

Enid Hall Interview – 21 August 2011 for Memories of Dardanup Project

Interviewed by Richard Davies

Overview

Richard Davies interviews Enid Hall, a long-time resident of Ferguson and Wellington Mill, on August 21, 2011.

Enid, born May 29, 1924, in Bunbury, recounts her life on her grandfather's farm and her experiences in Wellington Mill. She describes the community's thriving past, including sports days, school trips, and the mill's operations. Enid recalls the mill's closure in 1918 and the impact of World War II on the area. She also shares memories of the devastating fire in the 1950s, which destroyed many buildings and altered the community forever.

Enid Hall recounts the history of her area, including the transformation of a park, the demolition of a boarding house with beautiful Jarrah lining, and the relocation of churches and the Alexandra Hall. Enid describes the Mill Manager's House, highlighting its size, numerous fireplaces, and historical significance. She also mentions Mrs Weetman, a well-respected teacher who continued teaching during WWII. The conversation ends with Richard Davies expressing interest in further exploring the area's history.

Enid's reflections highlight the significant changes and the loss of a once-thriving town.

Outline

Enid Hall's Early Life and Family Background

- Richard Davies introduces Enid Hall, a long-time resident of Ferguson and Wellington Mill, and mentions her 68th wedding anniversary.
- Enid Hall was born on May 29, 1924, in Bunbury and lived on her grandfather's farm at Ferguson, John Fowler.
- Enid's present address is 564 Wellington Mills Road, Wellington Mills, the old Mill Manager's House.
- Enid was the eldest of three children and has fond memories of sports days and wood chops at Wellington Mills.

Life on the Farm and Schooling

- Enid's grandfather had a sheep farm, and the railway line ran through his property.
- Enid attended the Ferguson school for eight years and remembers a school trip to Bunbury to see HMAS Sydney in 1937.
- At 14, Enid went to Wellington Mills to help a lady who had a big operation, which was an eye-opener for her.
- The mill closed in 1918, but small-scale operations continued until 1934, and the railway line was still in use.

Memories of Wellington Mill and the Mill Closure

- Enid describes Wellington Mill as a busy place with many houses, but many were sold during the war due to a lack of building materials.
- The town still had old parts like sawdust heaps and a train carriage, which Enid's children played in.
- The railway line stopped being used around 1934, and the train was taken away in the 1950s after the 1950 fire burned the railway bridges.
- Enid recalls the devastating 1950 fire that destroyed many houses, and which people fought the fire with bags and bush branches.

Daily Life and Facilities

- As a child, Enid's first home had a Coolgardie safe, kerosene lamps, and a kerosene fridge.
- Water was collected from rainwater tanks, and most houses were built near rivers for easy access to water.
- When Enid married Tom and moved to Wellington Mill, they had similar facilities like kerosene lamps and a Coolgardie safe.
- The closure of the school, forest department, and post office in the early 1970s left the district feeling bereft.

Community and Social Life

- Wellington Mill was a thriving town with shops, butcher shops, bakeries, tea rooms, and various residents and offices.

- Enid remembers the Queen Jarrah and King Jarrah trees, which were significant landmarks in the town.
- Pleasurable times included playing tennis, dancing at Red Cross dances, and visiting HMAS Sydney.
- Enid's grandfather and other farmers supplied fodder and food to Wellington Mill before and during World War I, and the army used the mill area during World War II for training.

Impact of the Fire and Changes in the Community

- The fire in the 1950s devastated the area, and many houses were destroyed, but those occupied and whose owners stayed to fight the fire were saved.
- Enid's children attended school in Wellington Mill, but the schoolhouse was burnt down. The school records were not saved.
- The boarding house and other buildings were pulled down, and that area was used for a pine nursery before being converted into a park.
- Enid reflects on the changes in the community, including the closure of the post office and the impact of the fire on the local infrastructure.

Park Development and Boarding House

- Enid Hall mentions the development of a park with trees and landscaping, expressing anticipation for its future growth.
- Richard Davies enquires about the boarding house. Enid explains it was demolished and sold. Enid describes the boarding house's beautiful polished Jarrah lining
- The Guest House, a separate building, where Mr and Mrs Ferres (the mill caretakers) lived, had a role in accommodating visiting dignitaries. It was a significant building, similar to the Mill Manager's house with big verandahs.

