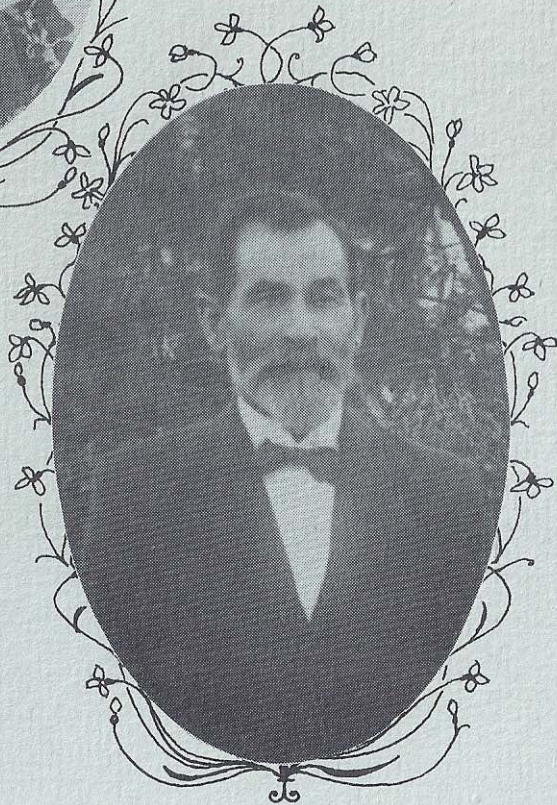
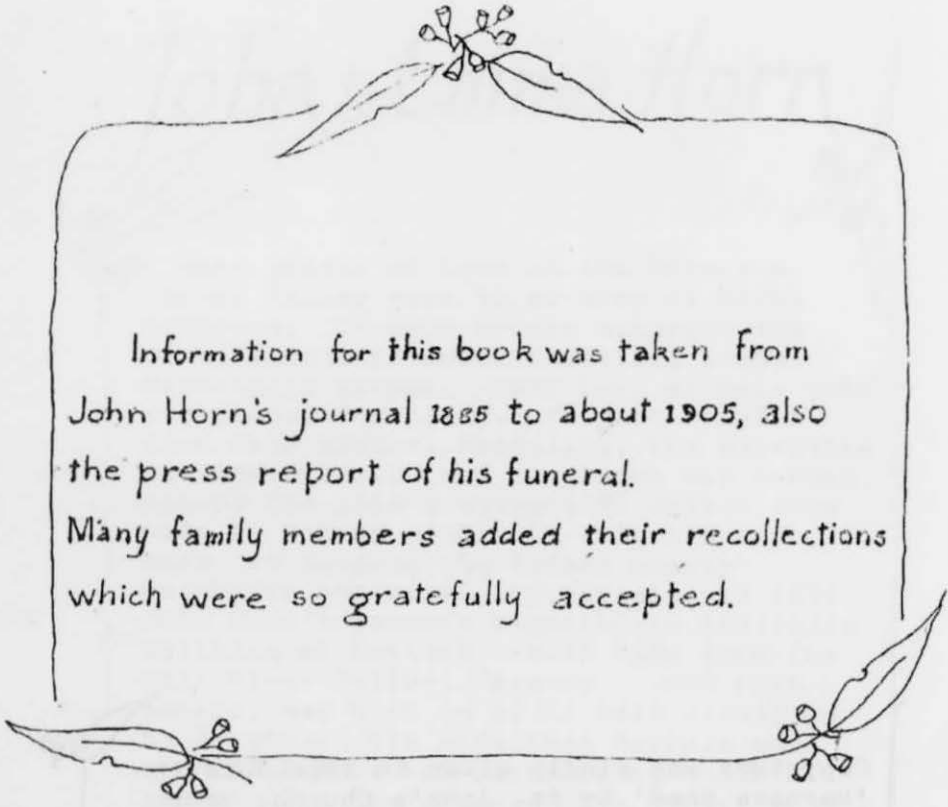


