



EARLY MENANGLE

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PERSONAL USE

Camden Area Family History Society (CAFHS)

Preface

Early Menangle is a collection of newspaper articles written by J.J. Moloney under the pseudonym J.J.M. and published by the *Voice of the North* newspaper monthly between August 10, 1927 and July 10, 1929. At some point after the publication of the last article, they were collated and printed as a book, a copy of which is held by Picton Family & Historical Society and published online at:

<http://www.pictonheritage.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/early-menangle.pdf>

Because of the large number of names, the text was taken from *Trove*, compiled and indexed. The names were then checked against the Camden Area Family History Society (CAFHS) database and where a distinction was required, dates of birth added. Any errors made during this process are those of the editor.

Janet Howe
CAFHS, Editor

Contents

Preface	1
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Wed 10 August 1927, page 15.....	3
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Mon 12 September 1927, page 14	5
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 10 October 1927, page 14	8
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Thur 10 November 1927, page 14.....	10
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Mon 12 December 1927, page 14.....	13
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Tuesday 10 January 1928, page 14.....	16
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Friday 10 February 1928, page 14.....	18
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 12 March 1928, page 14.....	20
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Tuesday 10 April 1928, page 14.....	22
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Thursday 10 May 1928, page 14	24
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 11 June 1928, page 14	26
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Tuesday 10 July 1928, page 14.....	29
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Friday 10 August 1928, page 14.....	32
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 10 September 1928, page 14	35
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Wednesday 10 October 1928, page 14	38
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 12 November 1928, page 14	41
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 10 December 1928, page 14.....	44
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Thursday 10 January 1929, page 14	46
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 11 February 1929, page 14.....	48
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 11 March 1929, page 14.....	51
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Wednesday 10 April 1929, page 14.....	53
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Friday 10 May 1929, page 14.....	54
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Monday 10 June 1929, page 14	56
<i>Voice of the North</i> , Wednesday 10 July 1929, page 14	58
INDEX.....	61

By J.J. Moloney (J. J. M.)

I have been requested by some esteemed and lifelong friends to place on record my recollections of the historic district in which I was born. I have agreed with much reluctance, realising that it is a task for more capable hands, and my only reason for undertaking the work is the assurance of my friends that if I will not do it, it will not be done.

I desire at the outset to make it clear that I have no intention of tracing the history of every grant of land in the locality, as all this information is available from the Lands Department or the office of the Registrar General. I will also refrain from any detailed reference to Camden Park and the foundation of the wool industry, as the story has been faithfully recorded by other members of the Royal Australian Historical Society. I will apply myself more particularly to the personal phase of the matter, giving as far as possible a brief outline of the various families and persons residing in the immediate district of Menangle in the days of my boyhood. I cannot presume to go further back than 1870 on my own knowledge, and it will be patent that three generations have preceded me; yet I shall be able to relate many incidents of earlier days by reason of the fact that my mother was born in the neighbouring district of Appin and conversant with the families of the earlier settlers, whilst my father's association with Menangle and its people dates back to 1854.

I have always understood that the name Menangle means in the aboriginal dialect "the place of the swamps" and that to arrive at the correct pronunciation it should be spelled Manhangle. A visitor to the present day township would not be able to discover any reason for this native description, but in the days within the scope of this narrative the appellation was particularly appropriate. The installation of the Sydney water supply scheme was responsible in the main for the disappearance of the lagoons on the eastern side of the river and for the decrease in size of those on the Camden Park Estate. The storage of water in the Cataract and Prospect dams has minimised the flood waters, and the flat land at Menangle has not been so frequently inundated as was the case when original conditions prevailed. I can well remember the very pretty lagoon on the eastern side of the railway, in close proximity to the platform at North Menangle, and immediately west of same was another lagoon between the railway line and the river, whilst further north was a very large lagoon (practically permanent) on the boundary line of the farms of Mr. George Taber and Mr. E. J. Edrop. There were three large lagoons on the Camden Park side of the river and almost, opposite the lagoons mentioned above. These lagoons taken in conjunction with the many large and small tributaries of the river amply demonstrate the accuracy of the native name.

The district of Menangle was relatively one of the earliest parts of Australia to be explored, a fact attested by the visits of Governor Hunter, George Bass and other men of the first fleet. The prohibition against crossing the Nepean River was also a factor in its development, as likewise for the number of small holdings allotted between the course of the river and the coast.

The fact that the village of Menangle is not within the parish of Menangle is accounted for by an arrangement made with the Macarthur family when the Great Southern Railway was being surveyed and planned. The original boundaries of the parish of Menangle are as follows:

MENANGLE.

A parish in the hundred of Campbelltown, and county of Cumberland, N.S.W.; bounded on the N. by part of a creek branching from George's River, and a line from that creek bearing W. to the S. E. corner of Samuel Larkin's 90 acres, by the southern boundary of that farm and a line W. in continuation of it thereof to the Appin road, thence across that road by a line bearing W. to the eastern boundary of J. Smith's 50 acres, that line being the northern boundaries of James Kelly's 60 acres, and James Leek's 50 acres; by part of the eastern boundary of John Smith's 50 acres, by the eastern boundaries of John Masterson's 55 acres. B. Furbes' 30 acres, and J. McEwen's 20 acres to the road from Campbelltown to Bird's-eye corner; by a line thence bearing N. to the centre of that road, by the centre of that road to the centre of its junction with the road to the northern boundary of Michael Hay's 120 acres, by the centre of the latter named road to where it ceases to be the northern boundary of Michael Hay's 1120 acres; by a line thence bearing S. to the northern boundary of Michael Hay's 120 acres, and by that boundary to the Nepean River; on the W. by the Nepean River to the creek at the S.W. corner of Nicholas Divines' 400 acres; on the S. by the creek from the S.W. corner of Nicholas Divines' 400 acres to its tread, by a line thence bearing E. to the centre of the Appin road; by the centre of the Appin road and a line thence bearing E. to George's River, being the southern boundary of Joseph Walker's 40 acres; on the E. by George's River to the branch of that river as abovementioned.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

The original topography has under-gone many changes in course of development. The very small grants of the Macquarie regime were gradually absorbed by the larger or more opulent of the settlers and boundaries and roads were affected accordingly. A number of the old roads have been blotted out completely, a fact which can be best illustrated by stating that every grant had access to a road. There are three examples in the immediate vicinity of North Menangle which may be mentioned in explanation, viz., the cottage now occupied by Mr. Thomas Taber (4) stands on a triangular piece of land which was cut off by a new deviation of the present main road, and about half a mile further on, where the timber is standing on the Edrop estate, another triangular area was cut off from Medhurst Vale by a later deviation in order to provide an easier gradient. The original road descended the hill past the brick pits and would cross the present railway line in the vicinity of the Edrop homestead. To meet the convenience of the Government of that day the road was altered to proceed to and pass under the middle of the wooden viaduct which was 978 feet in length and extended from a point about 150 yards south of the present North Menangle plat-form to the iron portion of the bridge, which section is 498 feet long, and formerly connected with another wooden viaduct on the southern side, measuring 432 feet in length. (The bridge was completed and opened for traffic on July 11th, 1867, and the cost of its construction amounted to £100,000). At a still later period another deviation was made in order to allow greater height for loads of hay and the fencing was altered to extend the road to its present location nearer to the river bank. Marks of these old roads can still be observed in the several paddocks which they formerly traversed, more especially the cutting which led down the northern bank of the river to the traffic bridge. The early surveys indicate that the Main Southern Road was intended to cross the Cowpasture River at Bird's Eye Corner, but the idea was abandoned. It is worthy of note that the Hume-Hovell exploration party crossed at this point in October 1824.

The early settlers directed their attention to mixed farming, and their several policies were dictated by the desire to cater for the requirements of the people at Parramatta and Sydney. Primarily most of the clearing was done by convict labour, and I have distinct recollections of the old men recounting to me their experiences when clearing the hills on and adjacent to the Edrop Estate, and tilling the land by means of hoes, there being no ploughs in general use. Considerable quantities of grain were produced, as the existence of the many mills of those times will amply testify. There were two mills in Campbelltown, one in Appin, one in Picton, and the finest building

of all was the mill at Mount Gilead, which still stands as a monument to the days prior to the climax caused by the density of the rust in the wheat crops. This historic building should be purchased by the State Government and kept in reasonable repair, as its future value cannot be estimated by the present generation. Oats, rye, and barley crops flourished long after the wheat failed, and only went out of fashion in recent times when dairying became more profit-able. Maize outlived all the other cereals, and profitable crops are still to be observed in certain favourable locations. Fruit growing was attempted on a fairly large scale by the late Mr. E. J. Edrop, in the early "seven-ties," but growers nearer to Sydney practically controlled the market, and the sheep were allowed to destroy the orchard which cost so much to bring into existence. Lemon and quince hedges in the locality are attributed to Mr. William Howe, of Glenlee, and I think the introduction of the hawthorn can be accorded to Mr. Edrop. He also made several praiseworthy attempts with sheep and cattle. Mr. Woodhouse, whilst in occupation at Mount Gilead, experimented with alpacas, llamas, and deer of different varieties, but without success. The native animals with the exception of bears, cats and opossums were almost extinct in my boyhood days, and I can remember the last wombat being killed near the railway bridge on the southern side of the river. The platypus was plentiful in the river and creeks but I understand that this most interesting specimen of Australian fauna has finally disappeared from its old haunts. Fish of several varieties were obtainable from the river, creeks and lagoons—mullet, perch, black-fish, sprats and eels. Birds were plentiful—cockatoos, par-rots, magpies, larks, finches, robins, owls, hawks, ducks, cranes, swans, pelicans, and broilgas. Reptiles were in complete array—lizards of every type — snakes, brown, black, lead, whip, tiger, green, diamond, and car-pet, together with all varieties of goannas, indigenous to the sandstone belt. Native dogs were gradually being exterminated where in earlier times they were very numerous. The creeks and bushland carried a wealth of native flora and in the spring time the scene was a glory never to be forgotten. The aboriginals of the district were few in number and I shall refer to them individually, but visits from the Wollongong and Kiama tribes were frequent and, as they treked to and from Sydney, generally made a call at the old home in which I was born, and I can well remember their many peculiar characteristics.

The British plantation at Sydney may be considered in a general sense, to have expanded over the area com-prising the land lying between the Hawkesbury and Cowpasture Rivers and George's River, north to south. Amongst the earliest grantees was Mr. Thomas Taber (1) who arrived in Sydney in 1797, and was one of the first schoolmasters appointed in the colony. He remained in the service of the Government for 26 years, and eventually retired on a pension of £70 per year. Mr. Taber died on May 5th, 1842, at the age of 79 years, and was buried in the old Devonshire Street Cemetery, known to the people of that time as the "Sandhills." As his descendants are qualified for membership in the Pioneer's Club, I deem it opportune to provide the genesis of a family which has been in evidence almost since the advent of British colonisation in Australia. Mr. Thomas Taber (1) was born in

England, May 10th, 1763, and married Frances Sarah Medhurst, who was born May 22nd, 1767. The particulars of their children are as follows: —

Deborah, born May 2nd, 1786, died Jan. 18th, 1800.

Louisa, born March 27th, 1788, died Sept. 25th, 1788.

Frances Sarah, born Sept. 21st, 1789, died Feb. 10th, 1829.

Thomas (2) born Feb. 6th, 1792, died Nov. 21st, 1869.

George, born Nov. 11th, 1794, died Feb. 16th, 1795.

A male child, stillborn, Dec. 19th, 1795.

James (1), born May 15th, 1798, died Sept. 22nd, 1872.

George (1), born Nov. 21st, 1800, died Mar. 22nd, 1885.

A female child, stillborn, May 16th, 1803.

Charlotte, born Oct. 17th, 1804, died Nov. 27th, 1804.

Deborah, born Aug. 9th, 1806, died Aug. 29th, 1820.

Ann, born July 20th, 1809, died July 21st, 1809.

John, born May 5th, 1812, died May 7th, 1812.

I have ascertained from the records of the Registrar-General that Thomas Taber (2) died at his residence, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, November 21st, 1869, and that he was never married. His funeral took place at the old Camperdown Cemetery, and the present "G.O.M." of Carlingford (Mr. F. C. Cox) was amongst the mourners who attended.

The fact is, therefore, apparent that the succeeding generations of the Taber family are descendants of James, born in Sydney, 1798, and George born in Sydney 1800. It would seem that Mr. Thomas Taber (1) whilst still occupying the position of school master and Parish Clerk, obtained a grant of land in the Airs area and that he subsequently (about 1820) divided the grant between his two sons, the "Medhurst Vale" or western portion passing to George (1) and the "Mount Pleasant" or eastern portion to James, whose grandchildren are still in occupation.

Mr. George Taber (1) married Miss Ann Gowen, whose father was John Gowen, storekeeper for Governor Phillip, which position he held for 14 years, serving under Governor Hunter and Governor King, retiring on Aug. 12th, 1806, with excellent credentials bearing the sign manual of Phillip Gidley King.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

Mr. George Taber's family comprised:—

Frances, who married Mr. John Ashcroft.

Sarah, who married Mr. Thomas Taber (3).

Annie, who married Mr. William Sempill.

Elizabeth, who married Mr. Edward Ashcroft.

Emma, who married Mr. David Sneesby.

Clara, who married Mr. John Mundy

Ada, who married Mr. William Phillips.

George, died in infancy.

Mary Jane, died in infancy.

Mr. George Taber built his first residence on the western side of the present railway, line, where he planted a very fine orchard, enclosed by a quince hedge, and traces of which are still visible. As a matter of fact, the old English Mulberry trees were bearing in recent years. The brick house fronting the main Southern Road was built for a hotel, which he conducted for some time, but which he voluntarily closed. The advent of the railway in the early "sixties" caused it to be re-opened, the licensee being Mr. McCurtayne, but towards the completion of the railway works Mr. Taber again took over the license. The transaction with Mr. McCurtayne was the immediate cause for building the brick cottage on the hill (now owned by Mr. Thomas Taber (4) which he required for the accommodation of his own family. Mr. Taber was most industrious man. His orchard gardens and farm were kept in the most exemplary manner. Grain stores, hayshed, coach house, stables and implement sheds were always in perfect condition, whilst his harness, and personal riding outfit was not excelled by any vice-regal representative. Apart from his activities at Medhurst Vale, he was the owner of Urana Station, and catered for the Sydney market with his fat cattle. Mr. Taber was a most interesting man, and on many occasions when, as a small boy I wandered through the bush with him, he would point out the notches in the trees where in his earlier days he had seen the aboriginals (then numerous) climbing after possums and bees' nests. I remember him telling me that when he was a boy in Sydney it was customary for the smaller lads to swim from Mrs. Macquarie's Chair to Garden Island, and the bigger boys used to swim from the island to Bradley's Head. Evidently the sharks came with the growth of the city, as in my time it was not safe to give a dog a bath in that locality. Mr. Taber was also one of the early vigneron and made some good wine from his own vines, but the prejudice against

all "colonial" productions in those early times prevented him from marketing to a profit. After a most useful life he passed away, at the age of 85 years, on March 22nd, 1885. His good wife survived him by fifteen years, and died on September 22nd, 1900, at the advanced age of 93 years. The family burial place is in St. Peter's Church yard, Campbell town.

Mr. James Taber (1) married Miss Charlotte McAlister and they were blessed with a family of eight children in the following order: Thomas (3), who married Miss Sarah Taber; James (2), married Miss Sarah Hazel; Elizabeth Deborah, died January 3rd, 1864, aged 34 years;

Rebecca Frances, who married Mr. Henry Ashcroft; Charlotte Isabella, died May 29th, 1840, aged 7-1/2 years; George (2), married Miss Jane Grover; Mary Ann, married George Gaudry, died January 23rd, 1867, aged 31 years; William, married Miss Elizabeth Booth.

Mr. James Taber devoted himself to farming and dairying and by opportune purchases enlarged the farm to a considerable extent. I can well re-member him in company with Mr. James Edrop (1) and Mr. E. J. Edrop, supervising operations in laying out the newer portion of the apple orchard already mentioned. He was a man of light build with keen eyes, and an expert in farm management. The barns, coach houses, stables, implement sheds and cattle yards which were a prominent feature of the "Mount Pleasant" establishment bore eloquent testimony to his care and foresight. He had the misfortune to lose his wife at an early age as she passed away on June 11th, 1840, when only 31 years old. During the succeeding 32 years he continued to supervise the farm on which he resided until his death, which occurred on September 22nd, 1872, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. His son, George (2), who had been most closely associated with him at "Mount Pleasant," succeeded to the estate and continued in his father's footsteps, pursuing precisely the policy so sedulously inculcated, and which earned for him the reputation of being the model farmer of the district. Mr. George Taber (2) had married Miss Jane Grover. who was born at Liverpool, and for a few years lived in the brick cottage then owned by Mr. George Taber (1), and now the property of Mr. Thomas Taber (4). The death of Miss Elizabeth Deborah Taber, in 1864, left such a blank in the old home that in order to cheer and comfort his father, Mr. George Taber (2) transferred his family to the paternal home, where for the following 32 years he exhibited all those qualities of citizenship which secured for him the high esteem of a wide circle of neighbours and friends.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

The children of Mr. and Mrs. George Taber (2), in consecutive order, were as follows: —

Miss Elizabeth Charlotte Taber ("Charlesville").

Miss Clara Jane Taber, who married Mr. George Albert Blackman (Ryde).

Mr. George (3) Edwin Taber ("Mt. Pleasant").

Mr. James (3) Alfred Taber (Menangle Park).

Mr. Thomas (4) Albert Taber ("Riverview").

Mary Ann Amelia Taber, who died in infancy (22/2/72).

Mr. Frederick William Taber ("Charlesville").

Miss Henrietta Florence Taber, who married Mr. Sydney A. Cross (Hurstville).

Edward John Taber, who died February 23rd, 1879 (aged one year.)

Miss Amy Amelia Taber, who married Mr. Charles H. Stapleton (Sutherland).

Edwin Robert Taber, who died February 1st, 1926 (aged 45 years).

Mr. Charles Harrington Taber ("Charlesville.")

The expressions of regret were state-wide when the announcement was made on May 17th, 1896, that Mr. George Taber (2) had passed away at the comparatively early age of 61 years. His good wife survived him by thirty years and died on March 29th, 1926, at the ripe age of 85 years. She had presided over the domestic affairs of the historic home for a period of sixty-two years, and in that long interval no human being was allowed to go hungry from the door. The hospitality of "Mount Pleasant" was known to all the country side and neither colour nor nationality mattered when relief was required. The call of the bush dwellers for help never went unheeded—how dark the night or how long or dangerous the journey. The late Mrs. Taber was a noble representative of true Australian woman hood, and this fact was appropriately stressed by the press of the State at the time of her demise. She was my life-long friend, and I shall honour her memory to the end. The will of Mr. George Taber (2) directed that the homestead should pass to his son, Mr. George (3) Edwin Taber, after the death of Mrs. Jane Taber, and in due course he assumed possession, being the fourth in ownership since the original deed of grant was signed by Major-General Lachlan Macquarie. The present owner and occupant married Miss Elizabeth Johns (Campbelltown) and has the following family:

Miss Miriam Victoria Taber (Mount Pleasant).

Miss Edna Vera Taber, who married Mr. Frederick Vallenge (Sutherland).

And Mr. George (4) Edwin Taber ("Mount Pleasant").

Mr. Thomas (4) Albert Taber, married Miss Ada Elizabeth Pepper, of Sydney.

The late Mr. Edwin Robert Taber (Menangle Park) married Miss Martha Marten McLachlan, of Hurstville, who with the following children survive him, viz: Alan Edwin, Mavis Elizabeth, Beryl Jane and Valerie May.