Churches and Alexandra Hall

- Enid Hall discusses the fate of the churches, with one going to Stratham and the Catholic Church to Waterloo, while the Alexandra Hall moved to Elgin¹.

¹ Although Enid recalls the Hall going to Elgin, this was not in fact the case. The Elgin Hall came from elsewhere. It was discovered in 2024 that the Alexandra Hall was likely moved to Pugsley's farm at Lowden (later Murat's farm).

- The Alexandra Hall was used for dances, pictures, and community gatherings, including horse rides for picnics.
- Enid recalls the monthly events and the men's billiard hall, which also served as a temporary school after the 1950 fire.

Mill Manager's House Description

- Enid Hall describes the Mill Manager's House, noting its size, multiple verandahs, and fireplaces.
- The house has seven chimneys, seven fireplaces, and around 16 or 17 doors, indicating its grandeur.
- Enid mentions the iron rings on the corner where the manager used to hang his hammock and from where he would supposedly “oversee” the mill.
- The house is built high off the ground in the front and on flat ground at the back, showcasing its unique architecture.

Mrs Weetman's Role and Community Impact

- Enid Hall talks about Mrs Weetman, who lived on a farm near the mill and taught at Wellington until she got married.
- During the World War II, Mrs Weetman returned to teach due to a shortage of teachers, and she continued teaching until she was 67.
- Mrs Weetman was well-known in the district, and her farm was later divided into smaller farmlets.
- Enid notes the growth of new houses in the area, indicating a revival of the once nearly deserted Wellington.

Conclusion and Future Exploration

- Richard Davies expresses gratitude for the information shared and acknowledges that they have only scratched the surface.
- Enid Hall agrees, expressing a desire to revisit the past and explore more about the area's history.
- Richard Davies suggests that future discussions would bring out more memories and details.

- The conversation concludes with mutual thanks and appreciation for the insights shared.

Transcript

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Richard Davies 0:03

My name's Richard Davies. The date the 21st of August 2011.

I have the great honor to interview Enid Hall, a very long-time resident in Ferguson and Wellington Mill. Now one special occasion which I need to mention before we start is that Enid celebrated her 68th wedding anniversary yesterday and she had the pleasure of enjoying that with her husband Tom.

So Enid, when were you born?

Enid Hall 0:46

I was born the 24th of May 19 24/29 of May 1924 in Bunbury, but I lived my life on my grandfather's farm at Ferguson, John Fowler,

Richard Davies 1:01

and your present address, are you living in Wellington Mill?

Enid Hall 1:06

Yes. Well, my present address is 564 Wellington Mills Road, Wellington Mills,

Richard Davies 1:12

the old mill manager's house, very fine old residence. Now, had you many siblings when you were born? Were you the first? Or

Enid Hall 1:26

yes, I was the eldest, and I had a sister and brother. So my first memories of Wellington Mills was when I came up to a sports day when I was about six years old, and they had wonderful sports days in those days, and I ran a running race and got two shillings, which I thought was a fortune in those days, and how we got there I don't know, but it was, it was a lovely day, and they used to have beautiful sports days, large crowds, wood chops, all sorts of things, and really the train, the railway line went through my grandfather's property for about, about a mile,

Richard Davies 2:18

your grandfather's property was approximately eight miles,

Enid Hall 2:24

no, it was about three miles, three miles

Richard Davies 2:26

from three miles from Wellington. Yes, and what sort of stock was your grandfather running?

Speaker 2 2:34

Well, he had a sheep, we had sheep farm, and so we used, we used to hear the train blow the whistle up at a rocky bend, and we'd sometimes run down the hill and up the other side to the little siding that was up on the crossroad. Every crossroad had a siding. There was one further down called the nine mile, which would have been a very busy siding, because it served all of Upper Ferguson. Then there was another one called the Eight Mile, and another one called the Five Mile, and they used to pick up any produce that the farmers left there. The train used to, and bring back anything that was for the farmers, they bring back and leave in their siding for them,

Richard Davies 3:25

so the main transport of stock and produce was on the railway line.

