



NEWSLETTER
July 2021

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

17 Myokum Street MULLUMBIMBY 2482
OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM
MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM

IMPORTANT NEWS

Because of a change in reporting to ACNC and Byron Shire Council we will be returning to the '1st July to 30th June' financial year. Consequently, the **AGM** has been changed to **10th August 2021** at 10:30 AM.

Our email address has been changed. Please note it is now admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

The Work Experience Program looks like being up and running again for a further 6mths, starting this month. As Sarah is still on extended leave, Frederick Theiss is going to supervise the program. Thanks to Frederick for taking this on. It is very much appreciated.

Hugh McDermid Livingstone, *Father of Mullumbimby Commerce*

(so said the *Mullumbimby Star* on 21May1937)

Throughout his life **Hugh McDermid Livingstone** was never referred to without that middle moniker 'McDermid/McDiarmid/...' (or in abbreviated form as Mr H. McD. Livingstone), probably to differentiate himself from the prominent **Hugh Livingstone** of Codrington, *who came to the Clarence in 1855, and removed to the Richmond in 1862, where he claimed to have taken up the first selection under the Robertson Act* ('free selection before survey' introduced in 1862). This latter bloke was in the vanguard of the Scottish invasion of the North Coast, landing from Scotland in 1849 and dying at Codrington in 1926, aged 94, the son of Malcolm and Katherine. Our Hugh came from Scotland to the Clarence in 1879 and died at Kingaroy in 1937. He was born 9Nov1854 Glenmoire, Parish of Ardanmurchen, Argyshire, the son of **Hugh** and **Catherine**, nee **McDiarmid**.

But it's likely they are connected, as *The Highland Livingstones are one of the oldest clans in Scotland and were... Based on the Isle of Lismore....* (See <http://www.clanlivingstone.info/ClanLivingstone.htm> for history and <http://www.clanlivingstone.info/forum/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=1121&start=20> for our Hugh's family background). And he is probably connected to **Alexander Livingstone** of Grafton and Maclean, with whom he seems to have lived upon arrival on the Clarence. Alexander, born 1818 Argyshire, landed 1851 and initially settled at Carr's Creek, Grafton. He died at Maclean 18Jul1893, followed by wife **Isabella**, nee **McLachlan**, 7Oct1903, who left bequests to our Hugh's oldest child, **Janet Livingstone** (born 1884 Maclean), and to **Hugh McDiarmid**, our Hugh's cousin, both beneficiaries being residents of Mullum at the time.

