

Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.

'Dumaresq Chambers', Corner Faulkner St and Cinders Lane, Armidale
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Newsletter for August 2020

...and so Covid19 virus continues to make its presence felt and we need to keep it at bay. For this reason, it is **not possible to arrange a meeting for August**, which would also have been our AGM. Advice from Fair Trading to whom we report as an Incorporated Organisation, is to postpone the AGM until 2021 or until restrictions permit. The Financial Report for 2019/20 which the Treasurer prepared for the AGM is attached.

Meeting with Mr Viv May, Armidale Regional Council Administrator: On Friday 24 July, the ADHS Committee met with the Administrator at Dumaresq Chambers at which he explained that following the resignation of CEO Susan Law, John Raynor will be interim General Manager until a permanent General Manager is appointed. Mr May will need to extend his term as Administrator for a second three months ie. to December and he emphasised that Council decisions and plans should be open and transparent and shared with staff and the community. He queried the apparent excessive use of consultants and believed an independent assessment of Council finances would be beneficial. A number of concerns were brought up including the lack of both a Heritage Officer and a Grants Officer and the deteriorating state of a number of our Heritage buildings. He emphasised his availability to community members who wish to discuss any concerns.

Gathering at 'Middle Farm': Around 20 people arrived at 'Middle Farm' on a glorious winter afternoon on 18 July for the privilege to hear the history of the Blencowe family and their life on the property which they settled in 1873. The house was extended at various times, the sheds likewise, using, in the case of the sheds whatever available materials would suit the job. The value of flattened kerosene tins for walls is proven by the sturdy walls still standing and the timber from packing cases proved that nothing should be wasted. An old reaper and binder standing proud beside one of the sheds provided an opportunity for Bob Simmons to explain how this ingenious machine produces the final product of a sheaf of hay. We are indebted to Julia and Phillip Rose for their invitation for members to partake in the visit to share this little piece of New England history.

A Trip Down Memory Lane: Topics for August meetings each decade.

1960: Dr R.B. Walker – Thunderbolt

1970: No Meeting

1980: Film and Panel Discussion: Things We Want to Kee

1990: B. Cady - The Hotels of Armidale (at the Imperial Hotel)

2000: Dr J Ferry – Ulster Protestants and Ulster Catholics in Armidale

2010: B. Harden – European Settlement and Pastoralisation of Kunderang 1840-1900

Snippets of History: Removal of the name *The Armidale Express* from the building in Faulkner Street housing the *Express* office since 1929 and where the *Armidale Chronicle* was printed before the two papers merged, has taken away all evidence of another piece of history. The *Express* commenced in April 1856 after Scotsman **Walter Craigie** and English-born **William George James Hipgrave**, having signed a partnership, had a printing press carted up the Moonbies from Maitland by bullock dray - an eventful trip to Armidale which took 27 days. Both men had worked at the *Maitland Mercury*, the second of the Colony's papers, the first being *The Sydney Morning Herald* (1831). *The Armidale Express* was a weekly paper until 1883 when it was printed twice weekly (and later triweekly).

