

# PHOTOS with TEXTS

## SINGLETON

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Reproduced courtesy of the Robin C. and Gail C. Johnson Collection

Title of Photo:

**ABORIGINES - HUNTER VALLEY**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Photographer: H.B. Ballard. Ballard was in the Hunter Valley district until 1903. Most photos were taken in the second half of the 19th Century.*

Aboriginal History of the Hunter Valley

Refer to "Koori - A Will to Win" James Miller.

While this photo appears to be "staged" it does depict the dilemma faced by the aborigines of last century as they existed, caught between two cultures - the European "mission" culture and their traditional tribal culture.

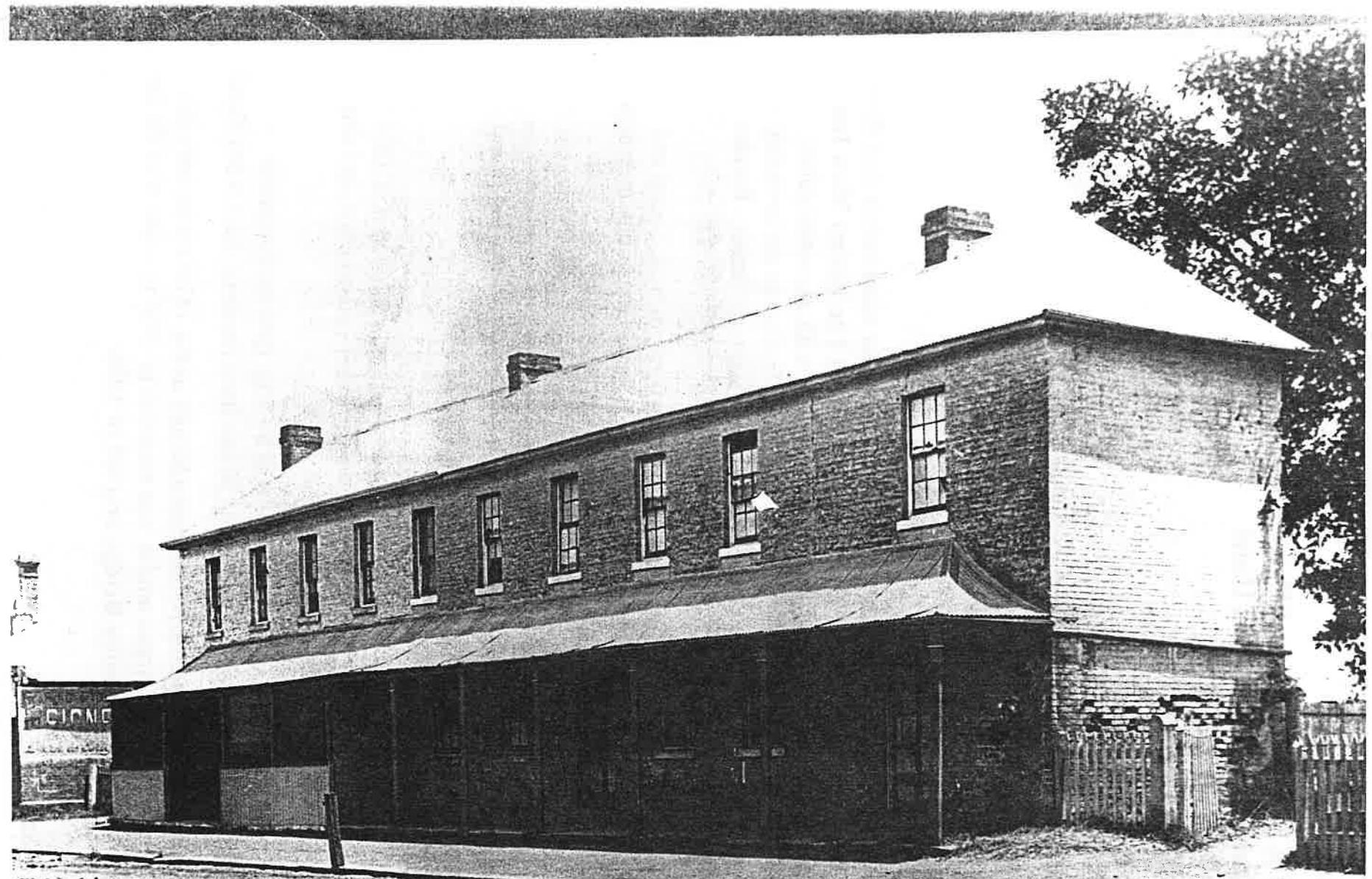
The Aborigines Inland Mission of Australia started from Singleton in 1905.

Themes for Study:

**Aborigines of the Hunter Valley - Effects of Contact with Europeans**  
*Ref. "Koori - A Will to Win" James Miller*

**Aboriginal Traditional Sites of the Hunter Valley**  
*Ref. National Parks and Wildlife Video.*

**The A.I.M. in Singleton & The St. Clair Mission**  
*Ref: The Singleton Times Newsletter June 1992: Local History Manual.*



Title of Photo:

**BARLEY MOW INN - SINGLETON**  
**Also known as the Forbes Hotel**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society Newsletter*  
*Inns and Hotels 1825 - 1900, Catherine Foggo*  
*The Built Environment of the Singleton Shire, Elizabeth Fink*

Introduction

In the early days of Singleton and its districts, there were far more hotels than there are today. From the time that Benjamin Singleton opened **The Barley Mow Inn** in the 1820's travellers and locals have been well served with accommodation, food and refreshments. In 1846 there were eight public houses in the township - five in George Street, two in John Street, and one in Macquarie Street - besides others in the small settlements throughout the district.

"These old inns were associated with practically every political, social and sporting movement in the district. They were the centres for public meetings of all kinds, dances and balls, concerts and other entertainments by both local and itinerant artists. Each had extensive stables for travellers' horses as well as resting paddocks. The names of these inns changed often, a new licensee usually meant a new name and, of course, if called after the ruling governor, a change of governor meant a change of name."

(Municipality of Singleton, p.37, 1966)

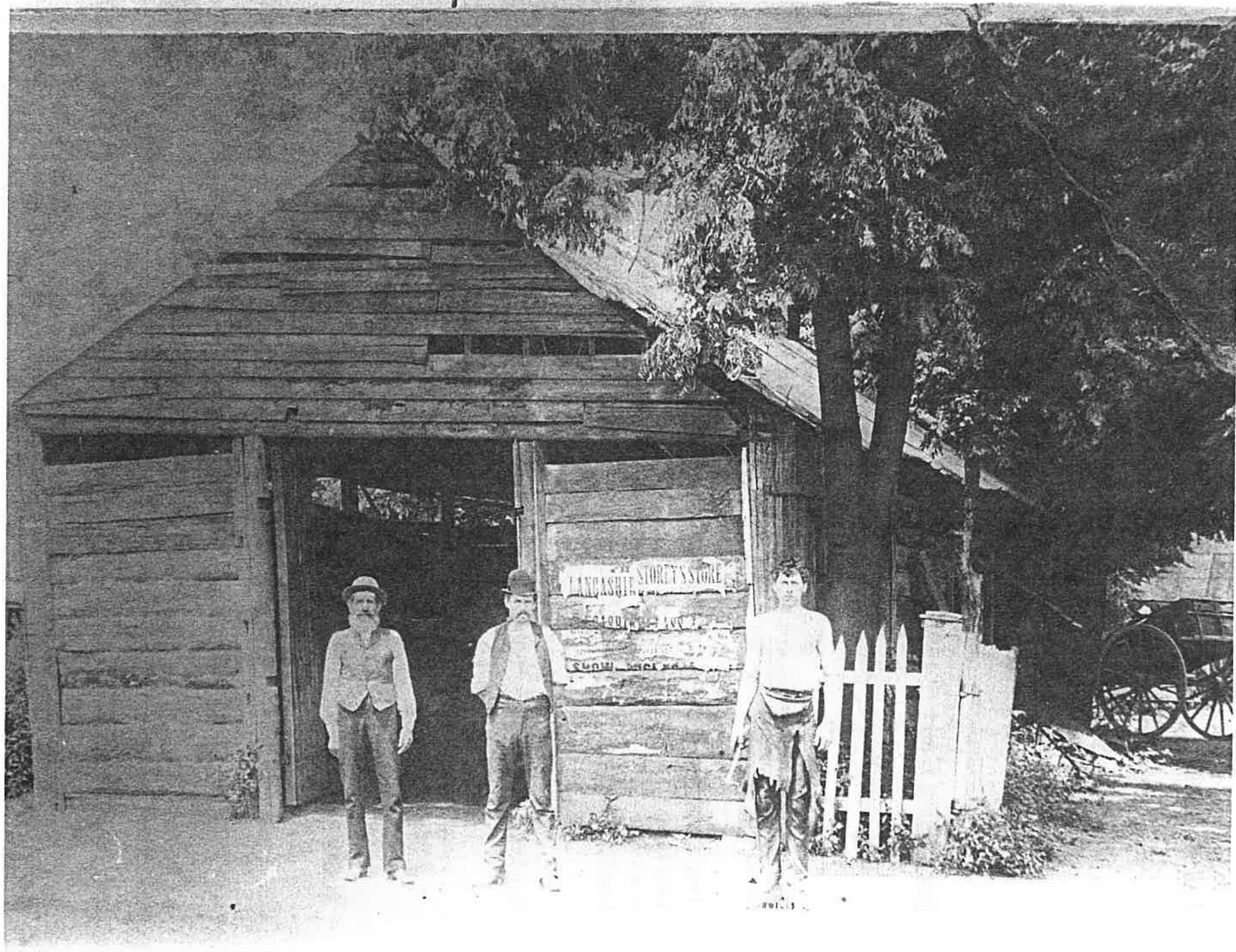
**First Barley Mow Inn** The Barley Mow built by Benjamin Singleton in 1825 was the first Inn established in the district. It was a timber construction and was located near the present Crossing Bridge.

**2nd Barley Mow** as depicted in this photo, was built in 1840 by Benjamin Singleton after the first Inn was demolished. It was later renamed the Forbes Hotel.

