

JEANNETTE LEE

THE HISTORY OF THE BOYDELL FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF TAPED INTERVIEW

WITH

MR. RICHARD GRANT BOYDELL

ON

22ND JULY, 1989 AT WALCHA N.S.W.

The Reverend William Grant Broughton was chaplain at the Tower of London when his friend, the Duke of Wellington, selected him to become the first, and only, Bishop of Australia.

Reverend Broughton was born in 1788 and he was educated at the King's School Canterbury until the age of sixteen. The death of his father left the young scholar with no alternative but to seek employment to help support his mother. He worked in the Treasury Department for ten years before a bequest of one thousand pounds from a relative left the way clear for the young man to return to Cambridge to follow the career he had always desired. He graduated in 1818, aged thirty, and married Miss Sarah Francis.

The couple had one son, who died in babyhood, and two daughters, the eldest being Mary Phoebe.

The bishop, his wife and daughters set sail for Australia in 1836 and it was during the long voyage to Australia that Mary Phoebe Broughton, then aged sixteen, met a young Welshman named William Barker Boydell.

William Boydell, who was only eighteen years old, had been studying medicine at the Edinburgh University when news from his older brother Charles enticed him to give up his studies and come to Australia.

Charles Boydell was ten years older than his younger brother and he had arrived in Australia a decade earlier. He had been given a grant of land near to where the township of Gresford now stands.

Mary Phoebe Broughton and William Barker Boydell fell in love during the voyage to Australia but young Boydell had first to establish himself on a grant of land given to him on the Allyn river. He named the property Caergwrle.

Bishop Broughton had announced to the young Welshman that before he could take his daughter's hand in marriage he must first build her a church to worship in and that is how the little church of St. Mary's-on-Allyn came to be.

The couple were married in 1844 at St. James church Sydney and they honeymooned at Government House in Parramatta. They had six sons and four daughters and the property passed to the fifth son, Richard Barker Boydell.

Richard Barker Boydell married Annie Clara Cooper who was the daughter of one of the original land holders around the Gresford area. They had only one son and three daughters. The son, William Joseph, continued to farm Caergwrle as his father and grandfather had done. The homestead which had started out as a modest slab building had been completed by the time William Joseph took over the running of the property. Dairy farming started around the time of the First World War and by the end of the 1940's most of the farms with river frontage to the Allyn and Paterson rivers were dairy farms.

When William Joseph's third son, Richard Grant, took over the property around 1950, dairying was a seven days a week job and this continued until about 1978 when the Boydell family shifted their milk quota from Caergwrle to a property on the Hunter.

Richard Grant and his wife Margaret are now farming on a property at Walcha with their second son James. Their eldest son, Richard, is dairying on the Denman property and the youngest member of the family, Ranald, is studying architecture.

After more than one hundred and fifty years the Boydell family is still farming in Australia, carrying on the traditions of a young Welshman who saw a lifetime of dreams for future generations stretching out before him.

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Date 22nd July 1989

Interviewer Jeannette Lee

THE HISTORY OF THE BOYDELL FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

OPEN FOUNDATION  
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

DATE: 22ND JULY, 1989 LECTURER  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: MARGARET HENRY

TRANSCRIPT

Before the story of the Boydell family in Australia begins I want to make some introduction about a man who played a big part, not only in the early history of the Boydell family, but also in the early history of the church in Australia. He was the first Bishop of Australia, arriving in Australia in 1838.

TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW

WITH MR. RICHARD GRANT BOYDELL

PROJECT TOPIC

THE HISTORY OF THE BOYDELL FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

The Reverend William Grant Boydell was born at Pennington in the County of York, 1785. He was just six years old when his family moved to Dorset where was his father's birthplace, and he received his early education in the local grammar school, and then to the King's school, Dorchester. On the 22nd July, 1838 he was ordained as a priest in the Holy Orders after seven years of study at the King's school. He was a very able scholar and after two years in the Holy Orders he was appointed to the position of Secretary to the Admiralty and after two years in the English Civil Service he received a promotion to the rank of Major, and he was then appointed to the position of Secretary to the Admiralty. He was a very able scholar and after two years in the Holy Orders he was appointed to the position of Secretary to the Admiralty and after two years in the English Civil Service he received a promotion to the rank of Major, and he was then appointed to the position of Secretary to the Admiralty.

