Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622

Newsletter

Number 12   March 2019

Braidwood Photographic Database

Our wonderful volunteer, Paris, and our cataloguer, Leanne, have been working hard to digitise our collection of photographs so it can be viewed on the Braidwood Museum website. High quality copies of these photos can be ordered from Braidwood Museum. You can search on our website by clicking this link: **http://www.braidwoodmuseum.org.au/**

There is much work to be done on this project, but it is well on its way, thanks to a grant from Queanbeyan Palerang Council. The museum will always welcome donations of local photos to add to the collection.

Museum Heritage Grant

This year we have applied for a grant to heat this grand, but chilly old lady of a building. We are awaiting the outcome. We also received a grant to update the Conservation Management Plan. We will now develop a plan of action for further building maintenance and developing exhibitions for which we can then apply for further grants.
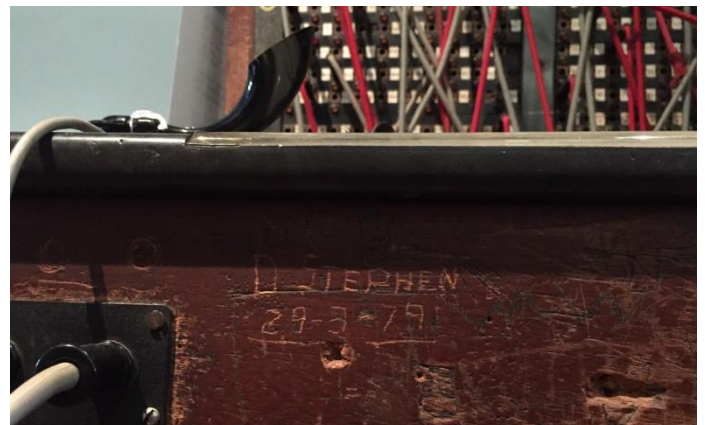
Donation of Costumes

We have received some beautiful 1890's ladies costumes. They come down through the family of Captain Richard Brooks of "Denham Court" of Ingleburn, and his daughter Charlotte Sophia Springle Brooks who married Nathaniel Powell of "Turalla" Bungendore. They will be on show soon after they have been properly conserved. We will have more on this in the next Newsletter.

Memories of Braidwood's Early Telegraph
contributed by Doug Stephen

I was the last operator to work on the Braidwood manual telephone exchange. I know it is 40 years ago this year since it went automatic. In fact it was 29th March 1979. I remember the main switch board was given to the museum. On the front panel I inscribed the date of the switch, along with my name.

I started work at the post office on 1st July 1972 aged 15 years. At the time Bob Lillis was the Post Master. There were three Postal Clerks, Dicky Barker, Stan Thornton and Rod Marsh. The Postman was Vince McKay. There was also other night boy whose name I cannot remember There was one event which happen during my time on the exchange that has been with me for life. During our ten hour shift on the switch we would often talk to other night boys to help fill in the hours until you were ready for bed. We were what was called a Sleep Exchange. We had a 12 alarm bell in the room which we would turn on. One night I received a call from a young lady who worked the exchange

of her father's non-official post office in the Riverina We started to talk on a pretty regular basis over the next 18 months or so until they left the post office and moved to Bermagui South. We continued to talk when we could. Now that she was only 100 miles away we had a chance to finally meet face to face after more than 2 years talking. That young lady is now my wife and in September this year Brenda and I celebrate 38 years of marriage. One other side fact that came from this phone call came about quite a few years later when my sister-in-law meet her second partner, who turned out to be Brenda's partner Ian's uncle. Small world. I know of 2 other marriages that were results of night boys talking. Bruce Gerard who was also a night boy at Braidwood for some time married the sister to the Moruya night boy and Bruce's sister married the night boy from Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains.

The day the exchange when automatic was one of mixed emotion. I remember watching the lights on the board flash as the technicians made the transition, thinking this is both sad and exciting. People would be out of work but the town was progressing. I would leave Braidwood within the next month and move to Sydney to find work.

As the switch over took place the other operators came to the exchange. During the day that followed we had a breakfast together and lunch. The post master and office staff joined us later in the afternoon. This was the first time we had all been out together as there was no need for one of us to be on the switch board.