In 1869 this building became the Police Barracks and in the 1870's it became the first office of the Singleton Argus until it was resumed in 1904 to make way for the approach to the **present Dunolly Bridge** erected in 1906.

Themes for Study:

**Discovery & Early Settlement** - Story of Benjamin Singleton  
**Inn & Hotels - Life -> 1900**  
**Changing Architecture - Buildings Tell Stories**



Title of Photo:

**THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP**

Jack Miner (centre) at his blacksmith's shop in George Street near White's Lane. For years previously it had been a blacksmith's shop, built originally by William Clerihew.

*Reference: Singleton Argus Centenary Publication*

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Museum - Kit Foggo*

This blacksmith's shop stood in George Street next to Soap Suds Lane and represents the early history of Singleton when it was a rural and transport town with George Street being the main commercial centre - the main road leading to the Crossing from Maitland.

Further Reference:

*George Street Walk (Local History Manual)*

*Australian Architectural Styles - National Trust (Local History Manual)*

*The Built Environment of the Singleton Shire - Elizabeth Fink*

Themes for Study:

**Transport:**

- Role of a Saddler

**Early Australian Architecture:**

- Slab Constructions

**Heritage Conservation:**

- Recycling of buildings & their materials

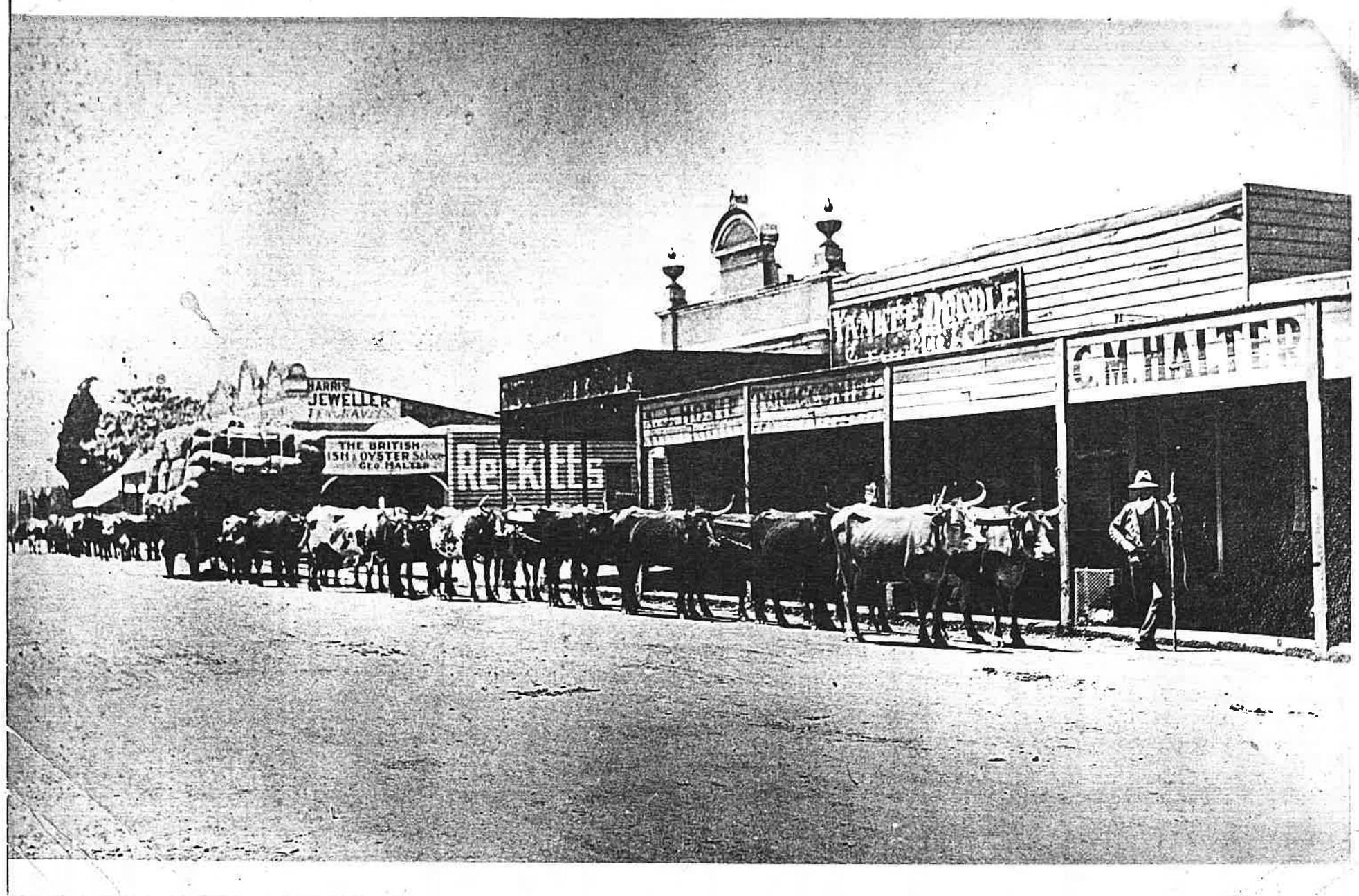
**People of the Past**

- A Study of the jobs, clothing, buildings etc represented in the picture

## THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP

**George Street Singleton near Soap Suds Lane**

1. What is a Blacksmith?
2. What sort of activities would you expect to go on in this shop?
3. What job do you think each of the three men would perform?
4. Look at how the shop is built. What problems do you see with such buildings?
5. If the shop was still standing, what would it be used for today?



Title of Photo:

**BULLOCK WAGON WITH WOOL - SINGLETON**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Argus - October 1865*

This month, over 1000 bales of wool left the local railway for overseas. The wool would have been delivered from both local properties and from districts all the way up to New England.

The wool was brought to the railhead by bullock wagons such as the one depicted in this photo. Such activities made Singleton a bustling commercial centre.

Singleton was a famous wool growing area, having in its district the “Ravensworth Estate” home of the daughter of John McArthur, father of the Australian Wool Industry.

Competition from dingoes, wild dogs and coal mining ended wool production in the district.

Further Reference: *Industries Package - Local History Manual*  
*Two Valleys - Mount Pleasant Public School*  
*The Glennies Creek Story - Lillian Noble*

Themes for Study:

**Transport in the Past:** - Railway, Bullock Teams

**People in the Past:** - Bullock Leader

**Industries:** - Wool, Timber

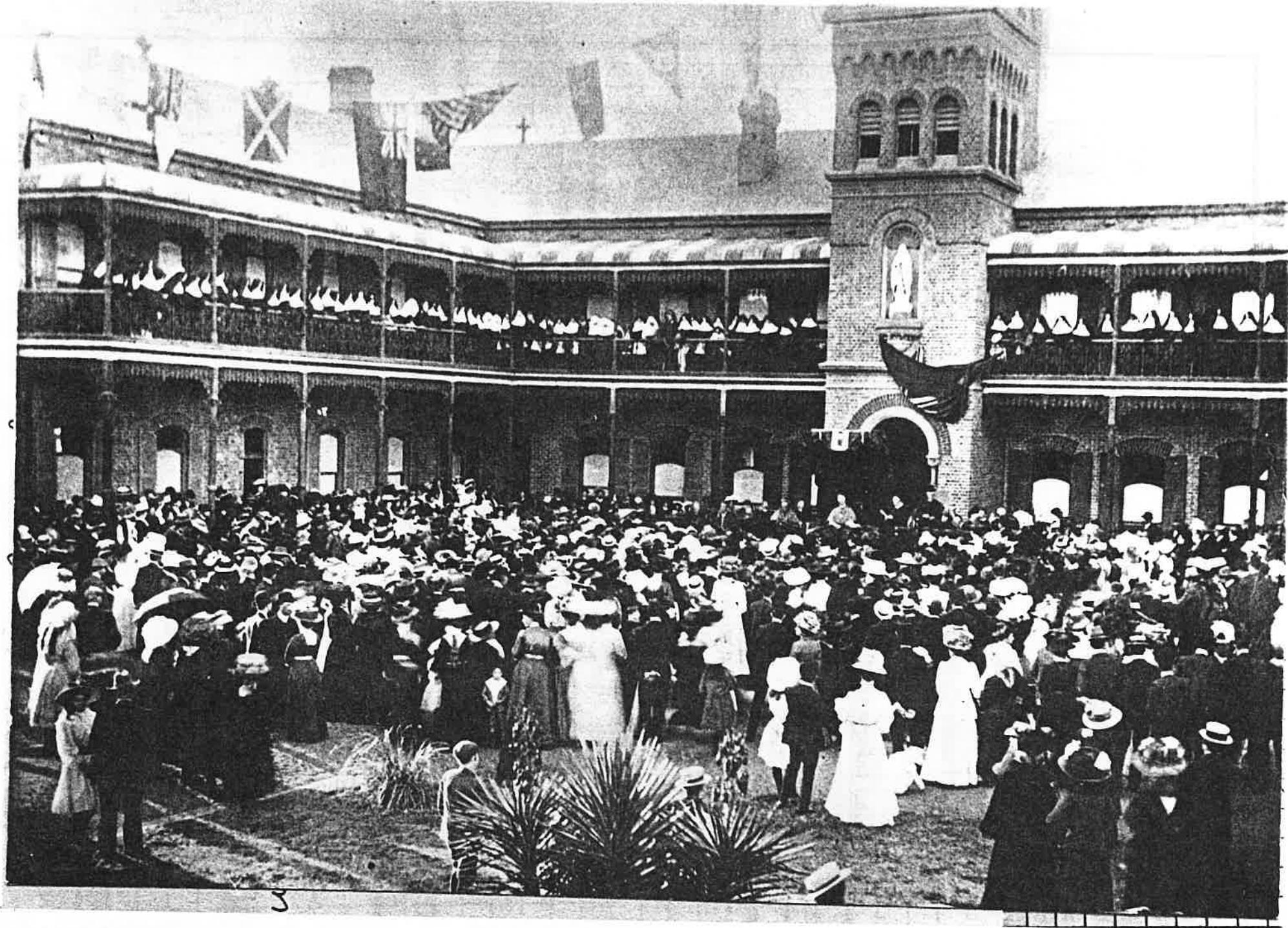
**History of Singleton** - Railway & South Singleton

**Effects of the Railway** - Major Growth Period in Singleton's History

## THE BULLOCK TEAM

John Street Singleton corner Pitt and William Streets

1. When do you think the picture was taken? What clues are there in the photo?
2. Describe how the driver is dressed. Why is he dressed that way?
3. What is on the wagon?
4. Where do you think the bullock team has come from and where would it be going?



