



THE MUSE

Published by the Mudgee Historical Society Inc
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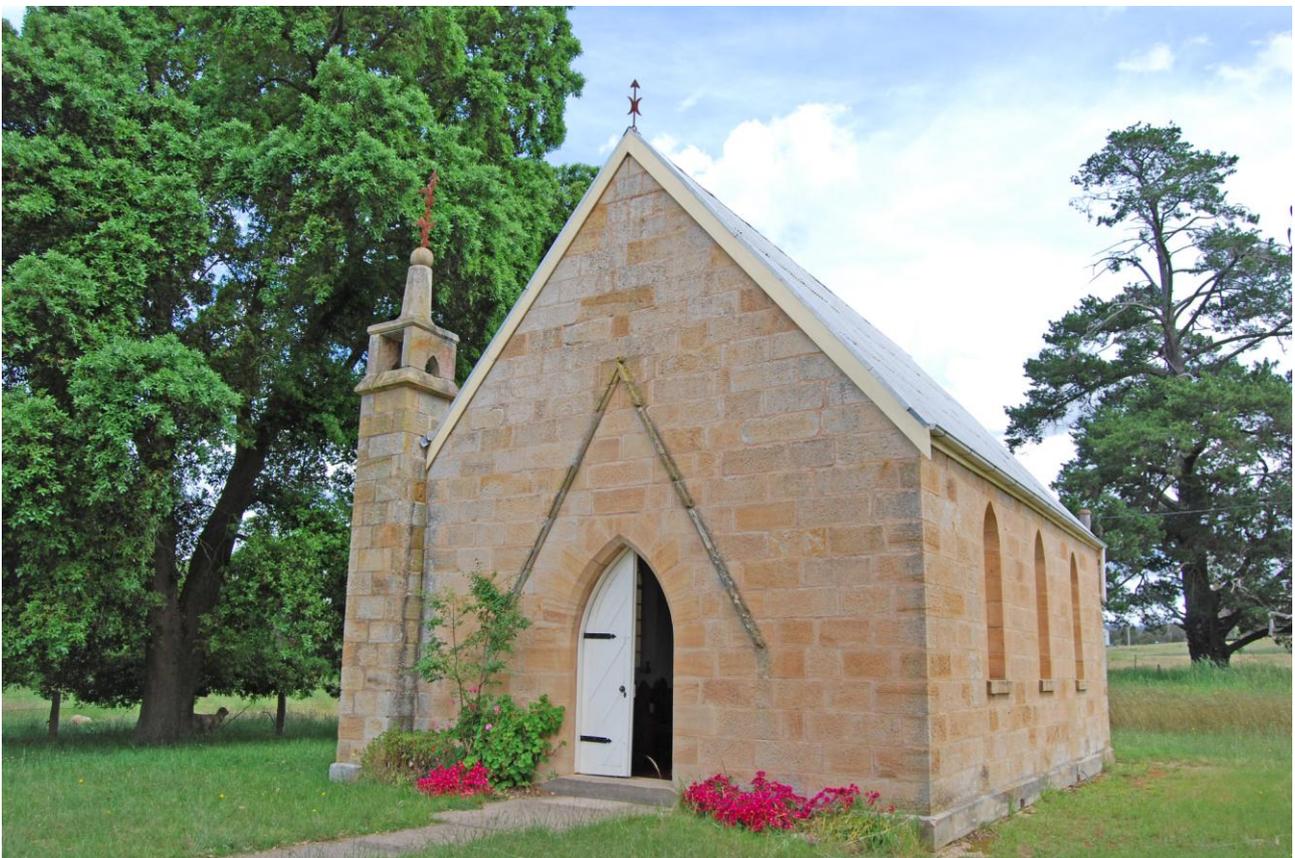
MARCH 2011

ILFORD UNITING CHURCH

Country churches are sadly often at risk in rural Australia. It is pleasing to all who love our district and appreciate its built heritage that this gem of a building did not face demolition or conversion.

The Uniting Church, formerly the Methodist Church, at Ilford, is located on part of Portion 22 of the village of Ilford in the Parish of Warrangunia in the County of Roxburgh. The site, now reduced in size from the original parish portion, is located to the east of the Mudgee-Lithgow Road (Castlereagh Highway) and on the southern side of Ilford Hall Road, originally the main road from Ilford to Rylstone.