BY

JEANNETTE LEE

ON

22ND JULY, 1989

AT

WALCHA N.S.W.

THE HISTORY OF THE BOYDELL FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

RESEARCHER: JEANNETTE LEE

INTERVIEWEE: DICK BOYDELL

DATE: 22ND JULY, 1989

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: WALCHA, N.S.W.

JEANNETTE:

Before the story of the Boydell family in Australia begins I must narrate some information about a man who played a big part, not only in the early history of the Boydell family, but also in the early history of the church in Australia. He has been called the father and founder of the Australian church. The man's name is William Grant Broughton. William Broughton was the first and only Bishop of Australia, exercising jurisdiction over the whole of the island continent, together with Tasmania and ultimately New Zealand also. He was at the time of his selection by the Duke of Wellington chaplain of the Tower of London. Bishop Broughton was enthroned as bishop on the 5th June, 1836.

The Reverend William Grant Broughton was born at Westminster on the 22nd of May, 1788. He was just six years old when his family moved to Barnet which was his mother's birthplace, and he received his early training in the local grammar school. At nine years old he went to the King's school, Canterbury. At the end of his first year in Canterbury he became a King's scholar but he greatly desired to qualify for Holy Orders after seven years in Canterbury. Financial reasons however, made this impracticable. He was offered a clerkship in the Treasury Department and after ten years in the English Civil Service a bequest of one thousand pounds, from a relative, left the way clear for the future bishop to follow the career he had earlier desired. He graduated in January, 1818 aged thirty and this same year married Sarah Francis. They had three children, a son, who died in his babyhood, and two daughters who went out to Australia with their parents and who were the first two candidates the bishop confirmed at his primary confirmation. Bishop Broughton died in England on the 20th February 1853 and he was buried in Canterbury Cathedral.

- JEANNETTE: I would now like to introduce you to Dick Boydell, a fourth-generation Australian, and Dick I guess the story of the Boydell family in Australia begins with Charles in 1826. What can you tell me about Charles?
- DICK: Yes, Charles came out in 1826 and was given a grant of land on the site of what, very close to what is now called the town of Gresford. His property is known as Camyr Allyn after the estate of an aunt in Wales I believe. Camyr Allyn is Welsh for "a cottage on the Allyn". Charles prospered, we don't know exactly, I think he grew a lot of corn and wheat, they had pigs and some cattle. In those days a lot of it was bartering between property owners.
- JEANNETTE: I guess it would all be a whole new adventure for them because they wouldn't know much about the climate or whatever, would they?
- DICK: No, no, not at all.
- JEANNETTE: To know just what the land could produce there?
- DICK: No, and we can get on to that later on anyway with what his younger brother did.
- JEANNETTE: Yes.
- DICK: He wrote enthusiastically to his younger brother who was then a medical student at Edinburgh University and he was only eighteen years of age.
- JEANNETTE: Right, and how long had Charles been out here when he decided to get in touch with the younger brother? He had been out here, what, about ten years?
- DICK: Well it was ten years before he came out but I used to imagine that he had been in touch with him before that, but as he was only eighteen he may have taken a full ten years to let him know.
- JEANNETTE: So the young brother decided to come.
- DICK: Yes.
- JEANNETTE: And Australia called him too.
- DICK: He came out on the ship the "Camden".
- JEANNETTE: Right.
- DICK: The well-known sort of little love story about the bishop's daughter, Bishop Broughton's daughter, who was on the same ship, actually the Bishop, his wife, and two daughters were fellow passengers and it was during that, it used to take them was it about three to four months I think to come out.

