



NEWSLETTER
September 2021

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

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OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM

MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM



UPDATES

Because of the statewide lockdown the **Annual General Meeting** that was to be held on **10th August 2021** at 10:30 has been moved to Tuesday September 14th at 10.30am. If lockdown continues we will aim for a Zoom meeting. Please advise if you wish to attend a zoom meeting and a link will be forwarded.

The museum is closed and work for the dole program on standby while lockdown continues.

The Protestant Work Ethic of the Catholic Walkers

The Walkers were yet another worthy family who played centre stage in the early episodes of 'Booming Brunswick', an enriching experience for many until the music stopped. But the founder of this adventurous Australian troupe, **Charles Walker**, remains a man of mystery. He was either a Catholic Irishman or a Presbyterian Scotsman when he landed in Sydney in 1833 as a 26yr old steward on the barque 'Caroline'. While the family researchers are still working on it, you can digest their accumulated clues at [Walker genealogy by William Skyvington - issuu](#), [A Little Bit of Irish - My Mother's People in Australia by William Skyvington - issuu](#) (published 2014), and *Memoir of our Grandparents, Joe & Viva Walker*, by Mary Maher and Pam Punch, 2020. (Interconnected were the Tarlintons, whose exploits and kinships can be viewed in the BVHS copy of *The Tarlintons in Australia 1791-1991; A Bicentennial History*, edited by Michael McGowan.)

Whatever his origin circumstances, 32yr old Charles married 17yr old **Ann Hickey** in a Catholic ceremony at Tarago, Lake Bathurst, in 1839 and begat an enterprising family of 11. She was the daughter of Catholic convict **Patrick Michael Hickey** (1782 Borrisleigh, Tipperary, Ireland – 5Apr1858 Braidwood), transported for life in 1828 for helping himself to other people's cattle and assigned to Captain John Coghill of Braidwood. In Jun1837 Hickey was granted a ticket-of-leave and 4mths later was joined by his family from Borrisleigh, inclusive of wife **Elizabeth**, nee **Breton** (1784 Tipperary – 30Oct1850 Braidwood) and daughter Ann (aka 'Nancy' aged '14') along with her 6 siblings (Mary aged 19, Margaret 17, Michael 14, William 13, Nancy (aka 'Ann' aged '11'), John 9, Elizabeth 7). But 2yrs later recalcitrant Hickey blotted his copybook when he was sprung 'receiving' other people's stolen goods, for which he received a bonus of a period of penance on Norfolk Island, sailing away on 16Dec1839, just 6mths after the weddings of daughters Ann and Mary. He was deemed rehabilitated in 1844, aged 62, and repatriated back to Braidwood where he was granted a second ticket-of-leave in 1846.

Meanwhile **Charles Walker** was still shepherding sheep at Reidsdale where, in 1840/41, he acquired a 176ac block near the quarter of Reidsdale called 'Irish Corner' in partnership with his brother-in-law, **John Salmon** (who married **Mary Hickey**). But earning a living from sheep was becoming tricky with the arrival of the 1840s Depression, the value of the woolly jumbucks falling from 16/- per head in 1837 to 6d in 1843, forcing him to turn them into tallow at the boiling down works as the only viable option. He was rescued from destitution by the discovery of gold at nearby Major's Creek in 1851, joining the hordes of miners flocking from all over the place and returning with a modest bag of gilded coin, enabling him to embark on a new career as a publican with the establishment of *The Farmers' Home* tavern on his property. But he died in 1860, leaving Ann to run the pub while caring for a young family (inclusive of 6mth old Teresa), at least until remarriage to a fellow Tipperarian, carpenter **Thomas Gleeson**, 2yrs later. In 1863 a Mr G.F. Quinn was listed as proprietor of the

Farmers' Home, while the property ended up in the hands of **Marcus Lyons**, the father-in-law of **Michael Walker**.

In summary, **Charles Walker** (~1807 Cork, Ireland, or Riccarton, Scotland – 21May1860 Reidsdale) married **Ann Hickey** (~1822 Borrisleigh, Tipperary, Ireland - 9Aug1898 Reidsdale) 8Jul1839 Lake Bathurst. Ann remarried **Thomas Peter Gleeson** 2Sep1862 Braidwood and begat **Thomas Peter Gleeson jnr** (6Oct1863 Braidwood – Apr1941 Dubbo). Gleeson snr died 7Mar1898 Reidsdale aged 69, with stepchildren as follows:

