It suggests that Captain Waldron was having an affair with Sarah McGregor.  
The case was held on Saturday, 22 February, not the 23rd.  
The jury did retire, at 7 o'clock that evening, for approximately half an hour,  
before returning to present the guilty verdict.  
According to Jemima Waldron’s testimony at the trial, Mary Maloney was the  
party guilty of not scrubbing the verandah and leaving ashes scattered about.  
The evidence that Captain Waldron had died of a stroke was not brought  
forward at the trial, but on the following Tuesday, at which point Judge Burton  
immediately informed the Governor, Richard Bourke. The Executive Council  
was convened, and decided ‘that a full statement should be laid before the King,  
and the prisoners respite until the pleasure of His Majesty was known’. The  
women eventually received the King’s pardon.

There are other discrepancies, however even the account presented by Mr  
McDonald in 1972 contained a number of incongruities. As regards the Captain’s  
imimate liaison with Sarah McGregor, and Jemima Waldron’s knowledge of the  
affair - if true, it would explain a great deal of the subsequent mutterings and  
scandalous gossip surrounding the whole incident. It would also explain Jemima’s  
antagonism towards Sarah at the trial, for it was her flirtations which had resulted  
in the death (intentional or not) of Jemima’s husband, leaving her to care for a  
large family.

Unfortunately the above version merely adds to the list of ‘truthful’ accounts  
of Captain Waldron’s death already available to us. Whether the real truth will  
ever be known is doubtful, for how are we to decide, when considering events  
which occurred over 150 years ago, whether a person lying or not, or whether  
an official court record or newspaper report is to be believed. After all, perjury  
and sensationalist newspaper reporting have been with us for many years.

Michael Organ

ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLIES IN THE ILLAWARRA

The industrial archaeology sub-committee of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region  
of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) is undertaking research into the gener­  
ation and distribution of electric power in southern New South Wales. The area  
we are most interested in is that area that was supplied by the Public Works Depart­  
ment of NSW.

Our survey covers both the utility power houses (eg PWD steam and hydro),  
municipal power houses (eg Moss Vale steam and Bega Valley hydro) and the  
industrial and mining systems, particularly those that supplied power for domestic  
consumption.

We are researching the data available from publications such as W.A. Bayley’s  
"Black Diamonds" and his various district notes, local newspapers and data avail­  
able in the Local Studies section of the Wollongong City Library.

Electric power was first supplied to Wollongong on 3 February 1912 from a  
steam power plant owned by a Mr Christensen. Christensen was joined by a Mr  
Tynan in February 1913 and the venture became the Wollongong Electric Light Co.  
We are not sure where the plant was built but from the scant newspaper reports  
we presume it was between Gateway and the RSL Club.
The Wollongong Municipal Council began investigating a more secure power supply and considered a number of alternatives including supply from coal mining companies and from PWD. Street lighting continued to be by gas and that system continued to be extended.

From Council meeting minutes it appears that at some time prior to December 1916 the Wollongong Electric Light Co. ceased operations. We have been unable to find any references to date of anyone else taking over the supply. Power was not made available to Wollongong from the PWD system until November 2, 1921.

We are keen to hear from anyone who has knowledge of what happened in the intervening five years. Surely Wollongong was not without electric power for that period?

We are not sure where Christensen built his power house. From the scant mentions in the press we presume it was on the north side of Burelli Street somewhere between Gateway and the RSL Club.

We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who may be able to help us in our research.

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THE BIRTHPLACE OF WOLLONGONG
THE BRIGHTON BEACH
AND
WOLLONGONG HARBOUR PRECINCTS
Archaeological and Historical Significance

In the light of the present developments proposed for the area opposite Brighton Beach, near the junction of Cliff Road and Harbour Street, it is felt imperative that the historical and archaeological significance of this area be brought to light.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The area in question is the site of the first commercial and public buildings to be erected in Illawarra (circa 1829).

The earliest buildings to be erected in the Illawarra, apart from isolated farm houses and slab huts, were centred around Wollongong Harbour. These buildings included:

* Charles Throsby's stockman's hut, built about 1816, near the corner of present-day Smith and Harbour Streets.

* The wooden house, barns, and shed of Charles Throsby Smith, built around 1823 when he settled in Wollongong with his family. Smith's buildings were in the vicinity of the stockman's hut, close to Brighton Beach, and were the only buildings in Wollongong in 1828 when Alexander Stewart arrived.