The Menangle branch of the family will, so far as it is possible to prophesy at time of writing, be perpetuated by the son of Mr. George (3) E. Taber, and the son of the late Mr. Edwin Robert Taber. Be this as it may, the name of Taber will for all time be associated with the pioneering days of Australia, and each succeeding generation will be called upon to uphold the traditions of the founders of the family in this distant part of the British Empire.

The late John Calderwood was employed for many years by Mr. George Taber (1), and I always think of him as typical of the "currency" of the early days. The copious red "comforter," cabbage-tree hat, and poncho were essentials of his equipment, together with the customary partiality for "fig" tobacco and West Indian rum. He was a good all-round farm hand and a trusted servant of the Medhurst Vale establishment. He eventually left Menangle, and some years later died in Liverpool.

A very old identity of the district was Tom Bellenger, who died about twelve months ago. He came to Menangle as a child with his mother, who was housekeeper for old Jeremiah Sullivan, an early grantee, and whose farm is now incorporated in the Edrop Estate. The site of his old cottage is slightly north-east of the brick pit and still discernible. The lad was subsequently taken care of by Mr. George Taber (1) and remained in his employ for many years. He eventually married one of the maids from the Edrop homestead and took a farm at Narellan, where several children were born. Immediately prior to his death he was carrying on farming at Spaniard's Hill. Mr. Bellenger was an authority on the location of the old roads leading to the various grants, and as he possessed an excellent memory was most interesting when relating his reminiscences. His demise provides another instance of the neglect of the Government by allowing these old colonists to die without their recollections being re-corded in the archives of the State.

I have a very vivid remembrance of "Black Nellie," a full-blood aboriginal woman, who made periodical visits to Menangle accompanied by several dogs of various breeds. The story of Nellie is somewhat romantic. Mr. George Taber whilst in residence at the old orchard on the western side of the railway line, had in his employ a half-caste named Johnnie, and when a small tribe of wandering aboriginals visited the orchard it was a case of "love at first sight" between Johnnie and Nellie, and the artful dodger managed to secrete her in a cask until the tribe moved onwards, and they lived happy for many years after-wards. Finally they went away to Windsor (possibly to the reserve at North Sackville), and when Nellie in later years returned to Menangle she stated that Johnnie was dead, but that "he was a good man and prayed to God before he died." The several families in the district were very kind to Nellie, and she had sterling friends in the good ladies at "Medhurst Vale" and 'Mount Pleasant."

Mr. George Taber (1) had another aboriginal, named Kelly, who was quite an expert in horticulture, and kept the flower gardens in good style. He had queer ideas of astronomy and could not be convinced of the rotundity of the earth. He was a trustworthy man and made almost daily visits to the post office in Menangle village to receive the mail.

I remember another blackfellow, called Billy, who was for some years with Mr. George Taber (2) at "Mount Pleasant." Mr. Taber taught him to play the violin and he could sing in a passable way. Billy eventually drifted to Sydney and, as may be easily imagined, with the facilities at every hand, he went the way of many of his race.

An exile who was generally known as "Old Bill Cox" lived at various times on the properties of Mr. George Taber (1) and Mr. George Taber (2). He was an old man when I first saw him, and although not inclined to talk he would on occasions become reminiscent and recount his earlier experiences when he and his comrades in misfortune cleared and tilled those hills which are so conspicuous on the eastern side of the railway when the trains are passing North Menangle platform. There were no ploughs in general use in those days, and hoes were the implements of cultivation. When the old man died it was discovered that his real name was Thomas Lyons, but I have no knowledge of the circumstances which compelled him to come to this country.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

The site of the Menangle Park Race course is portion of the original grant occupied by the late Mr. George Taber (1), and I can remember race meetings being held there in the early seventies. The primitive grand stand and judge's box were standing in decay for many years afterwards. The meeting of 1874 was the occasion of the brothers Thomas and James Payton meeting in the principal race of the day, when Tom, carrying the blue jacket of the Hughes family, on a good horse known as "The Barb," was victorious over his brother, whose pea green outfit was the pride of his grand old mother and who did not forget to tell Jim that he "disgraced his colours." A race meeting in those days was an event of importance, and the settlers assembled from near and far. The customary "booth" was in evidence and the usual free fights ensued. A comparison with present day methods when racing has become a highly organised industry is quite unnecessary, but I venture to say that the spirit of rivalry between owners of those days had a better influence on the sport than is promoted by the modern "sweeps" and totalisator betting. The late Mr. E. J. Edrop possessed a fair performer known as "The Gift," and this horse was trained on the old course (1876-77) and I am still unconvinced of the necessity for training horses about five o'clock on a cold winter morning. The wise acres decreed it, and it had to be done—that was the end of the matter.

The immediate neighbour of Mr. George Taber (1) on his northern boundary was Mr. James Cummins, whose family comprised James, Thomas, William, Winifred, Margaret and Elizabeth. The farm occupied by Mr. Cummins formed portion of the Glenlee Estate, and that part adjacent to the river is now cultivated by Chinese gardeners, whose modern motor waggons are conspicuous in Sydney on market days. Mr. James Cummins and his wife were elderly people when I first saw them, and were still in occupation when I left the district (1882) and for several years afterwards. Mr. James Cummins (2) married Miss Mary Dunphy, of Menangle, and took up residence on a small farm north of Howe's Creek, at the foot of the hill opposite the gardens of the Camden Park Homestead (across the river). He died at the early age of 36 years, on June 29th, 1881, leaving a widow and two sons. Mr. William Cummins married Miss Annie Flahey and remained on the old farm, where a family of nine children was reared. He died on August 4th, 1912, aged 65 years. Miss Winifred Cummins became Mrs. Whalan and went away from the county. Miss Margaret Cummins married Mr. James Carroll (Menangle South) and will be mentioned again in due course. Miss Elizabeth Cummins married Mr. James Kitzpatrick, of Glenlee, whose family consisted of Mr. James (2) Fitzpatrick, the present owner and occupier of the historic estate, and two daughters — Mrs. Sedgwick and Mrs. O'Donnell. Mrs. Fitzpatrick was only thirty-two years old at the

time of her death, which occurred on April 4th, 1882. I remember her splendid physique and her ability to handle and ride the veriest outlaw amongst the horses on the Estate. Mr. Thomas Cummins had married and left Glenlee prior to my association with that reach of the river.

Mr. James Fitzpatrick (1) was a native of Ireland and arrived in Australia in his early youth. He first came into prominence as a member of the Hume-Hovell expedition which went overland from Appin to Geelong district in 1824. The history of that undertaking has been published by the Royal Australian Historical Society. Mr. Fitzpatrick was an ardent admirer of Hamilton Hume and always referred to him as a capable leader and excellent bushman. He subsequently selected in the territory traversed by the expedition, and his holding was known as Cucumble Station. This property is located between Cootamundra and Gundagai, and here his untiring energy and constant care was rewarded in full measure. He found a good market for his sheep on the Victorian goldfields, and his prowess as a drover is still remembered in the scenes of his exploits. He subsequently purchased Glenlee Estate, which he supervised until his death on July 27th, 1882. Mr. Fitzpatrick at the age of 82 years had been twice married. His first wife (who left no family) died on May 25th, 1866, at the age of sixty years. Mr. James Fitzpatrick (2) was present at unveiling of the monument at Brookdale, in 1924, to celebrate the centenary of the start of the historic expedition, in which his father was such an active participant.

The activities at Glenlee demanded the usual amount of farm labour, and I can remember some of the families residing there in the seventies and early eighties, notably that genial soul Michael Curran and his good wife and their large family. Mr. Curran hailed from County Clare and possessed a rare fund of wit and humour. He lived to the good old age of 93 years and departed this life on May 23rd, 1918. His eldest son (John) died recently, being at the time proprietor of a hotel in Hamilton. Two other sons (Alex, and William) have made their mark in the commercial world. The late Mr. John Flahey was another member of the staff at Glenlee. His daughter married Mr. William Cummins as previously mentioned. Mr. Flahey was killed on the railway line in close proximity to the old homestead. Mr. Jos. Lawler lived in a cottage on the hillside south-east of Glenlee House. He had a large family of sons and daughters. Mr. Lawler was eighty-four years old when he died on June 5th, 1896. His wife predeceased him by three years, passing away at the comparatively early age of fifty-eight years on May 26th, 1893. The passengers by train may still observe remains of quince hedges on the flat immediately south of Glenlee House and on the eastern side of the railway, which in my young days enclosed a flourishing market garden, the proprietor of which rejoiced in the name of Ah Shoo (more generally called "Old Shoo"). Mr. Shoo had practically forgotten his Oriental mannerisms and was quite up-to-date with the customs of the period. He was a good sport and I can remember him competing against the late Mr. Ben Cummins, of Menangle, at a sports meeting held in the paddock immediately west of North Menangle platform about the year 1877. Mr. Cummins was the victor after a close contest. Ah Shoo never returned to his native Cathay, as he died some years later at Liverpool. The farm previously referred to as being taken over by Mr. James

Cummins (2) was formerly occupied by Mr. Thomas Sharman (otherwise "Bully Tom"). He had three sons, James, Patrick and Joseph, and one daughter, Mary Ann. I have no record of the movements of this family after leaving Glenlee Estate, but I believe the daughter married and for some time was living at The Oaks. The name of Howe's Creek perpetuates the original owner of the Glenlee Estate. The creek is now fed, in a measure, by soakage from the Cataract-Sydney aquaduct, but in my time was solely dependent upon the rainfall. The banks of the creek at its western extremity carried a large number of self-sown peach trees, and in season the residents of the district were permitted to take as much of the fruit as they desired, since there was then no market for same. Glenlee dates back to 1815, when the homestead was considered the best in the colony. The farming operations were on a scale equal to those in vogue on similar estates in England, and its lemon and quince hedges were a prominent feature of the establishment. Remnants of the hedges still remain. William Howe was a magistrate of the territory during the Macquarie regime and died on August 1st, 1855, aged 79 years. His wife, Mary Howe, died on October 28th, 1859, aged 78 years. William Howe, Jnr. (2), died April 11th, 1858, aged 40 years, and Edward Howe died January 4th, 1855, aged 34 years. In point of time William Howe of Glen-lee was contemporary with Thomas Rose, of Mount Gilead, and John Macarthur, of Camden Park. The fact is recorded of a purchase of sheep by William Howe (1) from Camden Park Stud in 1825. The name of William Howe will be for ever associated with the pioneering days, and his example as a model farmer will always be quoted for the edification of students of Australian history.

The entrance to Glenlee from the main southern road is at Madden's Hill, immediately after crossing the Aquaduct. Here, on a small triangular area, stood an old-time cottage surrounded by a neat garden and occupied by Mr. Jordan, who had married the widow Madden. He was more popularly known by an Irish sobriquet which I am unable to translate, but which he accepted in good grace. Miss Mary Madden was a handsome and popular girl and for a time attended Mrs. Aitken's school. I understand; that she died whilst still a very young woman. Her brother Patrick was for many years in Campbelltown, where he conducted a livery stable business prior to the coming of the motor car.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

The residence of Mr. Patrick Ward (1) was on the opposite side of the road, close to the aquaduct and still stands. His son (Patrick) married Miss Haydon, of Sugarloaf, and continued the farm after the death of his father. On the Glenlee side of the road, almost on the bank of the creek, may still be seen a plot of lillies (Iris) which were there as long as I can remember, and possibly belonged to one of those early homes to which Governor Macquarie was pleased to present flowers and shrubs in his efforts to extend the settlement. Immediately over the creek and on the eastern side of the road stood an old house on a space of about three acres, and which was owned by the late Richard Stewart. In this house lived a remarkable woman — Mrs. Farrell. She was known to all the people as "Granny," and the neighbours held her in high esteem. At that time (1875) she was ninety-five years of age and frequently walked four or five miles in the afternoon. Wearing the snow-white hood of the period, she was a picturesque figure. Mrs. Farrell had been twice married, and she was the mother of Mr. Jos. Lawler, of Glenlee. She died on February 28th, 1885, aged 105 years. Her husband, Christopher Farrell, had predeceased her by thirty-two years, having died on May 25th, 1853, aged 80 years. The house occupied by Mrs. Farrell had in earlier times (about 1855) been a schoolhouse, and Mr. Tancred was the schoolmaster. He is still remembered by some of the old residents of the district. Crossing the road again and slightly further south, stood two old houses, which with that of Mrs. Farrell have long since disappeared. These houses were occupied by the families of Whitely and Joyce respectively. I can remember both in occupation, but have no record of the families mentioned after their departure from the locality. The next house in order of travel southward is the present "Charlesville."

The building is now only a shadow of the original establishment. I can remember the extensive stabling accommodation, hay shed, coach house and all the accessories of a hotel of the period. The customary lamp post stood in front of the house with the requisite space reserved for horses and vehicles on the same plan as still prevails in connection with the hotel at Appin and the George Hotel in Picton. Prior to its purchase by Mr. George Taber (2) the property belonged to the Meade family, and the license was for a time held by a member of that family, but the last licensee was Mr. J. O'Brien. Race meetings at irregular intervals were held on the property, the course being round the hill, which meant that for nearly half the journey the horses were out of sight of the people. There were no stipendiary stewards in those far-off days, but the folks of the country-side enjoyed the meetings quite as fully as do patrons of the present highly organised racing carnivals. The completion of the railway bridge at Menangle, which provided for through traffic to Picton by train, so diverted trade that the hotel was compelled to close its doors, and in this way was

opened up a further term of usefulness for the building. The Education Act then in force provided for the establishment of schools in localities where the minimum quota of pupils could be raised. The families in the vicinity warranted a provisional school, and due largely to the influence of the late Mr. Geo. Taber (2) their petition was granted, and in 1874 the school was opened with Mrs. Aitken in charge. I made her acquaintance in the beginning of 1875—the longest year in my life, as having to write the date every day it became so monotonous as to be seemingly never-ending. However, it did end, and many more years have followed in its wake, but I still remember the curriculum of that old bush school—its Scripture lessons; the moral stories of the Irish National class books then in use; the geography lessons instilled by the aid of a bamboo pointer; and the studies-in grammar with special instructions to avoid "Cockneyisms." I must freely admit that I had not the remotest idea of what constituted a "Cockney." Robert Burns correctly phrases the situation by his trite remark: "How ignorant are ploughboys."

The creeks at the north and south sides of the school house contained some reasonably capacious pools which were utilised as baths by the pupils, an unwritten law allotting the creek on the south side to the boys and that on the northern side to the girls.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

The changing seasons extending over fifty years have obliterated the bathing pools of those days and it would now be difficult to locate, with any degree of certainty, the exact sites of those historic baths. I use the word historic in its fullest sense, for in the creeks in the vicinity of that old school was imbibed that love of natation which gave to Australia the magnificently organised system of swimming and life-saving which is our proud boast to-day. I have already mentioned Mrs. Aitken, the amiable and gentle lady who was mistress of the school, but it is only fitting that I should recall the fact that she was assisted by her husband (apparently much older) who was a retired clergyman of the Church of England. Rev. Thomas Aitken was a man of high scholarly attainments, and I regret that the records of the Diocese of Sydney are silent concerning the date of his arrival or his record of service. I am guided by his age when I state that he must have been contemporary with Revs. Cartwright and Reddall. I possess his Bible, which was presented to me in later years by Mrs. George Taber (2) as a souvenir of the old school. This book was printed in 1769 and is still in an excellent state of preservation.

I will now endeavour to re-write the school roll in the hope that it may meet the eyes of some of my school fellows who may be induced to make it more complete. The family of Mr. George Taber (2) had pride of place in regard to numbers, the names in order of rotation being: Elizabeth, Clara, George, James, and Thomas. There was another girl of the same surname (Ada Taber) who was a grand-daughter of Mr. George Taber (1). The Jones family was represented by Isaac, James and Rose, being the children of Mr. Isaac Jones, who resided in a brick house which, at the time, stood mid-way between the present Edrop Homestead and the original homestead, which is still in existence, opposite the railway platform at North Menangle. Mr. William Kellerman lived in a cottage which stood immediately inside the railway gate, at North Menangle, and his daughters, Charlotte, Caroline, and Rosetta, were regular attendants. From over the Sugarloaf came the Hammonds (Rebecca, Jane and Timothy); likewise the Lacks (Robert, James, William and Charles). The Glenlee Estate supplied its quota in the persons of Johanna, Joseph and Edward Lawler, and Joseph and Mary Ann Sharman. Two miles south from the school is a range of cleared hills and from the southern base of these hills came your humble servant and brothers Thomas and Edward. I can also remember as part-time pupils, Mary Madden (Madden's Hill), Edith Nine (whose father was a doctor in Campbelltown), Charles Gaudry (a nephew of Mr. Geo. Taber (2), two boys named Egan, who came from Mount Hannah, and William Brown, who attained high rank

in the service of the Railway Commissioners. There were surely others who have passed from memory, and I will be glad of a reminder from any of my readers, and should any of the pupils of that old school be visiting Newcastle I would be delighted to renew acquaintanceship.

Three blocks of timbered land, the property of members of the Taber family, stand between "Charlesville" and "Riverview", the residence of Mr. Thomas Taber (4) and which has already been mentioned. Immediately east of "Riverview" is the present residence of Mr. Hugh Finn, the property being portion of the original grant to James Harrex. This land passed into the possession of the late John Vardy, of "Springfields," who subsequently bequeathed it to his son Michael, who in turn sold it to the late Mr. E. J. Edrop, who built the present residence and requisite outbuildings when he embarked in the dairying industry on a large scale, with a pedigree herd, upwards of forty years ago. Still further east (half-a-mile) may yet be observed the remains of an ancient establishment, but it was a ruin in my boyhood days and I can only surmise that it was a foundation of the original grantee. Bearing south from this particular spot, and on the spur of same range, stood the home of Richard Stewart. He was an emancipist and a fairly old man when I first saw him. He generally rode a dapple-grey pony and had a peculiar penchant for rabbits and maintained a fairly large warren on his estate, which he protected in a most forceful fashion, as the records of the Campbelltown Court House attest. He left no issue and his property benefitted the Presbyterian Church, at Campbelltown. He arrived in Australia during the early years of the last century and passed away on July 22nd, 1878, aged 76 years. Mr. Stewart carried on mixed farming, his principal henchman being one Peter Cassidy, a very droll character, with whose private history I am not conversant. The housekeeper was Mrs. Pearce, whose temperament did not appeal to me in those far off days, and I remember she had a son John who occasionally visited her. Another visitor to the home of Mr. Stewart was Miss Elizabeth Hepper, a woman of extraordinary physique. Her family resided out beyond Wilton, on the Mount Keira Road.

