

The rebellious Mrs Coates had a popular stop over

Kelly's c.1878 - 1910's



Settlement began here with the establishment of Muries sawmill and several gold mines. With the increased mining activity on Binns Track, and the discovery of the Great Northern Line reef to the west of here, a boarding house opened on this site.

Located beside the old road it was operated by Mrs Polly (Ann) Coates, in the late 1870's. The area became known as "Polly Coates".

The building was a two roomed shanty with a large sofa in the main room. It appears "Polly" offered meals and refreshments to travellers on the Walhalla to Aberfeldy Road. The sofa was for guests to stay the night. She was affectionately known as the "Dame of the Mountains". The boarding house became an infamous landmark and stopping place for travellers.

Mrs Coates' rebellious streak won her many friends in the Walhalla region. On one occasion she was charged and given a penalty of 25 Pounds for sly grog selling. Her friends celebrated a dismissed charge with a 'special reception' in her honour. Her name appeared many times in the local paper for misdemeanours either in her supply of alcohol or hospitality.

By 1907, after Polly's friend and neighbour, William Brown, had passed away, she sold her boarding house to the Kelly Family; Martha, Jacob, Annetta & Ellen. It appears they expanded it into a wine salon.

From that time on it has remained known as "Kelly's"