I was not the first in my family to work the switch, my older sister (Jean Cargill) also worked there for a while. These are some of the "Hello Girls"

Veronica Thistleton

Wendy Lemont nee Shoemark

Glenys Doughty

There are many stories around the time I spent in the job, some that I could never repeat and others just great memories.

Braidwood Cup Winners

contributed by Jill Clarke

Talking to a close friend the other day we discussed the long and colourful history of racing in the Braidwood District. Yes there has been some remarkable tales to tell of curious characters and special steeds. I decided to write this paper to foster conversations about the 'Sport of Kings' in the Braidwood District.

I knew that racing was an early amusement here in Braidwood and upon reading some original papers I found that 1840 might be the earliest race 'meeting' held here in Braidwood. No mention of the location but then I knew from talking to the late Mary Haige nee McGrath some years ago that one location was on their property at Colombo about 5 kilometers to the north of the present racecourse. Was this the first ever location? Maybe, as the McGrath's were keen horse people and it was a flat piece of land close to the little village. In one of the Braidwood papers stated that Mr Jas McGrath owned the land.

It is likely that this was used for many years, but then having spent some time researching I came across the mention of the "Bedervale" paddock on the way to Araluen. The only flat area would be in Brian Callan's land on the left just after you pass the Major's Creek turnoff. This was also used for some years until the call for a closer venue was taken up in the latter part of the 19th century.

The appeal for the resumption of land on the School and Churches Estate on the Goulburn road was mooted and the very first meeting held at the present site was in 1900. The grounds were rented by the Braidwood Turf Club and a temporary grandstand structure was constructed for the 1900 Race Day in March. By 1901 a more permanent saddling area was fenced in and the committee was looking for the Resumption of the land in order to take up the donation of 50 pounds that Mr R Hassall would donate when a more permanent structure would be built.

A substantial grandstand was built closer to the Goulburn Road and a paling fence saddling area was also built to house the horses which were ideally separate from the punters.

Braidwood Racetrack 1997

Interesting to note that there has been several Racing Clubs established in the District. The Braidwood Turf Club, The Amateur Jockey Club, The Braidwood Jockey Club to name a few. In fact at some period of the history there were two clubs vying for supremacy. 'There was considerable rivalry and not a little bitterness between the two'. One Club raced on Boxing Day, another in January/February and more often they also put on races in spring that was in November. A St Patrick's Day meeting was often organised as well.

Of course the very first race meetings were over two or three days but soon after WW1

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this changed to one day as the passion for racing waned. The period between mid 1920s and the Depression times was an interesting period and due to the public's interest in racing decreasing after corrupt and dishonest goings on by jockey and owners, the sport certainly faltered and during this time there were years that the races were abandoned. Then after a few years a revival was realised when the local Jockey Club was put under the control of strong and reliable management. The guns of World War 2 rumbled and again the racing fraternity had difficulty in covering costs and this resulted in low numbers and high fees from the Government. This weighed heavily on the sport in Braidwood. It was until after the second World War that a resurgence occurred under the capable management of Jack Bunn (President) and David Chapman (Secretary) did the sport again begin to prosper.

Quong Tart with horse 'Nobby'
(Braidwood Museum archives)

Back to the origins of the sport in Braidwood.

The Braidwood Turf Club is far one of the oldest Clubs established and is far older that the local P & A Society (Show Society) This Club held its first meeting in 1840. The Sydney Herald reports that a race was held in Braidwood on the 17th June 1840, 'the long talked of match, between 'Sir James', the property of Dr. Wilson, and Mr. Burnell's 'Improver', late the property of Mr. O'Brien, came off on the above course, for £100 a-side, two and a-half miles. 'Whisker', the property of Dr. Bell, and formerly of Mr. Lawson, was withdrawn, in consequence of his being out of order, and sufficient time not having been allowed to bring him into racing condition.

At one o'clock, 'Sir James', ridden by Mr. Larmer-blue jacket and cap ; and 'Improver', late 'Camerton', ridden by Mr. Andrew Badgery-plaid jacket and cap, were led to the post. At the word "away, 'Sir James' took the lead, 'Improver' slightly swerved, but at the end of about half a mile, overtook 'Sir James' and in attempting to pass him, encroached upon the furrow, and was immediately called upon to return, but declined doing so.