- A. **John Walker** (22Jul1840 Reidsdale– 31Oct1928 Mullion Creek, Orange). Married **Margaret Maher** (~1839 Cronen, Tipperary – 11Sep1921 Mullion Creek, Orange) 13Jan1861 Reidsdale. 9 children.
- B. **Mary Ann Walker** (1Aug1841 Reidsdale– 21May1932 Orange). Married **Thomas Rowland** 30May1860 Braidwood. 4 children.
- C. **Michael Walker** (8Apr1843 Jembaicumbene –16Jul1932 Limpinwood, Murwillumbah). Married **Annie Lyons** (~1853 Co Wicklow – 22Mar1910 Brooman, Milton)17Sep1871 Araluen and begat 12 children, including
 - a. **George William** (1875 Broulee –Jul1943 Boatharbour, Murwillumbah).
 - b. **Marcus Michael** (3Jul1878 Araluen – 9Aug1952 Murwillumbah).
 - c. **John Patrick** (1892 Milton – 23Apr1977 Limpinwood, Murwillumbah). Married **Lila May Alcorn** (1893 Moreton, Milton – 9Jul1935 Limpinwood) 1917 Milton.
- D. **Patrick Walker** (29May1845 Reidsdale – 16May1941 Mullumbimby, buried Maclean). Married **Bridget Theresa Murphy** (19Jan1851 Moruya – 20Aug1893 Palmers Island, Clarence) 17Feb1873 Broulee and begat
 - a. **William Thomas** (7Jul1874 Coral Farm, Copmanhurst – 27Sep1887 Maclean)
 - b. **James Patrick** (18Apr1876 Coral Farm – 18Aug1962 Mullumbimby). Married (1) **Honora Johanna (Norah) Tarlinton** (1872 Broulee – Oct1906 Cobargo) Jul1901 'Tarlintonville', Quaama. (2) **Ann Elizabeth (Lily) Garvey** (1887 Sydney – 17Nov1967 Mullumbimby) 30Jul1911 Bangalow.
 - c. **Sylvester Thomas (Syl)** (21Mar1878 Coral Farm – 15Feb1949 Mullumbimby). Married **Maud Mary (Lillian) Jarrett** (1880 Lismore – 1Jul1959 Mullumbimby) 7Dec1910Mullumbimby.
 - d. **John Albert (Jack)** (6Sep1880 Gordonbrook Station, Copmanhurst – 7Dec1958 Billinudgel). Married **Emily Catherine (Millie) Tarlinton** (18Dec1879 Bega – 1Dec1928 Billinudgel) 28Aug1907 Cobargo.
 - e. **Joseph Augustus (Joe)** (14Sep1882 Nettle Creek, Copmanhurst – 13Oct1966 Mullumbimby). Married **Viva Westella Welsh** (26Sep1890 Cobargo – 16Jun1975 Mullumbimby) 27Aug1913 Cobargo. (After the death of his mother Joe and most other siblings were sent to live with Tarlinton relatives in Cobargo).
 - f. **Charles Ambrose** (6Nov1884 Stockyard Creek, Copmanhurst –2Jul1969 Ryde). Married **Mary Rose Tarlinton** (1884 Bega – 23Aug1949 Newtown) 18Jan1911 Cobargo.
 - g. **Patrick Francis (Paddy)** (17Dec1885 Palmers Island, Maclean – 12Dec1982 Manly Vale). Married **Helena Josephine (Lynn) McEniery** 24Oct1923 "The Lagoons" Homestead, Bororen, Queensland. (She died 20Dec1982 Manly Vale aged 85).
 - h. **William Thomas (Billy)** (26Apr1889 Palmers Island – 6Nov1990 Nursing Home, Suffolk Park). Sent to live with uncle at Orange 1893 and returned Maclean ~1899.
 - i. **Ann Elizabeth Mary** (18Aug1891 Palmers Island – 5Nov1905 'Bredbatoura', Cobargo)
 - j. 'Female' (b&d 20Aug1893 Palmers Island)
- E. **Johannah Mary Walker** (1Aug1846 Irish Corner, Reidsdale – 21May1932 Orange). Married **Edward Moulder** 1867 Orange. 9 Children, all born Orange/Forbes/Condobolin/.
- F. **Margaret Walker** (4Nov1849 Reidsdale – 8Sep1921 Orange?)
- G. **Charles Henry Walker** (20Jun1851 Reidsdale – 22Dec1918 Grafton). Married **Mary O'Keefe** (26May1859 Preston, Lancaster – 19Oct1933 Grafton) 1Apr1877 South Grafton and begat 7 children, all born South Grafton.
- H. **Elizabeth Walker** (13Dec1853 Reidsdale – 8Aug1905 Guy Fawkes, Hillgrove). Married **George Rolls** 1877 South Grafton and begat 8/11 children, all reg Grafton.
- I. **James Walker** (21Sep1855 Reidsdale – 8Jun1894 South Grafton). Married **Elizabeth O'Keefe** (1862 Vasey, Paterson River – 4Jun1942 South Grafton) 1882 Grafton. 2 children.
- J. **Catherine Mary Walker** (10Oct1857 Reidsdale –18Apr1939 Surry Hills, Sydney). Married **Michael Joseph O'Connell** (10May1858 Stony Creek, Krawarree – 14Nov1920 Redfern, Sydney) 9Jul1879 Braidwood and begat 9 children Braidwood.
- K. **Teresa Walker** (13Dec1859 Reidsdale –?). Married **John Elligott/McElligott/Eligott/...** 1889 Sydney. (He died 6Oct1911 Sydney).

