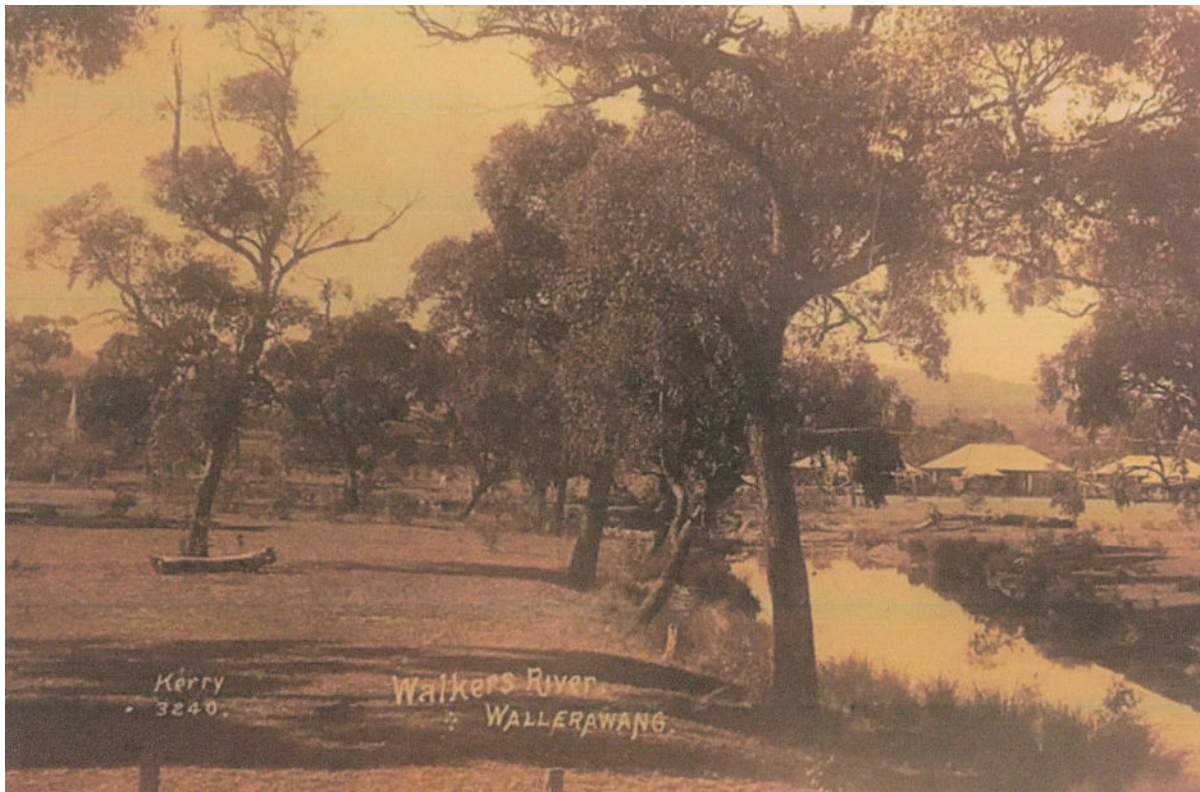




# Lithgow Pioneer Press



## **WALLERAWANG 200th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE - PART 1**

IN 1824 JAMES WALKER TOOK UP HIS 2,000 ACRE LAND GRANT IN THE PARISH OF LIDSDALE, NAMING IT *WALLEROWANG ESTATE*. THE PROPERTY BECAME THE HEADQUARTERS OF A GRAZING EMPIRE THAT STRETCHED ACROSS NEW SOUTH WALES TO THE LUSH PASTURES ALONG THE CASTLEREAGH RIVER.

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# LITHGOW & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY

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**Committee of Management meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 2 pm.**

**Meeting dates:** 2024: 18 Mar, 15 April - AGM, 20 May, 17 Jun, 15 Jul, 19 Aug, 15 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov, No meeting in December.

Members are welcome to attend or submit ideas for discussion.

## **FEES**

### **MEMBERSHIP (1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025)**

Membership yearly - 3 journals (mailed journals) \$45

- 3 journals (emailed journals) \$40

Membership from October 1st 2023 - 2 journals \$25 posted or by email \$20

### **RESEARCH:**

Research fees: for non-members mail enquiries minimum 2 hours \$40

Members who live outside the Lithgow area can request 3 hours research by our Research Officer.

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## SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2024

Bookings for Bicentenary Dinner at Wallerawang Bowling Club close on 29 March 2024.

Register online for Barton Park Cemetery Tour as Numbers are strictly limited.

<https://forms.gle/RK7ootLRpeSaNAGd7>

**BLACK GOLD WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 11 AM AND 2 PM FOR COFFEE OR LUNCH.**

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## COMMENTS

The story of Wallerawang is 'bigger than Ben Hur'. The cast of characters were larger than life, it seems. In the early days of the colony there was land and wealth for those with vision, money and who knew the value of hard work.

We have focused on the first 50 years after James Walker took up his land grant, and more had been left unsaid than is written in these pages.

This journal has focused on James Walker, Andrew Brown, the aboriginal people whose lifestyle changed forever with the arrival of the first white settlers, some of whom are named in the list of convicts or burials in Walker's private cemetery.

We will be continuing the story in our June 2024 journal when we will be focusing on the building of the community of Wallerawang. The establishment of law and order, communication, the school and the churches, and the beginning of mining which has made a huge impact on the prosperity of the community.

