



THE HISTORY BEHIND GLENMORE

Back in 1824, the building of Glenmore Heritage Valley began. Mr Henry Cox was the founder and built an ‘L’ shaped building and underneath were cellars for wine to be stored.



The name of Glenmore was suggested as it was the Mackenzie’s birthplace in Scotland, and Miss Frances MacKenzie was Henry Cox’s wife.

Glenmore was a great and busy centre for many years, with their grape vines, wheat, corn, alfalfa and all kinds of horse and cattle feed. Sheep roamed and flourished all around the homestead; the vineyards and orchards having low fences of stones as they had in Scotland. Labour was cheap and plentiful, supplied by the Government, with a few free settlers or Currency Lands as overseers. No punishment was allowed on the property – if a man was too obstreperous, he was taken to a magistrate in Penrith and usually given up to 50 lashes. This very seldom happened because the Cox’s were known for their kindness and goodness to all.



In well-preserved letters and diaries, we learn of happy social gatherings, of picnics, weddings, childrens’ holiday periods, Christmas, Easter etc. There were always some visitors dropping in. Florence Nightingale on her only trip to Australia to found a Nursing Service in her tradition was said to have visited some of the Cox’s homes at Mulgoa.



Later in the early 1850’s, Henry Cox had his sheep transferred to a property he had purchased with the help of his banker father-in-law, at “Broombee” between Mudgee and Bathurst. By 1851 Glenmore was up for sale and they moved to the western home.

A Mr Thomas Sutcliff Mort bought Glenmore. He was famous for his sheep and the great wool broking firm he founded, and later became more famous for his experiments in refrigerating meat for export. He intended to use Glenmore as a summer residence, but





after three years decided it was too quiet and not easily accessible from Sydney. In 1854, Glenmore was again for sale.



The third occupant of Glenmore was Mr James John Riley. His wife was formerly a Miss Blomfield of Denham Court, the beautiful house also restored by the National Trust, at Ingleburn. They, with their young family, were very happy and much loved by the Cox family, who visited back and forth.

Glenmore was compared favorably with any property in NSW. The cereal crops, orchards and vineyards bore good harvests and the wine cellars were full. This period of prosperity gave Mr Riley the opportunity to add the south wing to Glenmore. His family crest is still to be seen in the coping in the front of the house. The courtyard and drive was widened and completed, the beautiful gardens surrounding the house were extended and embellished by the love and skill of the Riley ladies.



James Riley was a great public figure. He was the means of creating a Shire Council and became the first Mayor of Penrith.

James Riley died in 1882. His wife and daughters stayed at the house over twenty years or until they married. Mrs Riley died at the turn of the Century. In the early part of the 1900's two of the Misses Riley conducted a School for Young Ladies. They were beloved gentlewomen, renowned for their kindness and good works.



In May 1927 Glenmore opened its doors as a Golf Course and Country Club. A wonderful Sunday luncheon could be had for half a crown. The beautiful greens of the golf links surround the house and the cool tranquil cedar-lined interior and high ceilings all whisper of the past.



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The history of Glenmore Heritage Valley is invaluable. The building is over 180 years old and is in great condition and since 1927 has served the community as a Golf Course.