Patrick Walker

The patriarch of the Mullumbimby clan first comes to notice in Jan1859 when the Braidwood newspaper reported that **Master Patrick Walker** (and **Esther, Johanna** and **Sarah Hickey**) had '*Distinguished themselves*' in their religious instruction exams at the Reidsdale Catholic School. He was still a distinguished practitioner in Mar1910 when he became president of the Mullum branch of the Hibernian Society. (And after crossing the Styx he would have been proud to observe from the other side his distinguished progeny carrying on the faith, son **Mr J.P. Walker KSG**, *one of the town's best known identities...*, invested as a Papal Knight in the *Order of St Gregory the Great...*, in Sep1960, and son **Billy**, upon his 100th birthday in 1989, presented with a *Papal Blessing from Pope John Paul II.*)

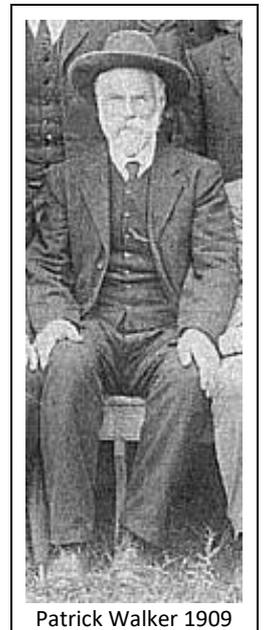
His obituary of May1941, carried in numerous newspapers across the State, dubbed Patrick *Mullumbimby's "grand old*

man".... He lived with his parents until he reached the age of 28, when he went north. The family, by the way, lived in the old home which the **Lyons family** later came into possession of, and where they, too, resided for very many years.... In his younger days at Reidsdale he worked as a farmer and carrier....

The driver of a bullock wagon, which plied between Braidwood and Sydney, Mr Walker knew Australia's oldest city in its infancy... and often witnessed bullock wagons bogged in George Street. In those days Mr Walker and other teamsters used Hyde Park as a camping ground when they brought their loads of hides and tallow to Sydney and returned with their wagons laden with clothing and household supplies....

Among Mr Walker's most exciting experiences, if not the most successful, was that of the Gympie gold rush (in 1867), in which he took part..., Although the gods did not smile favourably in this enterprise....

He was introduced to the North Coast on Good Friday, 1872, when he arrived at Grafton to take charge of portion of Messrs Barnes and Smith Bros Shorthorn stud at Ettrick.... Following the dissolution of this partnership, Mr Walker rented portion of Gordonbrook Station and began cattle dealing, later taking up dairying at Copemanhurst..., thence a patch of his own on Palmer's Island. (In Apr1914 he celebrated the 41st anniversary of his arrival on the Northern Rivers, stating that he first spent 12mths at Ettrick, near Kyogle, when the district was 'still in the hands of squatters.')



Patrick Walker 1909

He was likely accompanied to Grafton by his teamster brother, **Charles Henry Walker**, who was for some time engaged in carrying between South Grafton and Glen Innes. Sometime in the late 1880s Charles took up dairy farming at Waterview, South Grafton, where he remained until his death in 1918, at which time his widowed sister-in-law **Elizabeth Walker** was running the *Steam Ferry Hotel* in South Grafton.

Charles and his brother, **James Walker**, had married O'Keefe sisters and in 1885 their generous father-in-law, **Michael O'Keefe**, transferred the license of the pub to James, who had turned up in Grafton ~1876, probably with his sister **Elizabeth Walker** who married carrier **George Rolls**. James died in 1894, at which time **Mr P. Walker**, another brother, who for some years resided at Palmer's Island, has returned to the South Coast.

Upon the death of wife Bridget in 1893 Patrick was left in the same predicament as his mother. His solution was to sell up and take his children south, dropping them off with various rellies *en route*. So on 30Dec1893 he advertised '*The Greatest Bargain Ever Offered*' – his 177ac freehold farm with ¾ mile river frontage, homestead and various other buildings, reckoned to be worth at least £1000, which *the buyer can walk in and take possession at once of the lot for £300.... As the doctors insist that Mr Walker must live in a colder climate, he is forced to make this sacrifice, and to do so at once*. In Jan1894 he headed south after separately selling 50 head of cattle, 100 chooks, various horses, farm implements and household effects.

in Aug1895 he returned, with at least one son (Sylvester), and acquired **Sam Macnaughtan's** 640ac farm at Shark Creek, south of Maclean, and hired a housekeeper/nanny, Presbyterian Miss **Mary Elizabeth North** (1859 Grafton – 20Jul1936 Mullumbimby), who remained with the family for the rest of her life. Over the following years he became a leading figure in the community, taking out many prizes at the Maclean Show along the way. Son Billy joined him from Orange in 1898/99, probably shortly after son Paddy came from somewhere else down south.