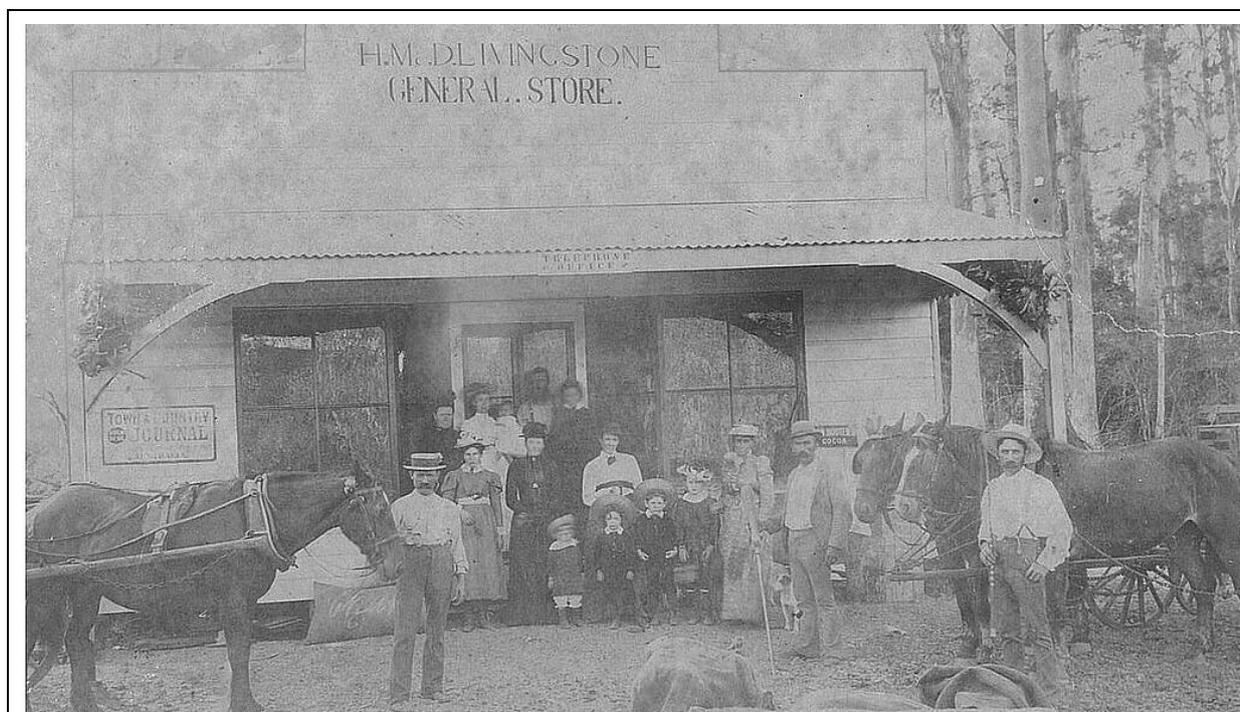


Hugh McDermid Livingstone, Chieftain of the Kingaroy Caledonian Society, with wife Mary Ann, nee Sandeeson.

Our Hugh spent ~5yrs in Glasgow before landing in Sydney in 1879 per the 'SS *Loch Garry*', claiming that he *almost immediately went scrub-felling on the Brunswick River. In 1880 he went to the Clarence River and for 10 years worked for Mr Samuel McNaughton, storekeeper and station-owner of Maclean...*, and along the way acquired a couple of blocks in the *McLachlan Subdivision* in the Maclean CBD. In 1883 he married **Mary Ann Jane Sandeeson** of Carr's Creek, Grafton, and ~6yrs later turned up at Bexhill to open his own store, from where he also demonstrated good marketing skills with 'a *dealing van*', hawking his wares to the various isolated farmhouses in the district, a necessary strategy in the 1890s

Depression. However, he was burnt out in Sep1891 and decided to reopen in the ghost town of Mullumbimby.

The first building in Mullum appears to be **Donald McGougan's** Mullumbimby Hotel in Tincogan Street, opened 30Oct1891. **Hugh McD Livingstone**, with the Bexhill insurance payout of £694/11/6 burning a hole in his pocket, was close on his heels, opening his combined store and residence on the corner of Tincogan and Gordon, next door to McGougan, by at least Dec1891. Across the road the School of Arts, also opened in Dec1891, was said to have '*inaugurated Mullumbimby*', by which time the first cottages had also appeared.



Livingstone's General Store and Telephone Office in Station Street 1894

Right Foreground: **Hugh McDermid Livingstone** in braces with pair of horses and wagonette

Left Foreground: **Hugh McDermid** (Hugh Livingstone's cousin) with horse and cart.

Back Row L to R: Unknown lady, **Mrs Donald Shaw** (nee Annie Vousden) with baby, **Mr William Chisholm Shaw** (Half-brother of Donald and Uncle of Mrs Yates), **Mrs John (Janet) Sanderson/Sandeesson** (Mrs Livingstone's mother)

Front row L to R: **Janet Manewell** (b. 1879 Grafton, niece of Mrs Livingstone), **Mrs Tim O'Neil** (dark dress, nee Greenhalgh), **Mrs Hugh Livingstone** (nee **Sandeesson**) with 4 children, David Charles b. 1894 Mullum, Angus b. 1891 Lismore, Alexander Hugh b. 1886 Maclean, Janet b. 1883 Maclean (John b. 1888 missing. Last child, Annie, b. 1896 Mullum),

