



# Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622



## Newsletter

Number 27 December 2022

### President's Report

This year's Christmas present from QPRC, as of 23 November, is **approval of the Development Application for the Braidwood Heritage Centre.**

This is a milestone achievement, two years in the making following our success with the \$2.5M Bush Fire Recovery Grant. The process for DA approval has not been an easy one, but we can be grateful for the support from council staff, elected councillors, Regional NSW and in particular, Liz Madew from Public Works Advisory. Liz has done an amazing job as project manager, co-ordinating compliances and managing the design process through the Principal Design Consultants, BTB Architecture.

The project is much improved from our original concept, but this has contributed to a blow-out of the construction costs. The accommodation is larger, with six ensembles and larger common area consisting of kitchen, lounge and dining, the addition of co-working spaces, larger exhibition area attached to the café, improved landscaping, improved museum lift to first floor with escape stairs, better air conditioning for the museum, solar panels, improved disability access, an enhanced vision for the artisan studios with the addition of a college of lost crafts. In addition to all these improvements, building costs have increased dramatically over the past two years.

To overcome the shortfall and avoid staging the project we are hopeful of gaining the additional funding required.

We are in the process of applying for a top up grant of \$1.25M from the original Bush Fire Recovery Grant. There is limited funding available to be awarded by merit on application. The case we are presenting is good. We have DA approval, fully documented plans and a comprehensive presentation on economic and community benefits.

In the next few days, we will know if we have been successful in winning a grant from Regional NSW Tourism for \$800,000 based on the jobs we will create and tourism potential. We have been given some encouraging feed-back. Our wonderful Braidwood Community Bank may help with a grant of \$150,000 and we have pledged \$50,000 from own reserves. If successful the improved model for the Braidwood Heritage Centre will be fully funded and completed by year end. The alternative involves staging the project as funds become available.

We have short listed four building companies and will be calling for final costs and submissions in time for the successful company to commence work in February for the completion by year end, 2023.

## ***Another of Our Volunteers***

Another Grant Application through Foundation for Rural & Regional for a start-up salary contribution for the professional management of the Heritage Centre for \$25,000 will be announced in December. If successful this funding will enable BDHS to employ staff prior to completion of construction so on open day we 'hit the ground running'.

Another exciting project:

The National Museum of Australia has donated a 1930 Dodge truck, currently in pieces in a number of boxes, to the Braidwood Museum. The vehicle was found in 2003 and purchased by NMA to use as a 'training' vehicle, but the group of volunteers behind the project ran out of steam and the car has been sitting in pieces ready for reassembly for some years. The NMA, looking for a way to get the project completed, hit on Braidwood Museum as an institution with the organisational skills and community support likely to achieve that result. The museum has taken on the role of co-ordinating the considerable expertise that still exists in Braidwood and when the project is completed, the working vehicle will become a promotional tool for the new museum precinct. It is currently garaged at D & S Motors, which has been made available to the museum to use as a workshop in the short term. The museum is extremely grateful to QPRC for their help in providing this perfect location for the restoration work. If you would like to be involved, please contact John Stahel, 0411 155 213. Volunteers only have to have an interest; they don't have to be mechanics.

On smaller scale but no less important for the museum, we have been successful in gaining a grant of \$2,000 from Veolia for a new office computer and software. We thank Veolia for their support.

On behalf of your hard working BDHS committee I wish members and friends a happy Christmas with much to look forward to in the New Year.

Peter Smith



***John Stahel – Vice President***

I moved to Braidwood from Sydney in 2015 with my partner, Pauline. I had bought a semi derelict historic building in town 20 years earlier, but never imagined living here full time. When we did make the surprising move, this welcoming, clever, creative town embraced us and we responded, joined the volunteers at the museum imagining I could be useful mowing the lawn or sweeping the verandah. As I became more involved, I could see that the collection and the archives were an extraordinary asset for the community and my interest in helping make the museum flourish was ignited.

I had worked my entire career in television broadcasting, first in production and later as a senior executive. I never imagined the skills I had developed and utilised there would be of any use in such a small isolated community. But as it turns out, all I needed was an understanding of my new environment. The right skills seemed to be there when I needed them.

