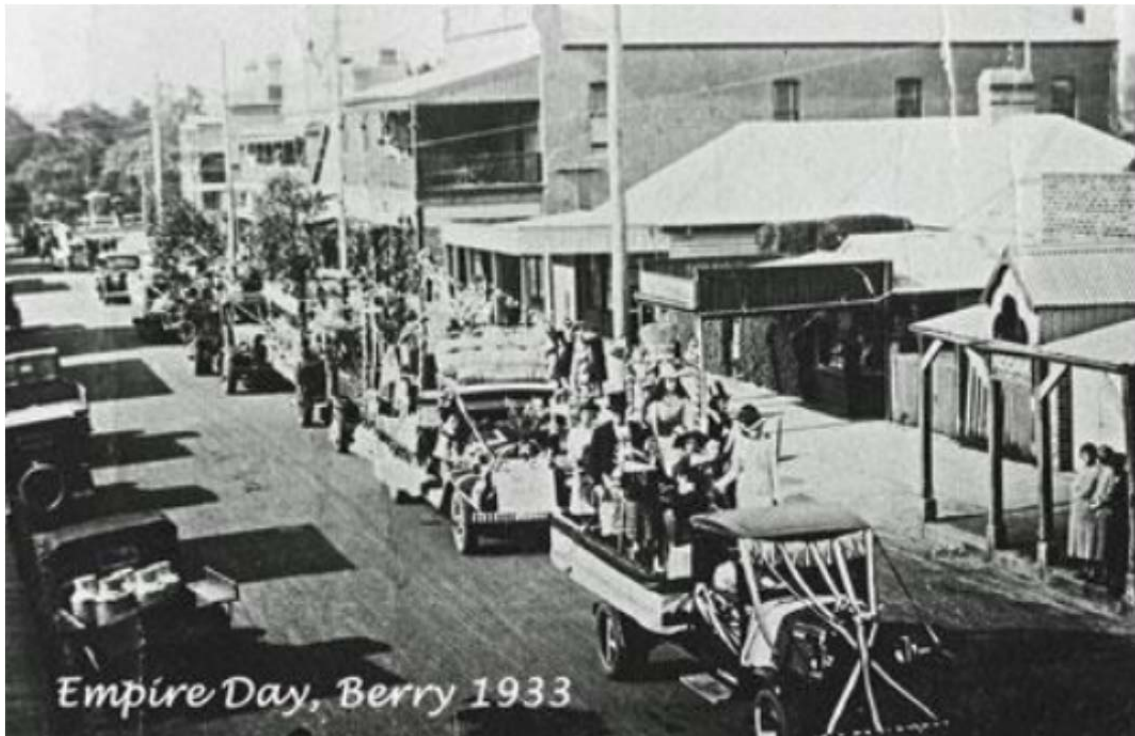


BERRY

Town of Trees

A GUIDE FOR WALKING – PART TWO

Published by The Berry Museum



A BRIEF HISTORY

Berry is proud of its history. Several of its buildings are listed on the Shoalhaven City Council's heritage list and the Railway Station, the Gate House of the David Berry Hospital and the Courthouse are on the NSW Heritage List. Many parts of the town are also listed with the National Trust.

Before European settlement the Wodi-Wodi people lived in the area which was known as Boon-ga-ree.

Alexander Berry took up a land grant at Coolangatta in 1822. Alexander Berry was introduced to this area by an indigenous person named Toodwick who was born in this area. Toodwick was also known as Broughton. The creek and township were named Broughton Creek after him. It wasn't until 1890 that the town was renamed Berry.

When Broughton Creek began, it was settled by loggers and sawyers who had come for the splendid stands of red cedar. A sawmill was built, close to where the railway bridge now crosses Tannery Road on the way to David Berry Hospital. The settlement was established here because this was the first place the creek could be crossed easily. The creek was navigable up to the wharf which was at the junction of Broughton Creek and Broughton Mill Creek.

At that time, the only means of travel to this area was by steamer. Many of the people who came to this area were convicts who were assigned to Alexander Berry and their overseers (freemen). Tenants, employees and free settlers followed later. The estate store house was at Coolangatta with rations being distributed by cart to the outstations, such as the tannery near the foot crossing on Broughton Creek.