Hearing about the booming Brunswick, he sold up in 1900 and joined the second wave of Clarence immigrants (and shortly afterwards the new wave of his southern compatriots) to the cow's new northern pastures, acquiring a number of blocks at The Pocket on the northern side of Mt Chincogan and developing one as the home property '*Fairview*', near the end of what is now 'Walker's Lane'. He also developed and leased out a couple of the blocks, one 130ac farm (but believed to be '*Fairview*' itself?) going to **Thomas Lynton Torrens** of Kiama in Jan1908 for 31/- per acre, which is *the highest rental value paid for any dairy farm on the Tweed and Brunswick Rivers....* Another 140ac farm was leased to **James Cullen** of Cobargo, while an adjacent block was sold to rellie **William Joseph (Billie) Tarlinton** (23Oct1862 Broulee – 19Mar1914 Billinudgel), who took up residence in Apr1905 after receiving a handy £3600 for his Bega property. Billie was in the vanguard of the southern farmers who were selling up at high prices and using the windfall to drive up Brunswick values (and in a knock-on effect a lot of the Brunswickers were taking their windfall into Queensland to make bargain buys). By late 1905 the Brunswick's fame had spread to the extent that *Agents of the Government Intelligence Department* had come to gather information for a propaganda package to entice British migrants, and they *have already visited several prominent dairy farms on the Brunswick River, including Mr H.McD. Livingstone's noted "Ivy Bank" dairy farm, Mr P. Walker's and Mr Baker's (Billinudgel) and others..., including Billie Tarlinton's*. (The below photos are included in the [North Coast district album of photographs](#) [nsw.gov.au].)

Billie was the eldest son of William of Tarlintonville, Quaama, who was the son of **William Duggan Tarlinton jnr** (20Jan1834 Prospect – 22Oct1899 Bredbatoura, Cobargo), who was the son of **William Duggan Tarlington snr** (12Aug1806 Parramatta – 20Oct1893 Cobargo), the founder of 9600ac Bredbatoura. (W.D. Tarlinton jnr married **Catherine Mary Heffernan** (15Aug1838 Suirville, Tipperary – 10Mar1920 Lewisham) 1Aug1861 Broulee and begat Billie's sister Nora 1872, the first wife of **J.P. Walker**, the son of Patrick.)

And **Patrick Walker's** wife, **Bridget Theresa Murphy**, was the sister of **Annie Bridget Murphy** (1848-1936) who married **Thomas Tarlinton** (16Jun1836 Prospect – 22Aug1920 'Fairview', Cobargo) 1869 Broulee, and the sister of **Mary Murphy** (1853–1919) who married **Daniel Joseph Tarlinton** (17Aug1850 Bermagui – 23Sep1915 Bredbatoura), 1879 Broulee, both sons of **W.D. Tarlinton snr**.

And **Thomas** and **Daniel** were the brothers of **James Tarlinton** (1845 Oranmeir, Braidwood – 5May1915 Candelo), the father of **Mary Rose** who married **Charles Ambrose Walker** 1911 Cobargo. (Mary's nephew, **James Joseph Tarlinton** (1914-1940), the son of her brother James Herbert (1885-1967), was an employee of Foley Bros, Mullumbimby, prior to embarkation to England to enlist in the RAF).

Thomas, Daniel and James were the brothers of **Alexander Francis Tarlinton** (20May1843 Oranmeir, Shoalhaven – 5Apr1927 Murrabrine, Cobargo), who married **Ellen Heffernan** 8Jun1868 Broulee and begat **Alexander Edmund Tarlinton** (1875 Cobargo– 25Sep1943 Mullumbimby) who acquired 220ac 'Caroon' at the end of 'Walker's Lane' (Coral Avenue), Mullumbimby, 1909.

And **Alex Edmund** was the brother of **Millie Tarlinton** (1879 – 1928) who married **J.A. (Jack) Walker** of The Pocket, 1907 Cobargo.

Billinudgel's Catholic family interconnections continued when **Daniel Tarlinton's** daughter **Ada Veronica** (20Nov1887 Cobargo– 6May1959 Qld) married **Gerald Vincent Geoffrey O'Connor jnr** (1890 Grafton –30Jun1959 Sydney), son of Gerald O'Connor snr., credited as the founder of Billinudgel, at Cobargo 18Nov1914.