For those who wish to learn more, the June journal will include a list of resources and books which were consulted as we sought to give an insight into the first 50 years of this community.

## WALLERAWANG TIMELINE

### 1823 - 1873

1823 - Surveyor McBrien and party surveying the route to Bathurst crossed a stream which he duly noted in his field book by its native name, spelt 'Walerawang',

1824 - James Walker established *Wallerowang Estate* on his 2,000 acre land grant in the pleasant valley called by the aboriginal people "Wallerowang", meaning 'a place of wood and water'.

1828 - Surveyor Edmond Lockyer surveyed the route to Mudgee.

1835 - Paddy Brown conducted the Carrier's Arms Inn at junction of Mudgee Road and Mad-dox Lane.

1836 - Charles Darwin visited "Wallerowang House".

1851 - Discovery of gold in Bathurst-Mudgee District led to a vast increase in traffic and population in the valley. Lidsdale grew into a busy township.

1856 - Death of James Walker - 24 November.

1860 - Wallerawang National School opened.

1867 - Mining of kerosene shale at Kerosene Vale.

1870 - Railway line expanded to Wallerawang. Opened 17 March. Railway Station and gate keeper's house built. Hotels, shops established alongside station. Cobb & Co coaches met trains to convey passengers to Bathurst and Mudgee.

1870 - Earliest houses built west of Commens Street. First Post Office known as Wallerawang Established 24 April, situated on Main Road about 1 mile from Railway Station. W T Cord-erooy in charge. Wallerawang - Rydal section of railway opened on 1 July.

1871 - Wallerawang Railway Station Post Of-fice opened 1 July. Telegraph facilities at Walle-rawang Railway Station 7 July.

1873 - Wallerawang Post office became known as Lidsdale Post Office and Wallerawang Sta-tion Post Office became known as Wallerawang Post Office on 15 August.

1873 - Messrs CROAKER, CAMPBELL, MITCHELL, BULKELEY and others opened col-lieries by tunnels in the Lithgow seam in Piper's Mount between Wallerawang and Lidsdale, Bulkeley's mine being at Blackman's Flat.

### JAMES WALKER

Settlers with capital were favoured by the land and immigration regulations of the 1820's, since these capitalists could support themselves and relieve the government of expenditure by em-ploying convicts.

In 1812 John MacArthur, Samuel Marsden and Edward Riley despatched their wool to London, the first general shipment of wool from the colo-ny.

By 1819 the large sheep properties were to be found around Parramatta and Liverpool. Macar-thur held 9,600 acres, Marsden 4,500 acres and Wentworth 27,350 acres.

By this time James Walker's brother, William, was beginning to show great interest in the de-velopment of the wool industry, an interest influ-enced greatly by his association with Richard Jones and Edward Riley. William was a junior partner of the merchant firm of Jones, Riley & Walker.

It was William's brother, James Walker, aged 37 with no experience of agriculture, who made up his mind to become a pastoralist in New South Wales. James arrived in Sydney on 24 September 1823 on board the brig *Brutus* along with his friend, a free labourer, 25 year-old An-drew Brown who was born at Tibbermore ( or Tibbermuir or Tippermuir) near Perth, Scotland. James' first job was to choose land.

Nine miles north of the Cox's River crossing at the foot of Mt York, James found land that suit-ed him - good grass in abundance, fertile flats along the river banks and forest so open that a horsemen could gallop through it with ease. By 11th November James Walker was back in Syd-ney and had received a promise of 2,000 acres at the site he has selected and which was know by the aboriginal name of Wallerawang.

A condition of the land grant was that the land-holder would be assigned one convict for every 100 acres of his grant. The government issued



clothing and rations for each convict—2 suits of clothes a year, 8 lb of beef and 10 lb of flour each week, and supplies of tea and sugar.

James Walker took up his land grant in 1824, and named the property *Wallerawang Estate*. He was accompanied by Andrew Brown as his right-hand man and several assigned servants (convicts).

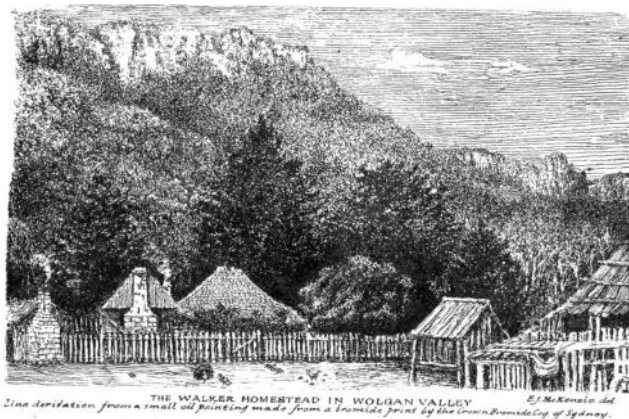
A shepherd's hut, light hurdles for a sheep-pen and a small wooden shelter for the night-watchman were soon erected.

At the homestead site, on the rising ground overlooking a large stretch in a bend of the Cox's River, a wooden hut was built for James Walker and Andrew Brown and turf huts were built nearby for the convicts.

Wheat, which provided flour for bread making, was grown on the flat. The establishment was mostly self-supporting.

In April 1827, James Walker wrote to the Colonial Secretary stating that he brought with him 18 merino sheep (having lost nine on the voyage), agricultural implements and workmen's tools to the amount of £200. He had since purchased sheep in the colony to the amount of £1,500, and has suffered the loss of upwards of 400 head last winter, including seven pure merinos. He now possessed 1800 head and 64 merinos, 312 head of cattle, 15 horses.

