

DEATH ENDS GENERATION

When Ann Holbrow died in Wollongong on December 13, the district lost what might have been its closest human link with the foundation of Australia.

Mrs Ann Selina Holbrow (nee Waples) was the last surviving grandchild of convict guard George Waples who arrived at the Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) penal settlement on November 13, 1831.

Mr Waples became one of the first people to settle at Bulli, thus implanting a firm stepping stone to the further settlement of the South Coast.

According to unsubstantiated family folklore, Mr Waples was in charge of the convicts during construction of Bulli Pass.

Mrs Holbrow, aged 91, was the last of 12 children (seven boys and five girls) born to Sarah and John Waples.

She had an enormous love for music. This was passed on to her nephew, Wollongong band leader Mr Bill Jolliffe, who, as an eight-year-old came to live with her parents upon the death of his mother.

According to Mr Jolliffe, his musically talented aunt only ever had the opportunity to play to a bizarre audience, namely snakes.

The house in the shadow of Mt Kembla was crawling with the creatures, he once said.

You could see them slithering about looking for a cool place behind theessian lining the walls. When she played, some used to

Loss severs early days link

come out to see what all the fuss was about.

George Waples, the head of what is now a booming dynasty, was born in Northamptonshire, England, and came to Australia on board the convict ship Strathfieldsay.

He later joined the Kings Own 4th Regiment as a private and was stationed at Government House as a servant to Captain Robert Westmacott, who in turn was aide-de-camp to Governor Richard Bourke.

Private Waples was married to Amelia Carlisle at St John's Church of England, Parramatta on September 28, 1855. The nuptials were conducted by none other than the flogging parson himself, the Rev Samuel Marsden.

When the regiment sail-



for Madras, India, in 1837, George bought his freedom for \$15.

He and his growing family settled on a property named "Woodlands," Bulli which was owned by Capt Westmacott.

After some time on the property, the family took a further step south and settled at Berkeley and, later, to some freehold property at Mt Kembla.

George and Amelia Waples had 12 children.

● The only photograph which could be unearthed of Mrs Ann Selina Holbrow (nee Waples) whose death on December 13 severed what might have been Wollongong's closest human link with the foundation of Australia. With her an unidentified relative.

Amelia Waples died on June 2, 1876, and was buried in the grounds of Luke's Church of England, Brownsville.

George Waples died on February 27, 1884.