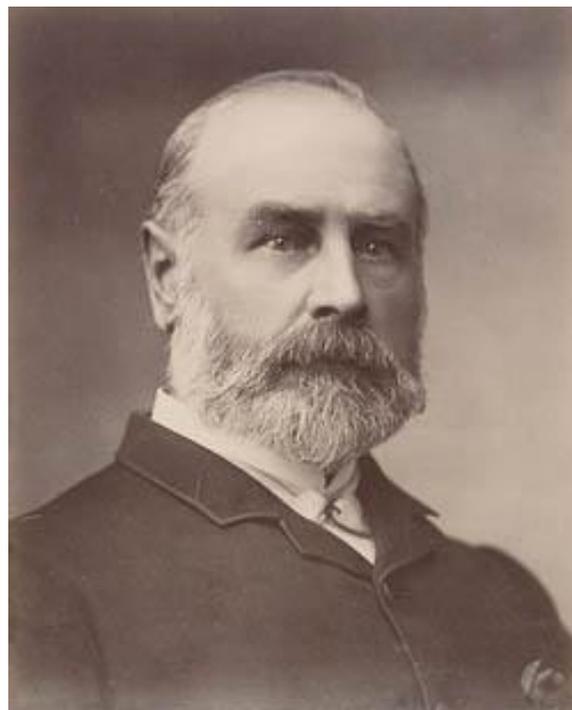
Many early church services in the Ilford district were held in private homes until such time as a permanent church was built for the Methodist, Anglican and Catholic congregations. A Methodist Minister came once every three months to Ilford from Mudgee where a strong congregation had built an impressive and substantial church in 1864 to a design by prominent Sydney architect George Allen Mansfield. The nearest Methodist church to Ilford was at Rylstone.



The entrance (northern) facade of the church



The font



Architect Thomas Rowe

Several families in the Ilford district had an enduring association with the church since its construction. Brothers William and George Harris, who married sisters Elizabeth and Martha Leader, played a prominent role in the construction of the church. William donated land for a church and parsonage, while George was the contractor and carpenter and donated his labour. James Burgess and W. Pascoe were the stonemasons assisted by William Harris. The architect was Thomas Rowe of Sydney who also designed the Mechanics Institute in Mudgee and the Presbyterian churches in Mudgee and Hill End. The contract price was 240 pounds. The foundation stone was laid in 1866 and the church was opened on 4th November 1867.

The stone for the building was quarried from the hills east of Ilford and the cedar for the fixtures and the furnishings was felled and dressed at Nullo Mountain beyond Rylstone and transported to Ilford by bullock team.

The Uniting Church of Australia came into being in June 1977 and so the former Methodist Church became the Uniting Church of Ilford. In late 2010, after consultation with local congregations, the Uniting Church reluctantly placed the Ilford church on the market. The church was auctioned on site on Saturday 11th December 2010, with the auction of the contents following afterwards.

The auction was attended by a large crowd and everyone was thrilled when it was announced that the church had been purchased on behalf of Dennis Allard and partner Sheila Carroll of nearby Ilford House and that it would continue to remain in public use. The atmosphere was electric when, during the auction of the contents, it was announced that various items, including all the pews, were to be donated back to the church. Such a positive outcome, and congratulations to Dennis and Sheila and others for their generosity.

It is interesting to note that Ilford House, just to the south of the church, was built in 1868 as the residence of William Harris, donor of the land on which the church stands and one of its builders.

John Broadley

Acknowledgments to: *Over Cherry Tree Hill. 150 Years of Pioneer Settlement*, edited by Margaret Piddington (1989).

NEWS

GARAGE SALE

A garage sale will be held on Saturday 12th March, starting at 8am. Many quality items have already been donated and further donations are welcome. These bi-annual garage sales are an important fundraiser for your Society and deserves your support, either as a donor or as a purchaser.

BUILDING PROJECTS

The Society has purchased a kit shed locally (3 bays, 9m x 6m) which will be placed at the rear of the Museum site and used for much-needed storage. It is also intended to extend the existing line of storage sheds along the north-western boundary and to construct a rustic 'blacksmith's shop' near the big shed to showcase our collection of smithy's tools.

TURON TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

Jim Walker's privately-owned museum at Sofala is a member of the Cudgegong Valley Museums Group and features a fantastic and extensive collection of engines of all sizes and vintages. The Mudgee Historical Society Inc is intending to arrange an excursion on Sunday 27th March 2011 to see some machinery in action. Transport is via private cars, bring a picnic lunch. Cost will be \$10 per head. The museum is approximately half-way between Ilford and Sofala, about 50 minutes from Mudgee. Bookings with John Broadley (6372 3365).

