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PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the NNHIC include:

- * New Norfolk Homes and Pioneers (Series I)
- * New Norfolk Homes and Pioneers (Series II)
- * New Norfolk History and Achievements (Series III)
- * St Matthews Burial Records (Series IV)
- * North Circle Public Cemetery (Series V)
- * People and Places (Series VI)
- * Historic New Norfolk (Series VII)
- * Memoirs of J J Cowburn (Series VIII)
- * Federation to Millennium (Volume I)
- * Federation to Millennium (Volume II)
- * Boyer and the Peg Factory

All of the above are available from the New Norfolk Newsagency.



Derwent Echo

A Message Around an Apple

Issue 20 of *The Echo* contained a story about Penelope Pilkington wrapping a message around an apple in 1895 and sending it to England hoping to contact her relatives. Penelope, whose mother was a Piety, had a cousin who used the same tactic, as four years later the following article appeared in the *Daily Mail* and was reprinted in *The Mercury* on 3 June 1899:

“Who would expect romance in a box of apples? While unpacking a box of Tasmanian apples a few days back, Mr Joseph Hearn, of Chesham, came across one wrapped in a paper, on which was written: *“This apple was packed by Miss Kate Piety, granddaughter of late Thomas Piety, of Kent, England. If any of you know their address, please send it to me at Derwent House, Falls, New Norfolk, Tasmania. I am very dark and good looking and would be pleased to see any of you who may come my way”*.”

Through the medium of the widely circulated *Daily Mail*, the desired information has been elicited. A niece of the late Thomas Piety, it seems, is still living in Maidstone. She is Mrs Sarah Ann Brissenden, *nee* Sarah Ann Wright, of the Rose and Crown, Maidstone. On reading Miss Kate Piety’s message, she called her son and daughter in and told them about it, and they all remarked how strange and interesting it was.

Mrs Brissenden then went on to explain that the Pietys originated at Ashford, Kent, where they resided for many years. *“This Kate Piety’s grandfather was my uncle, and his eldest son emigrated many years ago to Tasmania. Not having seen this son for twenty years, I was agreeably surprised to see him here in Maidstone some few years back, on a visit. He appeared to have prospered in the new country, and the Kate Piety now inquiring must be his daughter. My mother’s name was Piety. The grandfather of this said Kate Piety is buried in Maidstone Cemetery, and was over 80 years of age when he died. His granddaughter Jane (sister to the one now inquiring) died only last January at Egham, near Windsor, and I am now the only one living in Kent that is related to Miss Kate Piety of Tasmania. I should be very glad to hear from her, and we all thank The Daily Mail for giving us the information and the opportunity to communicate with her”*.

Thomas “emigrated to Tasmania” when he was transported in 1829 for horse-stealing. In 1842 he married Emma Bailey and became a farmer at Black Brush. He later developed an interest in The Derwent Hotel at Falls (Lawitta), which after its closure became known as Derwent House and was owned by their son Thomas James Piety, who was Kate’s father.

Brian McNab

YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS ON NNHIC

Community

Representatives:

Justin Derksen
Liz Derksen
Carol Collins
Brian McNab
Geoff Mason
Damian Bester
Peggie Stubbersfield
Anne Salt

Secretary:

Brian McNab

Family History Officer:

Ruth Binny

Council Representative

Clr. Julie Triffett

Chairperson:

Tony Nicholson

FAMILY HISTORIES

*The New
Norfolk Historical
Information Centre
has over 700 Family
History Files.
Come in on the last
Saturday of the
month from 2 to 4 pm,
and see if your
Family History is
here.*

*Below is a list of the
'M' files:*

MACKEY
MADDOX
(CHARLES)
MAHONEY
MALLOY/ MOLLOY
MANN
MANSFIELD
MANTON
MAPLEY
MARKEY
MARRIOTT
MARSH
MARSHALL
MARTIN
MARVE;
MASON
MASSIE (JOHN)
MATTHEWS
MAXFIELD
MAWBY (THOMAS)
MAYALL (JOHN)
MAYNE
MEADOWS
MEAGHAN
MENZIE
MILLER
MILLINGTON
MILLS (George)
MILNE
MINAHAN
MINCE (CREATE FILE)
MORRISBY

One Man's War: Letters Home Letter No 8

TX1697 Drv. D
E Troop 16 Fd. Bty.
2/8 Fd. Regt. A.I.F.
6 Div Arty
Abroad
29/12/40

Dear Mother,

Well our Xmas in Palestine is over, quite a good Xmas under the circumstances, although our Xmas turkey didn't arrive from the local town, but we hope to have it for New Year's Day.

On Xmas day we had donkey races at the camp, with a tote operating & a band & a loud speaker. Although the boys & officers rode the donkeys, the black boys did the most work running along behind belting the donkeys with sticks.

I managed to pick one winner, but I came out about square.

I got a letter from Miss Allen a couple of days ago, I must answer it soon. I sent her a Xmas card while we were at sea.

