

Some Early History of Hotels at the Adelong Crossing Place.



Geoff Burch
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Introduction.

This publication was designed primarily to determine what licensed hotels existed in the village originally known as the Adelong Crossing Place, but which is now called Tumblong. The intent was to record the location of each hotel, the name of all licensees, and the details of the early owners of the freeholds. Researching these topics, introduced me to other information about early Adelong Crossing, some of which has also been included. Photos and maps have been added to enhance the interest.

I accept responsibility for any errors or omissions and am always happy to receive amendments, comments or additional information.

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Some Early History of Hotels at the Adelong Crossing Place.

The Original Runs – Bangus, Tumblong & Willie Ploma.

The town that we now know as Tumblong was originally called the Adelong Crossing Place. This latter name is self explanatory, the location being the place where the traffic along the Great South Road crossed over the Adelong Creek. This crossing place was to the south of Gundagai, and not too far from the junction of the Adelong Creek with the Murrumbidgee River.

In the early days there were no bridges or formed roads, and crossing creeks or rivers was a major feat, especially during wetter periods.

One example occurred during the major floods in August 1851. The mailman had left Gundagai, heading west, and had reached the Adelong Creek, after sunset. He paused to consider whether to attempt a crossing at night, lit his cigar, and then plunged into the stream on horseback. The horse struck an object in the water, dragging the animal, and the rider, underwater. A bullock driver camped on the creek declared he could just determine the man's head and the lit cigar as the two were submerged. The head popped up soon afterwards, but, according to the bullock driver, "*by Jabers, the cigar was out.*" The rider and the horse were separated and both managed to get to shore – the rider on his own and the horse with the mail bags. The mailman swore he would never cross a swollen creek again at night.¹

It was not uncommon for bullock teams and other travelers to be delayed for extended periods, unable to cross the creek, during flooding events.

Whilst too much water created obstacles for travelers, the essential need for a water supply - for human consumption and for stock, crops and gardens – meant that such areas were prime real estate for the pioneering squatters.

The earliest inland settlements were always along the major rivers and creeks of the colony because of this need for a reliable water supply. These water courses, along with other natural features, were also commonly the boundaries of the large squatting runs established by the pioneers.

The Tarcutta Creek divided two large runs on the southern side of the Murrumbidgee River – Bangus and Willie Ploma. On the northern bank of the river, Kimo faced both of the aforementioned, with Nangus adjoining Kimo's western boundary and facing the western side of Bangus.

Many early settlements developed on both sides of the Murrumbidgee River, including Gundagai and Wagga Wagga, and likewise the Adelong Crossing Place straddled the Tarcutta Creek. Eventually, in all three of these examples, one side came to dominate, and for the Adelong Crossing Place it was to be on the western side of the creek.

¹ Goulburn Herald. 6th September 1851, p6.

Bangus

Robert Pitt Jenkins had established the Bangus run by 1839², or earlier. Jenkins was still in possession in 1848 when claims to leases *beyond the settled districts* were documented. At this time it was described as constituting an area of 25,000 acres.³

In October 1850 Robert Johnston contested Robert Pitt Jenkin's claim to parts of the Bangus run. From 1848 onwards, when squatters were required to provide a more accurate description of the boundaries of their respective claims, and it was common for those with a common boundary to lodge a claim and counter claim to part of each other's run.

In November 1850 his Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles A Fitz Roy, visited Gundagai when he dined and slept at Bangus, the residence of Robert Jenkins.⁴

Prior to the floods of 1852, the Bangus homestead was located further downstream, closer to the Murrumbidgee River, but the floods would have convinced Jenkins of the unsuitability of that site for a homestead.

In December 1852 it was reported that four parties were at work (digging for gold) at the Springs, Bangus, the squattage of Mr. Jenkins, J.P.⁵ No doubt the presence of these, and other prospectors, would have encouraged the establishment of the first hotel and store.

In September 1853 Mr. Mort offered, at auction, the Bangus run with 5,000 sheep.⁶

Improvements on the property included a superior dwelling house, a detached kitchen, a dairy and two stores, a coach house, stables & shed, a large stockyard, men's huts, a capital new wool shed and gardens. The dwelling house had only recently been erected at a cost of £700. It contained ten rooms including, "*drawing and dining rooms, each twenty by twelve feet, with folding doors leading into the hall; two bedrooms, twenty by ten feet; four rooms on the verandah, which is in front and rear of the house, and nine feet wide.*"

It was sated that the Port Phillip Road ran right through the run and that the location was an ideal location for a store or house of accommodation.⁷

By 1855 the run was owned by William Walker. Biographical details for Walker have been recorded by the Australian Dictionary of Biography as follows:⁸

"William Walker (1787-1854), merchant, was the second son of Archibald Walker, laird of Edenshead, Fife, Scotland, and his second wife, Isabel, daughter of the laird of Falfield. In 1803 he joined the London branch of a Scottish bank and after a few years joined Fairlie, Ferguson & Co., merchants, whose headquarters were at Calcutta. He was soon sent to Calcutta and in July 1813 went to Sydney in the Eliza as agent for his firm, with the immediate task of collecting debts owed to it by Robert Campbell. After his return to Calcutta he resigned from the firm and in March 1820 came back to Sydney in the Haldane. William Walker's eldest brother James, a half-pay naval officer, arrived in Sydney in September 1823. Walker had already formed William Walker & Co., with James and two

² Bingham Itineraries. State Records NSW.

³ Government Gazette. 1848, pp1351-1378.

⁴ Goulburn Herald. 23rd November 1850, p6.

⁵ Empire. 8th December 1852, p3.

⁶ Sydney Morning Herald. 23rd September 1853, p5.

⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 23rd September 1853, p8.

⁸ Australian Dictionary of Biography. Volume 2, (MUP), 1967. William Walker.

nephews, Thomas and Archibald Walker, who were in the colony, as shareholders. The firm had a wharf and warehouse at Dawes Point and engaged in coastal shipping and whaling. William received a grant of 1000 acres (405 ha) from Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1821 and in 1825 another 1000 (405 ha) from Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane at Lue, near Mudgee. James received 2000 acres (809 ha) at Wallerawang and settled there in 1824. In May 1826 William sailed in the Mangles for London. On his return to Australia in the Numain July 1828 he brought 160 Saxon merino ewes from Stettin. While in England he had applied for an increased grant as he now had capital of approximately £25,000 invested in the colony. He was given another 1000 acres (405 ha) and later obtained more land in the central district and at Twofold Bay. In February 1831 both brothers chartered the Forth and returned to London to establish the firm of Walker Bros. & Co., which during the late 1830s exported large quantities of wool to London. Their men moved stock to the upper Castlereagh River and squatted on several runs. David, William and Thomas Archer, sons of William Archer and Julia Walker, daughter of William's half-brother Archibald, had arrived at Wallerawang in 1834-38 and David Archer began managing the Walkers' properties. News of losses in the depression and drought brought William Walker to Australia again in 1843, but until he died on 8 July 1854 his permanent residence was in England. On 20 October 1828 in Sydney he had married Elizabeth Kirby; they had nine sons and two daughters. William Walker played an active part in public life during his long residence in New South Wales. He was a director of the Bank of New South Wales in 1820-24, a member of committees appointed to examine the bank's affairs in 1844 and 1845, and was on its first London board in 1853-54. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce and treasurer of the Agricultural Society, a strong supporter of the Scots Church and a subscriber to charitable institutions.”

Walker & Co., had a strong presence in the Riverina and leased many of the early squatting runs in the district. In addition, they traded in property, stock, grain, gold, and goods. They were a very influential firm in many facets of business.

The Jenkins family must still have had a connection with Bangus in 1856, as the wife of Frank Jenkins, Rebecca, passed away at Bangus on the 21st June in that year, after a long and painful affliction.⁹

Jenkins was still at Bangus in December 1856,¹⁰ but by February 1860 the run was controlled by Walker,¹¹ and in May 1862 the Bangus Run was still held by Thomas Walker.¹² Walker was still listed as the owner of the Bangus Run in October 1865,¹³ but by the end of the year William Bootes had assumed ownership.¹⁴

In April 1873, William Bootes snr, was granted government approval for the purchase of Bangus (improved lands).¹⁵

William Bootes was a prominent grazier and entrepreneur who amassed a small fortune. When he passed away in November 1906, at the age of eighty six,¹⁶ his estate was said to be valued at more than £150,000.¹⁷

⁹ SMH. 28th June 1856, p1.

¹⁰ NSW Government Gazette.1856, p3144.

¹¹ NSW Government Gazette.1860, p297.

¹² Empire, 12th May 1862, p6. / Government Gazette. 1862, p777.

¹³ Empire, 9th October 1865, p5.

¹⁴ NSW Government Gazette. 1865, p2572.

¹⁵ Empire. 9th April 1873, p3.

¹⁶ Sydney Stock & Station Journal. 30th November 1906, p6.

¹⁷ Gundagai Times. 30th November 1906, p2.

An obituary in the local press provides the following details:¹⁸

“The late Mr. Bootes was born at Northiam, Sussex, England, on March 25, 1820. The deceased had, in England, learnt the trade of a carpenter, and at the age of 18 decided to try his luck in Australia. His parents, being in poor circumstances, were unable to give him any assistance in making a start in life, and thus, when he set about crossing the ocean, he was entirely reliant upon his own resources. When his ship reached the Cape of Good Hope she was wrecked, and Mr. Bootes was obliged to remain at the Cape until an opportunity occurred to continue his voyage to Australia. While at Capetown he earned a few pounds at his trade as a carpenter, and from that moment he was never short of a pound. Arrived at Sydney, he followed his trade as a carpenter, and working at Picton, Campbeltown and Camden, being married in Sydney sixty years ago. The news of the discovery of gold induced Mr. Bootes to move towards Port Phillip. About 1849 he started from Sydney with a covered waggon, drawn by two horses. He was accompanied by his wife and two children. Arrived at Marulan, he found it necessary to sell one of his horses in order to purchase necessaries for the journey. When he reached Kyamba station, he met Mr. Smith, the owner, who questioned him about his journey, and finding he was a carpenter, offered him a job as timber splitter, which Mr. Bootes accepted. He also worked at Caribost station. After a while he took possession of the Kyamba hotel on commission, and as there was much traffic along the road in those days - people continually on the move to the goldfields - he cleared £500 in a couple of years. He then had a fair start in life. In May, 1852, he entered into possession of Mundarlo station, which then consisted of only two acres of freehold and a quantity of leasehold land. This was prior to the passage of the Act conveying free selection. He put up a hotel on the bank of the river, and also started in business as hotel-keeper, but before he had got comfortably settled, and before, the previous occupier of the property had moved away, the fatal and disastrous flood of June, 1852, occurred, and Mr. Bootes lost not only a number of stock, but nearly all his house-hold possessions. The ruins of the, old hotel, however, remained after the flood, but Mr. Bootes found it advisable to shift to higher ground, and to replace his lost stock. The deceased then built, doing the bulk of the work himself, what is known as Mundarlo House, which was set apart for hotel purposes, and which was afterwards occupied by the deceased as a residence for 54 years. He later on erected a building for the Mundarlo hotel, on the opposite side of the road, and when Mr. Bootes retired from hotel-keeping, his son-in-law, Mr. James Roberts, who still resides on Bangus holding, entered into possession of the hotel, which has now been closed for several years. When the now Land Act came into force in 1861, Mr. Bootes selected all the land he could at Mundarlo, eventually getting together 3000 acres there. In 1855, when Bangus was a vast run of 30,000 acres, Mr. Bootes bought a portion of Bangus from Mr. Thomas Walker. His area was limited, but when free selection came into force numerous selections were taken up on Bangus, the selectors, one by one, selling out to Mr. Bootes, until he got together one of the finest estates for its size in the State. Mundarlo now comprises 3,000 acres and Bangus 15,000 acres, the latter having a frontage of from ten to fifteen miles to the Murrumbidgee River, the land being remarkably fine for agricultural and fattening purposes. At the time of Mr. Bootes' death, nearly the whole of the estate had been made freehold, some leases having been only recently converted. The estate at present runs 23,000 sheep, and from 600 to 700 head of cattle. Mr. Bootes also owned considerable town property, including a hotel at Wagga, the Great Southern hotel and Centennial store, Gundagai, and residential property. Being also reputed. to have been worth a considerable sum in cash, the estate is thought to represent over £150,000, the 18,000 acres of land being alone worth about , £100,000. Of a

¹⁸ Gundagai Times. 30th November 1906, p2.

numerous family of sons and I daughters, only four children survive, viz., Mr. W. S. Bootes, Northiam; Mrs. B. B. Davison, late of Illawong, Jugiong; Mrs. Johnson, of Campbelltown; and Mrs. Adams, of Junee, all of whom, besides many grand-children and other relatives, were at Mundarlo for the funeral. Mr. Bootes lost his wife 27 years ago. Her remains were interred in the cemetery, only a few yards from Mundarlo House, where those of the late Mr. Bootes were also laid to rest on Wednesday afternoon, in the, presence of a largo .number of sympathising friends from the whole district, including many, old Gundagai friends, despite the inclement weather. Prior to the interment, the remains were taken to the Mundarlo Church, where a service was held. The service at the grave was read by the Rev. Mr. Elliott, of Adelong (Anglican).”

Another report stated that Bootes had been responsible for building a number of bridges in the Gundagai & Wagga Wagga districts, back in the old days.¹⁹

Bootes bequeathed Bangus to his son, Mr. WS Bootes, and the Mundarlo run to his daughter, Mrs. LJ Johnson.²⁰

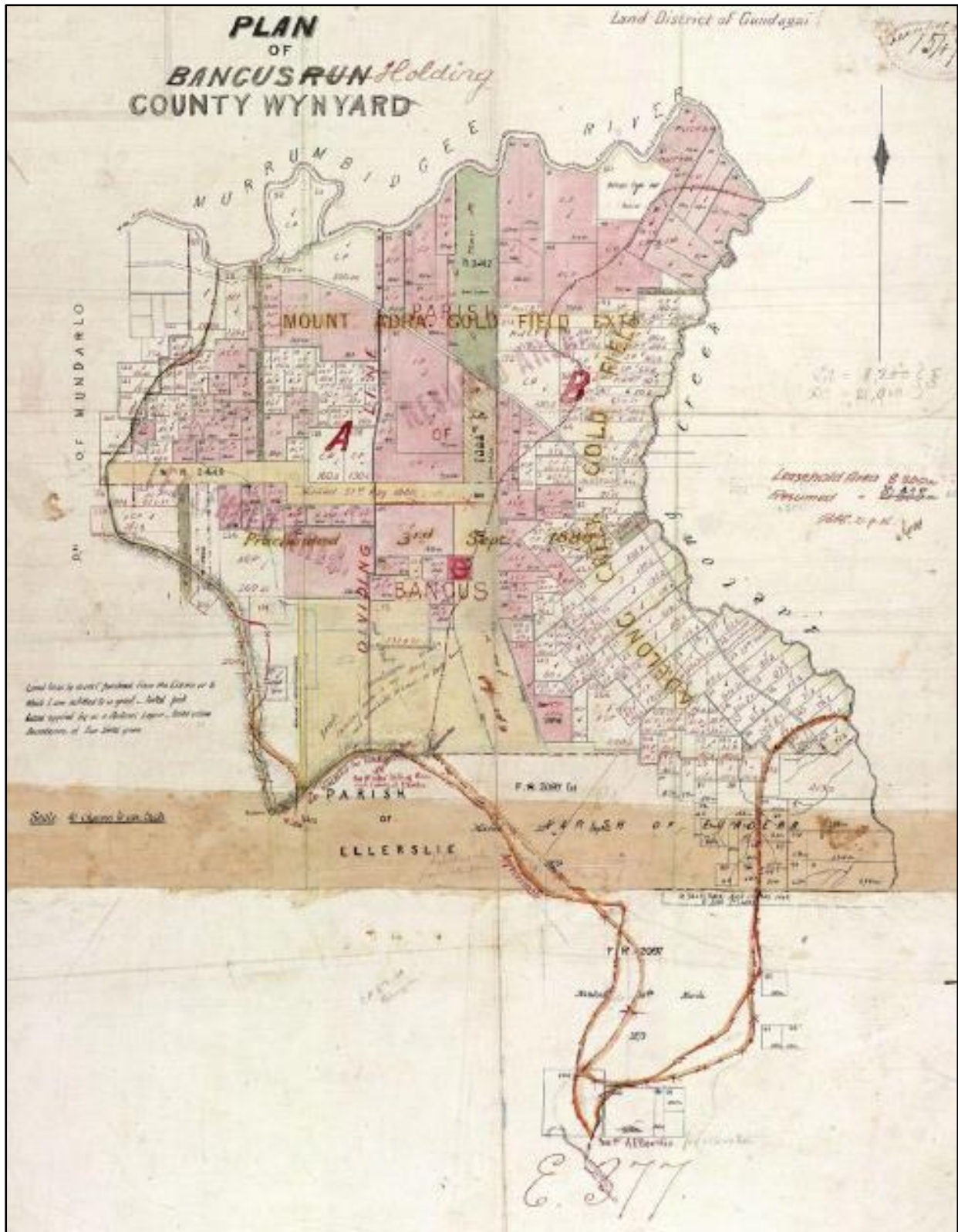
Parts of Bangus were up for selection in 1903,²¹ and there was the further sale of a major subdivision in 1909,²² which led to the breaking up of the run.