Away they went at a rattling pace, and for two miles, so close and severe was the struggle for the lead, that it was not possible to determine which of the two was first. At the brow, at a short distance from the winning post, the rush was desperate, when 'Improver' passed it first by less than half a neck but as 'Improver' had encroached, upon the furrow, it remains undecided.

It was acknowledged by the numerous company present, that a better contested, or more beautiful race, was never witnessed in the colony. After this, several hack races were run, and at the close of the day, about forty of the company retired to the hospitable residence of Dr Wilson, where a sumptuous dinner was provided. At ten o'clock, dancing commenced, and was kept up till a late hour, when the company separated highly delighted, with the day's amusement.'

Interesting that the two famous Braidwood residents, Andrew Badgery and James Larmer were the jockeys on the day. Note the colours.

'Jorrocks'. A memorial to him can be found on Hawkesbury Racecourse.

I would like to state that Andrew Badgery was once an owner of celebrated horse 'Jorrocks', as well as 'Royal Oak', 'Seducer', 'Our Nell' amongst others.

Fellow Researcher Clayton Talbot states that the following year was again interesting.

'On the 6th and 8th of July 1841, the first race had a purse of fifty sovereigns and an entry fee of four sovereigns. Most of the other races had prizes of twenty sovereigns, almost a year's wages for the unskilled worker. The Stewards were Dr Wilson of "Braidwood Farm", Captain Grant of "Krawarree", Thomas Cowper of "Ballalaba", Andrew Badgery of "Exeter Farm" and James Larmer the surveyor.   The Judge was Richard Popham of "Mornington" and the Clerk of the Course was Dr Thomas Bell of "Bellevue" and "Bendoura". Tussles took place between famous horses of the district. Dr Wilson's stayer 'St James', was pitted against Henry Burnell's 'The Improver' over two miles'

One of the very interesting facts for racing enthusiasts nowadays is the detail that in those days racing was carried out in one, two and three miles heats. So each horse would have to run over these distances a minimum of two times over one day or sometimes two

days. A great feat if you understand horse racing.

So began a strong and inspirational history of horse racing in this district. Looking at these above names we see local names which we view on the signs around our streets here in Braidwood and the very men that had so much influence and time to foster the beginnings of our little township early in its European antiquity.

Thomas Bell's farm Bellevue

Much has been written about the horse breeding in the Braidwood District especially in the Jembiacumbene area where the Badgery, Roberts, Hassall and Royds family have much to boast about. They were between them instrumental to breeding such famous faces horses as 'Rob Roy', (winner of one of the earliest races in NSW 1819) winners of the Melbourne Cup 'Archer',(1861, 1862) 'Tim Whiffler'(1867) , 'Bravo'(1889). Not connected to these Braidwood connections but the sensational 'Strawberry Road' and 'Whiskey Road' also have roots here in the Braidwood hills.

'Tim Whiffler'

'Strawberry Road'

The Braidwood Dispatch reports in 1861 "Racehorses Bred in the Braidwood District". The fame of Mr. Etienne De Mestre's horses is now well known through all the colonies, and doubtless many imagine that they were bred at Shoalhaven as well as trained there. Such, however, is not the case. To the Braidwood district must the palm be awarded of having bred some of the best races in the colony? 'Archer', 'Moss Rose', 'Exeter', 'Sunbeam', 'Seducer', 'Bottler', 'Mariner', 'Our Nell', 'Attila' and 'Lord George Bentinak', were all bred at Jembiacumbene, and most of them claim the imported horse 'William Tell' as their sire. This horse, whose value, now that he is dead, is beginning to be appreciated was brought to this district by Mr P Goulding and by him to a party in Goulburn, who afterwards resold him to that prince of sportsmen, the late Andrew Badgery, upon whose decease he fell into the hands of Messrs Hassall and Roberts, of "Exeter Farm", who retained him until they purchased the New Zealand horse, 'Chevalier', brother to the far famed 'Zoe'.