VANDALISM

Regrettably, the Colonial Inn Museum has been the focus of a spate of vandalism, enduring numerous 'eggings' on the front facade, and several smashed windows more recently in November 2010. The Society must be pro-active and consequently has installed several mesh screens on the exterior of the most vulnerable windows; all windows on the main building have internal bars and ultimately will have external protection, but at considerable cost to the Society. Regrettably, a sign of the times. Thanks to Ray from Mudgee Glass and Security Door services for his generous assistance.

SENIORS WEEK 2011

For the last two years the Mudgee Historical Society Inc has hosted a morning tea during National Seniors Week. Local seniors and nursing home residents are invited to attend the sumptuous morning tea this year on Tuesday 22nd March at 10am. Free entry to the museum. All welcome.

CVMG AGM

The AGM of the Cudgegong Valley Museums Group is expected to be held on Sunday 1st May 2011, at a venue yet to be decided. The aim of this organization is to promote heritage tourism amongst the six member museums within the Mid-Western Regional Council area. A brochure is available which promotes the six wonderful member museums: the Gulgong Pioneers Museum, the Henry Lawson Centre in Gulgong, the Colonial Inn Museum in Mudgee, the Cottage Museum in Rylstone, the Kandos Bicentennial Museum and the Turon Technology Museum at Sofala.

MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA

In 2011 the AGM of the Central West Chapter of Museums Australia will be hosted by the Mudgee Historical Society Inc on Saturday 14th May, starting with morning tea and a tour of the Colonial

Inn Museum, an historic building inspection, a powerpoint display on the history of Mudgee, lunch and concluding with the business meeting.

COUNCIL GRANT

The Mudgee Historical Society Inc would like to express its thanks to the Mid-Western Regional Council for a grant of \$1,000, part of Councils annual grants program.

KOERTZ WOOL PRESS

Recently the Colonial Inn Museum was fortunate to acquire a Koertz wool press, in excellent condition, donated by Richard Loneragan from The Lagoon at Gulgong. This will add to our extensive display of wool-related items in our collection. There are still many similar presses, now unused, in local woolsheds in the Mudgee district today. Thanks to Andrews Transport of Gulgong and Furneys of Mudgee for delivery of the wool press to the museum site.



Mudgee Historical Society's Koertz wool press

Prior to the introduction of such manual wool presses, wool was baled by hand and shovel and packed down by stomping feet. The lumpy bales usually held about sixteen fleeces. Screw presses followed and travelling presses were also often used due to the prohibitive cost of presses generally. In 1890 Danish-born Christian Koertz (1847-1930) produced his first wool press which was modified and refined over time. Over several decades various models and sizes – “New Koertz Selectors”, “Homestead Lessees”, “Little Wonder”, “Squatter”, “Station”, “Bosker”, “Conqueror” and “Improved Legacy” – were manufactured in their thousands and distributed throughout Australia. Koertz took out numerous patents for presses, crushers, pumps, motors and agricultural equipment and in the process revolutionized Australia's pastoral industry.

The Koertz company moved to Rosebery in Sydney in 1925, so the Mudgee Historical Society's press postdates 1925.

Notes from Mudgee "WESTERN POST" Newspaper.

Over the next few editions of the The Muse articles from the front page of the *Western Post* newspaper on Thursday 21st September 1911 will be reproduced, in order to show what Mudgee town and district was like 100 years ago. Back then the front page of the paper contained only advertising and no news headlines as you would expect today. These were the times before radio and television and the main means of communication in the local area. The residents required information on many topics such as the availability of many household goods, sales of land and stock, what was happening in the district, some news (although not to the extent that we get news today) and events that were upcoming in the area.

The ads in the most part contain the information required and not a lot more. They do not always have addresses as townfolk knew where they all were located, but they liked to know if they had changed ownership or management. Some of them contain phone numbers that to our modern view are very meager. The telephone was not as widely used as it is now.

I hope you enjoy this look at the past and I know many of you will remember some of these businesses fondly.