¹⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4th December 1906, p2.

²⁰ Gundagai Independent. 5th December 1906, p2.

²¹ Gundagai Independent. 24th October 1903, p3. & 5th September 1903, p3.

²² Maitland Weekly Mercury. 10th April 1909, p4.



Above: Map showing the lots that made up the Bangus Run, before it was split up. Courtesy NSW Land & Property Information.

Tumblong

James Gormly claimed that William Stuckey settled Willie Ploma in 1829 and that William's brother, Henry settled next to him.²³ Henry originally managed Willie Ploma for his brother, but at some time took up Tumblong. In 1839 Bingham listed Henry Stuckey at Toombalong.²⁴

On the 2nd November 1839, Henry Bingham departed from his head quarters at Tumut and travelled along the south bank of the Murrumbidgee, his first stop being Toombalong which he described as being 25 miles from his headquarters. The 1838 government gazette lists Henry Stuckey as occupying a run in the southern districts but does not provide the name of the run.²⁵ It was almost certainly Tumblong, and he may well have been settled there even earlier.

In 1848 Tumblong was still in the possession of Henry Stuckey and consisted of some 20,000 acres.²⁶ The Tumblong run was surrounded by Willie Ploma to the north, Bangus to the west (with the Adelong Creek forming the common boundary), Mr Tooth's run (Tarrabandra?) to the east (with the Big Ben Creek forming the boundary), and to the south by Mr Johnson's Adelong Run.

In March 1849 Peter Stuckey senior contested Henry Stuckey's claim for the Tumblong run.²⁷

In November 1859 the government gave notice that if the rent due was not paid within sixty days then Henry Stuckey would forfeit the Tumblong run.²⁸ The amount owed was £10, and it seems Henry paid the outstanding fees as he was still living at "*Tombolong*" (sic) in August 1869 when he passed away on the 12th of that month, at the age of seventy three years.²⁹ There were still references to the, "*Tumbalong flats, adjoining Willie Ploma,*" as late as December 1908, but it is not known when Tumbalong ceased to exist as a separate run.³⁰

Willie Ploma

James Gormly stated that Peter Stuckey had settled at Willie Ploma in 1829,³¹ but this is contradicted by evidence given in 1857, when Peter Stuckey stated that he had settled the run in 1835. He further testified that he had placed his brother, Henry, in charge of the run. The arrangement, according to Peter, was that his brother could keep his cattle and horses on the run until such time as he had sufficient stock to form his own station. About 1845 Peter visited the station and finding that Henry had built up considerable personal stock, Peter told Henry to move his stock onto his own station. Henry apparently had no desire to move, and a year later Peter returned and again demanded that Henry move on. Despite years of persistent effort Henry was still there in 1857, at which time Peter took Henry to court. The court found that Henry had "*trespassed*" on his brother's property and awarded damages to the value of £200. Henry had counter charged that Peter had allowed his stock to trespass on to his run,

²³ Sydney Morning Herald. 25th July 1906, p4.

²⁴ Bingham Itineraries. State Records NSW.

²⁵ Government Gazette. 1838, p403.

²⁶ Government Gazette. 1848, pp1351-1378.

²⁷ SMH. 10th March 1849, p2.

²⁸ Empire. 15th November 1859, p8.

²⁹ Gundagai Times. 14th August 1869, p2.

³⁰ Gundagai Times. 15th December 1908, p2.

³¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st July 1906, p4.

Tumbolong, and the jury found in his favour awarding damages of £30.³²

In 1848 Willie Ploma was declared to consist of some 60,000 acres and was leased by Peter Stuckey.³³ In March 1849 Henry Stuckey contested Peter Stuckey senior's claim for Tumbolong run.³⁴

In 1861 Peter transferred the title to Anne Stuckey,³⁵ who held the property up until July 1863 when she passed away, at the age of sixty two..³⁶ Henry passed away in August 1869, aged seventy three years,³⁷ whilst his second wife Mary (nee Pyle) had passed away in June 1869, aged fifty one years.³⁸

In 1898 the Willie Ploma Estate was leased to Mr. AB Triggs, of Yass, at an annual rental of £700. At that time the property consisted of 1,423 acres freehold land and 1,748 acres of conditional purchase land.³⁹

Willie Ploma was broken up in 1907 when the estate of 3,200 acres was split into 17 blocks. The property had been owned by the estate of Williams for some time, until, when Mr. James Gibb, an ex-MP of Victoria, purchased the property and chose to subdivide it.⁴⁰ The former lessee, Mr. AB Triggs purchased some 80% of the blocks offered, for a total outlay of £22,000.⁴¹

A further sale in 1920 saw 2,300 acres offered for sale, in blocks ranging from sixty to six hundred acres.⁴²

In December 1927 the homestead, an old wooden house, was burnt to the ground. The homestead block had just been transferred from Mr. Jamieson to Mr. MacDonald.⁴³

³² Empire. 12th October 1857, p3.

³³ Government Gazette. 1848, pp1351-1378.

³⁴ SMH. 10th March 1849, p2.

³⁵ Government Gazette. 1861, p1711.

³⁶ Government Gazette. 1865, p2437. / Sydney Morning Herald. 10th July 1863, p1.

³⁷ Gundagai Times. 14th August 1869, p2.

³⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 16th June 1869, p10.

³⁹ Gundagai Independent. 28th September 1898, p2.

⁴⁰ Sydney Morning Herald. 20th June 1907, p5.

⁴¹ Gundagai Times. 21st June 1907, p2.

⁴² Gundagai Times. 19th November 1920, p2.

⁴³ Gundagai Times. 20th December 1927, p2.



Above: Map showing the lots that made up the Willie Ploma Run, before it was split up. Courtesy NSW Land & Property Information.

The Hotels.

The Adelong Inn

The Adelong Inn (sic) was the first licensed hotel at the Adelong Crossing Place. The building was located on portion 112, parish of Willie Ploma, which was originally purchased by Peter Stuckey in about November 1854.⁴⁴ The property consisted of some 163 acres with a frontage to the Adelong Creek on its western boundary.

The first licensee was William Nixon in 1853,⁴⁵ who held the license up until 1858 when Nixon was convicted of deserting his hotel.⁴⁶ In 1856 Nixon testified in court that he lived and operated a hotel at Tumbarumba and indicated that his wife was managing the hotel at the Adelong Crossing Place.⁴⁷

Thomas Boon had been working for Nixon, as a barman, since January 1858, and he subsequently applied for the license of the hotel in May, but his application was refused twice – once in May 1858 and again in September 1858. In October 1858 Thomas was advertising the Adelong Inn for sale.⁴⁸

In November 1858 Boon was charged with illegally selling spirits on a Sunday, in an unlicensed house near the Adelong Crossing Place. Despite the evidence of two constables the case was dismissed, and spirits to the value of some £500 to £700 were returned to Boon⁴⁹.

A further, third application, for the license, in April 1859 was also refused.⁵⁰

In 1860 the hotel was licensed to Nathaniel Boon, who changed the name to the Travellers' Rest.⁵¹ The license was renewed in 1861, but by 1865 it was no longer licensed.⁵²

In 1860 it was advertised that the Royal Mail booking office had moved from the Home Hotel to Boon's Travellers' Rest Hotel⁵³. The license appears not to have been renewed in 1862, and never re-opened.

Daniel Boon's Escapades.

In April 1861 the Gundagai Bench issued a summons for the arrest of Daniel Boon. The latter had failed to attend court on a charge of assault and battery on Edward Williams.⁵⁴ It appears the two men settled outside of court and the matter was dropped. It was reported that Daniel Boon, "*having put an enemy into his mouth, that stole away his brains, created quite a sensation in the establishment of Mr Williams [the Home hotel] by indulging his combative propensities, and putting everything and everybody into disorder.*" Edward Williams earned himself a beautiful black eye when he tried to subdue Boon.⁵⁵

The conflict continued in July 1861 when William Williams issued a warrant for the arrest of Daniel Boon, charging him with assault and battery.⁵⁶ It was stated that on the 18th July Boon

⁴⁴ State Records. Crown plan M.23.1457.

⁴⁵ Government Gazette. 1853, p1161.

⁴⁶ Gundagai Bench Book. April 1858.

⁴⁷ Goulburn Herald. 18th October 1856, p6.

⁴⁸ Gundagai Bench Book. April 1858.

⁴⁹ Adelong Mining Journal. 13th November 1858, p3c2. Gundagai Bench Book 18th November 1858.

⁵⁰ Gundagai Bench Book. May 1859.

⁵¹ Government Gazette. 1860, p182

⁵² Gundagai Bench Book. April 1861, May 1862.

⁵³ Wynyard Times. 20th November 1860, p6c1.

⁵⁴ Gundagai Bench Books.

⁵⁵ Wynyard Times. 12th April 1861, p2c4.

⁵⁶ Gundagai Bench Book. 19th July 1861.

The Bangus Inn

When the “great flood” of 1852 struck Gundagai, Bangus station, which was situated some 7 miles south from North Gundagai, was owned by Mr Robert Pitt Jenkins. His manager wrote to Jenkins detailing the damage to his property, and the losses in his stock⁶¹. He noted that:

“From the fright my wife and children got they will not return again to your house. It will take a great many men to repair your fences and clean your house out, and there is not a man to be had here as a hired servant. There are a great many cattle and horses lost. I am going to-day in search of a few pounds of flour, and God only knows where I am to get it, as all the stores at Gundagai are washed away. I hope to be able to get a few pounds of flour for your shepherds, as there is no beef to be had, and we shall have to kill a few sheep until you come up. I shall send my family away from here in a few days...”

Gormly stated that Jenkins subsequently built a new residence⁶², and it was this new residence that Jenkins advertised for sale in the following year (1853), along with the run and 5,000 sheep.

There were also a number of improvements to the property, which included the following:

- Detached kitchen
- Dairy and two stores
- Coach house
- Stables and shed
- Large stockyard
- Men's huts
- Capital new wool shed
- Garden.

The advertisement gave the following descriptions:⁶³

“The dwelling house is of recent erection, and cost £700 in the cheap times, and is a very superior building, one which could not be put up for double the money! It contains 10 rooms, viz., drawing and dining rooms, each 20 by 12 feet, with folding doors leading into the hall ; 2 bedrooms, 20 by 10 feet ; 4 rooms on the verandah, which is in front and rear of the house, and 9 feet wide.”

“It may be remarked that in the event of the purchaser not requiring a residence on the station, he may let the house to great advantage to any party desirous of carrying on the business of an innkeeper.

Mr Mort, in calling attention to this valuable pastoral property, would simply remark that it would be impossible to say too much in praise either of the station, or sheep, they are, in fact, first-rate, and beyond exaggeration.

It will be obvious to all that its local position, midway between the metropolitan cities of this and the sister colony, rendering it thereby extremely suitable for a depot for cattle or sheep for sale at Melbourne; its large grazing capabilities either for sheep or cattle; its being so well watered on every side; the superior character and convenience of the house, which is admirably adapted for a family of the first respectability, combine to give this property a prestige not possessed by any other at present in the market; and it may be

⁶¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 8th July 1852, p2.

⁶² Gormly Indexes – Adelong Crossing sheet.

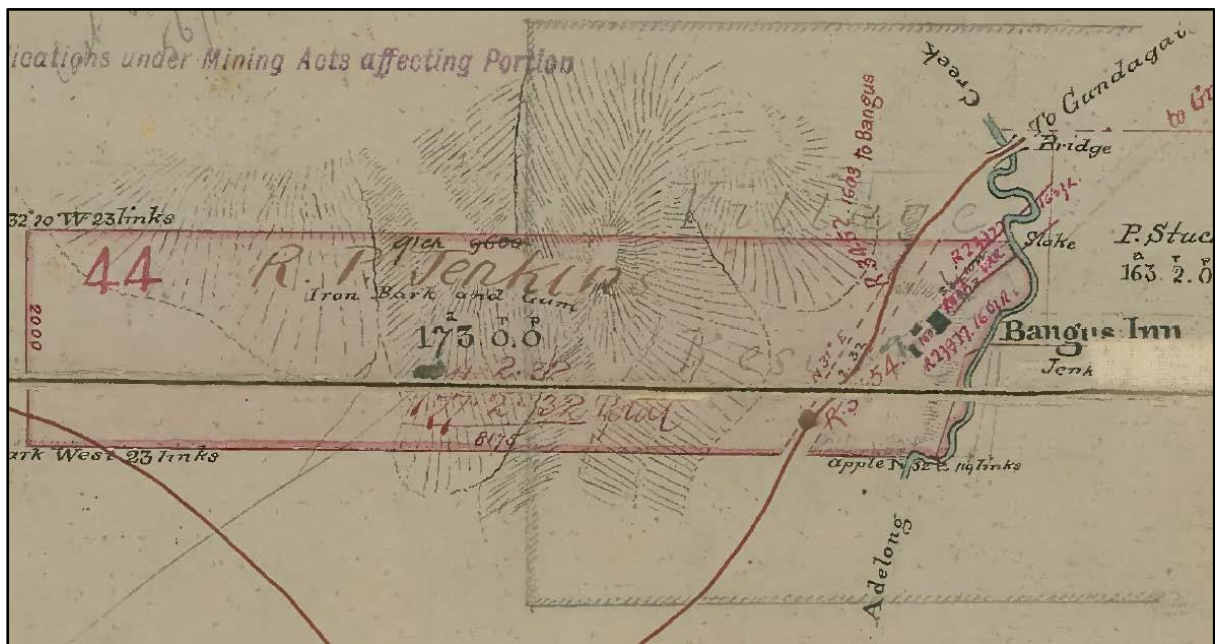
⁶³ Sydney Morning Herald. 19th May 1853, p4.

suggested that a similar opportunity to become the purchaser of so estimable a run may not soon recur.”

