



Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

NEWSLETTER

No 499 October 2017

From the President's Desk

Well, if I didn't before, I now know what a full-blown dose of the 'flu' is like.

After spending a few days in our metropolitan capital, Sydney, we dutifully watched our grandchildren playing their instruments at the Opera House. To avoid the inevitable parking problems, we travelled by public transport into town, clinging desperately to bus straps, avoiding crushing small people and neatly evading those killer prams that leave nobody alive in their wake.

'Here we are then,' I perceptibly remarked as we climbed enough steps to elevate us somewhere above the Harbour Bridge flags and the incoming flight path. Without the aid of oxygen, we took our seats alongside the throng of doting parents and grandparents. The famous Opera House, eh? Well it was germ central!

A whole army of hacking coughers and queasy adults, who should have been safely tucked up in their warm beds, completely encircled us. Behind us sat a desperate mother nursing a baby with the worst croup I've ever heard.



**Bruce Moore,
President**

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

OCTOBER MEETING: Thursday 26 October at 2:00pm

VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong

EVENT: An 'Archives Roadshow' – members invited to bring along interesting objects for a "Show and Tell" afternoon

AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thursday 23 November at 2:00pm

VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong

EVENT: The Society's monthly meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting

AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the meeting. Please bring a plate or a donation

THE
Story
Centre

BERRIMA
DISTRICT
MUSEUM

STORIES OF PEOPLE, PLACES
AND OBJECTS FROM
THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

President's Report

Continued from front page

The poor child desperately needed hospitalization. Help! Too late to escape and inhale some fresh sea air!

The MC was forced to patiently wait for the cacophony of coughing to cease before announcing the first item on the programme.

Why are we so 'generous' in sharing our germs? Perhaps it comes from TV ads declaring we "soldier on" with colds and flu.

We also suffer from FOMO syndrome "the fear of missing out" if we stay at home.

I can now quote my father urging me to "get out of bed, you look well enough to get back to work."

These are possibly the worst pearls of health wisdom ever given.

Perhaps the Asians have solved one part of the contagious puzzle...that is to wear a facemask. The other half is to stay in bed!

That's a no-brainer because that's exactly what you feel like doing.

We don't wish for a 1918 Spanish flu repetition, which actually realized more losses than soldiers in WW1. The Asian and Hong Kong flu pandemics in the 50s and 60s were also epic.

My name can now be added to the 186,000 Australians so far this year that have unfortunately contracted this insidious infectious virus.

Short of mask-wearing, the little bride, well-schooled by 2 generations of her family, has devotedly secured me in isolation, passed pizzas under the door, made hot bonox, sprayed and wiped surfaces I've touched, handled, sat on, or coughed near.

TV remotes, I-pad screens and computer keyboards are high on her list for sterilization.

I can now sleep peacefully knowing that the bride remains healthy and her patient slowly recovers.

Cheers, Bruce

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A reminder that renewal of Memberships is now due.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Society's Annual General Meeting to be held on 23 November.

For the attention of Office Bearers, Committee Members, Appointed Position Holders and any prospective nominees: the Nomination Form for elected positions and Appointment Form for positions are available from the Secretary and must be lodged to by 7 November for consideration at the AGM.

Position holders are reminded that a report on each area of responsibility is required for the November issue of the newsletter. Please submit to the Secretary by end of October.

THE STORY CENTRE Berrima District Museum

Please note that the museum is open at least 5 days a week

MUSEUM OPEN: 10am to 4pm
WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

and every day during NSW school holidays and on public holidays.

Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph John 4872 1660.

Membership Details

Membership enquiries and changes of address should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary, c/- the Society's postal address or email to: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

Would you consider . . .

It would help us immensely with postage costs if those of you who receive the newsletter by post would agree to receive it by email.

For all who still prefer to receive it by post, we assure you the printed version will continue to be issued.

Chalker/Charker Reunion at Welby on 18 November

As the Chalker/Charker family has links to your area, it would be most appreciated if you could provide the information below to your members and wider community.

The Chalker/Charker Society is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of **JAMES CHALKER (1817-1907)**. James was the son of William (*Coromandel* 1802) and Elizabeth Sheckle (*Speke* 1808).