Enid Hall 3:33

Yes,

Richard Davies 3:34

were the roads very good, or

Speaker 2 3:38

well, they're pretty, pretty narrow and pretty windy,

Speaker 3 3:41

yeah, but

Speaker 2 3:42

the roads were there,

Richard Davies 3:45

and at your schooling, you,

Speaker 2 3:52

yes, I went for eight years to the Ferguson school, and it was all, it was all school in those days, we didn't have any outings, but we did go when I was about 12 or 13. We went to Bunbury and went over HMAS Sydney, and thinking back, that was quite, after what happened to the poor old Sydney, it was something to remember, wasn't it?

Richard Davies 4:16

Yes, and that I think you were saying that was approximately 1937

Enid Hall 4:23

Yes, about 1937.

So then, when I was 14, I went to Wellington Mills to help this lady who'd just had a big operation, and that was an eye opener, because it was still all these streets, and the O'Neills lived in the hospital next door.

Richard Davies 4:44

Was the hospital active?

Enid Hall 4:46

No, no, the hospital closed when the mill closed.

Richard Davies 4:50

And what year was the closure of the mill?

Enid Hall 4:53

The mill closed in 1918² but it still had little spot mills, and there was still sleeper cutting going on,

Richard Davies 5:02

I see,

Enid Hall 5:04

The timber was still being taken away, even up until about 1934 the train still ran and they took timber away and sleepers,

Richard Davies 5:13

yes, and and what, and so at that, at that time when you were 14, in effect 1938 was it 1938, what was Wellington Mill like?

² The big mill at Wellington Mills closed in September 1919, a year after the end of World War I.

Enid Hall 5:33

Well, it was still very busy, and still lots of houses, but a lot of houses were sold during the war because you couldn't buy building material during the war, so a lot of people bought those houses, but when we came up to live in 1945 we did up an old house and lived there for quite a few years. Well, then it was a very fascinating place, because there are still parts of the old mill, there, there was the sawdust heaps, there was all sorts of stuff lying around, and the carriage was still there, and the train was still there, and I used to put my kids up in the train to play, and talking to the people of Wellington, who went to school there, the kids had a marvellous time in the train and the carriage,

Richard Davies 6:20

but it wasn't being used at that time. No,

Enid Hall 6:22

no, it wasn't being used at that time when visiting there.

Richard Davies 6:26

so when did they, when did they stop using the railway line?

Enid Hall 6:31

Well, I'd say about 1934. Yes, although they still use the railway line, Mr Ferres was the caretaker after the mill closed, and he often went down on the trolley to Dardanup. Before that trolley, they used to have one of those funny old ones, you know, that worked by two people pushing and pulling. Yes, yes, my dad often rode on that trolley, took two or three men to do with that. Alright, going down to Dardanup, but coming up, it was uphill.

The railway line followed the river all the way to Dardanup. It was in the first place, it was called the Ferguson River Railway when it was first built. Yeah,

Richard Davies 7:19

so what happened to the railway line, and say the old engine?

Enid Hall 7:29

Well, after the fire went through, it burnt out all the railway bridges and road bridges, and so in the 1950s about 1955 the carriage was burnt, but the train was still there. They, they took the train away to be cut up, and you know, we were silly not to have kept that train. We should have, we should have, we shouldn't have let it go.

Richard Davies 7:54

Do you have a memory of the fire? Do you have a memory of the fire.

Enid Hall 8:02

Oh yes, gosh, yes, it was devastating. I had, we had three little kids at the time, and Tom had a broken leg, so we packed up our car with all our valuables and went over to my uncle's place at Lowden, and some men from Donnybrook looked after our place, and so by the time we'd got over to Lowden, the fire was there behind us.

Richard Davies 8:26

How did you make that journey?

