

THE MARTIN LYNCH LETTER

[All spelling as in original]

April 20th 1898

I, Martin Lynch, native of Appin, left Appin on 4 of March 1827 and landed the 1st night at the foot of the mountain just at the big old tree called government House. On the 5th of March 1827, landed at what is now called Cabbage Creek - the Aboriginal name was Towel Creek. Remained there till the year 1835, also parents.

Recollect to see the fight between the Bong Bong Aboriginal tribe and Wollongong tribe. Both tribes in number would be fully 15 hundred. 1000 500. The number killed would be over 100. This was originated by Aboriginal Dr. Ellis taking a gin away from Bong Bong tribe.

The fight was on Mr James Towensend paddock, what is accultiry Para Meadow. They burried the dead at the bottom on Towensend paddock on an arm of Fairy Creek.

Recollect McGlaughin, Underwood and York the bushrangers. Those men were prisoners of the crown. They were under the sentece of death from there start for being under arms. McGlaughin and York took Underwood life. They caught Underwood keeping a log book (and burnt him) of all the bits of deperatins of what they committed in the way of theft of what they eat.

They burnt him in a log of the northern end of Towensend.

McGlaughin and York had some disunion and seperated. York was some time afterwards executed. McGlaughin still remained in the bush untill his 7 years transportation was up. His freedom was Gazetted in the Government Gazette. He went into Sydney to Government House and got his liberty. He afterwards became the owner of the Cabbage tree farm. Now belongs to Mr Stewart of Kieravale. He remained there untill some few months before his death. He died in some of the institution or Hospitals of Sydney or Parramata. He was put there by Thomas Kelly who he willed his farm to. His son Peter Kelly.

No more of this.

Now whe will commence to give you the list of inhabations between Bulli and Wollongong.

Niel O'Brien - Bulli Point

Farrier Family - Seven Oaks

The Broker family - Brokers Nose

James Denny and Henery Angel - Brokers Nose

Peter Lillis - the northern Bank of Towel Creek. The first European man in My recollection that was burried in Illawarra was Peter Lillis Junr. Was burried at where mr J Parsons house stand now on the northern Banks of Towel Creek, now called Fairy Creek.

Next inhabations on the South Bank of Towel Creek was wass

Thomas Dundon, my step father.

Then a man the name of Hart Ellengewen.

William McHenry's farm

Mr Buckland, the owner of the Balgownie Estate.

Mr Lysaught father - William Smith now

Mr A. Robinsons garden

Mr Charles Throsby Smith, Wollongong or Buslee Hill

Edmind Burke - Kenney Estate

Mr Dr John Osborne - Garden Hill.

Recollect Parramata Tom the Aboriginal, to take Mr Lysaught man Bill Hust, who took the Bush. Delivered him up to Mr Patrick Lysaught, who begged him off the Police Magistrate from being punished.

Mr William Wilson purchased Balgownie estate from Mr Buckland and had his government men clearing and cultivating it, who built the oldest Wooden House now standing in Wollongong now occupied by Peter Sherrit - keep the first large stores between the Convent and the House.

Recollect the Police The first Police station was established on the five Island Point. Was shifted in the year 1829 to the old Police Station then in Wollongong.

The Courthouse there was a little weatherboard place between 8 and 10 ft wide. The old police courthouse where Constable Harriet lives now was built in about the year 1835. The watchhouse stands now.

Between Mr Wilmont house and the Police Magistrate and goal yard as you may call it, was a stable affair.

Recollect when a young boy, going to school to John Davis who taught in Mr Charles T. Smiths Barn, on that triangle piece of ground opposite the Convent also recollect to see the prisoners flogged by looking through the cracks, by black Waddell the flogger and David the flogger. Recollect to see poor fellows blood flying and flesh cut of their back.

Butler, the first police magistrate

Slemon, second

Gray, third

Captain Alaman, fourth

Plunkett, fifth

The first public house kept by Tate on Spring Hill. Next kept by Mr John Brown of Dapto, father down behind Cochchrane Hotel. Next kept by Alexander Elliot, who built the old Mercury office and kept it where the Convent now stands. Then built Joseph Makin and kept it.