The boundary between Stewart's property and Mount Gilead is a creek known as Stony Creek, and on the western side of same, up stream, may be discerned the ruin of a farm house which was the residence of Mrs. Riach, a popular bush nurse of the period and my earliest friend. Mrs. Riach hailed from the land of Burns and was a typical Scotswoman with a most pleasing vocabulary. She had a large family, and I knew her sons, Richard, James, William, Albert, and Arthur. Some of her daughters had married and left the district prior to my arrival on the scene of events, but I have a vivid recollection of Miss Annie Riach, who was a magnificent specimen of Australian womanhood. Miss E. Riach and Mr. Arthur Riach still reside in Campbelltown. This grand old pioneer reached the patriarchal age of 92 years, and crossed the border on October 5th, 1911. Her husband, Mr. William Riach, predeceased her by twenty-one years, having died on September 7th. 1890, at the age of 81 years.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The historic estate of Mount Gilead extends from the eastern side of Stony Creek to the road from Campbell town to Appin. Portion of the estate was originally the property of the Christmas family, and subsequently passed into the hands of Thomas Rose, who built the famous windmill. He also received a small grant of land in exchange for a property in Castlereagh Street, Sydney, on which Governor Macquarie built the Girls' High School and on which St. James Theatre and portion of Messrs. David Jones and Co.'s new emporium now stands. The mill was in active operation until the failure of the wheat crop in the district. It is now a monument of a romantic past and should be secured and preserved for national purposes. The architecture and masonry so immediately apparent bears eloquent testimony to the ability and skill of some of the pioneers. Thomas Rose was one of the first advocates of irrigation in the colony and backed up his opinion by building the dam which is still in existence after a century of service. His efforts to obtain compensation for the service which he contended he rendered to the country by demonstrating the possibility of conservation were unsuccessful. Mr. Rose died on March 3rd, 1837, aged 64 years, and was buried on the estate in close proximity to the windmill, but at the instigation of Mrs. Woodhouse (some years later) his remains were removed to St. Peter's Churchyard, Campbelltown. Mrs. Rose died on June 20th, 1869, aged 68 years, and is also buried in Campbelltown. I remember Mr. Alfred M. N. Rose, who was a son of Thomas Rose, and who lived with his sister (Mrs. Payten) in Campbelltown. He was an enthusiastic amateur fisherman, and his favourite spot was on the sandy beach between the two bridges at Menangle. Alfred Rose was a poet of no mean ability, and the task of collecting his writings would be a useful service to the country by some person possessing the requisite leisure. Mr. Edmund Hume Woodhouse, who was a bank manager, succeeded the Rose family in the ownership of Mount Gilead, and was the proprietor in active occupation in the days of my childhood. I can remember his herd of stud cattle and horses, and his experiments with sheep. In this latter connection I call to mind one of the old convict shepherds, "Billy Baldaxe" (most probably Baldock). Billy was a spare man of somewhat fiery disposition and took a pride in exhibiting the marks of his 1500 lashes which he protested that he accepted in order to save a mate from a worse fate. Billy was possibly the best relic of the "system" that I can remember. His days of penal servitude were not spent in the employ of the Woodhouse family. Billy had drifted into their service long after his emancipation. Mr. Woodhouse imported various species of deer, alpaca and llama, but without any measure of success. He was an enterprising man and did much to improve the methods of agriculture in the

district. He was born on November 4th, 1823, and died at the home stead on October 21st, 1875, and is buried in St. Peter's churchyard. His wife (whose maiden name was Bingham) survived him by many years and lived at Rockleigh and Campbelltown respectively. Her monument is in St. John's Cemetery, Campbelltown. Edmund Bingham Woodhouse inherited the estate and conducted same with reasonable success, but eventually it passed out of the family, and in the succeeding years has had many owners. Amongst the old families on Mount Gilead Estate, I have the kindest recollection of the late Andrew MacNamara and his good wife, who lived in a tidy cottage near the old mill. They had one daughter, Mary, who married Mr. P. McSullea, of Campbelltown. I can remember her walking to school to "Springfield's," which was the only establishment boasting a governess in the district. Mrs. McSullea died on June 22nd, 1886, aged 29 years. I met her only son, in Newcastle, a few years ago. Mr. Andrew MacNamara was a humourous man and highly popular. He reached the four score mark and died on January 1st, 1896. His faithful partner followed him five days later, dying on January 6th, 1896, at the age of 69 years. Two other families were those of Calahan and Connolly. The Calahans removed to Liverpool, and the name is still in evidence in that district. Mr. James Howarth was in charge of the stud stock, and I remember a man named Turk who was an assistant. Mr. Gately lived at the Lodge on the Appin Road. The buildings still standing at Mount Gilead and in a wonderful state of preservation demonstrate the sturdy type of architecture which found favour with the settlers of the early days. The name is a link with the past and all that past stands for. When the estate was founded the convict system was in full swing, with all its attendant abuses, and many human tragedies were enacted within its boundaries. Years brought their changes, brighter days followed, and time was when the grand old halls witnessed many of the most important social functions of the period. The history of Mount Gilead Estate may yet be written in detail and find a place in the archives of the nation.

Returning westward and following the southern side of Stony Creek through timbered land still known as Woodhouse's Point, the Nepean River is struck in the vicinity of the old ford known as Bird's Eye Crossing, but more familiarly known to moderns as Archie's Crossing, due to the fact that Mr. Archie Tulloh used this crossing for many years as a short cut to and from Appin and Menangle. This ford is on the original road from Sydney is on the original road from Sydney southwards, and is marked on old maps as 38 miles from Sydney, it was decided to build the bridge there, but the engineer's opinion was averse to the surveyor's, and eventually the bridge was built on the site of the present low level traffic bridge.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The crossing derived its name from the fact that when the original timber was standing a glimpse of the water of the river could be obtained from the high hills immediately north-ward, and around the base of which the old road was surveyed. Amongst the many exploiting parties to cross the stream at this point was that of Hume and Hovell, in October, 1824. Almost at the intersection of Stoney Creek with the Nepean River, and on the Northern bank of that creek, extending up to and including the clear hills so conspicuous from North Menangle platform is the original grant to James Harrex, and here on the flat land, about a quarter of a mile from the creek, stood the cottage in which I was born. My parents were not the first occupiers of the cottage, as the late Mr. James Leape, of Douglas Park, was in residence there at an earlier period, and I am of opinion that some of his children were born there. My father entered the employ of Mr. E. J. Edrop, in 1865, and remained on that farm until 1876. My brothers, Edward and James, and my sisters, Catherine and Mary, were also born in the same house. During the period mentioned the large apple orchard was brought into existence. Excavations were made for each tree and the rich, black soil was carted from the banks of the river, entailing a vast amount of labour without any adequate result for reasons already explained. Mr. Edrop's next venture was with sheep, but the land was too wet and footrot compelled abandonment. Like his neighbour (Mr. Woodhouse) Mr. Edrop was a man of enterprising disposition and introduced several varieties of English grasses, which he cultivated with great care. He also introduced the hawthorne hedges, and some remnants of his plantations still remain. He likewise planted a beautiful grove of pine trees (fir species) to serve as a windbreak for the orchard. This grove flourished for a time and presented an imposing sight, but eventually a species of grub attacked the trees and soon the pride of other days vanished without leaving a single trace of its existence. Mr. Edrop always possessed a certain number of dairy cattle, but this fact had no connection with his later enter-prises. He erected on the old farm a very fine dairy, built of stone, with floor about four feet below the ground level. The stone for this building was taken from a quarry in the immediate vicinity, and the masonry was done by a man from Parramatta. The dairy, together with the old cottage, has long since disappeared and only those conversant with the locality could locate the site of either building. About half a mile east of the old cottage on the road to Mount Gilead stood an older slab tenement, but I cannot remember anyone in residence there. Also, nearer the creek, and within flood reach, stood the re-mains of two old houses, but I was never able to ascertain who built them, but I am of opinion that they were only temporary residences of men working on the railway works in the

late "fifties" and early "sixties" of last century. As may be imagined, the farm in question was in those far-off days a very lonely place, and the Chinese and Indian hawkers were somewhat troublesome. The Wollongong aboriginals made our house a halting place on their regular visits to Sydney, but they were a good type of their race and never gave any trouble. We occasionally had other aboriginals from Mr. James Edrop's station, at Coonamble, but they only remained a very short time and returned to their own district. I can remember Black George, who used to break in the young horses, and who was a very capable rider. He left Menangle about 1870. Another regular visitor to the old farm was "Carroll-the-Rake," otherwise Shaun O'Carroll. He was a man of Herculean proportions but ungainly in appearance and the ugliest man in my memory. He left his country for his country's good, and our country did not gain much by his presence here. Having attained his ticket-of-leave he made a poor living by droving and casual work, and finally found a home at Moreton Park, where that good Australian, Mrs. Hughes (subsequently Mrs. McMullen) provided for him in his old age. He was buried in Campbelltown by his benefactress.

Another seasonal visitor was old William Harding, who was a trapper of cockatoos, parrots and finches, for which he evidently had a market in Sydney. His son, William, was a champion pigeon shooter and well known throughout the State. The name is still extant and dates back beyond 1836 in the Appin district.

The advent of the Cataract-Sydney water scheme brought many strangers to the district, and in connection with sections No. 5 and No. 6 teams and private vehicles were continuously passing through the farm. A quarry was opened within a few hundred yards of the old home and the foreman was none other than the genial Pat Farrell who, with another man named Gray, provided much amusement in the lighter vein. Mr. Farrell was a very wide reader, history being a favourite subject, and I imbibed from him much information which was of signal service in later years. His home town was Wilton, in which district some of his descendants still reside, and the name is a synonym for honesty and integrity of purpose. Mr. Farrell and his good wife sleep with the pioneers in Appin Cemetery.

The place where a man was born is naturally the greatest place on earth, and whilst our family will be mentioned again at another place of residence in the locality, I wish to say be-fore quitting the old farm, that the spot of land on which the old slab house, with its bark roof, stood on that bright Sunday morning in 1866 when I first beheld it, is to me the sweetest spot in the world notwithstanding that it has been my good for-tune to have visited many of the most famous resorts on four continents.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The adjoining property on the western boundary of the farm on which I was born, comprising two early grants, was owned by Mr. John (1) Vardy and bore the historic name of "Springfields." The selection of the name may have been intended as a compliment to Abraham Lincoln or it may simply indicate natural conditions prevailing on the farm, which possessed a good water supply from several springs apart from its frontage to the deep waters of the Nepean. The name of Vardy dates back to the early stages of colonisation. Mrs. Rosannah Vardy, who was the mother of John (1) and Thomas (1) Vardy, is buried in Campbelltown, the date of her decease being March 17th, 1838, and her age 76 years. Mr. John Vardy (1) was twice married, and his first wife (Mary Vardy), who died on December 25th, 1839, aged 32 years, left seven children, all of whom had married and departed from Menangle before I was three years old. I can remember one of the daughters (Mrs. Dalton) being on a visit to the homestead, and the oldest son, John (2), died there about 1878 from a gunshot wound.

Mr. John (1) Vardy was one of the pioneers of the Murrumbidgee district and owned two extensive stations in that locality. Campbelltown was the home of many of the southern squatters as Maitland was the seat of many of the station owners of the north and north-western districts of the colony. Mrs. Sarah Vardy died on February 4th, 1877, aged 57 years, and was followed six months later by her husband, who passed away on July 12th, 1877, at the patriarchal age of 83 years. The old gentleman was paralysed for some years prior to his death, but his wife was an excellent manager and the farm was utilised to its utmost capacity under her guidance. The orchard was not extensive but kept in good order, the dairy section was a regular bee-hive, and maize growing a feature of the establishment. The practice of earlier times of keeping a tutor at the homestead was continued until about 1872. I can remember Miss Alice Ashton Eastmure (poetess) occupying that position, likewise Miss Morley, and the last to preside over the schoolroom was Miss Mary Ellen Downey, who eventually became the hostess of "Springfields." Amongst others associated with the old home of the Vardy family I can recall Ambrose Hurley (who died at Cootamundra in his early youth — when the railway had not yet reached Goulburn and the funeral had to come a long distance by road on its way to Campbelltown), Miss Helena Byrnes and Miss Kate Corrigan, and Joe Jennings. The latter was of aboriginal descent and his bark canoe is the first in my recollection. As may be imagined, a busy farm and a house noted for hospitality had many servants during its long career, but their names or minor terms of service are not essential to

this narrative. "Springfields" was honoured by many visitors occupying high positions in the colony, and a "visitors' book" of those days would now make interesting reading. The building of the Great Southern Rail-way enlivened the farm for a time in the early "sixties," as the outcrop of sandstone on its southern boundary was selected by the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. John Whitton) as being suitable for building the piers to support the ironwork of the bridge which spans the Nepean River. A canvas town sprang up and a tramway was constructed to carry the stone from the quarry to the site of the bridge. The tramline crossed the two intervening creeks, and, as witnessing the durability of Australian timber, remains of the two wooden bridges may still be observed after exposure to the elements for nearly seventy years. The old quarry is in much the same condition as when the workmen completed their task, and is well worthy of a visit by reason of its historic interest.

The second family of John (1) Vardy consisted of three sons and three daughters, viz., Joseph, Michael, Thomas (2), Rose, Marcella and Philomena. Joseph Vardy died on November 3rd, 1869, aged 21 years. Michael married Miss Mary Ellen Downey and had a large family. He succeeded his father in the ownership of the estate and for some years conducted operations on an extensive scale. He was the owner of some racehorses of repute and was an enthusiastic supporter of all forms of sport. His eldest son, Joseph (2), I last heard of in South Africa, whilst other members of the family are still located in Campbelltown. Mr. Michael Vardy and his wife are only comparatively recently deceased. Mr. Thomas Vardy (2) lived for many years at Moreton Park and may be still in that district. Miss Rose Vardy married Mr. Thomas Rudd and they were blessed with numerous children. Miss Marcella Vardy became Mrs. P. J. Lacey, and in recent times was residing in Auburn. Mr. Lacey died a few years ago, but the family is still well represented in the metropolitan area. The youngest of the Vardy family (Philomena) died of burns accidentally received. April 21st, 1868, aged 7 years and 3 months.

The name of Vardy is indelibly impressed on the records of the State, and citizens claiming relationship with this long line of pioneers may, with good reason, be proud of the part they played in developing the colony at a time when such work demanded a full measure of courage and a determination to succeed in the face of all opposition.

Proceeding still westward, the next grant was that of Jeremiah Sullivan, but only the ruins of his house marked his former place of residence in my time. I can remember his son, Mr. Dan Sullivan, who was a popular young man, but who left the district in the early seventies. He entered the railway service and for many years was stationed at Bathurst. The Sullivan grant now forms portion of the Edrop Estate. There were some lonely graves in the district and one is located on this property, close to its eastern boundary on the bank of the river. The man buried there was drowned in the river more than seventy years ago. Such incidents were not uncommon in earlier times on the Nepean and Hawkesbury watershed.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The western boundary of Sullivan's farm marks the commencement of the grant of 200 acres to James Edrop (1), which has a frontage to the river until the original Taber grant is reached and is bounded thence by a line easterly to the northern end of Sullivan's farm. Mr. James Edrop (1) was an Englishman and must have arrived in the very early "twenties" of last century, in order to be amongst the grantees in the Airds district. He was conducting a butchering business in Sussex Street, Sydney, on portion of the land now occupied by the Royal George Hotel in 1835, and was the owner of the stores and wharf at the foot of King Street. He was likewise the owner of a farm at Burwood as well as an extensive cattle station in the Coonamble district. His home was in Church Street, Parramatta, where the fine brick mansion still stands. He was twice married (the second Mrs. Edrop being a daughter of James Harrex, who was also one of the original grantees in the parish of Menangle), and Mr. Jas. Edrop (2) and Mrs. Coomber, of Mittagong, represented the first family, whilst Mr. Edward John Edrop and Mr. Arthur George Edrop comprised the second family. I can remember the old gentleman supervising the affairs of the estate, more particularly the laying out of the orchard previously mentioned. He died on July 3rd, 1873, aged 80 years. Mr. Arthur George Edrop, who was a general favourite with all who knew him, died at a very early age, the date of his passing being March 11th, 1872, in his twenty-third year. Mr. Jas. Edrop (2) maintained his connection with the station property, whilst the Sydney, Burwood, Parramatta and Menangle properties passed to Mr. Edward John Edrop. He was closely associated with Menangle from childhood, and after the death of his father the management was solely by his direction. He was a magistrate for many years and was held in the highest esteem by all sections of the community. He built the present homestead in the mid "eighties" and resided there until his death on April 7th, 1897, at the all-too early age of 57 years. The immediate vicinity of "The Pines" was a stockyard for some years, but I can remember crops of oats being taken off that paddock in the "seventies." The portion of the farm on the eastern side of the road has been cultivated from the earliest days of settlement. Prior to the advent of rust in the wheat it yielded excellent crops. Later oats was grown, for hay and the land bordering on the creek produced record crops of maize. The hawthorn and American thorn hedges, as well as the ornamental shade trees still in existence are reminders of the good taste and thoughtfulness of the departed squire. Immediately south of "The Pines," distant about 150 yards and fronting the main road stood a brick house which was occupied as a general store whilst the building of the railway bridge was in progress. My parents resided in this house prior to taking up residence at the farm where I was

born. Mr. Isaac Jones occupied it in the "seventies," the majority of his large family being born there. His sons were Isaac (2), James and Arthur, and his daughters Rose, Ada and Florence. Another son, Fredrick, died in that house about 1876. I think there were some younger children, but as the family moved to Liverpool I lost touch with them. The house was next tenanted by Mrs. Mary Ryan, who moved from Menangle township on the death of her esteemed husband. Apart from casual travellers, Mrs. Ryan was the last occupant of this building, which fell into disrepair and finally vanished from the scene. Another 150 yards to the south, but on the eastern side of the road, still stands the wooden cottage which, for many years, was the headquarters of the estate and the residence of Mr. E. J. Edrop during his weekly visits to the farm. This building was erected and opened as an hotel in the late "fifties," the first licensee being Mr. James Larkin, from Appin. He subsequently sold to Mr. William Riach, who conducted operations until the completion of the rail-way works, when a hotel was no longer needed and the license was allowed to lapse. The date corresponds with the advent of the engagement by Mr. E. J. Edrop of Mr. John Noone as overseer and who for the succeeding forty-two years was such a notable identity in the district. Mr. Noone hailed from Athenry, in the west of Ireland, and arrived in Australia by the ship "Northumberland," in 1862. Prior to settling at Menangle he obtained "colonial experience" by driving the mail coach from Appin to Wollongong, harvesting at Wheo, and in the construction of the railway line from Douglas Park to Picton. The practical knowledge of mixed farming obtained in his homeland and his reputation for integrity soon established him firmly in the estimation of his employer, whose confidence he enjoyed to the very fullest extent. Mr. Noone lived in the old hotel premises and in 1876 he married Miss Susan Killian, who came from Meath, Ire-land, many years previously. She was a most amiable woman and enjoyed the esteem of a wide circle of friends. When the present homestead was built Mr. and Mrs. Noone resided there for some years, until failing health compelled him to relinquish work, and his generous employer built for him the cottage still standing on that part of the estate known as John Armstrong's grant of 30 acres, immediately opposite "Springfields" and commanding one of the finest views in the State. Here Mrs. Noone died on July 1st, 1903, aged 66 years. Her husband survived her by three years, dying on November 4th, 1906, at the age of 71 years. The old hotel property has a varied history, and its former importance in the busy farming days is remembered only by a few who were associated with activities of which it was the centre. The pine tree at the southern end of the house is about 50 years old and was planted by Mr. Edrop. A tree of the same species was planted simultaneously at the northern end, but it did not thrive. Immediately opposite this old house and comprised within the triangular area on which North Menangle Rail-way platform is now located, stood the great workshops of the railway contractors who constructed the iron bridge which spans the Nepean. These buildings were intact up to 1873 and contained huge quantities of building materials, machinery and engineers' requisites. Eventually all this gear was removed and the only indication of this term of occupation is the excavation which was made to secure the requisite levels for the sheds. The original railway track was only a single line with a small plat-form on the

eastern side. About the middle of the western platform stood a small cottage occupied by Mr. W. Huthnance¹, who was the engineer in charge of the pumping station, then located at the southern end of the iron bridge. He was an old man when I first saw him, and he was succeeded in the position by his son, Samuel Huthnance, who lived for many years in the wooden cottage on the banks of the railway cutting immediately south of the contractor's sheds previously mentioned. This cottage was formerly occupied by Mr. Wilcocks, who was also a railway official. I can remember him and Mrs. Wilcocks in residence there, but I cannot call to mind any children. Mr. Samuel Huthnance had a large family of whom I remember Edgar, Samuel, Maude and Ethel, but I know there were several other children in addition to those mentioned. Mrs. Huthnance was a daughter of Mr. John Beeston, who was for many years stationmaster at Menangle, and who will receive due notice at a later stage. A great cottage with a flourishing garden was located in the railway enclosure close to the gate which gives access to North Menangle platform. This was the home of the Kellerman family. Mr. William Kellerman was the ganger in charge of the permanent way and a most industrious man. Mrs. Kellerman's maiden name was Miss Patience Whiteman, and they were blessed with a very fine family, those of school age in my time being Charlotte, Caroline, Rosetta, William and Henry, but there were several younger children whose names I cannot remember. The Kellerman family eventually removed to Sydney and for a time resided in Newtown. The mother of Mrs. Kellerman lived with her and was always in demand when any accident or illness occurred as she possessed the recipes for many domestic remedies which were highly effective, and had some experience in nursing which she used to advantage. This estimable lady died in Newtown about 1884. When my parents removed from the farm to North Menangle my father built a house on the western side of the railway adjacent to the northern end of the platform. There we resided from 1877 to 1882, and my sisters Agnes and Alice were born in that house. The site of the old place could only be located by those having an intimate knowledge of the locality. As may be easily imagined, many people not mentioned were casual residents or visitors to that portion of the parish of Menangle covered by this review, but I think I have named all who were closely associated with the farms and families, and I will now endeavour to deal in a similar manner with the folks who dwelt within a reasonable radius of the township of Menangle.

