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E. Allan  
Signed .....

Date 30 August 1989

Interviewer N. J. Hall

OPEN FOUNDATION REGIONAL HISTORY RESEARCH PAPER

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY TUESDAY 1pm-3pm

TAPE

TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE

SUMMARY OF TRANSCRIPT

HISTORY PAPER ON THE TOWN OF GRETA

NSW.

VALERIE

RANDALL

An Interview With Miss Elsie Allan of GRETA, NSW.

Q. What year was Mr. Allan born?

A. He was born in Newcastle, the family always spoke of Wickham and I think that is where he was born. He was born in 1884.

Q. What year did he come to Greta?

A. That was 1910, when I was two months old.

Q. Who did he work for then?

A. Cann Bakery. The Great Northern it was called then. It was next to the Masonic Hall in the main street (High St.). There were two buildings on the block; the bakers shop and the warehouse had one wall and dad lived on the side next to the Dalwood lane.

Q. Cann's bakery?

A. That's the bakery in Newcastle now.

Q. So Cann's bakery also owned Newcastle bakery and here?

A. It was called the Great Northern up here. I don't know about Newcastle.

Q. How long did he work for Cann's bakery.

A. I don't know. Him and Andy (Mr. A. Brown) went together out to Leconfield.

Q. That was in Bag Town, was it?

A. No, further out. Miss Allan's sister (Mrs Iris Stirrat) will answer some questions as well.

A. Iris. Down where Gordon Chaff has his house on Dalwood Road.

A. Elsie. There was a pit on this side of the hill (Greta side) then you came over the hill, down the road a bit and down a track to the bakehouse, and then down in the gully, there was a house down there where the creek ran along and a dam on the other side, then up the hill from there, Mrs Beckett lived on the top of the hill, Mrs Adder lived just up from her, and then there was the old pit further over from her.

Q. That was Leconfield pit? That is where Leconfield House is?

A. Yes. Leconfield was where we lived.

Q. When did Mr. Allan and Mr. Brown come into Greta?

A. I don't know. About 1922.

Q. Who built the bakehouse?

A. I don't know about that or who owned that before, and when we were burnt out. Out there, it was on a Saturday night when we were at the pictures. They (Mr. Allan and Mr. Brown) always finished work on a Saturday around dinner time. Dad always took us to the pictures if he could. We were going home from the pictures in the sulky and he said "Gee, the moon's coming up bright tonight" and when we got over the hill it was bright and the bakehouse was almost gone, up in flames.

Q. This wasn't a bakehouse when Mr. Brown and Mr. Allan came into town?

A. Yes it was, the ovens and everything was there, but I don't know who owned it. I don't know who they bought it off, but Dr. Walker owned the block next door. Dr. Walker lived opposite. No, I don't know who they bought it off.

Iris. We never asked questions in those days, nothing was talked about in front of children in those days and as you got older you didn't think to ask.

Elsie. We didn't ask questions, we were always told, don't ask questions and if anyone says they're sick, don't ask them what is wrong with them, because in those days it was all secret and people in those days didn't like to tell you what was wrong with them. We grew up not asking questions, we never asked about our own.

Iris. Life was different wasn't it?

Elsie. When visitors came, we went outside and played while the older ones talked.

Q. Mr. Allan and Mr. Brown did they both do the baking?

A. No. Dad would make the doughs in the night and Andy would come out first thing in the morning when the first batch came out. He (Andy) would go out on the cart and Les (Elsie's brother) would do Dalwood and all that because he was only a kid going to school. He would help out and mum would go over to the bakehouse and help there while Andy went out and served the people in Greta. See, that's how they started off. Mum would help with the next batch.

Iris. One time mum said they had all the christmas cakes, big trays of cake all ready to cook and dad got a telegram to say he had to go to Newcastle, so mum said she was left with an oven full of christmas cakes. Dad said you know what to do, there were from little cakes to great big cakes. She used to be able to cut it exactly

Iris to the pound. Oh, mum said it was a worry.

Elsie. But this day when he left her he said "when Andy gets back from the run tell him about the cake. He knows about the timing. He'll know when to take them out."

Well, when mum came out of the bakehouse, Andy was going home. He was going over the hill going home. He wasn't bothered about no cakes. So she didn't know what to do. She didn't know how to judge little cakes or big cakes all done at the one time.

Anyway, she ran the risk, and they were done beautiful. He always made cake like that. They used to buy the fruit in cases. When they were cooked and the people

had ordered a pound, pound and a half or two pounds, mum had to do that. That was her job to cut the cake into weight and wrap them up and put their names on them.

Well, she was that good at it she could cut a pound, pound and a half, she was that used to doing it.

Q. How much was bread in those days?

A. A half was only three pence and six pence.

Iris. I remember when it was five pence.

Elsie. Yes five pence a loaf. It went up by half pennies in those days.

- Q. Was there only Mr. Brown and your father working?
- A. For a long time, until they could get on their feet because they had all the bills to pay with what they were getting in. Mum and Les just did it to help out. Then as they got on a bit, they let Les go on the cart with Andy to Greta to see how they did it. Mum used to go to Branxton. They used to sent bread out to Stanhope and Elderslie to some homes out there. Mr. Williamson (Branxton baker) sold bread to these homes as well. I don't know about the baker from Lochinvar. Their day (Mr. Allan) was every second day. Mum had to wrap the bread in parcels, put it in the sulky and take it up to the Branxton butter factory and the big lorries taking out the milk cans used to take the people's letters or anything else they wanted and their bread and all this. You see the big boxes on the side of the road with the milk cans in them? Well they put the bread in there with their letters and empty milk cans or whatever else they had to take from other shops, and pick up the full ones.
- Iris. One day I remember mum telling us the horse had got away over night so she had to go around all the paddocks in Leconfield till she found it.
- Elsie. No, that was the little pony one. They had to have three horses if one broke down on one cart, they had to have another to replace it to finish the run. They got it from Belford, it would always go back to Belford when it got out. Well mum and Mrs Beckett would get in the sulky at five o'clock in the morning sometimes. They would leave and go up to Belford to get this horse to bring it back in time for when they needed it. Well, they would be all day sometimes, roaming the bush chasing the horse, that's what she had to do.
- Iris. Then one day she went out to get one of the horses. I don't know which one and it kicked her in the leg.
- Elsie. She let it get up to her and when she went to get to it, it kicked out and kicked her in the leg. It was a little horse, a sulky one and it kicked her. There was a little horseshoe, all the nail marks.
- Q. In the top of her leg?
- Elsie. Yes. It was all colours, black and purple and blue and there was this little horseshoe with all the nail marks and everything on her leg.
- Q. My mother said there was a group of men who used to sit out the back of the bakehouse. What were they called?
- A. The Black Hand.
- Iris. They used to play quoits and every afternoon about five you would see them all getting together, all the older men, they had a wooden seat. They would sit there and talk.
- Elsie. Mr. Blackwell, Connely, Ramsey, Brown, Harman, Allan and a lot more.
- Q. How long did your father run the bakery for?

