

A Chart
of
Part of the Interior
NEW SOUTH WALES.

by John Allen, Surveyor General.

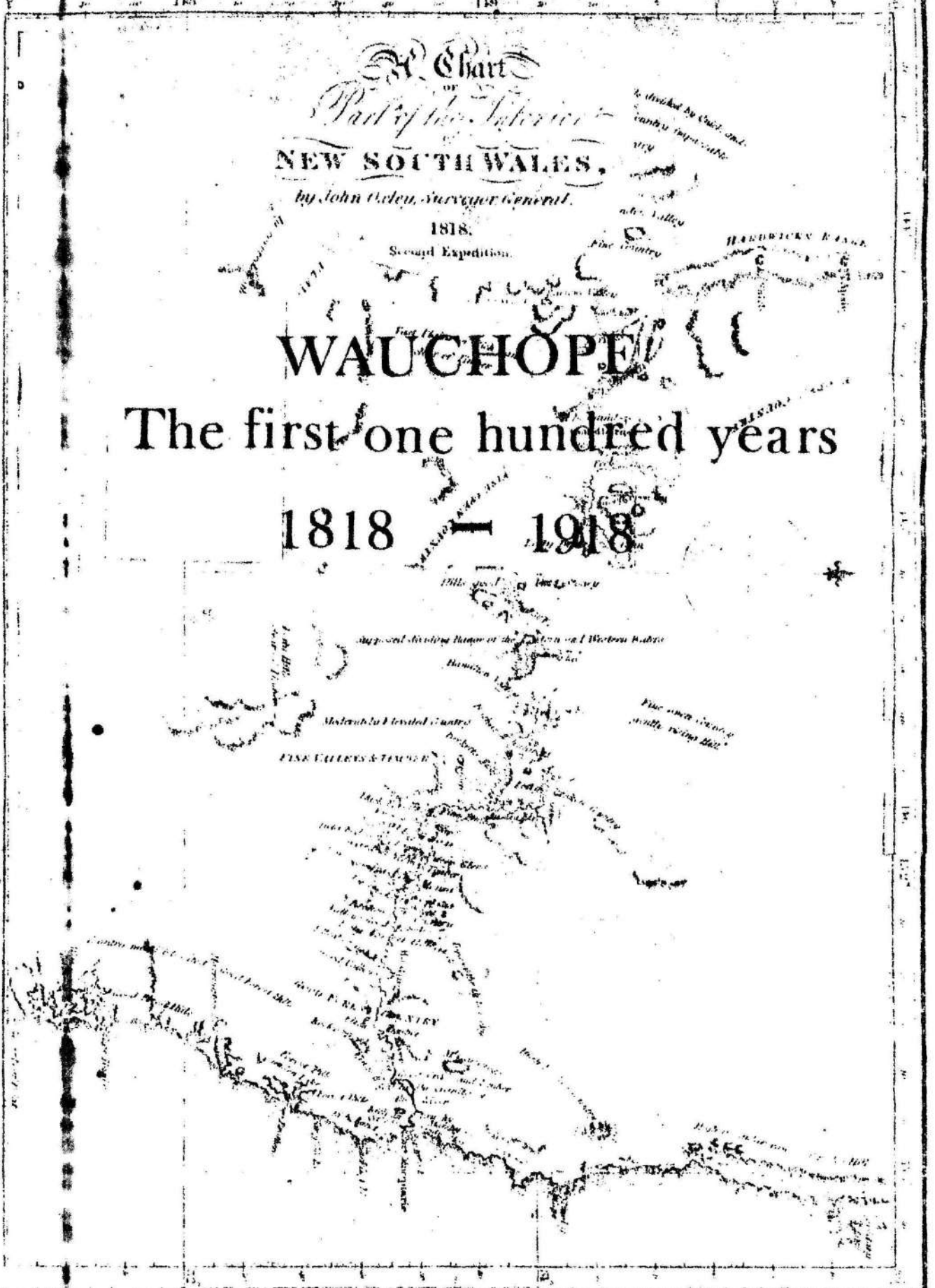
1818.

Second Expedition.

WAUCHOPE

The first one hundred years

1818 — 1918



Compiled by: Mrs. H. Rae Young
 Mrs. Hazel Suters

PLEASE NOTE:

The writers of this report at first intended to compile a Calendar of historical dates relating almost entirely to the naming, settling, and development of the township of Wauchope. We thought to make two columns which would indicate the date and the event.

However, as we put together the results of our joint research it became obvious that the picture of Wauchope would be rather without colour (or perhaps without interest) - particularly to local people, unless some personal or closer-to-family details were mentioned in it.

So, although an effort was made to confine the report to rather strict lines, we have included some information of a general nature.

Very little has been said of the character or the personality of any of the early settlers whose names are so well-known to many of us. It has not been possible to include background stories other than a comment here and there.