¹ As far as can be determined, the father of Samuel Huthnance was John, not W.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

I have previously mentioned the fact that the village of Menangle is not within the parish of Menangle. The site for the railway station was arranged with the Macarthur family and the native name of the locality was quite properly applied and there-by perpetuated. The crossing of the Nepean River was originally at Bird's Eye Corner, and there is no record of a bridge being in existence at the present crossing prior to 1855. The first bridge, as far as I can ascertain, was commenced in that year and completed in 1856, the late Mr. James Bocking, more recently of Campbelltown, being the Superintendent of Works. The residents of Menangle presented Mr. Bocking with a gold watch, suitably inscribed, and this historic souvenir is still in possession of the Bocking family, being treasured by a grandson, who is at present residing in Newcastle. The bridge of 1855 may be termed a high-level bridge, as compared with the present structure. The approach was by way of a cutting almost at right angles with the road-way now in use, and the road passed under the viaduct about two hundred yards north of the existing track. The recent extension of the embankment has occasioned still further obscuration of the old roadway and entrance to the cutting, but those acquainted with the locality could easily trace its course. The bridge was about twice the length of the present bridge, and designed to assist teamsters by saving haulage through so much sand, and to insure the safe passage of stock, high railings were installed at each side. This precaution was possibly the real reason of its destruction, as in the flood of 1875 the driftwood piled up against the side of the bridge and the pressure of water carried the whole structure downstream. The drovers and teamsters had a tradition that the northern end of the bridge was haunted, and that the horses could perceive a ghost invisible to human eyes, and no amount of cajoling or flogging would induce them to cross the bridge once the apparition was sighted. Stories of ghosts in various localities were common in those days, and as boys we used to scoff at the "fairy tales," but, other days—other ideas. The horses were possibly the better judges. The present bridge has rendered excellent service, and whilst submerged on many occasions, has successfully withstood the floods of the intervening years. Crossing the bridge from north to south, the tourist makes his entry into the Camden Park Estate, on portion of the original grant to John Macarthur. The founder of the wool industry had passed away thirty-two years before I was born, and as James Macarthur died one year after my appearance on the scene, I cannot be expected to remember him, but I knew Sir William Macarthur, who was a very old man (about 77 years), and always used the Menangle route on his way to Sydney. He was frequently accompanied by Captain Onslow, who, at that time, appeared to be about forty-live years of age. He was a tall

man, of traditional naval appearance, much respected by residents of the district, and was M.P. for Camden. The portion of the estate abutting on the Great Southern Road and the Menangle-Cawdor Road, was subdivided into small farms, which were leased to many tenants, comprising a free mixture of English, Irish, and Scotch farmers. The first farm on the western side of the road was occupied by Mr. Thomas Hilder, and I can remember him in residence there. Possibly he was one of the pioneers, as he reared a large family, all of whom dispersed with the exception of his two sons, who come within the scope of my memory. The Hilder family comprised five daughters and two sons, viz., Harriet, Dinah, Eliza, Ellen, Annie, Walter and Heli. Walter succeeded his father in the tenancy, and he also had a large family. His sons, Tom and Heli, were about my own age, but they never went to school, as their father seemingly held the queer idea that "schooling" was only a fad and a waste of time. He was a hard taskmaster, a boastful man, and, as may be imagined, very unpopular. The site of the Hilder home is now occupied by the stables erected in recent years for the Camden Park Estate.

Immediately opposite, on the eastern side of the road, stood the model home of Mr. John Hourn and his good wife (Ruth). These excellent people are indelibly impressed on my memory. Mr. Hourn was of a very retiring temperament and a most industrious man. He lived his life in the fullest sense of the term and never seemed to have an idle hour. Apart from his farming operations he had brick and lime kilns in the paddock, where the artificial lake has since been installed. The whole of the bricks used in the construction of the railway bridge were produced by Mr. Hourn, as well as those necessary for building the hot-houses at Camden Park House. Later he made the bricks for building the Church of England, which is such a noted landmark in the district. Mrs. Hourn was a very capable woman, methodical, economical and of a most kindly disposition. She never failed when a service could be rendered to a neighbour. Their family consisted of eight children, namely, Charles, Fanny, Jane, Joseph, John, Ellen, Alice and Frederick. I can only remember the three last named. Miss Ellen Hourn became Mrs. Stanner, and is still happily associated with Menangle and its social activities. Miss Alice Hourn died at a comparatively early age, deeply lamented by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Frederick Hourn had the misfortune to lose a leg as the result of a gunshot wound, received whilst possum hunting with a party of young men on the hills adjacent to the town-ship. I can remember his mates carrying him to Camden on a stretcher, in hopes of saving the leg, but amputation was deemed necessary to save his life. His many friends subscribed the necessary funds to procure a cork leg for him, which was imported from England, and which proved such a success that the loss of the limb was scarcely apparent. He subsequently joined the railway staff, under Mr. Chas. A. Goodchap, and rose to the rank of Station Master, being in charge successively at Albion Park, Mount Victoria, and Granville. He retired from the service of the Commissioners in due course, and having acquired an estate at Stanthorpe (Queensland) went to reside there, but did not long enjoy the pleasure he so richly deserved, as he fell a victim to an attack of pneumonia about five years ago. Mr. John Hourn reached the patriarchal

age of eighty-four years, whilst his sterling helpmate passed away at the age of sixty-two years.

There were no houses on the western side of the road in the immediate vicinity of the township in the period covered by this narrative. All buildings now fronting the roadway on that side have been erected subsequent to 1882, and many of them have been built in recent years. The nearest neighbour to Mr. John Hourn was Miss Elizabeth McCain, popularly known as "Betty." She kept a small general store on the north-east corner of the Great Southern Road and Cawdor Road. The McCain family came from Ireland, and were domiciled in Menangle prior to 1860. I have always understood that Mr. John McCain was the pioneer of the family in Australia, and that he was a man of considerably business ability. He died on June 6th, 1861, aged 57 years, Miss Margaret McCain died on June 24th, 1860, aged 41 years. Mr. James McCain conducted a farrier's business at the rear of the store for many years, and with a fair measure of success. He was a man of small stature and possessed a fund of mirth. He may be aptly termed "a man of infinite jest." He died on July 29th, 1870, at the age of 54 years. His sayings and doings would require a chapter of their own. Miss Ellen McCain married Mr. William Connell, and they had three children, Eliza, John, and Sarah, all of whom went to the Catholic school in Menangle, and their names will appear in the roll-call of that historic institution in due course. The store business prospered for many years, and was only relinquished by reason of the fact that the Connell family removed to the Southern part of the colony when the railway opened through the Riverina district, and "Betty," by reason, of advancing years, was perforce compelled to accompany her only relatives in this country. The Kurrajong trees, planted in the long ago, are the sole reminders of that former hive of industry, when the yard was full of vehicles of every kind awaiting repairs, and the anvil of the village blacksmith made merry music. All through the "sixties" and "seventies" "Betty McCain's" was the "centre" of the village, and many of the well-remembered picnics and social functions were discussed and organised in that old home. The family was noted for hospitality, and many weary wayfarers had good rea-son to remember the generous "universal provider" at the "40 mile peg."

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

A small strip of land about one chain wide extended from the rear of the McCain-Connell tenement to the railway fence, and in this paddock Mr. Connell conducted his horse dealing operations. There were no other houses on the northern side of the road from "Betty's Corner" to the rail-way gates. Within the railway yard the farmers loaded their hay into trucks by sliding the trusses down the embankment on long oregon planks. The goods shed was located practically on the site of the present goods shed. The stationmaster at Menangle was Mr. John Beeston, who was associated with the company formed to build the first railway in the colony. He was also the local post-master. Mr. Beeston was a very old man in the "seventies." Mrs. Beeston was also a venerable old lady. Their oldest son, John, joined the Hunter River Railway Company and founded the well-known family at Newcastle, of which Dr. Joseph Beeston was such a distinguished member. Another son, Thomas, succeeded his father as stationmaster at Menangle when the old gentleman retired. There were also three daughters, Mesdames Negus, Ayres, and Huthnance. The descendants of John Beeston are now numerous in the Commonwealth. The goods shed was in charge of Porter Morley, and later Edward Hicks conducted the inward and outward traffic. The train service to Sydney consisted of one train each way. I can remember the driver, William Sixsmith, the fireman, William Webster, and the guard, Fitzpatrick. These men were connected with the railway system from its commencement. The service was gradually increased and as years passed the rapid transit of our time developed. There were two houses within the railway enclosure immediately north of the railway station house. These were occupied by fettlers. Mr. Burlin lived in one house and Mr. Michael Leatham in the other. The latter had a large family and several of the children attended the old school. I can remember Michael, James, Joseph and Mary, but there were several younger members of the family. Mr. Burlin left Menangle and Mr. Con Fleming came to live there.

He had no children, but his niece, Annie Fleming, attended the school. Mr. Fleming was killed on the railway line at the bridge on the north side of Glenlee House, about 1877. Mr. William Kellerman (already mentioned) was later in residence near Menangle station. Across the railway line, with an entrance gate at the southern end of the platform, was located the orchard and nursery of Mr. John Sanderson, who conducted a thriving business. At an earlier date he had a large garden and vineyard on the Cawdor Road, which will be described in due course. The family of Mr. Sanderson comprised Annie, William, Emily, Charlotte, Nellie, Lewis, James, Ada and Edward. Mr. Sanderson subsequently removed to the Western Suburbs, where

he died about twenty years ago. Mrs. (Ellen) Sanderson died quite recently at the advanced age of ninety-one years. Adjoining Mr. Sanderson's orchard and bounded by the railway line on the west, the Nepean on the north and the creek on the east, was the home of the Mulry family. The house stood on the flat land near the railway crossing. The farm was noted for its marvellous crops of maize. I can only recall three daughters in Mrs. Hickey, Mrs. George Woods, and Miss Kate Mulry, who later became Mrs. Ferguson, and some years after the death of Mr. Ferguson she married Mr. Heffernan. There were two sons, Patrick and John, but both had left the district prior to the time of which I am writing. Mr. Patrick Mulry died on April 22nd, 1893, aged 89 years, and Mrs. Mary Mulry passed over on April 20th, 1906, at the age of 81 years. Mrs. Heffernan died on February 7th, 1923, aged 66 years. The immediate neighbour of Mr. Mulry was Mr. Harry Ashcroft, whose farm was situated on the eastern side of the creek and bounded by the circle of the river on the north and east. Mr. Ashcroft was the first butcher in the district, his establishment being located on portion of Mr. James Taber's grant, about four hundred yards south of the present "Charleyville," where some remnants of this early building may still be observed. Mr. Ashcroft married Miss Rebecca Taber, daughter of Mr. James Taber (1), and subsequently moved on to the farm mentioned above. They were blessed with a very large family, all of whom are still living and resident principally in the western districts whence the family migrated when railway facilities were provided.

The following particulars regarding the family of Harry and Rebecca Ashcroft are worthy of record, viz.:

Elizabeth Charlotte Ashcroft, born August 2nd, 1848, became Mrs. Boyer and now resides at Campbelltown.

Margaret Ashcroft, born October 17th, 1850, married Mr. Jenkins and lives at Cudal.

Henry Ashcroft, born August 24th, 1852, has his home at Maroubra.

Rebecca Frances Ashcroft, born October 1st, 1854, became Mrs. Deane and resides at Bexley.

Edward John Ashcroft, born September 2nd, 1856, lives at Eugowra.

Mary Ellen Ashcroft, born September 4th, 1858, became Mrs. McClean and her home is at Cudal.

William John Ashcroft, born August 9th, 1862, resides at Cudal.

Albert Thomas Ashcroft, born June 18th, 1865, is located at Forbes.

Frederick Charles Ashcroft, born August 30th, 1867, is also at Forbes.

Alice Deborah Ashcroft, born July 16th, 1869 lives at Forbes.

Charlotte Madeline Ashcroft, born February 16th, 1871, became Mrs. Plunkett and resides at Forbes.

Mr. Harry Ashcroft was a typical Australian of the old school. I can remember him carrying on the farm at Menangle, and some of the trees in his orchard, and in all probability planted by him, were bearing fruit in recent years. He attained to patriarchal years and died in the Western Districts, where many of the companions

of his early days in Campbelltown and Menangle districts are also taking their rest. Southward from Menangle Station and eastward of the railway line as well as on the eastern side of the Long Lane stood the home of Mr. Robert Heggie. He hailed from the land of Burns and married Miss Haynes, who was the daughter of a Methodist minister then located at Menangle. The house occupied by Mr. Heggie has long since disappeared, but the location was in the immediate vicinity of the site now occupied by the mansion of Colonel Onslow ("Gilbulla"). The family of Robert Heggie, in so far as I can remember, were Robert, Ferguson, McGregor, Rosetta and Margaret. Mr. Heggie removed his family to Sydney in the very early "eighties" and I subsequently lost touch with them.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The next farm on the eastern side of the lane carried an old stone house dating back more than eighty years. I am not aware if Mr. Lodge was the first occupier, but he was certainly in residence there seventy-seven years ago. Mrs. Lodge was a bush nurse of the period and her services were much in demand. The earliest tenant in my recollection was Mr. William (2) Jones. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Mary Anne Meade, who died on May 1st, 1866 aged 24 years. The children of the first family were William (3) John and Sarah. William Jones (3) was killed by accident at Wagga about 1877. He was very popular and his untimely death caused much sorrow in the community. John Jones died in Sydney on January 24th. 1898 aged 37 years. Sarah Jones became Mrs. Rutherford and died on October 14th, 1885 aged 21 years. The second wife of Mr. William Jones (2) was Miss Elizabeth Kilfoyle, and the children of that marriage were Mary, Harry and Elizabeth. There may have been other children not of school age at that time. Mr. William (2) Jones subsequently removed to Campbelltown, where he died some years later.

Following the departure of Mr. William (2) Jones from the district, Mr. William (2) Starr secured the tenancy. He came to Menangle in early childhood and spent the whole of his long life in the immediate vicinity of that farm. He subsequently removed from the stone house to a neat cottage about four hundred yards southerly near the end of the lane. This cottage was in earlier days tenanted by a family named Creighton and later by Mr. Samuel Smart (who will be mentioned in the Cawdor Road section). Mr. Starr made another move subsequently by building the present cottage in close proximity to the site of the ancient stone tenement. He had increased the farm area by renting a further parcel of land from Camden Park Estate. He married Miss Selina Ryder, and their family comprised six sons and three daughters. His widow still survives and is in residence at the stately little cottage over which she has presided for such a lengthy term of years.

The historic seat of the original Starr family comes next in sequence and dates back more than seventy-seven years. Mr. William Starr served with the Duke of Wellington through the Waterloo campaign, and at the close of the war took advantage of the system then in vogue and bought himself out of the army. He married in England Miss Elizabeth Arnold, who was a native born Australian. Her father was a soldier in the seventy-third regiment and stationed at Sydney at the time of her birth. Her mother returned with the child to England, and during her absence Mr. Arnold died in Sydney. When Mr. Starr decided to try his fortune in Australia, he embarked on the sailing ship "Orient" and arrived in Sydney about 1838, bringing

with him his wife and three sons, Frederick, Henry and Stephen. The family resided in Market Street, Sydney, for a brief period, but as Mr. Starr preferred suburban home, he purchased a cottage and two acres of land at St. Peters. Here the membership of the family increased by three more sons and one daughter, viz., George, Jennings, William and Ellen. The prospects of success as a wheat grower induced him to sell his home at St. Peters and after having purchased a waggon and team of bullocks, he trekked to Menangle and rented the farm of one hundred acres owned by Mrs. Hughes of Albion House, Surrey Hills, Sydney, on a basis of eight shillings per acre. He built a slab house which stood for more than fifty years. Here two more son were born, viz., James and Joseph. Wheat farming proved profitable for many years, but eventually the rust pest put an end to wheat growing in the district. During the intervals between ploughing and harvesting, Mr. Starr and his sons engaged in the carrying trade, and had several bullock teams on the roads between Sydney and Goulburn prior to the advent of the railway: The Starr family ranks amongst the pioneers of the district. Mr. William Starr (1) died in the house already mentioned at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. His wife continued in residence until her death at the great age of ninety two years. The family burial place is in St. John's Churchyard, Camden. The eldest son (Frederick) remained a bachelor and passed away on the old farm aged eighty-five years. Henry Starr migrated to the Western districts, where he married and settled at Gongolgan, on the Bogan. He had nine children, and one of his sons (Harry) .was the proprietor of a hotel in Bourke in recent times. Stephen Starr married Miss Hannah Catt, daughter of a neighbouring farmer, and the family consisted of three sons and four daughters. Some of his children and grandchildren are living at Kogarah. George Starr married Miss Dare, and they had eight children, and the family is well represented in the Elderslie district, near Camden. Mr. Jennings Starr married Miss Sarah Young, daughter of Mr. Richard Young, of Menangle, and occupied for some years a small farm on the Moreton Park Estate, adjoining his paternal home. He had six sons, and some of their families are living on the South Coast. Miss Ellen Starr married Mr. Thomas Fahey (2) of Brook's Point, and she had seven children (this family will be mentioned in a later publication). Mr. James Starr married Miss Mary Rice, of Sydney. He is the only survivor of the family, and with his good partner is living on the mountain road near Bulli. Mr. Starr is seventy-six years of age and with memory keen is a veritable store house of information concerning the early days in the southern districts. He was present at the opening of the railway to Menangle, which was a gala day for the county, and he was also in close touch with the building of the bridge which spans the Nepean. At a later stage he was engaged in the construction of the railway from Menangle to Picton. His family of four sons and five daughters are living in the Illawarra District. The youngest of the Starr family (Joseph) died at the very early age of 17 years. I can recall him to memory as the tallest native I have ever seen. The name of Starr would seem to be permanently established in this country, and descendants of the original family may look back with pride to their participation in the great work of building up this glorious Commonwealth.

On the western side of the lane, and bounded by the railway line, is located a farm originally occupied by Mr. William Catt more than seventy years ago. He died at the age of 80 years, and is buried in Camden Churchyard. He was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Ryder, who was conducting the farm in the "seventies" and early "eighties." I can remember his sons, Benjamin, James, Joseph and Horace, and his daughters, Selina (Mrs. W. Starr) and Rhoda (Mrs. Scott, who is now living at Sydenham).

Returning northwards along the lane and on its western side, the adjoining farm was, tenanted by Mr. Thomas Jones (1). His wife was a member of the Meade family, and of their children I remember Thomas, Clara, Mary, Richard, Joseph, Bede, Lily, Kate, Theresa and Gertrude. Some years later Mr. Thomas Jones removed to a farm immediately west, of his first location, and just across the railway line. This branch of the Jones clan moved to Sydney in the early "eighties."

Nearer the village of Menangle and in the vicinity of the present slaughter-house stood the home of Mr. Richard Young. He cultivated the land on both sides of the railway. His daughter, Sarah, married Mr. Jennings Starr, Jane became Mrs. Walter Hilder, and there was one son Thomas who had left the district at an earlier date.