- JEANNETTE: Yes, I have heard some of the journeys took about a hundred days it used to be said to arrive.
- DICK: And that was where the romance started between Richard Boydell and Mary Phoebe. He was eighteen and she was sixteen.
- DICK: Charles Boydell was on the wharf to meet his younger brother and the two men went from there to Morpeth in the "Sophia Jane". That was the usual way of travel. William Boydell received a grant of land on the Allyn River and called that property "Caergwrle" which translated from the Welsh means "Fort of Gwrle". I have never heard of another property since that is named Caergwrle.
- JEANNETTE: No.
- DICK: There are several Camyr Allyns and Trevallyns but we have never ever heard of another property called Caergwrle.
- JEANNETTE: Perhaps I could just spell it out, because I can remember when I first saw the name on the gate at Caergwrle, I mean I looked at it and had no idea how to pronounce it, being Welsh, and it is C A E R G W R L E, is that right?
- DICK: Yes.
- JEANNETTE: Right, so young William began to establish himself on the land?
- DICK: Yes. The original part of the house was only a slab building really and very modest and it was later added to, we are not quite sure exactly when but there seemed to be four main rooms with a hall added to this building later on.
- JEANNETTE: And the story goes that Bishop Broughton laid down some laws about "you not only had to have a house for to live in you had to have a house for her to worship in," is that right?
- DICK: Yes, I believe he was a bit of an autocrat really, the old fellow, from what we can make out from matte:
- JEANNETTE: So young William had to more or less put two buildings on the land before the romance could develop any further.
- DICK: Yes, that's right. That's how the church of St. Mary's on Allyn came about .

- JEANNETTE: And obviously named after Mary Phoebe.
- DICK: Yes, yes.
- JEANNETTE: And during that time did Mary ever come to visit the young Welshman as they were, more or less, courting?
- DICK: I don't know how often but we do know that in 1840 Mary Phoebe, accompanied by her mother and sister, visited the Gresford area. That's when on the return trip they caught the "William the Fourth" at Paterson to go to Morpeth. Mention is made in her journal that the steamer struck, stuck several times and they were obliged to wait until morning.
- JEANNETTE: And the "William the Fourth", that's really been in the news with the bicentennial grant last year and of course this is the first, "The William the Fourth".
- DICK: And the romance lasted until the church was built, and when were William and Mary married?
- DICK: The subject of marriage was broached in 1843 and the bishop replied that before he could give his daughter's hand in marriage, young Boydell would have to erect a church for his daughter to worship in. June the twenty-second 1843 Broughton picked a site on Caergwrlle and arranged for the fencing and building and what have you. Then, the church wasn't as big then as it is now, it was a straight-through or gun-barrel construction and the transepts were added around about the turn of the century sometime. The whole church was made from sandstone from the bed of the river and we are led to believe that it was made with convict labour and we have no reason to believe otherwise.
- JEANNETTE: Yes, it probably was in those days. And so they were married in 1844, that was where, in Sydney?
- DICK: At St. James church, Sydney, and they honeymooned at the magnificent old Government House in Parramatta. That was, as far as I know, that was the Governor's residence at the time, and he lent them the house for their honeymoon.
- JEANNETTE: Yes.



- DICK: That old house now, was part of the Kings School, and the National Trust has taken it over now, and it's kept in beautiful repair.
- JEANNETTE: Is it ?  
And the Kings School I believe was founded by -
- DICK: Yes.
- JEANNETTE: Bishop Broughton, right --  
and then, what after the honeymoon they came by ship ?
- DICK: They came by ship to Morpeth. That was the usual way of travel; completed the final twenty-seven or eight miles to Caergwrle, I think by dray, with the hope-chest in the back.
- JEANNETTE: And the church, it was consecrated when ?  
Before the marriage, or that came in ?
- DICK: No, that was in 1845. On the same visit he was meant to consecrate St. Anne's church at Camyr Allyn but this has been a source of annoyance to quite a few Gresford people and it must have been to Charles Boydell at the time that he by-passed St. Anne's church and only consecrated St. Mary's.
- JEANNETTE: Only did the one.
- DICK: And a silver chalice was presented to the church by the bishop. It's a lovely chalice and with the inscription on it "Presented by the Bishop of Winchester to Bishop Broughton in 1828 and presented by Bishop Broughton to St. Mary's Allynbrook in 1845." And that chalice I believe is still kept within the church and used on special occasions.
- JEANNETTE: How lovely, and I believe the family has in their possession a prayer book that belonged to Mary Phoebe
- DICK: Yes. It's a very old book, I'm not just sure when it was printed.
- JEANNETTE: Right, that's really a treasure then.
- JEANNETTE: Now, William and Mary they had how many family ?
- DICK: They had six sons, one of them who died in infancy, his little grave is still at St. Mary's, and four daughters. Caergwrle passed to the fifth son who was my grandfather, Richard Barker Boydell, who married Annie Clara Cooper of Trevallyn. That was also one of the original land grants around Gresford. The fourth and the sixth sons