Recollections



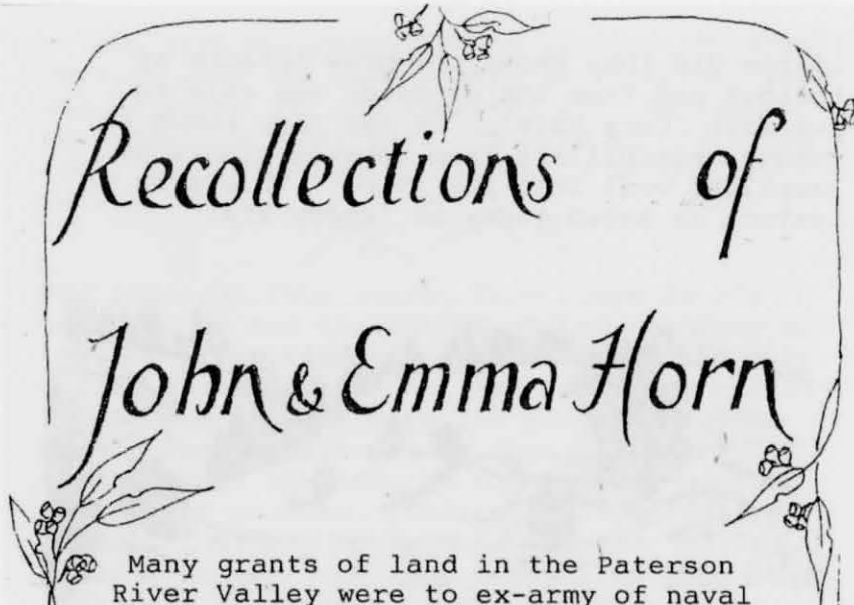
John &
Emma
Horn





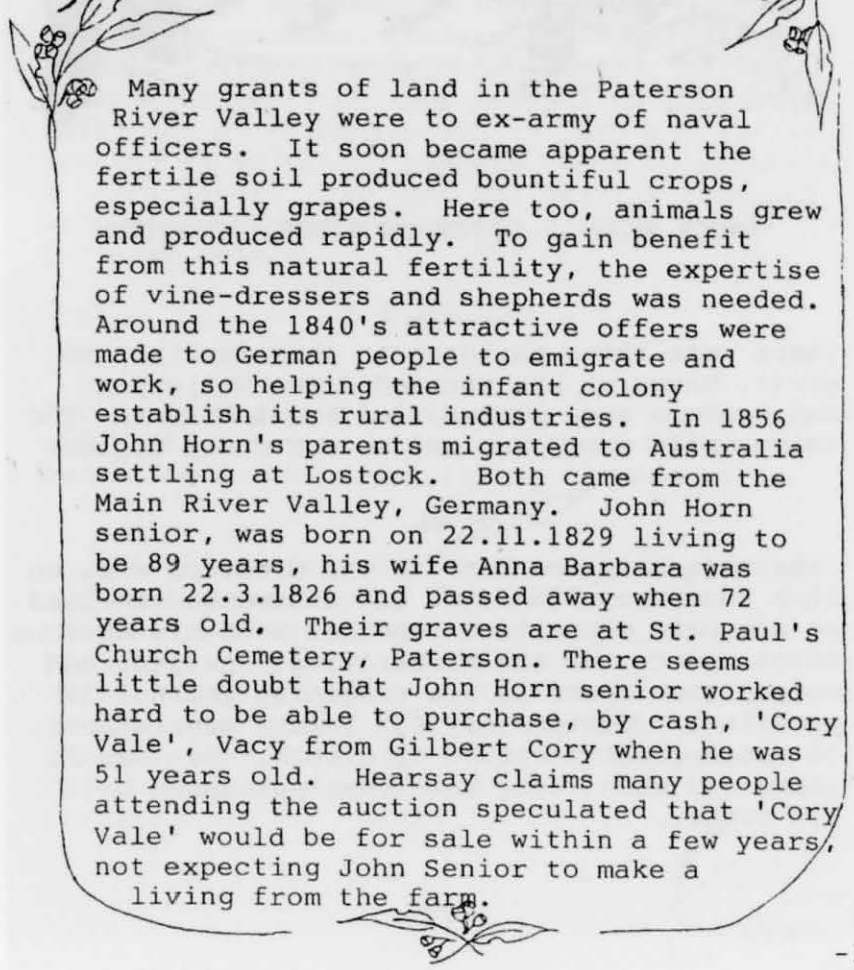
Information for this book was taken from
John Horn's journal 1855 to about 1905, also
the press report of his funeral.