A. He was about 26 when he came here, but he went to work for Cann when he left school, and he worked all those years until he was 74. He was 76 when he died and never had one holiday in his life.

Q. When you moved from Leconfield, did you move to Station Street?

A. Yes, but we had to wait until there was a house empty. We were out there 12 months or more after they (Mr. Allan and Mr. Brown) went up there. There were no houses in Greta to get. Mrs Burns (mum's friend) told mum the house opposite her was going, the people were leaving. Atkins was their name, so they hopped in and got this one. It was the only house for sale or rent. We used to walk in. On April Fools Day it used to be funny. We would be bringing his dinner into him. You would have it wrapped, it was a hot meal mum would have cooked, and have it wrapped in a white serviette, carrying it and the kids would be singing out the *gravy is running* all over it. Well we wouldn't know it was April Fools Day. We were april fools often. We had to walk to Sunday School. We had to go to Sunday School. 3 miles they used to say it was.

Q. Did you go to school in Greta?

A. Yes, walked to school. Mum used to say "If I'm back in time from taking the bread up to the factory I'll drive you to school." You know how kids are. You'd wait and wait. Oh, she might come over the hill, and I'd have to go for my life to go the 3 miles to get to school by 9 o'clock. I tell you I was always late. Always getting the cane. I was scared stiff of the teachers. I was frightened cause I was always getting the cane. I used to have blue streaks. Those 6 cuts, only for waiting for mum to come back to give me a ride in.

Q. Who lived out in Leconfield in those days?

A. Elsie. In the bottom house Mrs Adder's son lived next to her. There were 5 houses in Leconfield. Lamberts who was the postmaster over here (Greta) they lived there at one time. Then there was the Bandleader, Mr. Marsden, Mrs Beckett. There were a few families living in the house at the bottom.

Q. Who had the bakehouse when your father stopped work?

A. Iris. He sold it to Sylvesters.

Q. Did he sell the bakehouse to Sylvesters or just the run?

A. Elsie. No. Everything.

Q. Is this where Sylvesters came from to Cessnock or from Branxton?

A. Yes. From Branxton. They came with that light weight bread. That's what settled everything then. That's how they went out of business. We always say that, so do a lot of other people. It was heavy bread then.

Q. Isn't it amazing that the bread your father used to make, there weren't fat children around in those days.

A. Iris. You know why Valerie? There is more put into the bread today. You look at

that piece on the side, it's got everything in it. Dad didn't put all those things in it and it was a wood oven then. Now its electric ovens and they steam the bread.

Q. Did Mr. Brown stay with him all that time?

A. Elsie. No he left and went down to Speight & Teaseys and got a job.

Q. Who took over from Andy?

A. They had to get some other man in Branxton to do it. Then one of the Saxby boys came in to do the run. you talk. I'll do all the talking." He used to sit on

Q. You only had one brother or two?

A. Two. Walter went up there with dad for a while, and then he went into the Army.

Elsie. Les used to go around Dalwood half of Greta and he used to go to Branxton,

Q. Lochinvar and Luskintyre.

Q. What time did they start the run?

A. Iris. 8 a.m. You could not start the run before 8 o'clock in the morning.

Q. What time did they get back?

A. Elsie. Oh, he would get back at 6 o'clock at night.

Q. Was he getting paid for this?

A. He didn't get paid for years, not until they got on their feet. He just worked and mum worked.

Iris. It was a lot of hard work.

Q. Your father must have been like Mr. Speight and Teasey. He must have carried a lot of people, when their bills couldn't be paid, especially when the pits were on strike.

A. Iris. Yes and when they were on the dole and the people used to get the tickets for the food.

Q. So it wasn't an easy life?

A. Elsie. No, it wasn't.

Q. It must have been very hard for your mother and father.

A. Elsie. He never had a holiday in his life, because he had to be there to make up the dough so there would be bread when the people came back from their holidays. He had to go to work Sunday night, so there would be bread on Monday.

Q. It must have been a hard life for your mother, to bring up you children and go out on the runs as well?

A. Iris. Mrs Hatte used to help.

Elsie. No, only when she was sick. She caught double pneumonia and pleurisy going to the station one day. She had to get a bag of corn and a bag of bran, and it was pouring rain and when she got over there, Mr. Holland said "Mrs Allan. I don't know how we are going to get these in the sulky." And mum said "I'll get them in for you." And up she goes with the bags. He said "My god Mrs. You've learnt me something."

Q. They would be chaff bags?

A. Elsie. She used to swing bags of flour around. The doctor told her she shouldn't

be doing that sort of work. Grandfather came up and said "Oh you shouldn't do that girl. It's too much for you." Her arm got bigger up the top. She got ulcers on her legs through standing on the cement.

Iris. Dad got veins through standing on the cement.

Elsie. Anyway she got the bags home and got double pneumonia and pleurisy out of it, and it was all over town that she had died. She was that bad that Dr. Wood used to come and say "Now, don't you talk. I'll do all the talking." He used to sit on the end of the bed and talk to her. She had to eat sandwiches made of raw meat. Mrs Beswick came out to see her and she said "Well, I shed tears over you. I thought you had gone."

Q. Why did they give her raw meat?

A. I do not know.

Iris. I thought she had the raw meat when she had something wrong with her finger.

Elsie. You know what she had to do with her finger and she had to peel every bit of the skin off the finger. The Doctor started to peel it off, to let the poison out, and he said "Now you have to peel that finger until there's no skin left on it."

Q. Your mother used to drive in all weather from Leconfield to Greta Station to get the corn, bran and flour?

A. Yes. And when the well was empty one time, there was a bit of a drought, her and dad of a night would carry the water from the house well to the bakehouse. Andy didn't have to do all these jobs.

Iris. Poor thing. You don't realise life could be like that and we think we are hard done by these days. Mum's father built all the steps to the Bogie Hole.