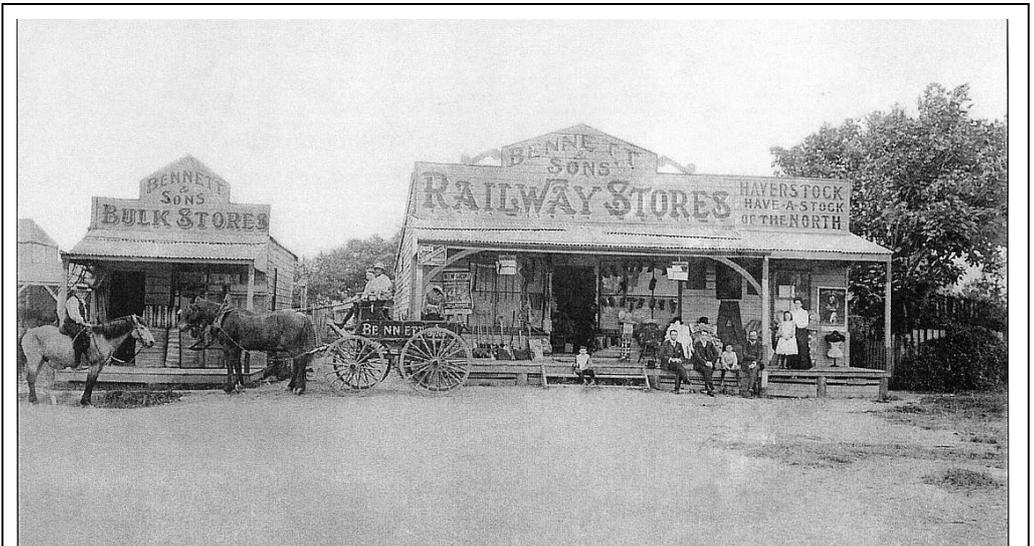
Joe Yates and wife **Isabella** (nee **McKenzie**) standing either side of dog Satan.

[**Mrs Isabella Manewell** died Mar1919 Bexhill, the daughter of **John** and **Janet Sandeesson**. She was born 1841 Scotland, spent ~14yrs Wales and came to Australia with her parents 1856/57. Her father **John**, born Banff, Scotland, died 1868 Grafton, son of John and Isabel, while her mother **Janet** was living with the Manewell's at Bexhill when she died 1903. Her brother **Robert Sandeesson**, born 1860 Maitland, farmed at Carr's Creek, Grafton, until becoming a farmer at Cooper's Creek, Bexhill, in 1895, dying at Bexhill in 1905. Her brother **John jnr**, born 1846 Wales, married **Ellen McAulay** 1875 Grafton and came to farm at Myocum 1890, dying in Mullum 1925. (In 1911 the farm was passed to **Tom Armstrong**, husband of John jnr's dau **Janet Mary Sandeesson**). Her sister **Catherine** married **John Henry Haines** 1877 Grafton and came to Mullum ~1898, her husband opening a saddlery and bootmakery. They sold the business to John Newell 1910 and moved Uki. (Newell subsequently passed the business to John jnr's son, **Joseph Sandeesson**.) Catherine died 1918 Murbah.]

In 1947 **Mrs Janet Thorpe** (nee **Manewell**) of Byron Bay recalled that **Hugh Livingstone**, with wife & family of four & myself (niece of Mrs Livingstone) arrived in Mullumbimby per wagonette & pair horses October 1891.... The Hotel, Store and School of Arts & a cottage where the O'Neil family resided were the only buildings where the township now is, all being surrounded by dense scrub. (The O'Neils were **Brian** and **Rosetta**, nee **Greenhalgh**, and at least 5 children, together with Brian's pioneering brother John. Brian and family moved into town from Mullumbimby Creek sometime after Apr1891). A short distance from them was a cottage where **Mr Joe Yates** & his wife lived (Gordon Street). Travelling along just a bush track where one had to dodge vines & bushes overhanging, the goods for the store were carried per wagonette & pair of horses from Byron Bay (via the track through Myocum), a distance of about 14 miles, or with a rowing boat from Brunswick Heads until the steamer bringing cargo from Sydney was wrecked on the Brunswick Bar (maybe means the 'Endeavour', wrecked on the north rocks Feb1892).... During the early days customers came (at times with a pack horse) to collect their