Charles and Sydney, both became involved in politics, or the workings of politics. Charles was Clerk of the Senate from 1908 to 1917 and Sydney was a Clerk with the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1927 to 1930.

JEANNETTE: So it was the fifth son, Richard Barker, who carried on the work at Caergwrle.

DICK: Yes.

JEANNETTE: Right. And there is a book that I have read by James Miller and he mentions his Aboriginal forbears that lived in the area around Caergwrle and he often mentions they were very kind to them, so obviously William and Mary took the Aboriginals to heart. Have you heard, know anything about that. I believe there is something -

DICK: I have always heard they got along very well together and I, we've, always been led to believe that it was on the advice of the Aborigines as to where the best water, permanent water was, that helped him to select Caergwrle.

JEANNETTE: And I believe the family has a boomerang there that -

DICK: Yes, we have. It's a proper Aboriginal boomerang that I don't, - it was obviously given to the Boydells and we understand that because of the design of it, that it was a presentation-type boomerang more so than a weapon.

JEANNETTE: And what about farming in the early period, the very early period, any ideas what William might have tried on that property?

DICK: I think in those days they used to try nearly everything, even tobacco, as well as the other crops of corn and wheat, and they did - I don't know exactly - but they started growing grapes probably in the 1850's or later. Grapes were planted by the Lindemans in the 1840's and it was some time soon after that that grapes were grown on Caergwrle. It was made into quite a thing the wine making.

JEANNETTE: And then it passed then, as we said, to the fifth son. And their family. They only had one child I believe.

DICK: No, they only had one son and three daughters.

- DICK: My father was William Joseph.
- JEANNETTE: And the homestead, it would have been about finished by now.
- DICK: It would have been. To the best of my knowledge there were no more alterations made, or no more additions made, and over and above the four rooms and the hallway, several other rooms added on to the western or more or less the south-western side of the house. We know the roof was a shingled roof originally and some of the old kitchen buildings still had some of the old shingled roof there which was attached, the shingles were attached to cedar battens, lovely red cedar battens.
- JEANNETTE: And was the house built of sandstone the same as the church was, or not?
- DICK: Well, sandstock brick coated with stucco, it was practically all built like that, but there was a little bit of sandstone in the foundations as far as I know.
- JEANNETTE: And did the house have a cellar ?
- DICK: The house itself didn't, there was no cellar underneath it. The wine cellars themselves were behind the house and there was an underground more or less dungeon type of thing there and the windows were barred with big heavy bars. We were always led to believe that that's where the convicts were shut at night time.
- JEANNETTE: I thought either that or the wine was so good they had to keep it under lock and key.
- DICK: Well yes, could be.
- JEANNETTE: And what about some of the lovely outbuildings that I remember seeing around Caergwrle.
- DICK: They were mainly, mainly made out of slab, and the cellar building was mainly slab, cement floor and enormous big old cast iron coppers for boiling water for vintage. Enormous old things that used to hold, well probably, a hundred odd gallons each. And then of course another building that used to service the harness room and where the old buggies and what have you were housed. The usual meat-house and that type of thing and a little dairy for the one or two milkers they used to milk in those early days.