The early settlement of Mullum and district was a family affair.

In Mar1906 Daniel's nephew **Philip Walter Tarlinton** (1876 Bega – 3Jul1942 Chowan Creek, Uki), proprietor of the *Tweed Daily*, reported that **Mr W.J. Tarlinton** is located on 143 acres... and had 193 head of stock.... **Mr P. Walker** (father of Mr J.P. Walker, of Cobargo), owns the next farm.... He is famed from the Clarence to the far north of Queensland for the quality of his Shorthorn cattle.... Whilst **Mr J.P. Walker** was on a visit to his father at Billinudgel recently, he offered a local farmer £20 per acre for his farm... but was knocked back. [Philip, the son of **John Joseph Tarlinton** (19Sep1831 Prospect – 15Jun1907 'Westwood', Bega), the eldest son of W.D. snr., had sold his interest in Bega's *Southern Star* in Dec1904 and in May1905 acquired *The Tweed Times and Brunswick Advocate*. He sold a quarter share to George Stainlay in 1908 and in 1912 acquired the *Tweed Herald and Brunswick Courier*, merging the two and launching the *Tweed Daily* 1Jan1914.]



Annotated as *Walker's Dairy Farm, Billinudgel, 1905.*



Annotated *Walker's Homestead and Prize cattle, Billinudgel, 1905.* (It's believed this one is 'Fairview', situated on 'Walker's Lane', 'The Pocket')

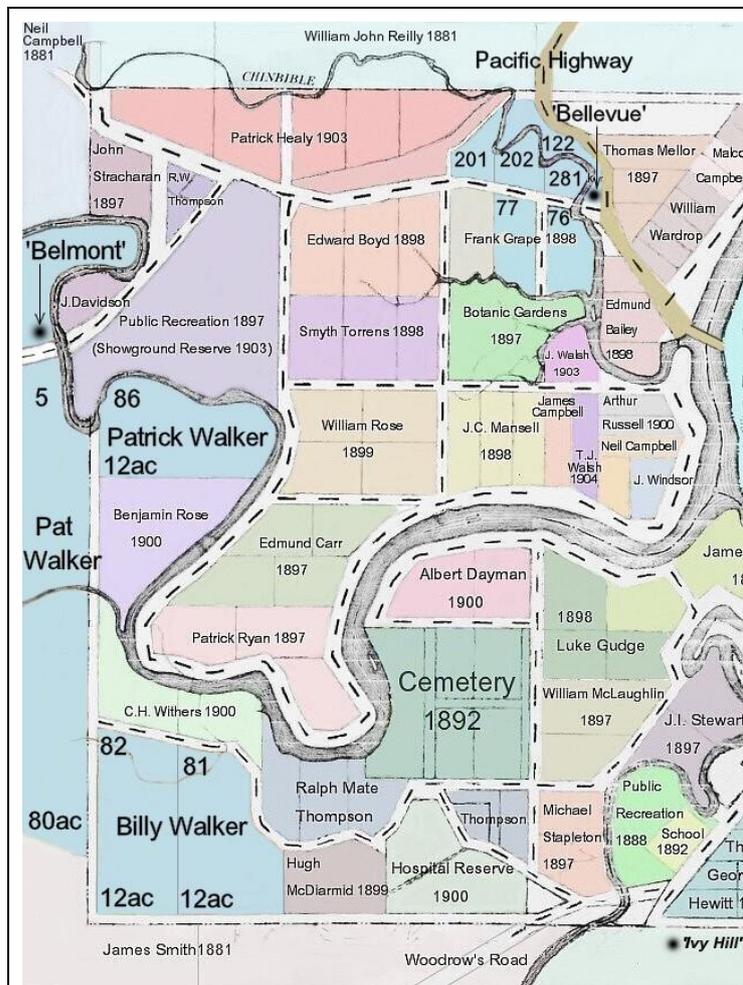


Mullumbimby Show Committee 1907

Rear L to R: W.J. Staines, J. Davidson, J. M'Gregor, H. M'D Livingston, J. Donaghy, J.C. Morrison, R.W. Thompson, W.E. Cooper, **W.J. Tarlinton**, **P. Walker**, J. Parrish (president), F. Gibson.
 Middle: **J.A. Walker**, J. Sherry, J. Torrens, C.E. Simpson, R.M. Thompson, G. Pullinger, F.S. Poolman.
 Front: W.J. Reilly, H. O'Meara, R.R. Mallett, W.E. Smith. (Courtesy Sydney Mail of 25Dec1907)

Patrick Walker leased-out and sold various Billinudgel properties in early 1908, and made a motza selling his champion dairy stock, newspapers throughout the State carrying the story that *The sale was the most successful ever held on the North Coast...*, and was probably a record for the Commonwealth.... "Walker's Cattle" are famous throughout the North Coast and beyond its borders....