Volunteering is satisfying in a way that paid employment can't match. We give, but we can walk away and this underlying knowledge means any stress from the commitment you make is manageable. We do what we can rather than what someone else demands. Every day I have a long list of things to do but there is nothing I have to do. The core volunteer group are creative, dedicated and passionate, but not too obsessed, so there is a lovely collegiate atmosphere .

I also think the work is important. Museums are important. Museums Change Lives. I know this one has changed mine. Museums enrich the lives of individuals, and help create a fair and just society. Sharing our stories makes us stronger together. Museums, in turn, are enriched by the skills and creativity of their communities. It has been a privilege to make a contribution.

### ***Our AGM***

The Society's AGM was held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6pm.

Our newly elected **Committee** for **2022-2023** is:

**President:** Peter Smith

**Vice President:** John Stahel

**Secretary:** Annette Briggs

**Treasurer:** Cathy Cooper

**As well as:** Jill Clarke, Sheelagh Noonan, Kerrie Beers and Paul Briggs



***A Review of this very successful event is attached to this email. It is worth reading.***

### **Kerrie's Corner of Unique Museum Artefacts**



***One black set of Funerary Comparisons for adults***





***One pair of Funerary Comparisons for children***

Kerrie wishes to highlight these rare and significant artefacts. They are in a prominent location in the Gold Rush Room in one of the large glass cabinets. Our accession records state that these four items were donated to the Historical Society during the 1980s by Mr Frank McCabe, a long time resident of Braidwood.

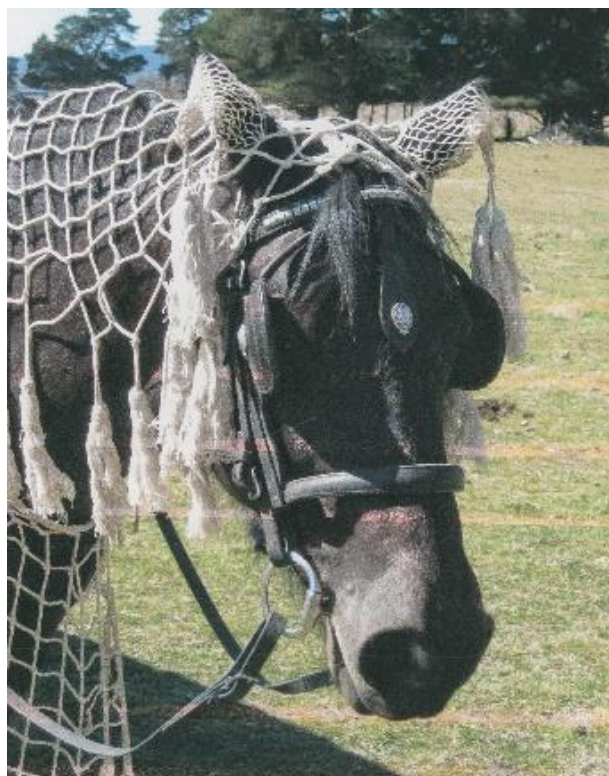
These very rare items are called comparisons. The hand knotted horse drapes were used when funeral hearses were draw by two or more horses. It seems that they are hand crocheted of cotton cord with metal D rings.

The funeral dress comprises two sets of black tasselled drapery for a pair of horses drawing a hearse carrying an adult. The white sets were used for children's funerals, and on these occasions the hearse was also usually painted white. This set was used in Braidwood in the 1860s and 1870s.

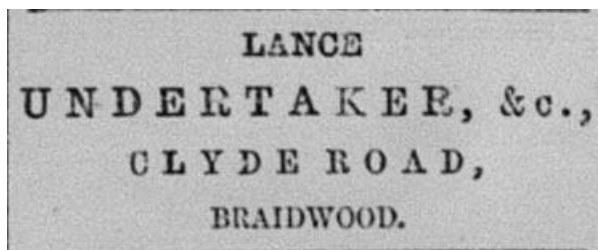
The Historical Society believe these to be possibly the only surviving Victorian horse

funerary dress in Australia. The headpiece features fitted earpieces with separate tassels.