THE BANGUS INN,
Port Phillip Road.
JOHN LOVETT (late of Bland) begs to announce to overland travellers, and the public in general, that he has opened those admirable premises on
ADELONG CREEK,
situate about eight miles on the south side of Gundagai, and late the residence of R. F. Jenkins, Esq., J.P., as a first-rate Inn, and trusts, by strict attention to business, to merit the patronage of all who favour him with a call. The house is very commodious, and furnished in a style unsurpassed by any other inn on the road.
The Wines, Spirits, Malt Lignors, &c., have been selected by a thorough connoisseur, and can confidently be recommended as pure and unadulterated.
The larder will be stored with the best of viands, and attention to the table will be unremitting.
The stables are spacious; and a first-rate hostler having been engaged, gentlemen travellers will meet with, at this branch of the establishment, all the care for their horses that they can possibly desire.
In conclusion, John Lovett purposes to make the Bangus Inn second to none on the road, and by so doing, anticipates the patronage of all who come his way.

Jenkins would have been annoyed when two months later, in July 1853, another flood swept away the stables and huts, and forced the inhabitants to retreat to higher ground. Fortunately for Jenkins the house withstood the event.⁶⁴ At the time the station was being managed by a Mr Kelly who confirmed that “the whole of the detached huts, stables, etc., with the exception of the house and store”, had been washed away, and that the residents had fled to the ranges for safety, as had those of Bootes’ Mundarlo Inn, with one exception. A cook at the inn at Mundarlo had refused to leave and was drowned.⁶⁵ The Goulburn Herald later reported that the claims about Jenkins’s property were incorrect and that no huts had been washed away and that the house, kitchen, and offices were not damaged.⁶⁶

Left: Advertisement for Bangus Inn (September 1854).⁶⁷



Above: Extract from early crown plan (M.22.1457) showing location of the Bangus Inn on portion 44. Courtesy NSW Land & Property Information.

Jenkins was still advertising the property, through Mort & Co, in September 1853⁶⁸, but must

⁶⁴ Empire. 26th July 1853, p2.

⁶⁵ Bell’s Life in Sydney. 30th July 1853, p1.

⁶⁶ Goulburn Herald. 6th August 1853, p2.

⁶⁷ Goulburn Herald. 2nd September 1854, p2.

⁶⁸ SMH. 4th August 1854, p8.

have had trouble completing a sale as it continued to be advertised, on and off, for some time. It appears that Jenkins eventually leased the house to John Levett who became the first licensee of the Bangus Inn by July 1854.⁶⁹

Levett advertised the premises as being situated on the Adelong Creek, about eight miles south of Gundagai, they being the former residence of R. P. Jenkins, Esq., J.P. He described the stables as “*capacious*”.

Mort & Co. again advertised the run for sale in July 1854⁷⁰, minus the Inn (former residence), but including:

- A good cottage for an Overseer
- Men's huts
- An excellent woolshed
- Stock yard
- Paddock under wild oats
- 4,200 sheep

By January 1855 gold mining on the Adelong Creek and surrounding areas was proving very successful and starting to attract larger numbers of miners. The numbers at that time were still only two or three hundred men, but results were good. Levett, alone, had purchased some 1,200 ounces of gold dust in a four month period.⁷¹

In August 1855 Solomon Emanuel and John Levett gave notice that their partnership in the business carried on at Bangus for some time past, and known as Emanuel & Co, was dissolved.⁷²

In March 1856 Jenkins put the inn on the market, along with two acres of land, which fronted the main road and the creek. It was described as “*the best house between Yass and Melbourne*”, having ten commodious rooms and a ten foot wide verandah, front & back, and was let at £200 p.a. No doubt Jenkins hoped the local mining boom would help secure a profitable sale.

Levett (often listed as Lovett, or Levitt) held the hotel license up until 1857. Levett applied for a renewal in April 1857, but the licensing bench declined the renewal until such time as it was “*put in a better state of repair*”.

This poor “*state of repair*” was not reflected earlier, in February 1857, when an advertisement for the property appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald as follows⁷³:

“*THE BANGUS INN AND STORE, together with about 173 ACRES OF FIRST-RATE AGRICULTURAL LAND, situate on the ADELONG CREEK, on the high road to VICTORIA, THE ADELONG, TUMUT, and OVENS DIGGINGS, and now yielding an ANNUAL RENTAL OF £200. TITLE.-Grant, by purchase, direct from the Crown. TERMS at Sale, MORT and CO. have been instructed to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, at 11 o'clock, on TUESDAY, 24th March, That most profitable road side property known as THE BANGUS INN AND STORE, situate on the Adelong Creek, on the GREAT SOUTH ROAD, as well as the road leading to the several diggings on the Adelong, Tumut, and Ovens.*”

⁶⁹ Goulburn Herald. 8th July 1854, p1.

⁷⁰ Empire. 22nd July 1854, p7.

⁷¹ Goulburn Herald. 13th January 1855, p2.

⁷² Government Gazette. 1855, p2289.

⁷³ Sydney Morning Herald. 28th February 1857, p7c6.

THE BANGUS INN is a substantial wooden building, erected of colonial hardwood sawn timber, tongued, grooved, and planed ; and contains 10 ROOMS, with DETACHED KITCHEN, good STABLING, &c.

THE STORE adjoins the Inn, and commands a good business. With the above will be included 173 ACRES of first-rate agricultural land, being the land purchased by the present vendor as his pre-emptive right, and therefore a VERY CHOICE SELECTION.

The above property occupies a most excellent position for business, perhaps UNEQUALLED AS A STAND FOR AN INN AND STORE by any other on the Southern Road. By a judicious disposal of the land, the value of the property might be very materially increased; and from this source the purchaser might at ONCE REALISE A HANDSOME RETURN ON HIS OUTLAY."

FRIDAY, 11TH APRIL

THE "BANGUS INN,"
ADELONG CREEK,
NOW IN FULL TRADE,
SITUATE ON THE
HIGH ROAD TO PORT PHILLIP,
Universally admitted to be the best House between
Yass and Melbourne.

P. DIGNAM & CO.

Have been favoured with instructions from H. P. JACKSON, Esq., to submit to public competition, for Sale or Lease,

ON FRIDAY, 11TH APRIL,
 At 11 o'clock,

THE "BANGUS INN," situate at the ADELONG CREEK, on the Great Northern Road,

TOGETHER WITH

Two Acres of Land Fronting the High Road and the Creek.

The HOUSE contains ten commodious Rooms, with an excellent Verandah at back and front, 10 feet wide. This now lets at an annual rental of £200, is doing an excellent trade, and represents about the

SAFEST INVESTMENT

in the market.

The Property is distant only seven miles from the Digging, and from this source alone a constant and remunerative trade may be relied on, independent of the usual business that its commanding position secures.

☞ This noble Property offers for itself The Auctioneers, therefore, agreeing with the Post about "beauty unadorned; &c.," prefer leaving it in the hands of the public, with the few concise particulars given above.

Intending purchasers are requested to attend punctually at the stated time.

TITLE—BEYOND A DOUBT.
TERMS LIBERAL AT BALK.

Left: Advertisement for Bangus Inn (March 1856).⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Goulburn Herald. 29th March 1856, p5.

The Home Hotel

The Bangus Inn was purchased by Roche & Maloney prior to August 1857, for the sum of £1,000, being situated on two acres of land that fronted both the Adelong Creek and the Port Phillip Road⁷⁵. Roach was granted a license in December 1857 subject to the condition that he put the house in order by the 1st January 1858.⁷⁶ The hotel was now called the Home hotel.

In 1858 the hotel was licensed to Lawrence Roach, as the Home Hotel⁷⁷, and in 1859 the license was transferred to a George Mortimer⁷⁸.

The Home Hotel was advertised for private sale in January 1859, and described as follows: *“The hotel is substantially built, and contains thirteen well finished rooms, out-houses, kitchen, and servants’ room; five-stall stable, coach-house, piggeries, stockyard, well-stocked garden, etc. The whole occupying a space of four acres, securely fenced in.”*⁷⁹

The advertisement continued, extolling the potential of the property for investors with the following description:

“The hotel is now doing a rapidly increasing trade, and being situated on the main road to Melbourne and Wagga Wagga, and so near to the Adelong Diggings and Tumut, the position it must be allowed for business purposes is undeniable. The alluvial diggings on the creek, approaching every day nearer to this spot, will render it ere long the centre of public attraction. It is a well known fact that all parties are doing well on the creek.....The growing importance of the place is evident....and thus as a speculation, [must] turn out most remunerative.”

In April 1861 it was reported that William Williams had purchased the Union Store at Adelong and that it was his intention to relocate the building, and business, to the Adelong Crossing Place⁸⁰. It was in the same year that the license for the Home hotel was transferred to Williams,⁸¹ who subsequently transferred it to Edward Charles Williams in 1862.⁸² By the end of that year the latter had sold out to Mr R. J. Paul, who proposed opening a store as well as running the hotel⁸³.

A newspaper report in December 1863 described the improvements implemented by Paul:

*“It would be well for travellers on our highways, if such places as the Home Hotel, and the ‘main road southern stores’, at the Adelong Crossing Place, were oftener to be seen. From a rough & neglected bush inn, the present proprietor has transformed the hotel into an abode so tasteful and cheerful that the eye of the wayfarer.....brightens as he surveys the trim garden and cool inviting verandah, or notes the well appointed yard & stabling, and the general air of elegance & comfort which pervades the whole establishment.Mr J.R. Paul has indeed worked wonders by a liberal expenditure of capital, and the exercise of taste and judgement. A range of stone buildings has been added to the hotel, containing a large & commodious store, amply supplied with a well selected stock.....”*⁸⁴

⁷⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 21st July 1857, p5.

⁷⁶ Gundagai Bench Book. December 1857.

⁷⁷ Gundagai Bench Book. 8th December 1857.

⁷⁸ Gundagai Bench Book. 6th September 1859.

⁷⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 29th January 1859, p3.

⁸⁰ Wynyard Times. 26th April 1861, p2c4.

⁸¹ Gundagai Bench Book. April 1861.

⁸² Gundagai Bench Book. May 1862.

⁸³ Wynyard Times. 12th December 1862, p3c2.

⁸⁴ Wynyard Times. 31st December 1863, p2c2.

Paul still in hotel in December 1864⁸⁵, but by 1865 the license had been transferred to John De Faye, and continued to be licensed under the sign of the Home Hotel up until 1872⁸⁶. Other licensees during this period were: Charles C Sparrow, 1867-1868; William Thomas Wooley, 1868-1869;⁸⁷ John Carter, 1869-1871;⁸⁸ and E William Nichols, 1871-1872.⁸⁹

The property was held by the estate of Jenkins in 1871 when it was again advertised for sale, with the following description⁹⁰:

“For positive sale...a splendid parcel of land at Bangus, Adelong Creek, partially fenced in, and in contiguity with the Adelong or Bangus Inn...the property of the late Robert Pitt Jenkins...173 acres at Bangus, commencing on the left bank of the Adelong Creek at a point bearing east 44 degrees, 10 minutes north, and distant 9 chs and 13 lks from the nth cnr of the Bangus Inn, and bounded thence on the nth by a line bearing west 91 chs; on the west by a line bearing sth 20chs; on the sth by a line bearing east 81 chs and 75 lks to Adelong Creek; and on the east by that creek downwards, dividing it in part from P.Stuckey's 163 acres 2 roods, to the point of commencement aforesaid - exclusive of the Sydney and Melbourne road 2 chains wide, passing through this land, and bearing nth 31 degrees east...”

The license of the Home Hotel lapsed in 1873, following the purchase of the property by “Charcoal” Williams.

Williams died on the 28th September 1902 and left the property to his daughter, Caroline Lawson, the wife of William Lawson.⁹¹

Subsequent owners of the freehold were as follows,

1925, 15th December – Caroline Mary Lawson, of Tumblong (wife of William Lawson, blacksmith of Queensland), conveys portion forty four to her daughter, Elithea May Worner for the sum of 10 shillings.⁹²

1951, 9th March – Elithea May Worner, widow, of Marrackville, conveys portion forty four to her son, Leslie Claude Worner, State Bank Officer, for the sum of 10 shillings.⁹³

1979, 17th June – Death of Leslie Claude Worner, retired bank officer, of Haberfield.

1980, 18th June - Gladys Istoral Worner, widow of 66 O’Connor Street, Haberfield, NSW, and Ian Claude Worner, State Investment Manager, of 172 Grosvener Street, Wahroonga, acting as executors in the estate of Leslie Claude Worner, convey the title to the wife of the deceased, Gladys Istoral Worner.⁹⁴

On the 13th April 1987, Gladys Istoral Worner, a widow of 2/10 Victoria Street, Roseville,

⁸⁵ Wynyard Times. 31st December 1863, p2c2.

⁸⁶ Government Gazette. 1865 – Publicans Licenses records.

⁸⁷ Government Gazette. 1868, p2875./ Gundagai Times. 4th July 1868, p2.

⁸⁸ Government Gazette. 1869, p2007 & 1870, p1927.

⁸⁹ Government Gazette. 1871, p2352, & 1872, p2412.

⁹⁰ Gundagai Times. 18th November 1871.

⁹¹ NSW Land & Property Information. Mortgage deed. Book 796, number 13.

⁹² NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Book 1415, number 53.

⁹³ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Book 2165, number 328.

⁹⁴ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Book 3421, number 376.

NSW, transferred the freehold of portion forty four to William Edward Jamieson, of 145 Starkey Street, Killarney Heights, NSW, for the sum of \$95,000.⁹⁵ The land contained 173 acres. The title deed confirmed that the Bangus Inn was located within this portion.

Current title > DP.3.743094 > CA.19212

See crown plan M.22.1457

Coach & Horses Hotel

The license of the Home Hotel lapsed in 1873, following the purchase of the property by “Charcoal” Williams. Williams had built a new hotel, the Coach & Horses, at a different location⁹⁶, and the old hotel became his private residence. Presumably, the purchase and demise of the old hotel would have eliminated competition, and may also have ensured that Williams was granted a license for his new hotel. Williams had recently struck good fortune at Adelong⁹⁷ and was investing heavily at the Adelong Crossing - in addition to the new hotel he was also erecting a new flour mill. The first licensee of the new hotel was John Tillitt,⁹⁸ the brother in law of the owner, Mrs. Lawson, in 1873. Mrs Lawson had purchased the property from Mrs Tillit, and although described as a new hotel it seems it was a remodeled building that had previously served as a store and post office.⁹⁹

Tillitt held the license up until 1878 when it was transferred to John Ling Small.¹⁰⁰ Other licensees were as follows: 1879-1881, Edward Perkins; 1881-1883, Benjamin Beaver; 1883-1887, William Egan Jnr; 1887-1889, Anne McCutcheon; 1889-1891, Frederick Givney; 1891-1894, John A Perkins; 1894-1895, Mary A Blakeney; 1895-1897, Morgan Power; 1897-1902, Joseph Crowe; 1902-1906, Waldo H Sibthorpe.¹⁰¹

The Coach & Horses hotel was located on portion 8, which was originally purchased by William Edwards from the crown in August 1860, for the sum of £110.¹⁰² It may have extended onto portion 44, as it lay on the common boundary between these two portions.