- JEANNETTE: And the farming itself, talking of the milkers, had the farming itself changed by this stage? What was your grandfather doing at that stage, still just the crops as his father had done?
- DICK: Well yes, and dairying was starting to take over in around the war time, around the first war into the 1920's. But there was also, there were various things experimented with.
- JEANNETTE: There was an old fellow, I believe he was an American, that had a soap factory, he used to make soap, and eucalyptus oil was another industry that was tried in a small way. I don't know whether it lasted very long.
- DICK: And any fires or floods or anything like that in the earlier days that you have heard of?
- JEANNETTE: There have always been, every now and again there will be an enormous flood, but the Allyn river is a very fast running river and they come and go very quickly.
- DICK: It drops very quickly ?
- JEANNETTE: And so there was no, very few floods would last more than several days at the outside.
- DICK: And fires, there have been bad fires but just around Caergwrle I don't, there were never, I 've never heard of any disastrous fires.
- JEANNETTE: Nothing that ever affected the homestead?
- DICK: No. No. It was tucked down on the river and was reasonably safe.
- JEANNETTE: When my father took over running this property it was dairying was really concentrated on, grapes were still grown but it rapidly became obvious that the two didn't work in very well together, that just when all the work should be done towards getting winter feed in for dairy cattle was the most busy time for the vineyards. But also, the climate, it was really a bit too muggy for good grape growing. So that dairying was really the main thing, right up until I suppose the last fifteen years or so.
- JEANNETTE: Right, and the period we are talking about, when your father took over, and when dairying was perhaps, you decided to concentrate more on the dairying, what, that would be in the fourties, fourties to fifties ?

- DICK: Yes, that's when dairying finally became - well let me say this, I think we used to loosely say that there was only one man who had river frontage on the Paterson or Allyn rivers that could afford not to dairy. And that's the way it was then, whereas now it's more or less a complete reversal with very few dairies left there at all.
- JEANNETTE: And you were the only son I believe.
- DICK: Oh no. I had. I'm not the only son by any means. I had two older brothers and three older sisters and one young step-brother; my mother died when I was very young.
- JEANNETTE: But you were the farmer, the property passed to you.
- DICK: I was the one, that was the way it went. Yes. My one brother was killed during the war, my oldest brother, the second-oldest brother he sold his portion and moved further afield and it just happened that I was the one still there at Caergwrle.
- JEANNETTE: And when did you actually take over the running of Caergwrle?
- DICK: I suppose I was virtually running it from about 1950 I suppose. We were married, myself and Margaret were married in 1953 and I certainly had the whole reins of the place then.
- JEANNETTE: Right, and at that stage it was all dairying, that was seven days a week.
- DICK: Yes, that was the thing, that's what you worried about mostly, that's where the money came from every month.
- JEANNETTE: And your family, you have got three sons I believe.
- DICK: I have got three sons, yes. My oldest son Richard, he's still dairying on a property at Denman, my second son James is here with us at Walcha, and our youngest son Ranald is well on his way through an architectural course.
- JEANNETTE: Right, so there are still two Boydells farming?
- DICK: Oh yes.
- JEANNETTE: Fifth generation, that's wonderful.
- DICK: And up until the time you sold Caergwrle and can you tell me why, why the decision to sell the property and move here to Walcha?

- DICK: Well the two might not go together. We made a decision to sell but not necessarily to move to Walcha. It was becoming increasingly evident that all that Gresford and Allynbrook area and all along the Paterson and Allyn rivers was getting closer, time wise, to Sydney and Newcastle and it was rapidly becoming very sort-after area for city people. It was country they could get to very easily at week-ends and that type of thing. And with sons who were keen to get on, get into bigger areas, it seemed the only way to go. Just as William sort of felt it was the thing to do to get out from England and come out here in the first place, we felt it was the thing to do to get out into bigger areas.
- JEANNETTE: It had almost come a complete circle.
- DICK: Yes, yes.
- JEANNETTE: And were you dairying right up until the time you left Caergwrle or had you gone into other areas of farming?
- DICK: No, for some five years before when there had been a re-organisation of milk quotas over the whole state, and we got an opportunity to shift our milk quota from Caergwrle to a place on the Hunter, on a lovely bit of country at Denman, and make it a more viable sort of set-up. And it was a very good decision we feel because we went straight into the big drought in the early eighties and we came through it very well really. We still had plenty of irrigation water.
- JEANNETTE: Yes. And it was a Friesian stock you had.
- DICK: Yes.
- JEANNETTE: So that went to its new home at Denman?
- DICK: Yes. We combined our herd, the best of our herd with the herd that we bought and our oldest son Richard is the stud master there and is doing very well with his breeding and showing.
- JEANNETTE: And here in Walcha. Tell us what the Boydells are doing on the property here. You've got both cattle and sheep?
- DICK: We have both cattle and sheep and we have had mainly cross-bred sheep for fat lambs up until now but we've branched out into a few Merinos as well while the price is so good for Merino wool.