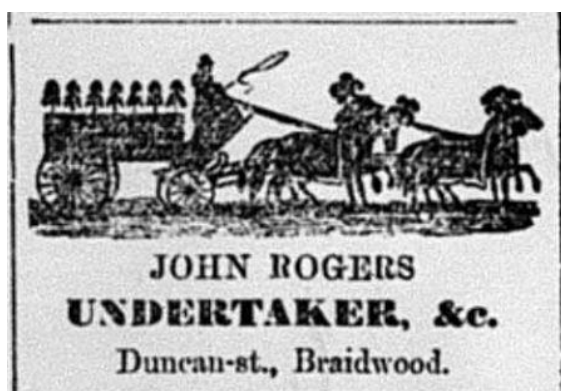
The photo below displays the drapes in use, modelled on one of Antony Davies' (past President) horses.



Here are some further interesting local Braidwood facts, and a surprising number of Undertakers in our little town at that time.



***Charles Lance Undertaker  
of 1862***



***John Rogers Undertaker 1864***



***Thomas Farrell Undertaker and his  
wife Ellen nee O'Connell***

Undertakers of Braidwood Thomas Farrell who lived in Mackellar St. Thomas was a cabinet maker and undertaker. He came to Braidwood in 1830s and became a

coachman to Major Elrington. Thomas was married in Braidwood by a Priest who in those days travelled around attending to the spiritual welfare of his flock.

SMH 24<sup>th</sup> July 1866:

'The body (of bushranger Pat Connell) was given over to Mr Thomas Farrell, the undertaker, by whom it was placed in a coffin and removed, at the request of deceased's family to Jerrabatgulla to be interred with the other of the family there buried.'

Thomas Farrell died on October 10, 1901 aged 90 years.

**Roderick McDonald** was a carpenter, builder and undertaker who established his business in 1852 in the building that is now the Masonic Hall. His son Robert went on to work for and carry on the building business.



***Braidwood Masonic Lodge***

### **Morris Bros. Funeral Directors**

Edward Morris below was the partner of his brother Harry who commenced their carpentry and undertaking business called Morris Bros. They had their business in Wallace opposite St Bede's church in the building that was once Wehby's and now Braidwood Outdoors. He was also a talented photographer as well. Edward moved his business to Elrington Street about 1931.





*Edward Morris*



*Edward Morris' home*

### **Russell Family**

Mr Robert Russell senior was a builder, carpenter and undertaker. Mrs Mitty F Russell began her undertaking business in 1922. She introduced a motor hearse in 1924 but became bankrupt in 1927. Her son Robert then started another business in 1927.

**M. F. Russell**  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND  
EMBALMER

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**NEW MOTOR HEARSE.**  
(the first in the District).

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**Funerals at Reduced Charges.**

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Orders taken for all classes of Monumental Work, Headstones and Kerbing. No commission charged.

**ADDRESS:**  
**WALLACE STREET, BRAIDWOOD.**



The Office for this business was on the right hand side of the building above(L Gowen butcher). The workshop and hearses were housed in the little wooden building to the the right.

**ROBERT RUSSELL**  
WALLACE STREET BRAIDWOOD  
**GENERAL HARDWARE STORE**

PAINTS, KALSOMINES and WALLPAPERS.  
PORCELAIN BATHS, BASINS and SINKS.  
CEMENT BATHS and TUBS.  
STOVES, all Makes. CHINA and GLASSWARE.  
HOUSEHOLD IRONMONGERY and CROCKERY.  
ALUMINIUM and ENAMELLED WARE.  
EVERYTHING FOR BUILDING.  
LIME and CEMENT STOCKED.  
TOOLS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

ALL LINES AT CHEAPEST PRICES.  
Mail or 'Phone Orders Promptly Executed.

**MOTOR FUNERAL DIRECTOR**  
FUNERALS CONDUCTED ANYWHERE.  
REVERENCE AND DIGNITY ASSURED.  
MODERATE CHARGES.

'Phone 96.

### Peter Sebbens: Braidwood Motor Funerals

A returned WW2 soldier, Peter established his Braidwood Motor Funerals business about 1950. Prior to this time Peter was an experienced and appreciated Ambulance Officer for the newly established Ambulance Station in Park Lane from c 1945-1949.