On Saturday the 24th February 1906 the Coach & Horses hotel was burnt to the ground. Mrs. Lawson subsequently erected a substantial new hotel within a few yards of the old building. At that time the alluvial mining extended all along the Adelong Creek, from Adelong to within a few hundred yards of the old Home Hotel at the Adelong Crossing Place¹⁰³. The Coach & Horses Hotel was continuously licensed up until 1905,¹⁰⁴ when Sibthorpe was served notice that the renewal of his license would be opposed on the grounds that the building was, “*in a ruinous and dilapidated condition.*” Sibthorpe spoke with the owner who subsequently agreed to build a new hotel, which, according to Sibthorpe’s testimony, lay forty yards from the old hotel.¹⁰⁵

⁹⁵ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Book 3698, number 171.

⁹⁶ Australian Town & Country Journal. 19th July 1873, p7.

⁹⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 12th December 1872, p6.

⁹⁸ Gundagai Times. 12th July 1873, p2.

⁹⁹ State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1863-1881.

¹⁰⁰ Government Gazette. 1878, p3446.

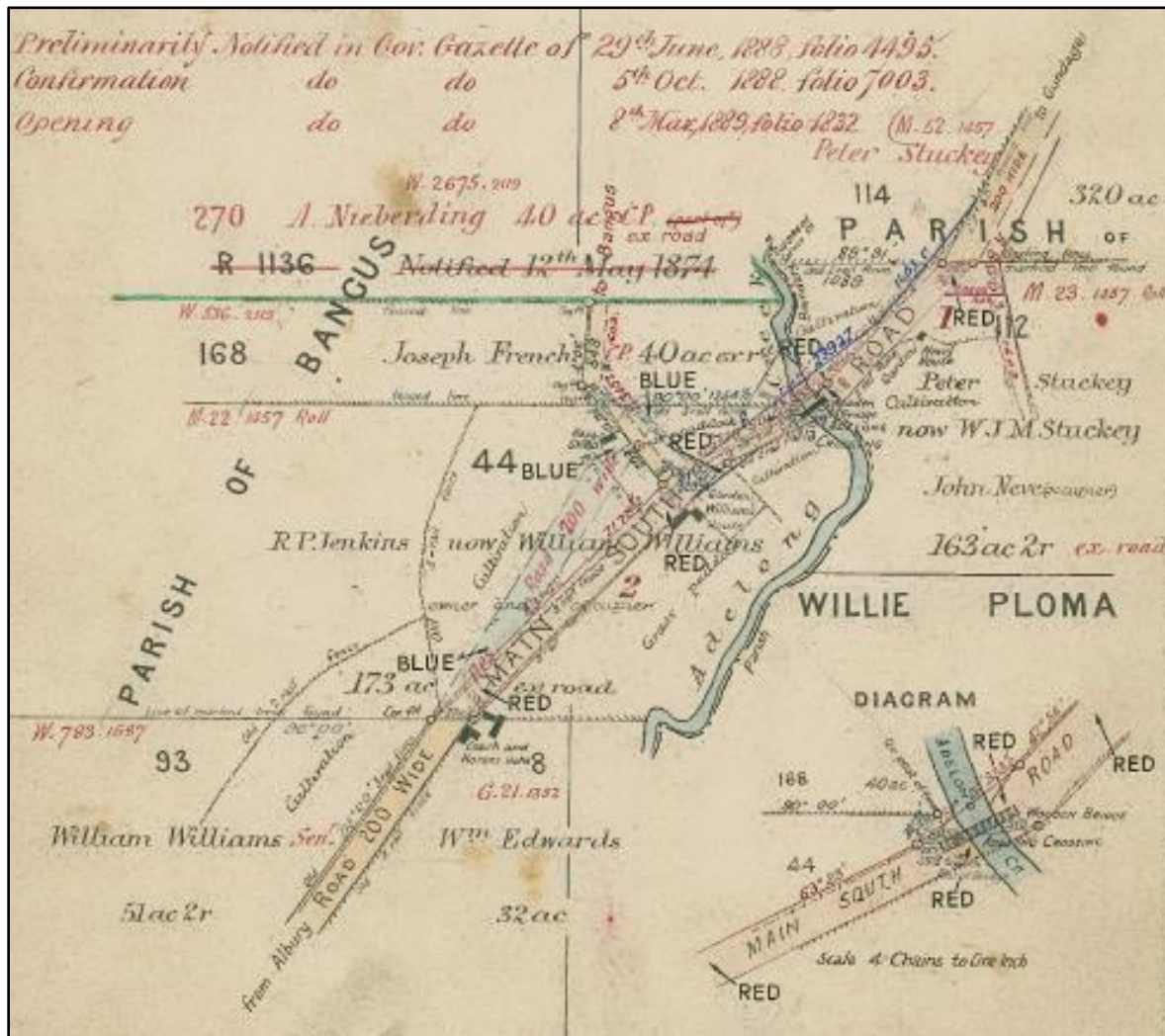
¹⁰¹ Government Gazettes. 1879 through 1906.

¹⁰² State Records. Primary Application PA.2325

¹⁰³ Australian Town & Country Journal. 8th June 1872, p16.

¹⁰⁴ Government Gazette. 1865 – Publicans Licenses records.

¹⁰⁵ Gundagai Independent. 3rd March 1906, p2.



Above: Extract from crown plan (R.3454.1603) showing location of the Coach & Horses hotel.. Courtesy NSW Land & Property Information.

Portion eight, parish of Willie Ploma, was originally purchased by William Edwards on the 7th August 1860. The thirty two acre portion cost one hundred and ten pounds. Edwards converted the title to Torrens title on the 20th April 1869.¹⁰⁶ The new title was Vol.86, fol.98 and the property was now in the name of Charles Christian Sparrow, a farmer of the Adelong Crossing Place.

Sparrow sold to William Menlove on the 19th October 1870.¹⁰⁷ William Williams, senior, became the new owner on the 5th August 1872.¹⁰⁸

On the 3rd May 1905, Williams' daughter, Caroline Lawson, became the legal owner of the land.¹⁰⁹ The title deed is confusing because it records that Caroline sold the property to her sister, Eliza Tillet, the wife of John Tillet of Adelong, on the 24th July 1903, but the

¹⁰⁶ State Records. Primary Application. PA.2325.

¹⁰⁷ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 108, folio 230.

¹⁰⁸ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 108, folio 230.

¹⁰⁹ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 146, folio 129.

transaction was not registered until the 10th February 1906.¹¹⁰

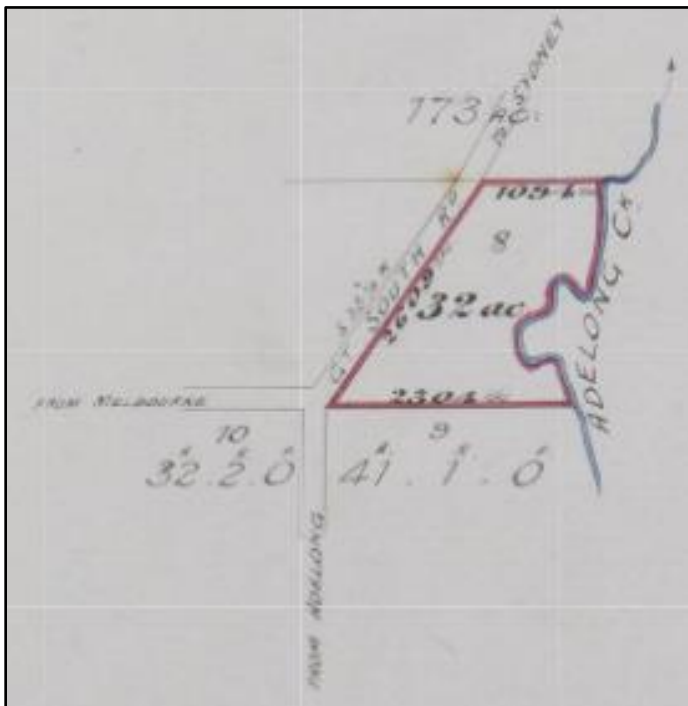
It gets even more confusing when Eliza Tillet transfers the property back to Caroline Lawson, on the 13th October 1905, and then Caroline transfers it back to Eliza Ann Tillet, on the 31st December 1912.¹¹¹

On the 3rd November 1925, Eliza Ann Tillet transferred the title to Patrick Keefe, hotel keeper of Nangus. Keefe held the title until the 1st July 1929 when it was transferred to George Bodley, hotel keeper of Tumblong, and his wife, Fanny Bodley.¹¹²

On the 3rd July 1938 the Bodleys transferred the title to Eustace Beded Brooke, retired farmer of Gundagai.¹¹³

On the 19th June 1954 Brooke transferred part of the property to John Rogers, a bricklayer, and his wife, Margaret Ann Rogers.¹¹⁴ This small piece of portion 8, included a residence. The history after this has not been pursued.

Brooke still held the bulk of portion 8 in 1967, when new titles were issued against deposited plan # 233571.¹¹⁵ The history after this has not been pursued.



Current titles:

DP.1.233571 > Volume 10618, folio 71 > PA.2325

DP.2.233571 > Volume 10618, folio 72 > PA.2325

See Crown pan G.21.1352

Left: Portion 8, parish of Bangus. As purchased by Edward Williams. The Coach and Horses hotel was located in the top left hand corner of this portion.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁰ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 108, folio 230.

¹¹¹ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 108, folio 230.

¹¹² NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 4315, folio 206.

¹¹³ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 4315, folio 206.

¹¹⁴ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 4315, folio 206.

¹¹⁵ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 7384, folio 208.

¹¹⁶ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Volume 86, folio 98.

Adelong Crossing hotel.

In January 1906 WH Sibthorpe, the licensee of the Coach & Horses hotel applied for a transfer of the license from his present premises to new premises which had just been completed. He also applied to change the name to the Adelong Crossing Hotel.¹¹⁷

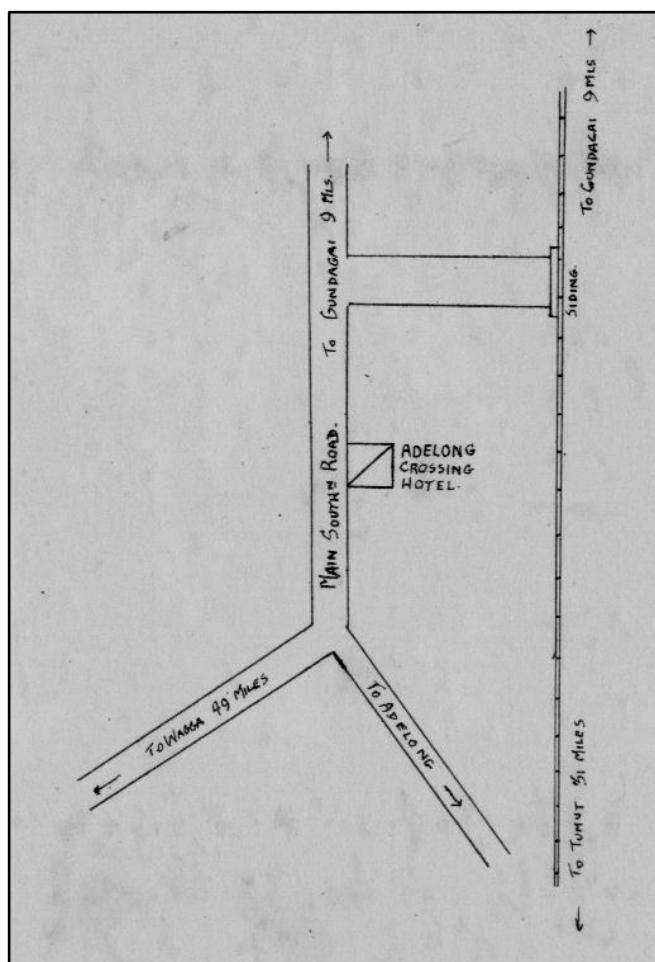
On Saturday the 24th February 1906 the Coach & Horses hotel was burnt to the ground. Mrs. Lawson had erected a substantial new brick hotel within a few yards and this had already been licensed as the Adelong Crossing hotel. The old hotel was insured.¹¹⁸ It was built of wood and had been standing for some thirty three years.¹¹⁹ The owner was Mrs. Lawson, and the new hotel had been constructed by Mr. R Joyce.¹²⁰

The Adelong Crossing Hotel was licensed to Waldo H Sibthorpe from 1906 through till 1925.¹²¹

In December 1925 the freehold and license were transferred to Mr Keefe who retained the property until July 1929 when he sold to George Bodley (freehold & license), with Tooth &

Co. holding a mortgage over the property.¹²²

The Adelong Crossing hotel, like the Coach & Horses hotel, was located on portion 8, parish of Bangus.



Left: A 1920's mud map showing the location of the Adelong Crossing Hotel. Courtesy Tooth's Records. Noel Butlin Archives.

Sometime in the 1920's the name was changed from the Adelong Crossing hotel to the Tumblong Tavern.¹²³

¹¹⁷ Gundagai Independent. 17th January 1906, p2.

¹¹⁸ Daily Telegraph. 26th February 1906, p8.

¹¹⁹ Gundagai Independent. 3rd March 1906, p2.

¹²⁰ Gundagai Times. 27th February 1906, p2. / Gundagai Independent. 28th February 1906, p2.

¹²¹ Government Gazettes 1906-1922 – Publicans Licenses records. / Tooth's Records. Yellow Cards.

¹²² Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University, Tooth and Company Yellow cards, N60-YC-2238, Tumblong Tavern (ex Adelong Crossing hotel), Tumblong Road, Tumblong, circa 1920-1979.

¹²³ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Tumblong Tavern, Tumblong, circa 1920-1979.

Bodley held the license until February 1936 at which time it was transferred to Michael Quilligan. Other licensees were as follows;¹²⁴ William H Whitiker, 1937-1938; Eustace B Brooke, 1938-1939 (freehold & license); Oliver J Gannon, 1939-1942; Eustace B Brooke; 1942-1946; Alexander D Campbell, 1946-1948; Molley Anne D'Argeavel, 1948-1949; Mrs. Elsie Selina Smith, 1949- 1953; Nellie Meadows, 1953-1956; Eustace Bede Brooke, 1956-1959; Thomas Girdler, 1959-1961; Alan Brady McFarland, 1961-1962; Harold James Henwood, 1962-1965; John William Taylor & Ruth Ann Taylor, 1965-1967; Colleen Margaret Schell, 1967-1968; John Vincent O'Connell, 1968- 1970 (freehold & license); Horace Holgate, 1970-1973; Ronald William Kelly & Mrs. Lila Dell Kelly, 1973-1974; Vincent Allhouse & Mrs. Daphne Teresa Allhouse, 1974-1976; Raymond Knight, 1976-1979; Lynam Rossoyne Passlow.

Ray & Jean Knight followed at some time. The latter couple immigrated to Australia in 1956, from England. Ray was a bricklayer by trade but had also served in the Coldstream Guard for a period. When they came to Australia Ray worked as a brick layer, but at some stage he and his wife took over the running of the general store and post office at Towrang. These were housed in an old building that was once the Cookbundoon hotel.¹²⁵



Above: William Sibthorpe, his wife and a guest standing on the verandah of the old Coach & Horses hotel. From the Gabriel Collection. Courtesy Australian National Library.