The A.C.F came to light with a Xmas hamper for everyone, which contained the usual cake & pudding etc.

There is a chance I might be seeing Peter & Louis in the near future.

The weather the last week has been a bit warmer than our first few days, though we have had no rain to speak of.

Well I must close now if this is to catch the mail.

Love D.....

PS Just received letters No's 2 & 3, haven't finished reading them - Will answer them next letter.

SAVING OUR HERITAGE

One of the many tasks undertaken by the Derwent Valley Tidy Towns Com-

mittee is cleaning the graffiti off the heritage wall facing Humphrey Street. The initial work started with the removal of graffiti on the Humphrey Street side and has recently included the laneway off Grey Street.

The graffiti and tagging has been on the wall for a number of years. In 2019 after consultation with Heritage Tasmania and the Derwent Valley Council the Tidy Towns Committee began preparing the wall along The Avenue side with the aim of removing and keeping the wall clear of graffiti in the future.

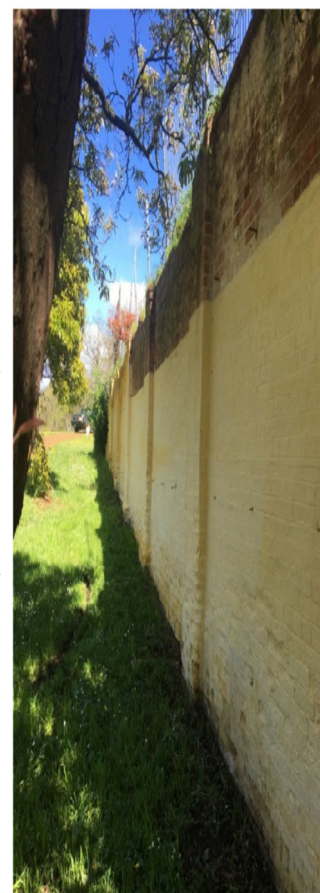
The Derwent Valley Tidy Towns Committee is a passionate group of volunteers determined to keep our beautiful town tidy and presented to its best advantage.

The group would welcome new members.

Contact Howard Grant at

dvtidytowns@tutanota.com for more information.

Carol Collins



What's In A Name

HYDEHURST ROAD,
LACHLAN



Hydehurst

Named after the property built by Thomas Alexander Nicholson (1816-1904). He arrived in Van Diemen's Land in the mid 1830's not long after his father Thomas Nicholson (a solicitor). He purchased the property Hydehurst and built the present homestead about 1860.

This Thomas Nicholson was one of the earliest hop-growers in the district.

It is not known why the property was named Hydehurst, but it is possible it was named after a 17th century farmhouse in the parish of Crowborough Hill in East Sussex. It is currently on the National Heritage list for England.

Hydehurst, Lachlan was sold to Frank Graham in 1924.

Ruth Binny

October 2020

A NEEDLE IN HAYSTACK

A recent query to the NNHC was in relation to a gentleman farmer. He had a house and 22 acres of land at New Norfolk in the early 1820's. The query arose from the publication in the Inverness Courier of 8 January 1824 of part of a letter from said gentleman to his sister in Inverness. The letter detailed and described conditions in the Australian colonies in the early 1820's. The researcher wanted to know the name of the letter writer? Somewhat a daunting task! However, additional information has suggested the land in question was located to a James Davis. It would seem this and the adjacent two locations to Murphy and Hibbins were all forfeited and later granted as 171 acres 0 roods and 21 perches to R Armstrong. This is possibly the Capt. Richard Armstrong who purchased Valleyfield in 1835, renamed it Bingfield, soon became insolvent and returned to Ireland circa 1840.

The land is situated across Hamilton Road and the railway line just west of New Norfolk. Valleyfield Station is shown at the junction of the Lyell Highway and Derwent Valley Railway crossing. This is just west of the said land. The difference between having land granted and having land located to an individual was that 'located' land was contingent on improvements being made before it was subsequently granted. Having found the location of James Davis' land it may now be possible to find the name of the next owner. At this stage Richard Armstrong does not appear to be the mystery gentleman.

We do love a challenge.

Ruth Binny

Caraway carvi)

TRIED & TRUE

Plant (Carum

Caraway is a biennial herb of the parsley with tiny white flowers and feathery leaves. It grows to 60 centimetres tall, needs to be sown directly in September and grown in full sun and compost- rich soil. Caraway seedlings need thinning out and don't transplant well.

Caraway is also known as Meridian Fennel and Persian Cumin native to western Asia, Europe and North Africa. It is related to Dill, Fennel and Anise.

Carum carvi is the only member of this species which is widely cultivated for use in cooking, essential oils and certain medicines and liqueurs.

When the seeds turn brown in early summer, they are ready for harvest and use in soups, cheeses, bread, cakes and cabbage dishes.

Seeds are brown, crescent shaped and marked with ridges reaching a tiny 5mm long.

Add young leaves to salads, or steam and boil the roots and serve with a little butter or white sauce.