Elsie. That was one of his last jobs. He was II and he went straight to the Council (Newcastle) and got work. He never went to school when he came out here. (He came from England). He worked for Newcastle Council until he died. He lost an eye there on one of the jobs. They put him on with the surveyor but he didn't have enough schooling to pencil, and they had to pencil so much, and not going back to school to learn and he should have gone on until he was I4 in those days, so they gave him a different job. I don't know what he done until the step at the Bogie Hole, and he was like a caretaker. All the men used to swim there early in the mornings.

When he got old, they (Council) told him they thought he was too old to keep working and they thought it would be better if he left. He was grieved, and he said "If a man can't work, he is of no mere use. If he can work he is of some use." They said "What we'll do, you can go as the caretaker at Centennial Park" out where they lived, right in front of their home at Cooks Hill. And they said "You can see that the kids don't touch the flowers." He would tell the kids "don't touch the flowers" and he was told the winters were too much for him, but he would go to work in all



weather. But they had to put him off and he died soon after.

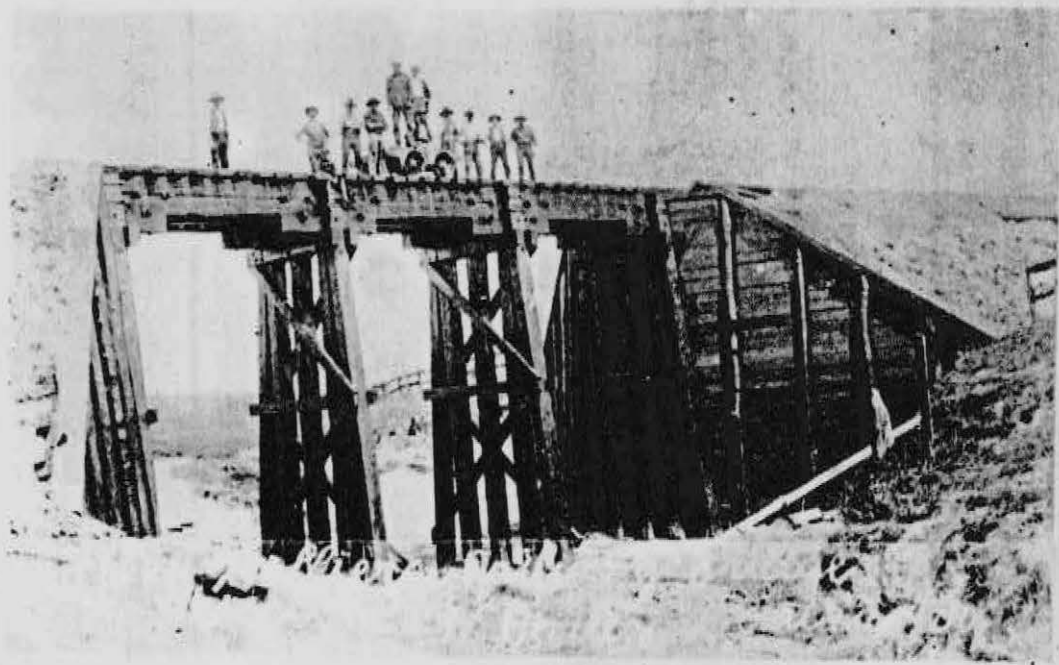
Q. What did your father's father do?

A. Elsie. We don't know. We never asked. We never asked. We never asked questions.

Q. Children should be seen and not heard?

A. That was the olden ways; if we asked, they would have told us.

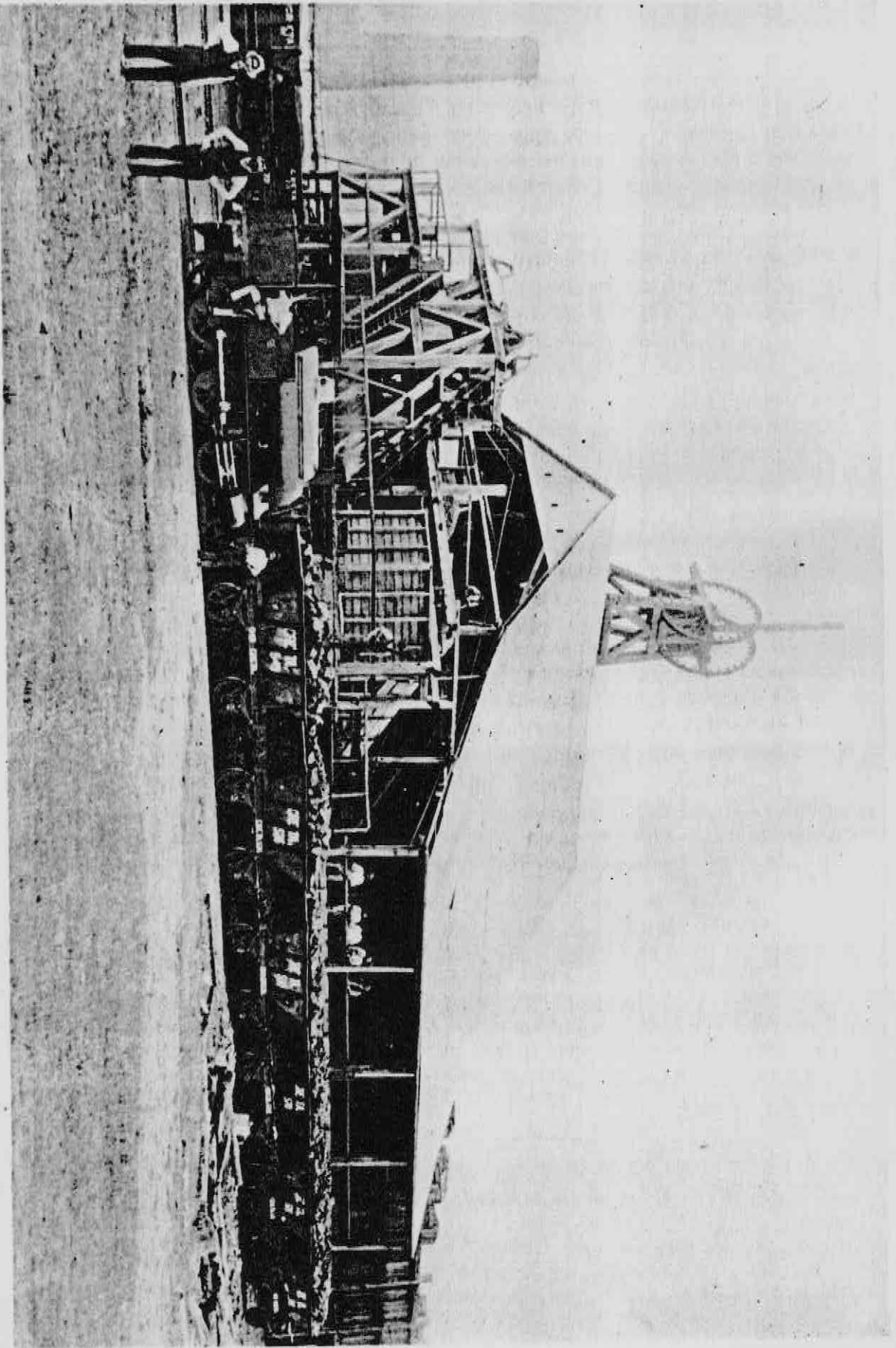
It is a shame, because so much history has been lost. Families have lost a lot of history because children were told "go outside and play".