- JEANNETTE: So thank you very much Dick. As we said before, the Boydell family have almost come a complete circle with young William Barker seeing his chance at expanding and coming to bigger pastures here in Australia and now after, what, with almost one hundred and fifty years at Caergwrle, the family have, let's say, moved on for future generations by branching out to bigger pastures in Walcha.
- DICK: Yes, that's the decision made for several reasons and I hope future generations will think we did the right thing.
- JEANNETTE: Thank you very much.

JEANNETTE LEE

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS

REGIONAL HISTORY

PRESENTED 20/9/89

CHARLES BOYDELL AND WILLIAM BARKER BOYDELL

PIONEERS OF THE HUNTER VALLEY

James Boyde... were on the twenty-fourth of February, 1800, by his second marriage to Mary Ann Barker of Elyddir, Wales he had two sons and five daughters. His fourth son Charles and his ninth son William Barker were both to become pioneer settlers in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales.

Charles Boyde... was born in 1800 and at the age of eighteen decided to try his luck in the new colony. The Greenford district of New South Wales had begun to be settled as early as 1812 and young Charles Boyde... was given a grant of land on the Allys River. He named his property "Hazy-Allys" which translated from the Welsh means "Cottage on the Allys". This property stands close to the town of Greenford. He settled there around 1811 and in 1817 he married Elizabeth McDonald's niece. They had three sons and two daughters.

On his property he had the help of one Freeman and his wife, two free convicts, and seven assigned convicts. He kept sheep and cattle and he planted wheat, corn, beans, potatoes and tobacco. The farming land was however, very different to that which the young colonist had known at home and he comments in his journal of the high precipitous banks of the river where the fire and fall of the water is exceedingly quick. Tobacco growing in the area entered for the first time in the early settlers and it remained a profitable crop until the end of the nineteenth century.

Charles Boyde... mentions in his journal of a visit to the home of a Mr. Stone at Green Hills, close to Maitland. He notes that the farm is equal to any other in the area with a garden well stocked with orange trees. Nearby was a store located in the bulk of a vessel called the St. Michael and this was the first store opened in the area on an extensive scale.

1. F.V. Kemble, A Genealogical History of Pioneer Families of Australia. Sydney, 1939, p.p. 62-66.
2. Maitland Mercury Newspaper. 25th October, 1966.



CHARLES BOYDELL AND WILLIAM BARKER BOYDELL  
PIONEERS OF THE HUNTER VALLEY

The family name of Boydell, variously spelt de Boidele, de Boydele and de Boydel has been established in the county of Chester and the county of Lancashire since 1180 and the present spelling Boydell was adopted in 1312. 1.

James Boydell of Rossett, Cheshire was born on the twenty-fourth of February, 1778. By his second marriage to Mary Anne Barber of Llyndir, Wales he had ten sons and five daughters. His fourth son Charles and his ninth son William Barker were both to become pioneer settlers in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales.

Charles Boydell was born in 1808 and at the age of eighteen decided to try his luck in the new colony. The Gresford district of New South Wales had begun to be settled as early as 1812 and young Charles Boydell was given a grant of land on the Allyn river. He named his property Camyr-Allyn which translated from the Welsh means "Cottage on the Allyn". This property stands close to the township of Gresford. He settled there around 1831 and in 1837 he married Elizabeth Macdonald Ritchie. They had three sons and two daughters.

