Cornelius O’Brien.

Cornelius O’Brien, who became a Justice of the Peace and a Magistrate of the Illawarra territory, emigrated from Ireland as a youth, at the time when Ireland was aflame with rebellion and he brought ideas with him, which though latent, developed in later life, for he became a firebrand and as a Magistrate severe and dictatorial, especially to the lower members of the community.

The greater part of his first twenty years in the Colony were spent as a farmer and grazier at Appin and Bulli before moving to Yass Plains. Five years at Appin, where he joined his uncle, then at Bulli, where he received a grant of land and built his first house in the district known as “The Sentinel of the North”.