Many family members added their recollections
which were so gratefully accepted.



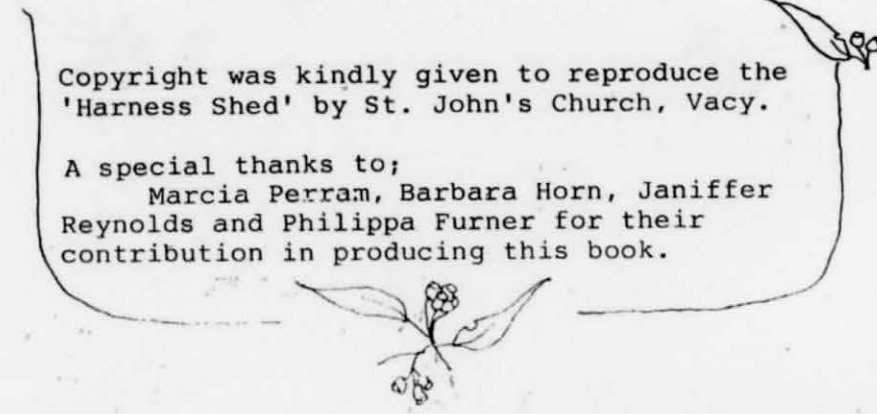
Recollections of John & Emma Horn

Many grants of land in the Paterson River Valley were to ex-army of naval officers. It soon became apparent the fertile soil produced bountiful crops, especially grapes. Here too, animals grew and produced rapidly. To gain benefit from this natural fertility, the expertise of vine-dressers and shepherds was needed. Around the 1840's attractive offers were made to German people to emigrate and work, so helping the infant colony establish its rural industries. In 1856 John Horn's parents migrated to Australia settling at Lostock. Both came from the Main River Valley, Germany. John Horn senior, was born on 22.11.1829 living to be 89 years, his wife Anna Barbara was born 22.3.1826 and passed away when 72 years old. Their graves are at St. Paul's Church Cemetery, Paterson. There seems little doubt that John Horn senior worked hard to be able to purchase, by cash, 'Cory Vale', Vacy from Gilbert Cory when he was 51 years old. Hearsay claims many people attending the auction speculated that 'Cory Vale' would be for sale within a few years, not expecting John Senior to make a living from the farm.



Copyright was kindly given to reproduce the 'Harness Shed' by St. John's Church, Vacy.

A special thanks to;
Marcia Perram, Barbara Horn, Janiffer Reynolds and Philippa Furner for their contribution in producing this book.



Little did they know! He grew tobacco at Lostock and from the proceeds was able to purchase 'Cory Vale'. He was also known to remove caterpillars from tobacco plants by lamplight well into the night. This area at Lostock is known today as 'Baccy Flat'



'BACCY FLAT', PATERSON RIVER, LOSTOCK.

There were three children in this family, two girls, Margaret who married James Gillespie and Barbara Anna who married Frank Wilson. The third child was John, and so our story begins:



John Horn Jnr. was born in the Gresford area on 10th November, 1856. We can assume he received an adequate education, together with his obvious intelligence, as the handwriting, spelling and composition found in his remaining journal is excellent. Fortunately for future generations, he was a great recorder of events. He was 23 years old when 'Cory Vale' was purchased by his father.

On the 12th November, 1883 a Wesleyan Minister married John and Emma Kimber at Paterson, John was 27 years old and Emma was 20. We assume they went to 'Cory Vale' to live as there was a small slab house on the property which Cory had built.



For the next four years, from items in his journal, he and his father worked the Vacy and Lostock properties together as John records cattle numbers, some his father's some his own, and moving them between the properties. He also records constructing dams at Lostock, arduous work of three to eight weeks often during wet weather. This property, Fishers Creek - Lostock, he records, is part of the Lostock property we know today. He purchased this land at Fishers Creek in 1885 and was also leasing an adjoining paddock which he purchased 2 years later. The land was heavily timbered with white Mahogany which he cleared and fattened cattle.



During this period, just after his marriage, he had quite a few term deposits held with several banks, no doubt he was saving for something.

In 1887 he leased 'Cory Vale' from his father and so began dairying - making butter and some cheese, producing eggs, raising pigs and curing the bacon. This produce was sold at the Paterson Union. Making butter without refrigeration was an art, just extra salt was added as a preservative, keeping it cool by using drip safes - there is some mention of 7lb. blocks of butter!