Etienne de Mestre

Shortly after he left Jembiacumbene he died, but unfortunately before his value as a stallion had been discovered. The running of 'Seducer', 'Moss Rose', 'Archer' and 'Sunbeam' fully bear out the fact that he was one of the best horses ever brought to the colony, and as regards blood, 'William Tell' had not his equal. He was bred by the Earl of Derby and was got by 'Touchstone' out of 'Miss Bowe', and as a two year old was put to training under the Wizard of the North, John Scott, who fancied him greatly. Having met with an accident he was taken out of training and put to the stud and was soon after sent to this colony, where the running of his progeny has fully borne out his high prestige of his breeding. His dam, 'Miss Bowe' also threw several other first class racehorse, amongst which were 'Strongbow', winner of the Liverpool Cup; 'Longbow' by 'Ithuriel' a noted
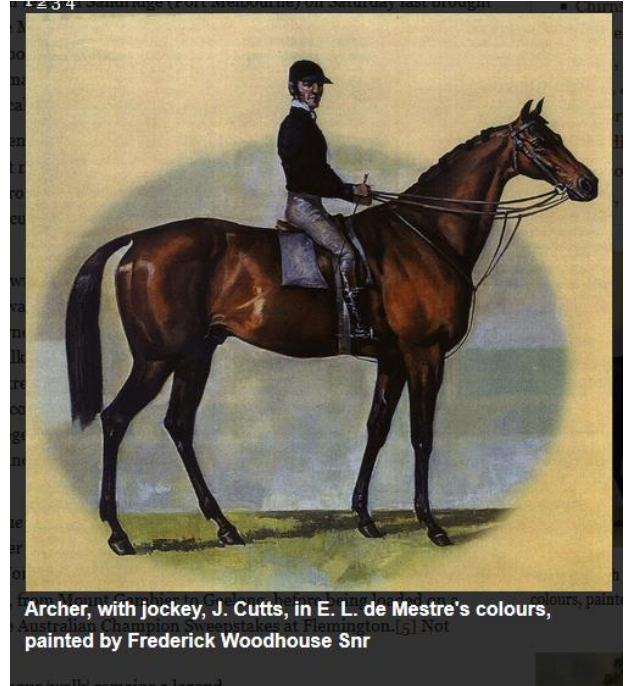
winner; 'Iris', his own sister who with odds against her and Frank Butler on her back placed the Oak's Stakes at Epsom to the credit of her noble owner. Next came 'Bolaido' by 'Orlando', who was winner of many races at Goodwood, Ascot, and elsewhere, after which he was imported to Victoria. Next came 'Boomerang', 'Stockwell' and 'De Clare' by 'Touchstone', own brother to 'William Tell', who at the present time is one of the highest priced stallions in the old country.
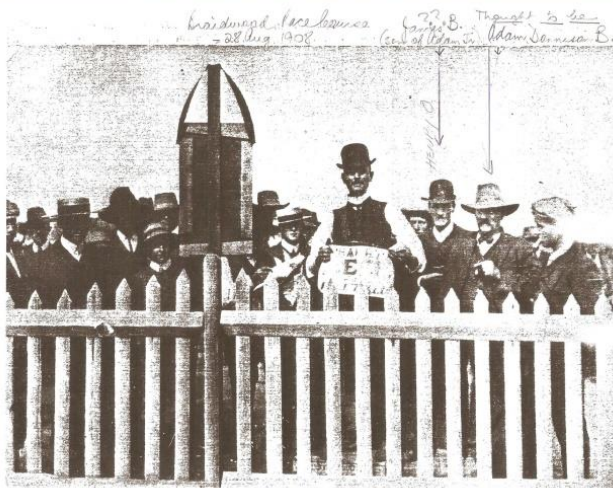

'Boomerang' ridden by Thomas Clarke.

It will this be seen that the horses bred in this district have the best blood in their veins of any horses in the country. Messrs Hassall and Roberts have now the imported stallion 'New Warrior' who ran sixth for the Derby in Andover's year , of the best years ever known, and it is proposed to get a produce stake fir the progeny of this horse, which proposal is sure to be carried out. Since 'Archer' and 'Moss Rose' were foaled, their dams 'Maid of the Oaks' and 'Lady Morgan' have both died, and we shall only be too glad for the credit of the district if Mr Hassall would add three or four imported mates to his breeding establishment for fill up the gap caused by the death of these two mares.