Whitburn Colliery Railway Bridge



Whitburn Colliery, Greta.



GRETA COLLIERY

COAL MINING



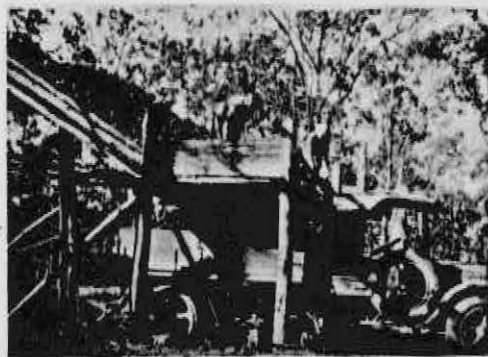
Written on the side of  
the coal skip:-

1ST SKIP OF COAL

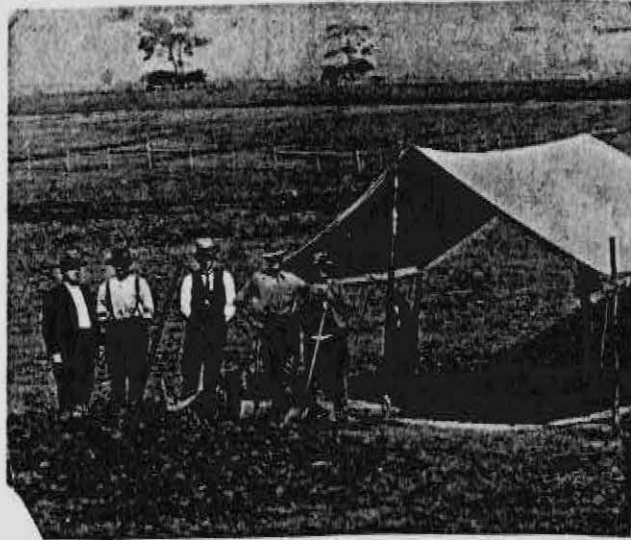
LITTLE GRETA

3-8-31.

Little Greta Mine at Anvil  
Creek was mined by the Rowley  
Brothers and partners until  
they ran out of money. Hopes  
were high in those days!



COAL MINING



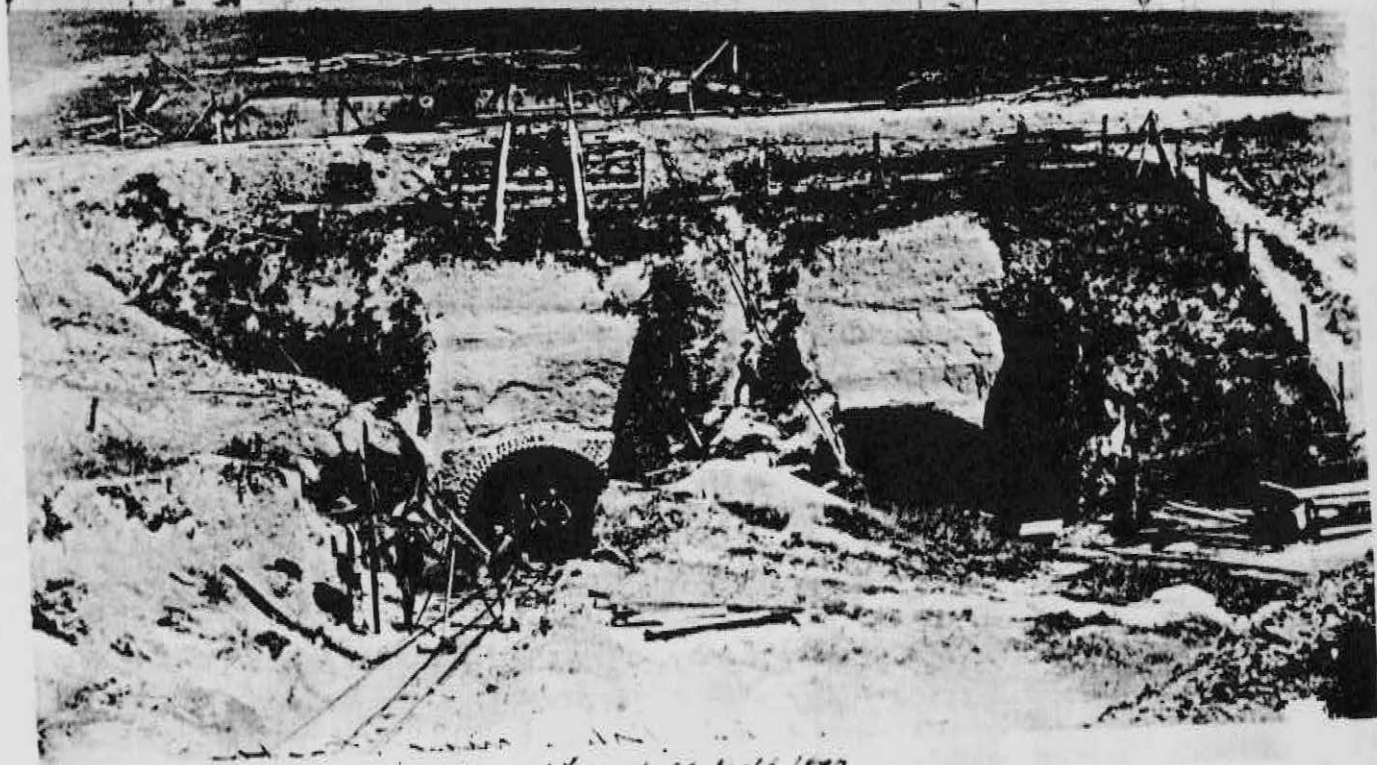
Turning the first sods of a coal mine at  
Leconfield - Mr William McKinnon, Mr Mark  
North, at that time Mayor of Greta, and  
some hopeful friends.