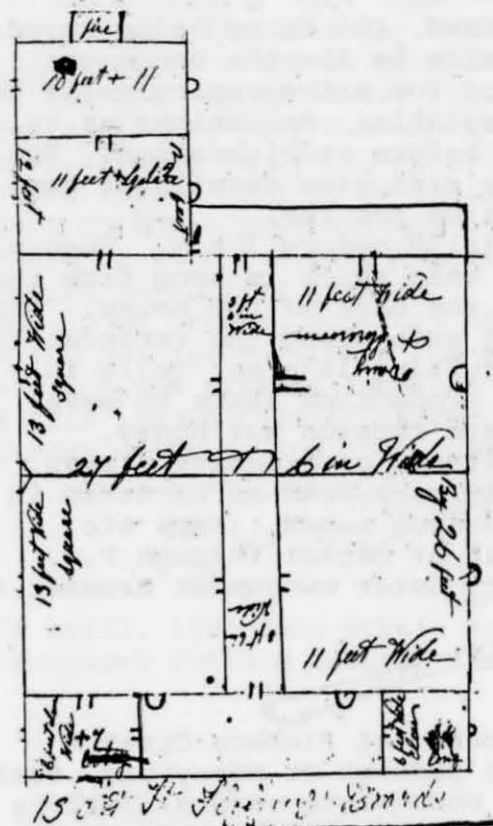
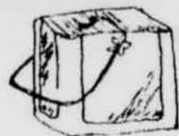


St. John's Church was built at Vacy in 1887, the church bell was donated by John Horn's mother. Church records state that she lived at Vacy too.

By the end of 1890 Emma had 4 children with 2 years between each baby. With John frequently away her children must have kept her very busy. The horse ride from Vacy to Lostock took a good day, then to carry out the dam construction, fencing and moving cattle which John did as well as the Vacy dairy. The only reference to Emma was the year after marriage, her mare had a black foal.



There was a slab house on 'Cory Vale' when the property was purchased. We assume John Snr. and mother Anna Barbara lived there. In later years this house was referred to a Blufords, (a lease - farming family) also Elsie and Bram Horn lived there when first married. Probably for the first 8 years of John and Emma's married life they shared this house with their parents, then in 1890 - 91 the family home at 'Cory Vale' was built. It consisted of 8 rooms and 2 verandahs, one room being used for dairy and storage. It was built of slabs with a sawn timber frame, the interior walls lined with glued layers of paper. It is recorded in John's book, and can be assumed that he built it himself. Although there are 4 men's names as being paid, we are not sure for labour or materials. In later years (1955) this house was pulled down, another built, which was burnt some years later.



Floor plan of the family home, 'Cory Vale' built 1890 - 91. The only room marked is 'Dairy and Storage', we can assume butter was churned in this room of an evening.



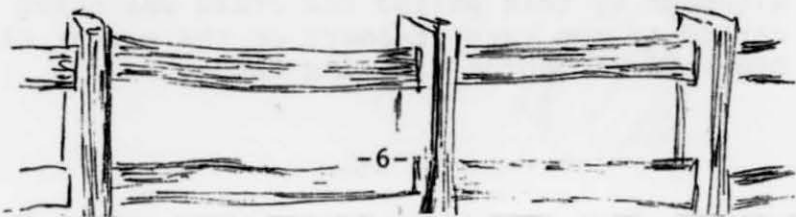
The last 10 years of the 1800's were full of activity, fortunately there was help on the farm as many accounts for work done by various men are recorded. Although this didn't exclude the womenfolk being called on to help in the dairy when the men were away fencing or dam constructing. 'Cory Vale' was still dairying, although by this period the cream was being carted to the Vacy Creamery on the corner of Gresford and Horns Crossing Roads.

Pigs were still raised, the bacon being cured. Should the bacon price be low the bacon was buried in the ground for extra curing until the price was more acceptable. An insight as to how people managed before refrigeration! The girls of the family also give details of how to set a jelly in time for tea.