Footnotes have been ruthlessly excluded, reference to quotations being woven into the text and sources of information have been acknowledged throughout the report. It is necessary however, to point out that the task of compiling the report has been made difficult because of the lack of material available relating to the earliest years of settlement (and development) of the township of Wauchope.

"The Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate" - and later the few available copies of the "Hasting Shire Gazette" have provided valuable information. ...despite the fact that these newspaper files are by no means complete. The early Hastings Shire Gazette file copies were destroyed by fire some years ago.

Readers of this final draft of the report - "Wauchope: the first one hundred years" - are kindly requested to discuss with the authors as soon as possible, any inaccuracies they may notice so that these may be corrected before this record is finally printed for general distribution.

Mrs. H. Rae Young
C/- 12 Avondale Street
WAUCHOPE. 2446

October 31, 1978.

WAUCHOPE - THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS:

OR

1818 - 1918.

INTRODUCTION:

The First One Hundred Years (1818-1918) includes some of the historical dates related to the development of the township of Wauchope, as well as brief mention of details concerning other centres of early settlement in the Hastings District.

When speaking of Wauchope it is first necessary to lightly sketch in a background, and thus indicate the shifts in the areas of settlement which took place in the 1800's through to the turn of the century, and even later, The recorded facts of events which occurred in those early days reflect the growth of Wauchope and the Hastings District.

When looking at the all-over picture of the development of Wauchope - its social and economic development we must look also at the earlier centres of settlement such as Ennis, Rollands Plains, Beechwood, Morton's Creek and Telegraph Point.

In 1830 free settlement was permitted on the Hastings River and shortly after that many of the Government agricultural estates were disposed of.

It was at Rollands Plains that the major experimentation and production occurred - along the river flats. The area was named after Commandant Rollands.

The earliest farms on the Wilson River were located at Prospect - near the present site of the township of Telegraph Point, and at Ballengarra, which is only 2-3 miles downstream.

Eventually permission was given to use this land at Rollands Plains and the farms there became the most important in the Hastings River area. (All the Government farms except Settlement Farm were located on Wilsons River).

It was in 1830 that it was decided that one of the Government farms should remain under government control and the other four were to be let for a period of five years.

The end of the Government farms came in 1832.

Rollands Plains was a very advanced part of the Hastings according to an early settler, Mr. Duncan Bain, who spoke of this at Beechwood in 1899. He said: "Port Macquarie was the only place at that time. (50 years ago). There were three large stores, and a number of smaller ones. There was not a decent road except a few miles out of Port to Five Mile Hollow. Hardly a creek of any size was bridged, and loads had to be taken in and out of the creeks as best they could. In fact, the bullocks themselves had to be dragged out of the holes as well as the dray. The first public schools were established at Huntingdon and at Wauchope. There were no churches (on the Hastings River) before the early 50's (other than at Port Macquarie) and they had a service only about once in twelve months."

subject - These comments were made by Mr. Duncan Bain when speaking *on the* of 50 years ago...and were reported in the Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate - May, 1899.

The information contained within this Calendar of Historical Dates - Wauchope: the First One Hundred Years is the result of the combined research of two members of the Wauchope Chapter of the Hastings District Historical Society, Mrs. H. Rae Young (née Graham), President and Mrs. Hazel Suters (née Bain), Secretary.

A grant of \$150 from the Royal Australian Historical Society towards this work is gratefully acknowledged.

The final draft was edited and typed on October 31, 1978 at Wauchope, by Mrs. H. Rae Young.

.....

HISTORY of WAUCHOPE1818-1828.

