



Pine Mountain & Districts
Historical Society Inc.

History Happenings

Pine Mountain

Quarterly Newsletter
First Edition

16th March 2022

Welcome to the first Newsletter from the Pine Mountain Historical Society. We started 2022 with our first meeting in the Rural Fire Brigade Shed on 6th March.

It was good to see committee members after the Christmas break and get down to business with historical research and planning for the ANZAC Day Ceremony in April.

In each newsletter, there will be sections contributed by different committee members and people in the wider community.

One of the aims is to share history from the past in Pine Mountain to remind us of the people who grew up in the district or who lived in the district a long time ago.

Mary Mahon

Memories

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

A Few Memories Of Growing Up In Pine Mountain

By Mary McGibbon

With all of the wet weather lately it brought back some memories of growing up here in Pine Mountain; and the many times, as kids, we would be dealing with mud as we helped around the farm.

There was mud even in the drought. We had a spring which flowed into a trough in the creek.

In the drought, the trough was a very popular drinking spot for the cattle as it always had water, so it often got very boggy. Some cattle, weakened by the drought, would come to the trough; and then be too weak to get themselves out up the bank and out of the creek. They would become bogged or exhausted by the effort.

I remember one particular evening when it was very dark. We had little light and spent the whole evening down in the creek bed helping Dad to try and get a cow up on her feet; and out of danger before she got too weak in the legs as she was lying on cold boggy ground.

Then there was the mud that came in the wet weather. The cow yard would become a quagmire, churned up by the milking herd as they waited to be milked.

I remember as kids we always wore rubber boots in the cow yard. When the yard was wet it was common to get the boots so stuck in the mud that a step forward would find my boot stuck firm; and my foot out of the boot and plunged into the deep mud up to the shins.

It was a nasty soup of mud and cow manure.

Wet days in the cow yard were no fun. There was the thick mud and the cows walked everywhere through it; and then as most country kids who helped in the cow yard will remember, the smell of wet cow. I also remember the cruel swish of a wet, muddy burr-filled tail across the face. It was so painful.

The unsealed roads were often a case of slip and slide to get through the best way you could. We knew those patches of the road that offered very little traction and other parts that would hold you fast in a soft bog.

The big hill on Mahons Road was a challenge for many a car back then and Dad often went out to give a tow to a struggling motorist. As kids we would listen for the familiar sound of a car working hard to get up the hill. It was always a relief when they made it.

When we came back to live at Pine Mountain, we stayed in the old family home for a few months. It was funny to me that the sound of a car coming up that hill brought back the memories of cars struggling to make it up.

It's fun to take a trip down Memory Lane now; and interesting to see what triggers those childhood memories.

History Snippets

Origin of Place Names in Pine Mountain

The Bog Hole

The Bog Hole Reserve is at the corner of Stokes Rd and Russell's Rd, Pine Mountain.

It got its name from the wives of the early Irish settlers in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Each week, these Irish women would gather at Sandy Creek to wash the clothes for their family. In those days, the creek was a permanent water course with clear, fresh water.

On the top side of the creek was a large, flat rock where the women would spread their clothes out to be washed. They would wet the clothes and rub them with handmade soap before rinsing them in the clear water of the nearby creek.

The Bog Hole is now a Council Reserve with a picnic shed, trees and a park. This area is still serving the Pine Mountain Community. Each day, the school bus collects children from the Bog Hole Reserve and takes them to schools in Ipswich, returning them in the afternoon. Parents, when you collect your children from the bus, think of the Irish wives of the early settlers of over 150 years ago, who met to chat and do their washing.



Past Times in Pine Mountain

Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser (Qld. 1861 – 1968)
Thu 4 March 1873 Page 3

PINE MOUNTAIN

From our correspondent

"It never rains but it pours" is a truism which, with few exceptions, may be applied to Southern Queensland. In this district may have been seen, anytime during the few months preceding the month of February, groups of disconsolate and forlorn farmers gazing with troubled and anxious countenances alternately upon the burnt up and scanty herbage and the languishing crops and the cloudless sky above, hoping and praying for a small supply of that indispensable element for the healthy nourishment of animal and vegetable life. Within three weeks after that long and parching drought had broken up more rain has fallen, than, if distributed at regular intervals, would have amply sufficed to have watered the surface of the Earth for one year or more. Such is the extremes to which our Australian climate is liable – extremes which necessarily bear more heavily upon the farming class than any other.

Maize is the principal crop in the district this season. The very unfavourable weather in Spring for planting cotton, and the low price combined, prevented the farmers from planting it to any extent. The crops will not exceed thirty acres in the whole district, and is late, but looking well.

Land which is ploughed and cultivated by horse labour is much better adapted to withstand the destructive effects of droughts than land still under stumps and cultivated by hand-labour. Consequently crops of maize which were well cultivated and the surface stirred at regular intervals by the horse hoe, although no weeds appeared, have produced crops far beyond the expectations of many, considering the very dry season, and will, I trust, give a fair return for labour expended.

Cattle have kept in very fair condition, although the long protracted drought caused great anxiety for winter feed. The copious rains, however, which have fallen during the last few weeks have removed all uneasiness on that score. Rain commenced here on Monday afternoon, and on Tuesday it fell in torrents the whole day. Light rains then continued to fall, with slight intermissions, until Friday morning, when it again fell in torrents, accompanied by a very heavy gale of wind, which did considerable damage to the maize crop; but it will recover the damage to a great extent if dry weather succeeds. There is very little other damage sustained, except small portions of fencing being washed away in several places. Altogether, we in this district have much reason to express our thanks and gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of Events for our small share of the great calamities which have befallen our fellow colonists in other less favoured localities.

The farm of Mr. Hill on the banks of the Brisbane River and a few other farms on Sandy Creek must have suffered considerable damage. Very distressing reports also come from the Upper Brisbane, where a great portion of the crops incompletely submerged; but the amount of damage sustained will not be known until the flood subsides, which has been rapidly falling since 6 o'clock on Sunday morning.

The weather is still showery, but there is every probability of it soon clearing up, which will enable the farmers to prepare their land for winter crops, which operation the late rains had entirely suspended.

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.