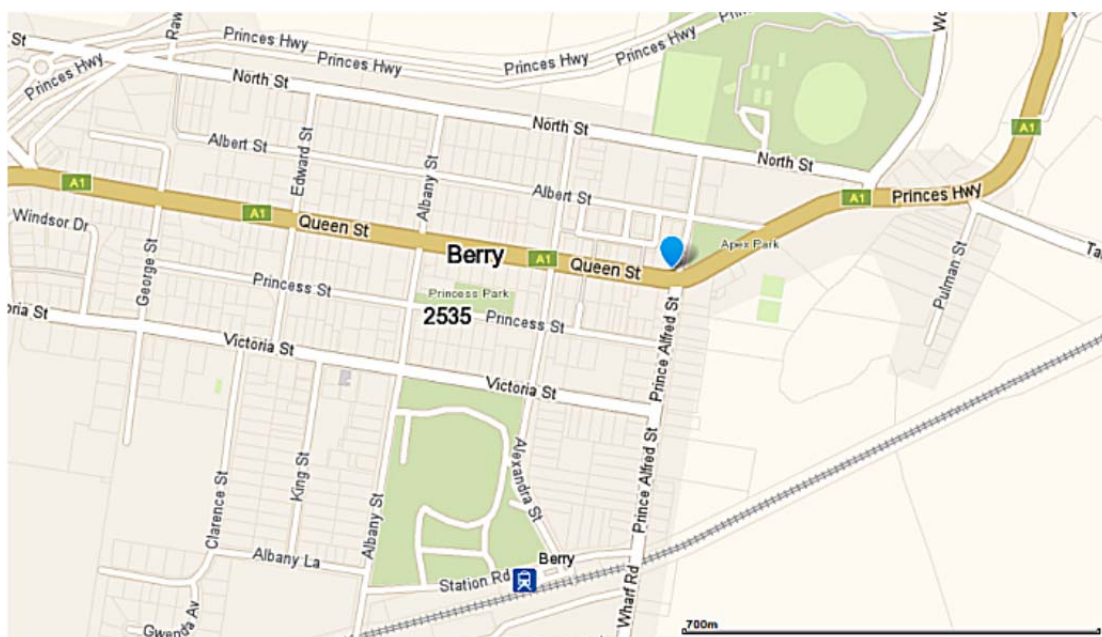
Because of flooding, the settlement moved to the ridge where Pulman Street and the Princes Highway are now. The store, church, post office, police house, council chambers, court house and school were built later. In 1868 the population was 300 and the town was proclaimed a municipality. Broughton Creek was a private town, part of the Coolangatta Estate. Alexander Berry died in 1873, and the estate passed to his brother David.

The town spread to the southwest over Broughton Mill Creek, around the Inn that David Berry built so travelers could stay overnight before proceeding to the Nowra ferry. This is where the main part of Berry now lies.

In 1883 a rectangular grid of streets was first proposed. Many of the town's public areas were planned, including the showground, the post office, the public school, the court house and 2 acres each for four churches located at the four corners of the town. After the death of David Berry in 1889, the name of Broughton Creek was changed to Berry by Act of Parliament in 1890 in honour of the Berry family. The estate was inherited by John Hay, a cousin, and most of the estate was sold off to meet the large bequests of David Berry's will that included the David Berry Hospital. John Hay died in 1909. A new subdivision plan for Berry, with some changes from the first, was drawn up in 1912 and Berry was sold off by the trustees of his estate. The streets bear names to commemorate members of Queen Victoria's family.

In 1972 the community proposed a scheme in to plant trees in the streets of the town, with every street having different trees or shrubs. And so Berry became known as the "Town of Trees".

➔The tour begins at the corner of Queen Street and Prince Alfred Street



Extended Tour: Late Victorian and Edwardian Berry – The south side of town

DRINKING FOUNTAIN - This is a memorial to James Wilson, the first Mayor of Berry. In the 1870's and 1880s Prince Alfred Street was the main route south to the wharf on the Broughton Creek where the steamers came up from the Shoalhaven River. This was once the commercial centre of the town. On Sundays the folk would promenade along here in their Sunday clothes to the beauty spots along Broughton Creek. When the steamers no longer called it became less of a thoroughfare and is now residential. Several of the places have been restored so they retain their old character.