Photo by courtesy of  
Mrs Edna Ford.

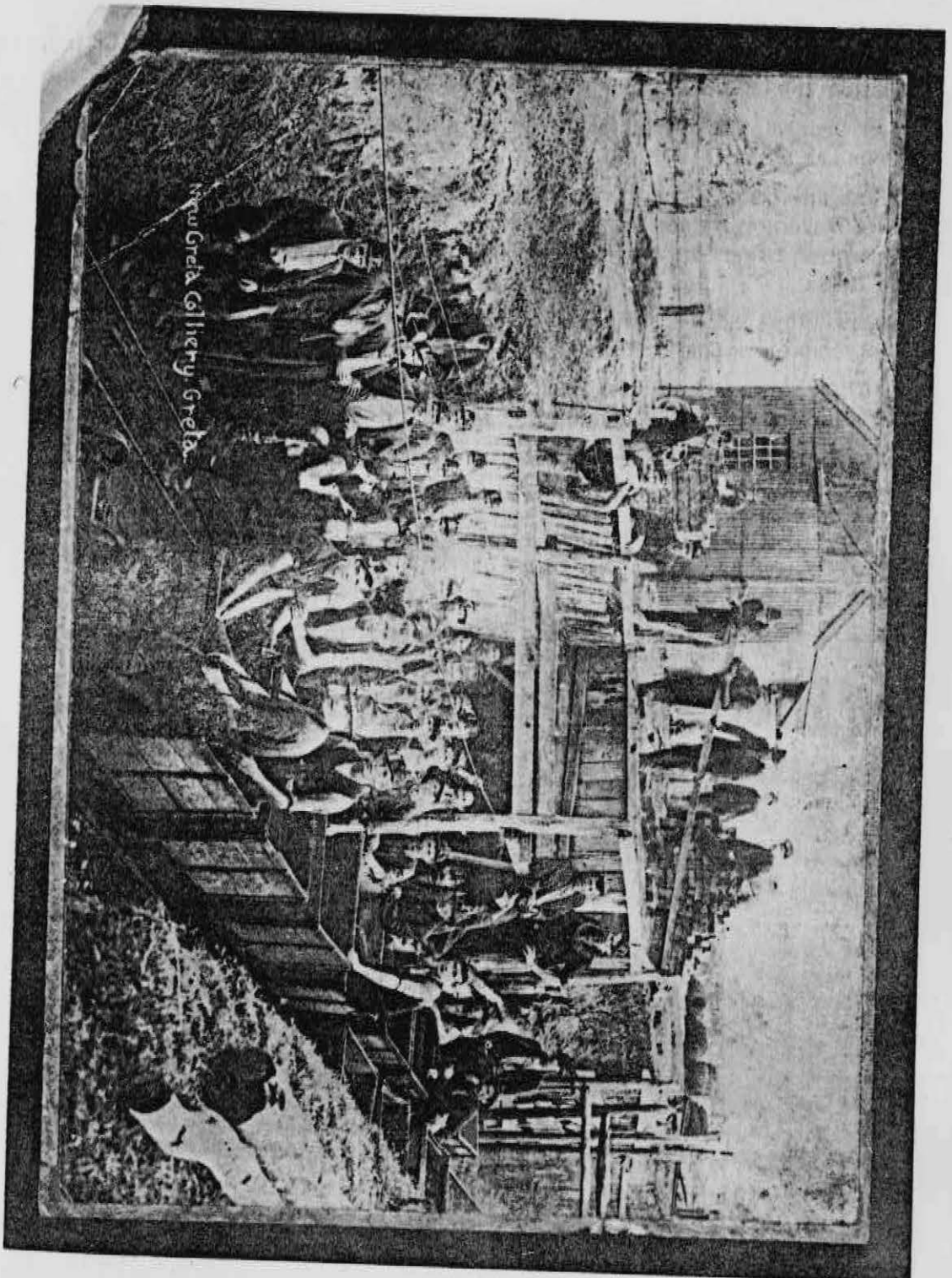


Taken on New Greta Pit Top.  
L to R: Percy Holmes, Tommy Williams,  
Jimmy Short, Cec Hynes, Joe Dimmock, Alf  
Hodges, Norm Straker, Albert North.

Photo by courtesy of  
Mr Arthur Beckett.



Lewisfield, built 1870



Mrs. Greta Gilchrist, Greta.

A HISTORICAL MAIN STREET



HIGH STREET, GRETA (as it was)  
How long ago?