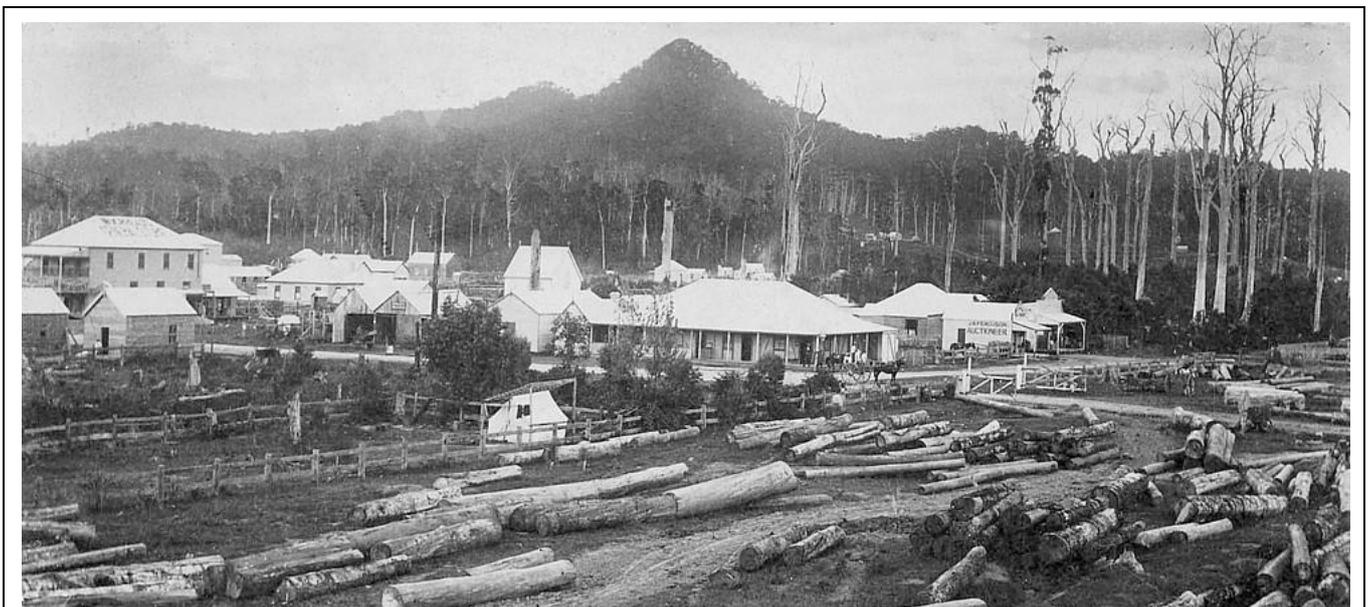
goods & mail, hurrying off to re-cross the river before the tide rose.... The first building to be erected near the Railway Station was a Hotel owned by Mr Yates. Mr Livingstone then had his Residence etc. moved to a block very near the Hotel which was later taken over by Mr McGougan, his original two storey Hotel being used as another store by **Mr Alan Cameron** & his two sisters (Agnes and Margaret). I believe the same building is now the Mullumbimby Ambulance Station.... [PS] I mentioned Mr Yates Building near the railway station. When that place was erected it was also dense scrub but some time later the Railway Station was built a short distance from the General Store & Hotel. At that time they were the only buildings there.

Way down the western end of the budding metropolis a new brick school appeared in May 1892, while down near the proposed railway station the town boundary had been extended to accommodate the Allan Subdivision, which saw 264 lots flooding the market by Jan 1892. The new railway brought temporary relief to the 1890s Depression and by early Dec 92 **Joseph Yates** had opened the *Railway Hotel* to supplement ~5 pubs between Billinudgel and the Brunswick that sprang up to accommodate the multitude of navies and camp followers. And *There will be no less than 10 stores...*, while the farmers, particularly *Messrs Williams, Cameron, Dawson and Livingstone* of Myocum are ploughing..., a good augury of a new era for the Brunswick....



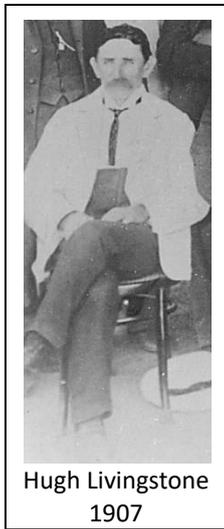
Railway Stores 1904, about where 'Flock' (ex-Poincianna Café) now stands. In Sep 03 Simpson leased his expanded stores to Reid & Dean who passed them to Bennett & Sons in Aug 04. (Building left was originally the office of auctioneer J.N. Ferguson)

Hugh had given notice that he was serious about a switch to the joys of farming with an advert on 7 Dec 1892 for 3 pairs good Working Bullocks with Yokes &c... accustomed to farm work preferred. Presumably he had leased or bought a bit of Myocum land off his brother-in-law, **John Sandeesson**, leaving wife Mary running the store. A month earlier he had heralded a move away from storekeeping upon scoring the twice per week Mullum-Coorabell mail run, with a tender of £39pa, although possibly subcontracting the job. But in Nov 1893 he was back behind the counter of his relocated store when **Mr H. M'D. Livingstone**, upon the occasion of his opening a new store at the Mullumbimby railway station, gave a social evening.... At midnight an excellent supper was served, after which dancing was recommenced and continued for several hours....