In July 1828, William Walker arrived with 160 imported pure-bred Saxon ewes which were pastured on his own grant of 1,000 acres at Wolgan.



Some of the valleys at Wallerawang were low-lying and became swampy in wet weather, and the rough pasture was more suitable for cattle and horses than sheep.

It is recorded that James Walker was a very reli-

gious man. In 1829 he built a sandstone church near the homestead for the use of the family and employees. Rev Colin Stewart, a pioneer Presbyterian Minister of the Central West, was one of the clergymen who were welcomed at Wallerawang. Later improvements included a stone homestead, a large coach house, stone stables and quarters for servants.



*Walker's sandstone Homestead, behind which are the stables.*

Sheep were shorn in November after washing in the river. Fleeces were roughly sorted, pressed and carried to Sydney in Walker's own drays.

James' brother William acted as his agent and arranged shipping and sales of the wool clip in London.

As a result in the 1830's the Walkers extended their holding north to Lue in the Mudgee district (1,920 acres). and then further out to the north-west on to the upper Castlereagh River. James Walker's runs on the Castlereagh were held under depasturing licences. James was a 'landholder' in the earlier sense in respect of Wallerawang and Lue and a "squatter" in respect of his runs along the Castlereagh.

Andrew Brown was left in charge of Walker's station when James left Sydney in February 1831 for a visit 'home' (Scotland). James was to remain in London until 1838 and most of his income was derived from his properties in New South Wales.

While in London, James Walker acted as a shipping agent, persuading possible migrants to travel to New South Wales. His brother William was transporting these immigrants and others to Sydney on his own ships, and a third brother Thom-

as, based in Sydney, was making arrangement to engage these immigrants on their arrival.

Thomas Walker had business oversight of the stations owned by his older brothers at this time.

The Walkers also sponsored many many free settlers, paying their passage in return for a fixed term of labour on one of their properties.

As a result of their enterprise, Andrew Brown had access to a ready supply of more experienced labourers for the Walker stations.

By 1834 Wallerawang was described as an 'old-established property', Lue was more recently established. David Archer, a cousin of the Walker family, was made joint superintendent in 1836 after training under Brown, and took full charge of the Walker properties in 1837 when Brown left Walker's employment to look after his own properties at Coerwull and on the Castlereagh.

James Walker returned to Sydney in April 1839 with his wife, Robina and family. Up until this time Wallerawang had been a bachelor establishment. The country was affected by drought but the swampy valleys at Wallerawang had been a good standby in the dry periods and the horses and breeding cattle were sent to the valley in Wolgan.

It appears that Robina Walker faced several challenges - life at Wallerawang was lonely at times. She wrote to James in a letter at that time, "I do not like to be at the mercy of so many convicts, though I have great confidence in Thomas [David Archer's brother] whose size alone has great value here".

Robina and James became the parents of two daughters, Allison born in 1834, and Wilhelmina, who was born in London in 1836, followed by a son Archibald and a daughter Georgina, both born on Wallerawang Estate.

In 1844 Governor Gipps wrote to Lord Stanley stating that James Walker of Wallerawang, holds 27 stations in the Bligh District., totalling 5,184.000 acres. Gipps concluded that the greater part of it consists of barren or mountain land. Walker is recorded as having 3,000 head of cattle and 13,000 sheep and paid no more rent for the land they feed on than is paid by

another person in the same district who holds only 1,000 acres and has on them 1,000 cattle.

James Walker and his friend Andrew Brown were 'canny Scots'. They made full use of the long paddock 'between their properties. Riders drove the sheep from properties out west to be shorn at the home station. This was also a necessity due to the prohibitive cost of transporting the wool clip on roads that were unsuitable for drays. The sheep were later returned to the lush pastures of the Castlereagh River. (The long paddock was the grass along the roadsides, which later were surveyed and fenced off to prevent sheep being injured by passing traffic.)

On 22 May 1856 James Walker was appointed a Member of the NSW Legislative Council.



In his diary dated 24 November 1956 Andrew Brown wrote: My old and valued friend, Mr Walker died and was buried in his own burying ground. On Thursday, he had a slight attack of paralysis which affected his left arm, a fortnight before his death, and although his family and friend took no alarm it appears from his own memorandum that he felt the stroke would prove fatal. He didn't appear to suffer pain and died very peacefully.

James Walker was buried in the family cemetery on Wallerawang Estate.

## CONVICTS ASSIGNED TO JAMES WALKER

### 1821-1825

(name of ship) and date of assignment

James Norton (Hadlow) 13 Feb 1824

Michael Walsh (Hadlow) 13 Feb 1824

Denis Cronan (Southworth) 13 Feb 1824

Thomas Ellis (Fanny) 13 Feb 1824

John Cotton (Eliza) 27 Feb 1824

Edward Foulks (Baring) 27 Feb 1824

John Foulks (Baring) 27 Feb 1824

William Boxer (Mary Ann) 30 April 1824

George Gallymore (Dick) 30 April 1824

William Simms (Adamant) 4 June 1824

Matthew Toole (Tyne) 10 June 1824

John Barney (Countess of Harcourt) 25 Oct 1824

Edward Murray (Prince Regent) 25 Oct 1824

Thomas Start (not stated) 9 Sept 1825

John Miller (Mangles) 9 Sept 1825

James Maynard (not stated) 9 Sept 1825

John Ossall (Mangles) 9 Sept 1825

Edward Dodd (Ann & Amelia) 15 Sept 1825

Patrick Dillon (Prince Regent) 16 Sept 1825

#### Assigned to William Walker:

Peter Connell (Isabella) 2 April 1825

## ANDREW BROWN

Andrew Brown, trusted friend of James Walker, in many ways became his greatest asset.