SALE YARDS - These were once next to the present Fire Station and records show that along this road were a baker, a builder's supply shop, a boot maker and a saddler.

29 Prince Alfred Street - LANCER BARRACKS

Just one house in from the corner of Victoria Street is where the Barracks of the Berry Half Squadron of Lancers were stationed. It was built in 1896 and extended in 1898 by John Hay. In 1893 the place was converted into a room for Light Horse Orderlies. It is now a private residence.

23 Prince Alfred Street - GENERAL STORE & BAKERY

This charming building was originally built as a General Store before being turned into a bakery. It operated as various types of businesses over the years until becoming a bakery once again. The original oven door was unearthed in the back garden and reinstated and can be seen today, back on the old oven!

Across the railway line Prince Alfred Street becomes Wharf Road and the side road to the Sewerage works once lead to the "Double Wharf" at the junction of Broughton Mill Creeks.

➔Turn right into Railway Street

RAILWAY STATION - 1893

The railway from Sydney reached Berry in 1893. Berry Station platform was lengthened to accommodate the especially long trains that ran for the Berry Races. The racecourse lay between the railway station and Broughton Creek. No races seem to have been held there after World War I. A siding exists for the Berry Rural Co-operative Society Ltd. The yard has an old Chinese Holly and Gardenia Thunbergia which were probably sent down from the Botanic Gardens in Sydney.



Berry Railway Station

STATION MASTER'S RESIDENCE

This can be seen on the left of the car park as you face the station. It was used as the Scout Hall until March 2005. Sadly, it is now dilapidated.



Station Master's Cottage

CO-OPERATIVE BUILDINGS – 1895

These buildings were built by John Hay, a legatee of the Berry Estate, in 1895. They were bought by the local dairy farmers co-operative in 1911. They can be seen across the other side of the track from the station and can be reached via Old Creamery Lane. The Cooperative still owns them and uses some of them (milk and butter are no longer processed there) and leases the rest out to other businesses.

DAVID BERRY MEMORIAL PARK

This is opposite the station on the corner of Alexandra Street. It contains a memorial column of pink granite inscribed “to our kind and considerate landlord, David Berry”. The Memorial was unveiled in 1897. During the ceremony Dr John Hay said of David: “An honest man is the noblest work of God”. Palm trees and some European trees shade the park and many were planted in 1934 when the local RSL cleaned up the neglected park for the ANZAC parade. Through the middle of the park are traces of gravel that show where Alexandra Street ran straight to the station before it was rerouted to separate this park from the Memorial Park.

CENOTAPH AND MEMORIAL PARK

On the other corner of Alexandra Street opposite the station is War Memorial Park containing the Cenotaph which is approached by an avenue of Eucalypts and Brush Box, each in memory of a fallen serviceman. Lady Davidson, wife of the then Governor of NSW, officially opened the park in 1922. The cenotaph is made of sandstone and is surrounded by palm trees, the date palm avenue being a reminder of the desert campaigns in both world wars. The park and cenotaph were refurbished by the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 1990s. The old cannon is a relic from WWI rejected by Nowra RSL and gratefully accepted by the Berry People.

➔Now turn right and proceed up Alexandra Street

SHOWGROUND

The main entrance is on the left. Sixteen acres were given by the Berry Estate for a showground. After the breakup of the estate the land was sold to the Land's Department in 1913. It is now owned by Shoalhaven City Council.

GRANDSTAND – 1893/1988

Inside the showground across the oval you can see the grandstand. The first grandstand was designed by Howard Joseland and built in timber in time for the 1893 show which was opened by Lord Jersey. It was moved to its present site in the 1930s when the show ring was moved. It was rebuilt to its original design with a lower floor for the 100th Berry Show in 1988 funded by a Centenary Grant.



Berry Showground Grandstand

AGRICULTURAL PAVILION - 1890

Inside the showground on the corner of Albany Street and Victoria Street is the L shaped Agricultural Hall. It was built in the 1890s and is used mainly by Broughton Lodge and the Berry Silver Band. On the first Friday and Saturday of February the Berry Agricultural and Horticultural Show is held and uses this building and the rest of the showground.