¹²⁴ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Tumblong Tavern, Tumblong, circa 1920-1979.

¹²⁵ From The Land country pub series. Date unknown.

Licensing records for the period from July 1980 till November 1982 are not known. From 1982 the licensees were as follows,¹²⁶

19th November 1982 till 13th June 1989 – Bruce Ian Ballard.

13th June 1989 till 13th December 1990 – Terence John Simpson.

13th December 1990 till 9th February 1995 - Kenneth Peter Crowley.

9th February 1995 till 21st September 1999 – Robert Leslie Dodd.

21st September 1999 till 25th May 2000 – Donald George Jones.

25th May 2000 till 28th March 2001 - Terence John Simpson.

28th March 2001 till 23rd February 2004 – Derek John Urquhart.

23rd February 2004 till 23rd August 2004 - Cyril Francis Snow.

23rd August 2004 till 24th March 2010 – Nancy Marcia Lawton.

24th March 2010 till 20th August 2018 – Paul Raymond Young.

From 20th August 2018 – Rhonda Bowen.

Waldo Homan Sibthorpe

Waldo Homan Sibthorpe was licensee of the Coach & Horses hotel from 1902 through till 1906, when it burnt down. He was then licensee of the Adelong Crossing hotel from 1906 until October 1924 when he passed away, at the Lister private hospital, aged sixty seven years.

His father was Luke Homan Sibthorpe, a well to do man, who served as the Clerk of Petty Sessions, at various locations.¹²⁷ Luke was also a magistrate of the territory,¹²⁸ a Sub-Gold Commissioner,¹²⁹ and a Commissioner of Crown Lands.¹³⁰ In his earlier days he had also worked as a superintendent on one or more large rural properties.

Waldo's mother, Jane Sibthorpe (nee Hudson), had been licensee of the Glasgow hotel, Pitt Street, Sydney from 1866 to 1868.¹³¹

Waldo Homan was born on the 25th April, 1856, at Muswellbrook, NSW, and married Annie Streeter at Gundagai on the 26th August 1882.

Waldo worked as an overseer on the Yabtree and Mundarlo properties, before going into the hotel business at the Adelong Crossing Place.

¹²⁶ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. Report on Tumblong Tavern.

¹²⁷ NSW Government Gazette. 1850, p2015. / 1853, p547.

¹²⁸ NSW Government Gazette. 1859, p889.

¹²⁹ NSW Government Gazette. 1862, p474.

¹³⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1859, p661.

¹³¹ NSW Government Gazette. 1866, p1877. / 1867, p1906.

In 1889 he ran as an independent federalist in the NSW state elections.¹³²

Waldo was living at Gundagai in May 1898 when he was appointed a magistrate for the colony.¹³³ Waldo passed away on the 6th October 1924, at Tumblong.

Freehold

For the earlier history of the freehold of the Tumblong Tavern see Coach & Horses hotel details – they are the same, up until more recent times.

In contemporary times the owners of the freehold for the Tumblong Tavern were as follows,¹³⁴

13th June 1989 till 29th January 2003 – Terence John Simpson and Judith Simpson.

29th January 2003 till 23rd August 2004 – Lawton Enterprises Pty Ltd.

23rd August 2004 till 24th March 2010 – Nancy Marcia Lawton.

24th March 2010 till 20th August 2018 – Paul Raymond Young.

From 20th August 2018 – Rhonda Bowen.

Current title > DP.3.233571 > Volume 13558, folio 5.

In October 2018 the new owner, Rhonda Bowen, gave notice of some changes,

“The kitchen will be stripped bare and renewed, the floors will be sanded and polished up, rooms will be done out nice for accommodation, soon we will also be having Sunday sausage sizzle outside under the shade of the big tree that will start on the 4th of November, so just a 2 dollar sausage sizzle and some live music outside, should be a nice way to spend a Sunday. Would be great to get some feedback on the Sundays - who would be interested in coming along, I know the locals are amazing people and are great support for the tavern so thanks to the locals and thanks to everyone for the support. Suggestions anyone has I will consider we want the tavern to be a fun place for all to enjoy.”

Current title > DP.3.233571 > Volume 13558, folio 5.

¹³² Sibthorpe, Graham. *The Sibthorpe Family. Dublin, Ireland to Australia: 1750-2011.* / Sydney Morning Herald. 28th July 1898.

¹³³ Australian Town & Country Journal. 14th May 1898.

¹³⁴ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. Report on Tumblong Tavern.



Above: The old Coach & Horses hotel with Waldo Sibthorpe (man between the two boys).
Courtesy National Library of Australia.



Above: The Adelong Crossing hotel in June 1924. Courtesy Tooth's Records, Noel Butlin Archives.



Above: The Adelong Crossing hotel in 1929. Courtesy Butcher Collection.



Above: Tumblong Tavern in November 1931. Courtesy Tooth's Records, Noel Butlin Archives.



Above: Tumblong Tavern in 1949. Courtesy Tooth's Records, Noel Butlin Archives.



Above: Tumblong Tavern in the 1960's. Courtesy Tooth's Records, Noel Butlin Archives.



Above: The Tumblong Tavern with the model truck featured.



Above: A close up shot of the model truck.

Tumblong Town

Tumblong was originally known as the Adelong Crossing Place.

A general store, called the Adelong Store, adjoining the Bangus Inn, was opened by Solomon Emanuel, prior to September 1854¹³⁵. A year later he advertised a new store that was, “*much more commodious and extensive than the old one.*” It was now located next to Nixon’s Adelong Inn.¹³⁶

When a travelling reporter passed through in December 1870 he noted that “*there is as fine a garden here as is to be seen in the southern district, the choicest flowers and fruits growing in the greatest abundance*”¹³⁷.

In December 1871 it was reported that Mr. A McMullen, formerly of the Adelong Crossing Place but now of North Wagga Wagga, was awarded 1st prize for the best plough made in the district, at the 1st show of the WWA&HS.¹³⁸ This is most likely the same McMullen that was shot and killed by Daniel Boon in 1876, at North Wagga Wagga.

On the 19th October 1887 David Neves store at Adelong Crossing was burned down. It was insured for £800.¹³⁹

In December 1890 it was confirmed that the telephone line from Gundagai to Adelong Crossing was now completed and in use.¹⁴⁰ This would have been a service greatly appreciated by the local citizens.

Agitation to change the name of the town to Tumblong commenced as early as July 1908, when the Railways department proposed such a change in order to avoid confusion with Adelong. The postal department had no objection to the name Tumblong, but noted that the proposal did not have the support of the local residents.¹⁴¹

On the 15th April 1913 the name of the railway station, the post office and the town were all officially changed to Tumblong. The impetus for change came from the Railways Department with no objection from the Postmaster General’s Department.¹⁴²

The Flour Mills

There were two flour mills at the Adelong Crossing Place. The first was that of Moon. On the 21st January 1871 James Moon Jnr testified that he “*occupied*” a mill at the Adelong Crossing Place.¹⁴³

Moon’s mill was driven by a water wheel, and was situated on the opposite side of the creek to where George Luff lived. The mill was originally established in 1868 by Henry Moon, the first miller in the Gundagai district. Henry had previously operated mills at both Gundagai and Tumut. Henry’s son, James, had taken over the management of the mill at the Adelong Crossing Place by January 1871. This mill was, “*an improved roller mill of about eight horse*

¹³⁵ Gormly Indexes. Quoting Goulburn Herald. 16th September 1854.

¹³⁶ Goulburn Herald. 1st September 1855, p2.

¹³⁷ Australian Town & Country Journal. 10th December 1870, p6.

¹³⁸ Sydney Mail. 16th December 1871, p1319.

¹³⁹ Gormly Indexes. Adelong Crossing sheet. Quoting, Sydney Morning Herald. 20th October 1887.

¹⁴⁰ Gormly Indexes. Adelong Crossing sheet. Quoting, Sydney Morning Herald. 20th December 1890.

¹⁴¹ State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1887-1913.

¹⁴² State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1913.

¹⁴³ Gundagai Times. 28th January 1871, p2.

power, producing flour equal to the best in the colonies.” It was able to produce up to eighteen tons of flour per week and often ran at full capacity.¹⁴⁴

The second mill was that of William Williams, and in September 1873 it was reported that, *“The new flour mill which has been erected for Mr. Williams, at Adelong Crossing Place, under the supervision of Mr. D. Wilson, is, we learn, so far advanced that the requisite machinery will in a few weeks be placed in it.”*¹⁴⁵

The new mill was not completed in 1873, but in March 1874 it was confirmed that the new Victoria flourmill of William Williams Snr, was to be opened on Easter Tuesday. Williams had organised a picnic with an ox to be roasted, and for a brass band to be in attendance.¹⁴⁶

A subsequent report on the 11th April 1874 confirmed that the opening of the new flour mill of Mr. W Williams, Snr, had only recently taken place.¹⁴⁷ Williams’ mill was located on the old highway just a short distance from Hindmarsh’s store.

James Moon’s flour mill at Adelong Crossing was destroyed by fire on 28th February 1892¹⁴⁸. The insurance policy cover had recently been reduced from £1,000 to £500. One hundred bags of wheat were destroyed in the fire.

The School.

Moves were afoot as early as 1868 for a public school to be constructed at the Adelong Crossing Place,¹⁴⁹ but it took another six months for it to eventuate.

In May 1869 it was noted that the cause of education at the Adelong Crossing Place had not been neglected, a tolerably commodious slab building having been erected as a provisional school, and a government allowance and a supply of books having been accorded to the schoolmaster, Mr. Dodds¹⁵⁰.

In July 1869 it was further reported that,

“The question as to whether there shall or shall not be a public school at the Adelong Crossing Place may now be considered as fairly decided in the affirmative. Some time ago tenders were called for the erection of a slab or weather board structure, in accordance with the plan furnished, but since then the Council of Education received a letter from some person stating that it would be impossible to raise the sum locally guaranteed - £80. This having been reported to the school committee the honorary secretary (Mr. C. Sparrow) proposed that to put an end to all disputes the committee should guarantee an adequate sum as local contribution. This was accordingly done, Messrs. Sparrow, Woolley, Turner, J. Neve,

¹⁴⁴ Mrs Turners book. Adelong Crossing. James Moon.

¹⁴⁵ Gundagai Times. 20th September 1873, p2.

¹⁴⁶ Gundagai Times. 28th March 1874, p2.

¹⁴⁷ Gundagai Times. 11th April 1874, p2.

¹⁴⁸ Gormly Indexes. Adelong Crossing sheet. Quoting, Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3rd March 1892. / Sydney Morning Herald. 1st March 1892.

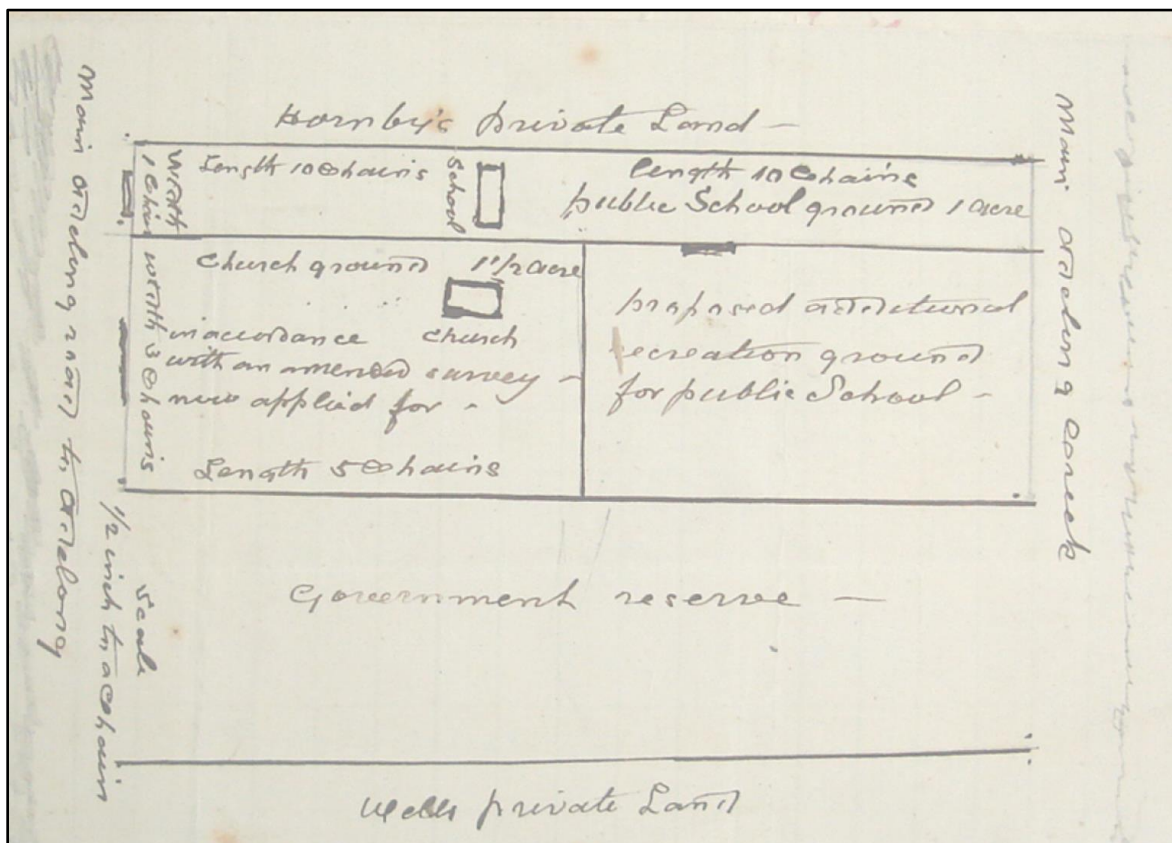
¹⁴⁹ Gundagai Times. 14th November 1868, p3. / 29th August 1868, p2. / 17th October 1868, p3. / 24th October 1868, p3.

¹⁵⁰ Gundagai Times. 15th May 1869, p2c4.

and J Neve, Jnr., holding themselves responsible for £100 being raised for this object. On receiving a communication to that effect the Council of Education accepted the tender of George Williams for the construction of the school, and when the necessary bonds are signed it will, at once be proceeded with. It will be erected on the acre of ground allotted by Government on the Adelong road, where the temporary provisional school now stands, and will probably be completed in five mouths from this time, if the weather is favorable. “

This school site was officially dedicated on the 18th February 1870,¹⁵¹ although it had been the subject of a public tea meeting on 10th December 1869, to celebrate its opening. Some two hundred people attended the latter and were catered for in tents erected on the school grounds. Messrs. Turner and Sparrow were recognized for their contributions in having the school buildings erected.¹⁵²

A court case in March 1870 highlighted problems experienced by the local committee. Samuel Wells, a storekeeper of Gundagai, sued William Smith and George Williams, contractors of Gundagai for some £40. Williams had cleared out and Smith was left to defend on his own. The court found that Wells had supplied goods and money to the value claimed. The problem arose that the trustees for the school had yet to receive money from the government and they were unable to meet their commitment. The court found in favour of the plaintiff, Wells.¹⁵³



Above: Mud map showing details of additional land applied for. Courtesy State Records.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵¹ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.

¹⁵² Gundagai Times. 18th December 1869, p3.