Intersection of Burringbar and Station Streets, from the Sawmill yard, 1903.

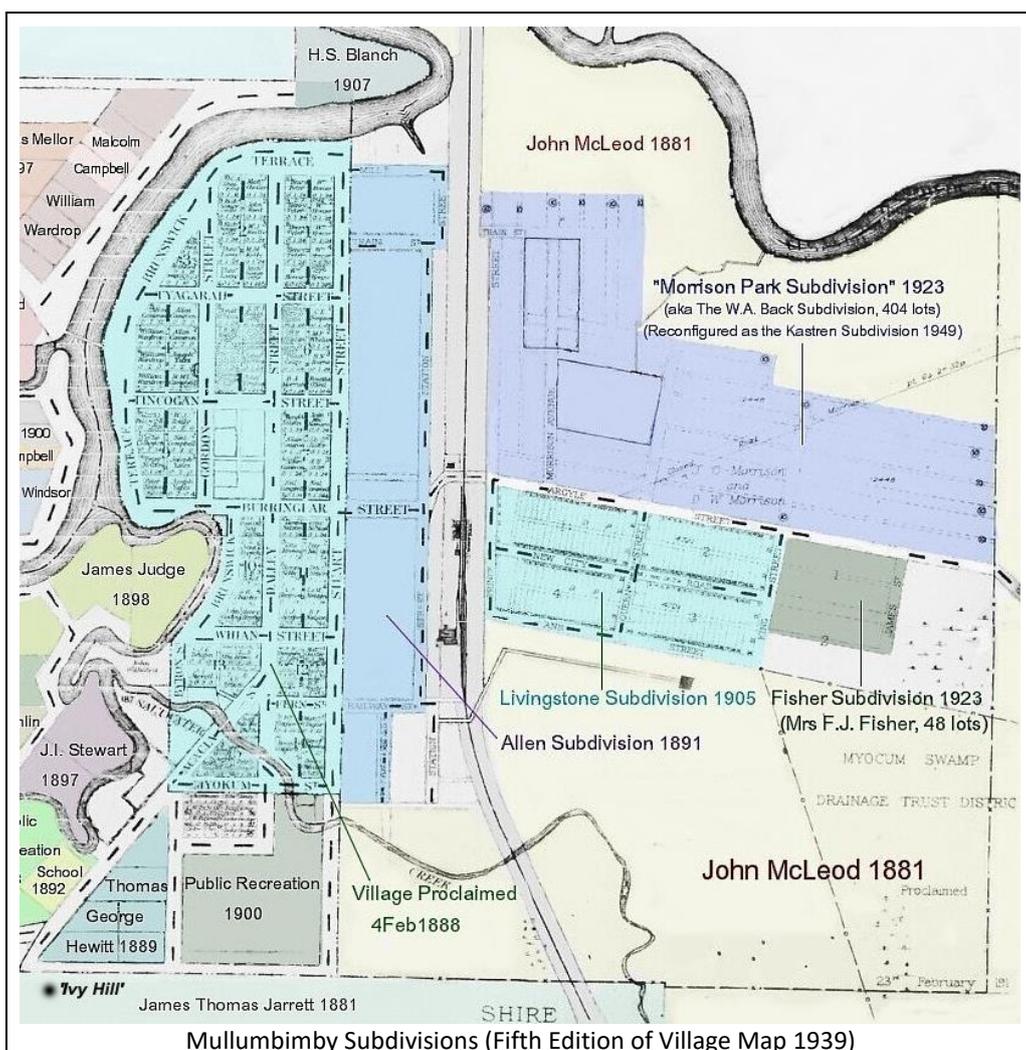
Around late 1893/early 1894 **Joe Yates** passed his Railway Hotel to **Donald McGougan**. Shortly thereafter various sheds and pens emerged around the station to match outhouses and stabling growing around Livingstone and McGougan, thus shifting the focus of the embryo CBD. Moving with Livingstone was the village telephone, which had arrived via a line from Coorabell at the same time as completion of his store in 1891, Hugh himself later subsidising the service. By 1896 his store was home to Mullum's Post and Telegraph Office, but in September of that year he passed the lot to **Charles Edward Simpson** of Casino to mark his final makeover as a man of the land.