Recrossing the railway line by the overhead bridge on the Cawdor-Menangle road, and on the south side of that road, is located the public school. The school master was Mr. Henry Mills. I remember his two sons John and Charles. The school had a roll call of about 75 pupils, but the average attendance would not exceed 15. The children came from all parts of the district over distances extending to five miles.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The roll call of that old school would make most interesting reading at this date, but as it is not available, I will endeavour to forestall a "back-to-Menangle" function by placing some of the pupils of fifty years ago in their erstwhile seats. During the "seventies" and early "eighties" the following filled the forms, viz.: John and Charles Mills; Isabella and Robert Woods; Edgar, Samuel, Maud and Ethel Huthnance; Agnes, Fanny and William Baker; Joseph James, and Rhoda Ryder; Charlotte, Jane, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Grace, Mary, Vard, and John Stevens; Albert, William and Eva Channel; William, Clara, Amy, Lucy and Edward Smart; Emily, Charlotte, Nellie, Ada and Louis Sanderson; Walter and Esther Wingfield; Sarah and Mary Tully; Myra Earl; Joseph Nicholls and a younger brother; McGregor, Ferguson and Margaret Heggie; Charlotte, Caroline, Rose, William, Harry and George Kellerman; Alice and Frederick Hourn; Minnie White; Frederick and Elizabeth Proctor; Alice Ottery; William, Samuel and Ruth Bunker; John and Charles Giddy; Harriet York; Elizabeth Fahey; William Negus; Elizabeth, Clara, George, James, Thomas, Florence, Amy, Frederick and Charles Taber; James Slater and Ada Taber. There would likewise have been many casual pupils in the years cited, due to railway, road and water supply contracts being in progress at various times and for limited periods.

The houses at present fronting the roadway between the public school yard and the main Southern Road were all built subsequent to 1882, and several have recently been erected. The only house on the southern side of the road, and located at the intersection of the main road, was that occupied by Mr. William Dawson, and to which was attached a neat garden and vineyard about an acre in extent. Mr. and Mrs. Dawson were old people when I first saw them. They had three sons (Sydney, Harry and George), who left Menangle when the rush to the gold diggings eventuated. Mr. Thomas Dawson, who was for many years the agent for Camden Park, was a brother of Mr. William Dawson. Mr. John Dawson ("Honest John"), the well-remembered solicitor of Sydney, was another brother. The respected old couple were in residence at Menangle in 1882.

Adjoining the residence and orchard of Mr. William Dawson, on the southern side and fronting the main Southern Road, was the Catholic church-school. The ground was a gift from the MacArthur family to the local Catholic tenants of the Estate. A wooden building which served the dual purpose of church and school was erected on the north-eastern portion of the land and immediately at the rear of this edifice was the schoolmaster's cottage. The school was conducted under the denominational system then in vogue. The first schoolmaster of whom I have any knowledge was

Mr. Denis Kelly, who was in charge in the early "sixties," as Mrs. Mary Anne Kelly died at Menangle on November 11th, 1863, aged 26 years. Some of Mr. Kelly's pupils are still resident in the district. He was succeeded by Mr. James Ryan, who came to Menangle from Picton, where he was previously engaged in a similar capacity. Here I am forced to admit my inability to do justice to the memory of this great man. I will therefore call to my aid his immortal countryman (Oliver Goldsmith) whose pen-picture of his own mentor will convey some idea of the type of man to whom was entrusted the task of moulding the minds and shaping the destinies of those young Australians who foregathered under his care in the village school at that early period.

"Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,
With blossom'd furze unprofitably gay,
There, in his noisy mansion skill'd to rule,
The village master taught his little school;
A man severe he was, and stern to view,
I knew him well, and every truant knew.
Well had the boding tremblers learn'd to trace
The day's disasters to his morning face;
Full well they laugh'd with counterfeited glee
At all his jokes, for many a joke had he;
Full well the busy whisper circling round,
Convey'd the dismal tidings when he frown'd:
Yet he was kind, or if severe in aught,
The love he bore to learning was in fault.
The village all declared how much he knew,
'Twas certain he could write, and cypher, too;
Lands he could measure, terms and tides presage,
And e'en the story ran that he could gauge:
In arguing, too, the parson own'd his skill,
For e'en though vanquish'd, he could argue still;
While words of learned length and thund'ring sound
Amaz'd the gazing rustics ranged around;
And still they gaz'd, and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew.
But past is all his fame. The very spot
Where many a time he triumph'd is forgot."

Mr. Ryan hailed from County Clare, Ireland, and came to Australia in early manhood. He was an accomplished arithmetician and a keen student of Greek and Latin. As an elocutionist he was in the first rank, and his handwriting was of that type which must always command attention. Mr. Ryan was a strict disciplinarian and set an example which he expected the pupils to emulate. He was twice married. His first wife (Catherine) died at Menangle on March 25th, 1875, aged thirty-five years. Four children survived her, viz: Michael, Margaret, Denis and James, all of whom were pupils in the old school until the death of their father, which sad event

occurred on June 24th, 1881. Thus passed away one of the great pioneers of education in this country. The second wife of Mr. Ryan (Mary) died on March 16th, 1894, aged 50 years. There were no children of the second marriage. She was closely associated with the school and taught sewing and other branches of domestic science. Mr. Michael Ryan followed in his father's footsteps and entered the Department of Education, where he has had a very successful career. He has been located in various parts of the State and at present is headmaster in one of the Metropolitan schools. Miss Margaret Ryan was a marvellous mental calculator, and, entering commercial life, attained a highly responsible position in one of the leading establishments of Sydney. Mr. James Ryan (2) died in Sydney about forty years ago, and Mr. Denis Ryan also passed out in early life. The family burial place is in St. John's Cemetery, Campbelltown. The successor of Mr. Ryan at Menangle was Mr. Brennan, who conducted the school until it was extinguished by the incidence of the Public Instruction Act. Mr. Brennan was then transferred to Cambewarra, and in retirement, many years later, spent some time in Western Australia.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

He [Mr. Brennan] eventually returned to New South Wales, and soon afterwards had the misfortune to lose his good partner, whom he did not long survive. He died at Parramatta a few years ago, having passed the allotted span by some years.

When State aid to denominational schools ceased, the Sisters of St. Joseph took charge of the school at Menangle and conducted it for some years, but were eventually obliged to close it by reason of the dwindling of the population which followed the extension of the railway system south, west and north.

The Catholic Church at Menangle was in the care of the priest at Campbelltown, and whilst in all probability Father Therry was the first missionary to visit Menangle, Father Roach was the priest in charge when I came on the scene. He was held in the highest esteem by all sections of the community. He removed from Campbelltown about 1877 and was succeeded by Monsignor John Lynch, who was one of the greatest orators and writers of that period. Prior to coming to Campbelltown he had been for many years in the diocese of Maitland. I recently discovered his resting place in the Benedictine Cemetery at the rear of Lewisham Hospital. The successor of Monsignor Lynch was Father Petre, but his pastorate does not come within the scope of this narrative. There has been many changes since 1882, and in the interval the present handsome brick church has been erected, and the old church and school is now only a memory with the few remaining who were educated within its walls on week-days, and who worshipped in it on Sundays.

Before passing on from this historic site, I will endeavour to recall some of the names of the pupils which appeared on the roll of the old school during the middle and late "seventies." Amongst same would be Thomas, John, James, Rose, Harry and Frank Hickey; Margaret, Alice, Elizabeth and William Payton; Richard, William, Daniel, Thomas and Mary Cummins; Jeremiah, Patrick, Margaret, Mary, Bridget and Philip Quirk; Mary, Sarah, Eleanor and Michael Maher; Thomas, John, Edward, James and Catherine Moloney; Michael, James, Joseph, Mary and Rose Leatham; Michael, Denis, James and Margaret Ryan; Patrick, John, Joseph, Margaret and Mary Bergin; Eliza, Sarah and John Connell; Margaret, Agnes and Denis Leape; Joseph Vardy; Roger Reidy; Peter Heaney; Michael Lynam; John Lupton; Annie Fleming; Julia Scully; Charles and Annie McGill; John, William, Richard and James Jones (children of John Jones); Thomas, Clara, Mary and Richard Jones (children of Thomas Jones); Isaac, James, Rose, Arthur, Ada and Florence Jones (children of Isaac Jones); and Mary, Elizabeth and Harry Jones (children of William (2) Jones).

Similarly to the public school, there were many casual pupils, being children of temporary residents or visitors.

The annual picnics provided by the parents were truly wonderful events. The mothers were cooking for days beforehand, and the best was not too good for the festive board. Likewise the annual ball in aid of the Church funds. There being no hall in the village, the resourcefulness of the people was equal to the occasion. Sufficient money was collected to buy the requisite quantity of flooring boards; parties of young men brought in sufficient poles from the bush to build the framework, and an obliging railway inspector loaned the necessary tarpaulins to complete the roof and walls. In this improvised hall, and to the music of a violin and piano, were held many social functions of a highly, successful character, the outstanding feature of same being the wholehearted co-operation of the people of the district who combined on all occasions in support of every worthy cause.

The next house to the school yard, on the southern side, was occupied' by Mrs. Beerman. She was a daughter of Mr. Jonathan Woods, whose family will be mentioned in due course. Mrs. Beerman (formerly Mrs. Tully) had two daughters, Mary and Sarah Tully. Mr. Beerman was a railway employee and a member of that very useful section known as "the flying gang." His wife conducted a small business in the front portion of the house, her principal patrons being the pupils of the: school. Mrs. Beerman removed from Menangle, and for a lengthy period was the proprietress of a boarding establishment at Bundanoon, where she died in recent years.

Adjoining the shop of Mrs. Beerman was a two-storey wooden house, the earliest tenant in my memory being a man named Apps, who conducted a butchering business in a spasmodic way during the railway building period. The occupier in the late seventies was Mr. Wingfield, who was in charge of the goods shed at Menangle Station. I can only recall the two children previously mentioned.

Mr. Thomas Giddy carried on a bootmaking and repairing business in a neat cottage next door to Mr. Wingfield. He was a man of studious habits and strong religious convictions. He subsequently joined the railway service and rose to the rank of station-master, and was for many years in charge of Campbelltown Station.

A similar cottage on the adjoining allotment was occupied in the early "seventies" by Mr. John Giddy, who was a foreman carpenter in the railway service. He was a brother of Mr. Thos. Giddy, and there was another brother Charles, and a sister Mary, who became Mrs. Markham and lived in Liverpool. Their father was Mr. Grantham Giddy, who died whilst his children were young, and Mrs. Giddy married Mr. Robert Heggie, whose family has already been mentioned. This cottage was occupied in the mid "seventies" by Mrs. Chappel, an elderly lady at that period, and I remember one son, George, who was then a young man, and in the early "eighties" he was located in Sydney. I am of opinion that some family relationship existed between the Heggie and Chappel families.

The avenue leading up to the Church of England (St. James) branches off from the main Southern Road immediately beside the allotment where Mr. John Giddy's cottage formerly stood. The present very fine Church building has been enlarged and beautified since 1882, and is well deserving of a visit of inspection by tourists. It has been heavily endowed by the MacArthur Onslow families during the intervening period. The old Church was served by Rev. Mr. Tingcombe, and later by Rev. John Moran, who was the incumbent at Camden, and visited Menangle on the second or third Sunday in the month. Captain Arthur Onslow, R.N., who always took a practical interest in church matters, frequently conducted services in Menangle when the regular ministers were unable to attend. Miss Ellen Hourn (Mrs. Stanner) was the leader of the choir and the possessor of an excellent voice. The first Church of England, which occupied a site adjacent to the present building, was a wooden structure, and dated back to the subdivision of that portion of John MacArthur's grant into small farms.

Crossing the church avenue and the last house in the village proper, was the residence and business premises of that kindly, jovial citizen, Mr. Joseph Hickey.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

Mr. Hickey hailed from County Kildare (Ireland) and was twice married in his native land. The children of the first marriage were Martin, Catherine and Margaret, all of whom accompanied him to Australia. The family arrived in Sydney in the late "fifties" and Mr. Hickey obtained employment at his trade (butcher) in Liverpool. Later he commenced business on his own account and realising that the camp at Menangle would be continued for some years, consequent upon the extensive nature of the railway works at that centre, he moved hence and established himself there in 1861. During the succeeding twenty-two years he worked in most industrious manner and by reason of his genial nature endeared himself to all who had the good fortune to make his acquaintance. He was noted for his honesty and integrity, and his death, which occurred on February 2nd, 1883, when he had only reached his fifty-seventh year, came as a great shock to the community in which he was so highly esteemed. The original contingent of the Hickey family was increased by the following additions, viz.: Joseph, William, Thomas, John, James, Harry, Francis, Maria Ellen, Julia, Rose Ann, and Elizabeth. Martin Hickey died on January 26th, 1885, aged 31 years. Miss Catherine Hickey became Mrs. Lupton and was for many years a resident of Botany, where she died July 22nd, 1921, aged 71 years. Miss Margaret Hickey was a most interesting personality and will be remembered in connection with the Royal Hotel, Appin, which she conducted in partnership with some other members of the family. She died at Menangle, April 11th, 1925, aged 72 years. Joseph Hickey died May 13th, 1915, at the age of 56 years. He was associated with the tanning industry and will be remembered for his good citizenship in Granville district. William Hickey was the proprietor of a butchering business in Campbelltown where he was very popular. He died in the old town on December 27th, 1899, at the very early age of 36 years. His funeral was the largest within the memory of the oldest residents of the district. Thomas Hickey passed away on September 25th, 1916, aged 51 years. He was also in the tanning business in Granville-Merrylands area, and is survived by one son. Mr. John Hickey has spent his whole life in Menangle, and until two years ago was actively connected with the business founded by his father and of which he became senior partner after the demise of his honoured parent. Mr. John Hickey may be aptly described as "the father of the village" as his services have always been at the disposal of the residents and he has also taken a keen interest in every movement intended to promote the welfare of the people of the district. Mr. James Hickey spent a considerable portion of his career in Campbelltown, where he conducted a butchering business for a lengthy period. He married Miss Wanda Zylinicki, of Camden, and his family

comprises two daughters. He is now residing in Menangle. Mr. Harry Hickey was for some years in business in Appin when the Cataract Dam was being built. He subsequently returned to Menangle, and was associated with the firm of Hickey Bros. He married Miss May Carroll and has a family of two daughters and one son. He now lives in Parramatta. Mr. Francis Hickey remained with his brother John in the old business at Menangle, where he was a general favourite. He died on July 27th, 1925, and is survived by his widow. Miss Rose Ann Hickey married Mr. P. Finn. She possessed a happy disposition and was generally esteemed by all the pupils at the old school. She died on March 1st, 1916, at the age of 44 years. Miss Maria Ellen Hickey died suddenly at Menangle on March 25th, 1918, aged 54 years, Miss Elizabeth Hickey passed away in early youth, dying on July 1st, 1893, at the age of 16 years. Miss Julia Hickey was a partner in the Royal Hotel, at Appin, where she was highly esteemed by travellers and tourists. When the hotel passed into other hands she returned to Menangle with her sister, Margaret, taking up residence in the cottage still occupied by Mr. John Hickey. Whilst on a visit to Parramatta she was stricken with an illness which proved fatal, and she died there on November 2nd, 1927, aged 68 years. Mrs. Maria Hickey (nee Maria Dowd), the model mother of this notable family and the faithful partner of her large-hearted husband, also came from Kildare and spent almost half a century in the historic village. She was of a retiring disposition which was accentuated by reason of her very apparent responsibilities. She died at Menangle on February 1st, 1909, having attained the patriarchal age of 78 years.

The burial place of the Hickey family is in St. John's Churchyard, Campbelltown, where so many of the pioneers of Australia are taking their rest, and amongst that grand array of dauntless colonisers the record of Joseph and Maria Hickey must ever hold a prominent position.

The land immediately adjoining Mr. Hickey's premises was occupied by Mr. R. Young, and at a still earlier date a man named Daniel Crowe was in residence on the next paddock, but he had taken his departure prior to my arrival.

Proceeding southerly and keeping on the eastern side of the road, the next residence was that of Mr. Edward Bergin. This farm was originally held by Mr. Bergin's father (Patrick), who moved on to it from a previous settlement bordering on the Moreton Park estate in the vicinity of the railway cutting nearly three miles south of Menangle railway station. Mr. Edward Bergin married Miss Margaret Finn, daughter of Mr. Patrick Finn, who will be mentioned later. The Bergin family consisted of Patrick, John, Joseph, Benedict, Margaret and Mary. Some years subsequent to 1882 Mr. Edward Bergin came into possession of a farm, which, for many years previously, was incorporated in the Glenlee Estate. He lived to a ripe old age and was actively engaged attending to his cattle business right up to the time of his death about three years ago. The members of his family are located in various parts of the State and have given a good account of themselves.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The road branching off from the main Southern road in proximity to the present Foot-Onslow Bridge leads into the home of the Jones family. Mr. William (1) Jones, the founder of the Menangle branch of the family was born on Camden Park Estate in the very earliest days of that historic settlement. I think it would be quite safe to assert that he was one of the first white children born in the vicinity of Camden. He was amongst the first batch of farmers placed on the land by John MacArthur. He married Miss Sarah Rudd, of Campbelltown, and the members of his family comprised: William (2), John (1), Thomas (1), Isaac (1), James (1), Henry, Charles and Joseph. The families of William (2), Isaac (1) and Thomas Jones have already been mentioned. John Jones was a carpenter and wheelwright and carried on business in premises immediately adjoining the residence of his father. He married Miss Margaret Teresa Botton, who died at the very early age of 21 years, on May 24th, 1868, leaving a family of four sons, viz., John (2), William (4), Richard (1), and James (2). Their names will be found on the roll call of the old village school in the mid-seventies. William (4) was living at Parramatta in the early eighties. Richard Jones died at Bourke in very early manhood. John (2) migrated to Burrenjack and has been resident there since the commencement of that great irrigation scheme. James was a blacksmith, and carried on business in Campbelltown in recent years. Mr. John Jones (1) died in 1903 at the age of 67 years. Mr. Isaac Jones (1) died at Liverpool a few years ago. Mr. Thomas Jones (1) is still living, and resides at Summerhill. Mr. James Jones (1) married Miss Sarah Rudd, daughter of Mr. Thomas Rudd, who resided about two miles south of Campbelltown, and he conducted a small farm in the area immediately south of the paternal home. The members of his family were James, Alfred, Denis, Robert, Charles and Sylvester, and of these sons only Alfred, Denis and Charles are living. Mr. Alfred Jones resides in Menangle, and was for many years a member of the staff of Messrs. Hickey Bros. Mr. Henry Jones married Miss Catherine Dillon, and had a family of five, viz., William, Thomas, Annie, Mary and Ada. Mr. Charles Jones (1) married Miss Catherine Rudd (sister of Mrs. James Jones). He died on June 12th, 1883, aged 27 years. His widow subsequently removed to Sydney and for many years resided in Redfern. Mr. Joseph Jones married Miss Elizabeth Brennan and his family consisted of one son (George) and three daughters.

Immediately south of the farm occupied by Mr. James Jones (1) was the home of Mr. David Hennessy. He was another of the pioneer farmers, and a most industrious man. I recall the following members of his family, viz., John, Laurence, Andrew,

Thomas, Michael, Martin, David, Norah, Kate, Ellen, Margaret, Mary and Winifred. The Hennessy children were educated at the school at Spaniard's Hill.

Mr. Michael Cahill was the occupier of the farm adjoining the Hennessy establishment, and extending to the main road. He was a man of sturdy physique and hailed from Inchebawn, County Limerick, Ireland. He died on January 11th, 1906, aged 95 years. His good wife survived him by six years, dying on June 16th, 1912, also at the age of 95 years. His family comprised Patrick, Thomas, Michael, Mrs. Quill, Mrs. O'Connor, and I understand some other children remained in Ireland. Michael Cahill (2) was a partner in the firm of Hickey and Cahill, bakers, Surry Hills, and later in business at Hunter's Hill, on his own account and from which he recently retired. Thomas Cahill entered the Railway Department and was for many years engine driver on the various routes out from Sydney.