James married Sarah WELSH in 1837. Their children were: Edward, Sarah (m James Jones), James, Maria (m Richard Jones), George, John James, Frederick, Charles, Elizabeth (m Edward Mitchell), John Joseph, Alfred, Ellen (m Walter Smith).

Other associated family names are: ATKINSON, PITTS, HARPER, BYE, TURNER, BATTAM, MULLER, O'MALLEY, DONNELLY, WILD, SHEA, FITZGERALD, BUIE, DAWSON, BAILEY, WHARTON, ANGOVRE, CRONIN, McLOUGHLIN, COOK, BROWN, COLLINS, STRATFORD, BEST.

All descendants are invited to attend a reunion on Saturday 18 November, 2017 at the Welby Community Hall, Currockbilly Street, WELBY from 10am – 4pm.

For further information: ccsocsecretary@yahoo.com.au

Yours sincerely,

Maureen Dolle, Treasurer
Chalker/Charker Society

Archives opening hours

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

BDH&FHS Research Fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$25.00 per hour or part thereof for email, telephone, in person or postal enquiries.

\$5.00 per hour or part thereof for enquirers who attend the archives and carry out their own research.

General Meeting 23 October

'Archives Roadshow' Show and Tell

Members are invited to come along to our general meeting in October and enjoy the showing of objects and, if they so wish, to bring any interesting objects they may like to show and tell.

Linda Emery will host the session and an antiques expert will be on hand to give appraisals of items, just like on TV's 'Antiques Roadshow'. We are hoping expert Ros Vidgen can make it but, if not, another will substitute for her.

It is requested that those intending to show objects log their intention before the session. This will help us to better plan the event and keep things running smoothly on the day.



Objects may be of any shape, size or form, including period wearing apparel, such as seen here.

You can log your details by phone or email to the archives, or by informing Linda Emery or the Secretary in person.

Archives Report for September

Since my last report it has been business as usual at the archives – busy! We continue to receive a lot of visitors as well as email and telephone enquiries.

Increasingly, we have people wishing to trace and document the history of their houses and land. With the resources we hold in the archives and the availability of land titles online we are more able to assist researchers than ever before. It is a fascinating area to research and often results in both the enquirer and the archives learning more about our local history.

One example of a house history was donated to the archives this month. The owner of Bentham in Merrigang Street, Bowral, Jan Worthington, has given us the results of her research into the house, including copies of land titles. We now have a well-documented history in our Building Files which will be available for future owners.

We had a very successful Family History Seminar at the archives on 30 August attended by around 30 members. We were very fortunate to have Dr Perry McIntyre along to speak about researching in Ireland, a subject in which she specialises. Perry was able to help a number of participants and gave a great talk.

The result of the day is that a special interest family history group has been formed, with members meeting at the archives. It will be an informal group for members interested in sharing their knowledge and getting help from others. More information will be given in the newsletter once details are finalised.

At the last Management Committee meeting the replacement of the curtains in the archives was discussed. The curtains are now 18 years old and showing their age. Quotes are being obtained for new blackout roller blinds which will be more energy efficient and easier to maintain.

We have also purchased several new chairs for the archives courtesy of a Community Grant from Wingecarribee Shire Council. We continue to receive great support from WSC for which we are grateful.

Linda Emery, Archivist

Prisoners in Arcady card sets for sale



Now available at the museum are superior quality sets of five postcard-size prints depicting images with connections to the German mariners interred at Berrima during WWI. One is the famous 'pyramid' image and the four colour images are reproductions of artwork by Otto Monkedeck, one of the talented internees. His images are on display in the 'Prisoners in Arcady' exhibition at the museum.

The package set of five cards with envelopes is available from the museum at \$5.95. We would be happy to fulfil by post any orders from members who are unable to visit the museum. Cost would include the postage charge. Please contact the Secretary.

Travelling exhibition for Museum

“WINDOWS INTO WARTIME”

Home front insights through the lens of NSW government photographers

Our Berrima District Museum is pleased to have secured this travelling exhibition, which has been on display this year in Sydney and NSW regional centres. It will be on display at the museum in Berrima from this December to February 2018. The official opening event will be on Wednesday 6 December, at 5:00pm.