In return James Walker sponsored Andrew Brown's request for a land grant of 200 acres at Bowenfels which Andrew named Cooerwull,. This small grant was to become the centre of Andrew's empire in later years.

Appointed manager of James' stations, when the latter returned to Scotland in 1831, Andrew travelled west looking for land and opportunity, acquiring land for both James (Yoolundry, Coonamble and Goorianiwa) and himself (Illamurgulia and Tonderburine) through squatting and leasing. He was said to be the first settler along the

Castlereagh and land was there for the taking. He was reported to have put together some of the richest pastureland in the world on the richest black soil found on the slopes of the Coolah and Warrumbungles.

Roads to the Castlereagh district were unsuitable to transport the wool clip by dray to the markets in Sydney.

Andrew employed shepherds and drovers to walk the sheep to Wallerawang and to his own estate at Cooerwull for their annual shearing.

Andrew was deeply religious with strong moral values, rarely drank and never smoked. He lived to the age of 96 and worked hard all his life.

Andrew Brown's diary makes fascinating reading. A day to day record of his life and travels between Cooerwull and his properties in western New South Wales.



Andrew's legacy is usually considered as being Lithgow centric. He built both the South Bowenfels and Bowenfels Church buildings, Cooerwull Academy and the first Cooerwull school, as well as his successful Cooerwull Woollen Mills.

Andrew's friendship with James Walker and his commitment to the effective running of his friend's property 'Wallerawang Estate' between 1831 and 1838 was a tribute to his own integrity.



## ABORIGINAL/FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

The gravestone of Bobby Cullen in the Barton Park Cemetery marks the final resting place of a grandson of King Myles (Myill), known as King of the Wywandy.

Bobby, a member of the Wywandy (sometimes spelt Wywandi) group whose aboriginal name was spelt as Jemmy or Jemi, is believed to be the first full blood aboriginal to be buried in a private cemetery. A breastplate was fabricated for Jemmy Myles by James Walker (see photo). This was a common practice by early settlers to honour the leaders of the aboriginal people on their stations, or with whom they had a peaceful relationship.



The Wallerawang or Cox's River group wandered the area between Duddawarra and the head waters of the Cox's River; the Wywandy from head waters of the Cox's river to Therabulat (Mt Sugarloaf) and the Gundungarra from Mt Sugarloaf to the Burragorang Valley at Natai.

The Wywandy and the Therabulat were bands of the Gundungarra tribe. In the Gundungarra language 'wan' means west and 'di' means belonging to. So the Wywandy people were the people of the Western area of the Gundungarra.

In an interview with Bill Lynch by a reporter from the Sydney Mail in 1896, Lynch said that Therabulat was the name that the aboriginals of the Kanimbla/Megalong called themselves, and which was also the name of the Cox's River.

It is believed that "being on the eastern watershed, the tribe or local group who headquarters were here was probably an offshoot of, or allied to, the coastal tribes and not to the tribes west of the Divide".

The headquarters of the Wywandy were along Piper's Flat Creek, which has a major concentration of art and camping sites. Of their seasonal movements, a few speculations have been made. They spent time in the caves along Piper's Flat Creek, time in Wolgan Valley, Hartley Valley and Lidsdale.

Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth came across an aboriginal camp on the River Lett on a cold day in May 1813. The people had been gathering nectar from the banksia, participating in tool making activities and making possum blankets.

Between 1814 and 1816 the native tribes strongly resisted the passage of the settlers, who as they moved westward, disrupting their food supplies. Areas used by the aboriginals for kangaroo hunting were cleared for sheep and cattle grazing. Attacks on the settlers and their stock increased alarmingly.

This threat was eventually addressed by Governor Macquarie whose strategy to repress Aboriginal movements and raids was to issue an edict that allowed the soldiers not to permit any to approach nearer than sixty yards to their post. If they refused they were to fire on them, or take them as prisoners and sent to Parramatta, handcuffed and chained together. It seems that using this and other measures, the threat decreased by 1817 as it was 'stated' that they were living peaceably and quietly in every part of the colony, unmolested by the white inhabitants'. This peace was to be short-lived, if indeed it happened at all.

By 1824 the aboriginal lifestyle had changed forever. James Walker and Andrew Brown both had Aboriginal encampments established about 500 metres from their homesteads, and the men and women took jobs on the properties. Wallerawang camp was at the area known as Rocky water-hole, downstream from Walker's homestead.

In August 1824 martial law was declared in the Bathurst district by Governor Brisbane to curb the retaliation after a "series of indiscriminate attacks on the stock stations" by the aboriginals which resulted in "slaughter of Black women and Children, unoffending White Men, as well as the lawless Objects of Terror". "The Shedding of Blood is only just where all other means of defence, or or Peace, are exhausted; that Cruelty is



never lawful..... the helpless Women and Children are to be spared”.

Oral history from J Burke told to Aiden Rigeway stated that the local aboriginals were “rounded up by soldiers, who were told to move them out of the valley into Capertee and leave them there. They were left there permanently, for all the aboriginals were shot dead. A cold blooded massacre”. However, it appears that there is no impelling evidence for this or any other massacre in Greater Lithgow.

