



**Pine Mountain & Districts
Historical Society Inc.**



**Pine Mountain Districts
War Memorial Group Inc.**

History Happenings

Pine Mountain

Quarterly Newsletter

Date 8th September 2023

Edition 2.3

Editorial

Plans are underway for the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cricket Pitch Park on the 11th of November. The numbers of people both locally and from outside Pine Mountain who are attending this ceremony and the ANZAC Day Ceremony in April are growing each year.

Research on a book about the history of the schools in Pine Mountain is attracting much local interest. Thank you to those people who have supplied copies of school photos or related their memories.

If there is anybody else who would like to share school photos or memories, please contact the Historical Society through their website.

A request has been put on Facebook, asking for copies of family photos to be added to the republished *Journey of Faith*, which is an account of several pioneering families of the district.

Other research projects are going well, especially an account of one of the Irish families in the district.

Mary Mahon

Memories

Reminiscences by local residents about life in Pine Mountain in previous times.

The Pine Mountain Dance

Dances were held every few months and were a fundraiser for either the Pine Mountain School Committee, or the Hall Committee. Some locals remember these dances from earlier times.

Dances at the Pine Mountain Hall 1940's and 1950's.

Nellie Wiseman (Sherlock)

We had childish fun learning to dance in those days, weaving in and out through couples who would have had to be blessed with so much patience. Looking back we must have worn out our welcome, our presence caused us to be nuisances; but how else did we learn all the dances? The entertainment was purely ours, every minute was packed with energy. Those Saturday nights full of nostalgia - a glossy floor to slide over, balloons to chase and catch, tubs of sandwiches and cake, and a hot cuppa on offering too, during interval time.

So while the oldies engaged in the time for chatting and eating, the floor was ours (opportunity knocks). After a few more dances the night had to fold, so young and old gathered in a circle, joined hands, paused to get voices ready to sing "Auld Lang Syne". Now our voices weren't the best (no icing on the cake) but we sang with gusto. This beautiful song is revered in having sentiments as it echoes throughout the world and down through the ages. Today I can't get enough of the bag pipes version in bands and sometimes in street marches. It seems planned to warm the heart deeply. Auld Lang Syne is a legend attached with so much nostalgia to the get together at Pine Mountain Hall.

Charlie Edbrooke

I remember dancing the Lancers. Billy Shepherd was the MC. We used to swing the girls around and try to swing them up in the air. Billy would also call out "No rocking in the corners of the hall!"

Christine Ryan (Mahon)

I remember dancing the Lancers and the Monte Carlo.

Pat Devin (Doyle)

I remember the huge teapot. It was the biggest I had ever seen. It was brought out when we had supper.

Bell Belford (Sherlock)

I remember when little children got tired, they would go to sleep and then be put under one of the bench seats around the walls of the hall. When my brother Artie Sherlock was little, he would get tired and go to sleep, then he would be put under one of the bench seats on a rug.

Mary McGibbon (Mahon)

I remember the little children being put under the bench seats at the sides, when they went to sleep.

Len Mahon

The dance floor was always very slippery because Pops had been applied to the floor before the dance began. In the break between dances, the children would run and slide the length of the hall.

Note: Pops was a granulated wax which was scattered before the dance and distributed by the dancers' feet. A Pops-polished floor is a very slippery thing, and a well- executed slide could take you the full length of the hall.

Rick and Thel Carey performed a song "The Pine Mountain Dance". Supplied by Mary McGibbon (Mahon)



13 Pine Mountain
Dance.m4a

History Snippets

Origin of Place Names in Pine Mountain

Pine Mountain and District



Pine Mountain, which gave the District its name. Pine trees can be seen on the skyline.

Photo by Len Mahon



Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) named after explorer Allan Cunningham



Photos by Mary Mahon

The district of Pine Mountain is a rural area about 12 kilometres North West of Ipswich, in the Parish of Brassall and County of Churchill. A nearby mountain which was covered in hoop pine trees gave its name to the area. Pine Mountain is 766 feet (233 metres) sea level.