- 1818 Surveyor John Oxley sighted the coast from Mount Seaview. He marked the route to the coast, naming rivers and points of interest. Oxley's journal records that it was on September 23, 1818, that Oxley and Evans ascended a rugged mountain hoping for a view that "would facilitate their progress". He named the mountain Mount Seaview, and the stream he named the Hastings River after Lord Hastings the Governor of India at this time.
- 1818 September 28. The exploration party met a northern tributary of the Hastings River which was named the Forbes River by Oxley in honour of a nephew, Lord Hastings.
- The following day on the south side of the Hastings a tributary was named the Ellenborough river in honour of the Chief Justice of England. The surrounding rugged ranges viewed by Oxley are today known as Broken Bago.
- Further south a large stream was named Kings River in honour of Mr. King, the Surveyor, Oxley reached the coast about half a mile to the south of the mouth of the Hastings river on October 8, 1818. Oxley wrote: "I named this inlet Port Macquarie in honour of His Excellency, the Governor, the original promoter of this expedition."
- 1819 Three years after the first landing of the settlers at Port Jackson it appears that only five Clergymen were available to serve the population: Cowper, Cartwright, Fulton, Marsden and Cross.
- 1820 Cedar was being cut at Rosewood and being rafted down the Hastings River - to be used mainly as ship's ballast.
- 1821 Governor Macquarie sailed to the Port on the "Elizabeth Henrietta" to make a personal inspection of the area. He decided it was suitable for a settlement, so it was established as a Penal Settlement.
- 1822 The first recorded fact of the history of the Roman Catholic Church in The Hastings District is a visit by Father Phillip Connolly and Mr. Columbus Fitzpatrick to the Penal Settlement of Port Macquarie. They remained there a fortnight. Priests from Newcastle, Maitland and later the Taree district attended to the needs of the Catholics in the Hastings.
- This information from
Father Dineen, 1969.
- 1824 Development of farm land commenced at Wilson River. This area was later named Rollands Plains after Captain Rollands, Supervisor of the convicts at Port Macquarie.
- 1824 Appointment of Rev. Thomas Hassall as first clergyman to Port Macquarie to serve the Hastings District. He arrived on the "Sally".
- 1825 First ship built at Port Macquarie - the "Mary Elizabeth". It was the largest built in New South Wales at that time. It took five months to build and was approximately 80 tons.
- 1825 The bulk of agricultural production was coming from the plains on the Wilson River, which was given the name of Rollands Plains.
- 1826 It has been said that: "Wilson retraced Oxley's journey to Mount Seaview and buried one holey dollar, one dump, and one penny in a tree".

- 1826 Sugar was grown in the Hastings River area from 1826-1831.
- 1826 February 24: Colonial Secretary McLeay informed the Commandant at Port Macquarie that the owner of the private cutter, "Brisbane", was to get 4,600 superficial feet of cedar in return for conveying 16,000 bushells of lime to the Settlement. Also Captain Clements of the brig, "Gloria", collected a return cargo of cedar at 1½d. a superficial foot after he delivered supplies to Port Macquarie.
- from Malcolm Ramsay's thesis.
- 1826 "In the years before 1830 there was little investigation by the Government of the immediate environment of the Hastings River to North, South and West. Settlement was rigidly confined to the lands on the banks of the Hastings and Wilson Rivers and the restrictions imposed were so rigid that it took five years from the first landing at Port, for a party to be sent to investigate and report upon the river to the north, now known as the Macleay River. } Macquarie
- from The Sydney Gazette,
March 8, 1826.
- 1820's In the 1820's cedar was most sought after as a valuable timber. Beech was also in great demand. The area around the present site of the Bain Bridge, Morton's Creek and up to Beechwood consisted mainly of soft-wood - Beech and Cedar.
- 1827 A parochial school was in operation at Port Macquarie. 46 children were on the roll in 1826.
- 1828 February 24: Dedication of St. Thomas' Church by Rev. John Cross. The foundation stone was laid on December 8, 1824, by Rev. Thomas Hassall.
- 1828 A land grant was made to John Maugham, Yeppin Yippin; 2,560 acres close to the Government planned town of Hay, now known as Sancrox.
- 1828 Land grants on the north side of the Hastings River were made to David Fergus Laing, Margaret Hutchison, Martha Gordon (2,560 acres); Pendray, 1,280 acres; Lieutenant Mathew Mitchell, 2,560 acres at "Redbank" (where he was killed on June 23, 1833, when felling trees); Colonel Ackroyd *("Barombin"); Colonel Gray ("Huntingdon").
- * The spelling has also been: "Burrinbin".
- Other land grants made in the Upper areas were:
 Captain Jobling ("Goolawa") - at the junction of the Hastings and Maria Rivers - James Ralfe ("Mauldon"), Henry Harding Parker ("Rosewood"), William Parker ("Clarefield"), Rollands Plains. Captain Andrew Wauch ("Wauchope House"), King Creek; Mr. Waterton ("Greenburn"), above Redbank, Hastings River; William Cross ("Crosslands"), Dr. Stacey ("Mill Plain"), Wilson River, Rollands Plains; Dr. McIntyre, Wilson River, Rollands Plains...and closer to the Port...Major A.C. Innes 2,650 acres at Lake Burrawan. Captain Hindman received a grant at Limeburner's Creek and Captain Steele - "Settlement Farm". Major Innes was also granted land called "Thrupster". ~~1826 February 24: Dedication of St. Thomas' Church at Port Macquarie, by Rev. John Cross. The foundation stone was laid on December 8, 1824 by Rev. Thomas Hassall.~~
- 1828 Rev. John Cross sailed from Port Jackson to Port Macquarie in the "Lucy Ann", in February, 1828. His ministry ended at his death on August 7, 1858.
- 1828 January 29. The Governor ordered "medals were to be given to seven natives at Port Macquarie for rescuing seven men and saving them as they clung to an upturned boat". They also received a suit of clothes and a blanket each.

1830's It was in the 1830's that the village known as Ennis became a busy centre, and remained so until Captain Wauch opened up his property for sale at Wauchope.