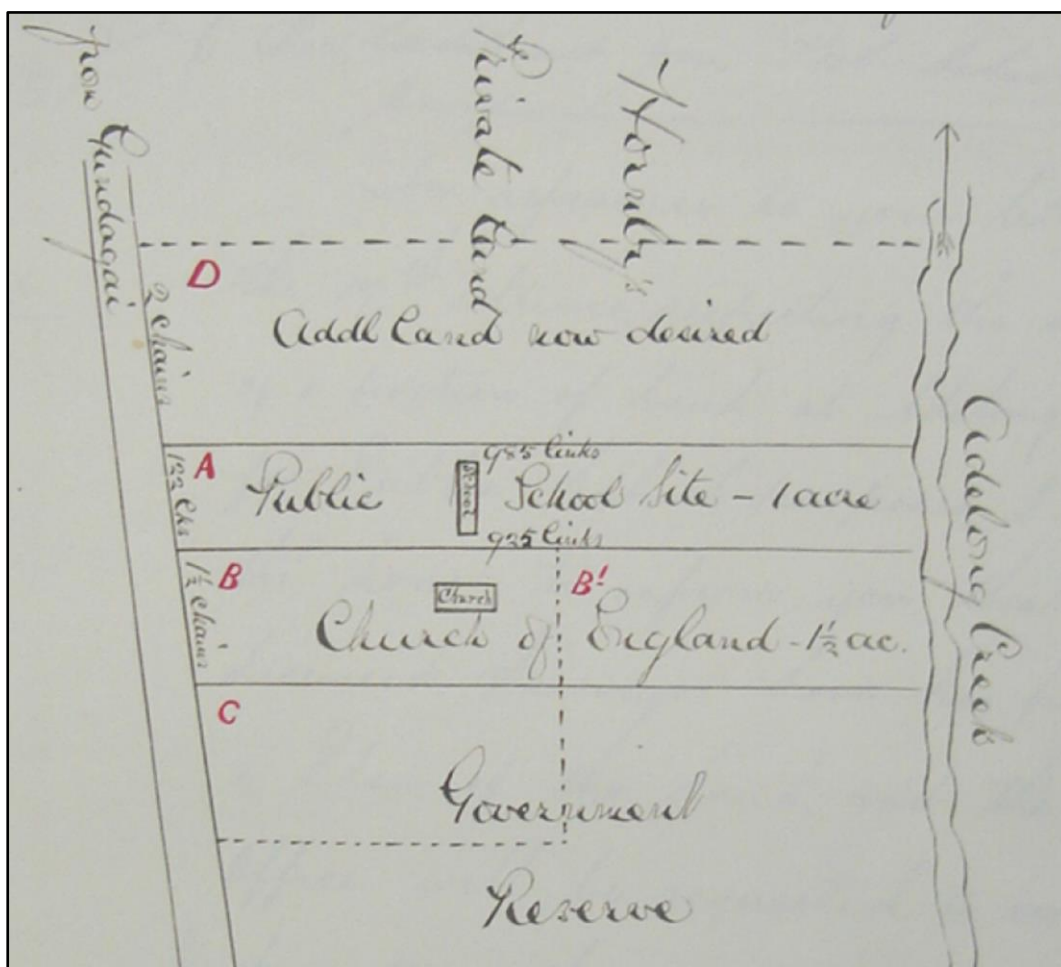
¹⁵³ Gundagai Times. 5th March 1870, p2.

¹⁵⁴ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.

In 1879 there were efforts to add to the land held by the school, for the specific purpose of providing additional playground space. The relevant authorities requested proof of the consent of the Bishop of Goulburn, as the land proposed was owned by the church.

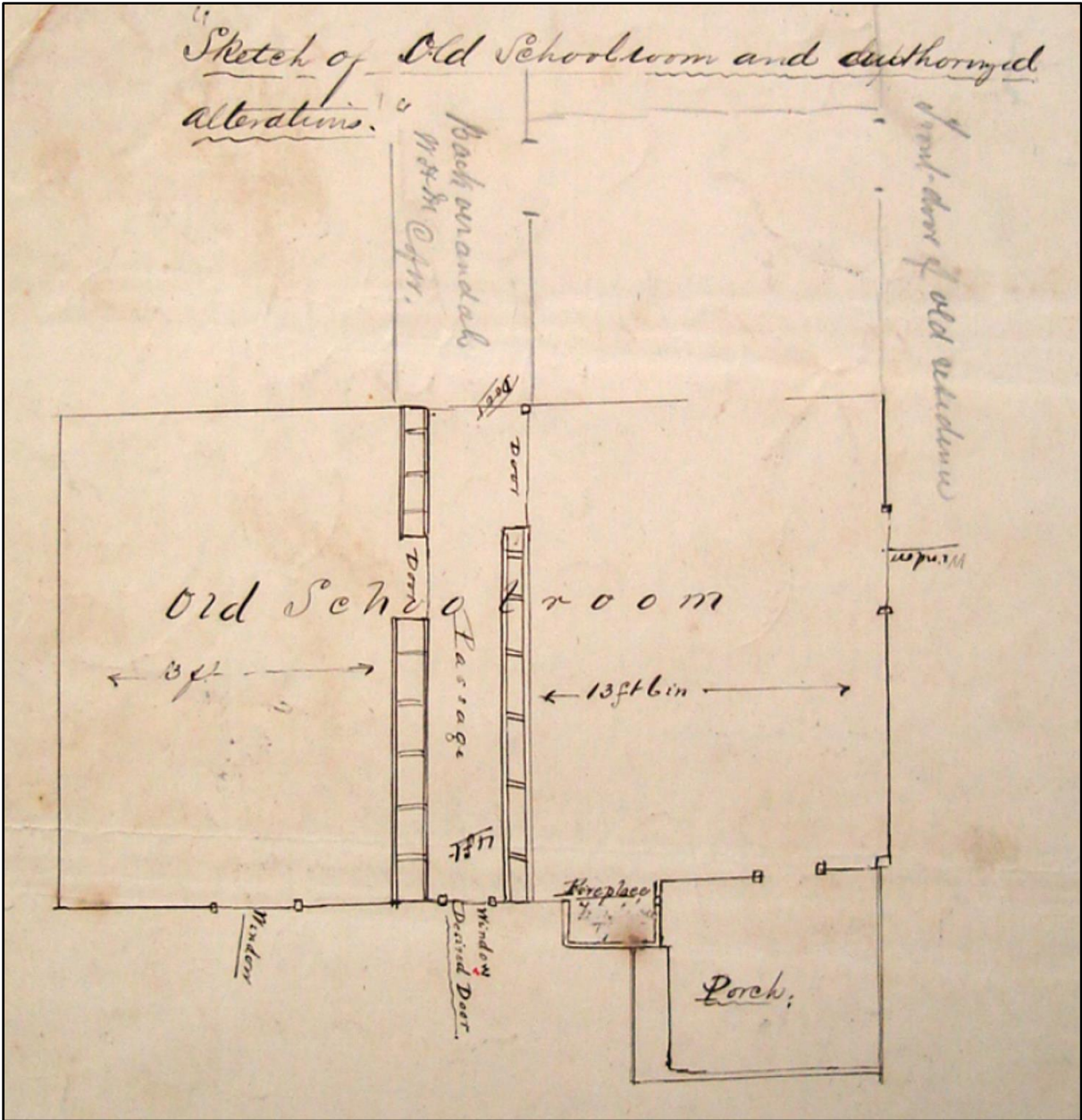
The Public School Board resolved to write to the government in March 1879, they being alarmed that there were plans by the church to fence off their land (one and a half acres) thereby making it difficult for the children to access the land to the rear of the school building. The difficulties arose, *“in consequence of the breadth of the school building, and the ground in front being thickly laid out with ornamental trees and which will entirely prevent vehicles of any kind getting round to the back for carting firewood etc.”*

The matter dragged on but in 1883 some land was eventually purchased for the sum of £23. 14s.4d (including interest). It appears that the government had resumed land belonging to William Hornby – specifically portion 269 consisting of two acres and twelve perches, which lay immediately to the north of the school block.



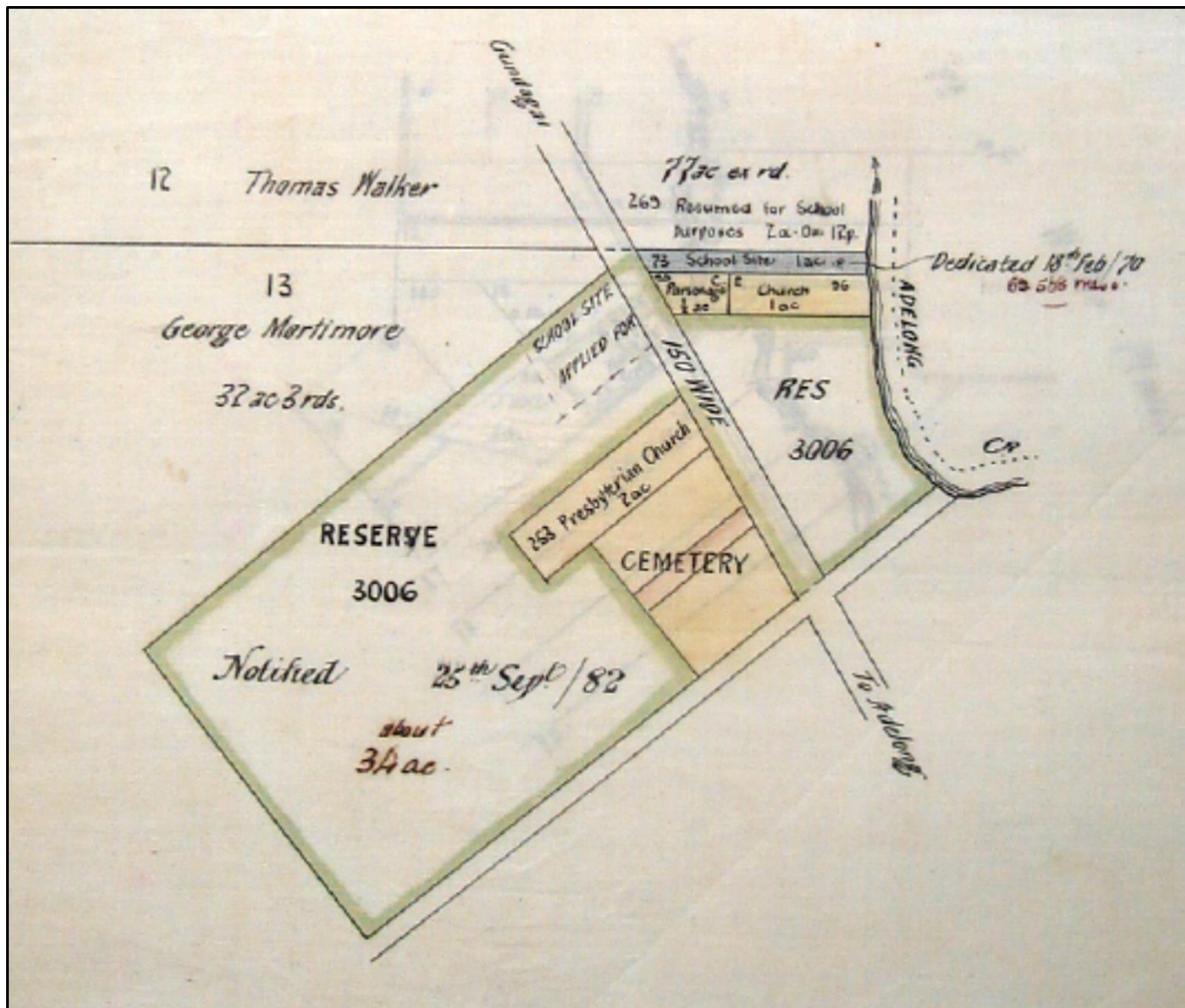
Above: Another mud map showing the land to be resumed from Hornby (labelled D). “C” is land for which the government had wished to swap in exchange for “B¹”, but which was not carried out. Courtesy State Records.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁵ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.



Above: An 1887 mud map showing the schoolrooms and the proposed addition of a fireplace and other improvements (splitting the old room into two rooms). Courtesy State Records.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁶ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.



Above: An 1884 plan showing school sites at the Adelong Crossing Place. Courtesy State records.¹⁵⁷

In December 1883 the District Inspector stated described the site stating that, “*the buildings on it are of slab, are old, and provide insufficient accommodation for both teacher and pupils.*”

The inspector recommended that new buildings be erected on the opposite side of the road to the present school, it being, “*higher, pleasanter, and much better drained than the present site.*” He suggested funds for building the new school could be partly paid for by selling the old school site.

In December 1884, the minister responsible, approved the permanent dedication of two acres from Reserve # 3006, being portion 276, parish of Bangus, for use as a public school site.¹⁵⁸

In November 1885, the Architect for Public Schools recommended the government accept the tender of WH Hilton to erect a new school building, along with a weather shed and fencing, for the sum of £659. It would be September 1886 (10th) before the building was ready to occupy.

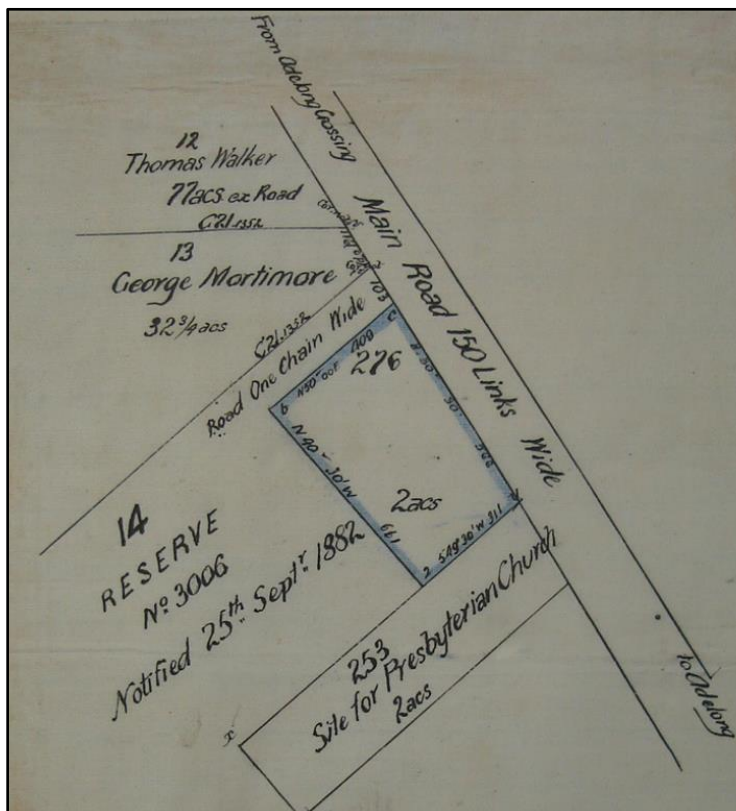
¹⁵⁷ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.

¹⁵⁸ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.

Around August 1885 a porch was added to the old school building, with a timber floor, being primarily a place for the pupils to hang their hats. The water closets had been re-erected, “over fresh soil pits, on new sound sleepers,” and a urinal provided for the boys WC. The same had been enclosed with galvanized iron and paved with bricks. The openings in the walls of both the school and the teacher’s residence had also been covered up.