## Sudden Death Of Undertaker

Mr. Peter Sebbens, 47, undertaker, of Braidwood, died suddenly of a heart attack at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Mr. Sebbens died in the front seat of a truck outside the old morgue building which he had been helping to dismantle.

A new morgue had just been completed. The old building was being pulled down to make room for a garage for the Matron at Braidwood Hospital.

Mr. Sebbens was buried at 3 p.m. yesterday.

*Canberra Times 1964*

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**TO ARRANGE A FUNERAL**  
'PHONE

**Braidwood  
Motor Funerals**

'Phone 118.

P. SEBBENS, Manager  
WALLACE STREET - - BRAIDWOOD.

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*Braidwood Dispatch June 1950*

## The Mill of Jembaicumbene

### Part 2 of the Report of Mill Pond, Jembaicumbene, written by Antony Davies

The flour mill at Jembaicumbene was built by Charles Edward Dransfield (1835-1888) between June 1859 and January 1860, opening on 25th January 1860 as The Jembaicumbene Steam Flour Mills.

The building was erected on the eastern end of Exeter Farm, a substantial grazing property established by Andrew Badgery (1806 - 1857) in 1830 as an outstation for Exeter Farm in the NSW Southern Highlands, the property of his father James Badgery (1769-1827). Andrew's sister Ann had married William Roberts in 1823 and the two families worked closely together both in the Southern Highlands and in Jembaicumbene during most of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the relationship strengthened by several further marriages between them. Progeny of the Badgerys and Roberts married members of the Royds and Hassel families and sections of Exeter Farm were divided up between them generally upon marriage.

In 1857 Charles Edward Dransfield married Maria Roberts and lived at the main house on Exeter Farm, called "Durham Hall" with various other relatives. Charles Dransfield came from a family of Yorkshire flour millers who had emigrated to New Zealand in the 1840s and established milling and building interests in Wellington. Charles and his brother Richard left Wellington for Sydney in 1855, where Charles met Maria Roberts and soon relocated to Braidwood, and Richard remained in Sydney establishing a construction company.

On the death in 1858 of Joseph Dransfield (Charles Dransfield's father) Charles inherited his father's Wellington property on which historic Dransfield House now stands, immediately selling this to his other brother Joseph and thereby raising funds for a significant venture in Jembaicumbene.

Exeter Farm had by the 1850s developed to be one of the most prosperous in the Braidwood District. On the discovery of gold nearby in 1851, rather than be tempted to mine themselves, the family made their fortune selling mining licenses on their vast estate, by then covering over 6,000 acres. With significant funds available to them, the family extended the main house "Durham Hall", built a new brick house called "Exeter Farmhouse", various sets of stables, barns, numerous timber cottages and outstations and a substantial brick and slate dairy on the eastern end of the farm. Over 150 people were employed in various activities on the greater Exeter Farm and additional workers lived in the adjacent village of Jembaicumbene on the northern side of the creek.

The eastern end of Exeter Farm was known as the Old Dairy Flat Station, on which was the earliest dairy and dairyman's residence in the district, dating from the mid 1830s. Dransfield and his new wife inherited this site, on a rise above the thriving village of Jembaicumbene and a part of a 640 acre portion purchased as freehold by William Roberts in the 1830s, and built a charming Victorian Gothic extension to the dairy with simple accommodation for staff and themselves.

While the Jembaicumbene valley, with its broad river flats, had produced the districts best wheat crops between the 1830s and 1850s, the discovery of gold in 1851 saw a flood of prospectors arrive from across the continent. Some of the most lucrative alluvial finds were discovered on Dransfield's land and, with his neighbours, he became wealthy through issuing mining leases near the Jembaicumbene Creek.

By the mid 1850s Jembaicumbene had a burgeoning population of many thousands and numerous hotels and stores. To cater for this influx Dransfield conceived an ambitious new business centred around a gigantic modern steam engine. The plan represented one of the biggest financial investments of any business in the district.