1829 - 1838

"Prior to 1830 it was Government policy to restrict all contact between Port Macquarie and the outside world". If Free Settlers had been present earlier there is no doubt that expansion of settlement would have occurred sooner, but as it was, the opening of adjacent lands did not occur until Free Settlement was allowed".

- from Malcolm Ramsay's thesis.

1829 Settlers were allowed to occupy Grants on the Manning river. These required access to their holdings through Port Macquarie. Settlers from the Hunter who had occupied lands near Raymond Terrace began to extend their interests towards the North - gradually reducing the amount of unoccupied territory between Newcastle and Port Macquarie.

1829 Mr. William Wynter, formerly of the Royal Navy, and his family sailed to Port Macquarie on the "Mary Elizabeth" - the vessel which had been built on the Hastings. They were bound for Mr. Wynter's grant on the Manning River between the present townships of Taree and Tinonee.

1829 December 12: After 20 years of service in The Royal Navy, Lt. Mathew Mitchell, R.N. selected 2,600 ac. at Redbank.

Early 1830's: Major A.C. Innes arrived at Port Macquarie. He was the former Commandant of the Hastings River Colony. He exerted considerable influence on the development of the Hastings and New England districts in the ensuing years. Probably his name is best known on the Hastings as the pioneer who contributed the most to the development of the district. He had property on the Hastings river at Lake Innes and at Yarras (known as Yarrows) and at Rollands Plains on the Wilson River. He also owned stations at Kentucky and Glen Innes in the New England district. Mrs. Innes was given (by the Government as a Marriage Grant) lands located at Rollands Plains... 1280 acres on the south bank of the Wilson River at Crotty's Plains - first known as "Filbuster" and later as "Wallaby Hill".

1830 "Sancrox or Haytown is historic ground". In 1830 Governor Darling writing to the Surveyor-General, Major T.W. Mitchell, refers to the former station, Saint Roch, opened and then later abandoned.

1830's It was in the 1830's that the village known as Ennis became a busy centre, and remained so until Captain Wauch opened up his property for sale at Wauchope.

On 27th March 1830 Surveyor General Mitchell's instruction to Surveyor Ralphe and D'Arcy were - "The boundaries of your operations will be on the south, the range separating the waters of the Hastings from those falling to the southwards or towards the sea shore. On the northward the range which separates the waters descending to the new river, or Macleay, from those falling to the Hastings Piper's River to the sea... I have marked a reserve of 4 sections for a township to be named Hay... It will be useful to run a west line at about the average distance from the river, on each side, commencing at the S.W. corner of the township reserve as on the map enclosed, and crossing at the 5th mile continuing along the N bank and marking legibly on a tree, the number of each mile westward, from the Point of Commencement, the lines north and south can be easily run afterwards... You will first run this line on the north side of the Hastings and then from the same corner of the Township on the Hastings to be called Hay, South 3 miles and this will give the Point of Commencement for your East and West line on the South side of the Hastings". Thus it was from the South West corner of Haytown or Sancrox that our district survey was first plotted.

- 1830 Rosewood was first known as Cedar Cutters' Plains, and also as Treachery Plains, because four cedar-cutters had been speared there by aborigines.
- 1830 Grant of 1,280 acres was made to Rev. John Cross and passed on later to his daughter Mrs. H.H. Parker and to Mr. McIntyre.
- 1830 Land was opened to Free Settlers on the Hastings River.
- 1830 Settlers: Jeremiah Warlters occupied land on what was formerly the sugar plantation at Rollands Plains. William Wilson and his wife Maria were given a land grant adjoining the Warlters property.
- 1830's Sailing ships came up the Hastings River and met with the road to New England. This road is near the present Wauchope Cemetery and Timber-town.
At this time there was a wharf at Morton's Creek.
All trading and transport was by the Hastings River at this time.
- 1831 On May 31 the Sydney Gazette commented favourably on the activities of the new settlement on the Hastings River and said they all appeared to be happy with their grants. Then "a major problem for the inhabitants was excessive high freight charges...e.g., 1 bag of wheat 5/-, 1 quart of turps 2/6, 1 parasol 2/6, 50lbs leather 7/6."
- 1832 Travellers crossed the Hastings River at Bain's Falls which were situated about half a mile from the Morton's Creek wharf.
- 1832 The first official Post Office in the Hastings River District was established at Port Macquarie on August 1, 1832.
- 1832 The last of the military commandants at Port Macquarie was Smyth. His successor in the Hastings River colony was Benjamin Sullivan who was appointed Police Magistrate on July 5, 1832 at a salary of £183.
- 1833 From this date schools were established and maintained by the various church bodies with the Government contributing to the upkeep on a pro-rata basis.
- 1833 Colonel Mathew Mitchell was killed by a falling limb while working on his property at Redbank.
- 1834 T.C.P. Morton was granted 1,267 acres 2 roods at 5/- per acre. (Morton was a Lieutenant in The Royal Navy.)
- 1835 The "Port Macquarie Packet", built locally was launched in February, but three days after the launching it turned over outside the Bar. All were rescued but an infant aged 18 months.
- 1835 August 8. John Maugham of Wellington was granted Yeppin Yippin and four years later (1839) William Davies purchased Yeppin Yippin from John Maugham for £1,000.
- 1836 Captain Robert Andrew Wauch paid a deposit on 760 acres of land at King Creek. Wauch arrived from Scotland and applied for a grant of 1000 acres on the Hastings River, between the planned town of Hay and Maugham's property. He called this grant "Wauchope". He settled on it and continued to buy good land in the vicinity.
Due to a family quarrel at his home, "Niddrie Marischal", near Edinburgh (Scotland), he dropped the 'ope' from his name and called himself Wauch.
- 1837 The first land grants in the Beechwood district were: Ackroyd, Cross, Morton, Frazer and Parker. "Convicts were used to clear some of this land". There were a lot of aborigines in the area then. The present Beechwood Public School site was, previously, a Corroboree Ground. It is said that there were then two camps on the south side of the river.