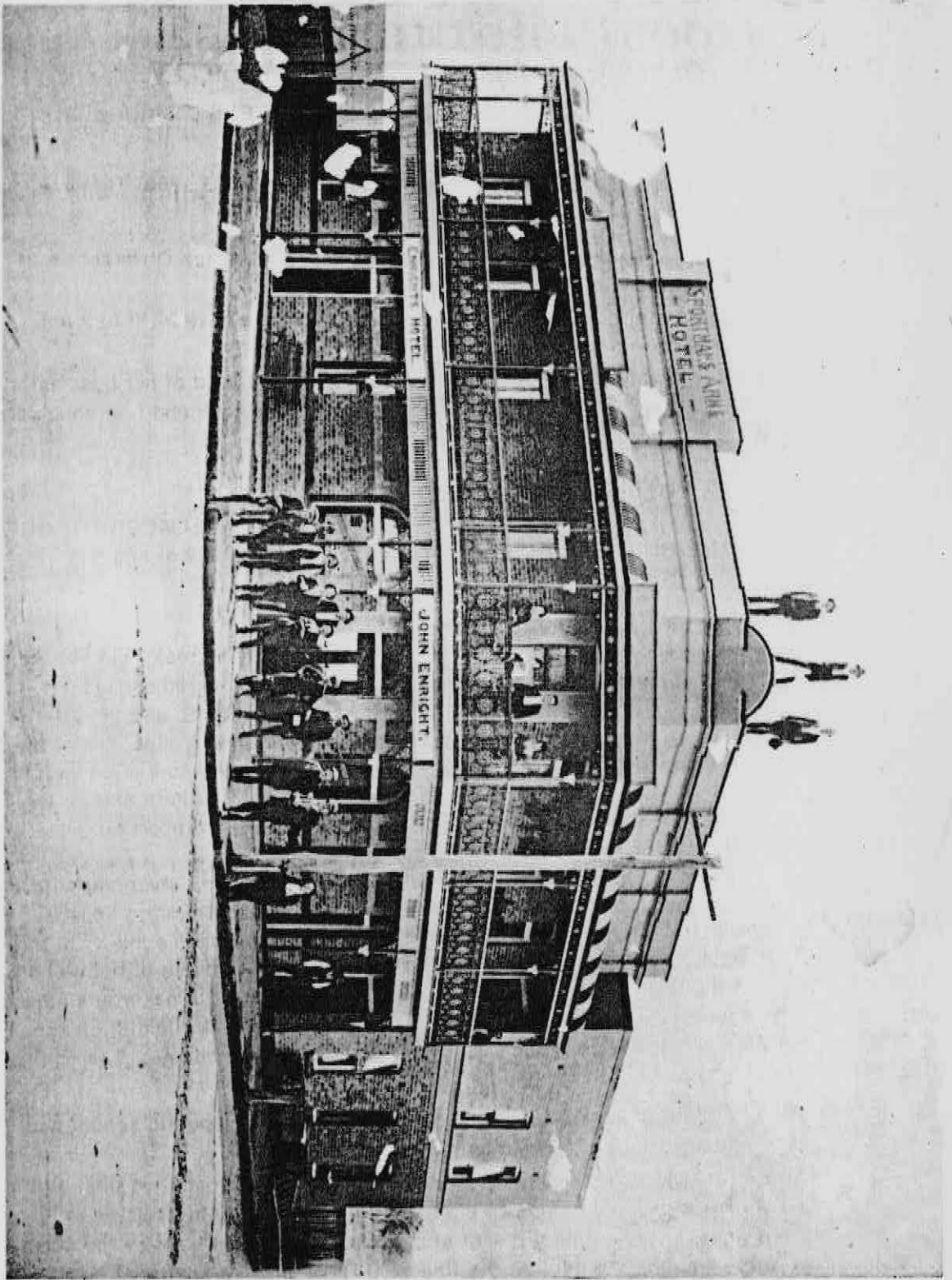


Looking west from  
Wyndham Street in  
1925. The hotel can  
be seen mid way.

Two locals take  
advantage of a  
shady tree in High  
Street in 1925.  
The motor bike  
rider is Tommy  
Cater and "Wingy"  
Lewis is the  
cyclist.







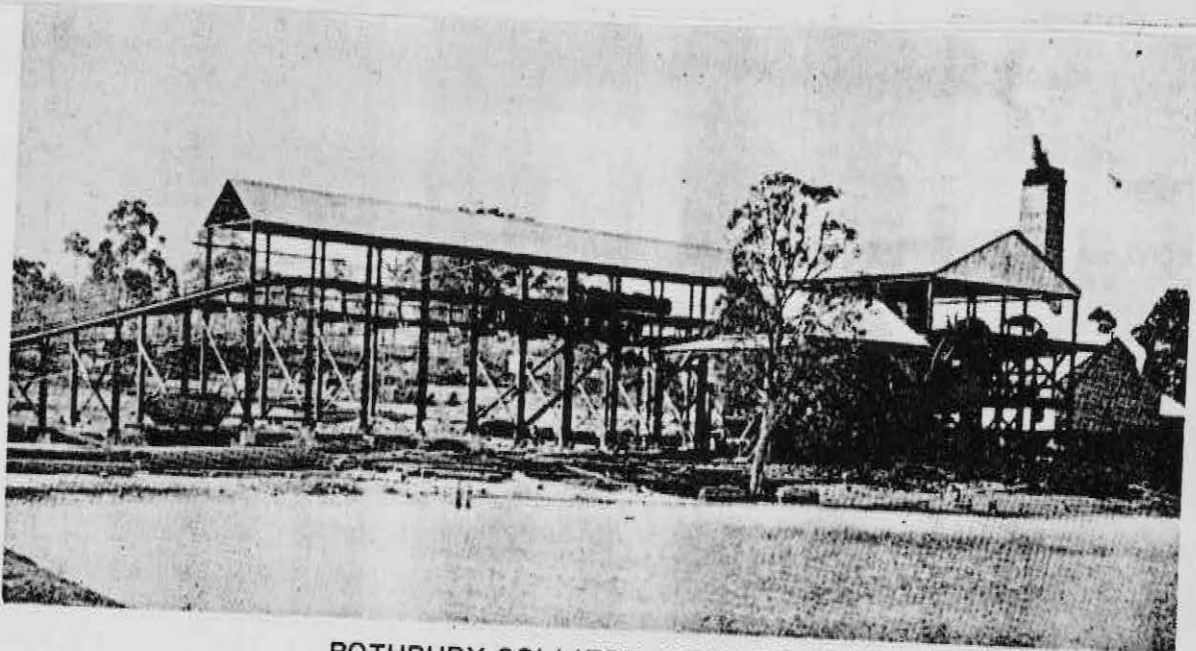
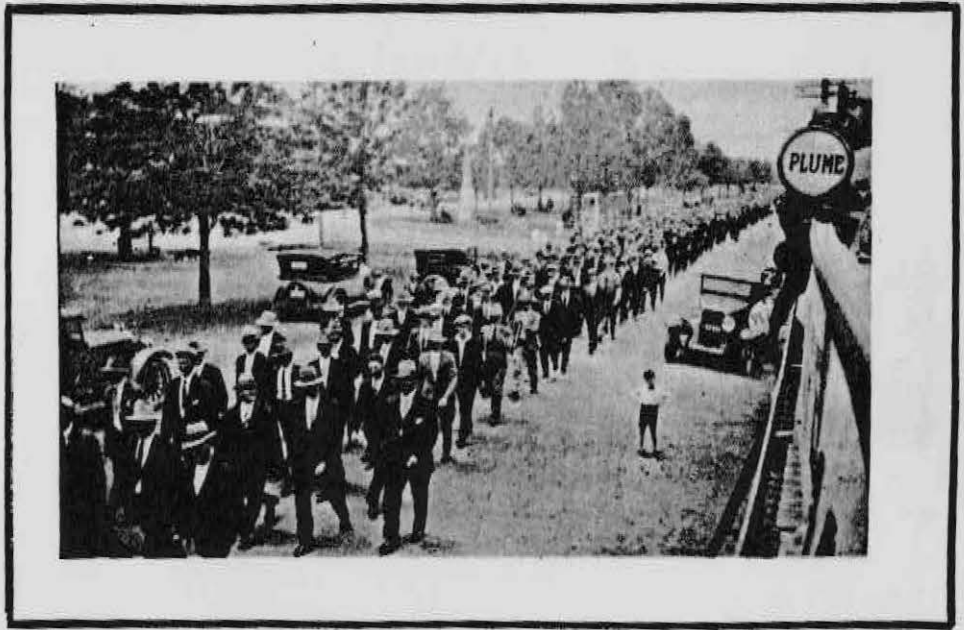


High Street, Greta in 1928. Note the Rotunda and Tattersall's Hotel on the right.