Step 1, make the jelly before 7 a.m. Then place the bowl in a meat safe which is hung from the verandah rafter at the back of the house. After lunch move the meat safe along the verandah to a cooler place, resulting in a set jelly in time for tea! Egg production seems to have disappeared from farm records but honey, produced from the stands of Ironbark trees, skins and horse hair were sold or bartered in return for beef, various seeds, lamps etc. Fat cattle were sold at market through F.G. Brooker, Auctioneer, later known as Brooker & Lindeman.



More land was purchased at Fishers Creek - Lostock, and also a paddock at Moneybung, west of Paterson. John Horn wrote several letters to the Maitland Mercury. One notable example is an irate criticism of a previously published comment on Fiscal policy. He claimed that the view "fails to give employment to the people I believe in our motto Advance Australia". 1895 Church records state that 'Mr John Horn was Sunday School Superintendent reporting good attendance by scholars and teachers'. His personal records show the Sunday School account for several years. No doubt quite a few scholars were his own children.



It was obviously with some relief he recorded in bold writing 'Drought broke April 22nd 1897', this drought seems to have lasted 4 years. Mr Cox was school master when the young family was attending Vacy School and school times were altered to finish early so as children could return home to do their farm duties. The Horn children were all expected to do their share of work and John Horn disciplined his children if seen doing nothing. The Allyn River had to be crossed at 'Cory Vale' to go to Vacy. A log was placed across the river, on the top side of the present crossing bridge. Very little imagination is needed as to the children's pranks going to and from school.



In April, 1898 John Horn's mother died, a newspaper cutting records the event.

A very old and highly respected resident of Vacy, Mrs. John Horn, was interred at the Paterson Cemetery this afternoon. She was followed to her last resting place by a large number of friends.

Press cutting recording the event 26th April, 1898

After his wife died, John Horn Snr. built a two roomed house on 'Cory Vale' where he lived - the family provided his meals. This cottage is known as 'Grandfather's Cottage'. Later that year Blufords leased a 50 acre paddock on the southern end of 'Cory Vale' which they farmed for about 20 years.

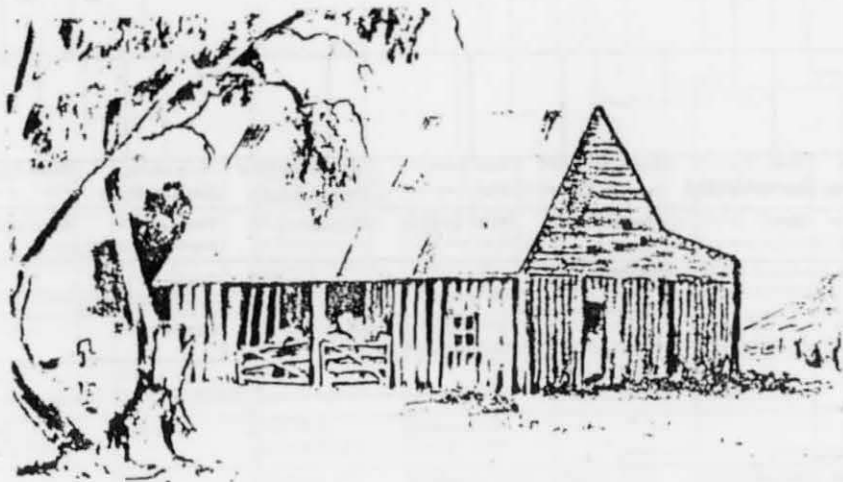


So the century turned to commence the 1900's. There were now 7 children, the eldest 16, the youngest 1 year old. A large material order of over 40 yards, is recorded with large yardages of calico, sheeting and 3 dozen towels for household needs, flannelette, winsyette and flannel for clothing, galatea for the black well-covering aprons in vogue during this period, with socks costing 2 pence! This order was certainly enough to keep any woman busy.



Twins were born during this time, one was dead at birth, the other died shortly after.

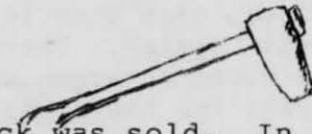
A shed, for harness and saddlery, was built at 'Cory Vale' with a room at one end which became a room for some of the boys.



HARNESS SHED

The end room was a boys bedroom.

Life was austere in other ways too. A custom most families followed during Edwardian times was children did not speak at the meal table unless spoken to, John Horn's family practiced this custom.