The following land-owners and their homes are mentioned in the diary of Mrs. H.H. Parker, of Rosewood, (housed in the Records Section at the Hastings District Historical Society):

"Mr. James Ralfe's place is named 'Maulden', Captain Mitchell's 'Redbank' - after Mitchell's death this property then came into the hands of Captain Waugh. 'Greenburn' is owned by Mr. Warburton. Mr. William Cross owns 'Crosslands'... Captain Morton's Estate 'below the Falls'; 'Rosewood', owned by H.H. Parker; the large tract of land known now as 'Letterewe' was first owned by Mr. Maugham. Mr. Ackroyd owned 'Burumbin'... across the river is Colonel Gray's large 'Huntingdon' Estate. At the junction of the Wilson and the Maria Rivers is one of the loveliest homes I have ever seen. It is named 'Coolfinty', Mr. Graham and Mr. McKenzie live there. This beautiful home was built by Major Innes... It was taken over by Dr. McIntyre when Mr. Graham and Mr. McKenzie returned to Scotland... further up the Wilson River, 'Allandale' and 'Clarefield', owned by William Parker... 'Glenco' is the substantial home of Captain Geary... this was also at one time owned by Major Innes... Mr. Henry Harding Parker married Ann Cross in 1829 and was given a grant of land, 'Rosewood'... etc"

- from notes copied by Mrs. H. Suters.

- 1838 Land was 5/- an acre at Barombin (now known as Brombin). Originally Barombin was a grant of 1,000 acres to Colonel Ackroyd (in 1836). The name Brombin is thought to be aboriginal for hunting or meeting place. Colonel Ackroyd raised horses, cattle and sugar cane.
- 1838 Progress in rural areas was good in the 1830's... but in the 1840's there were severe droughts and floods. These were the hard years of depression. "Banks foreclosed on many farmers who left the land because of their insolvency. The Hastings River district suffered an economic decline which, not only caused stagnation, but led to a decline in vitality until the turn of the century, or even later".

- from Malcolm Ramsay's thesis.

- 1838 October 10. The first of the early settlers to take up land in the Beechwood district was John Spencer. A schedule from the Department of Lands lists the early settlers in this area as being:

John Spencer,	1,170 acres,	October 10, 1838
John Baxter	40 "	August 28, 1862
Andrew Baxter	40 "	March 15, 1866
John Baxter	41 "	July 19, 1866
Mervyn Patterson	40 "	May 2, 1867
William McMillan	40 "	August 5, 1868 and also
another	40 "	September 24, 1868
John Neville	40 "	June 9, 1870 and also
	45 "	April 6, 1871.

It is interesting to note that Captain Thomas Constant Paget Morton R.N., served with Nelson. He received land grants of 10,000 acres in the Colonies, but took no interest in his land holding at the place now known as Morton's Creek. He had a large stone house built by the convicts in 1824 at Port Macquarie (Paget Hall). He had three daughters... and was a relative of Sir Francis Drake. He died in 1867. "Spencer's Cutting" was named for John Lewis Spencer (mentioned in land grants above).

1839-1848

1839 Marriage portion grant to James McIntyre and William Cross in trust for Mrs. Mary Ann Parker, 1,280 acres. William Cross sold and overlanded his cattle to Lansdowne to where his descendants still live. The next purchasers of "Crosslands" were Alexander Bain and Donald Cameron in 1845.

1840's Saw years of depression which ruined many of the land-owners, including Major Innes and Captain Wauch.

1840 Convicts were working on the road-link from New England to the coast. Wool was an important commodity and a link with the Port would provide a shorter route to the coast (80 miles).