In December 1886, the Architect for Public Schools recommended the government accept the tender of Charles Passlow, to convert the old school building into an enhanced teacher’s residence, for the sum of £64. 10s. The old teacher’s residence was attached to the old classroom.¹⁵⁹ These old buildings (school room and residence) were described, in January 1885, as being constructed of weatherboard, nearly twenty years old, sitting low and poorly

ventilated. The shed, for the children, was described as inadequate, being open on all sides except that which connected to the kitchen, and consequently of little use in providing shelter from the sun. The toilets were described as “beyond repair” and being without urinals or screens. The old teacher’s residence was stated to consist of four small rooms with low ceilings (seven and a half feet high), making them oppressively hot in the summer months, and inadequate for a married man with a family. The site was also said to be subject to low level flooding and unfenced, with the latter making the back area unsuitable as an accommodation paddock for pupils’ horses.

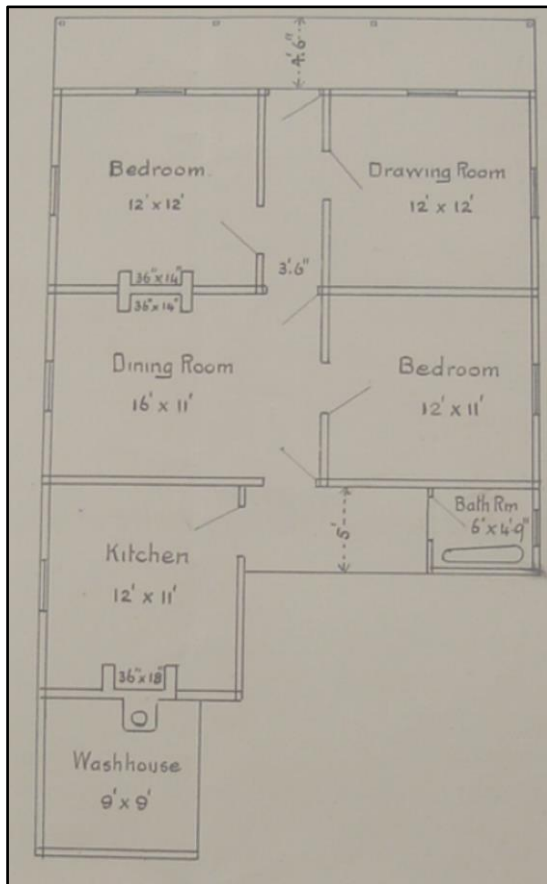


Above: Plan showing location of new school site. Courtesy State Records.

In June 1900 the District Inspector reported that the old teacher’s residence was in a dilapidated state, beyond repair and unfit for occupation. He claimed that the then teacher, Henry Bowyer, had been prevented from going ahead with a planned marriage as it was impossible to obtain a residence in the neighbourhood. The inspector recommended that a new teacher’s residence be erected, on the new school site, and that it consist of four rooms and a kitchen. The old derelict residence was being rented by Mr William Manns, Jnr., who had also leased adjoining land in which he had planted a crop of wheat. Manns wished to maintain rental of the property in order that he could continue to crop the adjoining property, to which the department agreed. This “old” property consisted of the three acres of land on

¹⁵⁹ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.

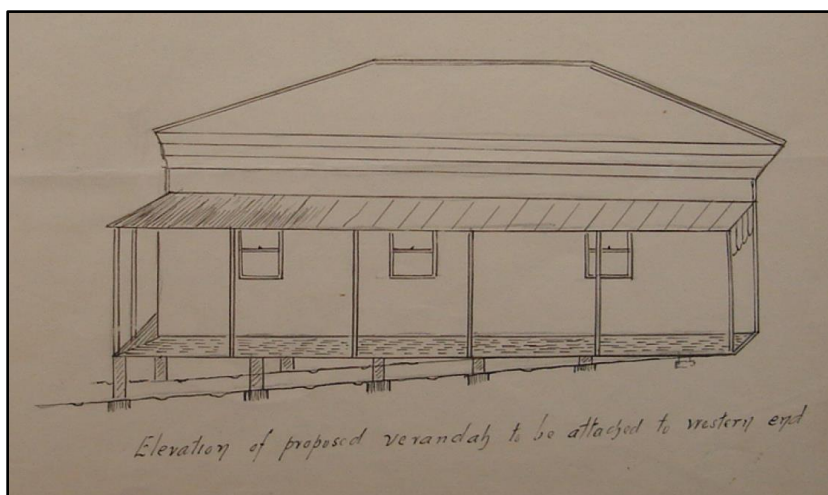
the opposite side of the road, to the new school. Manns struggled to pay the rent from 1902 to 1905, but in this latter year came up with enough money to clear all back rent and to pay £5 for the old building which he intended to demolish and use as the basis of a new structure elsewhere. The department agreed to sell the old buildings and the arrangements went ahead.



The new teacher's residence were completed by Messrs George & Thomas Hastings, in May 1901 at a cost of some £290. The new building stood in the school grounds, at the opposite end to the school, and was not separately fenced.¹⁶⁰

Left: Plan of the new teacher's residence (1901). There was also an external water closet. Courtesy State Records.

Repairs and alterations to the new school building in 1906 included a verandah on the western side of the building.



Above: Sketch of proposed alterations to the school building in 1906 – a verandah off the western side. Courtesy State Records.

¹⁶⁰ State Records. Adelong Crossing School records 1884-1911.



Above: The former school residence in more contemporary times.



Above: The Adelong Crossing public school in 1886.



Above: The former Tumblong public school building in 2017.

Post Office

In 1863, the nearest post office to the Adelong Crossing Place was at South Gundagai. The inhabitants of the Adelong Crossing Place wrote to the Colonial Secretary as early as October 1863, asking for a post office to be established there and recommending Charles Blyth as a person suitable to be appointed Post Master. Blyth was eventually appointed to the position and the new post office was opened by him on the 1st August 1864, despite protests from some residents of South Gundagai. The sureties for Blyth included John R Paul, store keeper at the Adelong Crossing Place. Blyth listed himself as “*assistant store keeper*”, and it is assumed he worked for Mr Paul.¹⁶¹

John De Faye, a store keeper and publican at the Adelong Crossing Place, also put forward the name of John R Paul but listed him as a store keeper at Adelong. De Faye wrote to the Postmaster General in September 1864, claiming that Blyth had resigned, and put himself forward for the position, he having leased the premises formerly occupied by Blyth. De Faye’s offer was accepted with his stipend set at £12 per annum plus commission for the sale of stamps. He took over officially on the 10th October 1864 and held the position until June 1867 when he sold his business to Charles Christian Sparrow. The latter subsequently became the next postmaster.

¹⁶¹ Wynyard Times. 28th July 1864, p2c3.

Sparrow held the title until March 1870 when he sold out to Mr Peter Melrose. Melrose's application stated that the post office was attached to a store, which he, Melrose, had rented from Sparrow. Something must have gone wrong with Melrose's application as John Alexander Carter became the next post master, taking over on the 26th March 1870.¹⁶² Carter was operating a store and the Home hotel at the Adelong Crossing Place,¹⁶³ which were different premises to those deployed by the previous postmaster,¹⁶⁴ and which location was said to be a much more convenient position for the general public than the former site¹⁶⁵. Carter had tendered his resignation by the end of August 1870, but it seems it was never actioned. In a conflicting document Melrose had completed a sureties form stating that he took over officially on the 18th June 1870?¹⁶⁶ Both men continued to vie for the position – Melrose advising that he had leased the premises belonging to Mr Sparrow, for a period of three years, and offering to accept the position, “*at the rate of £30 per annum.*” John Carter wrote in May 1871, giving an assurance that he had been promised a three year lease on his existing premises and that he wished to continue to be the postmaster at the Adelong Crossing Place. Carter did not renew the lease on the business and vacated same at the end of June 1871, shortly after which time Melrose was appointed to the position of postmaster. By July 1871 Carter had relocated to Adelong as licensee of the Star Hotel¹⁶⁷.

Melrose held the position until mid 1873, when he wrote to the Postmaster General's office on the 1st July complaining that the salary was insufficient considering the impact on his health. One day later, on the 2nd July he wrote advising that he was compelled to give up the position as the premises he occupied had been purchased by a man [William Williams] who intended converting the premises to a public house. The same man, Williams, had also purchased the other “*house*” in the town and there were no other suitable premises. On the recommendation of Melrose, John Tillett was appointed the next postmaster effective 12th July 1873. Tillett was the then licensee of the Coach & Horses hotel. Tillett continued as postmaster up until 1st July 1879, recommending Edward Perkins as his replacement. Perkins was also now licensee of the Coach & Horses hotel. Perkins was appointed from this same date on a stipend of £34 per annum. Benjamin Beaver became licensee of the hotel from the 1st July 1881 and Perkins accordingly resigned as postmaster and recommended Beaver for the job. Beaver's application was approved and he took over from the aforementioned date. In February 1883, Benjamin Beaver gave notice of his resignation as post master at the Adelong Crossing Place, effective from the 20th of that month. He advised further that he had sold his business, the Coach & Horses hotel, to Mr William Egan and recommended same as the new post master.¹⁶⁸ Egan was approved by the Postmaster General, on a yearly salary of thirty four pounds, and took over on the 21st February 1883.¹⁶⁹ Egan retained the position until August 1886, when he resigned and recommended Edward Beaver as his replacement. Beaver's application was approved and he took over from the 14th September with the stipend still set at £34 per annum.

In March 1887 the locals were concerned that the government were considering moving the post office to a new location. A memorial, signed by a host of prominent locals, was

¹⁶² State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1863-1881.

¹⁶³ Gundagai Times. 26th June 1869, p2c3.

¹⁶⁴ Gundagai Times. 19th March 1870, p3.

¹⁶⁵ Gundagai Times. 19th March 1870, p3c1.

¹⁶⁶ State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1863-1881.

¹⁶⁷ Gundagai Times. 24th June 1871, p2c4.

¹⁶⁸ State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1863-1881.

¹⁶⁹ State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1881-1887.

forwarded to the Postmaster General, declaring that the current location was the most suitable site in town, and that it had been so for some twelve years. The memorial stated that the current location was on the Main Southern Road, “*at the junction of the Adelong & Grahamstown Roads, where the mail contractors, Cobb & Co change their horses.*”

The post office was said to be located at the “*extreme south western end of the building [the Coach & Horses hotel] far removed from the bar,*” and was described as “*respectably conducted.*”¹⁷⁰

The alternative location was the store of David Neves. A local grazier, George Smith, went so far as to write to the Postmaster General advising that Neves was not a fit person for the position.¹⁷¹

Neves had his supporters and a petition to the Postmaster General, signed by a number of locals, supported his application. A mud map submitted by the Postal Inspector showed the location of the then existing post office, on the Main Southern Road, and the store of David Neves, around the corner on the road to Adelong. It was stated that Neves’ store was “*in close proximity to the Public School, the Recreation Reserve, and the Flour Mills.*”

Beaver must have retained the position as he wrote to the Postmaster general in October 1888 tendering his resignation and advising that he had leased the hotel to a Mr Givney. He recommended Givney’s brother, Joseph Henry George Givney as a suitable replacement. The latter was approved and took over from the 1st November 1888, with the stipend still at £34 per annum.

John Asale Perkins purchased the hotel business from Frederick Givney in September 1890 and applied for the position now vacated by JHG Givney. The application was approved and Perkins took over on the 9th October 1890.

Perkins resigned in September 1893, having sold the business to a Mrs PM Blakeney (widow). Mrs Blakeney was subsequently appointed the new postmistress. At the time Mrs Blakeney was being paid £56 per annum, for postal and telephone duties, but as this exceeded the income from both sources, the department reduced the stipend to £30 per annum.

Mrs Blakeney sold the hotel business to Morgan Power in January 1895 and Power became the new postmaster on the 21st January 1895.

Power wrote to the department in June 1896, recommending William Blakeney for the position of postmaster. The latter resided some two or three hundred yards from the existing post office, and had formerly operated a saddlery business, having resided in the town for over three years.

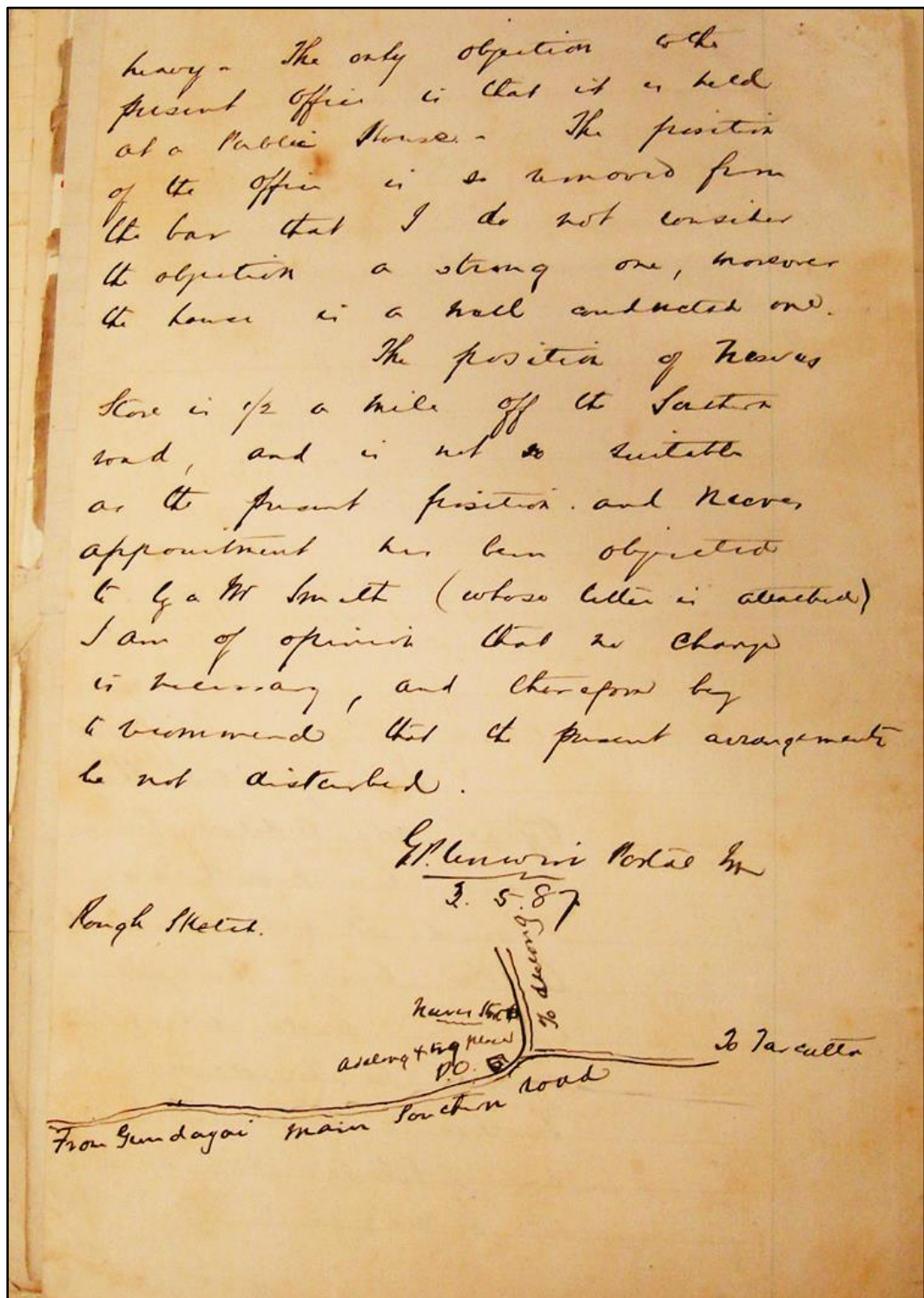
A Mrs Caroline Mary Lawson also applied for the position and the Postal Inspector subsequently recommended her premises as the most suitable. Mrs Lawson took up her new duties on the 9th July 1896. The telephone was relocated to her house on the 13th July. Mrs Lawson had written to the department, in the latter part of June, to explain that the Coach & Horses hotel was to be closed and that the present postmaster was about resigning. Her residence, where she proposed operating the post office from, was a couple of hundred yards from the present office and fronted the Main Southern Road. She pointed out that the telephone line ran right past her place and furthermore that she believed the post office had operated out of the same room she now proposed before the Coach & Horses hotel was opened.