He also gave up on some of his community activities, although retaining his interest in the Progress Association. In Feb 1895 he had become vice-president of the revitalized Mullum Prog Assoc, the establishment of which was greeted with much controversy by those trying to maintain the Brunswick River Prog Assoc as the main vehicle for promoting the district. Scotsman **Allan Cameron**, newly arrived from Maclean to convert McGougan's old Tincogan Street hotel into a store and residence, took the president's chair a month later and the Mullumites gradually achieved the upper hand over the Brunswickers.

By early 1895 Hugh was heavily into sugar cane growing at Mullumbimby Creek, and the patches on **Reddacliff's, Livingstone's and Torrens' farms** are very far ahead considering the short time it has been planted.... But by this time the railway camps were deserted along with the market for local produce, leading to some desperation to find new viable industries. *Her Majesty The Cow* came to the rescue and in Dec 1895 Hugh purchased **Mr R. Marshall's farm** adjoining the township, where he intends to add dairying pursuits to his cane-growing business. The cow quickly gained the ascendancy, prompting the influx of farmers from the Clarence and the South Coast and a return of absentee landowners to their abandoned selections.

[Note that **Robert Marshall's 'farm adjoining the township'** is probably 'Ivy Hill', one of two adjoining 40ac blocks selected by **John Thomas Jarrett** in 1881. In mid 1891 Marshall had become the owner of two other Jarrett properties near Durrumbul as 'mortgagee in possession', and it's likely that 'Ivy Hill' was also defaulted to him at some stage. What's harder to accommodate is that in 1896 John's brother, **Bernard Abraham Jarrett**, returned to the Brunswick, where Mr Jarrett cleared the scrub on Ivy Hill, Mullumbimby, and built a cottage (said Mrs Jarrett's obituary in 1943). Maybe the two original properties were collectively known as "Ivy Hill"? (And in the mix was James Johnson, owner /renter /lease holder of 'Ivy Hill' through to ~1895.)



In Mar 1899 Hugh became a foundation committeeman with *The Brunswick River and District*

Dairymen's Association. This morphed into the *Mullumbimby Farmers' and Dairymen's Union* in Jul 1901, of which Hugh became vice-president in 1903. Interest in the Progress Association faded away as the Union gained more members and effectively usurped the Progress Association's role in pressing for roads, bridges and general district and town improvements. He was a prominent dairyman by Mar 1905 when he became a foundation committeeman with the

Mullumbimby Agricultural Society. That same year Agents of the Government Intelligence Department came to photograph his 'Ivy Hill' farm at the northern end of the golf course (or Racecourse at the time) as part of a propaganda package to entice British migrants.

By this time the pioneering days were drawing to a close and those who had hung-in were now reaping their rewards, exemplified by our Hugh who bought a piece of Morrison's farm east of the railway station in mid1905 and created the 176 lot Livingstone Estate to provide affordable housing for the influx of new people brought by the cow, selling most within 12mths with terms of 25% deposit and the balance over 6yrs. In the 5yrs to Dec1904 the sacred cow oversaw a doubling of the population of the Mullumbimby Police Patrol District, tripling of the number of dairies, and quadrupling of land values.

