EXCURSIONS


The coach will leave Bourke St. at 8.30 am, travelling via Corrimal St., Crown St. and Princes Highway, with morning tea at Kiama where we will inspect the newly restored Pilot’s Cottage.

At Berry we will walk along historic streets before visiting the museum, where picnic lunch will be eaten in the grounds, so bring a rug to sit on. After lunch the coach will tour the Berry district. Adults $7.50, children $4.00, plus admission charges. Deposit $2.00 with booking.


This two-day excursion has now been finalised. On Saturday we will have afternoon tea at “Whopindally”, an old farmhouse in the Milton district, and stay overnight at Motel Albacore in Ulladulla. On Sunday we will tour the area before lunching at “Kendalldale”, a historic homestead. Approximate fares $65.00 adults, $53.00 children, which includes coach, motel, afternoon tea and evening meal Saturday and lunch Sunday.

Deposit $10.00 with booking.

JOHN & MARGARET TIGHE

In reply to Mrs. Morrison of Macquarie Fields who sought information about John and Margaret Tighe who settled on a farm in O’Briens Road in Figtree in the 1850’s, and whose two daughters Mary and Honorah married Michael McDonough and John McDonough respectively.

I can give quite a lot of information on the O’Briens Road and Mount Nebo localities. My family grazed cattle on the Mt Nebo area from 1920 to about 1960, hence I have known quite a number of people who farmed in the area and the different properties and their owners.

It was in 1859 that John Tighè bought 110 acres, part of the Keelogues estate when it was cut up, and this farm of 110 acres was inherited by the two McDonoughs. In later years the McDonoughs bought small holdings beside the original farm and eventually the property contained some 200 acres, so it was a holding with a number of titles to it.

The area in question is on the eastern side of O’Briens Road which is now the residential area of Nareena Hills. I would also state that the McDonough home still stands, it being part of the Nareena Home for the Aged complex in Jacaranda Ave. John Tighe named the property “Keelogues” because it was part of the Keelogues Estate of 1280 acres granted in 1837 to John H. Plunkett who was Solicitor-General of the colony. The estate covered all the Mount Nebo area.

The McDonough holding was leased for several years to tenant farmers for dairying purposes. In the late 1940’s the land was sold to Fred...
Merrett, an engineer with A.I.S, but was eventually sold to Monty Shepherd for residential purposes.

John Tighe was a member of Central Illawarra Council from 1864 to 1875. The A.B.C is doing a story on John Tighe for the Bicentenary in 1987-88 and I understand it is a very moving story.

Many prominent names in the Mt Nebo area besides the McDonoughs were Mooney, Fitzgerald, Gillon and Fishlock. In later years, Hurrys and Stones owned land there. Also on the northern slopes of Mt Nebo J.A. Beatson, former Mayor of Wollongong, owned some property now owned by the Porter family.

I found a descendant of the Tighe family still living in the Wollongong area, Mrs. Prosser (nee McDonough) of Mt. Keira Rd, who has already received a visit from Mrs. Morrison.

Jack Maynes

ADAM BLACK, MINER, WOLLONGONG, 1903 - PERHAPS

A bookseller’s catalogue having contained an item potentially of much local interest, I paid the rather stiff price, enticed by the first item of contents: a letter dated "47 Daisy Street, Wollongong, December 19, 1903". The title page of the pamphlet reads: Adam Black (Miner). His letters to his Son, Jim, on matters Interesting & Important to Workmen. Edited by Albert Dawson, published in Sydney in 1904. On arrival the rather tatty booklet was found to have 110 pages, containing the rude outpourings of a homespun philosopher-economist promising a field of worthwhile research. The text consists of fourteen letters. True, Adam did not indulge sonny Jim with idle chit-chat, but plunged into earnest discussion and forthright advice, albeit expressed in a racy and colourful style. Yet incident was not lacking; letter 12, dated February 4, 1904, begins: "Dear Jim, - a slab of the roof came down on me yesterday, and nearly polished me off. When they got me out I was a good bit bruised, and had been presented with a broken arm, so I’m a gentleman now for a few weeks, with nothing to do but think. But down in a coal mine is, to my fancy, the best place for quiet thinking...." In all it was beginning to seem that one had had one’s money’s worth out of the purchases. What, then, of Adam Black?

It is not perverse to begin the account of the investigation by telling about Adam’s editor, Albert Dawson, obviously a literary gent. The Mitchell Library contains nothing else on Black, but apart from editing this booklet there are two other Dawson items, the first published in 1887. Then comes the editing of Adam Black’s outpouring, and finally a large book of 1927.

First things first. The 1887 work by Dawson is stated to be Part 1 of