The original occupants of the Pine Mountain area were the Ugarapul Aboriginal people. In 1824, the explorers John Oxley and Allan Cunningham and the convict Finnegan explored the reaches of the Brisbane River. On 21st September, Cunningham mentioned meeting an elderly Aboriginal man who had been fishing with a spear near Upper Blackwall. Cunningham described his friendliness and his 'open frankness of Countenance' as he showed them convenient places to cross the river and accompanied them to the foot of Pine Mountain. The bush here was extremely dense and, as the Aboriginal man was hampered by his long spears, he left the explorers. Cunningham then climbed the mountain and examined the pine trees which he had previously seen only from a distance. These hoop pine trees were known as *Kambratchabin* by the local Aborigines.

Oxley and Cunningham entered a forest on Pine Mountain and were delighted with the magnificent specimens they found of the hoop pine which has since been called *Araucaria Cunninghamii*, in honour of Allan Cunningham. They found numerous specimens having a circumference of 10 feet (3 metres) at 4 feet from the ground. Cunningham wrote about one particular tree, "It was totally impossible not to halt a few moments to admire this noble tree". They climbed the mountain, hoping to get a view of the country; but due to the density of the undergrowth and the height of the trees, this was prevented.

The Pine Mountain district was rich in timber, chiefly pine and cedar, and subsequently it was realized that the soil was also quite productive. Logging started in the area from about the mid 1840's; and there was a well-established group of timber getters in the district. Pine Mountain's pioneer sawyers were fellows named Crouch, James Josey and William Vowles, who erected some of the earliest buildings in Ipswich. Other sawyers moved in, harvesting the much needed timber with which to build this new settlement of Ipswich. To a large extent, the early timber buildings in Ipswich were built using timber from Pine Mountain. This was before the Irish immigrants settled in the 1860's.

In the 21st century, the district of Pine Mountain is a vibrant settlement, with a mixture of older residents and young families. It is only a 20 minute drive to Ipswich, in contrast to the long journeys undertaken on dirt tracks on the early days.

Research by Mary Mahon

Past Times in Pine Mountain

QT Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser (Qld.: 1861-1908)

Tues 23 May 1905

Sports Day at Pine Mountain

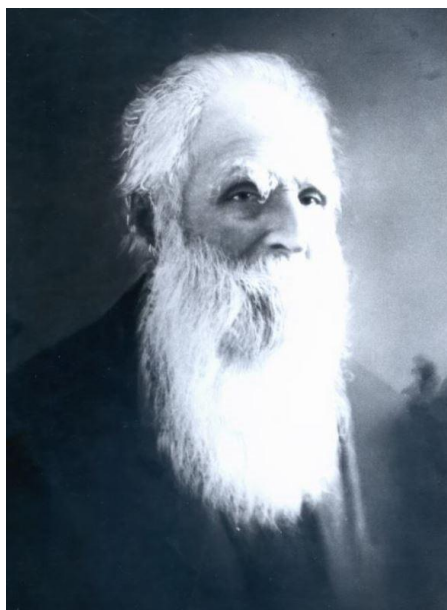
At the Ipswich Police Court, on Saturday morning last, Patrick Kennedy, licensee of the Royal Exchange Hotel, Fernvale, made application to the Police Magistrate for permission to use his license at the sports to be held at Pine Mountain on the 29th instant. The application was granted.

Note: The Sports Ground was opposite the Cricket Pitch Park on the other side of Russell's Road, on the corner near Pine Mountain Road.

Pioneers and Early Settlers

Information about a resident of Pine Mountain who has made a mark on the district.

John Thomas Hill (J.T.) Hill
1834 – 1932



J.T. Hill was one of the significant pioneers of the Pine Mountain district – a real character who always had yarns to tell from his many and varied experiences. He arrived in Moreton Bay in 1857, aged 23. After working in Brisbane, he moved to Ipswich in 1860, where he purchased a bullock team and went droving. J.T. Hill travelled extensively around South East Queensland taking provisions and carting wool and other products back to Ipswich to be transported via the river to Brisbane. He also took the settlers and their goods to their desired locations. A little later, Hill purchased a butcher's shop at North Ipswich with Mr. William Coleman. Three years later he sold out and purchased his first farm 'Glenrock' at Borallon.

J.T. Hill married Harriet Paten in Brisbane in 1862. The couple had 8 children.

His second Hill farm 'Gradwell', on the banks of the Brisbane River consisted of 200 acres on which a variety of crops were grown – vegetables, fruits, flowers and lucerne. J.T. Hill cured bacon and hams which won a number of awards at the West Moreton Agricultural Show.