The Moneybung paddock was sold. In 1903 two more adjoining lots were purchased at Lostock, this property now dairied as well as fattened cattle, a slab house was on this property where the Scumenicht family lived and ran the dairy. The same year part of the Gostwyck estate was purchased which was used for fattening cattle. We also know a town paddock of 7 acres was purchased at Bolwarra.



THE HILLS IN THE BACKGROUND
SHOW RINGED-BARKED TIMBER.
LOSTOCK CIRCA 1905

Cockles Pills for the liver, seemed to have been the cure-all for any ailment, although newspaper cuttings on homecures for headache, rheumatism and small pox were kept. Like all farmers, John kept references for use on future occasions, cures for Gripes, also Bots in Horses and "Small Fowls Make Best Layers". There are also press clippings and notes on women which indicate an untimely respect for the contributions of women to family life. Also preserved are inevitable references to the eternal problems of "The land and Income Tax". Quite a few jokes are among his records, no doubt the Horn dry sense of humour was an apparent characteristic.



Then the sad statement, 'My Dear Wife Emma died 22nd April, 1909, aged 45 years, 7 months and 9 days'. This sudden shock for the family must have been hard - the eldest child was 25 years, the baby just 4 years old. No doubt the older girls were capable of looking after the home.

The new high-level bridge at Vacy had been finished some 12 years beforehand. It had been burnt and was being rebuilt at the time of Emma's death. Workmen make the bridge secure so as the funeral cortege could cross from 'Cory Vale' to Vacy. The alms dish at St. John's Church, Vacy, is in Emma's memory.



Sundays were observed in the tradition of the period, no work being done. The children would be quizzed by their father as to what the rector said in his sermon, so there was a comparison of versions on the way home from Church. Often the boys would play cricket behind the barn on Sunday afternoon so as they wouldn't be seen from the house. The girls had a tale whenever their father would leave for Maitland he would ask if they wanted anything. In awe of their father they would reply 'Oh no, I don't think so' - then after he left would sing a song made up from 'Oh, no, I don't think so'.



Sons Johnny and David now worked Lostock for a time, then in 1914 David married May Lawrence. They were now milking, by hand, 60 cows, rearing all calves as well as separating the milk daily. The cream was carted to Gresford. A property at Merriwa was leased which Johnny worked.

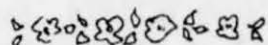


John Horn snr. died in 1919, the 'Cory Vale' property was left so as John had a life-long interest in the property. They were now milking 80 cows by hand, and feeding up to 50 calves at the peak of the season. The cream was sold to the Bowthorne Butter factory. Cattle were sold at Maitland Saleyards through E. W. Sparke auctioneers, the droving trip took 4 days from Lostock. Leaving early Friday morning the fat cattle were bedded overnight at Mt. Rivers, driven all day Saturday to be watered and bedded at 'Cory Vale'. This had to be timed at full moon as they left Vacy at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning to reach the town paddock at Bolwarra, by 5 p.m.

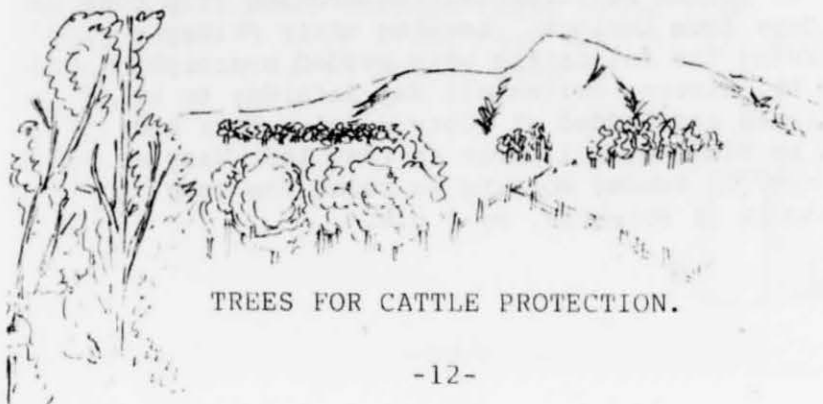
The men would stay at Sherwood or White's cottage overnight (the old house opposite the now Shell Service Station) then take the cattle into Maitland Saleyards early Monday morning. The horses were given a bale of lucerne hay, costing 8/6, while the men attended the sale. The town paddock, 7 acres, fronted Tocal Road, however is now subdivided into house blocks. It is bordered by Moore Road and Wesley Streets; James and Wesley Streets are named after son Wesley who owned the property at the time of subdivision.