In 1909, following on from a petition from the local residents, the department established a branch of the Money Order System at the Crossing. This fell short of being an official money order office, but was justified given the limited income of the local post office. The department forwarded a safe for holding the money, and all looked well, except that the post

¹⁷⁰ State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1881-1887.

¹⁷¹ State Records. Adelong Crossing Place post office files, 1887-1913.

mistress now wanted an increase in remuneration and some training. On the recommendation of the Postal Inspector, the request for an increase was granted, from £40 per annum to £52 per annum, and the postmaster at Gundagai was instructed to provide some training. The inspector noted that, "the PM [existing] owns most of the land in vicinity of the office." By July 1911 the department had made the decision to close the Money Order Office as it was not profitable, effective from the 31st July.



Above: Mud map showing location of post office [Coach & Horses hotel building] and the store of David Neves. Courtesy State Records.



Above: Former Hindmarsh’s store and post office building.

The Church

Several portions of land were dedicated for churches at the Adelong Crossing Place, but only one church was ever built.

The official opening of the Adelong Crossing Place Church, by Rev. WH Pownall,¹⁷² took place in October 1871. A report on the new Anglican Church read, in part, as follows:¹⁷³

“Some months ago the Rev J. N. Manning - the present energetic incumbent of St. John's Anglican Church, Gundagai - after consulting with his parishioners in the abovementioned locality, resolved that, if possible, an Episcopalian Church should be erected there. Many obstacles and difficulties had to be encountered and overcome ; but the pastor and his trusty band of coadjutors in the good work vanquished them all, the result of their efforts being that a very neat, stone-built Church, capable of seating at least a hundred people, has been erected by the contractors - Messrs. Marshall, Neale, and Wolstonholm. It is not yet finally completed, as the inner walls still require plastering and other minor details have to be supplied; but the edifice is built and roofed, and so far finished that Divine worship can be celebrated there. This Church has been erected on the Church of England reserve, in tolerably close proximity to the Public School — the most worthy neighbour it could have —

¹⁷² Gundagai Times. 21st October 1871, p3. / 7th October 1871, p2.

¹⁷³ Gundagai Times. 7th October 1871, p2.

and these two buildings, we trust, fairly symbolise the future advance in Godliness and knowledge of the Adelong Crossing Place.”

The church was named St James’ Church.¹⁷⁴



Above: St James’ Anglican Church.

Gold Mining

A mining report in April 1870 noted the following activity in the vicinity of the town:
*“In addition to the prospecting claims mentioned, we may add.....Ryan and party at Yellow Creek, on the Bangus run, Adelong Crossing Place; and of James Neve jun., about two miles in a south-easterly direction from Adelong Crossing Place, near James Neve, sen.’s farm, and named the ‘Dog Trap’.....”*¹⁷⁵

The growth of the town in the 1870’s was undoubtedly due to the expansion in local mining activity. A newspaper report in 1873 noted that:

The Adelong Creek has been prospected by boring machines right down by the crossing 14 miles from Adelong and 8 from Gundagai. All the ground along the creek has been taken up and will shortly be all thoroughly worked.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁴ Gundagai Times. 19th April 1873, p2.

¹⁷⁵ Australian Town & Country Journal. 30th April, 1870, p17.

¹⁷⁶ Australian Town & Country Journal. 26th July 1873, p7.

Horse Races:

The first race meetings in many early regional towns and villages, were organised by the local publicans, whose primary motive was to generate income. In larger centres racing clubs evolved, along with dedicated race tracks.

The publicans at the Adelong Crossing Place were no different. The earliest record found for races at the Adelong Crossing Place, was for an event at the Home hotel on the 2nd January 1859.¹⁷⁷ Subsequent meetings were held at this hotel throughout the 1860's and into the 1870's but seem to have ceased after the closure of the Home hotel in 1873.^{178, 179, 180.}

Events

The Execution of Henry Manns

In 1863 the execution of Henry Manns took place in Sydney. Manns had been convicted of being involved with the infamous Lachlan escort robbery. And as per his sentence was hung at Darlinghurst Gaol. There was a lot of public interest in the case, with many hoping the governor would stay the hanging, but to no avail. The hanging was a messy affair, with the following description recorded:¹⁸¹

“A gleam of something white falling between the black bars of the scaffold, a dull thud, and half sigh, half exclamation from the spectators, and Henry Manns swung by the neck between earth and heaven. For a moment his limbs stiffened, and he remained motionless, and then came that horrible convulsive struggle for the life which was being so cruelly choked out by the fatal rope— choked, and yet not choked; for, from the mal-adjustment of the knot by the old man, it slipped in the fall round to the front, and caught the victim under the chin, forcing his head back, and hanging him by the back of the neck. The sight was shocking in the extreme. By the jerk the blood had been forced out apparently from his eyes, and had spirted about his cap, and downward to his neck, the front of which stretched blue and ghastly to its full extent. The dreadful signs of suffocation— the gurgling in the throat— were plainly to be heard all over the yard, although the knot, precisely against the chin, prevented his screaming or crying out. The convulsions of the limbs at length became fainter and less frequent, although slight shudders still continued to show that Henry Manns yet lived. At the expiration of a quarter of an hour Dr. West, finding that life was not extinct, summoned the hangman from his lair, whither he had retreated immediately on drawing the bolt, and the Under-sheriff ordered him to re-adjust the rope. Four prisoners were then called and the hanging man was lifted up bodily; the knot of the rope was removed to its place, under the cap, and Henry Manns in a few moments died of strangulation. The body was immediately cut down and placed in a coffin, and the dead man's aged mother, having the grace accorded her of being allowed to take the body, had it carried away for interment.”

It was reported that his mother, Mrs. Manns, was a resident at the Adelong Crossing Place, as were five brothers and two sisters.

¹⁷⁷ Adelong Mining Journal. 16th December 1859.

¹⁷⁸ Adelong Mining Journal. 13th January 1860, p5c4.

¹⁷⁹ Wynyard Times. 4th March 1862, p3c3.

¹⁸⁰ Wynyard Times. 3rd April 1864, p3c4.

¹⁸¹ Manaro Mercury. 3rd April 1863, p3.

The Earthquake

Sometime around the 3rd June 1871, the region around the Adelong Crossing Place experienced an earth tremor. A report in the local press included the following paragraph,¹⁸²

‘At the Adelong Crossing Place, we understand the shock was more severe than at Gundagai. A portion of the gable end of a strongly built stone kitchen attached to the Home Hotel was cracked, and the rafters, with some planks on them, forming a kind of loft, were displaced. In the bar of this hotel, bottles and glasses on the shelves tumbled to the floor. It may be surmised that the inmates of the house were considerably alarmed. We believe the shock also did damage to Mr. Walsh’s smithy. A new stone house, built by Mr. Neaves, has been so disturbed that its chimneys will probably have to be pulled down. The Public School building has been slightly canted to one side, and its chimney much injured. All the crockery ware in this educational establishment was, we believe, broken; and a large desk fairly danced on the floor, to the great alarm of the scholars, who thereupon rushed out of doors, somewhat fearful that the suddenly-animated piece of school furniture would follow them.’

The Peden Tragedy

On Monday the 9th May 1921 the decapitated body of Mrs. Hanna Jane Peden was discovered at Tumblong. Her husband was subsequently arrested and held in custody.¹⁸³

A week later Arthur Bryce Peden appeared in the local police court charged with “*feloniously and maliciously murdering his wife at Tumblong on the 7th May.*” The police continued to ask for the inquest to be held up whilst they gathered more information, they having been granted earlier remands on several occasions.¹⁸⁴

Evidence at the inquest revealed that the murder took place at the residence of Jane’s father. A Mrs Andrews testified that Jane was her daughter and that Jane had been born on the 28th July 1869. Jane married Peden in September 1915, at Shepardstown.

Except for a period of some eight months the couple had lived with her and her family. Jane had experienced a nervous breakdown and she was sickly before she was married. Her mother claimed that the marriage was not a happy one. The mother had taken Jane to Sydney, some three weeks before she was murdered, for medical treatment.

Evidence from the police described the scene of the event:¹⁸⁵

“The blood-stained razor was lying close to deceased’s head. There were blood-stains on the wall of the bedroom, about 18in. up. There were also blood stains at the door leading to the room and about 12 distinct blood spots outside the door on the verandah. Drew the attention of several persons to it. There was a double bed in the room in which deceased’s body was lying and it appeared as if it had been slept in. There was a quantity of blood on the edge of the mattress and also on the framework of the wire mattress. Deceased was lying on her back with her right arm across her breast. She was dressed in a nightdress, slippers and stockings. They are all blood stained. Saw Dr. Gabriel carefully examine the wound and Mrs. Roots removed deceased’s nightdress. I then made inquiries for deceased’s husband, and was informed that he was away in the bush. Later on he returned to the house. Said to him, ‘This is a very sad thing about your wife.’ He said, ‘Yes, she only returned from Sydney yesterday; I did not want her to come back; she had been there for medical treatment.’ He further stated that she looked better and slept fairly well the previous night. ‘We both

¹⁸² Brisbane Courier. 17th June 1871. / Manaro Mercury. 17th June 1871, p3.

¹⁸³ Grafton Argus. 12th May 1921, p3.

¹⁸⁴ Gundagai Independent. 16th May 1921, p3.

¹⁸⁵ Gundagai Times. 20th May 1921, p2.

occupied her mother's room, and at about 4 a.m. she woke up. She said to me, ' Arthur, I don't feel well again.' I got up to get her some warm milk and went back to bed again. Later on I got up and went and cut some wood. Before going out she said, ' Arthur, why did you bring me back, settle me, cut my throat.' After I cut the wood Mrs. Andrews called me to breakfast. After breakfast I left for my mine to meet the Warden's Bailiff, who I expected there that morning. I did not see my wife alive again. When I returned home about 11 a.m. I went into the end room and saw my wife lying on the floor, partly under the bed, and there was a large quantity of blood on the floor. I said, ' My God, Hannah,' and ran out and gave the alarm.”

A Dr Robertson deposed that:¹⁸⁶

“On receipt of a telephone message from Tumblong on 7th inst. I went to the residence of Mr. Andrews, at Hyde Park. Arrived a little after 1 p.m. When I arrived was taken to a room and saw the body of deceased lying on the floor. Her clothing was blood-stained and there was a razor lying on the floor also. Rigor mortis had set in. There was a gaping wound in the neck, extend from behind and below the right ear. All the tissues of the neck were cut through down to the vertebrae column. There were three distinct cuts, deeper in the soft tissues on each side of the bone; at the right extremity of the wound the skin was undercut. The edge of the wound was jagged and from the lower edge of the right side of the mid line there was a shallow encised wound of the skin extending obliquely downwards for about 2 or 3 inches. Both surfaces of the wound had clotted blood on them. On the following day returned with Dr. Gabriel and made a further, examination which confirmed my opinion. Took certain measurements. We took the head off and placed it in a box and handed it to the police. In my opinion the wound could not have been self inflicted.”

Hannah’s father, James FM Andrews, testified that Hannah and Arthur had been living with him and his family for some five years. He stated that Arthur was a quarrelsome man and an alcoholic, who made his daughter’s life an unhappy one. He claimed that Peden took no interest in his wife other than to abuse her. Andrews further testified that he had practically kept the couple. Even when Arthur did earn a few shillings he spent it on alcohol.¹⁸⁷

When the inquest was held, on the 21st May 1921, the coroner found that Hanna Peden had died from wounds inflicted by her husband, Arthur Bryce Peden and committed the latter for trial in Sydney.¹⁸⁸

The trial took place in June during which Hannah was described as a suicidal maniac. Arthur Peden continued to claim he was innocent and the defense was successful in so far as the jury was unable to agree on a decision, although Peden was kept in custody.¹⁸⁹

A 2nd trial took place in July, when the jury found Peden guilty of murder, and he was sentenced to death by the judge.¹⁹⁰ Peden appealed the decision but his appeal was denied by the Full Court of Criminal Appeals,¹⁹¹ but a subsequent appeal was heard by the State Cabinet who commuted his sentence to life imprisonment, thereby avoiding the hangman’s noose.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁶ Gundagai Times. 20th May 1921, p2.

¹⁸⁷ Gundagai Times. 24th May 1921, p2.

¹⁸⁸ Northern Star. 21st May 1921, p5.

¹⁸⁹ Gundagai Independent. 20th June 1921, p4.

¹⁹⁰ Grafton Argus. 22nd July 1921, p3.

¹⁹¹ Grafton Argus. 31st August 1921, p3.

¹⁹² Gundagai Independent. 17th November 1921, p3.

The local Gundagai press went so far as to claim he was wrongly convicted.¹⁹³ Peden continued to appeal and when Mr Justice Street carried out another review of the evidence, in February 1922, he found that there was, “*a substantial degree of doubt as to Peden’s guilt*”, and Peden was subsequently released, as a free man.¹⁹⁴

The tone of the press was all positive now, in favour of Peden, who was now described as a mining assayer and an innocent man.¹⁹⁵ Peden returned to Gundagai shortly after his release and declared that, “*if he stayed in the district much longer he would have to seek hospital treatment for his right hand, as the people had almost paralysed it by their hearty handshakes.*”¹⁹⁶

Peden’s claims that he cherished his wife are at odds with the evidence given by Hannah’s parents and her brothers and sisters.¹⁹⁷

An Odd Visitor.

In November 1954 an unusual visitor appeared at the hotel. He was Scotsman, Robert John Hall who had spent the past five years touring eastern Australia on his tricycle. Hall left his home in Bundaberg in 1948 and had travelled some two thousand miles in five years. He carried all of his possessions on the tricycle, which included a tent, several swags and food. It weighed about 4 cwt all up.

He was accompanied by his dog, it being the 9th one he had possessed since leaving Bundaberg. The previous eight had either been stolen, run over, or died.¹⁹⁸



Above: A photo of Hall with the Adelong Crossing hotel in the background.

¹⁹³ Gundagai Independent. 15th September 1921, p2.

¹⁹⁴ Barrier Miner. 28th February 1922, p4. / Gundagai Times. 3rd March 1922, p2.

¹⁹⁵ Grafton Argus. 13th March 1922, p2.

¹⁹⁶ The Sun. 17th March 1922, p2.

¹⁹⁷ Barrier Miner. 1st March 1922, p1.

¹⁹⁸ Daily Advertiser. 24th November 1954, p3.



Above: Scotsman Robert John Hall with his tricycle and dog.



Above: Hall with the Adelong Crossing hotel in the background.



Above: Map showing prominent structures at Tumblong. Courtesy Google Earth.



Above: Map showing the four hotel sites at Tumblong. Courtesy Google Earth.



Above: The Tumblong Tavern in December 2018.