The exhibition engages with the photographic collection of the NSW Government Printing Office to provide insights into the home front during the First World War. It presents a selection of historical images taken by government photographers during the time of Australia's involvement in the War to the cusp of its transition into post-war society that was forever changed. From advancements in public health to volunteer movements, the organising of recruitment campaigns and patriotic fundraising events, to the formation of the Red Cross in Australia and the establishment of soldier support schemes, photographers were on the ground shooting the image. One hundred years later, this unique historical record enables us to reflect upon the upheaval that the War had upon Australian society. The collection is a legacy left to us in the form of fragile glass plate negatives that, under the custodianship and care of State Archives and Records NSW, can be brought to light for generations to come. The insights include:

The purple pandemic - protecting the populace: The need to protect the population from the pneumonic - or 'Spanish' - influenza pandemic that took hold across the globe following the War swept the government into action to combat the spread of the disease in NSW.



Riley St Depot, Surry Hills, 1919, (NRS4481 ST6679)

Photo courtesy State Archives and Records NSW.

Members keen about Placenames

David Blair, researcher on the Australian National Placenames Survey project and *Placenames Australia* editor, was the speaker at our September meeting.

Those attending were most fascinated with the talk. David began by explaining what a placename is. Technically known as a *toponym*, it is 'a place and its name' not 'a name for places'. So *Burwood* (NSW) and *Burwood* (Vic) are different placenames, not the same placename appearing in different places.

Each toponym is identified by the unique set of:

- Name [eg Notts Hill]
- Feature type [eg urban place]
- Location [latitude and longitude]

David then spoke about the complex process by which the Placenames Survey project researches the meanings and origins of Australia's millions of placenames. While it requires historian skills, the skill of the linguist is also essential (which is David's profession) as is a most comprehensive knowledge of the many Aboriginal languages and dialects.

The Placenames Survey provides its research results to bodies such as the Geographical Names Board of NSW. Some name origins are well known: Sydney is named after Viscount Sydney; Ashbury is located between Ashfield and Canterbury; Coonamble is from the Gamilaraay language meaning 'place of bullock droppings'; Penrith is from the town in Cumbria, named by Governor Macquarie.

What about Wingecarribee Shire placenames? David informed the meeting that the meanings commonly given for several of them are somewhat doubtful.

He had not found definite linguistic support for the accepted meanings for Berrima, being 'black swan' or 'to the south'. The given meanings of Bong Bong are also open to doubt. It was suggested by a member that Bong Bong may well mean 'human buttocks' as this apparently is how the area once appeared to Aboriginals looking westward from the escarpment.

The name Wingecarribee, recorded by Macquarie as 'Winge Karrabee' and adopted by the Oxley family as 'Wingecarribbee', is said to mean 'a flight of birds' or 'waters to rest beside'. David proposed that if this is from the Dharawal language, then it is not supported linguistically and the nearest he could find to the sound is a word for the sulphur-crested cockatoo.

Members resolved to create an informal working group to further investigate our local placenames.

Berrima Court House and the Hero of Waterloo Hotel

Researched story by Linda Emery

At first glance, it would seem that the refined Berrima Court House building and the more modest pub on the corner of Windmill and Fort Streets in Sydney have nothing in common, apart from the fact that they were built around the same time. The court house was completed in 1838 and the Hero of Waterloo hotel seven years later in 1845. The link between them is the stonemason, George Paton.