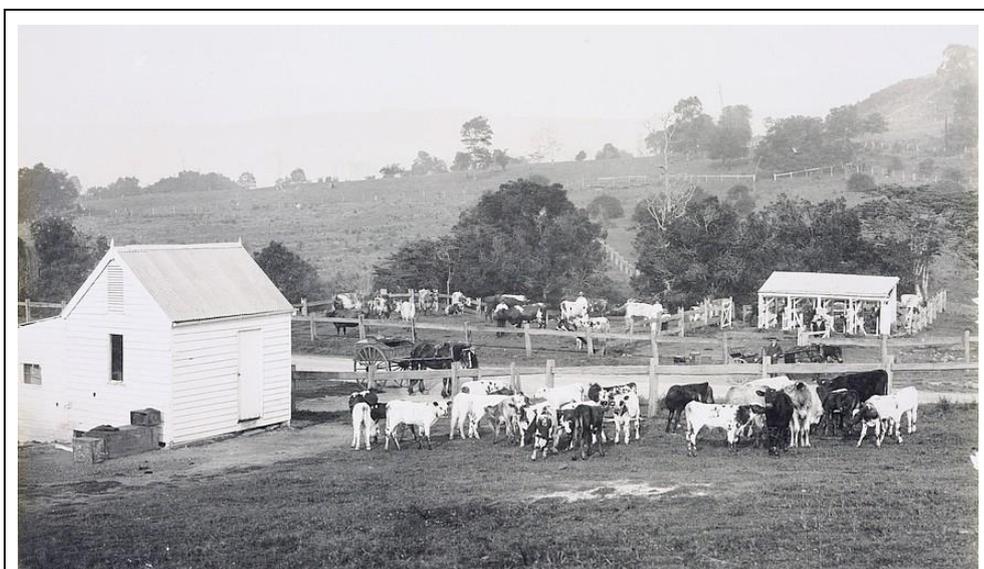
On 8Aug1907 the Mullum Star recorded that *our esteemed and respected citizen, Mr H. McD Livingstone has within the last twelve months made a couple of trips to the old country, for the purpose of introducing to the district a new strain of blood in cattle and horses.... In recognition of Mr Livingstone's progressiveness, and his efforts for the advancement of the district..., it was decided to entertain him at a luncheon at the School of Arts on Friday last, when, notwithstanding the inclement weather, between 40 and 50 attended, which is a fair index as to the respect in which Mr Livingstone is held here.... Mr A. Cameron occupied the chair..., while W.R. Baker said Hugh was a pioneer in the butter industry... and The good he had done for the district was enormous. He had spent his hard earnings in dairy cattle, and was the first to introduce the Ayreshire here, and he had gone beyond the seas... and had brought out a new breed of dairy cattle..., then he made a second journey.... May the unborn know the name of Livingstone....*

Mr T. Torrens said *Seventeen years ago, when they did not know which would be the best for the district, Mr Livingstone was to the fore, and when sugar cane growing appeared as if it were going to be a profitable industry, their guest put his heart and soul into it. Later on the dairying industry set in, and Mr Livingstone entered into it, and was one of our most progressive dairymen, sparing nothing that would improve himself and the district....*

Mr R.M. Thompson said *When their guest found that the Ayrshires didn't suit altogether, he went home and brought out the Red Lincolns.... Some years ago, Mullumbimby was not known in Sydney, now it was recognised there as one of the best dairy dairying districts in the State....* And many other speakers continued to sing his praises, the Star providing 2½ columns of valuable space to record Hugh's virtues.

In responding, **Mr Livingstone** said *When he first came to Mullumbimby 28 years ago, it was then dense scrub. Sixteen years later he bought a block of land opposite... the School of Arts.... As far as dairying was concerned, we were 50 years ahead of the old country..., where He saw no factories, and only a few separators....*

By 1911 Hugh had put together 5 farms totaling 500 acres surrounding Mullum. He placed the lot on the auction block in Nov1911, cunningly timed to coincide with Mullum's 5th Annual Show, which drew 1000s of people from all over the region on special trains. His home farm of 100 acres, Ivy Hill, was sold for £30/10/- per acre to **John Fischer** of Myocum, who also picked up the adjoining 8 acres opposite the school for £600, while John's brother Jacob won the adjoining 116 acres stretching around to the Railway Station for £16/acre. Two adjoining farms fronting Mullum Creek were passed in at £30/-/- per acre and subsequently leased, along with a 150 acre farm at Main Arm. Various lots in town were also sold (achieving quadruple the price he got for his Bexhill lots), along with 200 head of stock, averaging £7/13/- per head overall. He then took his remaining stock to Kingaroy, where, by early 1912, he had invested £15,000 in 3 farms, and where *'there were upwards of thirty ex-Brunswick settlers.'*



Portion of Livingstone's 'Ivy Hill', 1905.

(The Milking Bails are on the site of the current Timber Slab Factory.)

On 20Dec1911 he was given a public farewell at the Oddfellow's Hall, with Mayor **James Davidson** in the chair, while sons John and Angus had been separately farewelled at the Oddfellow's on 1Dec1911 with Ald **Joe Hollingworth** in the chair.

(Son Alex, apparently already in Kingaroy, had sold his 60 acre farm at Myocum in Jul1905 and married **Amy Smith**, the daughter of prominent **W.E. Smith** of 'Fernleigh', Main Arm, in May1910.) **Hugh** and **Mary Livingstone** died within 4mths of each other at Kingaroy in 1937.