## **Construction of the Flour Mill 1859-1860**

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 1859, the then 24 year old Dransfield advertised that "miners should not dig in the old Dairy Flat paddock as building will shortly commence". By April Mr Archibald of Little River had begun cutting timber for the mill and by June the foundations were visible to passers by. The fully equipped four story stone and brick mill was completed and open for business a remarkable six months later, a feat of organization which could not be replicated today. Project managing of the building



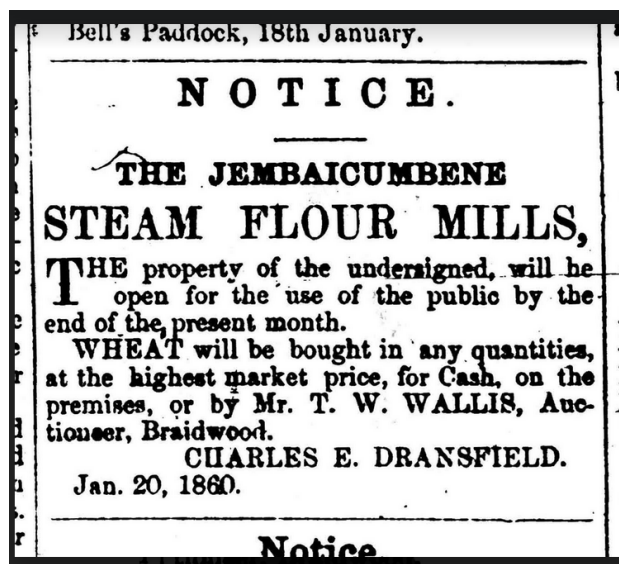
works was completed by Charles Dransfield's brother Richard who had also overseen works with the local builder Richard Hannaford on the granite St Bede's Catholic Church in Braidwood, constructed from mid 1858.

Built to the highest quality, the mill was designed by the Sydney architect-surveyor Charles Edward Langley of George Street. Langley had until 1843 been in a civil engineering partnership with the Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis, and had completed numerous prestigious residential and commercial works in Sydney. Numerous stone masons, previously occupied with building in Tasmania, had moved to Victoria and then to Braidwood following the gold discoveries during the 1850s. A significant number must have been employed to build the Flour Mill given the quality and quantity of dressed granite used. Quarry sites survive ranging up to 4,000 m to the south of the building. A deep water race, used to draw water from Jembaicumbene Creek on the north side, was dug and clay taken from the race excavations provided material for the extensive brick upper walls. The internal timber framing of mountain ash was sourced on the Araluen valley nearby and cut using the steam engine, which was installed on the site.

The specifications for the mill complex were published in detail in "The Braidwood Dispatch" in January 1860. The mill, built with a rusticated granite first course and foundations extending over ten feet down, had three upper floors with brick walls. On the east side a single story engine house on separate granite footings, built of stone and brick, housed a 20hp state-of-the-art horizontal beam engine with a 14' diameter flywheel and 6,000 gallon boiler ordered from P N Russell & Company in Sydney, who undertook all the engineering works for the mill, also supplying the milling equipment, chaff cutters, Elijah Otis safety elevator and the galvanised sheet tiles for the roof, imported from England. On the north-east corner stood a 55 foot high brick chimney over the furnace, and on the north side was a large underground water tank built with hearth bricks painted with copper paint 66' by 42' and with a wooden cover supported on an iron frame on wooden posts. Alongside this was a brick bakery building and a pump house.

Inside the engine house, access to the reservoir was via a wooden trapdoor with brick surrounds down which buckets could be let on ropes. Adjacent to the reservoir and under the engine house was a large stone lined well. Fresh water could thereby be kept in reserve for the 6,000 gallon boiler mounted alongside the chimney, and all of these containers could be emptied into the well and tunnel for cleaning and maintenance. Additional water was pumped to and from the mill pond via a long water race joining Jembaicumbene Creek. Victorian pipework has also been discovered connecting this elaborate water system to the nearby homestead and stables.

Russell's were one of Australia's oldest engineering foundries, established in the 1830s over the Tank Stream in Macquarie Place. By the mid 1850s Peter Nichol Russell was producing cast iron markers for the Government, verandah posts and architectural items, mining equipment and steam engine parts. The company became one of the most innovative and productive of the Industrial Revolution in Australia, but controversially closed suddenly in 1875 with a lock-out over staff hours and pay.