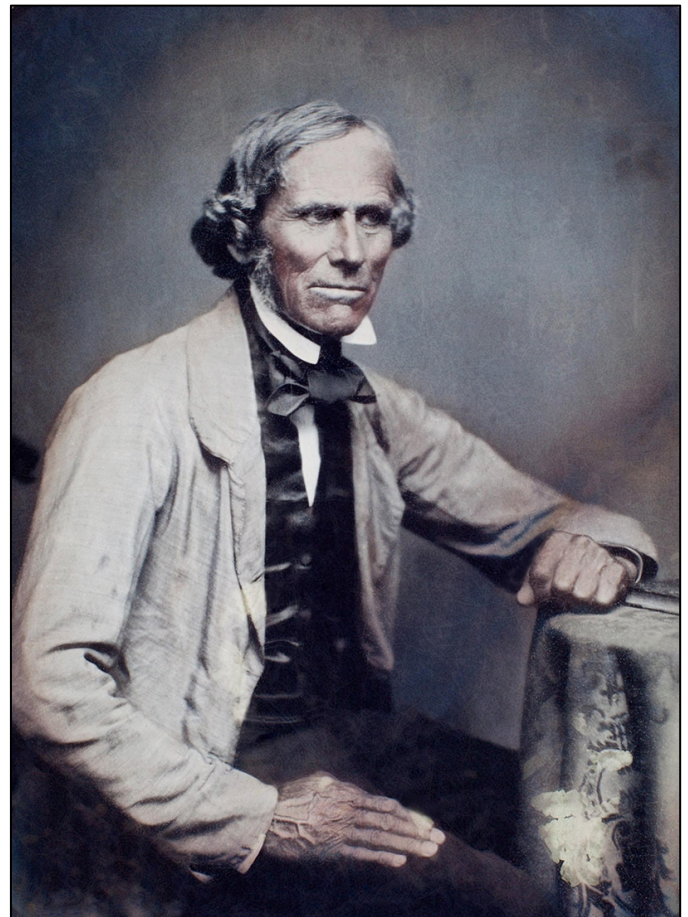
The construction of Berrima Court House was not without its problems, with several contractors unable, for various reasons, to complete the work.

By 1837, George Paton had taken on the job, first as the contractor and later as the superintendent for Young and Co of Bathurst Street, Sydney. When the building was finally completed the *Sydney Gazette* reported that 'the very superior style in which the work is executed reflects great credit both on the contractors and on the workmen employed¹.

So who was this expert stonemason?

George Paton was born in Ayrshire, Scotland in 1800. He arrived in Sydney in October 1831 with his wife Jean and two daughters on the ship *Stirling Castle* which had been chartered by the Reverend John Dunmore Lang to bring Scottish tradesmen and their families to NSW. George was one of 19 stonemasons on board, the other trades including carpenters and joiners, plasterers, cabinet makers and blacksmiths, who had all received free passage on the condition that it be repaid from their future wages. Lang's scheme and the arrival of these skilled workers was greeted with much enthusiasm in the local press². George's brother Robert, also a stonemason, emigrated to NSW in 1832. Robert worked with George on Berrima Court House and was later Government Foreman of Works at Circular Quay.

For George Paton, the move to NSW proved a great success and he was soon undertaking government contract work. He obtained land in Kent Street (Observatory Hill) to establish a quarry in 1834 and in 1835 was financially secure enough to purchase a house in The Rocks for £335. In the 1840s he was the stonemason for many buildings including the Garrison Church in The Rocks, the Lecture Room of the Australian College, Sydney Post Office and the Australian Museum, as well as undertaking the first stone kerbing and guttering of the streets of Sydney.



George seems to have escaped the worst effects of the 1840s depression and had acquired land on the corner of Windmill and Lower Fort Streets where he built the Hero of Waterloo, the now-iconic three-storey, sandstone hotel with cellars and a hipped iron roof. The simple vernacular design, which is largely original, is an excellent example of 1840s pub architecture. Named for the Duke of Wellington – the hero of the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo - George obtained the first licence in April 1845, and almost immediately advertised the lease of the licensed premises, to be available from 1st July³.

Thomas Kirkman became the first publican of what is claimed to be Sydney's oldest continuously trading hotel.

George Paton died at his home, Kilwinning, in Five Dock in 1860. His legacy, largely unknown, is the beautiful stonework that has survived for more than 175 years in some of the most important buildings in Sydney.

He has also left his mark in Berrima where, if you look carefully above the pediment on the eastern side of the Court House, you will find his initials – GP – etched into the stone.

¹ Sydney Gazette 12 April 1838

² Sydney Gazette 15 Oct 1831

³ SMH 14 June 1845.

Henry William Taylor of Moss Vale

Part Two of a history compiled by Philip Morton

One of Moss Vale's most prominent early residents was Henry William Taylor. Details of his active and public-spirited life continue here, drawn mostly from articles in local newspapers of the time.

Henry had arrived at Berrima in 1839 as an infant with Anne Taylor, his widowed mother. There she met Lewis Levy, married him in 1840 and by the 1850s they were operating a store at Berrima. Henry was Annie's only child. From 1866 he operated a Moss Vale store owned by his step-father. By the late 1870s Henry had purchased the Commercial Hotel next door. Located at the corner of Berrima Rd and Argyle St, it stands today as the Jemmy Moss Hotel.