The band rotunda, renowned for many outstanding musical performances and open air church services. The base of the rotunda was built by Jim Proudfoot and his son and much of the rest of it was built by voluntary labour.

(1984.)

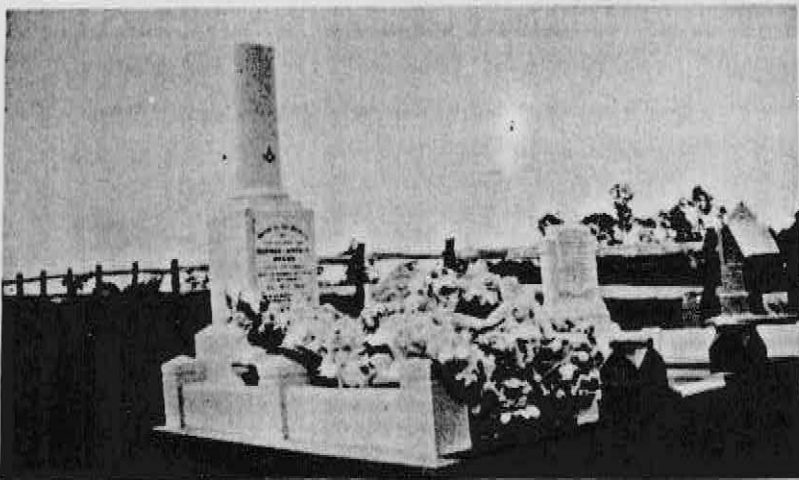


ROTHBURY COLLIERY, NEAR BRANXTON

24

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Norman Laurence Brown



Photographs by courtesy of  
Mrs Augusta Vine.

GRETA ARMY CAMP

1939 - 1945



Two photographs were taken from somewhere near Molly Morgan Hill and then joined to show the vastness of the Greta Army Camp. Chocolate City is on the left and Silver City on the right.



A close up view  
of part of Silver  
City.

A group of the  
Army Camp  
occupants.





SOUP. KITCHEN.  
FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

A Summary Of The Interview With Miss Elsie Allan Of GRETA, NSW.

Miss Allan's father was born in Newcastle in 1884. He came to Greta in 1910. He worked for Cann's Bakery in Newcastle and Greta. (The bakery was called the Great Northern Bakery in Greta.) He worked for Cann's Bakery until he and Mr. Andy Brown went into partnership in the bakery at Leconfield. With the help of Mrs. Allan and their sons, the Leconfield bakery made and delivered bread to Dalwood, Branxton, Greta, Leconfield, Lochinvar, Luskintyre, Stanhope and Elderslie.

Mr. Allan had taken his family to the pictures in Greta the night the Leconfield bakery burnt down. The glow from the fire was mistaken for the moonlight. After the fire, Mr. Allan and Mr. Brown moved into the already established bakehouse which was situated on a double block between Anvil Street and the highway at the top end of Greta.

The baking was done by Mr. Allan. He would make up the doughs the night before. Mr. Brown would do all the bread carting with the help of the Allan boys. The bakery also made Christmas cakes which Mrs. Allan could cut into exact weights of 1, 1½ and 2 pounds. Miss Allan relates how her mother was left to look after ovens full of Christmas cakes and how she (who had no idea how to tell when cakes of this size were done.) had to decide when to take the cakes out of the oven. The fruit for the cakes came in cases. Mrs. Allan used a sulky to pick up the supplies from the station.

Twelve months after the fire out at Leconfield, the rest of the family moved into a house in Station Street, Greta, where Miss Allan lives today. Mr Allan (DOUGHY) worked in the bakehouse until he was 74. The Allan family worked to get the bakery on its feet; the children helped, the boys with the bread making and bread deliveries and the girls helped in the house and brought their father's lunch into him. Mrs. Allan worked very hard; she carried water to the bakehouse when there was a water shortage, went looking for strayed horses, moved chaff bags of grain around, and was a mother and wife. All this hard work took its toll; she nearly died of double pneumonia and pleurisy, she suffered with ulcerated legs and bad arms later on in life.

Mr. Allan died at the age of 76.

Sylvesters brought the bakery from Mr. Allan.

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- |   |             |                                     |            |       |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| 1 | W.S. Parke. | Greta Public School Centenary Book. | Greta 1978 | p23   |
| 2 | IBID.       |                                     |            | p24   |
| 3 | W.J. Gould. | IBID                                |            | p32-3 |
| 4 | IBID        |                                     |            | p34   |
| 5 | W.S. Parke  | IBID                                |            | p23   |

A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF GRETA N.S.W.

"Some of the original grantees in the Greta District were Lesslie Duguid who arrived from Scotland in 1822 and obtained 2,000 acres of land (Lochinvar). Most of the land bordered the left bank of Anvil Creek between Greta and Branxton and a track extending from the site of Allandale to Red Hill on the Molly Morgan Range."(1)

"The Reverend William Purves (B.1811 - D,1870) obtained two adjoining land grants, extending from the former Greta Military Camp to the banks of Anvil Creek."(2)

"Molly Morgan had 203 acres at Anvil Creek where she died on the 26th of June, 1835 at the age of 73. She was born in Shropshire, England in 1762. She married William Morgan in 1785 and the Morgans lived in Crofton Back. They had 2 children. Molly and William were accused of stealing hempen yarn worth 5 shillings. William escaped and Molly was found guilty and transported to Botany Bay. Molly remained in Parramatta for 5 years where she met up with William who had followed her to Australia. Molly had a ticket of leave and they conducted a small shop in the town. Molly returned to England where she entered into a bigamous marriage with one Thomas Mares and before long Molly was on her way back to N.S.W. after being found guilty of burning down their home. Molly had a way of ingratiating herself with officials and after a period of detention she settled on a small farm with a few cattle, but Molly wasn't too particular whose cattle she put her brand on and before long she was serving a prison term in Newcastle."(3)