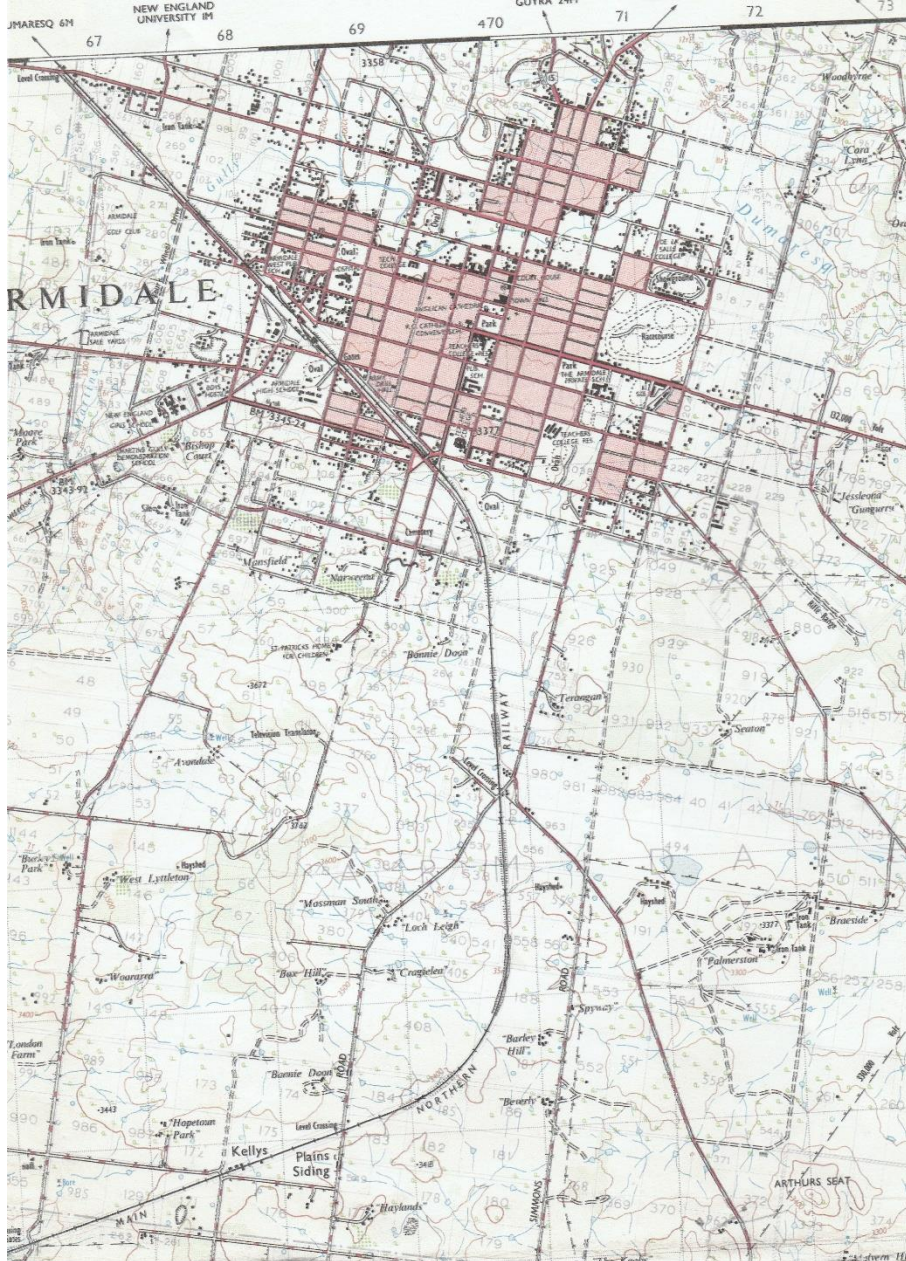
A sum of eighty- nine pounds had been raised from the community to start a newspaper for Armidale. The early shed and then the brick office building where the **Armidale Express and New England Advertiser** was published was noted to be on the corner of Beardy and Dangar Streets, until the Commercial Bank (now NAB) was built on the corner.

Nineteen year- old **William Hipgrave** married **Matilda Wreather** soon after arrival in Sydney in 1847 and after some years in Sydney, they moved to Maitland where William worked on the paper and Matilda ran a school. On arrival in Armidale both Craigie and Hipgrave had land opposite Kelly's Plains School, but made their homes closer to town on adjoining farming blocks. The Hipgrave home at '**East View**' was built on the east side of **Ketterick's Ridge** with, as its name suggests, a panoramic view to the east. Access was from the north, (probably from the present Hillview or Sattlers Road). Craigie's adjoining '**Box Hill**' access was from the Old Gostwyck Road. It would appear that after a later sale, '**East View**' was re-named '**Bonnie Doon**'. As the newspaper obviously would have taken up most of William's time, he fenced off and agisted the bulk of his land. Trespassers and dogs were a problem, being relatively close to town and the following advertisement placed in the *Express* by his then 18 year-old son George, may have been a good deterrent to the former: AE 10/8/1867 *Caution: A Ram Given to Charging is now running with my sheep on the unenclosed East View property on Ketterick's Ridge. The ram in question not having the slightest respect of persons, parties trespassing on the said land after this caution will do so at their own risk. Geo W. Hipgrave East View July 26, 1867.*