CYCLES

SPEEDWELL CYCLE & MOTOR CYCLE DEPOT - Bennett and Wood of Church St, with Mr. C. Page as Manager

Cycle repairs - **IVAN C. BROWN** of Market St

AUCTIONEERS & STOCK AGENTS

JOHN WORKMAN advertised furniture for sale, and a clearing Sale at "Melrose" on the 27th September, 1911. (The furniture sale was for an entire household of furniture and lists very like the sales of today)

H. E. A. WELLS has for sale Freehold 250 acres at Cooyal

STEWART & SMITH advertised for sale "Snowdon", Mudgee South, of 64 acres & 600 ewes, heifers, 12 steers, also Town Allotments

CROSSING & COX - Sale 30 prime bullocks, 1000 wethers, property near Merrendee, also other farms in the area. They also seek a Bullock Driver

CROSSING & COX also have town allotment from Dr. Challands for sale with frontage to Gladstone/Lewis Sts, another block between Halls Hotel & Church St, opposite the Rail Gates. The same firm has lithos (printed details) of the Putta Bucca subdivision

CARRIERS

R. JONES & CO., general carriers/auctioneers/general commission agents situated near the Railway.

DEPARTMENT STORES

KELLETT & SONS advertise Cotton Shantung @ 10/2 per yard and for the Newest & Smartest amongst the Beautiful Goods produced this Spring turn your eyes towards the Old Flagstaff Stores. Ready made Chiffon Veils. Newest belting in fancy stripes. Brown, blue & green net veiling with chenille spots @ 1/- per yard. Plain dress linens and lawns and cambrics. Chiffon tussure 1/3 per yard. Spring and summer blouse lengths in silk and richly embroidered linens from 2/9 per yard. Also black hair slides in the newest shapes from 4d to 1/-

KELLETT & SONS also advertise Specials in different types of ROBUR TEA from 2/- per pound to 24/- per 18lb case. (They drank lots of tea back then)

JAS LONERAGAN advertise Ladies Gloves in various colours @ 8d & 3 farthings each, towels at 1/3 each and a variety of china mugs/crockery/candlesticks

T. H. MARKS & CO have for sale cotton shantung @ 10/2 per yard. Reliable footwear including Gents glace kid derbys @ 13/6, gents calf balmorals @ 10/6, ladies oxford shoes @ 10/6, also ladies glace kid 2 button shoes @ 11/9, and girls horse skin button & lace boots, a good useful line for country wear

W. TAIT & CO advertise new spring goods, millinery/hose/ladies blouses

THOMAS HILL & SONS of Church St, have gents neckwear and vests - "stylishly cut"

MICHAEL WAKIM'S the Cheap Cash Store, has Drapery, Boots and Fancy goods for sale. Located in Market St, next to W H Lester the chemist.

FANCY GOODS

MRS DYKES of Exchange Corner, new shop a "model of elegance and taste". We are settled very snugly near a Bank

S. GREENTREE, Newsagent & Stationer of Church St.

DENTISTS

W. T. HATTERSLEY has new and well fitted rooms cnr Market/Lewis Sts, built by Stoddarts

M. McEWEN has up-to-date Dentistry in Market St, opposite Grady's Hotel

W. J. THOMAS advertises as "surgeon dentist"

T. S. MARKS has rooms in Church St, near Oddfellows Hall

F. H. MARKS will commence practice in Gulgong in August. (There seems a lot of dentists so I wonder if it was as hard to get to see them as it is today. Also if it was as expensive?)

CHEMISTS

Advertisements for **HEARNES BRONCHITIS CURE** in all Chemists

COUNCILS

CUDGEGONG COUNCIL met recently with Mayor E. Hughes and Aldermen Douglas Cox, Henry Cox, McDonald, Stones & Oram, they considered Rate income to date, of over 700 pounds with some arrears, a lot of heavy, horse drawn wagons on Cassilis Rd, a tender re repairs to road from Home Rule to Black Springs too high, a report called for. (Sound familiar?)

MUNICIPALITY of Mudgee has a notice from T J Lovejoy, Town Clerk, stating that any GOATS found wandering the streets will be destroyed.

SHOES AND BOOTS

A E THOMAS & CO of Market St advertise Footwear of distinction with up-to-date styles in gents & ladies shoes from 17/6, with maids shoes from 11/6. (Shoes seem to have been as expensive then as they are now)

HOTELS AND GUEST HOUSES

Mrs J. Fitzgerald of **PARK VIEW HOTEL** requires "a smart, respectable "General", young girl preferred". (Presumably a "general" was a household help. You wouldn't get away with that ad today)

PLUMBING & GAS FITTING

G. M. COADY of Lewis St. near Miss Caplin's store

T. HALL, Tinsmith & Gasfitter of Church St

F. FITTLER of Market St, Plumber and Gasfitter

CORDIALS

ALLAN CAMERON of Lewis St, has aerated & mineral water also Cordials for Sale. Country Orders promptly attended to

GREAT WESTERN CORDIAL & AERATED WATER FACTORY is in Market St West with **G. W. BECKTON** as manager. (These factories had drays that delivered to outlying districts some as far as Cassilis and Merriwa)

BAKERIES & REFRESHMENT ROOMS

McFARLANE BROS sell Golden West Flour.

