 1788. The Revd Richard Johnson BA was charged with spiritual ministrations to the 750 convicts and associated soldiers and administrators.

Johnson's responsibility was immediately compromised in that approximately half of the convicts were Irish Catholics and despite a request that two Roman Catholic priests accompany the Fleet, the request was refused. That these Irish convicts were reluctant parishioners somewhat understates the reality!

Johnson ministered and conducted services when and wherever he could find shelter... in tents, under trees ... wherever! The first church was a wattle-and-daub church erected in 1893.

Despite their sombre circumstances and somewhat paradoxically, Governor Phillip encouraged convicts to marry and forebears on my paternal grandmother's side, Mary Groves and William Douglas, were married by Johnson on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1788 ostensibly at St Phillip's. Even then, there were 20 or so couples who preceded them into matrimony. This encouragement among the convict population to wed was not encouraged by the four governors who followed Phillip.

Johnson was joined by the Revd James Bain in 1792, Bain arriving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet and although Bain was appointed as the Chaplain to the New South Wales Corps, he did provide assistance to Johnson, very necessary considering the settlement had now expanded to Parramatta and the Hawkesbury.

In 1794, the same year Bain departed, Johnson was joined by a cleric who was to become important in the development of New South Wales, namely Revd Samuel Marsden.

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After Johnson's departure for England in 1800 Marsden was the sole chaplain until the arrival in 1807 of Revd William Cowper. Cowper was to later play a prominent role in the early Church in the Hunter.

By 1817 there were 5 Church of England Chaplains ministering to the now expanding colony. By then, there were 15,000 free settlers in the colony with a similar number of convicts. It should be noted however that of those 15,000 free settlers, only just over 2,000 had either arrived free or been born in the colony. New South Wales was still primarily a gaol!

Settlement in the Hunter began with the establishment in 1804 of a permanent convict gaol for secondary offenders at Newcastle under the charge of Lt Charles Menzies. This followed a failed attempt in 1801 when the commandant, Martin Mason was lucky not to be assassinated by his charges.

For the next decade or so, the settlement was exclusively domiciled at Newcastle although groups of convicts and their gaolers were sent to the Lower Hunter around Maitland living at temporary camps, their primary task the cutting of rainforest timbers, generally cedar from the vast cedar forests at Bolwarra.

In 1812 and following a visit from Governor Macquarie, four well behaved convicts were allowed to settle and farm in the vicinity of Woodville on the Paterson River. Coincidentally, the Bi-Centenary of that event was celebrated in the Woodville district in September, 2012.

In 1818 and following a second vice-regal visit by Macquarie, a further 11 settlers were given permission to farm at what was to become West Maitland, centred where Wallis Creek joined the Hunter at that time, at the bottom end of what was to become High Street and extending between today's Raworth and the Belmore Bridge. By this time there were probably about 11 settlers at the Woodville site.

It needs to be remembered that Newcastle and the Hunter, unlike Sydney, was exclusively still a gaol and a requirement was that prayers and lessons be read to convict and gaoler alike but because of the lack of ordained clergy, this task was undertaken, usually by the senior officer.

The foundation stone for the first Church was laid by the commandant, Capt James Wallis on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1817. This foundation stone is now kept under glass in the porch at the common entrance to the present Cathedral. Some of the inscription is still decipherable.

Exactly when the first church building was completed is in some doubt but it was certainly sufficiently complete to be used at the time of Macquarie's 1818 visit as Macquarie attended Divine Worship at Christ Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and was prompted to quip, that the

## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

Rev William Cowper, who preached the sermon, was the first *'regular'* clergyman to perform divine worship in Newcastle.

During this same visit Cowper solemnized the marriage of 10 couples and baptised 30 children. I'm somewhat amused by AP Elkin's

phrasing in his *'History of Newcastle Diocese'* that Cowper solemnized the marriages, the implication being that some, if not all of the children were the product of those marriages in their unsolemnized state.

In January, 1820 the Revd George Augustus Middleton arrived in the colony and after a short sojourn at Parramatta, was appointed by Marsden to Newcastle. It is important to note that whilst Middleton ministered to many convicts, the gaol itself was in the process of being transferred to Port Macquarie, a move that was completed by 1824.

The transfer of the gaol to Port Macquarie was a product of the decision to open the Hunter Valley to general settlement and the need to keep the gaol isolated.

Middleton had been trained specifically at St John's College Cambridge for work abroad. He was *'priested'* only 12 days after being made a deacon, a sign of the urgency of the call from New South Wales!

Whilst Middleton took up duty at Newcastle, Newcastle was fast becoming the lesser settlement with the convict population in recession and with an influx of settlers into both the lower and upper reaches of the Valley. The entire Hunter Valley was Middleton's Parish and the entries in the Newcastle registers are reflective of this.