1840 Transportation of convicts to Port Macquarie ceased with the result that it affected the market for beef and other foodstuffs. Cattle dropped in value and it was found more profitable to boil down stock for tallow. Jeremiah Warlters and his friend H. Tozer were amongst the first to engage in business and prime Herefords and Devons went into pots.

- from the Warlters History.

1840 Drays travelled 300 miles north-east to the Hunter to shift wool. (The wool came from the districts of Inverell, Armidale and Walcha). The quickest journey recorded from Tiara to Port Macquarie and return, a distance of about 200 miles, was 22 days. The slowest journey recorded was from Waterloo to the Port and return, about 220 miles, was 6 months and 5 days. Flooded rivers, more than the road itself, caused much of the delay. The average load was eight bales, and the ruling rate was £1 per bale; the largest load recorded in one haul was fifteen bales - about two tons.

- from the Port Macquarie News
June 9, 1977.

(The Oxley Highway as it is now known was commenced 1928 and completed 1935.)

1840 A Postal Service was established to the north of Port Macquarie - the route followed the Hastings River to Blackman's Point Ferry, thence to Ballengarra and along the Wilson River where it crossed the stream and proceeded north to meet the Macleay River tributaries.

1840 Port Macquarie News, October 27, 1923: carried an article written by W. Neville on "The Early Days of Beechwood" which read:-

"Old Mr. Gillis, of Thone Creek, aged 94, told me that in the year 1840 there was fought a pitched battle with boomerangs as weapons between the King Creek and Wallaby Hill tribes of blacks on the site where Beechwood Church and school stands to-day, then known as "Captain Ackright's Hill". The cause of the quarrel was the capture of an aboriginal named Tommy Barraby, at the instance of the King Creek tribe, and with the aid of an American negro named John Munro. Barraby had attempted the abduction of a white servant girl in the employ of Captain Wauch, and the latter offered a reward for the offender's arrest, which was effected when the two tribes were holding a corroboree. The

ill-feeling caused by the incident led to the battle between them. In the scrap the head-man of the King Creek tribe had his nose shorn off by a boomerang, and subsequently died of his wounds. He was buried at Wauchope, and when the late Mr. T. Mumford was excavating the foundations for the late Mr. James Wallace's sawmill at that place, he dug up the aboriginal king's bones."

During 1840's depression, the demand for convict labour weakened and people like Major Innes who employed many convicts and had large farms found that markets had vanished... other parts of New South Wales were in a similar position - it was a time of general economic crisis.

- from "The Sydney Morning Herald",
December 29, 1842.

- 1841 James Thompson opened the "Ship Inn" on the Maria River.
- 1841 Individual merchants were planning a steam-shipping service, stating that "the life of the settlement was dependent upon the establishment of regular sea communications with Sydney."
- 1841 In November Maxwell Thomson applied for a License to operate an Inn at "Nineteen Shillings Plains" at Rollands Plains,
- 1841 Saw a general migration to the Hastings River District by Free Settlers.
- 1841 The road between New England and Port Macquarie was opened for use by travellers.
- 1842 December 18; The Presbyterian Church at Port Macquarie was opened - the manse was completed in 1843.
- from The Sydney Morning Herald,
December 19, 1842.
- 1842 The first bales of wool arrived from Major Innes' property at Kentucky - for shipment at the Port.
- 1842 November 4... The Port Macquarie Correspondent to "The Australian" reported that: "An earth tremor sufficient to have thrown certain persons from their beds occurred early on October 28, 1842. This tremor, the paper stated, was felt more severely at Barombin and Yarrows (Brombin and Yarras) than at Port Macquarie".
- 1844 July 15: A Licence was issued to Richard Goodall for the "Prince of Wales" Hotel at Huntington. Duty received £30 - application through the Colonial Secretary. Letter dated July 15, 1844. W.N. Grey, J.P., assembled at Port Macquarie on April 16, 1844.
- 1847 Departure of the convicts and the military "dealt a severe blow to the economy of the district from which there was no recovery for many years. After 1847 shipping services to the Port were reduced to a minimum."
- from Malcolm Ramsay's thesis.
- 1848 Ships were arriving on the Hastings River carrying supplies to the settlers and leaving in ballast. Cedar was widely used as ballast. Settlers had no produce to sell in those years... as their crops provided only sufficient to feed them and their families.

1847 The Postal address for Wauchope residents was Hursley.

1848-1866

Education:- There was a dual system of administration. The system provided education from the Board of National Education and the denominational Board of Education.

1849-1858.