H. SMITH of **ENTERPRISE BAKERY** in Church St. opposite the Convent, plus Refreshment Rooms.

OYSTER SALOON - formerly of Geo Gore and now in the hands of Mrs G. Rayner has moved to shop adjoining The Royal Hotel.

NICHOLSONS TEA ROOMS practices in Market St. and offers Fancy bread and Biscuits, Tea & Coffee.

SOLICITORS

J.A. BAMBER has office in Saunders Building in Church St. opp Grady's Hotel, visits near areas.

H.J. McPHERSON practices in Market St. formerly the business of Clarke & Son.

SADDLES & HARNESS

CENTRAL SADDLERY DEPOT in Church St. - **C.H. TOMKINS**.

LIVERY STABLES - Fitzpatrick at Waldron's Imperial Hotel.

RACE MEETINGS

MUDGEE AMATEUR TURF CLUB meeting at Racecourse 21st October, 1911. C. Underwood.

SPORT

Tenders called for fencing around the Tennis Courts in Victoria Park.

TENNIS - Results of Carwell v. Cudgong - with Pike/Jennings/Spratt names mentioned.

CRICKET - members of the Half-Holiday Cricket Association invited to attend meeting at Randall's Victoria Hotel.

INDUSTRIAL

FREEZING WORKS requires rabbits & poultry, with high prices given. Crates sent by rail to trappers if required.

BREWERY

FEDERAL BREWERY, MUDGEE - a competent brewer is employed by new owner Mr. Geo Young. Local beers now available.

COACH FACTORY

PREMIER COACH FACTORY in Mortimer St. - **BRANSCOMBE & HARTCHER**.

DAIRY COMPANY

C. CLARKE manager - gives hints to suppliers of CREAM - cleanliness essential, no flies in cream, do not mix warm cream

with cold cream, wet corn bag to be placed on top of cream container to prevent heat on the way to factory.

COUNTRY AREA NEWS

HARGRAVES - Business slack but the "Blue Spec" Mine has new machinery. Dredging is planned for the Meroo River at Maitland Bar.

Police target illegal liquor on goldfields.

MERRENDEE - D Endacott took 2nd honours in a Stallion Parade Recently. Mr. Barton, teacher at the Merrendee School has a Picnic planned for the 20th October, 1911. Telephone connection to Mudgee urgently required but no one wants to pay for the line. [Tell me the old, old story.]

WINDEYER - G. Byng arrested on charge of forgery involving On Got Store - before Windeyer Police Court.

MISCELLANEOUS

PIANO TUNERS/MUSIC - Fred Blackburn Piano Tuner of Perry St.

MRS CASIMIR - teaches music in the Presbyterian Hall.

SEWING MACHINE REPAIRS - C.J. KIRKNESS near Railway Station.

GUNSMITH - C.J. KIRKNESS

SETTINGS OF EGGS - T.H. Marsh next to Bryants Butchery in Market St.

ENTERTAINMENT

A packed house at the Town Hall for "Fasola", the Indian Fakir & Co. with the famous LION, "Wallace" exhibited on stage.

MR. H. K. GORDON on behalf of the British & Foreign on behalf of the British & Foreign Bible Society, is to deliver a lecture "The Neglected Continent" at the Methodist Church, Burrundulla on September 2th, 1911 at 8 pm.

SCHOOLS

A new school opened at MULLAMUDDY with a big crowd present. A new 30ft flagpole was adorned with a new flag. The pupils collected money to buy the new flag and presented it to teacher Mr. J.H. CLIFTON. MR. W.F. DUNN M.L.A. performed the Opening Ceremony with the pupils singing "Home our Home", Harley Doble recited "The Flag of Britain". People who assisted the proceedings included Paulings / Oldfields / Prince / Gawthorne / Page. A social was held in the evening with music by Honeysette / Oldfield & M. Pike on the accordion & E. Harris on the violin. The old school building will be repaired and used as a hall for Mullamuddy residents.

CITY ADVERTISEMENTS

MARCUS CLARK & CO. LTD. George St, Sydney for pianos. Catalogue free.

S.A. BASSER - Consulting OPTICIAN, Challis House, Sydney.

I hope you have enjoyed our trip into the past of the "Western Post" and I look forward to bringing you some more in the near future.

Cheers Liz Pratt.