Caraway is known to have been in use for at least 5,000 years as it was found in the remains of Stone Age meals.

English use of the term Caraway dates from 1440.

Also known as Persian Cumin, the use of Caraway as a flavouring is said to have originated with the ancient Arabs.

Caraway was once used for making love potions or for protecting children from witches. The Ancient Egyptians also buried their dead with Caraway to ward off evil spirits.

It was also used as a food and a medicine in Ancient Greece and Rome Roman soldiers ate a bread made from Caraway roots and milk.

Caraway has a long historical use for treatment of colic in babies, flatulence and boosting milk production in nursing mothers.

Some parts of the world regularly serve caraway seeds after meals as a digestive aid.

Di Cowburn

TAKING CARE OF THE PAST

Risk Management

What do you grab when disaster threatens the family home? It goes without saying the children and pets. After that it's legal documents (title deeds, insurance policies, passport, driver's licence) family photographs and precious heirlooms. Have these things together in a suitable container so that they may be grabbed in a hurry.

Other tips for preserving, copying, sharing precious family records are:

Make sure photographs are dated and names of individuals recorded. Create digital copies of original records and photographs as this saves over handling. Share pictures and records online with other family members. This may mean you need to set up your own site if you do not want global access.

Be aware of causes of damage

High temperatures speed up fading and tarnishing. Exposure to light especially sunlight causes fading. Damp conditions can produce mould. Dry conditions can cause brittleness and cracking. Poor quality or inappropriate storage. Framing or mounting methods which may emit pollutants (sticky adhesive tapes) Insect attack such as silverfish. Handling causes deterioration as fingers leave prints and moisture from skin.

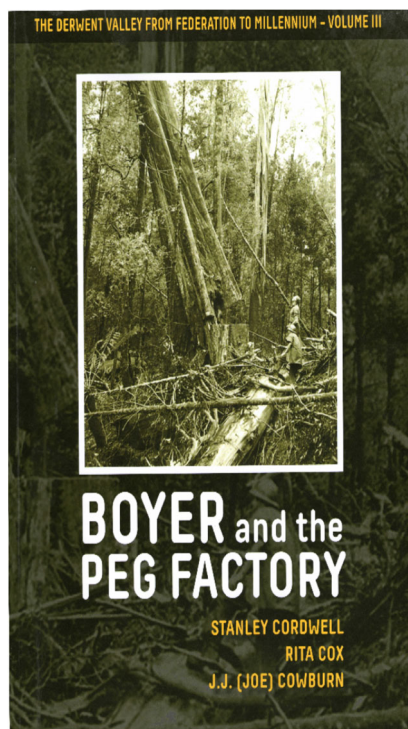
REMEMBER IF IN DOUBT CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATOR

Ruth Binny

BOOK REVIEW

BOYER and the PEG FACTORY

by STANLEY CORDWELL, RITA COX and J J (JOE) COWBURN



This is the third volume in the series on the Derwent Valley from Federation to Millenium. The inspiration for the book was a collection of cuttings saved over the years by local historian, the late Rita Cox. Iconic images by well known Mercury reporter, the late Joe Cowburn, complement the stories gathered by these two avid local historians. Stan Cordwell has meticulously sorted and collated the text and wonderful images.

The book captures the history and manufacture of newsprint in the Derwent Valley and also of the manufacture of pegs at the Peg Factory. Over the decades these two companies provided much employment for locals.

The wonderful photograph of the development of the Boyer site immediately brings to mind images of some shift workers in the fifties and sixties rowing across the river to work. Who were the Cookhouse Staff? What ever happened to those young women assembling pegs?

Ruth Binny

FROM THE EDITOR:

Covid has been a testing time for our community. Cancelled holidays and enforced separation from family and friends has made many of us re-assess aspects of our lives. However, time at home has given many of us time to sort through memorabilia.

As a result the NNHC has received a number of fabulous donations in 2020 including a treasure trove of photos and negatives from Stan Cordwell, two wonderful framed photographs of Anne Lahey and Mary Anne Bleathman from Jenny Lowe of Queensland, the organ from the Royal Derwent Hospital from Rod and Eileen Coombe of Franklin and most recently from Chairman Tony Nicholson a number of election flyers and other material relating to the Derwent Valley municipality. It's at this point we would like to offer our thanks to the New Norfolk Distillery for transporting the organ from Franklin to New Norfolk. To all these generous donors thank you on behalf of the NNHC.

Others have found treasures in unexpected places. A neighbour who was recovering a chaise longue purchased some 40 years ago at a local auction found more than horsehair when the layers were pulled back. One of the items comprising the stuffing on the seat was a pair of hand made baby pilchers circa 1900.

The Derwent Echo is pleased to accept articles in relation to the history of the Derwent Valley. Something to say or a story to tell! Write to the Editor Derwent Echo, NNHC, C/- Derwent Valley Council PO BOX 595 NEW NORFOLK.

Ruth Binny

Editor

Email: nnhic@derwentvalley.tas.gov.au