Enid Hall 8:30

we had our car

Richard Davies 8:34

Right. Yes. When you returned to your house, to the Mill Manager's House, what had happened to it?³

Enid Hall 8:42

Well, when we went to live there, there was a corner of the verandah had been burnt, and old Mr Zagami had managed to put the fire out, and he put out all the little spot fires

³ The interview is confused here, not being exactly aware of the history of the house. Enid, Tom and their children did not live in the old Mill Manager's House at the time of the April 1950 fire. They were living along the Wellington/Lowden Road. Enid and Tom purchased the Mill Manager's House in ?? Their son Michael and his wife Margaret then bought and restored the house in 2019.

that started, and he was an old man, he was running around putting out fires, he was exhausted by that night, but he saved the house, and all the houses that were occupied were saved. The only houses that burnt down were the ones that had nobody in them. Everybody that stayed with the houses saved them. So it was a devastating fire. The whole area looked absolutely shocking, because there wasn't a green leaf left on the trees. It was really a devastating fire.

Richard Davies 9:25

How did they get water to fight that fire?

Enid Hall 9:29

They didn't have water, they all fought it with bags and bushes and things. Nobody had any equipment in those days like they have now, but no, they, that's all they had. Some people may have had had sprayers, but I don't know of anybody that did. I know my parents fought the fire with bags, wet bags.

Richard Davies 9:53

Right. And let's just go back to your first home being brought up with your brother and sister. Tell me about the facilities that you had there. How did you cool meat?

Enid Hall 10:14

We had a Coolgardie safe where you put water on top and pieces of rag over the sides and keep the hessian wet, yeah, and that's that's what we had when I was young, and that's what we had when we got married, and for lighting kerosene lamps, and eventually we got a kerosene fridge, which was absolutely marvellous,

Richard Davies 10:42

and how would you manage for water at home? The first rainwater, rainwater, so you'd bucket it in.

Enid Hall 10:51

No, well, we had it laid onto the sink,

Richard Davies 10:58

and so would you, would you pump, pump the water.

Enid Hall 11:01

No, nobody had any pumps. No, most houses were built near rivers in those days, so they could get water from the river if they ran out.

Richard Davies 11:09

Yeah, and then by comparison, when you married Tom and moved to live in Wellington Mill, or just outside Wellington Mill. What sort of facilities did you have then?

Enid Hall 11:26

Just the same, just the Mrs Potts irons and scrubbing board and Coolgardie safe and kerosene lamps.

Yes, one of the one of the most devastating things that happened when I was at Wellington, besides the fire, was when the school closed. It took the whole heart out of our district. The school closed, and they all came down to Dardanup. And at the end of 1971 the school closed.

And end of 1971 the forest department closed, and they went to Collie. And then in 1972 in June, the Post Office closed. Well, that was another thing that brought us all together. So we went on to automatic telephones, then, and that's why the post office closed.

So that was a that sort of left everybody a bit bereft, because it was sort of took the heart out of the district, considering what was there before, when the mill was going. I mean, it was a very thriving town with shops, butcher shops, bakery, and tea rooms, and all the doctors' residence, residents, and accountants, places, and the mill, the mill office, big mill office was there, and streets, and streets of houses, and they weren't very big houses, they were only little places, but they brought up big families in those homes, and then there was the men's single men's quarters, there was quite a few of those, and then there was the bush bush camps, there was two bush camps with two lines, one line went way out around to Mount Lennard and the other one went right out the bush going towards Collie, I suppose way out that way, and so they must have had at least two trains to serve those two railway lines that went out in the bush.

Richard Davies 13:37

Tell me about the misfortune to the Queen Jarrah.

Enid Hall 13:42

Yes, well, the Queen Jarrah was, and the King Jarrah were two trees that the Forest Minister in Perth had asked the Manager to save, and so while he, he was away and the mill was closing, the men decided what was the use of leaving the Queen Jarrah there. They'd just as well cut it down, and they did, and they had a photographer there to record it all. And what a shame it was, because it was right in the town, and I can remember the big stump. I used to put my kids up on the big stump to play, and if it was still there to be a great attraction, and because the Queen, the King Jarrah got badly burnt when the fire came through, burnt a big hollow in it.

Richard Davies 14:37

You could almost drive a small car through it, couldn't you? What, what are your memories of pleasurable times in Ferguson and Wellington Mill?

Enid Hall 14:52

Well, we used to play tennis and dances, I suppose. During the war, we had Red Cross dances every month, so that was something to look forward to, but otherwise pretty quiet life, really.

Richard Davies 15:09

Had you, we had you any singing or music, sometimes

Enid Hall 15:15

Only school, in school we had singing, we had all sorts in school. No, that's, I can't think of any. No. we didn't have any.