Mr. Patrick Cahill married Miss Agnes Maher, who died on November 10th, 1914, aged 52 years. Her husband passed away on August 21st, 1921, aged 64 years.

Returning towards the village of Menangle, but keeping to the eastern side of the road, the farm opposite the intersection of the Camden Road was tenanted by Mrs. John Maher. Her children were Robert, Letitia and Agnes. Mr. Robert Maher joined the service of the Railway Commissioners and was engaged for many years in the Sydney tramway section. Miss Agnes Maher became Mrs. Patrick Cahill. The widow Maher subsequently married Mr. Edward Connors. The farm lying between Mrs. Maher's homestead and the Foot-Onslow Bridge was occupied by Mr. Edward Ottery. He had a family of one son and two daughters, viz., Frederick, Mary and Alice. Mr. Ottery removed to a farm near Campbelltown at the commencement of the eighties.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

I will now review the families located on that area comprised within the triangle bounded by the Menangle-Cawdor Road, the Main Southern Road and the Douglas Park-Camden Road. There were no houses in the village on the western side of the road in 1882, nor for some years afterwards. Proceeding along the Southern Road after crossing the Menangle-Cawdor Road, the first farm was that tenanted by Mr. Jonathan Woods. He was an Englishman and one of the pioneer farmers of the locality. His sons were John, Thomas, George, Robert and Ernest, and daughters Jane (Mrs. Beerman), Mary, Amelia and Isabella (Mrs. Geo. Dabinet). Mr. Dabinet died recently at Summerhill. The site of the old homestead is marked by the usual Kurrajong tree. Next in rotary order was the home of the Payton family. Mr. Martin Payton came from King's County, Ireland, and was one of the early tenants of the Camden Park Estate. He married Miss Mary Connors, and the record of their children reads as follows, viz.: Mary, born August 28th, 1853; Thomas, April 5th, 1855; James, January 21st, 1857; Ellen, November 7th, 1858; Bridget, September 25th, 1860; Catherine, July 27th, 1862; Timothy, June 3rd, 1864; Martin, June 16th, 1865; Margaret, November 19th, 1867; William, October 14th, 1869; Alice, October 1st, 1871; Lizzie, July 31st, 1874. With the exception of Timothy, who died in infancy, all the other members of the family survived, and the name is known and respected throughout Australia. Miss Mary Payton married Mr. John Dawson, whose family will be mentioned in another section. I have already referred to Thomas and James Payton as being riders at the races held on the old race course in the early seventies. Later on Mr. Thomas Payton entered the service of the late Hon. James White, when Mr. M. Fennelly was in charge of Kirkham. After the death of Mr. Fennelly, Mr. Payton assumed the responsibility of the famous stud, and eventually he transferred the stables to Randwick, where for so many years he was such a prominent figure in the racing world. Mr. James Payton was likewise a trainer of some note, as also Mr. Martin Payton (Jnr.). Miss Margaret Payton married Mr. E. Huxley, who in company with the late Mr. Tom Hales was retained by Mr. White for every race in which his horses were engaged. Mr. Martin Payton (Snr.) possessed a wide circle of friends, being of that kindly nature which made him popular with all classes. He died at the old homestead on June 25th, 1882, at the age of 82 years. His good wife, who was a remarkable wit, survived him by twenty-one years, and passed away on August 17th, 1903, aged 76 years. The immediate neighbour of Mr. Payton was Mr. Patrick Cummins (another King's County representative), who took up one of the sub-divisions of the Camden Park Estate as soon as some were made available. He died on May 25th, 1878, aged 78 years, and was followed by his wife (Anne)

who came from the same district in Ireland, on August 31st, 1882, aged 76 years. They left two sons, John and Benjamin. Mr. Ben Cummins, who had married Miss Curry (Camden), succeeded his father on the original farm, where he remained for several years, eventually removing to a farm formerly occupied by Mr. Thomas Woodbridge, on the northern side of the Cawdor Road, and where he will be noticed in due course. Mr. John Cummins settled at Spaniard's Hill, where his family will be mentioned. At the rear of Mr. P. Cummins' farm there lived Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Maloney, who subsequently removed to Douglas Park and were not closely identified with the social life of Menangle. They had no family as far as I remember. The farm now occupied by Mr. J. Finn (2) was, in the seventies and eighties, the residence of Mr. William Channel. His sons were Frederick, William, Albert, Charles and James, and he had one daughter, Eva (Mrs. Carr). On the ridge and at the rear of Mr. Channel's farm, was the home of Mr. William Apps, who left the district in the early seventies to take up the farm still in occupation by his family on the highest point of Razorback. The next farm on the same side of the road was known as "The Slaughter House" (consequent on a raid by aborigines), and has been in occupation by the Maher family for more than seventy years. The grave of a soldier of the Imperial regime is located in the immediate neighbourhood of the old homestead. The property has recently been acquired by Mr. Rofe. The family of Mr. John Maher consisted of Lawrence, John, Peter, Michael, Ellen, Winifred, Mary, Sarah and Eleanor. Mr. John Maher (1) died on October 1st, 1896, aged 75 years. His wife, Margaret, pre-deceased him by six years, dying on August 7th, 1890, aged 59 years.

The neighbour of Mr. Maher on his northern boundary was Mr. William Kilfoyle, who hailed from Kildare and was one of the earliest of the settlers at Menangle. The members of his family were William, Peter, Martin, Mary, Elizabeth and Jane. Miss Mary Kilfoyle married Mr. McDonnell, a school teacher, and left the district, Elizabeth became the wife of Mr. William Jones (2), whose family has already been recorded. Mr. William Kilfoyle (1) died on May 28th, 1899, aged 82 years. His wife (Elizabeth) died on September 10th, 1908, aged 89 years. His son, William (2), died on December 21st, 1894, at the age of thirty-eight years. It is interesting to observe that the mother of William Kilfoyle (1) accompanied him to this country, which fact is attested by a monument to her memory in St. John's Churchyard, the inscription of which states that she died on June 20th, 1876, aged 81 years, placing her birth as far back as 1795. The farm between the Cawdor Road and Mr. Kilfoyle's homestead was occupied by Mr. John Scully. As he was a native of King's County, Ireland, it would seem as if the landlords took some pains to let their farms on a community plan. There were seven daughters in the Scully family, viz.: Ellen (Mrs. McCarthy), Mary (Mrs. Richard Meade), Elizabeth (Mrs. Edward Keane, Teresa Park), Margaret (Mrs. Martin Kilfoyle), Catherine, Annie and Julia. Mr. Michael Scully was the only son. Mr. John Scully died on February 12th, 1879, aged 58 years. His wife (Elizabeth) survived him by thirty-six years, and passed away on September 30th, 1915, at the ripe age of 89 years. The last farm in the area under notice was that held by Mr. John Stevens. In earlier years he has been coachman for the MacArthur

family, but elected to go on the land. He was twice married and had a very large family, and the majority of their names appeared in the roll call of the Public School at Menangle. His eldest son (Thomas) has been the proprietor of a saddlery and harness business in Camden for many years. Mr. Stevens was a most industrious man, and his farm was always kept in best possible condition. He was still in residence when I left the district (1882), but in the interval he has passed away and his family dispersed.

EARLY MENANGLE

(By J. J. M.)

The locality known as Spaniard's Hill (an early grant to J. B. L. D'Arrietta) may be considered as being beyond the boundaries of Menangle, but I am embracing portion of that area in order to include some families who were particularly identified with the village — its schools, churches and railway station. Mr. John Cummins lived on the southern slope, near the turnoff to Douglas Park, and the homestead still remains, the present occupier being Mr. Peter Maher. The family of Mr. John Cummins comprised Patrick, Joseph, Robert, Julia, Sarah (Mrs. Peter Maher), Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Muldoon and Mrs. Lawler. Messrs. Patrick and Joseph Cummins renounced farming pursuits and entered commercial life, and for a time were the proprietors of a drapery business in Sydney. Mr. Robert Cummins was drowned in the Nepean River on November 1st, 1888, when only 22 years of age. Mr. John Cummins was (as previously mentioned) a son of Mr. Patrick Cummins (1) of Menangle, and came with his father from King's County, Ireland, when very young. I remember him as a robust man, vigorous and enterprising, but he fell a victim to pneumonia and died at the comparatively early age of 55 years, on July 27th, 1881. His wife (Agnes) died on September 25th, 1893, aged 76 years. The local schoolhouse stood on the crest of the hill, and the earliest teacher I can recall was Miss M. J. Beston. Her predecessors were Miss McKinley and Miss Mulcahy, the latter being the first schoolmistress. Mr. Rohan was in command during the mid and late seventies. The members of his family were James, Joseph, Mary Ann, Theresa and Ellen. The Rohan family removed to Sydney and in the early eighties kept a hotel in Crown Street, near Oxford Street.

Mr. James Rochford occupied a farm in the immediate vicinity of the schoolhouse. He was a very industrious man but of a retiring disposition, and entirely devoted to his family and home life. His sons were Michael, Patrick, William, James, John, Thomas and Joseph, and his daughters Margaret, Elizabeth (Mrs. Patrick Burke of Newcastle) and Agnes. Mr. James Rochford (1) attained to patriarchal dignity, passing away in July, 1911, aged 87 years. His wife (Catherine) died on July 3rd, 1919, aged 81 years. Miss Agnes Rochford died at the early age of 15 years on October 22nd, 1881. Patrick died in infancy, January 20th, 1870, aged 2 years. Mr. Michael Rochford died on July 3rd, 1916 aged 62 years. John and James are also dead, as likewise Mrs. Burke. Mr. William Rochford married Mrs. Cummins, widow of James Cummins of Glenlee.

Proceeding towards Menangle, but standing in from the main road and northward from the schoolhouse, the next farm was that of Mr. James Conlon. He was a lively

little man and smart at repartee. I remember one son (James) and his daughters Norah, Mary and Bridget.

Mr. Richard Peel came next in order of rotation. He was a sturdy man of sullen temperament, as I remember him. Prior to taking up farming he had been for many years the overseer of the Moreton Park Estate, in which position he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Mr. Thos. Blades, Jnr. His daughter, Mary Ann, was drowned in the river at Douglas Park. He had also a son (Richard) and I think another daughter. He was twice married.

Nearest to the Camden turnoff was the home of Mrs. Riley. Her son (John) took a keen interest in the affairs of the district. The eldest son (Edward) had left Menangle at an earlier date. I remember her daughters, Kate, Bridget and Rose, all of whom were prominent in the social life of the community.

Voice of the North, Wednesday 10 April 1929, page 14
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article112246380>

EARLY MENANGLE

Our esteemed contributor is absent from the State and M.S. has not arrived in time for this issue.—Editor "V.O.N."

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

The next farm to the westward, fronting the road and the Back Lane, was tenanted by Mr. Lewis Bugden. He had five daughters and two sons. This family left the district many years ago, but the name is still in evidence in the Camden area. Proceeding along the lane and on the eastern side, was the home of the Bunker family. Mr. Eben Bunker (a name historic in Australia) was about 60 years of age as I remember him. He was of sullen disposition, but a most industrious man. He died on June 21st, 1902, aged 80 years. His wife (Sarah) died on October 21st, 1899, aged 75 years. The family comprised: John, Samuel, William, Mary, Ruth (Mrs. Jackson), Mrs. C. North (Campbelltown), and Mrs. Blades (Douglas Park). Returning, on the western side of the lane, the furthest farm was that occupied by Mr. James Carroll. He married Miss Margaret Cummins, daughter of Mr. James (1) Cummins, of Glenlee. The members of his family were: Margaret (died in infancy), John, James, Winifred, Thomas (died May 21st, 1892, aged 16 years), Mary and Julia (died July 31st, 1920, aged 49 years). Mr. Jas. Carroll (1) attained the age of 79 years, dying on November 27th, 1920. His good wife survived him by one month, and passed away on December 31st, 1920, aged 80 years. The family is still vigorously represented in the locality, and the name goes back to the early days of the colony as the great-great-grandmother of the latest generation was buried in St. John's Church yard (Campbelltown) in 1860, her age being 46 years. The home of Mr. Thomas Quirk was located westward from Carroll's farm, and did not front the lane, but had access by that roadway. Mr. Quirk was a native of Ireland, but came to Australia when very young. He married Miss Margaret McDermott, and the children were: John (died Jan. 14th, 1884, aged 11 years), Jeremiah, Thomas, Philip, Annie (Mrs. Bradbury), Hannah (Mrs. Rickards), Mary and Ellen. Mr. Thomas Quirk died about forty years ago, but his wife reached the age of 83 years, passing away on December 28th, 1928. The parents of Mr. Thomas Quirk were amongst the early colonists, as the records attest the fact that his father (Thomas)² was buried in Campbelltown in 1864, he being at the time of his death 62 years old. His mother (Johanna) died in 1875, at the age of 75 years. Mr. Philip Dunphy was the immediate neighbour of Mr. James Carroll, on his northern boundary. He was a man well in the heavy-weight division, and proud of his muscular attainments. His sons were Michael, James and Patrick, and his daughters Bridget (died in infancy), Mary (Mrs. James (2) Cummins, of Glenlee), and Ellen. Mr. Philip Dunphy died on August 8th,

² The death registration for Thomas Quirk lists his father as Tercima which is believed to be a mis-transcription of Jeremiah, not Thomas.

1895, aged 76 years, and his wife passed over September 6th, 1898, at the age of 75 years. Mr. James Dunphy (who married Miss Mary Cummins, daughter of Mr. Benjamin Cummins) died on January 6th, 1919, aged 63 years. Patrick Dunphy died in early manhood, and as far as I am aware the other members of the family have all passed away. The adjoining farm (still proceeding northerly) was tenanted by Mr. Timothy Keane, who hailed from County Clare. He possessed a jovial disposition and was an ardent sportsman. His sons were Matthew, Edward (Theresa Park), and Patrick, and daughters Bridget, Hannah and Ellen. One of Mr. Keane's daughters married Mr. John McGrath, of Moreton Park. Mr. Timothy Keane died January 3rd, 1880, aged 71 years, and his wife (Johanna) on Sept. 18th, 1899, aged 78 years. Next in rotation was the home of Mr. James Finn. He was the son of Mr. Patrick Finn (a pioneer settler), but I am of opinion that he was born in Ireland. Mr. Finn was a most energetic and capable man. The members of his family were Patrick (2), Hugh, Thomas, James (2), Joseph, Henry, Margaret, Mary, Bridget, Julia, Sarah, and, I think, another girl, whose name I cannot recall. Mr. Joseph Finn died on February 24th, 1915, aged 27 years. The family is now widely dispersed and the name of Finn is well known throughout the State, some of the prosperous North Coast farmers being able to claim Menangle as their base. Mr. James Finn (1) died on June 5th, 1903, at the age of 71 years. Mr. Patrick Finn occupied the area lying between his son's farm and the road with the frontage to the lane. He was a native of Tipperary, a very old colonist, and one of the most respected men in the district. I have records of the following members of his family, viz.: Bridget (who died June 7th, 1895, aged 65 years), Hugh (died May 16th, 1904, aged 70 years), James (died June 5th, 1903, aged 71 years), Johanna (Mrs. Philip Quirk, died April 24th, 1898, aged 58 years), and Margaret (Mrs. Edward Bergin). Mr. Patrick Finn attained the great age of 86 years, dying on March 17th, 1881. His wife (Margaret) survived him by seven years, dying on July 29th, 1888, aged 85 years.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

There were two daughters of Mr. P. Finn (Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Owen Maher) and a son (Thomas) who had left the district prior to my arrival on the scene. Continuing westerly the next farm on the southern side of the road (now occupied by Mr. Smart) was that of Mr. Joseph Lynam. He was a "forty-niner", a term rarely used now-a-days. In other words, he was one of those enterprising men who tried his luck at the Californian Gold Rush of 1849. Mr. Lynam was of a quiet disposition but possessing more than average intelligence. His family comprised James, Matthew, Joseph, Robert, Michael and Eliza Ann. Robert Lynam died at the very early age of twenty years and six months on January 20th, 1876. Miss Eliza Ann Lynam was the first wife of Mr. James Dunphy and died at the age of thirty-two years on December 11th, 1893. The other members of the family left the old farm and settled in various parts of the State. Mr. Jas. Lynam became prominent in the Ganmain District and Mr. Michael Lynam has been associated with the commercial section of several towns. Mr. Joseph (1) Lynam was 85 years old at the time of his death which occurred on March 1st, 1906. His wife, Sarah, who pre-deceased him by six years was a native of Armagh. She died on July 20th, 1900, aged 73 years. Immediately at the rear of Lynam's farm, with access by a lane from the Camden-Cawdor Road, was a farm occupied by Mr. John McDermott. Mr. McDermott came to Menangle in the very early "forties" and was another of that pioneer band of settlers of the MacArthur regime. The members of the McDermott family whom I knew in residence at Menangle were Edward, John, Peter and William and the late Mrs. Thomas Quirk. A near neighbour of Mr. McDermott was Mr. John Dawson, whose home was on the other side of the lane, and still further south. I can remember his grand old mother who was a typical representative of the "Emerald Isle" and very proud of her sons—John, Andrew and David. She was over eighty years of age at the time of her death in 1894. Mr. Andrew Dawson removed to Sydney in the early eighties and was associated with the transport business of the Metropolis. Mr. David Dawson took his departure at a still earlier date and became the owner of Rosedale Station in the Moree district, where he died in 1909. Mr. John Dawson and his family have been more closely associated with Menangle. His wife, (Mary) was the eldest member of the Payton family, and they were blessed with twelve children—eight daughters and four sons, the order of rotation being John, Margaret Mary, Patrick, Martin, Mary Ann, Ellen, Elsie, Catherine, Gertrude, Elizabeth, Thomas and Alice Veronica. Mr. John (1) Dawson was born in Limerick, (Ireland) and came to Australia when very young. In his earlier years he was associated with Camden Park Estate, being the trainer of the racehorses owned by Captain Onslow. Mr. John Dawson died on April

17th, 1906, whilst his good wife lived until August 16th, 1927. I have the following particulars of the Dawson family, viz, Patrick was killed by a fall from a horse, John died on March, 27, 1906, and Alice Veronica died on March 13th, 1923. Mary Ann married Mr. Thomson (Braidwood) and resides at South Strathfield. Martin married Miss Keane, of Campbelltown, and lives at Maroubra, Elsie married Mr. Luke Byrne of Appin, and is resident at Miranda, Catherine became Mrs. O'Brien and resides at Randwick. Ellen married Mr. McCarthy, (Narromine), and is a resident of Maroubra, Margaret Mary married Mr. Davidson and is now located at Morisset. Elizabeth; Gertrude and Thomas are unmarried.

A still earlier occupier of Dawson's farm was Mr. William Geoghagan, but I have no record of him or his family.

Another near neighbor slightly further west, on the second ridge, was Mr. Isaac Reid. He had one son (Isaac) and three daughters (Agnes, Sarah, and Eliza) who became respectively, Mrs. Robert Maher, Mrs. John (2) Cummins, and Mrs. Joseph Lynam. I have records of two other families living in close proximity to Lynam's farm but am unable to place the exact locality of the houses, viz, those of Mr. Michael O'Brien, and Mr. Michael Scanlon. The area in question was in my boyhood days in the possession of Mr. David Nicholson who came from the north of Ireland. He was a man of Herculean proportions, but had no family. In his old age he brought out some relatives from his homeland who were assisting him when I left the district.

Adjoining Mr. Nicholson, and in rotary order, were the farms of Messrs. Joseph Flint, George Hull, and Joseph Earle. I can remember some of the Earle family attending the public school.