Title of Photo:

**CONVENT SINGLETON**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Convent - Sisters of Mercy*

In 1875 ten sisters from Ennis in Ireland arrived in Singleton. They were to help establish Catholic education in the diocese. They took up residence in the "Old Convent" which until this time had been the presbytery. The "Old Convent" is now a Museum.

By 1975 the "mother house" at Singleton had established 21 convents in Maitland, Armidale, Broome, Darwin, Sydney and New Zealand.

The first part of the convent complex, as depicted in the photo was erected in 1892. It was designed by famous Newcastle architect Frederick Menkens.

Before long the Sisters had established their school for girls, St Catherine's College.

At its peak the Singleton Convent had 270 nuns. Today only a handful still live in the Convent.

Themes for Study:

**History of Education in the Singleton District**

**Social Welfare**

**Architectural Studies**

**Women's Issues**



Title of Photo:

COURT HOUSE, SINGLETON c1898

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Mitchell Library, Sydney - "At Work and Play" Series - Still No. 05357

Background Information:

Source "The Built Environment of Singleton" Elizabeth Fink

Courthouse, Elizabeth Street, Singleton

**Built in 1868.** Classified by the National Trust. Mid Victorian/Italianate in style. The building reflects the boom style economic wealth and positive attitude to the future that came with the arrival of the Railway to Singleton in 1863.

In 1876 the Clock was added and winding staircase in the courtroom for access to the clock.

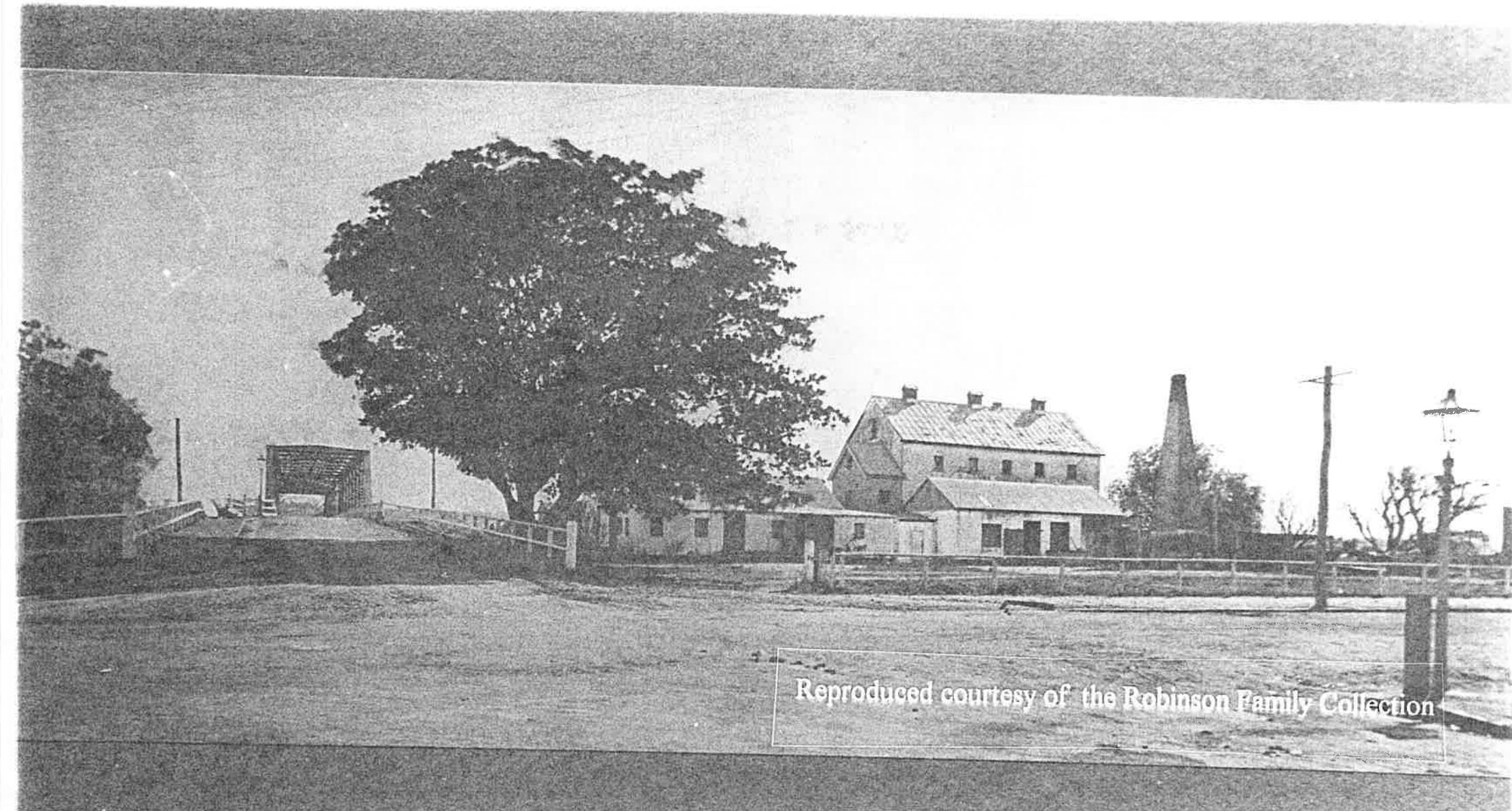
Singleton's first Courthouse was built by Benjamin Singleton in 1841 in the vicinity of the present Munro Fountain in Burdekin Park. A slab construction, later demolished.

Themes for Study:

Living in the District -> 1900

Australian Architectural Styles

Law & Order in the District - Personal Laws  
- Bushrangers  
- Police and Courts



Reproduced courtesy of the Robinson Family Collection

Title of Photo:

**DUNOLLY BRIDGE and FLOUR MILL, SINGLETON**

(Site of the beginnings of the Town of Singleton along the river - story of the Crossing of the Hunter River and opening up of the North West of NSW.)

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society*

*"The Built Environment of the Singleton Shire" Elizabeth Fink*

*"Inns & Hotels 1825-1900" Catherine Foggo*

**The Butter Factory** as viewed in this photo was once the Phoenix Flour Mill. The Phoenix was built on the site of Benjamin Singleton's first Flour Mill. The Phoenix sat beside the approach to the Dunolly Bridge but was washed away in the 1955 flood.

**The Phoenix Flour Mill.** By 1829, enough wheat was being grown in the district to encourage Benjamin Singleton to establish the first flour mill in the vicinity of the present Dunolly Bridge. Benjamin Singleton's flour mill was burnt down some time after the 1840's depression that sent Singleton bankrupt. The money lender, Burdekin, took over Singleton's bankrupted estate and it was Mrs Burdekin who built the "Phoenix Flour Mill" in 1852 so calling it "The Phoenix" because it rose from the ashes of Singleton's old burnt mill. The Phoenix Flour Mill sometime later was to become James Moore's Singleton Butter Factory.

**The Barley Mow Inn.** Benjamin Singleton built his second Barley Mow Inn in 1840 in the vicinity of the present approach to Dunolly Bridge. It would have been located on the left hand side of this picture. His first Barley Mow Inn was a slab construction located at the site of the present "Crossing Bridge".

Themes for Study:

Discovery & Early Development - Benjamin Singleton

Industries of the District

- Wheat and Flour

- Dairying and Butter

The Hunter River

- Crossings and Bridges

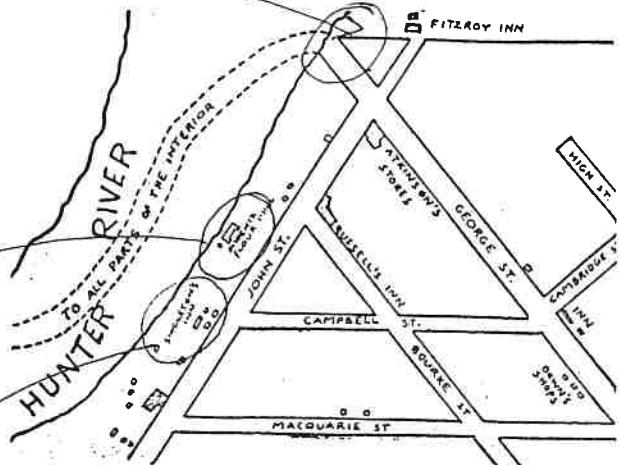
- Floods and Droughts

## Early crossing of the river

position of  
Ben Singleton's  
first Barley Mow  
Inn

position of 1st Mill  
& Phoenix Flour Mill

position of  
2nd Barley Mow  
Inn at  
the approach of  
the present  
Dunolly Bridge.



Earliest maps showed the river crossing, as above, as the banks immediately across from George Street were unsuitable for traffic.

## The first settlers

The news of the discovery of good agricultural and grazing land at St. Patrick's Plains created great interest in the Colony, when the results of Howe's journey of exploration was made known.

The free members of Howe's party were promised grants of land, and many of the influential members of the community sought grants in the newly found area.

Within six months of the discovery Governor Macquarie issued a licence to John Howe to graze his flocks at St. Patrick's Plains, and Benjamin Singleton and some of the other members of the exploration party came into the area to choose the sites for their grants.

These settlers journeyed to various parts of the Patrick Plains area to inspect the land and assess its possibilities.

There were no maps, of course, and land that looked well in a flush season could be bad land in a drought.

No one wanted to select a site and later find that over the next hill the gullies were lined with gold.

If the choice were left too long, someone else might choose the land one favoured, so it became a matter of looking around as far and wide as a limited time would allow, and then lodge an application for a site before someone else did so.

In 1821 Benjamin Singleton was in occupation of land near the junction of Cockfighter's Creek and Hunters River, and his station was intersected by the track from Windsor.