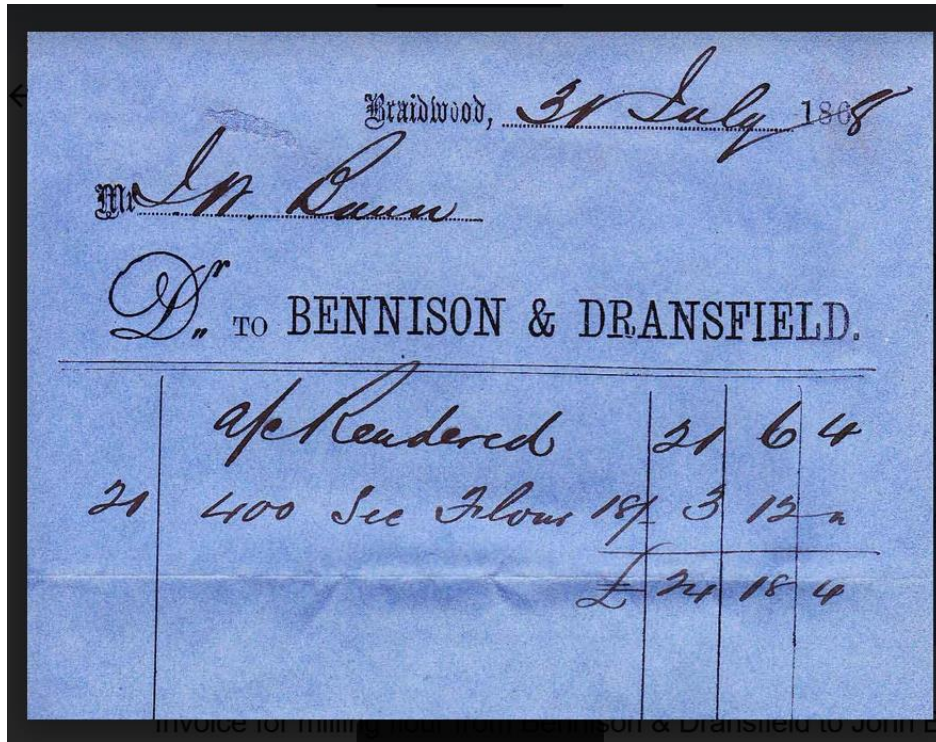
*Opening announcement in The Braidwood Dispatch, January 20<sup>th</sup> 1860*

## **Working life of the Flour Mill 1860-1885**

The Flour Mill opened on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1860, fully operational. Dransfield's engine powering the four storied flour mill could grind grain of various types and produce bran, oats and cornmeal. In mid 1860 he installed a patent chaff cutter and advertised and chaff of various types for sale. In the bakery he could bake bread, and in the attic level provision was made to dry hops for beer and to house breeding pigeons, kept for sport and food. A pierced brickwork dovecote survives in the eastern gable wall. Three tons of flour could be milled in one hour, and vibration in the main building from the steam engine was negligible..

In 1863 he extended the drive shafts of the engine to operate a saw mill cutting firewood and building timber, and in September 1869 Dransfield purchased a quartz crushing battery from P N Russell's, advertising that he could accept dray-loads of quartz which were processed using hot water from the steam engine, a far more efficient method than others had employed.

The mill site, on a rise above the ford of the creek, used as its mill pond a deep pit built several years earlier. The pit, with piled and staked banks, is flooded by several springs which have obscured until recently the horizontal shaft radiating out and under the mill building, and discovered during excavations in 2008. The purpose of the shaft has become evident as historical research is uncovered. In early February 1892, four local boys were swimming in what newspapers described as "William's abandoned, water-filled mine shaft near the Mill" when one, Mr Trussell's son, became stuck in the shaft and was drowning. One boy, Patrick O'Neil dived in and was able to rescue him. He was unconscious when carried to the nearby residence but had been restored to animation by the time Dr Llewellyn arrived. O'Neil was consequently awarded a Royal Humane Society Certificate of Merit for bravery at a large community presentation ceremony on the stage of the Literary Institute. At this event suggestions were first put forward for the construction of a public swimming pool in Braidwood and for lessons to teach children to swim.