The last farm on that side (southern) of the road which I shall include in this review was in occupation by Mr. Benjamin (1) Proctor, and of his family I can recall Benjamin (2), Samuel, George, Elizabeth, Mary, and two younger girls. The family name is still strongly in evidence. The Northern side of the road (returning towards Menangle) carried no tenant farmers until the base of Woodbridge's Hill is reached. The hill takes its name from Mr. Thomas Woodbridge, who in all probability was the original tenant at the time the farms were subdivided. Apart from conferring his name on the hill, and his association with that particular farm I have no information concerning this early occupier except that the family burial place is in St. John's Cemetery, Campbelltown. Woodbridge's original holding was in my time tenanted by Mr. Benjamin (1) Cummins.

EARLY MENANGLE

(J.J.M.)

Mr. Benjamin (1) Cummins was (as I previously mentioned) the second son of Mr. Patrick Cummins, whose farm was located on the main Southern Road, about a mile south of the township. He married whilst on his father's farm, but subsequently took over the farm previously occupied by Mr. Thomas Woodbridge, and which he cultivated for many years. His family comprised: Patrick (2), John (2), Benjamin (2), Richard, William, Daniel, Thomas, Michael, Anne, Ellen and Mary. Richard Cummins died in early manhood, at Cowra; Benjamin (2), died January 27th, 1915, at the age of 53 years; William was for many years a resident of Parramatta, and well known in the commerce of that town, where he died during the current year. Mr. John (2) Cummins is living at Campbelltown, and Mr. Daniel Cummins entered the Postal Department, being attached to the G.P.O., Sydney. Miss Anne Cummins married Mr. Jas. Lynam, and took up residence at Ganmain. Miss Ellen Cummins entered a religious order, and Miss Mary Cummins became the second wife of Mr. James Dunphy, and is now located in the Parramatta district. The remaining members of the family I have lost touch with. Mr. Benjamin Cummins (1) eventually vacated Woodbridge's farm and removed across the river to a farm between the river and the Appin Road. He possessed a reputation amongst stock-dealers as a judge of horses, and he was a debater of considerable ability. He attained to patriarchal years and bequeathed to his descendants a record worthy of emulation.

The next farm on the same side of the road over Woodbridge's Hill was occupied by Mr. Philip (1) Quirk, who hailed from the famous agricultural County of Tipperary, and came to Australia whilst in his teens. The gold rushes of the period claimed his attention and he tried his luck at Bendigo, The Ovens, and Lambing Flat. The outcome of his colonial experience was a decision to revert to farming, and he decided to settle at Menangle, where he married Miss Johanna Finn (daughter of Mr. Patrick Finn). Mr. Quirk was a most industrious and capable man, and his amiable wife shared in full measure the work of those pioneering days. They were blessed with a large family, the rotary order being Johanna, Jeremiah, Patrick, Margaret, Mary, Bridget, Sarah, Thomas, Theresa and James. Miss Johanna Quirk married Mr. John (2) Maher ("Slaughter Yard") and died about two years ago. Mr. Jeremiah (3) Quirk married Miss Anna Keane and emigrated to Western Australia, where he took up land and where he still resides. Mr. Patrick Quirk married Miss Agnes Leape, of Douglas Park, and for more than twenty years was manager of the Government Stud and Experimental Farm at Berry, on the South Coast. Mr. Quirk has taken a keen, interest in the coastal agricultural shows, where he is recognised as a competent

judge in the cattle section. He has also lectured on subjects appertaining to the Department of Agriculture throughout a wide area of the State. Mr. Philip (2) is a landholder in the Robertson District; James is numbered amongst the storekeepers of the North-West (N.S.W.) Miss Bridget Quirk became a member of a religious community, and is at present located in New Zealand. The Misses Margaret, Mary, Sarah and Theresa Quirk are all living. Mr. Philip (1) Quirk was killed by a fall from his horse, on August 19th, 1881. He was only 48 years of age. The unfortunate accident happened on the main Southern Road, almost opposite the brick cottage ("Riverview") now the home of Mr. Thomas (3) Taber. His funeral was one of the most representative ever witnessed in the district. Mrs. Quirk survived her husband by seventeen years, during which period she was ably assisted in the management of the farm by the members of a loyal family. She died on April 24th, 1898, at the all-too-early age of 58 years. I have a record of another member of the original Quirk family. His name was Jeremiah (2), and following the customary application of family names he was probably the eldest of that hopeful band which quitted historic Ormond for the Land of Promise—Australia. He died on July 14th, 1860, at the age of 31 years. The founder of the family, Mr. Jeremiah (1) Quirk, came from Ireland with his children, and immediately settled on the land. He died at Menangle prior to my arrival on the scene. The present lodge cottage, where Camden Park Road branches off from the Camden Road, is a modern structure (comparatively) having been erected after 1882. The Park Road marks the Western boundary of an orchard, which fronted the main road for a considerable distance towards Menangle. This orchard was originally founded by the late Mr. J. Sanderson, who subsequently transferred his business to the site previously described as being opposite the railway station. Mr. Sanderson was succeeded by Mr. Solomon Grundy. Mr. White was the proprietor of this flourishing orchard in the mid and late seventies. There may have been other occupiers, but the last tenant was Mr. Hood, who, prior to taking over the garden, was a porter on Menangle Station. The boundaries of the orchard may still be discerned by the remains of the hedge which guarded it on every side. The area has now reverted to the dairying section of the Camden Park Estate.

I have now finalised in so far as the original families of the locality come within the scope of my memory, but there are a few other families deserving of mention for the reason that their children attended the local schools. Mr. Jas. Rice, who originally came from Moreton Park district, and whose wife was a daughter of Mr. Stephen Starr, took over the farm formerly held by the late John Scully. Several of his children attended the denominational school, two of the boys being Harry and Frank. Mr. James Rice was killed by a fall from his horse, and the family removed to Sydney. Mr. James Leape was a railway ganger, and lived at Douglas Park. He was an, early resident of Menangle, and in the very early sixties resided for a short period in the cottage on the Edrop Estate and in which at a later date I was born. His advent in Menangle was in all probability due to the railway works, then in full swing. Mr. Leape and his good wife (Honor) came from Galway to Australia. Their family comprised Annie, Maria, Denis, Margaret (Mrs. Hodge), Richard, Agnes (Mrs. Quirk), Jane (Mrs. Rice), James, George, John Philip, Ivy (Mrs. Perkins), and Nina

(Mrs. Hook). Mr. and Mrs. Leape have long since passed away, and they have been followed by their children: Denis, George, John Philip, Margaret and Jane. Mr. James (2) Leape occupies an important position in the Customs Department, and resides at Bondi. Mr. P. McGill was also a railway employee at Douglas Park, and some of his children came to the old school at Menangle. The members of the family were Charles, John, Annie and Sarah. Charles entered the Locomotive Branch of the Railway Department, and died in March last. The parents have passed over many years, but the other members of the family are all living.

There are a few more individuals whose names I wish to place on record, and the first is a noble old lady who was known to all her neighbours as "Granny" Burlin. This good woman reared the family of Mr. John Jones, whose wife died when she was only twenty-one years of age, leaving four children. Mrs. Burlin was one of the many pioneers whose lives were models of service in the cause of humanity. Another notable man, for the reason that he had neither predecessor nor successor, was Police Officer Golden. During the building of the railway-bridge and earthworks, the presence of a large body of navvies evidently necessitated the appointment of a constable, and Mr. Golden was selected for duty in the locality. He lived in the village of Menangle. Notwithstanding that Menangle is well within "the cradle of Australia," the authorities have never deemed police surveillance necessary. The people have been consistently law-abiding, and noted for being neighbourly and hospitable in the extreme.

I have mentioned aborigines, exiles, and eccentrics, and now must refer to a man incidental to the period and one who made not only considerable noise but created a mild sensation whenever he paid a visit to the district. He was Paddy Ward, "the Tinker." More than fifty-five years have passed since I saw Paddy, but the picturesque figure astride one horse, and leading two others loaded with billy cans, saucepans, and various domestic utensils is still clear to my memory. When he worked he earned money for drink, and when elated his pugilistic tendencies were in the ascendant and he would fight all and sundry who would give battle. Paddy vanished from the scene, and I hope his end was peace.

In closing this review of my youthful recollections, I am fully conscious of the fact that it must fall far short of being a perfect record, but it will be helpful in keeping in memory the names of many people who assisted to open up our great country and who laid the foundations of some of the families whose members have been conspicuous in promoting the progress of State and Commonwealth.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The matter comprised in the series of contributions on Menangle and district will be published in book form when the very few minor mistakes which have crept in will be rectified. We invite our readers to direct attention to any seeming errors which they may have observed, as it is the desire of the publishers to issue the book as nearly perfect as possible.

INDEX

- Ah Shoo, 15
Aitken, Mrs., 18, 19
Aitken, Rev. Thomas, 19
Apps, William, 50
Archie's Crossing, 22
Armstrong, John, 28
Arnold, Elizabeth, 36
Ashcroft, Albert Thomas, 34
Ashcroft, Alice Deborah, 34
Ashcroft, Charlotte Madeline, 34
Ashcroft, Edward John, 34
Ashcroft, Elizabeth Charlotte. *See* Boyer, Mrs.
Ashcroft, Frederick Charles, 34
Ashcroft, Henry (Harry), 10, 34
Ashcroft, Henry b.1852, 34
Ashcroft, John b.1817, 9
Ashcroft, Margaret, 34
Ashcroft, Mary Ellen, 34
Ashcroft, Rebecca Frances, 34
Ashcroft, William John, 34
Baker, Agnes, 39
Baker, Fanny, 39
Baker, William, 39
Beerman, Mr., 43
Beerman, Mrs Jane nee Woods, 49
Beeston, Emma, 29
Beeston, John, 29, 33
Beeston, John Lievesley, 33
Beeston, Joseph Lievesley, 33
Beeston, Thomas, 33
Bellenger/Bellinger, Thomas, 12
Bergin family, 46
Bergin, Benedict Joseph b.1881, 46
Bergin, Edward, 46
Bergin, John, 42
Bergin, John Joseph b.1872, 46
Bergin, Joseph, 42
Bergin, Joseph James b.1873, 46
Bergin, Margaret, 42
Bergin, Margaret b.1871, 46
Bergin, Mary, 42
Bergin, Mary b.1874, 46
Bergin, Patrick, 42, 46
Bergin, Patrick b.1869, 46
Beston, Miss M.J., 52
Billy Baldaxe, 21
Bingham, Gertrude Clara, 22
Bird's Eye Corner, 30
Bird's Eye Crossing, 22
Black George, 24
Blackman, George Albert, 11
Blades, John, 55
Blades, Thomas b.1850, 53
Bocking, James, 30
Botton, Margaret Theresa, 47
Boyer, Mrs. Jean Baptiste, 34
Brennan, Elizabeth Catherine, 47
Brennan, Mr., 41, 42
Brook's Point, 37
Brown, William, 20
Bugden, Lewis, 55
Bunker, Ada, 55
Bunker, Ebenezer (Eben) c.1822, 55
Bunker, Elizabeth, 55
Bunker, John b.1849, 55
Bunker, Mary, 55
Bunker, Ruth, 39, 55
Bunker, Samuel b.1862, 39, 55
Bunker, William b.1860, 39, 55
Burlin, Mr., 33
Burlin, Mrs., 61
Byrne, Luke, 58
Byrnes, Helena, 25
Cahill, Michael, 48
Cahill, Patrick, 48
Calahan Family, 22
Calderwood, John, 12
Camden Park, 30, 47, 49
Carroll, James b.1869, 55
Carroll, James c.1841, 14, 55
Carroll, John b.1866, 55
Carroll, Julia, 55
Carroll, Margaret, 55
Carroll, Mary, 55
Carroll, May, 46
Cassidy, Peter, 20
Catt, Hannah, 37
Catt, William, 38
Chambers, Elizabeth, 50
Channell, Albert b.1867, 39, 50
Channell, Charles b.1872, 50
Channell, Eva, 39, 50
Channell, Frederick, 50
Channell, Henry James b. 1877, 50
Channell, William b.1834, 50
Channell, William b.1864, 39, 50
Chappel family, 43
Charlesville, 11, 17, 20
Charleyville. *See* Charlesville
Christmas family, 21

Cocking, Sarah, 55
 Conlon, James, 52
 Connell, Eliza, 32, 42
 Connell, John, 32, 42
 Connell, Sarah, 32, 42
 Connell, William, 32
 Connolly Family, 22
 Connors, Mary, 49
 Corrigan, Kate, 25
 Cox, F. C., 8
 Cross, Sydney A., 11
 Crowe, Daniel, 46
 Cummins, Anne c.1855, 59
 Cummins, Ben, 15
 Cummins, Benjamin b.1862, 59
 Cummins, Benjamin c.1832, 50, 58, 59
 Cummins, Daniel b.1869, 42, 59
 Cummins, Elizabeth b.1849, 14
 Cummins, Ellen b.1857, 59
 Cummins, James b.1799, 14, 55
 Cummins, James b.1842, 14
 Cummins, John, 58
 Cummins, John b.1826, 52
 Cummins, John b.1860, 59
 Cummins, John c.1826, 50, 52
 Cummins, Joseph b.1859, 52
 Cummins, Julia, 52
 Cummins, Margaret b.1841, 14, 55
 Cummins, Mary b.1868, 59
 Cummins, Mary Ellen b.1868, 42
 Cummins, Michael b.1873, 59
 Cummins, Patrick b.1856, 52
 Cummins, Patrick b.1858, 59
 Cummins, Patrick c.1805, 49, 52, 59
 Cummins, Richard b.1863, 42, 59
 Cummins, Robert b.1865, 52
 Cummins, Thomas b.1871, 42, 59
 Cummins, Thomas c.1831, 14
 Cummins, William c.1846, 14
 Cummins, William c.1865, 42, 59
 Cummins, Winifred b.1839, 14
 Curran, Alexander Peoples b.1880, 15
 Curran, John b.1862, 15
 Curran, Michael c.1825, 15
 Curran, William Patrick b.1879, 15
 Curry, Mary, 50
 Dabinet, William George, 49
 Dare, Elizabeth, 37
 D'Arrietta, John Baptiste Lehimas, 52
 Davidson, Alexander D., 58
 Dawson, Alice Veronica, 58
 Dawson, Andrew c.1858, 57
 Dawson, Catherine Bridget, 58
 Dawson, David c.1852, 57
 Dawson, Elizabeth, 58
 Dawson, Ellen, 58
 Dawson, Elsie, 58
 Dawson, George, 39
 Dawson, Gertrude, 58
 Dawson, Harry, 39
 Dawson, John b.1876, 58
 Dawson, John c.1819, 39
 Dawson, John c.1846, 49, 57
 Dawson, Margaret Mary, 58
 Dawson, Martin, 58
 Dawson, Mary Ann, 58
 Dawson, Mrs. John. *See* Payton, Mary
 Dawson, Mrs. Mary nee Hennessy, 57
 Dawson, Patrick b.1878, 58
 Dawson, Sydney, 39
 Dawson, Thomas, 39, 58
 Dawson, William, 39
 Deane, Mrs William nee Ashcroft, 34
 Dempsey, Anne, 50
 Dillon, Catherine, 47
 Divine, Nicholas, 5
 Douglas Park, 50
 Downey, Mary Ellen, 25
 Downey, Mary Ellen Frances, 26
 Dunphy, Bridget, 55
 Dunphy, James b.1855, 55
 Dunphy, Mary Ellen, 14, 55
 Dunphy, Michael b.1857, 55
 Dunphy, Patrick, 55
 Dunphy, Philip c.1823, 55
 Earl, Myra, 39
 Earle, Joseph, 58
 Eastmure, Alice Ashton, 25
 Edrop Estate, 6
 Edrop, Ada Proctor. *See* Harrex, Ada Proctor
 Edrop, Arthur George, 27
 Edrop, Edward John, 4, 7, 10, 14, 20, 23, 27, 28
 Edrop, James Robert b.1828, 27
 Edrop, James Robert c.1793, 10, 27
 Edrop, James Robert c.1828, 27
 Edward, Lawler, 19
 Fahey, Elizabeth, 39
 Fahey, Thomas b.1845, 37
 Farrell, Christopher, 17
 Farrell, Patrick, 24
 Fennelly, Mr., 49
 Finn family, 56
 Finn, Bridget b.1884, 56
 Finn, Henry b.1874, 56
 Finn, Hugh, 20
 Finn, Hugh Patrick b.1876, 56
 Finn, James b.1873, 56
 Finn, Johanna, 59
 Finn, John b.1852, 50

Finn, Joseph William b.1888, 56
 Finn, Julia Ann b.1882, 56
 Finn, Margaret, 46
 Finn, Margaret b.1870, 56
 Finn, Mary b.1878, 56
 Finn, Patrick, 57
 Finn, Patrick b.1869, 56
 Finn, Patrick c.1809, 46, 56, 59
 Finn, Patrick Joseph, 46
 Finn, Sarah b.1881, 56
 Finn, Thomas b.1871, 56
 Fitzpatrick, James b.1800, 15
 Fitzpatrick, James Glenlee b.1876, 15
 Flahey, Annie, 14
 Flahey, John c.1826, 15
 Fleming, Annie, 42
 Fleming, Con, 33
 Flint, Joseph, 58
 Freeman, Ruth, 31
 Furbe, B., 5
 Gately, Mr, 22
 Gaudry, Charles, 19
 Giddy, Charles, 39
 Giddy, Charles Alfred, 43
 Giddy, Grantham, 43
 Giddy, Haines Thomas, 43
 Giddy, John, 39, 43
 Gilbulla, 35
 Glenlee, 7, 14, 15, 19, 46, 55
 Gowen, Ann, 8
 Gowen, John, 8
 Grover, Jane, 10
 Grundy, Solomon, 60
 Haines, Sarah Ann, 43
 Hammond, Jane, 19
 Hammond, Rebecca, 19
 Hammond, Timothy, 19
 Harding, William, 24
 Harrex, James, 20, 23, 27
 Hay, Michael, 5
 Haydon/Hayden, Maria, 17
 Haynes/Haines, Sarah Ann, 35
 Hazel/Haisell, Sarah Anne, 10
 Heaney, Peter, 42
 Heggie, Duncan Donald Ferguson, 39
 Heggie, Gregor Christie Dougal, 39
 Heggie, Margaret Rosina Georgina, 39
 Heggie, Robert McDermin, 35, 43
 Hennessy, Andrew b.1859, 48
 Hennessy, Catherine (Kate), 48
 Hennessy, David b.1870, 48
 Hennessy, David c.1825, 47
 Hennessy, Ellen, 48
 Hennessy, Honora (Norah), 48
 Hennessy, John 1852, 47
 Hennessy, Laurence b.1852, 48
 Hennessy, Margaret, 48
 Hennessy, Martin b.1866, 48
 Hennessy, Mary, 48
 Hennessy, Michael b.1864, 48
 Hennessy, Thomas b.1861, 48
 Hennessy, Winifred, 48
 Hepper, Elizabeth, 20
 Hickey family, 45
 Hickey, Catherine, 45
 Hickey, Elizabeth, 46
 Hickey, Francis (Frank), 42
 Hickey, Henry (Harry), 42, 46
 Hickey, James, 42
 Hickey, John, 42
 Hickey, Joseph, 44, 45
 Hickey, Margaret, 45
 Hickey, Maria Ellen, 46
 Hickey, Maria nee O'Dowd, 46
 Hickey, Martin, 45
 Hickey, Rose, 42
 Hickey, Rose Anna, 46
 Hickey, Thomas, 42
 Hilder, Anne, 31
 Hilder, Dinah, 31
 Hilder, Eliza, 31
 Hilder, Ellen, 31
 Hilder, Harriet, 31
 Hilder, Heli b.1851, 31
 Hilder, Heli b.1868, 31
 Hilder, Thomas b.1808, 31
 Hilder, Thomas b.1864, 31
 Hilder, Walter b.1842, 31, 38
 Hourn, Alice, 31, 39
 Hourn, Charles, 31
 Hourn, Ellen, 31, 44
 Hourn, Frances Charlotte (Fanny), 31
 Hourn, Frederick Christopher, 31, 39
 Hourn, Jane, 31
 Hourn, John, 31, 32
 Hourn, Joseph, 31
 Howarth, James, 22
 Howe, William, 7, 16
 Howe's Creek, 16
 Hull, George, 58
 Hurley, Ambrose, 25
 Huthnance, Edgar, 29, 39
 Huthnance, Emma nee Beeston, 33
 Huthnance, Ethel, 29, 39
 Huthnance, Maud, 39
 Huthnance, Maude, 29
 Huthnance, Mrs. *See* Beeston, Emma
 Huthnance, Samuel, 29, 39
 Huthnance, Samuel b.1871, 29
 Huthnance, W., 29