Capertee Valley was a known place of retreat for the Aboriginal people over a long period. Until the railway arrived in 1882 the area was not densely settled, so the alleged massacre may be viewed sceptically.

In the 1830's a wave of smallpox devastated the tribes and many of the Wallerawang aboriginals are believed to have fled to Emu Plains in the hope of escaping the disease.

Miss Jane Piper (1831-1905) daughter of Captain John Piper, after whom so many Wallerawang landforms are named, recorded the following record of the Wallerawang Bunan (meeting) in her diary, based on second or third word of mouth conversations from unnamed persons who lived close to Wallerawang at the time. “Some time in the forties there was a meeting of several tribes near Wallerawang. They remained a month there and seemed to be performing mystic rites. On going to the camp after the blacks left several large rings had been found to have been formed in the earth. The blacks who were questioned about the affair refused to reveal anything, but it was supposed that the meeting had to do with their religion”.

Due to the severity of the winters and the scarcity of kangaroos to provide skins, the government issued blankets to the local tribes once a year. The Hartley Court House records list the issue of blankets to 60 Cox's River people in 1837. The 1939 return from the Police Officer Hartley list of those to whom blankets were issued stated that Myles (English Name) Myles (Aboriginal Name) has 2 wives, one male child and three female children. The police officer noted that a number of the men and women were afraid to come up to apply for blankets.

In 1841 “Myles Myles” of Cox's River tribe, is listed as being 60 years old, with 2 wives, one female child, and one male child.

In 1842 Myles Myles of Cox's River tribe, aged 61, is listed as having one wife, 2 male and 2 female children.

Also Listed was Jemmy Myles (Aboriginal name - Abai) aged 23, no wife or children. Jackie Myles (Aboriginal Name - Bundar) aged 30, with one wife and no children.

This practice was stopped between 1842 and 1846.

James Walker was known to be sympathetic to the plight of his Aboriginal workers, describing the people as “astute, intelligent, shrewd and well disposed and good with stock” in an article in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1841. He paid them in rations in clothing and paid his best worker £10 per year and three heifers.

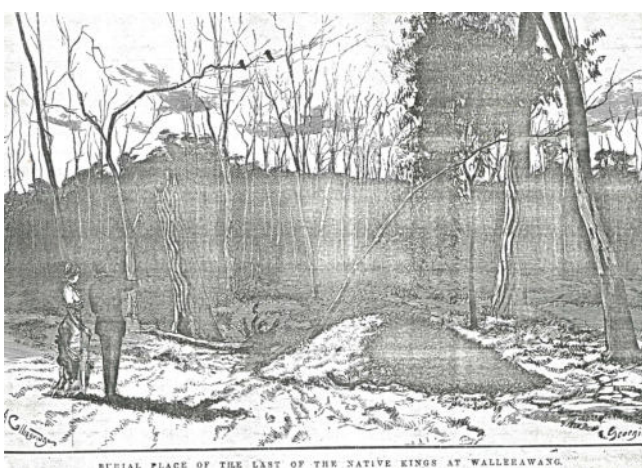
## **OLD MYLES “KING OF WALLERAWANG”**

**(Aboriginal name My-ill or Malyal or Myall)**

Born in 1781, in 1839, Myles as he was called by James Walker, helped Walker capture the bushranger Lambert.

A gang of three bushrangers led by a runaway Lambert was robbing drays and homesteads in the district between Wallerawang and Lue and hardly one of Walker's drays escaped.

James Walker arranged for a breast plate be made to honour Myles' role in assisting in the capture.



Myles died in 1848 and was buried at Wallerawang in a traditional mound, surrounded by carved trees - a custom of the tribes of Western NSW.

An engraving of his burial place, titled ‘Burial place of the last of the native kings at Wallerawang’ was published in the Illustrated Sydney News in 1880.

## ROAD AND RAIL ACCESS TO WALLERAWANG

The pathways used by the aboriginals and cleared lands, in turn became tracks and roadways.

The access into the Wolgan known as Donkey Steps follows the aboriginal track into the valley. James Walker soon realised that this land was suitable for grazing and Ned Murray, one of his assigned convicts, was charged with the task of driving cattle into the valley and lived there for some years.

Cox's Road of 1814 passed well south of Piper's Flat.

Over the years, there had been much discussion about the possible location of both road and railway access from Windsor and Penrith to western New South Wales.

While the government encouraged the finding of new routes from Sydney to the Western County as it was called, the lines were not developed at the time. Some were used as foot or horseback tracks or for moving cattle, and were not suitable for any kind of wheeled traffic.

**BLACKMAN'S LINE OF ROAD:** James Blackman marked the first route between Bathurst and Wallerawang in 1820, and in the following year travelled onto Mudgee, passing Blackman's Flat, Cullen Bullen and Capertee.

**McBRIEN'S LINE OF ROAD:** in 1823, Surveyor McBrien marked a line of road from Collitt's Inn to Bathurst. This line went across the Hartley Valley Floor to leave Hartley Valley by the Gap later known as Doctor's (or Brown's) Gap, through the Lithgow Valley to pass near Wallerawang. Whilst surveying the line of road from Bathurst to Collett's Inn, Surveyor O'Brien noted a stream having the Aboriginal name of "Walerawang" (sic) flowing in a south-easterly direction through an open sandy plain of approximately 1,000 acres of good pasture.