The following advertisement appeared in the Sydney Gazette of December 21, 1821:

"St. Patrick's Plains

"Mr. B. Singleton begs leave to inform the pub-

lic that he will take charge of any person's cattle at the abovementioned Plains. Terms, 10/- a head per annum, taken for no less period than three years. Apply at the Kurry Jung Mill.

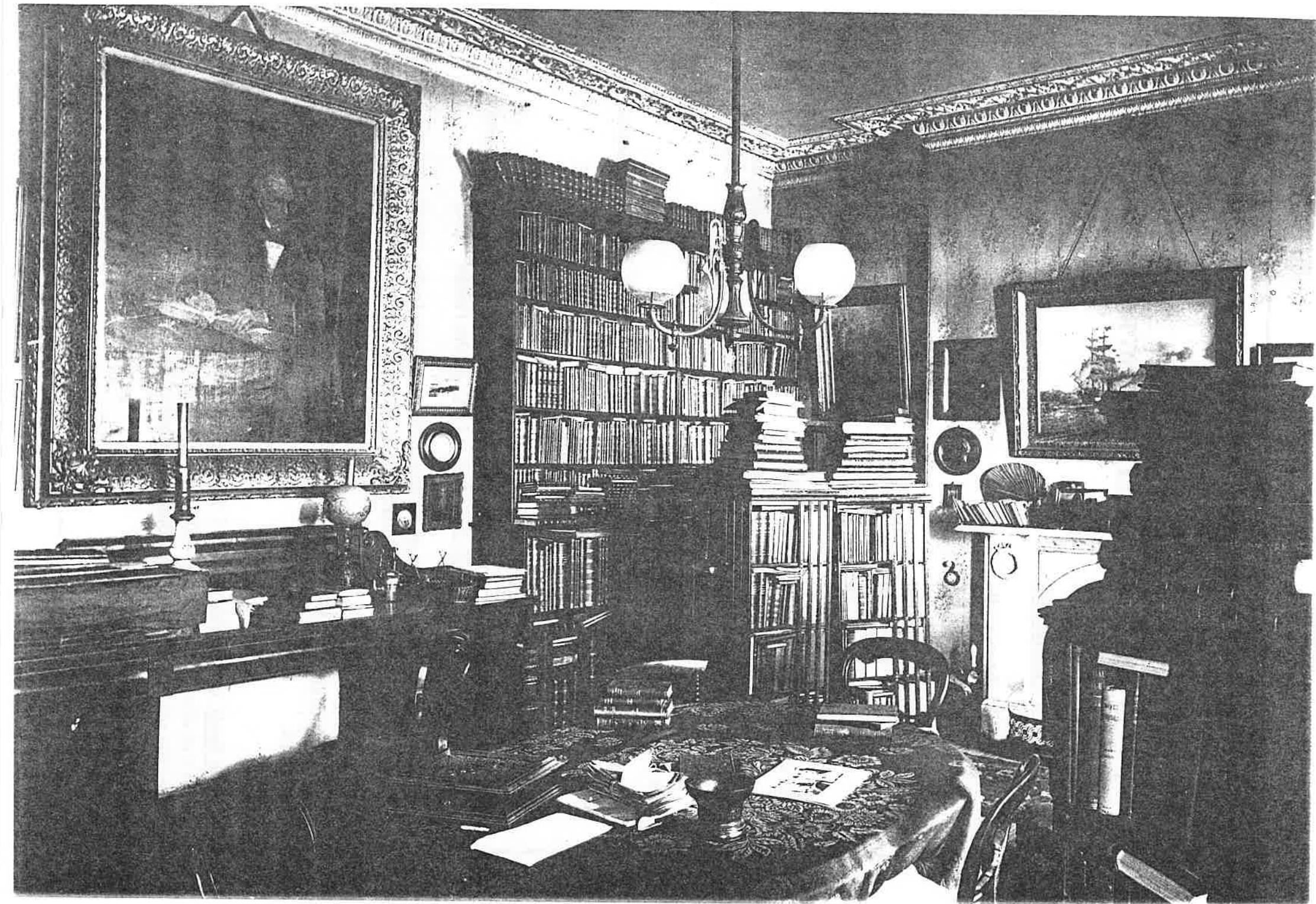
"N.B. Responsible for any number which may be entrusted to his charge."

In 1822 Benjamin Singleton brought his wife and two children (Eliza and Harriett) to St. Patrick's Plains. At the same time Philip Thorley brought his wife and family and settled on the Plains.

Mrs. Singleton and Mrs. Thorley were the first white women to cross the ranges to the Hunter.

In January of the following year (1823) Mrs. Singleton gave birth to a son (John) who was the first white child born on St. Patrick's Plains.

The first dwellings erected in this district were slab huts for the use of the few settlers, such as the Singleton family, the Thorley family, and the stockman engaged on the respective holdings. One was at John Browne's Macquarie Place, one at John Howe's Redbourneberry Estate, one at James Mudie's Castle Forbes, and one at Henry Dangar's Neotsfield.



**Title of Photo:**

**DAVID SCOTT MITCHELL'S DINING ROOM , SYDNEY**

**Reproduced Courtesy of:**

Mitchell Library Collection, Sydney

**Background Information:**

Source "Old Books, Old Friends, Old Sydney" J.R. Tyrrell.  
"A Source of Inspiration and Delight" David J. Jones.  
"Treasures of the State Library of NSW" Anne Robertson

**The Picture - Dining Room, Sydney**

This picture depicts the dining room of David Scott Mitchell, who bequeathed to the State of NSW his Australian Collection which was to become the Mitchell Library.

The picture reflects his **lifestyle as a collector**.

The painting on the wall is a portrait of his father, **Dr James Mitchell**, Surgeon General at Sydney's Rum Hospital.

**D.S. Mitchell's Parents**

Dr James Mitchell had married Augusta Maria Scott of Glendon near Singleton. Dr Mitchell acquired large land interests, chiefly in the Hunter Valley.

It was the inherited wealth from these estate (rents from tenant farmers around Singleton) which later enabled David Scott Mitchell to give free rein to his passion of Collecting.

David Mitchell's mother brought a gentle and cultured background to the marriage.

**Rose Scott** of Glendon was D.S. Mitchell's cousin. She was a pioneer feminist and was also influential in deciding the destiny of D.S. Mitchell's Collection. It was she who encouraged her cousin to consider bequeathing his collection to the people of NSW.



**Title of Photo:**

# THE FENCING PARTY

## Westbrook 1912

**Reproduced Courtesy of:**

## Robinson Family Collection

### **Background Information:**

Source *Singleton Argus*

Members present - Joe Garland, Jim O'Mara, Frank Garland and Col Robinson.

All attacking large slices of watermelon but Joe prefers a plate of dumpling!

NB. Tent used is along the same lines as the early pioneers would have used when taking up their original land grants.

### **Themes for Study:**

## **Living in the District 1900 to Present Day - clothing - occupations**

## Housing Styles

## **Early Explorers and Pioneers**

## Industries of the Valley



Title of Photo:

## FLOODS - CAMPBELL STREET, SINGLETON

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Mrs Catherine Foggo*

(A) **Looking towards the Caledonian Hotel, Singleton.**

The present Caledonian was built in 1851. Alexander Munro built a small weatherboard hotel on this site in 1841.

He named his first inn the **Sir Thomas Mitchell Inn** after the surveyor general. Small as it was it enabled Munro to weather the depression known as the "hungry forties".

He decided to rebuild his small inn and in 1851 opened The Caledonian Hotel which catered for the coaching trade.

Many Balls and fine dinners were held in the Caledonian ("Cally") and Singleton's first Council Meeting was held in this Hotel.

(B) **Joe Governor** the Bushranger was laid out on the bar of the Caledonian Hotel after being shot and killed at Carrowbrook near Singleton.

(C) **Floods in Singleton**

Ref: Singleton Argus 21/2/1975

During its history Singleton has experienced many floods - the biggest in recent times was in February 1955, a summer flood. Most previous floods had occurred in the middle of winter. People moved onto Dunolly Bridge and were there for 3 days. Others spent the time on rooftops. The High School was full with people living there. Water was level with the railway platform.

The river rose to about 58 feet.

Since the levee banks were built it is hoped they will keep water out of the town in future. In 1955 less than 50 homes did not have water in them and that was why the town was extended to Singleton Heights and Hills.

In 1955 thousands of workers came into Singleton from other Hunter centres to help clean up and do essential service repairs since there was no electricity, water or transport.

Food and water was trucked in from Northern towns, Cessnock and Newcastle.

There was very little flood warning in 1955 but now we have an efficient flood warning system throughout the Valley in the form of the S.E.S.

Contact S.E.S. for more information.



Floods Victoria Square 14/8/1952

Title of Photo:

**FLOODS - VICTORIA PARK, SINGLETON**  
**14 August 1952**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Mrs Catherine Foggo*

Looking towards the Rectory, All Saints Church, Singleton.