Should he do so, the family of 'New Warrior' as well as that of 'Archer' and 'Exeter', when they have retired form racing, will be sure to add fresh laurels to those already obtained by the horse which have been bred in the district of Braidwood.

Archer, with jockey, J. Cutts, in E. L. de Mestre's colours, painted by Frederick Woodhouse Snr

One of the celebrated horse racing events was held a Jembiacumbene. The SMH reports 'Those who visited the plains of Jembiacumbene on Saturday were well repaid for so doing, for a greater bit of fun could not possibly have been imagined. The occasion was the opening of the Chinese New Year, and in order to commemorate that event in a manner to suit the taste of everyone, Quong Tart and his countrymen got up a day's racing. The programmer contained six events, for three of which Europeans could try their luck, and since the affair was first announced it was evident that a great number of people would be present. A lovelier day could not have been wished for, and early in the afternoon the course presented a very gay appearance.

Braidwood Races 1908.
(Jill Clarke collection)

There were three booths. Certainly there were one or two pugnacious people about, who, effected on by 'Dutch courage' talked rather big, but the presence of Senior-Sergeant Duffy and a posse of his men kept them in order. The mare 'Pinky' swerved at the finish of the Freeman's Place and knocked down two Chinamen. No accident worth speaking of, however, occurred upon the ground, and all the arrangements made by Tart and his friends were well carried out and they certainly deserve to be congratulated upon the success which has so signally attended their efforts to cater for the public amusements.

The running will be found below

The Maiden Plate
Local Maid (J Higgins)
Deerfoot (AH Quong)
Wall-eye (Feehan)
The Pekin Plate (For Chinaman's horses)
Ah Ching's Thunder (Atkins)
Ah Yen's Butterfly (Higgins)
Ah Tow's Lightening (Minton)

Third Race (trotting match)
Mr Jennings 'Spider' (Atkins)
Chalker's 'Swallow' (owner)
Ah Shoes 'Lightening' (J Lenny)
Fourth Race is the Chinese Freemason's Purse
Sam Ying's 'Grey Jack' (Gabbett)
Ah Nam's 'Pinky' (Albert Atkins)
Ah Goon's 'Riger' (Davis)
Fifth Race was the Pony Race
Mr Colgan's 'Ginger'
Miller's 'Blackbird', Flanagan's 'Cossack' and Feehan's 'Kildare'
Sixth race was the Shanghai Novel Race for all Chinaman's horses, two miles owner's to ride but each t ride his adversary's horse; the last horse to win.
Ah pony's 'Sky' (Ah Hen)
Ah Hen's 'Good Morning' (Ah Fong)
Ah Yen's 'Snip '
Ah Hing's 'Ginger'
Ah Queng's 'Pepper'
A Hop's 'Jackey'

'Ginger' made the running at his best pace, closely pursued by the others, a a capital race was the result; but 'Sky' and 'Good Morning' were so close together that a dead heat for last was given, and the two running it off again 'Sky' proved the slower and was declared the winner.

The legitimate racing being over there were sports for bridles until dark, when those who came determined 'to make a night' of it adjourned to the dancing salons, and kept up the fun until a late hour.

*The First Braidwood Cup 1901
(Paul Clarke Collection)*

Braidwood Cup Winners so far:

1886: Wed 3rd Feb 100sovs. 11/2 mile Mr W.E. Royd b g 'Parade' (Ryan) W Miller's 'Balmoral' (Gallagher) J Kerr's b g 'Comus' ((H Smith)

1889: two days racing but no Braidwood Cup

1900: No Braidwood Cup as such named.

1901: Mr E J Henry (The Albion Hotel) gave a valuable cup and presented to S J Berry's 'Flashlight' 1st, T Sherd's 'Elmo' 2nd, F O Norton's 'Matong 3rd This was probably the official beginning of the celebrated Cup.