Huxley, Ernest A., 49
 Jackson, John Andrew c.1863, 55
 James, Joseph, 39
 Jennings, Joe, 25
 Jones, Ada M., 47
 Jones, Ada Mary, 28, 42
 Jones, Alfred Joseph b.1878, 47
 Jones, Annie Margaret, 47
 Jones, Arthur b.1870, 28, 42
 Jones, Catherine Sarah (Kate), 38
 Jones, Charles Augustus b.1884, 47
 Jones, Charles b.1855, 47
 Jones, Clara Rose, 38, 42
 Jones, Denis Edgar b.1880, 47
 Jones, Elizabeth b.1872, 36
 Jones, Florence Mary, 28, 42
 Jones, Frederick Charles, 28
 Jones, George, 47
 Jones, Henry (Harry) b.1870, 36
 Jones, Henry b.1850, 47
 Jones, Isaac James b.1842, 19, 28, 42, 47
 Jones, Isaac James b.1862, 19, 28
 Jones, James b.1847, 47
 Jones, James b.1868, 47
 Jones, James b.1875, 47
 Jones, James Joseph b.1864, 19, 28, 42
 Jones, John, 61
 Jones, John b.1860, 36
 Jones, John J. b.1863, 47
 Jones, John Joseph b.1838, 47
 Jones, Joseph b.1859, 47
 Jones, Joseph Edmund c.1875, 38
 Jones, Lilian Margaret (Lily), 38
 Jones, Mary, 47
 Jones, Mary b.1869, 36
 Jones, Mary Catherine, 38, 42
 Jones, Richard b.1866, 47
 Jones, Richard Joseph b.1872, 38, 42
 Jones, Robert Patrick b.1881, 47
 Jones, Rose/Rosa, 28, 42
 Jones, Rose/Rosa b.1867, 19
 Jones, Sarah Gertrude, 38
 Jones, Sarah Teresa Catherine, 36
 Jones, Sylvester Ambrose b.1887, 47
 Jones, Theresa Mary, 38
 Jones, Thomas, 47
 Jones, Thomas b.1845, 38, 47
 Jones, Thomas c.1866, 38, 42
 Jones, William b.1815, 47
 Jones, William b.1835, 36, 47, 50
 Jones, William Bede c.1887, 38
 Jones, William Charles b.1858, 36
 Jones, William Charles b.1864, 47
 Jones, William Henry b.1879, 47
 Jordan, Edward, 16
 Joyce Family, 17
 Keane, Bridget, 56
 Keane, Edward, 56
 Keane, Ella Agnes, 58
 Keane, Ellen, 56
 Keane, Hannah, 56
 Keane, Honorah (Anna, Hannah), 59
 Keane, Matthew, 56
 Keane, Mrs. Johanna, 56
 Keane, Patrick, 56
 Keane, Timothy, 56
 Keane, Timothy Edward, 50
 Kellerman, Caroline Susannah, 19, 29, 39
 Kellerman, Charlotte Mary, 19, 29, 39
 Kellerman, Ellen Rose Ann, 29, 39
 Kellerman, George Thomas, 39
 Kellerman, Henry Ralph, 29, 39
 Kellerman, Rosetta/Ellen Rosanna, 19
 Kellerman, William, 19, 29, 33
 Kellerman, William James, 29, 39
 Kelly, Denis, 40
 Kelly, James, 5
 Kilfoyle, Elizabeth b.1850, 36, 50
 Kilfoyle, Jane b.1855, 50
 Kilfoyle, Martin c.1844, 50
 Kilfoyle, Mary b.1846, 50
 Kilfoyle, Mrs Mary nee Heavey, 50
 Kilfoyle, Peter b.1857, 50
 Kilfoyle, William b.1853, 50
 Kilfoyle, William c.1817, 50
 Killian, Susan, 28
 Kirkham, 49
 Kitzpatrick, James, 14
 Lacey, Patrick Joseph, 26
 Lack, Charles, 19
 Lack, James, 19
 Lack, Robert, 19
 Lack, William, 19
 Larkin, James, 28
 Larkin, Samuel, 5
 Lawler, Johanna, 19
 Lawler, Joseph, 17, 19
 Leape, Agnes, 42, 59
 Leape, Denis, 42
 Leape, James, 23, 60
 Leape, Margaret, 42
 Leatham, James, 33, 42
 Leatham, Joseph, 33, 42
 Leatham, Mary, 33, 42
 Leatham, Michael, 33, 42
 Leatham, Michael Jnr, 33
 Leatham, Rose, 42
 Leek, James, 5
 Lodge, Mr., 36
 Lupton, John, 42

Lynam, Eliza Ann, 57
 Lynam, James, 59
 Lynam, James c.1853, 57
 Lynam, Joseph, 58
 Lynam, Joseph b.1858, 57
 Lynam, Joseph c.1821, 57
 Lynam, Matthew b.1859, 57
 Lynam, Michael, 42, 57
 Lynam, Robert c.1856, 57
 Lynch, Monsignor John, 42
 Lyons, Thomas, 13
 Macarthur, Sir William, 30
 MacNamara, Andrew, 22
 MacNamara, Mary, 22
 Madden, Margaret nee O'Brien, 16
 Madden, Mary, 19
 Madden, Mary Ellen, 16
 Madden, Patrick, 16
 Maher family, 50
 Maher, Agnes, 48
 Maher, Eleanor/Lena b.1869, 42, 50
 Maher, Ellen b.1857, 50
 Maher, John b.1820, 50
 Maher, John b.1855, 50, 59
 Maher, John c.1825, 48
 Maher, Lawrence/Laurence, 50
 Maher, Letitia, 48
 Maher, Mary b.1864, 42, 50
 Maher, Michael b.1862, 42, 50
 Maher, Mrs. Mary nee Turley, 48
 Maher, Peter b.1860, 50
 Maher, Peter Paul, 52
 Maher, Robert, 48, 58
 Maher, Sarah b.1867, 42, 50
 Maher, Winifred b.1859, 50
 Maloney, Patrick, 50
 Masterson, John, 5
 McAlister, Charlotte, 10
 McCain, Elizabeth (Betty), 32
 McCain, Ellen, 32
 McCain, John, 32
 McCain, Margaret, 32
 McCarthy, Jeremiah, 58
 McCarthy, Patrick, 50
 McCurtayne, Mr., 9
 McDermott family, 57
 McDermott, John, 57
 McDermott, Margaret, 55
 McDonnell, John, 50
 McEwen, J., 5
 McGill, Annie, 42
 McGill, Charles, 42
 McGrath, John, 56
 McKinley, Miss, 52
 McLachlan, Martha Morton, 12
 McLean, Mrs Mary Ellen nee Ashcroft, 34
 McSullea, Patrick, 22
 Meade Family, 17
 Meade, Margaret, 38
 Meade, Mary Ann, 36
 Meade, Richard Joseph, 50
 Medhurst Vale, 8
 Medhurst, Frances Sarah, 8
 Menangle Park Racecourse, 14
 Mills, Charles, 38, 39
 Mills, Henry, 38
 Mills, John, 38, 39
 Moloney, Agnes, 29
 Moloney, Alice, 29
 Moloney, Catherine, 23, 42
 Moloney, Edward, 23, 42
 Moloney, James, 23, 42
 Moloney, John, 42
 Moloney, Mary, 23
 Moloney, Thomas, 42
 Moran, Rev. John, 44
 Moreton Park, 24, 37, 46, 53, 56
 Morley, Miss, 25
 Mount Gilead, 7, 20, 21, 22, 23
 Mount Pleasant, 8, 10, 13
 Mulcahy, Miss, 52
 Mulry family, 34
 Mulry, Catherine (Kate), 34
 Mulry, Patrick, 34
 Mundy, John, 9
 Negus, Ann Elizabeth nee Beeston, 33
 Negus, William, 39
 Nicholls, Joseph, 39
 Nicholson, David, 58
 Nine, Edith, 19
 Noone, John, 28
 North, Charles, 55
 O'Brien, Cornelius, 58
 O'Donnell, Mrs. Mary Ann nee Fitzpatrick, 14
 O'Brien, J., 17
 O'Brien, Michael, 58
 O'Carroll, Shaun, 24
 Old Bill Cox, 13
 Onslow, Captain, 31
 Ottery, Alice, 48
 Ottery, Alice Maud, 39
 Ottery, Edward, 48
 Ottery, Frederick, 48
 Ottery, Mary, 48
 Payton, Alice, 42, 49
 Payton, Bridget, 49
 Payton, Catherine, 49
 Payton, Elizabeth, 42
 Payton, Ellen, 49
 Payton, James, 14, 49

Payton, Margaret, 42, 49
 Payton, Martin, 49
 Payton, Mary, 49, 57
 Payton, Thomas, 14, 49
 Payton, Timothy, 49
 Payton, William, 42, 49
 Pearce, John, 20
 Pearce, Mrs, 20
 Peel, Mary Ann, 53
 Peel, Richard b.1830, 53
 Pepper, Ada Augusta Elizabeth, 12
 Petre, Father, 42
 Phillips, William, 9
 Proctor, Benjamin c.1832, 58
 Proctor, Benjamin Louth, 58
 Proctor, Elizabeth, 39, 58
 Proctor, Frederick, 39
 Proctor, George, 58
 Proctor, Mary, 58
 Proctor, Samuel, 58
 Quirk, Ann b.1881, 55
 Quirk, Bridget b.1870, 42, 59
 Quirk, Ellen b.1878, 55
 Quirk, Ellen Theresa b.1877, 59
 Quirk, Hannah/Joanna b.1871, 55
 Quirk, James b.1879, 59
 Quirk, Jeremiah b.1863, 42, 59
 Quirk, Jeremiah b.1869, 55
 Quirk, Jeremiah c.1813, 60
 Quirk, Jeremiah c.1829, 60
 Quirk, Johanna b.1862, 59
 Quirk, John b.1873, 55
 Quirk, Margaret b.1866, 42, 59
 Quirk, Mary b.1869, 42, 59
 Quirk, Mary b.1875, 55
 Quirk, Mrs. *See* Finn, Johanna
 Quirk, Patrick b.1864, 42, 59
 Quirk, Philip Aloysius b.1874, 42
 Quirk, Philip b.1884, 55
 Quirk, Philip c.1833, 59
 Quirk, Sarah b.1873, 59
 Quirk, Thomas b.1879, 55
 Quirk, Thomas c.1831, 55
 Quirk, Thomas Joseph b.1877, 59
 Reid, Agnes, 58
 Reid, Eliza, 58
 Reid, Isaac Jr., 58
 Reid, Isaac Snr., 58
 Reid, Sarah, 58
 Reidy, Roger, 42
 Riach, Albert b.1853, 20
 Riach, Annie G., 20
 Riach, Arthur, 20
 Riach, Elspeth nee Gibb, 20
 Riach, Eve R., 20
 Riach, James b.1842, 20
 Riach, Richard b.1845, 20
 Riach, William b.1811, 20
 Riach, William b.1840, 20
 Rice, James, 60
 Rice, Mary Ann, 37
 Riley, Bridget, 53
 Riley, Catherine (Kate), 53
 Riley, Edward, 53
 Riley, John, 53
 Riley, Mrs Bridget nee Brady, 53
 Riley, Rose Anna, 53
 Riverview, 20
 Roach, Father, 42
 Rochford, Agnes, 52
 Rochford, Elizabeth, 52
 Rochford, James c.1825, 52
 Rochford, James c.1858, 52
 Rochford, John c.1862, 52
 Rochford, Joseph, 52
 Rochford, Margaret, 52
 Rochford, Michael b.1852, 52
 Rochford, Patrick c.1867, 52
 Rochford, Thomas, 52
 Rochford, William c.1856, 52
 Rofe, Mr., 50
 Rohan family, 52
 Rose, Alfred M.N., 21
 Rose, Thomas, 16, 21
 Rosedale Station, 57
 Rudd, Catherine, 47
 Rudd, Sarah b.1816, 47
 Rudd, Sarah b.1854, 47
 Rudd, Thomas b.1818, 47
 Rudd, Thomas b.1843, 26
 Ryan, Denis, 40, 42
 Ryan, James, 40, 41, 42
 Ryan, Margaret, 40, 42
 Ryan, Michael, 40, 42
 Ryan, Mrs Mary, 28
 Ryder, Benjamin, 38
 Ryder, Frances Rhoda, 38
 Ryder, Horace, 38
 Ryder, James, 38
 Ryder, Joseph, 38
 Ryder, Rhoda, 39
 Ryder, Selina Jemima, 36, 38
 Ryder, Thomas, 38
 Sanderson, Ada, 34, 39
 Sanderson, Annie, 33
 Sanderson, Charlotte Elizabeth, 33, 39
 Sanderson, Edward Leighton, 34
 Sanderson, Ellen (Nellie), 33, 39
 Sanderson, Ellen nee Sheather, 34
 Sanderson, Emily Mary, 33, 39

Sanderson, James Alexander, 34
 Sanderson, John, 33
 Sanderson, Lewis Henry, 34, 39
 Sanderson, Mr. J., 60
 Sanderson, William George, 33
 Scanlon, Michael, 58
 Scully, Ann, 50
 Scully, Catherine, 50
 Scully, Elizabeth Theresa, 50
 Scully, Ellen, 50
 Scully, John, 50, 60
 Scully, Julia, 42, 50
 Scully, Margaret, 50
 Scully, Mary, 50
 Scully, Michael, 50
 Sedgwick, Elizabeth Susan nee Fitzpatrick, 14
 Sempill/Semple, William, 9
 Sharman, James, 16
 Sharman, Joseph, 16, 19
 Sharman, Mary Ann, 16, 19
 Sharman, Patrick, 16
 Sharman, Thomas c.1810, 16
 Slater, James, 39
 Slaughter House/Yard, The, 50, 59
 Smart, Amy, 39
 Smart, Clara Jane, 39
 Smart, Edwin John, 39
 Smart, Lucy Ann, 39
 Smart, Samuel, 36
 Smart, William Edward, 39
 Smith, John, 5
 Sneesby, David, 9
 Spaniard's Hill, 12, 48, 50, 52
 Springfields, 20, 25, 28
 Stapleton, Charles Harvey, 11
 Starr, Ellen, 37
 Starr, Frederick, 37
 Starr, George, 37
 Starr, Henry, 37
 Starr, James, 37
 Starr, Jennings, 37
 Starr, Joseph, 37
 Starr, Stephen, 37
 Starr, William b.1800, 36
 Starr, William b.1846, 36, 37
 Stevens, Charlotte, 39
 Stevens, Elizabeth, 39
 Stevens, Fardy/Vard, 39
 Stevens, Grace, 39
 Stevens, Jane, 39
 Stevens, John, 51
 Stevens, John Casson, 39
 Stevens, Mary, 39
 Stevens, Rebecca, 39
 Stevens, Thomas, 51
 Stewart, Richard, 20
 Stoney Creek, 23
 Sullivan, Dan, 26
 Sullivan, Jeremiah, 12, 26
 Taber, Ada, 9, 19, 39
 Taber, Alan Edwin, 12
 Taber, Amy Amelia, 11, 39
 Taber, Ann, 8
 Taber, Annie, 9
 Taber, Beryl Jane, 12
 Taber, Charles Harrington, 39
 Taber, Charlotte, 8
 Taber, Charlotte Isabella, 10
 Taber, Clara, 9
 Taber, Clara Jane, 11, 19, 39
 Taber, Deborah, 8
 Taber, Edna Vera, 11
 Taber, Edwin John, 11
 Taber, Edwin Robert b.1882, 12
 Taber, Elizabeth, 9
 Taber, Elizabeth Charlotte, 11, 19, 39
 Taber, Elizabeth Deborah, 10
 Taber, Florence, 39
 Taber, Frances Rachel, 9
 Taber, Frances Sarah, 8
 Taber, Frederick William, 39
 Taber, George, 12
 Taber, George b.1794, 8
 Taber, George b.1800, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 17, 18, 19
 Taber, George b.1827, 9
 Taber, George b.1835, 10, 11, 13, 19
 Taber, George Edwin b.1867, 11, 19, 39
 Taber, George Edwin b.1908, 12
 Taber, Henrietta Florence, 11
 Taber, James Alfred, 19, 39
 Taber, James b.1798, 8, 10, 34
 Taber, James b.1828, 10
 Taber, John, 8
 Taber, Louisa, 8
 Taber, Mary Jane, 9
 Taber, Mavis Elizabeth, 12
 Taber, Miriam Victoria, 11
 Taber, Mrs Geoge. *See* Gowen, Ann
 Taber, Rebecca Frances, 10, 34
 Taber, Sarah, 9, 10
 Taber, Thomas Albert, 39
 Taber, Thomas Albert Sydney, 12, 19
 Taber, Thomas b.1763, 7, 8
 Taber, Thomas b.1792, 8
 Taber, Thomas b.1827, 9, 10
 Taber, Thomas c.1850, 6, 9, 10, 20
 Taber, Valerie May, 12
 Tancred, Mr, 17
 The Pines, 27

Thomson, Francis, 58
Tingcombe, Rev., 44
Tulloh, Archie, 22
Tully, Mary, 39, 43
Tully, Sarah, 39, 43
Vallence/Vallance, Frederick, 11
Vardy, Agnes Marcella, 26
Vardy, John b.1794, 20, 25
Vardy, Joseph, 26, 42
Vardy, Joseph Francis b.1849, 26
Vardy, Mary nee Martin, 25
Vardy, Michael, 20
Vardy, Michael Andrew b.1851, 26
Vardy, Mrs. Rosannah nee Reilly, 25
Vardy, Philomena B., 26
Vardy, Rose Anne Mary, 26
Vardy, Sarah nee Carroll, 25
Vardy, Thomas b.1858, 26
Vardy, Thomas c.1803, 25
Walker, Joseph, 5
Ward, Patrick b.1853, 17
Ward, Patrick c.1801, 17
Whelan/Whalan, John Joseph, 14
White, Minnie, 39
Whitely Family, 17
Whiteman, Charlotte nee Foster, 29

Whiteman, Patience Charlotte, 29
Whitton, John, 26
Wilcocks, Mr., 29
Wingfield, Esther, 39
Wingfield, Mr., 43
Wingfield, Walter, 39
Wood, Isabella Sarah Ellen, 49
Wood, Jonathan, 49
Woodbridge, Thomas, 50, 58, 59
Woodbridge's Hill, 58
Woodbridge's/Woodbridge Hill, 59
Woodhouse, Edmund Bingham, 22
Woodhouse, Edmund Hume, 21
Woodhouse, Mrs, 21
Woods family, 49
Woods, Isabella, 39
Woods, Jonathan, 43
Woods, Robert, 39
York, Harriet, 39
Young, Mary Jane, 38
Young, R., 46
Young, Richard, 37
Young, Richard c.1815, 38
Young, Sarah Elizabeth, 37
Young, Thomas b.1839, 38
Zglinicki, Wanda, 46