Floods in Singleton

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Themes for Study:      Floods  
                            Parks and Gardens  
                            Transport of the Past



Reproduced courtesy of the Robinson Family Collection

Title of Photo:

**FLOODS - GEORGE STREET, SINGLETON**  
**14 August 1952**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Mrs Catherine Foggo*

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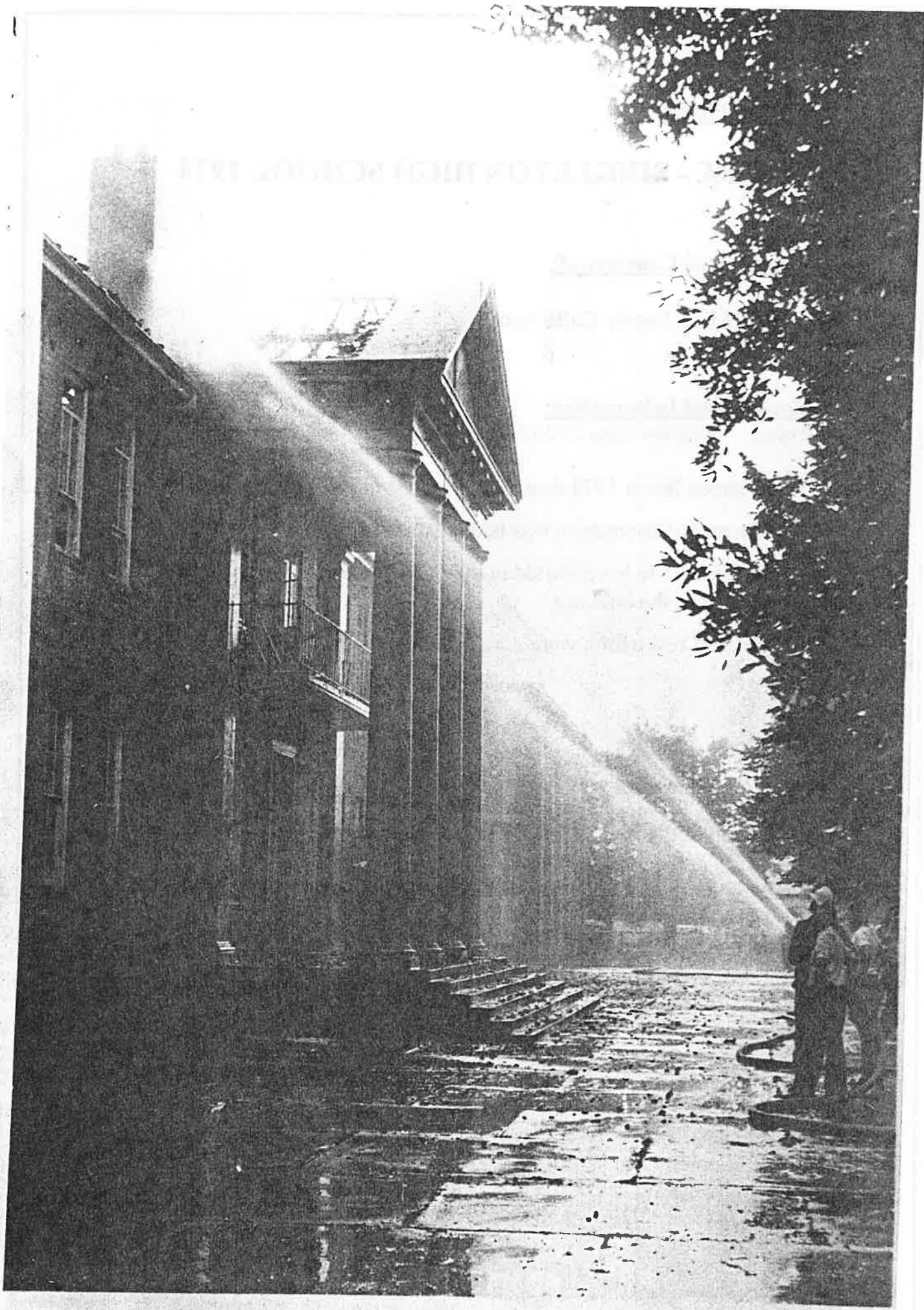
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Title of Photo:

**FIRE - SINGLETON HIGH SCHOOL 1974**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Argus* 22/2/1974

A disastrous fire in 1974 destroyed the roof of the High School.

A large part of downstairs was badly damaged.

It was reported to have started in the incinerator that was located at the back of the building.

Repairs and restoration were completed by 1975.

Themes for Study:

**Education**

**Coping with Disasters**



Title of Photo:

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL - SINGLETON**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society Newsletter*  
*Singleton Argus 11.1.1932*

**Singleton Grammar School**

The Singleton Grammar School was built on this site in 1877. It was built by Alexander Munro and George Loder. It was a flourishing institution, all students wore academic gowns and mortar-board hats, and paraded to church in Eton jackets and long striped trousers.

Most of the students were boarders, and came from far afield to attend this noted school; some coming even from Fiji.

Pending the building of the permanent school the headmaster, Mr. G.H.E. Belfrage, commenced tuition in 1875, in a rented building which had previously served as Singleton's first Town Hall, and is now known as No. 36 William Street.

Mr Belfrage died suddenly just before the permanent building was completed, and other masters continued the school, but it did not flourish as previously.

In the following 39 years it was run as a private school for boarders and day pupils under a number of different managements, but in 1919 it was taken over by the New South Wales Department of Education as a Boys' School. In 1921 it became an Intermediate High School and in 1924 girls enrolled.

It was demolished in 1940, after a new High School was built adjoining the old Grammar School. Various additions have been made since to make the present large High School complex we have today.

Themes for Study:

**History of Education: Singleton  
Living in the District -> 1900**



Title of Photo:

**GRAPE PICKING - KIRKTON**

Date Unknown

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Kirkton School Centenary*

*W.P. Driscoll, "The Beginnings of the Wine Industry in the Hunter Valley*

James Busby of Kirkton Vineyard near Singleton was responsible for the promotion of the production of wine in NSW.

By publishing three treatises on winemaking, by importing grape vine cuttings and by his example at "Kirkton" on the Hunter River, Busby persuaded many landowners to establish their own small vineyards.

**Kirkton is the oldest known vineyard in the state and  
James Busby is known as the "Father of the Australian  
Wine Industry".**

Themes for Study:

**Winemaking**

**Industries of the Valley** - "Wines versus Mines" the great debate

**Labour**

- Child Employment
- Development of Machinery
- Changing Working Conditions

## WINE

**Over a century ago wine was one of the main products of the Hunter Valley. In the 1870's wine from the Singleton District was winning prizes internationally.**

### Vineyards and the Early Settlers

Most of the early land holders planted vineyards on their property. It was said that a 'good worker' could establish a vineyard at the rate of 1 acre per year.

The Sydney Gazette of 1832 reflected a considerable increase in the planting of vineyards in the Hunter Valley. The land holders aristocratic lifestyle made wine a staple commodity, a necessary component for the entertainment of visitors. In 1833 at Dr James Bowman's "Ravensworth" property, government officials were said to have tasted the "Colonial wine" from that Estate.

### James Busby - Father of the Australian Wine Industry

#### "Kirkton" Lower Belford

The Singleton District can boast of having the oldest vineyard in NSW, namely "Kirkton". John Busby had received a grant of 2000 acres in 1824 for providing a water supply for Sydney known as "Busby's Bore". He settled there naming his estate "Kirkton".

His son, **James Busby** was interested in vineyards and obtained cuttings from Europe and set up plantings in the Botanic Gardens to distribute vines to the rest of the colony. He also set up the "Kirkton" Vineyard on his fathers Estate. "Kirkton" is the oldest known vineyard in the state.

### Alexander Munro and the Bebeah Winery

Alexander Munro (Singleton's first mayor) planted one of the most successful early vineyards in the late 1850's and in the 1860's he built the winery and cellars at Bebeah. This winery was the pride of the district for half a century producing wine and winning international championships even in France, the home of modern day wine culture.

Alexander Munro had 60 acres under grapes at three properties. To "Bebeah" he added "Ardersier" and "Greenwood".

### Conclusion

Vine growing decreased as dairying increased. At the same time a fungus disease in the vines directed a devastating blow to the wine industry.

By the 1980's however, dairying had declined and new fungus free vine strains had been developed. Vineyards are again being established in the district.

### References

Jenny Scholes, *Life & Times of Alexander Munro*.

Alan Woods, *Dawn in the Valley*.

Ella Whitelaw, *History of Singleton*.

Singleton Argus, Centenary Feature July 1974.

Singleton Historical Society, *Singleton - "Howe" it all Started*.

Kirkton Centenary Publication.

Elizabeth Fink, *The Built Environment of Singleton*.

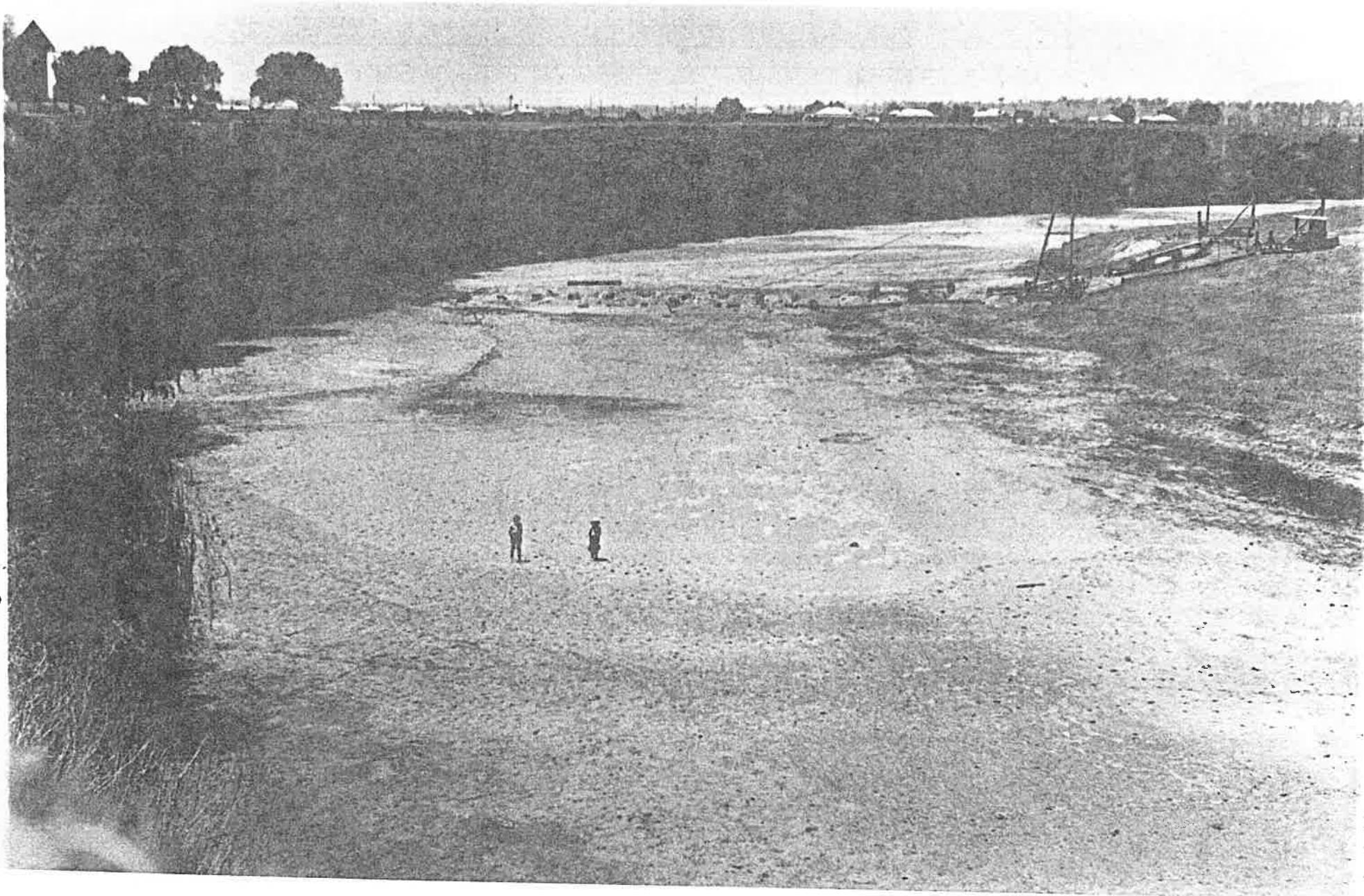
Singleton Historical Society, Newsletters.