1902: Mr D Valliance's b m 'Vanilla', Mr J Mylchrest's chestnut gelding 'Orry' 2nd, Mr E Donovan's br or bl g 'Steelbusk' 3rd

1903: F O Norton's black gelding 'Loveshot'1st, G Massey's b 'The Palmist' 2nd, D Wallace's b m 'Variety' 3rd

1904: 'Elmo' 1st, 'La Hogue' 2nd, 'Parma' 3rd

1905: 'Silver Forest' 1st, 'Amakgam' 2nd, 'Glimmer' 3rd

1906: 'Botheration' 1st, 'Ruffian' 2nd, 'Victorine' 3rd

1907 'Tarewa' 1st, 'The Palmist' 2nd, 'Waratah' 3rd

1908 'Morok' 1st, Inverary"2nd, 'Kyloe' 3rd Leaving the straight 'Tabu' took the lead winch he held to the (our furlongs post. Then 'Morok' forged ahead, was not afterwards approached, and won by four lengths, a neck separating second and third.

1909 J Carr's b g 'Schoolboy' 1st, W Brown's b g 'Lydon' 2nd, M Flannery's 'Alastair '

1910: Friday 4th March J Stuart's bh 'Sungod', Wood's b g 'Orange' 2nd, E Bunn's b g 'Morok'

1911: J Heazlett's 'Loughrea' 1st, W Fraser's 'Stitch in- Time' 2nd, J Carr's' Binda Boy' 3rd

1912: 'Warsprint' 1st, 'Warelva' 2nd, 'Stitch in-Time' 3rd

1913: 7th March, A William's 'Butterscotch' 1st, A H and P Newlyn's' Locomotion' 2nd, T M Royds Mill 'Palotta '

1914: C Woodhouse's' 'Polenta' 1st, J Roufeils 'Handcuff' 2nd, J Louis's 'Queen of the Mount' 3rd

1915: 'Dyor' 1st, 'Queen of the Mount' 2nd, 'Queen May' 3rd

1916: 'N. C' 1st, 'Warmoney' 2nd, 'All Shame' 3rd

1917: 'Warmoney' 1st, N.C. 2nd, Lanrock 3rd

1918: J W Hillas's b g 'J.W.H' 1st, J Greenwood's 'Cumber Lad' 2nd, H Clough's b g 'Thalmous'

1919: 'Royal Antler' 1st, 'Zarabine' 2nd, 'Thowra'3rd

1920: W Tyrell's 'Tartan Feather' 1st , W Carey's 'Thowra' 2nd , R H Darvison's 'Phast Dream' 3rd

1921: 'Venta'1st, 'Cambyses' 2nd, 'Kumber' 3rd

1922: 'Bauble' 1st, Some 'Nut' 2nd, 'Windgaru' 3rd

1923: 'Bartelle' 1st 'Lady Durham' 2nd, 'Windgaru' 3rd

1924: 'The Wraith' 1st, 'Windgaru' 2nd, 'Worthy Gold' 3rd

1925: 'Joylotta' 1st, 'Innes Vale' 2nd, 'Clinton' 3rd

1926: 'Kentucky Boy' 1st, 'Kingsdale' 2nd, 'Toombah' 3rd,

1927: 'Bultony' 1st, 'Clinton' 2nd, 'The Cynner'3rd

1928: Abandoned owing to small number of nominations

1929, 1930: No Cup

1931: no cup - cheating by jockeys and owners

1932: no cup

1933: New Club Formed Feb 2nd 1933

1934: 'Clarius' 1st, 'Norillo' 2nd, 'Backworth' 3rd

1935: Mrs M Robinson's 'Orient Sands', 'Spotlight' 2nd, 'King Crow' 3rd

1936: T J McCormack's 'Cutalong' 1st, 'Susan's 'Balloon' 2nd, 'War Farr'

1937: 'Jutland' 1st, 'Samovar' 2nd, 'Arrowmist' 3rd

1938: 'Nord' 1st, 'Urangeline' 2nd, 'Cuatlong' 3rd

1939: 'Pep' 1st, 'Rich Duchess' 2nd, 'Wee Knight' 3rd

1940: Bush fires around Braidwood at the moment can't find reports. Call for interested people to have meeting about holding races with profits going to patriotic funds

1941, 1942, 1943, 1944: no record

1945: Braidwood Jockey Club came into existence

1946: No Cup

1947: 'Herodian' ch g (W P Bills) 1st, 'Brook' (J F Donnelly) br g 2nd , 'Panturn'

1948: no races

1949: Mr Allan burr's aged horse 'Silent Gundi' *(a 13 year old)