Hill's Crossing at the back of Pine Mountain on the Brisbane River was originally designated as a stock route for crossing cattle; and was used by stage coaches to cross the river until the road opened through Fernvale.

Research by Colleen Engel

In 1926, Hill was interviewed by the local newspaper; and he gave an account of his life in early Brisbane when he arrived in Australia. In an excerpt from the newspaper article, he describes his life and experiences in Ipswich and Pine Mountain.

Queensland Times (Ipswich, Qld.:1900 – 1954) Sat 18 December 1926. Page 12

MR. J. T. HILL YOUNG AT NINETY-TWO. BRISBANE BEFORE SEPARATION.

Mr. J. T. Hill. (92), of Borallon, is proud of the fact that, although he emigrated to Moreton Bay when he was 23 years old, he did not come to Queensland, but Queensland came to him. He had been in the country a year when Separation came, and he was no longer in New South Wales, but in the new colony, Queensland.

He was born on the Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire, on July 2, 1834, and came to Australia in June. 1857. He was first employed by an ironmonger named Sutherland, whose shop was next to the present site of the Bank of New South Wales. (in Brisbane). Then the Brisbane Post Office was a tiny cottage where the Town Hall is now. It had a lean-to at the back, and Mrs. Hill has seen goats sunning themselves on its shingled roof. In Queen Street, opposite where the Town Hall is today, the ruts were so deep in the rocky

road that traffic was scarcely possible. Mr. Hill saw a heavy dray break its axle in one of these ruts, and it lay there for two days without in any way interfering with the traffic of "Brisbane Town."

..... (In 1860 J.T. Hill moved to Ipswich) where he bought a bullock team and went droving. He travelled far into the West and to many other parts of the State, taking provisions inland and carting wool and other produce to the "head of navigation," Ipswich. Many settlers travelled far out-back to their selections on his wagon, for in those days there was no faster transport.

BULLOCK-DRIVING TALES.

He tells thrilling and remarkable tales of his bullock-driving days, a bolt down a thickly timbered mountain side with a heavy load of logs, the taking of four loads of flour through the flooded Lockyer Creek, when the water was over the top of the load, and many other incidents which fill an hour or two with intense interest for anyone who visits the old man.

After a few years as a bullocky he bought a butcher's shop in Ipswich. It was on the side of Limestone Hill near Thorn Street, and Dr. Brown's house and hospital are in the old shop yard. At the end of three years of butchering he sold out and bought his farm at Borallon. He has been there for more than 50 years, and some of the seedlings he planted there have become great trees. In the 1890 flood his orange grove of 400 trees and a big area of vines and other fruit were destroyed. In the 1893 flood, in which the lamps on the Bremer Bridge were just above water, he was driven, with his wife and family, to the top of a hill which became a small island in the flood. Then he built a house above the reach of the highest river.

FATHER TIME CHEATED.

He is as lively an old gentleman as could be found anywhere, as ready for a game with his grandchildren as when he was 50. Finding time rather heavy on his hands, and having a love of native timbers, he makes and polishes scores of beautiful, walking sticks, paper knives, choir batons, and many other useful and beautiful things. The craftsmanship is wonderful, and his hard work on some of the sticks cut from logs of the toughest timbers is astounding. He seems to have quarrelled with Father Time, for that old encroacher has not dared to come near him for many years to make him grow older.

It is a delight to turn in from the Esk road at Borallon to talk for an hour or two with him, and to see his sticks and the intricate windmills and sailing ships he has made for his grandchildren. He clammers aloft like a sailor to attend to the gear of his whirring toys when a gale breaks their sails.

Note: J.T. Hill cheated Father Time for another 6 years after he was interviewed for this newspaper article. He passed away at his farm at Pine Mountain in 1932, at the age of 98 years. He was interred in the Congregational Cemetery with his wife Harriet, who had died in 1915.

Pine Mountain War Veterans

World War I

Private Edward Patrick BARNES



Edward Barnes known as “Copper” was born on 17 October 1892 and his parents were John Barnes and Mary Ann nee Pacey.

His brother, Sergeant John Pacey Barnes, also served. John’s occupation was a horse breaker and a rough rider and his marital status was single.

Edward enlisted as a Private on the 9 December 1915 in Brisbane, Queensland and served with the Australian 2nd Remount Unit, 2nd Reinforcement.