It needs to be mentioned at this point that up until 1824, all clergy in New South Wales were appointed under the *'Articles of War'* and appointments were not by the Church but by the colonial authorities. This changed in 1824 with the arrival of Rt Revd Thomas Hobbes Scott, the first Archdeacon in Australia, an archdeaconry of the See of Calcutta. It would be fair to say that Scott was not a diplomat and one of his first acts was to transfer Middleton to Port Macquarie as Chaplain. Middleton refused! Middleton probably didn't see himself called to minister to a penal institution and saw the transfer as a banishment, the consequence being that he resigned in 1827 and *'retired'* to a 20 acre block at Hinton. That he purchased a further 2,000 acres west of Paterson is further evidence Middleton saw opportunity away from the Church. That said, it seems he still saw himself as a minister to the settlers and there is ample evidence that he did. Tradition has it that he kept a school at Phoenix Park and though not licensed, assisted his successor at Newcastle by visiting pastorally and taking baptisms in the districts between Paterson, Morpeth, Maitland and Branxton. I guess it's important that Middleton did as the exponential growth in settlement far exceeded the capacity of a single chaplain.

## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

One effect of Middleton's voluntary ministry was the appointment of Lt John Wood as Catechist at Wallis Plains in August, 1829. Wallis Plains, today's Maitland, had been developing as a settlement from about 1824.

Whilst Wood was not a priest he took baptisms and funerals and conducted regular services and devoted his complete energies to his ecclesiastical duties, reflected in his stipend being almost equal to that of the chaplains.

Two further catechists were appointed in Richard Sadler and William Brooks, respectively at Patrick's Plains and Newcastle. Brooks no doubt ministered during the absence of the chaplain on priestly duties away from Newcastle.

Middleton was succeeded at Newcastle by Revd Frederick Wilkinson MA, an Oxford graduate and who had arrived in the colony in 1824.

Like Middleton, Wilkinson had a fractured relationship with Archdeacon Scott and the transfer to Newcastle was probably to remove Wilkinson to the farthest possible vacancy.

Wilkinson's conflict with the authorities did not end here however and he was suspended by Governor Darling on the advice of Archdeacon Broughton who had succeeded Scott in October, 1829. It is likely Broughton took this action on the advice of the fractious Scott as Broughton later re-appointed Wilkinson, this time to the Illawarra in 1833.

Despite Wilkinson's stormy relationship with Scott, it seemed the settlers '*warmed*' to him and he seems to have had a happy ministry in the Lower Hunter, evidenced by the testimonials forthcoming on his suspension. Wilkinson was invited back to the district and was certainly present at the laying of the foundation stone for St James Church at Morpeth, shortly before his resignation in 1837 and permanent removal to England. Wilkinson also ran a school in Newcastle to which many of the settlers send their sons.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and last chaplain appointed to Newcastle was Revd Charles Wilton MA, who had arrived in the colony in 1827.

Like both his predecessors, Wilton had argued with Archdeacon Scott and had resigned his position at Field of Mars in 1828. No doubt the departure of fractious Scott in 1828 induced Wilton to return to the Church, being appointed to Newcastle in 1831 by Broughton.

It should be remembered that although Newcastle was the appointment, the bulk of Wilton's '*flock*' were in the Valley proper. Wilton took to his duty with zeal and the registers at East Maitland indicate that almost monthly, he visited some part of the Valley between Segenhoe (now Scone) and Maitland and everything in between, including the tributaries. Wilton ministered with the assistance of the catechist Wood and the volunteering Middleton.

The first subdivision of the Valley came about in 1834 when Revd George Keylock Rusden was appointed to Maitland, now East Maitland in 1834, Maitland having been surveyed as a town in 1829 by George Boyle White. Rusden was not a young man when he accepted the appointment at 48 years of age but he ministered from East Maitland faithfully for the next 20 years. Rusden's parish initially extended to Murrurundi but he was joined progressively with chaplains appointed at Hinton, West Maitland, Seaham, Paterson, Raymond Terrace, Scone, Singleton, Hexham and Jerry's Plains between 1837 and 1844.

This increase in clergy was reflective of the enormous population growth over these years. In 1828 there were only 3,225 persons in the Valley, by 1833... 8,721 but by 1846 there were 27,033 persons living in the Valley. This migration was almost exclusively free settlers and included the 'Short' family, my great grandfather being born at Brooks Flat (Buchanan) in September, 1839.

Whilst George Rusden was effectively the first 'parish priest' appointed in the Valley, there was another clergyman already in the Valley, namely Revd William Cowper who was chaplain to the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens and Stroud from 1833. Cowper also ministered to the workers on the AA Co's Estates at Goonoo Goonoo on the Liverpool Plains. Even after the establishment of the Diocese in 1847, Cowper remained as the AA Co's chaplain and took part in ecclesiastical gatherings.