On his property he had the help of one freeman and his wife, two free fencers, and seven assigned convicts. He kept sheep and cattle and he planted wheat, corn, beans, potatoes and tobacco. The farming land was however, very different to that which the young Welshman had known at home and he comments in his journal of the high precipitous banks of the river where the rise and fall of the water is exceedingly quick. Tobacco growing in the area catered for the needs of the early settlers and it remained a profitable crop until the end of the nineteenth century.

Charles Boydell makes mention in his journal of a visit to the home of a Mr. Close at Green Hills, close to Maitland. 2. He notes that the farm is equal to any other in the area with a garden well stocked with orange trees. Nearby was a store housed in the hulk of a vessel called the St. Michael and this was the first store opened in the area on an extensive scale.

1. P.C. Mowle, A Genealogical History of Pioneer Families of Australia. Sydney, 1939. p.p. 62-68.
2. Maitland Mercury Newspaper. 26th October, 1966.

He visited the home of a Mrs. Hunt, alias Molly Morgan, where he was served bread, butter and cheese before continuing on his journey. Whilst in the Maitland area he viewed a new steam packet, a mail boat, named the Sophia Jane. It was the first vessel of its kind to paddle the waters of the area and it was followed by many steamers which came upstream as far as Paterson.

The early years at Camyr-Allyn were spent establishing the farm and it was some time before Charles Boydell turned his attention to his homestead. The personal comforts of the early settler were shelved until the immediate needs of the farm had been established. Charles Boydell sums up the feelings of an early pioneer with his words "Oh want, want, thou hast no end". 3.

Charles, nevertheless, was enthusiastic about the opportunities the new colony offered and wrote with news to his younger brother William Barker.

William Barker Boydell was eighteen yearsold and studying medicine at the Edinburgh University when he decided to follow his older brother to Australia. He sailed out in 1836 aboard the ship 'Camden' arriving in Sydney on the second of June. He was met on the wharf by his brother and the two men then sailed on the Sophia Jane to Morpeth. William received a grant of land further upstream from his brother and he named the property Caergwrle, which is Welsh for "Fort of Gwrle".

A love affair between the young Welshman and a fellow passenger, Mary Phoebe Broughton, had begun during the voyage to Australia. Miss Broughton's father was Bishop William Grant Broughton, the first and only Bishop of Australia. When young William asked for Mary Phoebe's hand in marriage the Bishop replied that a church must be built on the property before any marriage could take place as his daughter must have a house in which to worship her God.

Bishop Broughton was the greatest instigator of church building this country has ever known and he visited Caergwrle in June 1843 and chose a site by the banks of the river where he wanted the church to be built. The original structure was a gun-barrel shape and measured thirty-eight feet by seventeen feet, the transepts not being added until 1890. The church was built from sandstone taken from the bed of the river and a feature of the interior is the stone paving in the vestry and

aisle. The sandstone is grey in colour and resembles granite, the grey colour being caused by limestone washed down in solution from the upper reaches of the Allyn river.

The church was consecrated on the twenty-sixth of November, 1845, the young couple having been married in Sydney the previous year. A silver chalice was presented to the little church of St. Mary's-on-Allyn by the bishop and is inscribed "Presented by the Bishop of Winchester to Bishop Broughton 1828 - Presented by Bishop Broughton to St. Mary's Allynbrook, 1845". 4. The bishop was to have consecrated St. Anne's church at Gresford on the same day but he passed through the property of Camyr-Allyn much to the annoyance of the small congregation and the stone which was to have been laid by the bishop was not put into place until 1898 when it was laid by Bishop Stanton. 5. The two lovely old churches are still in use to-day.

In the early days many crops were tried at Caergwrle including tobacco, wheat, fruits, and some years later grapes were grown on the flats beside the river. Caergwrle became known for its fine wine. Cattle and sheep grazed on the gentle rolling hills surrounding the property.

The original homestead was a modest split-log building and it was incorporated, as the kitchen, into the next stage which comprised four rooms and a hallway. This stage would have been completed around 1840. The homestead was built of sandstock brick, protected by cement rendering and it had a shingle roof.