In Mar1908 he acquired **James Davidson's** 80ac farm adjacent to the Mullum showground for an extraordinary £32/ac, in addition to 3 adjacent 'suburban lots' in the 'Village of Mullumbimby' totalling ~36ac. He built a new home on the right bank of the Main Arm, with frontage to what is now Coral Avenue, and dubbed the place 'Belmont', probably named after his prize-winning bull 'Belmont'. ('Walker's Lane', aka 'Showground Lane', became 'Coral Ave' in Feb1966.)

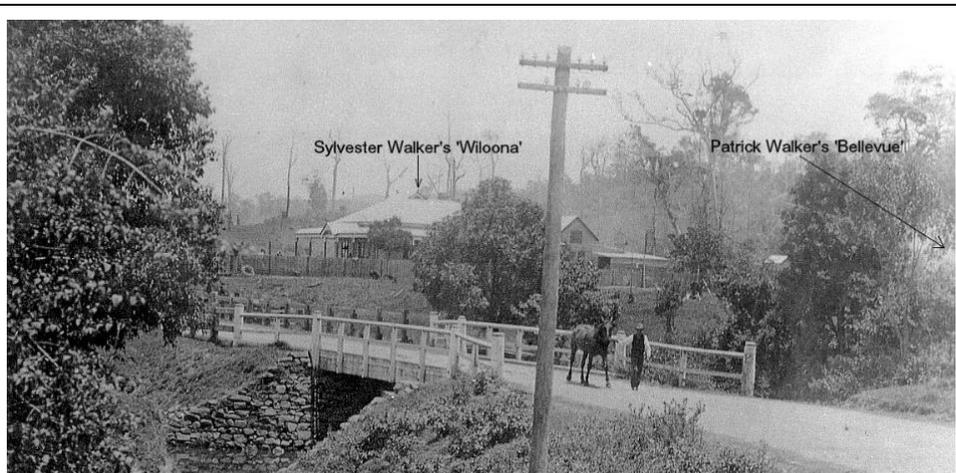


Early Selectors of Suburban Lots Mullumbimby

Patrick Walker is believed to be the first selector of lots 281 and 122 in ~1906, and in one piece of folklore is thought to have built a new retirement home dubbed 'Bellevue' on the 2ac lot 122 on the left bank of Chinbible Creek, ~1908/09. In 1909 he also acquired lots 201 and 202, and in an alternate scenario is thought to have shifted a pre-existing house on lot 202 to lot 122 to become 'Bellevue', about the same time he passed lots 201, 202 and 281, totalling ~5ac, to son **Sylvester**, who built a new home 'Wilooona' on the centre block in 1911. (Sometime prior to his death Patrick moved in with Sylvester, probably after the death of housekeeper **Mrs North** in 1936?) **Sylvester** later acquired 2 blocks of **Frank Grape's** original selection across Main Arm Road, totalling ~6acs. What is now known as 'Palm Avenue' opposite **Wilooona** was known as 'Walker Street' until Feb1966.

In Nov1909 Governor Chelmsford paid him a visit at 'Bellevue' on the return journey from the showground, and reaching **Mr P. Walker's** residence the Governor and party got out and inspected the champion Durham bull 'Belmont'..., which he sold in Dec1909 along with other prize cattle and horses, and *Having leased my dairies, I have decided, after 36 years exhibiting, to retire from the show ring.*

He passed 'Belmont' (the house) to son Billy ~1911, about the same time he handed 'Fairview' to son Paddy (after lessees Torrens and Cullen had moved on) and semi-retired to 'Bellevue' near Chinbible Creek, a ~7ac property comprising four lots he'd put together 1906-09, the last two acquired from **Hector Thomas Blanch** (1866 Grafton – 1951 Nambour). ('Belmont', incidentally, has the distinction of being the first home in Mullumbimby to have a telephone installed, gifted in recognition of **Patrick Walker's** 2yrs of lobbying to have a telephone exchange established in Mullum. On 16Jul1909 he was awarded the number '1', which was inherited by Billy and the number subsequently updated to 842001. The phone, manufactured in Stockholm, Sweden, is now in the possession of BVHS.)



Davidson's Bridge on Main Arm Road over Chinbible Creek completed Jun1907. Auctioneer **Syl Walker's** handsome new villa residence ('Wiloona'), on an admirable site..., is now in occupation by that gentleman (wef May1911). In the building are 7 rooms – two bedrooms, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, bath-room and pantry - all of large dimensions..., and another building which stood there has been removed and re-erected..., which could be 'Bellevue', probably built by previous owner **H.T. Blanch** who had acquired lots 201 and 202 in 1903. (But a cottage behind Syl's place, tenanted by **George Mansell**, was destroyed in a fire 29May1919).