**Invoice for milling flour from Bennison & Dransfield to John Bunn  
at St Omer, 31<sup>st</sup> July 1868**

Despite the discovery of rust in the district's wheat in the 1860s, Dransfield, in partnership with a local speculator, William Bennison, expanded his milling business in 1865 by renting the steam flour mill at Braidwood Farm, and then again in 1867 by renting the three storied stone commercial premises of Henry Jacobs in Mackellar Street, Braidwood, from Robert Maddrell. Dransfield and Bennison converted this to another steam powered flour mill, installing a new 17' boiler in March 1867. Both gentlemen worked as JPs, magistrates and acted on numerous community committees including that formed in the early 1880s to encourage the railroad to Braidwood. Their circle of friends included many Braidwood contemporaries; John Bunn, Joseph Larmer, Police Superintendent John Orridge, Hugh Gordon, the Badgerys, Roberts and Hassalls, all of whom were regular visitors to the Mill.

With this expansion, in 1867 a new miller is recorded as arriving to run the mill at Jembaicumbene by the name of Claus Edwart Suhr, born in Sleswick Germany, aged 26, and married in that year to a young Irish girl Honora Burke, a servant from Araluen. It appears that about that time the third floor of the mill was altered to include miller's accommodation with several rooms and a fireplace, apparently to house the newly married miller and his 22 year old wife. Among the many small historical evidences of this period is a penciled shopping list on the wall adjacent to the mill keeper's cooking range on the third floor.

The mill, representing a major local financial investment, elevated its owner in local society, and as the employer of over 150 people on the mill site during the early years of its operation, Charles Dransfield maintained a busy social schedule. He acted on the boards of the Jembaicumbene and the Braidwood schools, was involved in the establishment of the Literary Institute, and contributed funds for the construction of the Anglican Church. Visitors to his home included the Bunn family of St Omer, and Police Superintendent John Waistell Orridge with his wife Emeline, daughter of the pioneering



Gordon family of Manar. Orridge was severely injured at Exeter Farm in November 1867 when his horse stumbled alongside the flour Mill and fell on him. He was not expected to survive the accident and was incapacitated at Exeter Farm for two months. An active interest in horse and pigeon racing saw numerous of the famous Exeter Farm stud horses, including Archer, winner of the first two Melbourne Cups in 1861 and 1862, Maid of the Oaks and Tim Whiffler exercised on the property under the care of the famous trainer Etienne de Mestre, and Dransfield bred racing pigeons in the loft of the Mill, a pair of which he sent to the Bunn family at St Omer as a gift in the mid 1860s.

Technical innovations were constantly added; for example in April 1874 Dransfield installed a new wheat cleaning machine to improve the quality of his flour. Newspaper reports through the 1870s and early 1880s regularly reflect on the immaculate and organized condition of the flour mill. However shortages of wheat beginning in 1860 and continuing to the 1880s meant that from time to time the mill was obliged to stop production for short periods, hence Dransfield's interest in alternative uses for his machinery. From the late 1860s to the late 1870s the mill complete, and then the machinery as a set, was advertised for sale and Dransfield even offered to construct a new building with a business partner to house it in some more lucrative location.

### **Cessation of milling activity 1885**

Milling activity continued at Jembaicumbene in Dransfield's mill until 1885 when the severe drought, lasting from about 1882 for nearly eight years, caused severe shortages of wheat. Wheat shortages, drought and floods were a regular feature of Braidwood life during the 25 years of milling at Jembaicumbene, but the worst events occurred in the 1840s and 1880s, each time resulting in a nation-wide financial depression. In a good year the two mills each turned over more than £1,000 a week, an enormous sum for the era, but by 1885 the worsening drought and a looming financial depression forced the closure of all the milling businesses. The arrival in 1885 of the railway at Tarago, bringing cheaper flour from elsewhere, ended the viability of milling in Braidwood permanently. In Braidwood, all three main hotels, prosperous enterprises, were sold for a fraction of their values. Many local families lost their farms and foreclosures were common. William Bennison came close to bankruptcy, moving to Wagga in 1887 and dying there shortly after leaving numerous debts despite his efforts to pay all his Braidwood creditors. Charles Dransfield was forced to close his mill and lease out his 2,560 acres to his wife's relation Roland Hassall, who operated a money-lending business. It appears that he escaped bankruptcy but he must have come very close, and his disappointment at leaving his magnificent mill complex would have been overwhelming.