*A chapter in the history of Mullumbimby closed in May1986 when the Ivy Hill dairy ceased production. The farm produced milk for Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay for almost a century, but the last of its dairy cattle were sold late last month.... In 1905 owner **Hugh Livingston** developed and patented the Herringbone or walk-through dairy which increased the speed and efficiency of milking cattle. He gave the farm its name, Ivy Hill, and he built the house which still stands.... Now that the dairy has closed, it is doubtful the once familiar sight of cattle crossing the road near Ivy Hill for milking (and holding up traffic twice a day) will be ever seen again.*

Peter Tsicalas



'Livingstone's Crossing' at Mullumbimby Creek, where 'King Bobby Bridge' now spans, connecting with 'Woodrow's Road', now Left Bank Road, 1905. ('Ivy Hill' homestead top left.)

On 20Nov1909 Governor Chelmsford arrived to open the new bridge over Mullumbimby Creek and was greeted by 1000 cheering monarchists at the station, where banker **Mr R.M. Thompson** read the address of welcome..., begging to assure you of our unabated loyalty to our Sovereign Lord the King, of whom you are so worthy a representative....

(It was still known as 'Chelmsford Bridge' when it underwent refurbishment in 1933, 1942, 1948 and 1955. In May1967 the Municipal Council accepted a tender for \$26,582 for the construction of the new Chelmsford Bridge..., which was opened Nov1967 and sometime downstream appeared on the Byron Shire Council Register as the 'Azalea Street Bridge'.)

On 15Sep2020 BVHS wrote to the Council proposing that the unsignposted bridge be named 'Livingstone Bridge' to memorialise the worthy Hugh.

Council staff passed the submission to the Arakwal, who now, apparently, take precedence in Naming and Veto Rights over the area up to and including the Brunswick River following the 30Apr2019 Land Rights decision by the Federal Court. The Arakwal Directors rationalised that given the historical context of the proposed name, such a name may hold detrimental connotations for Aboriginal People..., and instead proposed the 'King Bobby Bridge' to commemorate the leader of a large group of Arakwal People in Cavanbah in 1881 when Europeans first arrived..., despite 'Drumble Charlie, King of the Brunswick Blacks', having greater relevance to this section of the shire and being better known further afield. (King Charlie was a familiar figure between Ballina and Wooyung from at least the 1860s when the cedar-getters were making rapid inroads into Bumberlin and Durungbil Country, while King Bobby kept a low profile. See 'First People of the Brunswick – Part 1' at [Miscellaneous Historical – Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc \(mullumbimbymuseum.org.au\)](http://mullumbimbymuseum.org.au))

The new normal was ratified on 27May2021when the alert Shire Councillors made a unanimous decision to endorse the well-informed staff recommendation in favour of 'King Bobby Bridge', leaving **Hugh Livingstone** in Limbo, **Drumble Charlie** dispossessed and BVHS redundant (with some members still curled up in the foetal position).

OBJECT OF THE MONTH

The object of the month for May was a **Modern Fingerprinting Kit** – a teaching resource used in a university course – which has been displayed in the shed.

The booklet details the history of fingerprinting, materials used to conduct fingerprinting and modern developments. All very intriguing and you can have your fingerprints taken if so desired; ask a volunteer. Booklets \$2 each.

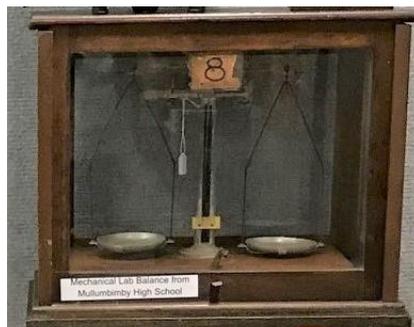


NEW EXHIBITION

Weighty Matters features a variety of balances and scales located in the museum and Machinery Shed donated from a variety of sources. What is the difference between a balance and a scale? Explanations and examples of both abound. Further examples can be found in Stewarts Menswear window.



The Object of the month for June featured the **Mechanical Lab Balance** which was donated by Mullumbimby High School. The excellent booklet explains how it works and gives interesting details on Units of Mass and their historical development. Booklets \$2 ea.



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

This newsletter is written by and for the members of the BVHS Inc

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Jacqueline Smith &

Frederick Theiss

Heritage Panel

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Chris Cooney

Newsletter: Members

WFD Supervisor: F. Theiss

Public Officer: S. Tsicalas.

All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

Please email contributions for the newsletter to

admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

*Deadline for newsletter items
Friday 30th July 2021

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th Aug 2021

@10.30am

MUSEUM HOURS –

Tuesdays and Fridays

10.00-12.00

Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET

Next Market- Sat 17 July

mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au