FOUNTAIN & ROTUNDA – 1915

Inside the showground near the corner of Alexandra and Victoria Streets is a marble fountain erected in 1915 and dedicated to John Hay. As it interfered with the football games, the rotunda, was moved from the center of the show ring to the site near the John Hay memorial in 1936.



Drinking Fountain

BERRY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1912

To the right of the main entrance of the showground is a small building dated 1912 for when Berry Municipal Council moved here from the old part of town (see 54). From 1942 until it amalgamated with Shoalhaven Council in 1948 they used the Bank building on Queen Street.



Berry Council Chambers

➔Turn left into Victoria Street from Alexandra Street and proceed along the showground side of the street.

THE COURTHOUSE – 1890

On the left on the corner of Albany & Victoria Streets, the Greek Revival style Courthouse, built in 1890-91, was designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet. It was built by local builders H. & P. Ettinghausen. The Courthouse operated until 1988 when it became the Police Station. It was sold into private hands in 1994. In 1999, the Shoalhaven City Council purchased the Courthouse for the community.



Early view of the courthouse with the Masonic Hall on the opposite corner

POLICE STATION – CIRCA 1905

This is next door to the Courthouse on Victoria Street. It has a lockup and enclosed exercise yard at the back. It is still in use as a Police Station except the lockup and exercise yard are no longer used as such.

PRIMARY SCHOOL - 1884

The current school was built to replace the old one in Pulman Street, it is on 2 acres of land given by the Berry Estate. The original building is now used as the library and new buildings have been added as needed. A further 9.5 acres was added in 1936 and a new residence erected in 1938.

PRESBYTERIAN MANSE - 1891

Updated by the Berry Chamber of Commerce May 2012 Page 17 Further up on the left is a two storey Victorian brick house with 1891 on the front gable. At one time there was a small corrugated iron and timber church on this site built in 1884. In 1934 a brick church as built nearer the centre of town and the manse is now a private residence.

→Turn and go back down Victoria Street

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION HALL – CIRCA 1900

Opposite the Showground, just before the corner of Alexandra Street next to the Presbyterian Church, is a small timber building. This was the original school of the town and was located in Pulman Street. It was moved to its present site in 1915 to be used as a Bowling Club. In 1963, when the new Bowling Club was built on Princes Highway, the CWA bought the property.



Bowling Club, now the CWA

Corner Alexandra & Victoria Streets - PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 1934

The brick church was built to replace the original timber church next to the Manse at the top of Victoria Street. It has a copper spire and a set of stained glass windows given by Scots Church in Margaret Street Sydney. The church hall next to it in Alexandra Street was completed in 2004.



Presbyterian Church

➔Turn left into Alexandra Street

Corner of Alexandra and Princess Streets - SCHOOL OF ARTS - 1905

The foundation stone was laid on 24th May 1905 and the building opened in 1906. It was built by A Johnston to a neo-Georgian design by Joseland and Vernon and the interior contains a hall, stage and gallery. The smaller rooms once housed a library and a billiard table. A World War I Honour Roll is near the front entrance and a supper room was added in 1922 with the crash door added later to comply with regulations.



School of Arts

➔*Turn right into Princess Street*

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SAINT LUKE - 1885

This brick church was built on land given by the Berry Estate and opened in 1885. The bricks were cement rendered and painted white in the 1930s. In 1982 this was removed and the bricks sealed. It is the only one of the four original churches still in use as a church. Above the new enlarged porch is a bell inscribed with the date 1845 and was given to St Lukes by St. James Church in Sydney in 1877. The old brick rectory next door is now privately owned.



St Luke Anglican Church

➔*Turn left into Prince Alfred Street*

THE NORTH SIDE OF TOWN

➔*Proceed along Prince Alfred Street beside the old post office.*

APEX PARK - 1959

Apex Park is named for the Service Club that established it in 1959 on the site of a horse paddock. It was one of their first projects. On the corner of the park is the clock that is a memorial to Jim Priddle, an outstanding citizen. Nearby is a horse trough donated by Annis and George Bills. The park was replanted to a new design by Dane Van Bree, of which the rotunda was part, in 1999. There is also a fine bronze bust of David Berry by Trudi Van ??

