FORMATION OF THE MILITIA IN WOLLONGONG:
The following extracts, from the Illawarra Mercury, were located by Mr. A. P. Fleming, Councillor.

12/4/1870: A meeting of the committee of the proposed Volunteer Rifle Corps was held at the Queen's Hotel, on Friday evening, at which Mr. J. W. Wilshire, JP., presided. A communication was read from Captain Baynes, stating that as the money for providing uniforms and rifles for the Wollongong Corps had been voted, he would be happy to receive a nominal roll of those who were willing to join the Corps in order to have the services of the Corps accepted by the Governor, and further stating that if a day should be named when the necessary drill can commence a Drill Instructor would be sent down. It was then moved by Mr. P. Owen, and seconded by Mr. Sladen—that a general meeting be held for the purpose of receiving the names of those who have enrolled and of those who are willing to enroll themselves as members of the Wollongong Volunteer Rifle Corps, and that such meeting be called by advertisement for Wednesday next, at the Queen’s Hotel. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Wiseman was added to the committee, and the hon. secretary having been, instructed to send lists to the members of the committee for the purpose of obtaining the names of parties willing to become Volunteers, the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

6/5/1870: This Corps now numbers ninety members, who have been sworn in, and the attendance at evening drill, during the last three nights, has averaged 60. Under the able instructions of Sergeant Major Lees, the members have made rapid progress, and will, very shortly, be able to present a very respectable appearance, in a military point of view. Sergeant Major Lees will leave Wollongong in the course of a few days, when his place will be filled by Mr. Housden, who for some months, has been engaged in putting the Kiama and Jamberoo Corps through their facings. There is every probability that the Wollongong Rifle Corps will soon be able to take their stand amongst many older established Corps, especially if the members attend drill as punctual and retain the ‘esprit de corps’ that they do at present.

17/5/1870: Sergeant Brett, who succeeded Sergeant Housden, arrived in Wollongong on Saturday morning, and in the evening drilled those members of the Corps who were present at the Queen’s Hotel. Notwithstanding the shortness of the notice there was a large attendance of Volunteers, and up to the present time it is evident that the interest felt in the Corps is increasing. We are informed that as a rule, Saturday, being a busy night, will not be one set apart for drill, but no doubt the committee will determine on such evenings as will meet the wishes of the majority. Sergeant Brett, on Saturday, proved himself the right man in the right place.
3/6/1870: The Wollongong Volunteer Rifle Corps is progressing in drill as well as can be expected. A considerable number attend every day, several coming some distance and over bad roads for the purpose. After the establishment of the Corps it was decided by the Committee that tenders should be called for 100 undress Tunics and Caps. Tenders and samples were accordingly received and inspected by a general meeting of the Corps, held at the Queen's Hotel last Tuesday evening, Captain James Osborne, MP, presided at the meeting. The following tenders accompanied by sample tunic and cap, were submitted:—

Dr. Marshall ....................................................... .. 53
Mr A. W. Sladen ................................................... 40

For Ensign,

Mr. Alfred W. Sladen ............................................ 41
Frederick Jenkins .............................................. 17
Percy Owen .................................................... 15
Thomas Robson ................................................ 14
John Makin .................................................... 5

Dr. Marshall was therefore elected to the office of Lieutenant, and Mr. A. W. Sladen to that of Ensign. The proceedings were most animated, but at the same time, most orderly throughout. Great cheering took place on the announcement of the result in both contests. Captain Osborne returned thanks for his unopposed election by the Corps, and advised the members to do their utmost in every respect for the interest of the Company. He promised that he should not fail either in his attention or duty to the Corps, and that he would do his best to make himself deserving of the honor conferred upon him. Lieutenant Marshall, M.D., was not present at the conclusion of the proceedings on account of indisposition. Ensign Sladen returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him. Although disappointed in his expectation for a higher office, he would do his best for the corps in every respect. A round of cheers for each of the officers elected, and also for the Returning Officer and the Queen, brought the meeting to a close about half past ten o'clock. In connection with the foregoing, we have the pleasure of stating that Captain Osborne has most generously volunteered to present the Corps with a complete set of first-class instruments for a brass band. The offer of the gallant Captain in that respect is deserving of the thanks of the community at large, as well as that of the Volunteers. We understand he is to proceed to Sydney at once to purchase the instruments, and that he intends to spare neither purse nor perseverance to make the Corps one of the best out of Sydney.

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