- 1850's Before this time there were no churches. "A church service would be held about once in twelve months."
- from Duncan Bain's story.
- 1850's Some of the mail for the settlement at Port Macquarie in those days went by the steamer "William IV", which left Sydney on Thursday nights and arrived at Port Macquarie on Saturday mornings. Mail also went by the overland route from the Hunter River.
- 1850's "John Breeze had the contract to carry the mails from Sydney to Port Macquarie on horseback...the route taken necessitated fording the Camden Haven river at Logan's Crossing and the Manning at Lansdowne...much delay was sometimes experienced, owing to the flooding of creeks and rivers, and the trip was not exactly a picnic."
- from the Warlters' History.
- 1850 Thomas Henry and family settled at Lonely Point (Long Flat) taking up several areas of land there. Neighbours were Angus Kennedy and his family at "Katarbuck", Jim Noakes and the Hollis family at "Kindee".
- from A. Henry, Long Flat.
- 1850's It was in the 1850's that the Henry family had the wine shanty - a half-way house between New England and Port Macquarie for the teamsters who freighted down the wool and other supplies to and from the Port. Mrs. "Katie" O'Neill, (née Henry), prior to her death, provided this information. Her father was born 1869, and it was 1876 when the Henry family took over the hotel - "The Travellers' Rest" at Long Flat. It was, for over one hundred years in the Henry family name. ~~It has, at the time of writing this report, been sold, thus passing from the Henry family name.~~
- 1852 "All the agricultural interests of the Hastings were produced on fifteen acres of land at 'Letterewe'. Only a few people were living there, the bulk lived at Port Macquarie. There were only about six settlements between Beechwood and Port Macquarie."
- from D. Bain's story.
- 1852 It was about this time that Donald Cameron and Alexander Bain came to the Hastings together and purchased "Crosslands" estate, a grant of 1,920 acres to Cross and McIntyre. Alexander Bain later purchased 2,560 acres "Yeppin Yippin" from John Maugham and re-named it "Letterewe", plus 59 acres at Koree Island and the King Creek Estate and a farm at Sancrox and Ennis.
- 1852 Some of the Rollands Plains residents were: J. Knight, H. Sansour, T. Blewitt, C. Steele, C. Churchill, W. Rowsell, Hallidays (2), Websters (2), T. Farrowell, G. Kebber, T. McKay, C. Coombes, J. Darby and others.
- 1852 The first school recorded at Port Macquarie under the control of St. Thomas' Church was at this time. Later the National School was opened in the Old Military Barracks with 29 pupils. However, evidence of early education in Port Macquarie dates from the 1820's.

- 1853 There were big floods at this time and settlers on the Hastings River had to kill pigs and cure them for food supplies.
- 1854 Duncan McGregor and John Graham purchased land at Koree Island and settled there.
- 1854 Mr. Colin Campbell was accidentally shot at "Moredun", in the New England district, by a policeman who was aiming to destroy an injured animal. Colin Campbell had been hired in Skye (Scotland) by Mr. Andrew Wauchope (the owner of "Moredun") ... Campbell left a widow and three children.
- 1854 December 18. Rev. Allan McIntyre took up his ministry on the Manning. He "made periodic visits to the Hastings River. Services were held in Gaelic and English, and although the first service commenced at 10 a.m., it was usually sundown when services ended for the day".
- from "Centenary 1877-1977
- The Early Years",
by J.E. Hockett.
- 1854 The Free Presbyterian Church at "Letterewe" was officially opened on July 1, 1871, with Rev. W.S. McDonald of Clarencetown presiding. Prior to this time services were held under the large Moreton Bay Fig tree at "Crosslands".
- from J.E. Hockett's
"Centenary 1877-1977".
- 1855 Kenneth and Duncan McKenzie with their parents travelled by bullock team from Camden to the Hastings and purchased Colonel Ackroyd's property, "Barombin". They produced cattle, horses, maize and timber.
- 1856 January 1; Post office established at Rollands Plains and controlled by John Churchill at £10 per annum. His sureties were Michael Fahey (farmer), and William Hill (wheelwright), of Rollands Plains. The mailman always stopped to change his horses at Rollands Plains after leaving Port Macquarie at 5 a.m.
- 1858 Lauchlan Lindsay purchased Huntington from Colonel Grey.
- 1858 Hastings settlers started production of wheat, maize and pigs.

