

The school closed in December 1913, but re-opened as a provisional school for a short time in 1914 with Grace MacSkimming as teacher.

The building remained for some years and was used for church services and as a meeting place for the Gaspard Progress Association. Departmental records state that in 1930 the building was destroyed by a violent storm.

SUGARLOAF-TAMARANG HOUSE TO HOUSE SCHOOL

Three families in the vicinity of Sugarloaf Mountain living about ten miles (16 kilometres) north of Wallabadah applied for an itinerant teacher for their children, and agreed to provide schoolrooms at their respective properties. The first teacher, Mr Ward, appointed in 1885, found that fourteen of his pupils had never attended school. When the second teacher, John C. Morrissey, arrived in 1890, he reported that "school is held at Mr E. Whitten's on Mondays, at Mr Anthony Whitten's on Tuesdays, and at Mr W. Mayne's on Wednesday and so on in rotation." The children followed the teacher from house to house, the distance being two to three miles in each case.

grandfather named the property "Kaineshoft" not the Wilsons.
Mr Anthony Whitten at Lowes Creek (later the property of Mr W.M. Wilson called "Lowestoft") and Mr Edward Whitten of Sugarloaf each erected a schoolroom with a shingled roof, glass windows and board floor, measuring about 12 feet by 14 feet.

The families attending in 1890 were E. Whitten's (four children), Jones' (two children), A. Whitten's (six children), Walter Mayne's (three children) and the Newcombe family (four children); a total of 19.

Mr Morrissey lost a leg in a railway accident at Quirindi, and the families were without a teacher until Mr Charles Frape was appointed in July 1890. The following year a provisional school was established at the foot of the Sugarloaf on the northern side, but attendances declined and the children had to attend Gowrie school to the north.

JACOB AND JOSEPH CREEK

This school also called locally the "Lower Jacob" was on the Gaspard road about six miles from Quirindi and operated from 1887 to 1923. We have shown its location on the map of the district (Portion No. 292 in the Parish of Wallabadah) but it is beyond the scope of this history as it is more correctly part of the Quirindi district.

CASTLEMOUNTAIN

In 1877 Inspector Bradley wrote: "Quirindi Creek provisional school supplies the wants of the settlers four to six miles West" of Wallabadah. This school was at Castlemountain on John Farrell's selection, a site marked by some pepper trees to this day. Another Castlemountain school, about a mile from the early school, was opened in 1882 and closed in 1964. (Portion 251 in the Parish of Quirindi.) This was on the corner of the Quirindi-Wallabadah road and the Carinya road, and is now a private residence.



Castlemountain School, 1882-1964.