KIRKTON VINEYARD, DATE UNKNOWN.

**Here is a picture taken at Belford near Singleton.**

1. What do you think these people were doing **before the picture was taken?** What clues do you see?
2. What do you think they would have done **after the picture was taken?**
3. How old do you think these people are?
4. **Where do you think they live and describe what their day might have been like.** How would it differ from your day?
5. What time of year do you think the photo was taken. Why?
6. Do you see people doing this activity today? Why, why not?

Hunter River Gerringong in Drought



Title of Photo:

**HUNTER RIVER IN DROUGHT**  
**Glenridding, Singleton**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society Newsletter*

Prolonged periods of dry weather are a feature of the Australian climate. The most severe droughts have occurred commonly at intervals of 11 - 14 years.

**The drought of 1902 is the most extensive and serious on record in our district.**

In 1902 The Argus reported . . . . “The settlers of this district have seen their flocks and herds succumb to the pitiless drought . . . .” The Cockfighter creek at Bulga had ceased to flow for only the second time in 47 years. By April choice stock had died by the thousands.

Singleton water supply was giving out by May and deep wells were sunk. It was recalled that in 1840 the Hunter River ceased to flow between Singleton and Maitland and crops were grown in the river bed.

Faced by disaster, the country people earned money where they could. One method was to kill animals for which the Pastures Protection Board paid a bounty - wallabies, hares, dingoes, kangaroos and crows.

Themes for Study

- Hunter River - Droughts and Floods
- Water Conservation
- Depressions
- River Activities



— JOE GOVERNOR —

Title of Photo:

**JOE GOVERNOR - BUSHRANGER 1900**  
Laid out on the table at the Caledonian Hotel,  
George Street, Singleton.

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society*

**Joe Governor**, bushranger, was shot at Carrowbrook near Singleton in 1900 and his body brought into the Caledonian Hotel where it was laid out on a table. His head was cut off and sent to Sydney for identification.

Locals were said to have struck matches off the soles of his feet to demonstrate their toughness.

**His body is buried at Whittingham in an unconsecrated grave.**

Joe Governor was the brother of Jimmy Blacksmith, central character in the novel, "Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith". Joe's death marked the end of a notorious bushranging era.

Jimmy and Joe Governor were two of three bushrangers known as the **Breelong Blacks**. They were responsible for a number of murders and terrorised the countryside.

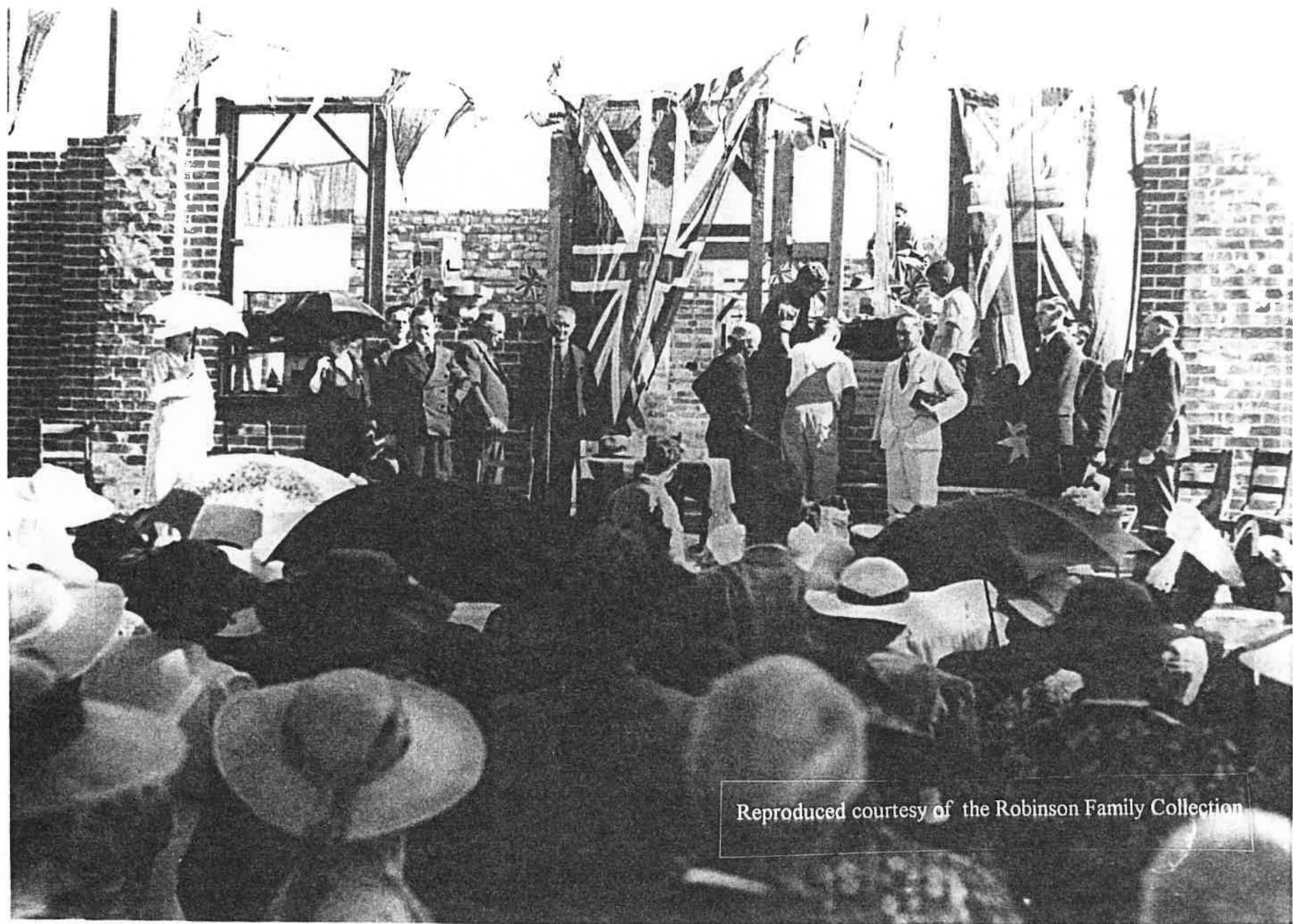
Further Reference: *Singleton Argus - 3 November 1900*  
"The Breelong Massacres" *Old Dubbo Gaol Publication*  
*Class Units (4th class) - Local History Manual*  
"Bushrangers 1860-1901" (*The Breelong Blacks*) -  
*Raymond Terrace Historical Society*

Themes for Study:

**Bushrangers:**

**Law & Order:**

**George Street Walk:** - Caledonian Hotel (Buildings tell Stories)



Reproduced courtesy of the Robinson Family Collection

Title of Photo:

**LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE  
OF THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL 22/2/1940**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source "Singleton Municipality & Shire 125 Years On"  
Singleton Historical Society

In 1919 the Singleton Grammar School was taken over by the Department of Education. By 1935 attendance at the old Grammar School outgrew the building and **the foundation stone of the new Intermediate High School was laid in February 1940** and opened in September the same year. It cost £22,000 and was built to house 300 pupils.

The building was extended in 1967 and again in 1977 and 1995.

Themes for Study:

Education

1940's Fashion

Flags / The Republican Debate



Reproduced courtesy of the [Ohio History Connection](http://www.ohiohistory.org)

Title of Photo:

**LORRY DRIVERS - SINGLETON c1918**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Argus*

*"Singleton: ' Howe' It Started & Grew" - Singleton Historical Society.*

George Kohler's horse lorry - Singleton to Dawson's Hill and Goorangoola.

L->R George Kohler, Bill Turner, Hilton Richardson.

Cream which was separated at the home dairy was brought into the Butter Factory.

Locals often used the lorry run as a means of transportation to town.

Supplies were taken back to the farms on the return run.

Themes for Study:

**Living in the District 1900 -> Present**

**Transportation**

**Industries - dairying**

## THE HORSE LORRY

1. This lorry travelled from Singleton to Dawson's Hill regularly. What do you think was its purpose?
2. Which of the three men would be the lorry driver? Why?
3. Explain how you imagine the journey to be. What would be the good points? What would be the bad points?
4. What would the lorry carry?



Title of Photo:

**Nº 74 George Street, Singleton with Georgian Cottage 1900  
(Former Mechanics Institute & Shire Council Offices)**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Mitchell Library, Sydney - "At Work & Play" Series - Still Nº 05358

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society*

Nº 74 George Street

First efforts made to form a Mechanics Institute in Singleton was as early as 1839, however it took another 6 years to form in 1845.

The institute was to provide a library of books for borrowing and venue for public lectures.

After land in George Street was donated by James Moore, a building was commenced in 1866.

The foundation stone was laid by Miss Clara Moore, daughter of James Moore, and the building was opened by Sir Henry Parkes.

A simple mid-Victorian building was built to the design of Maitland architect John Pender who provided his services for free.