Henry and his wife Jane lived at the Commercial Hotel and raised eleven children. As an indication of the couple's regard for Henry's step-father, their first son, born in 1869, was named Lewis John and all eleven children were given the name 'Levy' as one of their forenames.

Henry, when aged 21, had joined the Berrima Masonic fraternity, and served as Grand Master for fifteen terms. As well, he was one of the founders of the local Manchester Unity Order of Oddfellows, the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society and the Loyal Orange Lodge. These societies raised money to care for those in need.

Henry was an enthusiastic sportsman and follower of horse-racing. According to the Moss Vale *Scrutineer*, when a two-day meeting was held at the Browley racecourse, he was a leading official of the club. Shooting was also a favourite pastime, and besides local game he would go to the Monaro district and combine a short respite with a shooting excursion.

Numerous local clubs and organisations met at his hotel including the race club, rifle and gun clubs, and various football clubs. Another group to meet there regularly was the Berrima District Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society (AH&I). Its main function was to hold the district's annual Show at Moss Vale, which was a grand occasion and a highlight of each year.

The *Bowral Free Press* reported on an AH&I meeting held at the hotel in March 1888. On its committee were prominent landowners, businessmen and officials of the district including H E Kater, W McCourt, E H Badgery, J A Badgery, W Morrice, J Loseby, W Osborne, C Nicholson and H W Taylor.

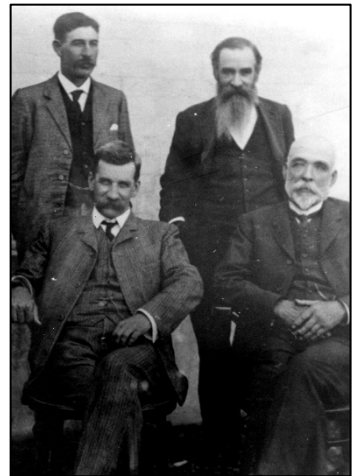
The meeting was informed that His Excellency Lord Carrington regretted being unable to open the Show, but would ride over in the afternoon. William McCourt inquired about the publicans' refreshment booths, and was informed that they would be permitted to sell all drinks which the law allowed.

McCourt was the local district's state parliamentary representative, being the Member for Camden in the NSW Legislative Assembly. He first won the seat in 1882. He had moved up from Wollongong in 1874 and founded the *Scrutineer and West Camden Advocate* at Moss Vale. As a child, he had come to the Illawarra in 1853 with his Irish parents and, after attending school, completed a printer's apprenticeship with the *Mercury*.

McCourt established the *Scrutineer* as a major district newspaper before selling it in 1886. He was a land speculator and investor, served on the local Cottage Hospital Board, was a director of the local Butter Company and was Master of the Bowral Masonic Lodge. He read avidly, played cricket and enjoyed shooting. He thus had interests in common with Henry Taylor, and their paths would often cross, not always amicably, as will be told.

Moss Vale was gazetted as a Municipality in September 1888 and 29 candidates contested the election that November. The nine councillors elected included N H Throsby (the first mayor), H E Kater, P H Throsby and H W Taylor.

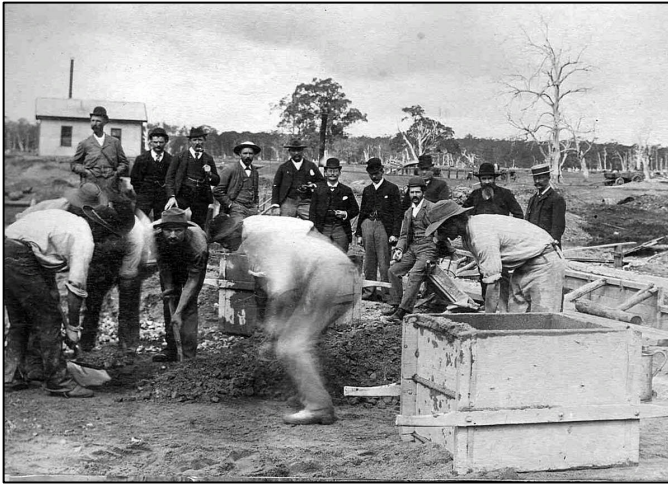
Henry W Taylor would serve as an alderman for 21 years, actively supporting many town improvements (pictured here *back right* in 1900 with other Moss Vale councillors).