Many men lived and worked at 'Cory Vale' during the 1910's to '30's. To mention some, Jack Fulham, Tom Brown, Jack Stevens and Jack Robinson, the latter being 14 years old when he migrated from England. He worked with the family for 10 years before entering St. John's College and after distinguished war service, became Archdeacon of the Grafton Diocese.

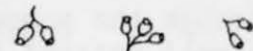


When John Horn cleared land his first consideration was for his cattle, so insisted on leaving clumps of trees for the beasts protection. Examples of this method are still visible at Gostwyck Flats.

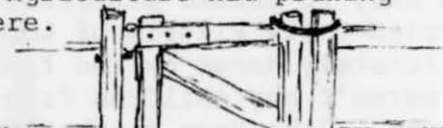


TREES FOR CATTLE PROTECTION.

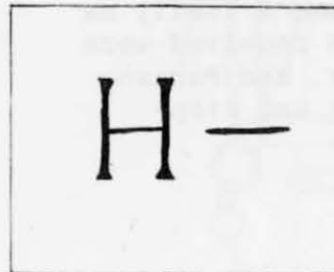
More property was purchased at 'The Branch' near Viney Creek, Tea Gardens, a coastal property to tide through drought. Also part of the 'Tillimby' estate, Vacy, used for cattle fattening and small acreages adjacent to 'Cory Vale'. The Tea Gardens property was sold 30 years later being diversely noted for Mosquito infestation and the invention of irrigation.



The 'Cory Vale' family home had a glassed-in verandah added, a laundry with a water well just outside was probably added at an earlier date. Just near the well was a thorny mandarin tree whose produce is well remembered. During the 1920's and '30's an orange orchard was on the bank of the river just down from the crossing which was held in high esteem in the district, the Department of Agriculture had pruning demonstrations there.



The Allyn River was crossed at 'Cory Vale' firstly by a log, then a foot bridge. As the area became populated the crossing was used to such an extent that a low-level bridge was built around 1934. This bridge and the link road from Dungog and Gresford Roads is still called descriptively, Horns Crossing Road.



The brands John Horn used, H and a bar placed sideways, are still used by a grandson.

JOHN HORN'S CATTLE BRANDS

The properties 'Cory Vale', Lostock, Gostwyck Flats and Tillimby are all still owned by his descendants. 'Cory Vale' is situated on the junction of the Paterson and Allyn Rivers. His selection of the properties he purchased was quite prophetic. The Lostock property has the Paterson River as its boundary for quite an acreage as well as two creeks and their tributories running through the property. Gostwyck Flats is also well watered by Shingle Splitters and Hughes Creeks, which have several deep holes, and are tributories of the Allyn River. Tillimby is a convenient mountain paddock.



John Horn re-married, Hannah Patfield who passed away 18 months after the marriage. Then he married Dolly Pilgrim of Lorn who was affectionately known by the family as Aunt Doll. There weren't any children from these later marriages. John Horn died at 73 years of age in 1930. Excerpts from a press report stated John Horn spent his life in dairying and pastoral pursuits. "A keen business man, upright in all his dealings and a splendid judge of both horses and cattle". "The funeral was one of the largest and most representative ever seen in the district". He must have had a wonderful long-term relationship with Emma's family as among the many floral tributes received were tributes from the Kimber, Darr, and Parish families, being Emma's brother and step-families.



Together, John and Emma's graves lie at the Paterson Cemetery.

Their eight children, five boys and three girls were;

John Frederick	6.9.1884	to	22.8.1944
Margaret Magdeline	21.7.1886	to	29.10.1961
Charles David	3.8.1888	to	10.10.1977
James Wesley	22.12.1890	to	22.1.1956
Hilda Henrietta	21.12.1892	to	30.8.1965
Anna Barbara	20.3.1897	to	27.5.1965
George Amos	26.2.1899	to	17.12.1980
Jay Bramwell	7.11.1905	to	26.4.1963

It is interesting to note all the boys, except for Johnny, were called by their second names, obviously telephone directories weren't invented in those days.