Richard Davies 15:31

What about your memories of the sounds in the mill?

Enid Hall 15:39

Well, the sounds had stopped when we went up there, but we can remember the train blowing the whistle going through my grandfather's property. That was always a thrill, just to hear the whistle, and sometimes we'd run up and get on the siding and watch it go past. That used to give us a thrill,

Richard Davies 15:56

and you and Tom used to go down to Pemberton for your annual holiday?

Enid Hall 16:02

we used to go down to Pemberton and we'd hear the mill whistle blow in the morning and we'd hear it blow at lunchtime and we'd think that was just how it would have been at Wellington

Richard Davies 16:18

so Enid I need to ask you, I'd love to ask you about your visit to HMAS Sydney.

Enid Hall 16:28

Yes, well, that was.. we didn't think much of it, but we were excited to go over it in those days, and the thing that I really remember about it was the guns. We thought we were quite intrigued with all those guns, and we went all over it. I wish I could remember more of it, but it was thinking back now how lucky we were to have done that.

Richard Davies 16:54

How was the, how was the tour conducted?

Enid Hall 16:57

It was a school group, our teacher went, took us there. We had an English teacher who, we couldn't get over him, he used to play sport with us, and he was really a marvellous teacher. And we taught him how to play marbles, and we used to win marbles off him to

start with, but in the finish he got quite good at it. Nobody plays marbles these days? I don't think now

Richard Davies 17:22

Once you finished school, you went immediately to work up in Wellington Mill, looking after a lady,

Enid Hall 17:36

only for a couple of weeks there, but as I got older during the war my cousin had a cream run. He used to go way up as far as Noggerup one day and right out around Thompson's Brook the next day, and his man went was called up in the army.

So my sister and I helped him out fortnight about. It was heavy work. We both hurt our backs. Cream cans are very heavy to lift. Cans of cream are really heavy. What we.. and it was.. he had his truck had a gas producer on it. Oh my gosh, we used to get filthy. Yes, only time he used petrol was to go up some of the hills. Gas producer just didn't make it sometimes, and it was always causing trouble, but a lot of truck, lot of people with trucks had gas producers in those days. Petrol was rationed, it was hard to get, so those, those.

Then I, when I got married, and we went up to Wellington Mills. It was, I found it quite a fascinating life, because you could walk around. There was no fences, all the houses had picket fence around it, but there was no fences around the area like there is now, and you could walk anywhere. You could walk all around where the mill used to be, and all the old bits of rubbish that was there, and we found all these old tools and things, we've still got them. It was really kids, it was a kid's paradise. They would have loved it. All my kids loved it. They played in the trains, so, and played on the sawdust heaps, and when the fire went through the Mill Managers, how the mill office was burnt down, and oh, such a lot of empty buildings that were there, and I suppose looking back, it was really altered the whole place once the fire had gone through, because there was just nothing left.

Richard Davies 19:57

Were your children, schooled in Wellington Mill.

Enid Hall 20:02

Yes, they all went to the to the school, not the school that was burnt down. None of mine went there. There were two schools, there was one for juniors and one for seniors, and the school house. Well, that all went. The kids just got out of school in time. Got down the valley, the school teacher took them down in the valley, and the funny thing is, instead of saving the school records, she saved a clock and a chair.

Yeah, so there were some funny incidents up there. I suppose there's a lot that I don't know, but the one I do know was when my dad, three of the men from Wellington in an old trolley that you pushed and pulled, think they called them Kalamazoos, did they?

They picked him up down at the siding⁴ and went on down and caught the train to Bunbury to a cricket match, and two of the men got drunk, and Dad and the other chap had to do all the work to get back up to Wellington, and just before they got to Wellington, the two drunk chaps had a fight, and they rolled down a steep bank, and the other two men had to put some stones behind the trolley to stop it running back to Dardanup and rescued them and put them on board and took them home. Then they had to raise some other men to take them back down to the farm. So I think I'd have left them down there. They wouldn't have known anything till morning,

Richard Davies 21:42

I let's, let's try another. Enid, you mentioned earlier that your grandfather and other farmers in the district were supplying fodder and other food to to Wellington Mill. Yes, can you elaborate on that?