1859-1868

- 1860 Heads of families residing on the Hastings River at a distance of fourteen miles and upwards from the township of Port Macquarie (in reference to a petition for the establishment of a Post Office at Huntingdon,) included the following:
- "Johnston, Johnstone, O'Neill, Hamilton, Ryan, Cross, Sutter, Manning, Roache, Mrs. Daniher, Mr. Kenny, McLean, Osborne, Palmer, Bain, Cameron, Parker, Kerr, Fraser, Robinson, Lindsay, Matherson, Carney, Jones, McKenzie, McLennan, Warwick, Kennedy, Williams, Porter, Browning, Mumford, Henry, Hollis, Kirkman, Wallace, McLelland, Kilmurray, Noakes, Donohue, McKenna, Cameron, Leahy, Naylor, Doyle, Freeman, McGregor, Graham, Mackay, Mathewson."
- from a list supplied by the Archives of the P.M.G. and dated Port Macquarie, May 9, 1860.
- 1860 At Ennis a small bark church was built on ground donated by Mr. Josiah Secombe. The Ennis church was twice demolished and then re-built as a home in Beechwood for Mrs. Lesley Trotter (née Way). The preachers in those days came from all walks of life such as: dentist, chemist, storekeeper, baker, ferry-master, engineer and many were farmers.
- 1860 The road from New England to Port Macquarie was Officially opened by Colonel Gray of Huntingdon.
- 1861 Huntingdon Post Office was established. Thomas Carney held the contract for a weekly service by horseback between Huntingdon and Port Macquarie for £28 per annum. The following year it was operated by John Warwick for £40 per annum.
- 1862 "Mail services operated to Kempsey, Rollands Plains, Tinonee, Huntingdon and Hursley. The mailmen were: Rueben Richards, Thomas Carney, Chris. Felton, Thomas Baker, and John Wright."
- from the P.M.G. History of Wauchope.
- 1862 Thomas Wallace was about to open a store at Rollands Plains.
- 1862 James Gurney settled at Figtree Valley - James Summerville selected an adjoining property and named it "Orange Grove", now owned by Mrs. W.F. Jones, Wauchope.
- 1863 July 16: Opening of Crossroads Cemetery. Trustees: F. Walsh, R. T. Parker and W. Lindsay.
- 1863 Teamsters included: W. Cameron, G. and Joseph Hollis.
- 1863 Timber Licences were issued for the cutting of hardwood to W. & J. Branch, J. Munro, A. Jones and S. Carman at a cost of £2.
- 1863 James Ralphe and Arthur Attwood revised the electoral roll. They were selected for the job by Governor Cowper.
- 1863 Thomas Wallace was nominated by a Mr. Naylor to act as Postmaster at Rollands Plains, but William H. Lancaster (the teacher of the Church

of England school at Rollands Plains) got the job. He was Postmaster from June 22, 1864 until June 1, 1871. Miss Eliza Warlters was his successor and her sureties were James Stewart (Tilbuster) and Thomas George Wilson.

- from the P.M.G. History.

1865 Post Offices were established at Ellenborough, Ennis, Huntingdon, and Rawdon Island.

- from P.M.G. History.

1865 William Smith was renting 17,286 acres of land at Long Flat for £15 per annum on which he was running 950 cattle.

- from the Squatters' Directory.

1865 December 11: Mr. John Hume, on behalf of the church, opened a Presbyterian Denominational School at Wauchope. This was in a building on land originally held by Captain Wauch, then later by the Andrews family. It has been said the site was about where the entrance to "Coleraine" is. There were 31 children enrolled, of whom 10 had received some education prior to joining Mr. Hume.

1866 "Yeppin, Yippin", County of Macquarie, is a small southern tributary of the Hastings River. Sandstone country.

- N.S.W. Gazette.

1866 November 23: Robert Andrew Wauch, of Fox Hall (Scotland), Captain 48th Regiment Foot, died aged 80 years, and was buried on a hilltop at "Yessabah", Macleay River.

1866 There was a Presbyterian denominational school at Huntingdon. The first teacher was possibly Mr. Joseph Williamson, who was directly responsible to Rev. Edward Hollands, Minister for the Presbyterian communities along the Hastings River.

1867 Wauchope school was visited in July by the Council of Education Inspector and it was stated that "Wauchope School was considered to be in a satisfactory state, but as Presbyterians did not constitute the majority of pupils the residents applied to the Council for the establishment of a Public School. The application was signed by Alexander Bain, Donald Cameron, Samuel and Isaac Andrews, Matthew Casey and Thomas Suters. The last of these pointed out that he had given two acres of his land over to school purposes, (at the corner of present High and Cameron Streets, Wauchope). ~~A schoolroom and residence with slab walls, hardwood floor and shingled roof had been erected by the residents who valued it at £45.~~

Redbank Provisional School was a mile from this school, but as the Hastings River separated them the Council resolved to establish Wauchope as a Public School".

(In 1868, John Hume taught there.)

- from Hastings Shire Gazette, 1968.

1868 The Post Office at Ennis was opened.

1868 In August the Huntingdon school became a Provisional School with Mr. Hume as teacher.

1868 John Hume opened the first Wauchope school in a small slab and shingled building erected by the parents for £45 on a site given by Thomas Suters Snr. (it was sited where Saab's Store is now, 1978, at corner of High and Cameron Streets.)

Prior to 1868. The first school at Wauchope was probably a private school sited about where the entrance is to the Andrews' property - "Coleraine".

1868 Wauchope's second school was established (where present Streets of High and Cameron intersect).