1950: no record

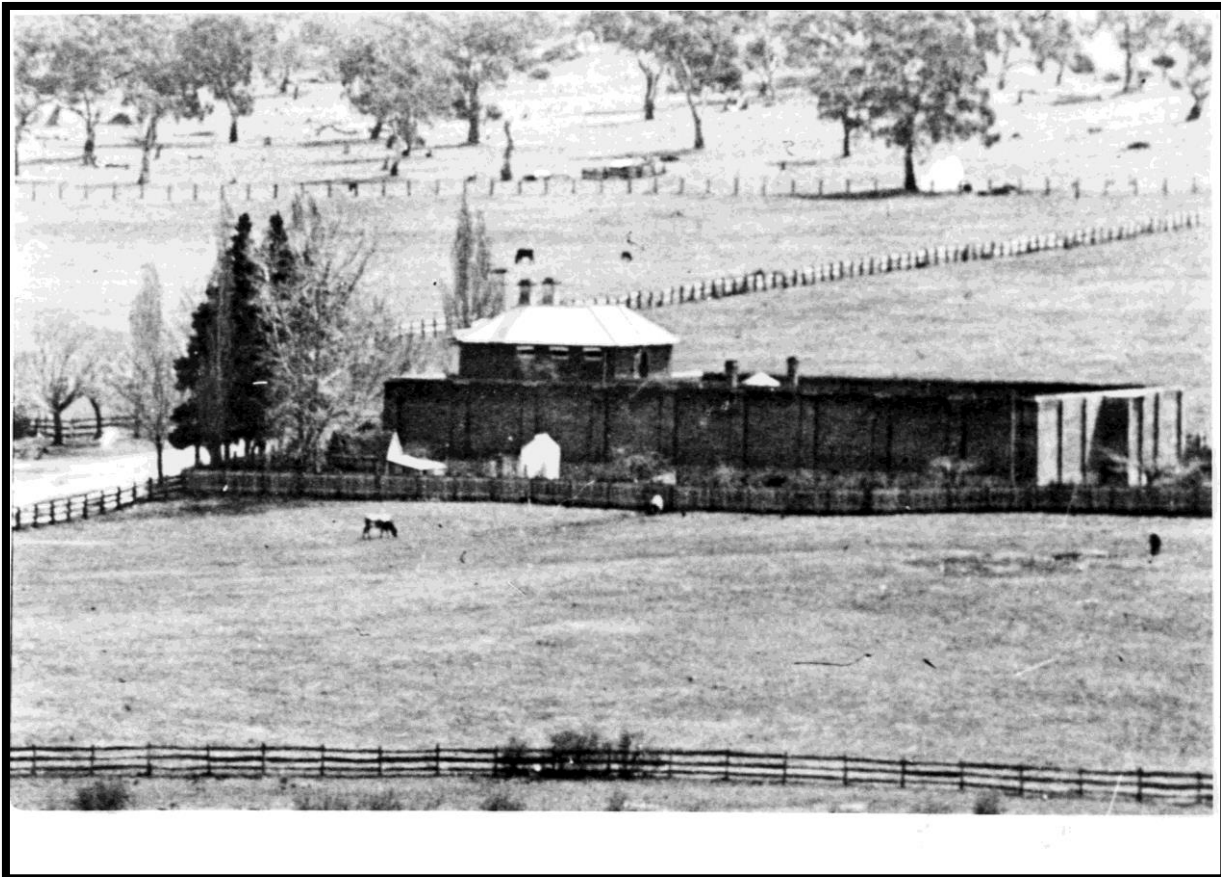# Braidwood Gaol

contributed by Peter Smith

For some time Braidwood was book-ended with the gaol on one end of Wallace Street and the cemetery on the other. It was deemed wise to stay in the middle ground.

The cemetery remains a rich source of remembrance and stories of old Braidwood families, thanks to Braidwood Historic Cemetery Volunteers, but the gaol is gone, demolished in 1936. At the time it was seen as the removal of an eye-sore, well before Braidwood became state heritage listed in 2006.

measuring 22 x 13m served as an exercise area for the men; next to it was a smaller yard which could be closed off and used if there were no women in the prison. Within the yards there was a large underground tank, latrines, wash rooms, kitchens and store rooms. Originally the gaol buildings and yards were enclosed with a timber palisade, 3.2m high on the inside and rising to 3.7m on the outside.