In 1836 Australia was separated from the See of Calcutta and created a diocese in its own right with William Grant Broughton as the first and only Bishop of Australia.

There is a wonderful story associated with Bishop Broughton and the Church of St Mary on Allyn at Allynbrook. William Barker Boydell of Camyr Allyn, wanted to marry Broughton's daughter Mary Phoebe but before allowing this to happen, Broughton insisted Boydell build a church for his daughter to worship in. Boydell and Mary Broughton are both buried alongside St Mary on Allyn, along with their son, Henry who died when he was one year old.

I also love the story of the first incumbent at Paterson, the Revd John Jennings Smith, reputedly the illegitimate son of George IV.

I guess history could have panned out a little differently if Jennings Smith or another of George's many illegitimate children had been allowed to accede to the Throne instead of Victoria, Victoria being but a niece to George and his younger brother William (IV), who both died without legitimate issue? Jennings Smith died as a result of a carriage accident between Maitland and Hexham in 1846 and somewhat ironically, his progeny intermarried with those of both Broughton's and Boydell's.

Many of the Valley's early churches, including St James at Morpeth, the original St Peter's at East Maitland and the original St Mary the Virgin at Maitland, were dedicated by Bishop

Broughton. St Mary's at (West) Maitland and St Peter's at East Maitland along with the 'Glebe' burial ground were dedicated on St Peter's Day in 1843, a busy day for the Bishop!

The population of the Australian colonies continued to increase at a 'a rate of knots' and a decision was taken that it be subdivided, this time into the diocese's of Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Broughton retained Sydney with Bishop Short appointed to Adelaide, Perry to Melbourne and Tyrrell to Newcastle, all three new bishops being consecrated together at Westminster on St Peter's Day 1847.

William Tyrrell came to Newcastle arriving on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1848. In some ways Tyrrell's appointment was by chance as Augustus Short was offered both Adelaide and Newcastle, choosing the former, as I understand it because it hadn't been a penal settlement. Effectively Short was well bred and a snob!

Ecclesiastically speaking, William Tyrrell was selected from relative obscurity. Born on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1807 into a large and good church family, he was educated at St John's College Cambridge. There he befriended George Selwyn, later Bishop of New Zealand. Selwyn invited Tyrrell to go with him to New Zealand as Archdeacon when he was appointed in 1841. Again, how different history might have been had Tyrrell accepted. Initially Tyrrell studied law, hoping to take Holy Orders. He was deaconed by the Bishop of Lincoln in September, 1832 and almost exactly a year later was ordained priest. He was appointed curate of Aylestone near Leicester, a village of about 500 persons, an appointment that lasted until his appointment as curate of Burnham, near Maidenhead in 1838. In 1839 Tyrrell was commissioned as Parish Priest at Beaulieu in Hampshire. It was relatively small, about 28 miles around and had a population of about 1,000 people. It was from these obscure and relatively humble beginnings that Tyrrell was called to serve in the antipodes with a see extending from Brisbane Water in the south to Moreton Bay in the North. A bachelor, Tyrrell's appointment was an inspired one and he diligently served his diocese until his death at 6.15 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1879. Bishop Tyrrell rests in the cemetery at Morpeth.

I guess the rest is history!

Elkin, A.P. (1955). *The Diocese of Newcastle: A History of the Diocese of Newcastle, N.S.W., Australia*.

Waddell, J. (1996). *A History of St Peter's Church, East Maitland NSW*. Self published.

Boydell, Justine Constance Broughton. *writes in March 2009 (Internet)*

## 'Ghost' signs

Old buildings with faint or faded signs ('ghost' signs) can provide an insight to the businesses and products of Maitland's past.

The following sign appears on the building at the corner of Lawes and Melbourne Streets at East Maitland.

If you think you can provide a **translation** of the sign and perhaps some **information about the business or building**, send an email to the Historical Society:

[maitlandhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandhistorical@gmail.com)



## Diary Dates

### February

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Guest Speakers Frank Morris, Judy Carmody and Beatrice Brooks –  
**Morris Cordials** - 5.30 at the rooms

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> General Business Meeting 5.30 at the rooms

### March

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker 5.30 at the rooms

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> **Annual General Meeting** 5.30 at the rooms

### April

Tuesday 2<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker 5.30 at the rooms

Saturday – Sunday 13-14 **Steamfest**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> General Business Meeting 5.30 at the rooms



**Victoria Bridge**  
**Spanning Wallis Creek, Maitland**

**Linking East and West Maitland (1852-1896)**

**National Library of Australia, J.R. Clarke 1857**