saddle, flying over the green paddocks of their father’s farm on Smith’s Hill. Now she had to behave suitably as a young lady with a London education. Moreover she was growing up into young womanhood. She was never to lose the distinction she had learned at Ponders End, but the fact remained that Mrs. Clark’s was now the width of the world away. So Maria could well have thrown away her little wooden box evoking childish memories of schooldays merging ever further into the past.

Yet she did not. Far from it: to the collection she added more locks of hair, including those of the step-brothers who were later born to her father and stepmother. Her affection for that box of mementoes continued; this was borne out most of all by the addition on 16 August 1850 of another lock of brown hair, belonging to Alfred Turner, later Police Magistrate in Wollongong. Maria had just become his bride. The last addition was of a wisp of baby’s hair, fair and fine as silk. It was that of one of her grandchildren: “Jeanie Osborne, 19 months old”.

Well, what does one do these days with such a box of relics? Does one do what Maria could well have done over a century ago -- consign the lot to the wastepaper basket? It would have been easy then, one would think. Now it is harder, because these trivia of sheer Victorian sentimentality have acquired all the charm of a bygone age, an age of feeling, for all its faults. And it so happens that Jeanie Osborne was my mother. So I certainly can’t bring myself to send them the ultimate way of most keepsakes. Could you?

Edgar Beale

“DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN”
KIAMA RAILWAY OPENING

The railway to Kiama was opened for traffic yesterday, and in the course of the day five trains reached that town, or terminus, from Wollongong, four of them being all the way through from Clifton. From Kiama to Clifton, four trains also ran. Unfavorable as was the weather, very considerable numbers of people, chiefly from Bulli, Clifton, and Wollongong, patronised the line. The rain, however, prevented hundreds from taking the excursion . . . .

Several persons came from the southward, principally as far as Wollongong, but for one that came from that direction, a dozen at least must have travelled to Kiama. In fact, at one time of the day there appeared to be more Bulli people in the town of Kiama than any others. Opening demonstration there was none, the important event of the railway being opened in their town being treated by the people of Kiama with the utmost indifference, so far at any rate as appearances event. The trains arrived and left again with little more apparent animation than might have been expected were the inhabitants of the adjacent cemetery the only residents of that part of the district. Indeed, it was stated that the Harmony Band, which accompanied the 9 o’clock train from Wollongong, was much disposed to play “Down Among the Dead Men” on seeing so few living inhabitants of the place about on their arrival . . . . Truly it was appropriate on the part of the parliamentary representative of such constituents that he too should “improve the occasion” by missing the train at Wollongong, thereby being delayed about three hours in that town, and reaching Kiama only about 6 o’clock in the evening. But doubtless the state of the weather, which completely pre-
vented all the intended sports and demonstrations of the day at the end of the district was the "wet blanket" that damped the whole affair. The cavalry tournament that was arranged to come off was not proceeded with. The Protestant Alliance picnic that was meant to be a good attraction shared a similar fate, and in fact the whole town and district were in a state of mud and water. It will be noticed by the time table published in this issue that today and for the future until further notice to the contrary only one train a day will run between Kiama and Clifton and the intermediate stations (Saturday excepted), on which day a second train will run, leaving Kiama at 6 in the morning and returning late at night.

Postscript: The stations opened with the extension were Unanderra, Dapto, Albion Park, Shellharbour and North Kiama - familiar names, but if you think you know where they all were, you had better think again.

Unanderra and Dapto seem to present no problems, but ‘Albion Park’ was at the point where the South Coast Road crossed the railway on the level at the north end of the later Yallah platform. It owed its name no doubt, to its being the most accessible point to Albion Park township, but within two years a more direct road was made and the name was transferred to the new site. The original Albion Park became Yallah.

The only catch about Shellharbour is that it is not in Shellharbour.

The terminus, referred to in the Mercury report as Kiama, was, according to Singleton’s ‘Railway History in Illawarra, officially North Kiama, then optimistically referred to in the timetables as Kiama’; but in any case it was not in Kiama itself. When the line was further extended to Kiama, and the new station opened in the town, the older station reverted to North Kiama, and finally became Bombo.

Passengers must have had to be careful when asking for tickets!

PLANTING THE BURNING BUSH!

A hundred and fifty years ago the first regularly constituted Presbyterian congregation was established and the first ordained minister appointed. That congregation developed into St Andrew’s Church, Wollongong. Though many other parishes were in later years carved out from the enormous original area it may fairly claim to be the mother Church of Presbyterianism in Illawarra.

Several factors contributed to its establishment at that particular time and place.

The town of Wollongong had been surveyed in 1834, giving the district a centre where a church to serve all Illawarra might be erected. Bourke’s Act of 1836 ended the Church of England’s monopoly of state aid, which was thereafter available to the churches and schools of other denominations. Presbyterian congregation were being formed into parishes and charges regularly organised according to the rules of the Church of Scotland, largely under the influence of John Dunmore Lang, who was tireless in recruiting regularly ordained ministers for service in New South Wales. To this end he made several trips back to Scotland. On his third such visit, Lang advised the Colonial Secretary, Lord Glenelg, that Illawarra was one district in which the settlement of Presbyterian