It's likely the homestead 'Bellevue' was constructed on lot 202 by **Blanch**, who had been the first selector in 1903 when he turned up from Alstonville to open a coachbuilding and wheelwright business, later branching out as a builder, erecting the Billinudgel Anglican church in 1907 amongst other things. In 1909 he acquired 160 acres at Eudlo, near Nambour, to take advantage of *the more liberal land laws of the Sister State...*, and in Jan1910 was farewelled from Mullum to start a new career as a farmer. Sometime afterwards the new owner, **Patrick Walker**, passed the 3 lots on the right bank of Chinbible Creek to son **Sylvester**, whose new home, 'Wiloona', was completed on lot 202 in May1911, the construction of which necessitated the removal of 'Bellevue' to a new site, most likely to lot 122 on the corner of Main Arm Road and Murwillumbah Street (aka the Pacific Highway 1931-1945).

The year 1911 also marked the sale of 6 of the 8 lots Patrick had acquired in the Livingstone subdivision of 1905, and the sale of 'several' allotments *in the rising township of Billinudgel*, likely acquired in the Noonan subdivision of 1908. In Jan1918 he also acquired a building in Dalley St that became the Municipal Council Chambers, leased at a rental of 8s per week in Mar1918 until the new council edifice opened in Jun1934.

In retirement he kept up his interests in the Agricultural Society, of which he had been a foundation committeeman in Mar1905 and shortly afterwards elected as a vice-president. Later in full retirement he was appointed a patron of the society, by which time son **Jack** was president. In the meantime, May1911, he had convened a meeting to form a Mullum branch of the Dairymen's Union, of which he was elected president with son **Sylvester** as secretary. He also became the Brunswick representative on the committee of the Lismore-based Richmond-Tweed umbrella organization of the Union.



Racing Club Committee 1918

Back L to R: G.E. Henville, F.I. Ward, W.E. Selwood, O'Neil, F. Harkness, C. Shepherd, **S. Walker**, L. Hoskins, C.C. Henville.

Seated: R.G. Balmer, E.C. Uptin, **P. Walker**, W.R. Baker, J. Sherry, W.E. Bryant.

In Oct1915 Patrick and Syl Walker became foundation committeemen of the reformed Mullumbimby Jockey Club (first formed May1901). And in Jul1925 Syl's 'Auction Mart' was the scene for its 3rd resurrection, with Syl as president. Over the years Patrick, Syl, Bill and Harold were trustees of the 98ac racecourse.

Formation of the unviable *Mullumbimby Co-operative Butchering Co Ltd* was another project that drew **Patrick's** interest. In Mar1910 he and **Thomas W.Torrens** gave a favourable report on the prospects for such a venture and, as one of the provisional directors, he then voted to buy Torrens' own butchering business as the core of the enterprise. The foundation secretary was his nephew-in-law **Gerald V. O'Connor**, who became a director upon Patrick's resignation in Jun1918 and elevated to chairman shortly afterwards. In Jun1926 the failed 17yr co-operative experiment was finally taken off life support on the motion of director **Jack Walker**.

In May1913 **Patrick** became a foundation committeeman of the Mullum branch of the Liberal Association, but subsequently became a Country Party fan, probably sometime after the election of Dec1913 when son **Sylvester**, a foundation member of the Mullum branch of the Catholic Federation in Feb1914, backed his fellow Catholic, **Robert Campbell** of Bangalow, the first local to start campaigning as a 'Country Party' candidate. A pet project of the Country Party over many years was the 'Separation Movement', to wave goodbye to NSW, the Mullum branch of which was formed in Jun1915 with both Patrick and Syl as foundation members. In Jul1915 Patrick was appointed as a Mullum delegate to the 'Separation League' conference at Grafton. His stance on the conscription issue of 1916/17 is unknown, but it's a fair bet he was pro-conscription, counter to the general disposition of his fellow Catholics.

(Whether Patrick went as far as joining the fascist New Guard is unknown, but it's another fair bet that his shopkeeper son, **James Patrick**, did. At a Chamber of Commerce meeting in Jul1930 J.P. *expressed himself in no uncertain terms... that There was plenty of work to be had about Mullumbimby - some people won't work, but make their wives work instead...* In Mar1931 he attended the huge Lismore protest meeting against Premier Lang's Unemployment Relief Tax, convened by Mayor **Donald Ross**, an ex-Mullum storekeeper and New Guarder who initiated the historic resolution to stir the State into petitioning the Governor to sack Lang and his Laborites. *Standing room only was available in the School of Arts... on 20Apr1932 when a New Guard recruiter came to deliver his sermon to the Mullumites.*)

And on the political front, in Mar1917 Bangalow auctioneer, **Oliver Virtue**, a Wesleyan Methodist from Northern Ireland, standing as an 'Independent Nationalist' against entrenched Liberal, '**Honest John' Perry MLA**, boasted of the public support of high-profile **Patrick Walker**. Perry was accused of breaking a 'Kirribilli Agreement' to stand down at this election in favour of Virtue, his pledge being witnessed by **Gerald V. O'Connor**.