This AIF Unit transported replacement horses to the Light Horse regiments in the Middle East. The 2nd Remount Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board *HMAT A35 Berrima* on 17 December 1915. Edward’s age at embarkation was 23 years 2 months. His Regimental Number was 2784, and his War Service was in Egypt and Palestine.

Fate: Unit transferred to 2nd Light Horse Regiment 9 November 1917; Wounded in Action Rafa, Palestine 9 January 1917; returned to Australia 13 March 1919. Edward passed away on 15 October 1965 and now resting in Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane, Queensland.

Research by Michael Mahon

World War II

WW2 – Private Martin Pacey



Martin Pacey was born on 9th October 1909 in Ipswich to Thomas John Pacey and Bridget nee Tansey. The family with their 10 children lived at Noogoora for more than 20 years.

Australian War Memorial, Canberra

On 22nd October 1939 when Martin was 30 years old he enlisted in the Army with his younger brother, 28 year old James Arthur and they were both part of the 6th Division 2nd A.I.F. They enlisted in Toowoomba and Martin's enlistment number was QX1008 and James QX1009.

Martin listed his sister Adeline as his Next of Kin this was later altered to his brother Patrick Pacey from Forest Hill. His occupation was listed as stockman and his marital status single.

Martin was hospitalised in Ingleburn and Newcastle from 29 December 1939 to 25 January 1940 with pleurisy and pneumonia and then embarked with his unit 2/12th Battalion for the Middle East on 4 May 1940 on H.T. X1 (Queen Mary), disembarking in the Middle East on 17 June 1940.

Private Martin Pacey was Killed in Action at Tobruk, Libya on 22 May 1941 at 31 years of age.

Buried or commemorated at Alamein Memorial (El Alamein), Column 89, Egypt; his name is also listed at Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Forest Hill War Memorial; Laidley War Memorial & Townsville 2/12th Battalion Roll of Honour.

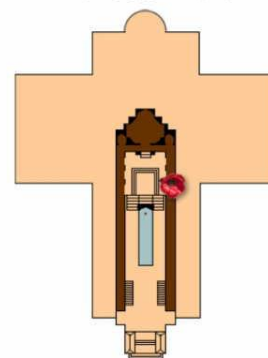
Research by Colleen Engel and Diane Mantei

Battalion information - The 2/12th Battalion was formed on 13 October 1939 as part of the Second Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF) and was attached to the 18th Brigade, which was variously assigned throughout the course of the war to three of the four 2nd AIF divisions—the 6th, 9th and finally, the 7th. Over half of the battalion's personnel were drawn from volunteers from north Queensland, while the rest came from Tasmania. The battalion completed basic training in Australia before embarking for overseas in May 1940.

It was originally intended that the battalion would land in the Middle East; however, the strategic situation in Europe at the time resulted in it being diverted to the United

Location on the Roll of Honour

Martin Pacey's name is located at panel 36 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).



Kingdom where it formed part of Australia's contribution to the defence of the island during a period when an invasion seemed likely. When this threat passed, the 2/12th was sent to North Africa, and in 1941 it took part in the defence of Tobruk and then undertook garrison duties in Syria, before returning to Australia in early 1942.

The siege of Tobruk lasted for 241 days in 1941.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of the Historical Society Newsletter which is put together by hard-working volunteers of the Society.

Please help us by joining our Association. Your membership fee of \$15 would help pay for the on-going research in the projects currently underway. This would be appreciated whether or not you are able to attend meetings.

Membership of the Historical Society

New members are welcomed to join the Society. We host ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Cricket Pitch Park at Pine Mountain each year. The rest of the time is taken up with exchange of ideas and historical research.

Meetings are held once a month in the Rural Fire Brigade Shed at Pine Mountain. Afternoon tea is supplied.

Membership Form

Membership of the association is open to all persons aged 18 years or older, having an interest in Pine Mountain history.

I would like to become a member of the Pine Mountain & Districts Historical Society Inc. I understand that as a member I am bound by the Rules and Constitution of the Society.

Membership is \$15 per year. Bank Details are as follows:

Pine Mountain Historical Society

Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000

Account No. 146568779

Cheques can be addressed to:

The President

Pine Mountain Historical Society Inc.

410 Russells Road,

Pine Mountain. 4306

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Mobile** _____

Email _____

My connection with the district is _____