➔*Turn left into Albert Street*

UNITING CHURCH - 1932

This opened as a Methodist Church in 1932, designed by J. M. Mills and built by Whitwell Bros. of Sydney. A carillon was installed in the tower in 1948, the large stained glass window features St. Michael. The original timber church built in 1884 still stands in the grounds. The brick parsonage, built in 1936, was demolished in 2011.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK – 1936

The first Catholic Church once stood on the other side of Broughton Mill Creek and appears to have been established before 1866. The first church dedicated to St Patrick was built on this site donated by David Berry in 1884. It was a timber church with iron roof that was also used as the school. An adjacent timber cottage was purchased to be the convent for the Sisters of St Joseph who arrived in 1891 to run a school. The present church was designed by Clement Glancey and built by H. A. Taylor of Concord. The adjacent brick convent was built in 1921 for the Sisters of St. Joseph with the timber cottage being sold and moved to 59 Queen Street. In 1954 a new school was built. When the school closed in 1978 the building continued to be used as a hall until the land was sold in 2001. The purchaser gave the building to the Berry Public School in 2002. During the 1980s much of the land was sold and the money put towards the first stage of St John the Evangelist High School.

OLD BROUGHTON CREEK

**➔Proceed along the highway towards Sydney and cross Broughton Mill Creek.
Turn right into Tannery Road and right again into Pulman Street.**

This was the first centre of town when it was known as Broughton Creek. The site dates from the 1860s but there is not much left of the original dwellings. They have been moved or restored or the timber reused. Pulman Street was named for the family that ran the farm at the end of the road.

CONSTABLE’S COTTAGE - 1871

This is on the opposite side of the highway to Pulman Street opposite the Bangalee Motel. It was the original constable’s cottage built in 1871. It is now a private residence. Along the highway from this were a butcher’s shop, Council Chambers, Catholic Church and several other cottages.

MANANGA HOMESTED - 1894

On the hill just up from the Bangalee Motel is Mananga which was built by the Berry Estate for the Stewart family in recognition of their services as postmaster, auctioneers and business persons. The house was later bought by the family. The first homestead stood below the old cowbails beside a mill race which joined Broughton Mill Creek and Broughton Creek and supplied power to a sawmill. The contours of the land show the location of this race.

1 Pulman Street - GENERAL STORE – CIRCA 1880

Facing the highway on the corner of Pulman Street nearest the bridge is the building which housed James Wilson’s first store. It is a landmark building, the first you see when you drive into Berry. It became the COTTAGE HOSPITAL between 1894 and 1909 and is now a private residence.



General Store, circa 1880

3 Pulman Street - CURATE'S COTTAGE

The next house on the right was the curate's cottage. It then became the Nurses' quarters with the morgue being in the back garden.

5 Pulman Street - SCHOOL HOUSE

This is the site where the old school stood before being relocated to Victoria Street and is now the home of the CWA. The present home dates from 1955.

11 & 13 Pulman Street - ESTATE HOUSES

On the same side of the street are two houses built by the Estate for tenants. Lyntonstowe, number 11, was the house and surgery of Dr Lewers from before 1888. The second was tenanted by a Mr Tindall.

OTHER HOUSES

The other houses date from the 1950s to 1980s but towards the end of the street, at the top of the hill is an old timber farmhouse (No. 15) which was moved here by bullock dray from Jaspers Brush.

PULMAN'S COTTAGE - 1865

At the bottom of the hill, at the end of the street beside the creek, is a farmhouse built about 1865 for the Pulman family, tenant farmers. It has been much renovated but has a little of its original timber. It was dragged here from its original position when the railway line was installed. The Pulmans arrived in about 1855, a widow and 5 children. Captain William Pulman had been the master of the Berry's ships The Edward, Star, Swan and the Union for many years. When he died David Berry saw that the family had a farm to go to.

➔Turn right into Tannery Road as you leave Pulman Street

DAVID BERRY HOSPITAL – 1909

Along Tannery Road over Broughton Creek is the hospital. When David Berry died in 1889 he left £100,000 pounds for the building and maintenance of a hospital in Berry. It was built by a Mr Cole to a design of Joseland & Vernon and opened in 1909. The hospital was the first not privately owned in the Shoalhaven area. The old nurses' home in the grounds was adapted in 1986/7 to "Karinya" a Palliative Care Unit.