**BELL'S LINE OF ROAD:** In 1823 the Pipers Flat tribe raided Richmond and captured women of the Daruk tribe and took them to Wallerawang. One woman escaped and made her way back to Richmond. Archibald Bell asked her what route she had taken from the west and this became the Bell's Line of Road.

**MADDOX LINE OF ROAD:** Thomas Maddox, who was living at Lidsdale, "opened up a stock route from Cullen Bullen to Bell's Line of Road in 1870. His stock route was shorter and avoided the toll at

Blackmans Flat. This line of road traversed up the spur line on the eastern side of Cullen Bullen (known as Maddox's Pinch) along Ben Bullen Range and north east of the Great Dividing Range to Gardiners Gap. From Gardiners Gap the line followed Long Swamp Road south along the Wolgan Road and joined Angus Place Trail where the present Angus Place Mine is located. This route then joined the Beecroft Firetrail to the junction of the Blackfellows Hand Trail. From thence it followed a small section of the present Old Bell's of Line Road, changed direction due south on the eastern side of the present motorcycle club at Happy Springs and looped around to the east before once again joining the Old Bell's Line of Road. (Note: A section between Bungleboori and Happy Springs, from which the present road deviates, was the source of the water supply for the stock at Paddy's Swamp and the sawmill site). Maddox Line then traversed south east through the present sand mining area, went north of the Main Western Railway loop and along the present road on the northern side of the railway line and joined Bell's Line of Road about 1km west of Valley View Road, Dargan." (Source: [www.bushexplorers.com.au/encyclopaedia](http://www.bushexplorers.com.au/encyclopaedia))

**MULLENS' LINE OF ROAD:** Patrick Mullens, who was living at Blackman's Flat, found a line of road across country from Ben Bullen range to Bell where his line joined Bell's line of Road. The Lithgow Topographic map shows the main access road near Bungleboori and Paddy's Creek as Old Bells Line of Road. The spring within Paddy's Creek would have been used by the drovers to water their cattle and sheep.

/ Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1870 - 1919) / Sat 12 Oct 1872 / Page 1

**TO DROVERS.**—A new track has been discovered by me leading from Ben Bullen to Bell's Line, which evades the Toll Gates, and crosses no private property. The whole of the line is marked, and anyone travelling with stock, will be shown over it by writing to me, as I shall meet them at Ben Bullen.  
**PATRICK MULLENS,**  
Blackman's Flat, Wallerawang, 26th September, 1872.

**HUME'S LINE OF ROAD:** In 1826 Hamilton Hume spoke of the possibility of cutting a line of road from Bell along the ridge to the right in a north westerly direction. The gradual ridge led him to a tableland which he followed for probably ten or twelve miles and then descended a grassy slope of forest land into a green flat with a stream of water through it, which turned out to be the Wallerawang brook, a

tributary of the Cox. (While marking a tree on this track, Hume noted that James Walker and Andrew Brown bailed him up as a bushranger.) The only descent that Hume could find from the tableland was "one marked at the upper part of the Wallerawang valley about 4 mile northerly from Mr Walker's station". Hume, writing of this to the Sydney Morning Herald in 1867 said it appeared strange to him "that this line was not adopted as the general route for traffic to and from Bathurst, and I think it must be regretted that this route did not come under the inspection of some of the surveyors of the line for the Western Railway."

In 1894 it was recorded that Andrew Brown was one of the first to oppose the proposed railway route, aka Zig Zag deviation scheme. It appeared that Andrew favoured Hume's scheme to bring the line up the Grose Valley and descend the mountains at Lidsdale.

Continued pressure by Hartley and Lithgow businessmen and industrialists to the government of the day for the railway to descend into the Lithgow Valley before heading west was a key factor in the construction of the Whitton's Lithgow Zig Zag.



(Photo:  
Coach  
from  
Wallerawang  
to Wolgan)

The railway line was extended from Bowenfels to Wallerawang in 1870, construction of the Wallerawang station marked the end of the contract, and 'the western limit for the general use of stone in construction', the Wallerawang gatehouse being the last stone gatehouse on the line. The completion of the railway spur line from Wallerawang to Mudgee opened up the area for increased settlement.



## INNS & HOTELS - LICENSEES TO 1875

### Mudgee Road

Carriers Arms - Paddy Brown 1835. at Lidsdale (Cnr Mudgee Road and Maddox Lane); Thomas Maddox (date unknown)

Castlereagh Arms (owner Jeremiah Reardon) - Bryan Naughton 1856

Hand & Heart - Richard Blackford 1865 to 1869

Woodland(s) Inn, Cox's River - Patrick Farley Brown 1869 to 1900

Junction Inn - William Sorrell 1870 to 1881.

Square & Compass Inn - Josiah Holt 1871 to 1909

### Blackmans Swamp

The Plough Inn - Andrew Livingstone 1839

Plough & Harrow Inn - Evan Morgan 1848

East India Arms (The) George Thorn 1837, 1838

### Blackmans Flat

Diggers Arms, (owner James Walker) - Luke Williams 1854 to 1857

Forest Inn - Thomas Thom(p)son 1857, 1858, 1860; Thomas Eams (Evans) 1865 to 1869, 1870 to 1875, Agnes Winter 1875 to 1877

Emu & Kangaroo - Pat Mullens 1870 to 1872

### Middle River

Welcome Inn (owner James Walker) - John Walton 1848; John Aldridge 1853 to 1856, Gregor McGregor 1858.