All the parties who died in their day were buried along between Galvins House and the Harbour. First burring cemetery now where the Town Hall stands.

First Minister of the Church of England the Rev. Mr Myer's. Next Minister Parson Tate who built the house now occupied by Mr Dan

Griffins, a Prespeterian Minister. The next was the Rev. Dean John Rigney who came 1838, Father Therry did come to have Mass once a year, also the Church of England Minister.

Recollect Con Woughalaghan to have the first wooden boat built on the beach - the Dan Oconnel. Next wooden vessel built by John Conningham for Ben Rixon in Mr Hosking's the Chemist yard - called the Emma of 50 or 60 tons. Taken down on a wooden track made all of wood and launched. Recollect the nest wooden vessel built by Sandy Mcperson opposite Galvin's Hotel in 1851.

Recollect the first steamer ever come to Wollongong, the old Sofia Jane. That is all I know up to Garden Hill.

Stock head - the prisoner's on the point where the battery is who sunk the old Basin under the superentency of Mr Crownan. Another stock head at the Cross reads with prisoners. Another at Unandera, the named Charcoal.

There was about 70 soldies among the stockheds, distribered at each of those stock heads. Captain ottaway shot himself at the Cross Roads stock heads.

Mr Sperean then owned the Mt Kiera Estate. Mat Ruan and Ben Rixon - Ruan owned the farm fronting the road and Ben Tixon at the back of his farm. Mr Blackslain owned Mt Kembla Estate - is now the farm where John Clarde lives on, leading to the Mt Kembla mines.

Recollect Mat Ryan men in the year 1835 robbing Blackslains stores they stole Larry Moore gun which had L.M. cut out on the stock. He was a settler on Berkerley Estate. He went down to a neighbour Mr William Prior. During the time he was there Mat Ryans 3 men came and stole his gun. One of the men. John Keatings, was shot dead. The next

The old oringanal Mr William Warren Jenkins was the owner of the Berkerley. Portion of it now in the hands of his offsprings.

Commorsee Allen, or Mr Winfred, was the owner of the Five Islands Estate and I believe it still remains in the Winifred and T.J.Fisher hands. Mr T.J.Fisher was a son-in-law of Mr Winfred, was a Barrister at Law.

The next large estate is what is now called Kembla Grange. Belonged then to 2 brothers named Wiley. Was called in them days Willey Flat.

The first Europeoan man that ever crossed Mullet Creek was Captain Johnstone I have been told by some of the old Aboriginals that they juillared - that meant that they saw Captain Johnstone cross Mullet Creek.

Mr Henerey Osborne of Marshall Mt came to first to Illawarra in the year 1839 and took up Marshall Mt.

Mr Neil Obrien of Bulli, I believe was first who commenced farming operations in Illawarra. Mr Charles T. Smith, brother in law to Mr Obrien was the second farmer. Mr Sperihan of Mt Kiera was the

third. Then commenced the small settlers on small farms of their own and on clearin leases.

I, Martin Lynch, is now the oldest resident of Illawarra, with the exception of one Mr Patrick Farrier of Belambia. I believe he came in the year 1825 or 1826. I came with my parents on the 4th of March 1827.

We settled on the south bank of Towel Creek, the aboriginal name, no named the Cabbage Tree. The reason why it was called Cabbage Tree - the first Burdge that ever was over it was built with Cabbage tree sleepers and slabs, was built by Mr William Wilson, the owner of Balgownie. Thomas Dunston and a few more settlers that was in the neighbourhood assisted Mr Wilson and his government men to put up the bridge.

Previous to Balgownie been called Balgownie by Mr Buckland, the aboriginal name was Bal.Gow.Gong.

My step sister Mrs T. Ford and Mrs Dan Griffin was the first to female children that was born in Fairy Meadow. Mrs Griffin was the oldest.

This is a true history of my knowledge since the year 1827 up till the present date history of Illawarra. I was never more than on year, counting all the odd times together, out of Illawarra.

Yours truly Martin Lynch
Fairy Meadow

I hope to let the rising generation of Illawarra know my knowledge of Illawarra from time to time.