Active Councillor, Mayor and Shire President

Initially Moss Vale Council occupied rented premises and undertook town improvements such as tree plantings, sealing the road along Argyle St and provision of footpaths and gutters. During 1890 a two-storey Council Chambers was built on land in Throsby St, opening on 21 March 1891.

The town grew as a district administrative centre. On 1 March 1890, it was one of the first country towns to switch on its own electricity system to light streets and private homes.



A water supply was completed in 1894, with pipes connected to a dam and pumping station at Bong Bong on the Wingecarribee River. Alderman Taylor (second from right above) was active in all these developments.

At State elections in 1894, Taylor stood as a free trade and labour candidate to represent the local electorate in the Legislative Assembly. He thereby challenged William McCourt, a supporter of liberalism, who had held the seat from 1882 to 1885, and then from 1887.

McCourt had founded the Moss Vale *Scrutineer* in 1874, built it into a major local newspaper and sold it in 1886. He prospered in land and investment dealings, and established a family home at Berrima. From 1887 he was chairman of the Intercolonial Investment, Land & Building Company of Sydney.

The two men had known each other since the 1870s. They were both masonic brethren and involved in local sports groups. They were members of the Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society (AH&I) which held the district's annual Show at Moss Vale from 1884. Perhaps at first the two men had amiable relations but, by the 1890s, their paths had diverged. Taylor, 10 years older, was a local alderman and labour man, while McCourt had risen to political prominence in Sydney.

Despite the challenge in 1894, McCourt easily retained his seat. Taylor bided his time. He continued with his civic duties, participating in the AH&I Society's purchase of Moss Vale show ground in 1898. Deeds for an enlarged area of 16 acres were finalised with Frank Throsby, whose family owned the land.

Taylor's mother Annie had moved to Sydney with her husband Lewis, who died there in 1879. She returned to Moss Vale, living at her son's hotel until 1898 when she passed away. She is buried at Berrima cemetery.

In February 1899, the *Scrutineer* published the re-election speeches of several aldermen for an upcoming Moss Vale council election, including that of H W Taylor.

In his speech, Taylor stressed that he was one of the municipality's oldest aldermen. It was 12 years ago since he moved to secure the incorporation of Moss Vale. A new Post Office, School of Arts, improved railway facilities and a new bridge in Argyle Street had all been provided. No individual alderman could claim the credit for the waterworks, but council had completed it at a cost of 13,000 pounds. He had always sought to be a working member and again asked the ratepayers for their votes. He was duly re-elected and, from 1900, served a term as Mayor.

That same year William McCourt was appointed by his liberal affiliates as Speaker in the NSW Legislative Assembly. A banquet was held locally to celebrate the sitting member's rise in status.

Shires were established in rural areas of NSW in 1906. Wingecarribee Shire Council was formed to encompass the district's villages and rural areas to the east, south and west of Moss Vale with headquarters in the town. The first councillors were F A Badgery, D Morrice, W Hindmarsh, H W Taylor, J A Badgery and A Carter. In 1910 Henry Taylor became Shire president. He was aged 70.

Prior to NSW state elections being held in October 1910, a meeting at the Commercial Hotel in June formed a labour league branch. Taylor was an office-bearer and actively supported a candidate against McCourt, who had been the district's sitting member since 1882 and whom Taylor had opposed in 1894.

At the October elections, the Labour party won by a very tight margin. McCourt retained his seat but, for the first time in years, the liberals no longer held power. In December that year, Taylor was appointed to the position of District Coroner.

This caused some minor furore in Parliament, as will be explained in the final part of this series.



Taylor's Commercial Hotel, Moss Vale in 1908.

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

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email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com ☎ web: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

- ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.
OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and newsletters of other societies.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, and during school and public holidays.
Museum Committee: John Schweers (Manager, Tour Bookings), Harlan Hall (Project Manager),
Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Harold Wall (Human Resources).
- MEMBERSHIP:** Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 – Single \$25.00 – Family \$35.00.
- AFFILIATIONS:** Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies,
Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

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Management Committee: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, plus Peg Harvey (Minute Secretary),
Denyse Barker, Denise Mackey, Carolyn Dougherty and Jenny Frost