

EARLY COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA

Hotels

Joseph Morecroft's Wedderburn Hotel, which was also a store, was one of the first buildings erected on the field. It was a building of split slabs and roofed with bark - built about 1853. A two-storey stone hotel replaced the bark hut in 1862.

Two other hotels, the Royal and the American, were in existence in 1867. They were owned by Frederick Tonsing and Alexander Ritchie.

Bakeries

John Taylor opened the first bakery in Wedderburn, but the date of establishment is unknown. Robert Twiddy went into business as a baker first in 1866.

General Stores

Opened by C. Smith Swales (1853), Robert Steel (Jan. 1854), James Ball (1855), J.R. Gray and J. Messler (Aug. 1855) and A. Ritchie (1854), Samuel Rinder (March 1856), Leonard Cahill (?1860) and Archibald McCallum (?1860).

According to the 1867 Rate Book, which is the first available, there was a total of twenty-eight stores in existence in Wedderburn at that time.

Butchers

Shops were opened by Messrs Ball (1857), Thompson, Whitfield (1859) and Klopke (1858).

Brickyards

Thomas Ingram is named as the owner of a brickyard in the 1867 Rate Book.

Stables

Alexander Dawson and John Foster White owned stables in 1867.

Dairies

Walter Turnbull, Daniel Sullivan and William McKinnis had dairies in 1867.

Blacksmith

David Jenkins was operating a Blacksmith shop in 1867 and James Ball opened a Smith in Reef Street, Wedderburn in 1879.

Post Office

The first Wedderburn Post Office opened on 3rd November, 1858 under the management of Joshua R. Gray. Mr. Gray was paid an annual allowance for his postal services, which was based on a percentage of postal business transacted.

A mail list for 1862 shows that a mail service operated between Dunolly and Wedderburne, by way of Moliagul, McIntyre's and Kingover, three days a week, by coach. The same mail list also referred to a service between Wedderburne and East Charlton, which operated twice a week.

Post Office Savings Bank facilities were provided as from 1st December, 1874 and a telegraph office was established in February, 1876.

In 1879 Joshua Gray was succeeded by Millicent A. Kemp. The annual allowance then averaged about \$160. Management of the office passed to Emily H. Cowan in 1880; then to Emma Deane in 1885; Eliza Vigar in 1889; Archibald Drummond about 1901; William Stephens in 1904; Trailus Gray in 1909; Arthur Alexander in 1913; Mary Shugg - 1916; William Albinson - 1922; Thomas McLernon about 1930; Warren Martin - 1933; William Carter about 1945; William Rea in 1947; Frank Latch - 1950; Gordon Tiller - 1954; Eric Von Horn - 1957 and Allan Edwards in 1967.

Telephone facilities were provided in 1912, and by the end of that year there was one subscriber who was Dr. A.W. Rinder of "The Vigil".