### **Sale of equipment and demolition of engine house 1888-1897**

Charles Dransfield leased land at Wallendeen near Wagga in 1880 and made plans to move some of his milling equipment there over the next few years. He moved his family his wife and four children to Sydney in 1885, commuting between there and Wallendeen by train while building a wooden mill there. On completion in 1885 the mill caught fire and burned down, but Dransfield immediately commenced another building on the site, however in the course of this he contracted typhoid from the drinking water at Wallendeen, and had just time to return to Sydney by train before dying there in January 1888 from typhoid fever. His wife survived until 1901. On his death the Jembaicumbene property was managed by the pastoral firm of Hassall Royds & Roberts for Maria Dransfield, and they combined it with their adjoining 9,500 acres to run sheep, with Roland Hassall managing the operation. Out of Dransfield's control, the mill equipment

was sold and brutally stripped from the building. As much machinery was built into the window framing, the windows were also removed. The steam engine was disassembled and removed by demolishing the engine house which had been built around it, and probably sold to the Jembaicumbene Dredging Company who took over the alluvial gold leases at the creek in 1899 using new technology imported from New Zealand.



### ***Jembaicumbene Mill 1935***

The remains of their three storied steam powered dredge, over 150 feet long, survives in the wetland. The mill's chimney and numerous other outbuildings were demolished between 1890 and 1897 and the bricks and stone used by Mr R.G. Hassall jnr. to extend Dransfield's small cottage and dairy into a larger home which he established as his own. All of the materials from the mill outbuildings and timber internal equipment were recycled into various structures around the property. After Maria Dransfield's death, at the winding up of her estate in 1905, the property was purchased by the family pastoral company, and maintained as Roland Hassall's residence, but when this was dissolved in 1920 an auction was held to disperse the various assets and the property was sold to 29 year old Charles Royds, much to the chagrin of Mr Hassall who had anticipated buying the freehold himself.

### **Conversion to shearing shed 1920-1950**

Charles Royds converted the timber wagon house into a shearing shed, and later moved this activity into the mill itself, using a Lister engine to power shearing plant, kept in a wooden shed built on the southern façade of the mill. A busy and productive man, Royds ran an auction business in Braidwood and was involved in local community events and sporting groups. However on 29th January 1934 he died with Mr Ernest Keyte in a tragic mining accident a mile from the house. Royds had for several weeks

been in the course of excavating an old mine shaft with Mr Keyte on the edge of the Major's Creek Road at Honeysuckle Creek. Waiting for the dray carrying excavated wash away to return, they were standing under the open bank when it fell on them.



### ***Jembaicumbene Mill 2008***

The property was taken over by his son David on his return from the Second War. In the 1950s and 1960s, David Royds expanded the shearing facilities around the mill site by demolishing the wooden Lister engine shed and constructing a large tin covered sheep yard on the north and eastern sides, using electric machinery to run his shearing plant. At this time, three of the north facing ground floor window fenestrations were dismantled to allow sheep access, and the original random-width floor boards were removed and replaced with hardwood slatted sheep floors.

The Royds family, through three generations, focused on high quality wool production at Caloola, planting exceptional pastures which saw some of the most productive wool results in the Braidwood district. During David Royd's life he was able to claim successful production of a full bale of wool for every day of the year, a record that remains unbroken to this day. Sheep farming ceased on this property in 1980 and the mill building once more fell into disuse. The property was then managed by David Royd's son Stephen who oversaw the change from sheep to cattle. As sheep disappeared from the property the sheep yards and shearing areas became obsolete and the mill was gradually disused other than for storage of discarded machinery.

***Next Edition we will continue with the Restoration of the Mill  
and a change of ownership.***

**All articles written by Jill Clarke, unless otherwise stated.  
Typesetting done by Annette Briggs**



Our

Society values the support of

**Queanbeyan Palerang Council**



And

**Braidwood & Districts Community Bank**



And



*Merry Christmas*