Apart from the library floor there was an entertainment room which occupied the entire second floor. The first silent movies in Singleton were held in this building.

Council Chambers

In 1941 Singleton Council moved its offices into the Mechanics Institute staying there until the new premises were available at the Civic Centre in 1982.

Small Georgian Building was a barbers shop run by Mr Frank Atkinson and was later Atkinson's confectionary shop. It was demolished in 1926.

Themes for Study:

**Living in the District -> 1900 - Social Life/Education**

**Government in the District**

**Australian Architectural Styles**



Title of Photo:

**IRRIGATION “ARROWFIELD”**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Dr. J. Turner “Historical Themes of the Shire of Muswellbrook”*

The main themes of agricultural development over the past century have been the intensification of lucerne cultivation and the growing use of irrigation.

High incidence of drought in the area made irrigation necessary.

Landholders had been slow to develop use of irrigation but demonstrations such as depicted in this photo helped bring about change that shaped the present land use in the Hunter Valley.

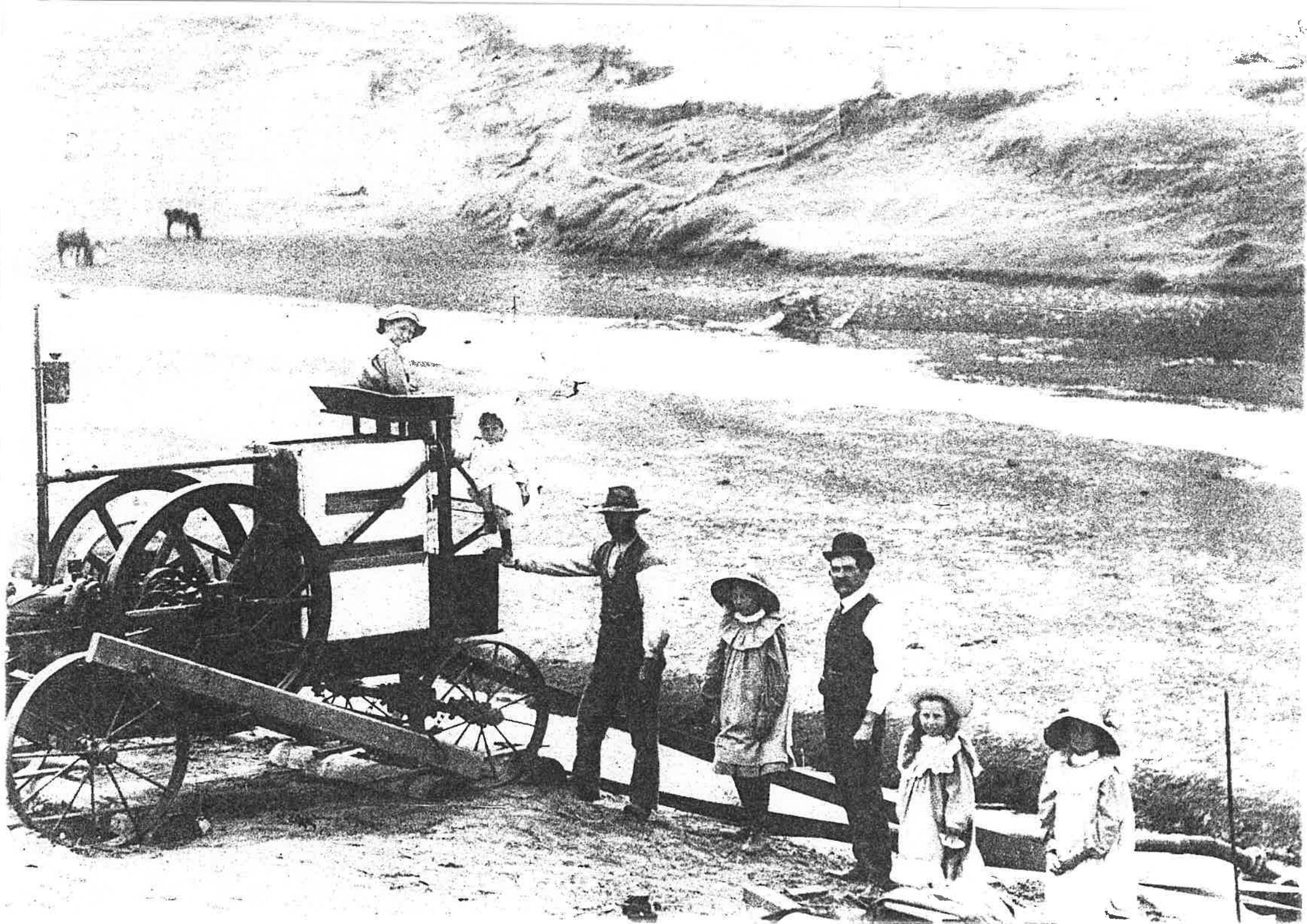
Themes for Study:

**The Water Cycle**

**The Hunter River - Use and Abuse**

**Droughts & Floods**

**Fashions of the Early 1900's**



Title of Photo:

**IRRIGATION - MAISON DIEU 1906**  
**“Eyrie Bowie” Hunter River**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Mitchell Library Collection  
“At Work & Play” Series Still № 05353

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society*

*Dr John Turner: “Historical Themes of the Shire of Muswellbrook”*

This picture was taken approximately one kilometre down below the junction of Cockfighter Creek and the Hunter River.

Cockfighter Creek (also known as Wollombi Brook) was named after John Howe’s horse who got stuck in the creek.

The Hunter River is often in flood at which times pumps such as the one depicted in this photo need to be removed. Without the invention of such means of irrigation however, cropping along the Hunter River would have been very limited.

Irrigation from the Hunter River began about 1902. The necessity for irrigation is evident from the high incident of droughts in the Region. Twenty five drought years of moderate to high severity between 1880 and 1967. *Hunter Valley Research Foundation*.

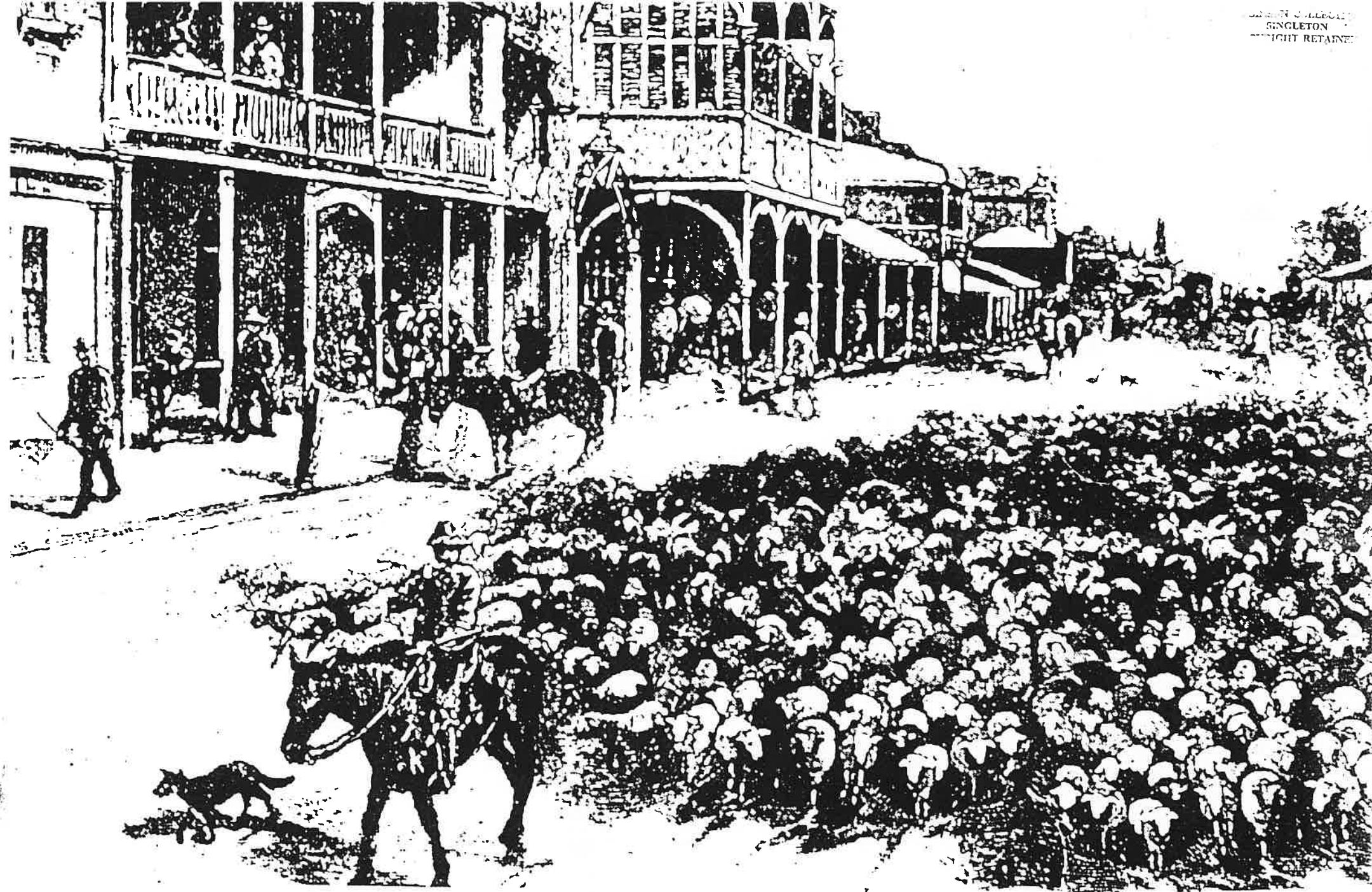
Themes for Study:

**Water - The Hunter River Management**

**Irrigation - Floods & Droughts**

**Industries - Pastoral**

**“Charlie the Chinaman”** - The story of the irrigation pump engine in Civic Park on the River Bank behind the Civic Centre Buildings.