"Molly became the mistress of one of the officials and secured many privileges and around 1819 she had settled on Wallis Plains (Maitland). Molly married again, this time within the law. Her husband was Joseph Hunt, and when Molly's grants were officially gazetted they were in the name of Mary Hunt. At one time Wallis Plains was said to be known as Molly Morgan's Plains and to these 159 acres she added the 203 acres in Greta. The Molly Morgan Range is south of Greta."(4)

"Lesslie Duguid became managing Director of the Commercial Banking Company. He was married to Ann Scargill and had two properties, one at Lochinvar and a chateau on Botany Bay. Duguid was later ignominiously dismissed from his position in the Bank."(5)

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- |   |              |  |                            |       |
|---|--------------|--|----------------------------|-------|
| 1 | W.S. Parks.  | <u>Greta Public School Centenary Book.</u> | Greta 1978                 | p23   |
| 2 | <u>IBID.</u> |  |                            | p24   |
| 3 | W.J. Goold.  | <u>IBID</u>                                | School Development Program | p32-3 |
| 4 | <u>IBID</u>  |  | Action Group One 1984      | p34   |
| 5 | W.S. Parks   | <u>IBID</u>                                |                            | p23   |



"Reverend Purvis was an early Presbyterian Clergy of East Maitland and he became a business man and grazier besides. Anvil Creek divided his land from that of Mr. John Hughes and Mr. John Hosking. The combined portions of Purvis, Hughes and Hosking took in Illalong and the Anvil Creek Colliery and its township and this was the first coal mining center established within the present boundaries of Greater Cessnock."(6)

"Greta was surveyed in 1842. The design for a village was approved in October 1843 and the village was named Greta. A mine was opened and coal production began in 1870. A report on Greta in 1874 stated "A little over 18 months ago the place was a verdant wilderness, boasting of 2 residences, a wine saloon and a private house". Government land went very cheaply at first, then in the course of 6 months land was selling for £10 to £60 per half acre. A couple of hotels had been erected, a butcher, baker, 3 large stores besides other tradesmen and a number of houses. In 1878 Greta had 4 hotels, 4 churches, a public school and a school of arts. There were 40 miners employed in the mine plus labourers. On the left side of the rail line a row of slab cottages had been built by the mining company for the miners. On the opposite side of the line, small houses were scattered about as well as a few tents. A private township was surveyed in 1873 and land prices as of August, 1873 were £8 to £38 a block."(7)

Coal mining has always been the only industry in Greta. I can remember playing around the old pit ruins when I was a young girl. There were many shafts and air tunnels in the paddocks along Anvil Creek. The Greta coal seam used to be visible in the rock shelf along the banks of Anvil Creek between Price and Wyndham Streets, Greta. Greta was a wonderful place to live as a child. We could roam the bush around the town without any fear of anyone or anything. The doors were always unlocked as everyone was honest and looked after one another.

"In 1888 there were about 440 men working in the Leconfield, Whitburn, Broxburn, Greta and Old Greta B pits. The population of Greta at this time was around 2000. In December 1900 the Old Greta B pit caught fire. After many attempts to put the fire out and rescue the 5 trapped miners the shaft was sealed on the 11th December 1900. The population began to drift away and over 200 homes were removed to other districts."(8)

6 IBID

7 James Jervis. Royal Australian Historical Society Vol. 39 Pt.3 1953-4  
p127-28

8 Greta's Great. Greta Public School p23  
Total School Development Program p16  
11 Norman Cruikshank Action Group One 1984 p51 p10-11  
12 D.J. Killen p26

Mines in the 18-19 hundreds were privately owned, unlike the big company owned pits of today. Wages were very low. My father (Henry Stokes) worked in the mines all his working life and his take home pay in 1937 was about £4 and £14 a week when he retired at 53 because of ill health, so you can see why, when the mine owners wanted to cut the miners' wages by 12½% and would not improve their working conditions the miners had no other recourse but to strike. The mine owners reacted by locking the miners out. "On the 15th December 1929 mass meetings were held around the district and it was decided to picket the Rothbury Mine (3 miles from Greta) which was already using scab labour. The outcome of this picketing was the Rothbury Riot where on the 16th December 1929 Norman Laurence Brown, of Greta was shot. Hundreds attended his funeral as did hundreds of miners, their families and friends at the grave side memorial service a year later ." (9)

By the time the miners had decided to take the cut in pay "(June 1930)" (10) the Great Depression had hit Australia. Greta was hard hit like many other towns throughout this country, "soup kitchens were set up at the school to feed the under-fed children." (11).

In November 1939 some of the men found work building the Greta Military Camp, which had between "50,000 to 60,000" men go through its gates. (12)

The Greta Camp was converted into a Migrant Hostel in 1949. I remember well the trains arriving at Greta Station and what seemed to a child of 11, an endless stream of funny looking and funny dressed people. We sat on the overhead foot bridge to watch. Dr. Hurst and some nursing sisters would give the migrants their needles there on the station platform. Dr. Hurst could speak German. The camp closed in 1962 and most of the New Australians left Greta to make new lives elsewhere. About 20 families stayed to make their home in Greta and some have second generations of their family living in Greta.

These were not the first migrants to live in the area. The first were, according to Grevilles Directory of 1867, Karl Bendeich, farmer of Mitchells Flat (the descendants of Karl still live in Branxton, Belford and Singleton areas), Jacob Brossi, vinedresser of Dalwood and George Kropp, vinedresser of Dalwood.

Greta of today is smaller than it was in 1888, but with the Expressway from Sydney to Newcastle now open, it is only a 2½ hour drive from Greta to Sydney.

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9	IBID		p23
10	Jan Burnswoods	op. cit.,	p16
11	Norman Cruikshank	op. cit.,	p51
12	D.J. Killen	op. cit.,	p26

The suburbs are moving further out into the country. Greta is all set up for sewerage which should be servicing the town early in 1990. Hopefully, this will bring more people to the town. At present there are only 10 businesses, 2 schools, 3 churches and a population of 1,724 (1986 census) which is well down on the 1888 figures.

GRETA PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY BOOK. T. WILD GRETA 1976.

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