ARE YOU A MASON?

“Captain Francis Allman of the 48th Foot Regiment was wounded at the battle of Albuera (1811) but saved from final despatch by a French officer who was a Mason, and recognising a sign given by Captain Allman had him taken to a hospital and cared for. In gratitude Captain Allman named one of his sons George Cimitiere Allman, after the French officer.” (A note on the card in the Mitchell Library Picture Index referring to the portrait of Captain Allman, donated by his great-grandson, who also supplied the note).

Captain Allman was commandant at Wollongong from 1832 to 1834. If he was (as it seems he must have been) the good-natured “old Irish major” of Alexander Harris’s reminiscences, many a convict in Illawarra had cause to be grateful to M. Cimitiere.