GEORGE ST. SINGLETON 1880

**Title of Photo:**

# SHEEP IN GEORGE STREET - 1880

## Singleton

Reproduced Courtesy of:

## Robinson Family Collection

### Background Information:

Source *Local History Manual - Industries*

Wool was, up to the 1940's, an important part of the economy of the district. Today, most sheep properties have changed over to beef due to competition from industrialisation, dingoes and wild town dogs

Sheep came with the first settlers as they were easy to herd, needed only the native grass and water, and provided a ready conveniently sized food supply as well as wool for warmth and sale.

Sheep were driven up to properties north to New England and wool brought by bullock wagon back down to Maitland and Morpeth and later to the Railhead at Singleton for transportation to the ports and export overseas

### Themes for Study:

## Wool Industry

## George Street

- Social History
- Architectural Study



Reproduced courtesy of the Robinson Family Collection

Title of Photo:

**THE SHOOTERS PARTY**  
**Blaxland of "Murrinbin", Broke NSW**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society*

**The Blaxland's of Broke.**

This picture was taken at "Murrinbin", a property at Broke, near Singleton. Broke's main historic links are with the Blaxland family. John Blaxland Jnr. (nephew of Gregory Blaxland who went over the Blue Mountains in 1813) founded Broke in 1825 when trying to find an inland route from Windsor through Bulga down to Maitland. "Murrinbin" is a Blaxland house - said to be Blaxland's hunting lodge.

**The Shooting Party:** Shooting was regarded as a social pastime but had practical applications. Many pests would need to be kept under control and so "Hunting outings" involving the whole family were common.

Pests included dingoes, rabbits and wild pigs. Kangaroos also were a pest competing for valuable grazing land.

Further Reference:

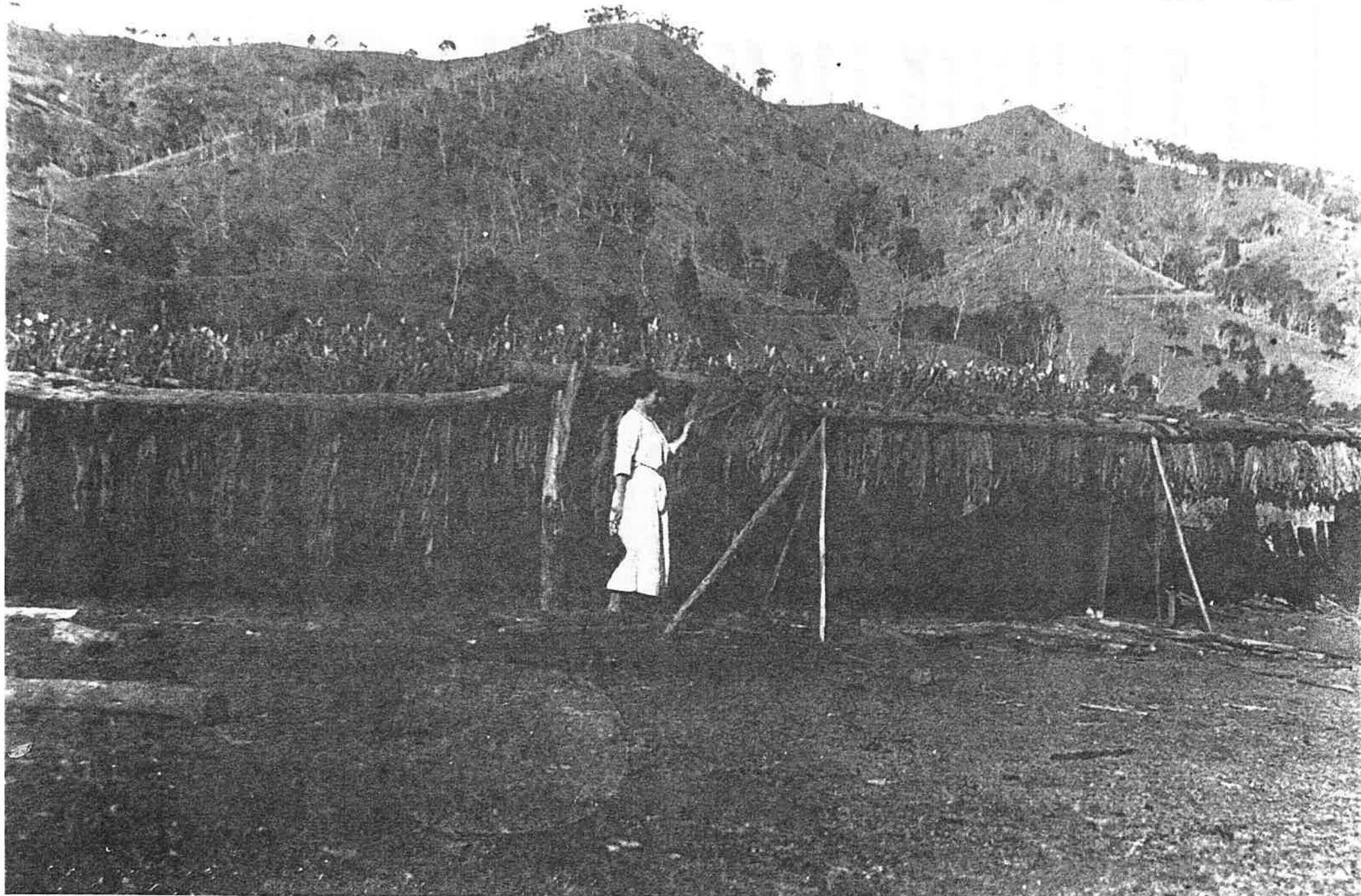
*Industries Package - Local History Manual*  
*Ref. effects of wild dogs and dingoes on the Wool Industry*

Themes for Study:

**Gun Laws - Past & Present**  
**Introduced Species - Environmental Effects**  
**Social Life - Then & Now**  
**Clothing of the Past**

## THE SHOOTING PARTY

1. Who do you think make up this shooting party and why are they grouped together?
2. Why are they dressed the way they are?
3. What do you think they intend to shoot and why?
4. Do we have parties like this today? Why/why not?



Title of Photo:

**TOBACCO DRYING - UPPER HUNTER NSW**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Scone Historical Society

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society*  
*Singleton Argus*

For a period of 60 to 70 years tobacco was extensively grown in the Singleton District. Governor Brisbane's recommendation to new settlers was "Go to the Hunter River and make your fortune by growing tobacco".

In 1833 and 1834 almost every farmer had turned his attention to the culture of 'the weed'.

By 1862 the "Town and Country" Journal had reported:

"It is confidently affirmed that tobacco growers will soon be in a position to triumph over the wool growers for they will soon have the weed manufactured in the town (of Singleton). The tobacco factory will soon be a local fact."

**A tobacco factory was established on the corner of John and Hunter Streets in Singleton.** The factory flourished in the 1870's and 1880's.

Teams loaded with tobacco, mainly from Goorangoola, made the town lively, 16 loads arriving on one day.

In 1881 a farmer at Glendonbrook had 16 acres of land devoted solely to tobacco.

The Tobacco Factory Process.

The tobacco leaves arrived at the factory in small bundles where they were stripped from the stems and steeped in liquorice to soften and preserve the leaves. They were then rolled by hand and packed in small wooden trays. They were then pressed in a screw press. They were then packed and pressed again before being placed in the oven to thoroughly dry them and then forwarded to Sydney for sale.

The industry died when the leaf was ravaged by blue mould and caterpillars and better growing areas were discovered.

Themes for Study:

**Changing Industries of the District**  
**Social Changes - Smoking**

Industries:

## TOBACCO

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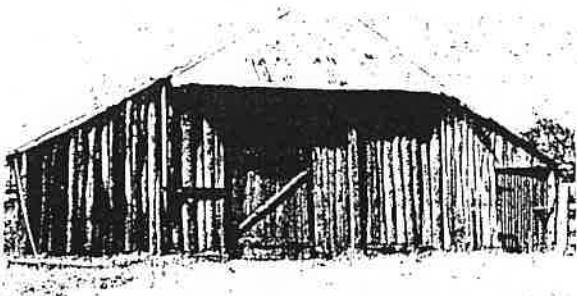
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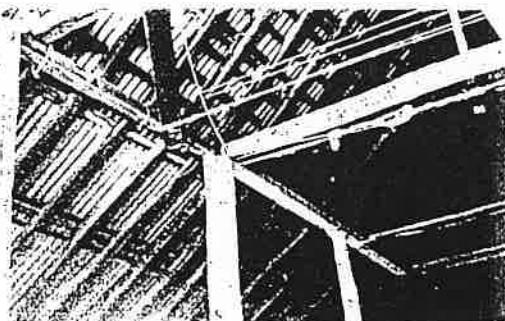
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The old tobacco factory at Maeranie Station



The interior of the tobacco factory





Title of Photo:

**TRAIN SMASH 1871 - SINGLETON**

Reproduced Courtesy of:

Robinson Family Collection

Background Information:

Source *Singleton Historical Society Publication - "Singleton: 'Howe' it Started and Grew"*  
*Maitland Mercury Newspaper - 1871*

**The Crash** is believed to have occurred at Singleton Railway Station when a goods train ploughed into a stationary engine.

Coming of the Railway to Singleton - 1863

When a railway was planned for this district it was to take route through either **Singleton or Jerrys Plains**, both places at the time being equal in size. The future of both towns was settled when Singleton was chosen as the terminus. Upwards of **one-third of the country trade of the colony** and more **than one-third of the wool exported** passed over the "Crossing" at Singleton by the normal method of bullock and horse drawn vehicles.

**In 1863 Singleton became the railhead for the whole of the North and North-West when the Great Northern Railway was extended from Black Creek (Branxton).**

"Roseville" (Wade Cottage)

**Mr William Burton Wade supervised the construction of the railway** for the Government. His son **Charles Wade** who was born in the family cottage "Roseville", in Singleton was later a **Premier of NSW**.

"Roseville", or "Wade Cottage" as it is often referred to as, still stands in Gipp Street, Singleton, a Georgian style, timber cottage surrounded by roses.

## THE TRAIN CRASH 1871 SINGLETON

1. Why do you think this picture was taken? By whom?
2. Why do you think there are no women in the picture?
3. There are a lot of young boys in the picture. What do you think they are there for?
4. Describe the expressions on the faces.
5. Imagine you were a passenger on this train. Tell the story of your journey.