Enid Hall 22:05

No, I think they would have put the chaff into the siding and the trains would have picked them up and carried them up here to Wellington, up to Wellington, and there was big feed sheds there, and during the war the army 10th light horse camp there and it was a wonderful sight seeing them going back down the road on the road going into Bunbury with all these 10th light horse all in their full uniform and all the horses so they did their, their, their jungle training out around Mount Lennard, and they camped at Wellington Mills, and that probably was 1941 or 42 somewhere around that, and

⁴ The siding at Fowler's farm

Richard Davies 23:00

in the fodder that that was supplied, what was that used for?

Enid Hall 23:08

Well, that was just chaff,

Richard Davies 23:10

and was that, that was essentially to the horses that were being used.

Enid Hall 23:17

Yes, they, they didn't, they probably had paddocks, but I think there was 80 about 80 horses, and so they'd need a fair bit of fodder, so all the farmers in the area would have supplied that. The horses, they had the big feed sheds somewhere over near the sports ground, so that probably was good for the farms as well,

Richard Davies 23:47

and did did the horses pulling the whims bring bring the timber into the railway line?

Enid Hall 23:55

Yes.

Richard Davies 23:56

Where was the timber going?

Enid Hall 24:01

Was all then bring it into the mill to be cut up, yeah, and then it was all taken away to Bunbury,

Richard Davies 24:10

and was that for export or for

Enid Hall 24:12

yes, mainly export, and a lot of it was used for building houses, but during the Depression, when there was very few houses being built, that's why the Mill really closed because of the depression, but nobody seemed to

Richard Davies 24:37

Had them had the, can we also go back to the fire, it's on top of the depression, is there some, you know, was that the beginning of enormous changes?

Enid Hall 25:05

after the fire. Well, there wasn't much of a change. No, the houses that were burnt were empty ones, and gradually the roads and bridges were built. I suppose the railway bridges were devastated. I mean, if the train, if the railway bridges had been still there, they often used to say they could have brought Leschenault Lady up through there. The bridges were all gone, so that didn't eventuate, but it would have been nice, I think. The biggest change would have been during the First World War, when a lot of the men went off. They would have missed, they would have missed a lot of the men, and actually there was two boys from Wellington Mills who were found at Fromelles in France, and one was a Knable. Well, the Knables lived there till they were very old people. They lived just near the men's Billiard Hall, and they were a Swiss couple who came out to work at Wellington in the early days,

Richard Davies 26:24

so when you first went to Wellington Mill and won that race, the population of the people around you, it was quite a thriving community, was

Enid Hall 26:38

a big thriving community. Yes, I and

Richard Davies 26:43

were they all employed, you know, in within forestry,

Enid Hall 26:50

within the mill. Yes, for the mill were all mill workers that, although they had, you know, Postmistress, Mrs Hume was the postmistress there for years and years, and then Joan Gardiner was postmistress for years, and then Margaret Gardiner took over after Joan left, so she was there when the post office closed, that was end of an era, really.

Richard Davies 27:34

So you earlier mentioned how what is to become the new park in the center of Wellington Mill? How was that in your memory?

Enid Hall 27:49

Well, that was full of houses in my memory, and the tea rooms were down the bottom, near the railway line, and the boarding house was near the railway line. The railway line went right past the houses, and the tea rooms were right there, and the shops were a bit further along, and all that area was full of houses. And then, after the fire went through, the boarding house was still there, and another house, and then a few years later the Forest Department used that for a pine nursery, and they grew young pines there ready to plant pines in the area, and now, of course, it's, and the boarding house was closed. It was sold to the butchers in Dardanup, and they pulled it down and rebuilt, rebuilt it in Dardanup at the Panizza's and Garbelini's butcher shop. So, and the other house that was there, they brought that too, so that left all that area with nothing there, and so nowadays they're planting a park there, planting trees, and it's all been landscaped. Should be nice one day when it all grows up.

Richard Davies 29:18

What's the boarding house? The the sort of place where dignitaries stay. What happened to that building?

Enid Hall 29:31

Well, that was the building they pulled down, right, sold to the butchers' in Dardanup but they...