Both Charles and William Boydell spoke of the Gringai tribe of Aboriginal people who inhabited the Allyn River Valley. William had positive attitudes towards the natives and wrote "we never abused them but fed them and cared for them as we could". 6. When William first came into the area the Aboriginal people looked upon him as the reincarnation of a dead tribesman and gave him the name of "Toomilvy" for they believed in the philosophy of "fall down black fellow, jump up white fellow".

William and Mary Boydell had six sons and four daughters. The property passed to their fifth son, Richard Barker.

William and Mary Boydell are buried at St. Mary's-on-Allyn and Charles Boydell's family is buried at St. Anne's.

4. Newcastle Morning Herald. 5th September, 1974.
5. Newcastle Morning Herald. 4th December, 1971.
6. J. Miller, Koori: A Will to Win Sydney, 1985. p.41.
7. Ibid.

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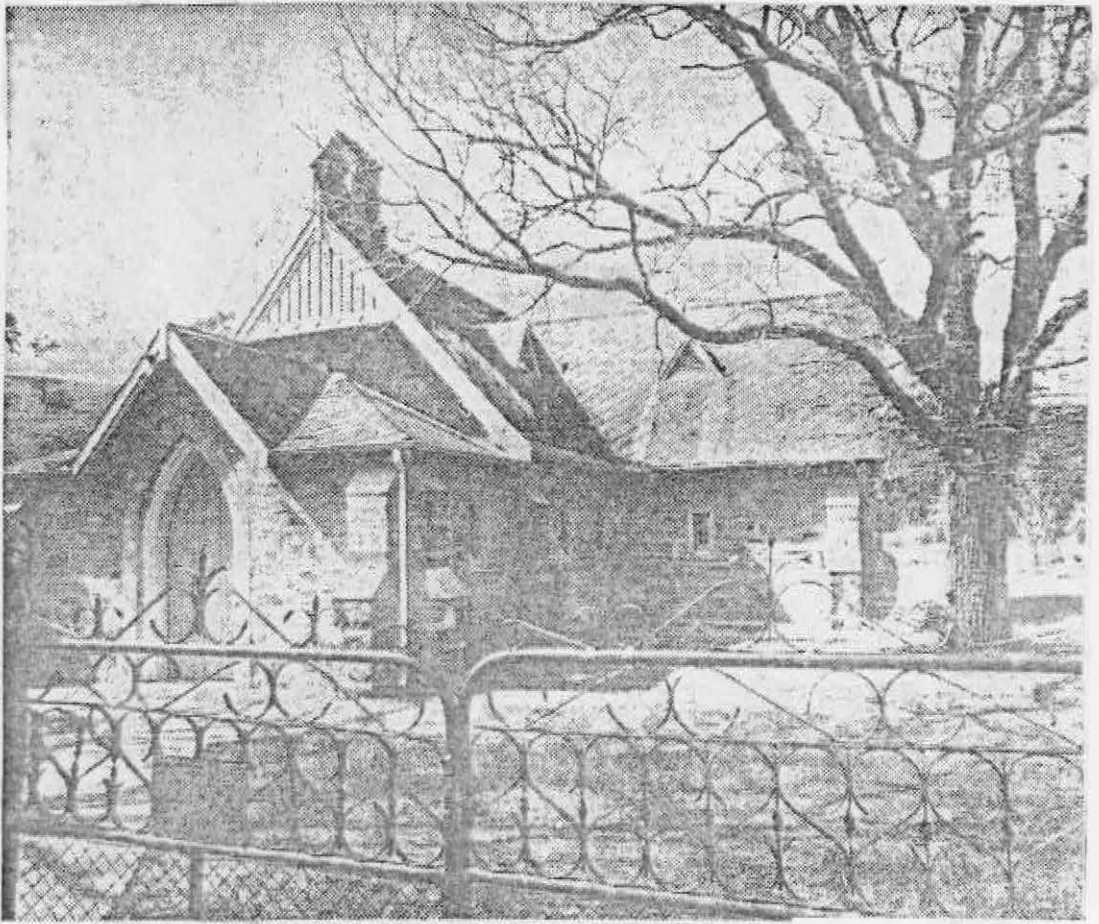
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The historic St Mary-on-Allyn Church, Allynbrook.