Mullum's dream run came to an end in late 1922, by which time **Patrick Walker** was well into full retirement, while his exceptional sons were taking prominent positions in Mullum's evolving institutions. On 16May1941, *just two days after his 97th birthday, Mr Patrick Walker, senr, who was known as Mullumbimby's "grand old man," passed to his long home.... By his death a living link with the past has been removed...*, but his DNA continued to play a big part in the shaping of Mullum's corporate culture. Stay tuned for the exploits of Patrick's progeny. Peter Tscalas



Dr Kesteven, Mullumbimby

In May this year we were contacted by June Hall, a descendant of Dr Leighton Kesteven. June had visited our museum a couple of years ago prior to moving to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. She has researched Dr Kesteven and has sent us the chapter on his time in Mullumbimby. A few excerpts follow and for anyone who would like to read the whole article or to contact June re his full story please contact us at the museum. Footnotes are not included.

Mullumbimby 1904-1909

.... For Leighton, Mullumbimby would offer something new. As the first doctor to settle in the Brunswick Valley, he could for a while be a big fish in a little pond, not only as a doctor but also as a tireless worker for community improvement. There was much to be done...

Community Affairs

What the Kestevens found in late 1904 was still a great improvement over the situation in 1900, when there were few buildings. In the decade after Confederation, the town would gain banks, churches, government buildings, additional hotels and stores and many more dwellings, as well as expanding its range of social and sporting organizations. Already blessed with a makeshift School of Arts in the early 1890s, the little community, including those on nearby farms, would bravely raise funds for a new building designed to hold 500 people, opened with enormous fanfare just months before the Kestevens' arrival. Community spirit was alive and well! As ever, Leighton immediately jumped in; by February 1905, he is the School of Arts' secretary.

...Despite early teething problems, by 1904 the Mullumbimby Progress Association was firmly established. Because there was no local newspaper, we first learn of Leighton's involvement only in December 1905, when he participates in a discussion of the contending visions for a railway in the Northern Rivers area...

...At the January '06 annual general meeting Leighton was elected president. During the year he presides, the Association will meet monthly, hold one special meeting and write 117 letters to various authorities. Average attendance was 15.8 members.

Leighton remained active in the Association, regularly moving and seconding motions. And at the January 8, 1909, annual general meeting he is once again elected president, albeit reluctantly after prolonged discussion, the previous president having served only three months (was the latter eligible to stand again or not?). Leighton's second term, of course, would soon be cut short.

But a progress association could only do so much. Much better would be to gain a measure of control by incorporating as a municipality. Leighton was an important element in this push, presiding over public meetings held to discuss the subject. A certain amount of fiddling had to be done to bring the prospective town's population up to one thousand, which was done by extending the radius out to a mile and a half, as suggested by Leighton. At a meeting in late May 1906 it was decided to mount a petition. But before it could be submitted to the Chief Secretary, a Municipal Revision Court, held in Mullumbimby on August 20th and presided over by the Lismore Police Magistrate, Mr. Adrian, with whom Leighton had worked, must be held:

"Prior to the duties being entered upon, Dr. Kesteven, J.P., having been the chairman of the public meetings in connection with the creation of the municipality of Mullumbimby, congratulated the revising justice on being the first revising officer of the first municipality under the new law."

...We have no evidence of Leighton's further involvement with the mechanics of incorporation other than support for the nomination of two prospective aldermen (an architect and a farmer) for the first election, held in September '08. Instead, he is busy with other community activities, as a trustee of the local cemetery and enthusiastic chairman of the trust controlling the town's first park, working assiduously to carry out his own plan:

"Stewart Park - ...The park is a veritable pearl in an overgrown paspalum patch. The town owes something to the genial chairman of the park, Dr. Kesteven, and the secretary, Mr. J. I. Stewart, for the good work done and the good taste shown in the doing of it."



The Home of Dr Leighton Kesteven 1906
(Still there opposite the Swimming Pool and Stewart Park)

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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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 1st Oct 2021

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14th Sep 2021

@10.30am AGM

**MUSEUM HOURS – Tuesdays
and Fridays**

10.00-12.00

Market Saturdays 9.00 - 1.00

**MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY
MARKET**

Next Market- Saturday 18 Sep

mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au