Richard Davies 29:36

But you mentioned a building that had wonderful lining of

Enid Hall 29:41

that was a boarding house, it had beautiful polished Jarrah lining. Yes, all of the rooms, but I'm not too sure what was in the cottage that was for visiting dignitaries where Mr and Mrs Ferres lived. He was the caretaker of the Mill after it closed.

And that was for visiting dignitaries and they had a housekeeper there who looked after them and it was a nice old place verandahs all around something like ours the Manager's House yes

Richard Davies 30:20

and the churches, what happened to them?

Enid Hall 30:27

Well, one church went to Stratham, and it's still there. The other, the Catholic Church, went to Waterloo, and that was pulled down years ago, and the Alexander⁵ Hall went to Elgin. It's nothing like what it used to would have looked, I think it's got asbestos on the outside now, but that's where that's what it was originally. The hall at Elgin, I don't know where any of the others went, I wouldn't know where the hospital went.

Richard Davies 31:05

What was the Alexander Hall named after, and what was it used for?

⁵ Enid says Alexander but it was actually Alexandra, named after Edward VII's (King 1901 – 1910) wife Alexandra.

Enid Hall 31:10

That was used for dances and pictures. They used to have the pictures up there, and people from roundabout used to go up. I did, and then used to ride their horses up to the pictures.

Richard Davies 31:22

Was that monthly

Enid Hall 31:24

Well, I don't know, probably was monthly, and they used to have dances there, so that was where they all gathered, I suppose, but they did have the Men's Billiard Hall, and a library, and that's where the kids had their schooling once when the school burnt down, so that came in handy.

Richard Davies 31:55

When you're ready again to start, Enid, can you describe to me where you live now? The Mill Managers, the Wellington Mill Managers House. What was it like?

Enid Hall 32:20

Well, it's a huge house. It's, it's got out the back it's got three verandas, and around the front it's got three verandas, and I think we've got.. I think I can't remember now, but we've got seven chimneys, seven fireplaces in the building. Every room's got a fireplace, and I think we've got 16 or 17 doors, because you walk around the verandahs to get into all the rooms, so there's doors everywhere. We've got six wire doors onto the different rooms, so it is a big place, and I came to the conclusion that the manager must have been an important person, a mill manager.

But on the corner between two, the corner overlooking the mill, there's a couple of iron rings where the manager used to have

Richard Davies 33:20

a sling, his hammock,

Enid Hall 33:22

hammock had a hammock there, they say he used to lie there and be able to look over the see what was going on at the Mill, make sure everybody was doing their jobs, so it was, it's a quite a big building, and it's built up high off the ground in the front, I suppose it's nine foot high off the ground in the front, and out the back it's flat on the ground, so it's quite a big building, and to build something like that now with all the timber that's in it, well, you probably couldn't do it anyway, you couldn't get the jarrah

Richard Davies 33:55

and you mentioned a Mrs Weetman

Enid Hall 34:00

Mrs Weetman, they lived on a farm, they came from Victoria, and they lived on a farm. Her parents' name was Muir, and she married a Mr Weetman, and they lived just near the Mill, and she used to teach at Wellington until she got married. Then, when the war came, the Second World War, they had to call on her again to come back, because they were short of teachers, and some of my kids, she was the only teacher they had, which I don't suppose it was good, but that was the only teacher they knew, of course, as she got older, she got a bit deaf, the kids used to be able to do a bit of talking and she couldn't hear them, but she was a great, a great teacher, she taught till she was about 67 until the war finished.

After the war. Long after the war, she was still teaching, so it was they were well-known people in the district, and a lot of their farm has been divided up into little farmlets now, and nowadays we've got quite a few people living in Wellington, but it did go down to almost nothing there for a while, but lots of new houses have gone up in the area.

Richard Davies 35:22

Well, Enid, thank you so much for recording all this. I have the clear impression that we've only touched the surface. I do hope that at a later time...

Enid Hall 35:39

It would be nice if we could go back into time and see what things were like in those days wouldn't it?

Richard Davies 35:46

Or walk over the over the whole area. I'm sure that would bring out all kinds of memories too, wouldn't it? Many thanks, Enid.

Enid Hall 35:56

Righto, thank you.