Sheep Shears - John Angus 1853

Butchers Arms - Alex Glenylon 1866

### Pipers Flat

Railway Hotel - James Green 1867 to 1868; Michael Meehan 1869

Royal Hotel (Railway Station) - John Shaw 1870 to 1881

Harp of Erin - John Dempsey 1868

Quarrymans Arms - Hugh Cameron 1868, William Ferguson 1869

### Wallerawang

Royal Hotel - John Shaw 1871, 1882 to 1890

Commercial Hotel - Joseph Harne 1872, Daniel Adams 1873, Christopher Brown 1875

Blue Bell Inn - James Smith 1873



## CHARLES DARWIN AT WALLERAWANG



In January 1836 the young British Botanist, Charles Darwin, crossed the Blue Mountains and his experience led to his grand theory of evolution by natural selection.

Arriving in Sydney Harbour on board *HMS Beagle*, Charles was on a 5 year world surveying voyage. In Sydney Charles hired 'a man and two horses' to take him across the Blue Mountains. On 18th January he detoured across country to a farm called Wallerowang. He had with him a letter of introduction from the landowner (James Walker) to the manager, Andrew Brown.

This property ran sheep, cattle and horses and at the time of Darwin's arrival they had just finished shearing 7,000 sheep. There was also corn and wheat being grown but probably at a subsistence level, rather than what was required for major commercial gain. There were no women mentioned as staying at the farm.

On the 19th David Archer, Walker's nephew, accompanied Darwin and Brown on a tour of the property including a kangaroo hunt. The greyhounds chased a 'kangaroo rat' into a hollow log. Mr Brown shot a platypus which Darwin described as an "extraordinary animal", they were like the water rats of Kenneth Grahame's "Wind in the Willows".

Darwin generally expresses delight at the unique flora and fauna in the area though noting some were becoming 'scarce ... and now only gave bad sport', while not seeing the irony in his words.

Darwin wrote in his diary : *Early in the evening I had been lying on a sunny bank and was reflecting on the strange character of the animals of this country as compared to the rest of the world.*

*A disbeliever In everything beyond his own reason might exclaim 'Surely two distinct Creators must have been (at) work; their object however has been the same and certainly in each case the end is complete'. Would any two workmen ever hit on so beautiful, so simple and yet so artificial a contrivance? I cannot think so. The one hand has worked over the whole world. A Geologist perhaps would suggest that the periods of Creation have been distinct and remote one from the other; That the Creator rested in His Labour.*

It was his observation of the platypus that led him to develop his theories on evolution and then to the publication of Darwin's "Origin of the Species" in an attempt to explain what he saw.

Charles Darwin's visit to Wallerowang is commemorated on a plaque describing his visit in the John Hall park on the western side of Lake Wallace.

(From information submitted by Ros Nolte from articles in Lithgow Mercury, and other sources)

## EARLY FAMILY AT WALLERAWANG

BY TONI DEAN

My 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather **Edward Murray** was born in County Tyrone, Ireland about 1790 to Patrick Murray and Susan (nee Shields).

On 17<sup>th</sup> August 1823 he was convicted of stealing a horse and sent to Australia for Life. He arrived in Sydney on the Prince Regent on 15 July 1824.

He was assigned to James Walker Esq. where he served out his time, about 19 years.

Edward married Roseannah McConvil in Ireland in 1814. Roseannah was born about 1780 and she and Edward had one son and four daughters.

James Walker wrote numerous letters from 1825 to 1827 to the then Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane for free passage for Roseannah and their children Mary (1815), Elizabeth (1817), Susanna (1819), Michael (1822) and Margaret (1824).

The four girls arrived on Sir Joseph Banks on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1828 with Rose and Michael arriving on the City of Edinburgh on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1828 as Michael had been sick.

On the 1828 census it shows Edward as a shep-



herd and was looking after Walkers sheep on his property at Loowee (Lue).

Edward was given his Conditional Pardon and on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1843 become a free settler.

In 1853 he purchased 30 acres of land at Cox's River somewhere.

Edward died 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1862 and Roseannah died 27<sup>th</sup> March 1864 with both being buried in Hartley Cemetery along with their son Michael and grandson James.

Michael Murray married Jane Cunningham in 1842 at St Marys Church, Sydney and had 7 children the eldest being John, born in 1844 at Mar-rangaroo. John married Julia Hughes (born 1843 at Hartley) in 1865 and they had 9 children. John married Elizabeth Ann Masters after Julia died and had another 11 children.



*Gravestone in Hartley Cemetery - Michael Murray and his son James Murray.*

John and Julia's 4<sup>th</sup> child was Sophia Ruth Murray.

My 2nd great grandfather **John White** was born in Utoxeter, Derbyshire England in March 1829 to Joseph and Elizabeth White.

John married Elizabeth Jackson at Sommertown, Derby in May 1852. Elizabeth was born in 1833. John and Elizabeth had 6 girls and 3 boys.

John, Elizabeth & Harriet (1852) arrived in Sydney on the Fortune as assisted immigrants in May 1853. John was aged 24 and occupation a carpenter.

Sarah (1855), George (1857), Emily (1860) and Joseph (1868) were born at Emu Plains. Mary (1865), Amy (1866), Maria (1871) and Albert (1874) were born at Lidsdale.

My great grandparents Joseph White and Sophia Ruth Murray were married in October 1889 in the little Methodist Church on the hill at Lidsdale and went on to have 8 children, the 6<sup>th</sup> being my grandfather James (Jim) White of Lidsdale.