It was over the top of this timber palisade that the bushranger Tommy Clarke made his escape on 3 October 1865. His escape lead to the most troublesome gang in the annals of bushranging. Soon after the timber palisade was replaced with a brick wall.

Prisoners were mostly put to work outside the

Full view of brick wall that replaced the timber palisade after Tommy Clarke's escape

The gaol was built on the northern end of Wallace Street in 1861-2 at a cost of £1,819. The main building was a solid two-storey brick structure designed to accommodate twelve prisoners and a residence for the gaoler. There were two yards at the rear. The larger

goal repairing roads and building footpaths. It was not normal practice for serious offenders to serve their time in Braidwood Gaol. They were usually transferred to Cockatoo Island, Darlinghurst, Berrima, Parramatta, Bathurst or Maitland. In 1866 Michael Wallace, the gaoler wrote to the Inspector of Prisons requesting the removal of Berriman, Bruce and Lawler, associates of the Clarke gang, he said,

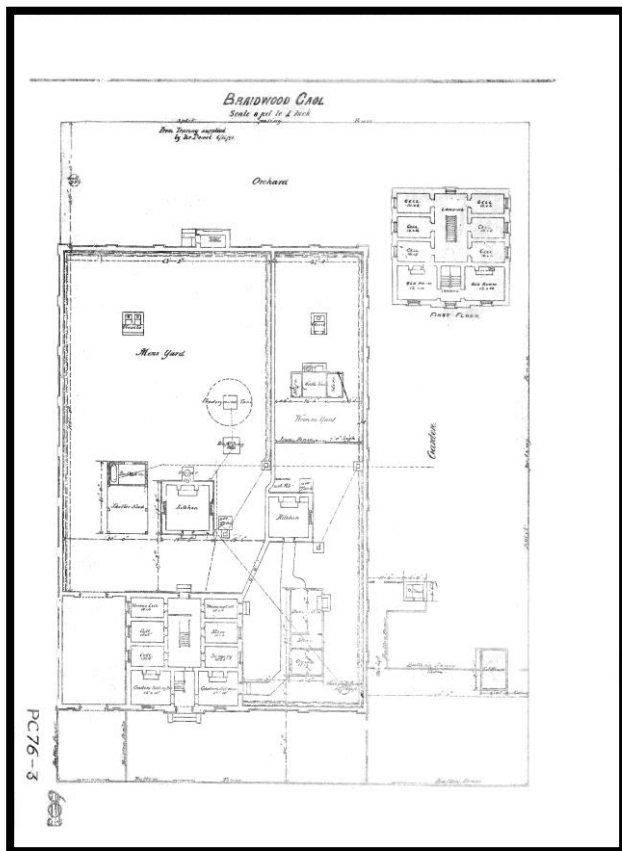"Braidwood Gaol is not at all secure for such a class of prisoners as those…….."

Eventually the gaol just served as the local lock-up before falling into disuse. On 6 September 1935 the Braidwood Dispatch advertised, "Quotations Invited For Purchase and Removal of Bricks ex Walls of Old Exercise Yard, Braidwood Gaol. The successful purchaser shall be required to remove all brick bats and building debris from the site, clear and spread to the level of the surrounding land….." Jack Bunn was the successful tenderer and many bits from the old gaol were re-used around the town.

The Braidwood museum has an original cell door on display, donated by the Bunn family. The museum also has digital copies of the Gaol Entrance Book which gives names, descriptions and details of all who were lodged in the gaol for one reason or another, as well as the Surgeons Journal detailing ailments and treatment of inmates.

The main building of Braidwood Gaol c.1920. The site is now occupied by houses, next door to the Colonial Motel. The oak trees remain.

(Photo courtesy State Library of Victoria.)

Plan of Braidwood Gaol dated 1891 from original copy held in Braidwood Museum.

Image from 1920 version of the film, 'Robbery Under Arms'. Braidwood Gaol was featured in the prison break.

Museum Opening Hours
Friday-Sunday 11am-2pm
Address: 186 Wallace Street, Braidwood
Telephone: 4842 2310
Admission: by donation
Email: help@braidwoodmuseum.org.au