John White died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1889 and Elizabeth died June 1922 and both are buried at Piper's Flat Cemetery as are Joseph, Sophia, Ruth and James.



*Gravestone of John & Elizabeth White at Piper's Flat Cemetery.*

## BARTON PARK CEMETERY

Established by James Walker as a private cemetery for the benefit of family, friends, employees and their family members. It is highly probable that there are several unmarked graves. The cemetery was named Barton Park Cemetery, when the name of the property changed from *Wallerawang Estate* to *Barton Park* after 1867, following the death of her Georgina's mother, when Georgina and her husband Edwin Barton took over the property.

Transcript of names on the gravestones include:

James and Robina Ramsay Walker.

Thomas Gabriel Walker.

Wilhelmina Jane Ann Walker (daughter of James and Robina) wife of Robert George Walker.

Georgina (daughter of James and Robina) and Edwin Barton.

James Lyon Walker Barton and his sister Lou Loveday Walker Barton.

James Walker Barton and Louise Barton.

Mary Barton (newest grave 1951)

Alexander M and Allison Isabella Sidey (daughter of James Walker), daughter Allison Isabella.

Archibald James George Lyon Walker Sidey, son of Charles Sidey.

Mary Blackman.

Ann and Robert Boag, children James and Catherine.

Bobby Cullen.

Thomas and Mary Brown of Eskbank.

Bridget Murray Bruce.

John Bruce.

George Walker Bruce.

John and Ann Bulkeley and children Mary Ellen and Edward Llewellyn.

Alexander Cameron.

Sarah and John Clatworthy .

Joseph and Charlotte Cooke and son Archibald

Walker Cooke.

Mary Coventry, daughter of Henry & Eliza.

Jessie Douglas.

Henry Lloyd Edmonds.

Catherine Bell and David Gorrie and children Christenia and Thomas.

John Gorrie Born Wallerawang.

John Gorrie born Methven, Perthshire, Scotland. Rebecca Johnson.

Dorothy Koster.

William & Eliza Lamb.

Maria McKenzie.

James Maxwell and Wilhelmina Ann Maxwell, children of David Maxwell.

James Maxwell son of William Maxwell.

Janet Cuthbertson McMillan. (earliest grave 1838)

Christina McPherson.

Thomas Percy Miller.

James and Wilhelmina Murray and children Jessie and Wilhelmina.

Julia Murray.

Marian and George Neubeck.

Sarah Jane Parish (wife of C J Parish, manager Wolgan).

Edwin Penrose, accidentally killed at Wallerawang.

Williams Frances Ernest Pessler.

Jospeh Pilgrim.

Ann Pitilla.

John Shaw.

Edith, James, John - children of John & Janet Shaw.

Mary Slavin, wife of John Slavin.

Thomas Thompson.

Isabella Allison Wallerawang Thomson and William Edwin Aubrey Thomson children of Charles Hill and Mary Alfreda Thomson.

Anne Williams (wife of Luke Williams).





## ROBINA RAMSAY WALKER



Born 18 March 1801, Newburn, Fife,  
Scotland

Died 17 January 1867 aged 65.

Married to James Walker 1832, Scotland

Mother of four children -

Allison Isabella

Archibald James

Georgina

Wilhelmina Jane Anne

A true pioneer in petticoats, Robina was the first woman to reside at *Wallerowang Estate*, where she raised her family. On one occasion her plans to accompany her husband on a tour of his properties on the Castlereagh were cancelled due to the increased danger of attack by bushrangers.

## LIBRARY ADDITIONS

B/BRA	The Brands - James, Robert & Sydney - A Family History 1822-1976 (donated by Rod Julian)
B/McG	Early Settlers on the Sofala, Grenfell & Parkes Goldfields - John McGuinness & Mary nee Connor (compiled & donated by Catherine Tisdell)
B/McM	The McMullins of Hartley Vale & Lithgow
F1	Commissions of Peace - J.P.'s Volume 1 1865-1932 (donated by Lynda Lovegrove)
P2756	A History of Ebenezer Church - Australia's Oldest Church (2013 edition) (donated by Lynda Lovegrove)
P2790	Hartley Vale - Management Report on Londonderry Reserve Sept 1985 (donated by Lynda Lovegrove)
P2790	Zig Zag - Lithgow High School Magazine 1955
P2790	Flashback - Images That Made The News In Lithgow For More Than A Century. (compiled & donated by Len Ashworth)
P2795	The Goldfields of NSW - Index to Miscellaneous Records Relating to Vol 1-5 Book 1 at State Records (donated by Lynda Lovegrove)
P2795	The Goldfields of NSW - Index to Miscellaneous Records Relating to Vol 1-5 Book 2 at State Records (donated by Lynda Lovegrove)
P2795	Register of Prospecting Grants - Department of Mines NSW 1888-1932. (donated by Lynda Lovegrove)



## 2024 WALLERAWANG AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD

Robyn Whitty - 2024 Wallerawang Citizen of the Year - Awarded in recognition of Robyn's many years of support in, and with, sporting, Charitable, Family History & National Trust organisations, Wallerawang Tidy Town, Friends of St John church, Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress association.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Robyn, Congratulations from your friends at Lithgow & District Family History Society on your well-deserved Award.

Right: James Walker's 2,000 acre land grant in the Parish of Lidsdale.

Below: An inquisitive mother and three children peer through the windows of the old Walker homestead.

Photo undated - possibly 1940s