William, the senior partner in the *Express*, resigned from the paper and handed over to his son George in January 1870, ill-health being given as the reason for his departure and he was known to be asthmatic. He made a Will on 21 August 1869 and was extraordinarily specific regarding funeral arrangements. He requested to be buried on his land, in a totally unadorned coffin, the mourners only to be immediate family and not to wear any semblance of mourning clothes and no religious service was to be conducted unless his son wished to have a reading from the Anglican Bible. William died under strange circumstances on 15th January 1873 and in fact was buried in Armidale Cemetery with Reverend Hungerford presiding and many friends and townsfolk gathering to farewell him and support the family. There was an open verdict from the inquest into the cause of his death which was sudden and unexpected as testified by people who saw and spoke with him that day. His wife heard him call and found him on the ground, claiming he had fallen from his horse which was nearby, saddled but with no bridle. He also said he had accidentally taken incorrect medicine which he claimed was strychnine. The post mortem did not reveal a cause of death and the doctors used a rabbit to test his stomach contents for strychnine. But the rabbit suffered no ill effects, despite Hipgrave displaying tetanic symptoms which Dr Spasshatt and Dr Murray considered likely to be due to strychnine. His headstone reads '**One of the Pioneers of the Express**'. He was 49 years of age.

Kettericks Ridge - Compiled by John Atchison

On Tuesday 14 July 2020 Armidale Regional Council erected two signboards with the toponym Kettericks Ridge. One is just off the Old Gostwyck Road side of a landform governing waters flowing to Kellys Plains.



This signboard is less public than the other along the busy Kellys Plains Road. The first is up one side of the ridge and is approached from Lynland Drive. Waters from the Kellys Plains Road side of Kettericks Ridge go to Martins Gully in that locality and thence to Dumaresq Creek in the reed beds adjacent to the Hegarty Bridge on Donnelly Street. Kettericks Ridge used to be known for the severity of its heavy rain storms.

This recent naming exercise has coincided with the resurrection, popular within the Armidale and Guyra communities, of the *Armidale Express*. Walter Craigie and William George

James Hipgrave, founders and joint proprietors of the *Express*, had adjacent farms along Old Gostwyck Road and just off a rough track leading from town around and/or over Kettericks Ridge and towards today's Platform Road. The southern end of the ridge is a very distinctive knoll alongside 'Hopetoun Park' homestead.

Apart from being very well known to earlier residents of Armidale who seemingly frequently trespassed on these lands, Kettericks Ridge is mainly associated with the tragic death one wet cold night of Walter Craigie who perished on the ridge within a short distance of his home 'Box Hill' some two miles/three plus kilometres out of Armidale. Craigie had a familiar path

along a very rough track from the top of Dangar Street and today's O'Connor Road to the ridge and down a surveyed but unformed road between selections and across paddocks. Hipgrave offered for agistment of cattle and sheep a 300-400 acre paddock - Kettericks Ridge Grazing Paddock-within a few hundred yards of the Armidale town boundary at the end of Dangar Street. The name 'Craigie Farm' survives on a post along Old Gostwyck Road at the entrance to an existing farm and the name 'Craigie Lea' is still found opposite on maps.

Dumaresq Chambers is growing steadily as one of the attractions which will enable Armidale to achieve the level of networking, cooperation and packaging of resources, both natural and cultural, to build the possibly unique cultural tourism strengths of the local and regional economies. Both at Dumaresq Chambers and also at the incredibly important Heritage Centre/UNE Archives some of us have been attempting to deepen understanding of both Kettericks Ridge and its role, as well as that of the place of Craigie and Hipgrave in earlier Armidale.

First of all, Ketterick! Who was Ketterick?

Patrick Ketterick, sometimes spelt Kittrick or McKittrick, was in the Armidale area in the 1830s as an employee of Saumarez Station. You will recall that both Tilbuster and Saumarez stations were established as squatting runs in the 1830s. Saumarez was an out-station run of Henry and Sophie Dumaresq from St Heliers near Muswellbrook and Tilbuster a squattage of William and Christiana Susan Dumaresq from St Aubins near Scone. The Dumaresq properties, both land grants in the Hunter and squatting runs on New England, employed assigned convict servants, a dimension of life on the tablelands about which we need to know more. Hopefully, a new unit at UNE and undergoing due process of accreditation at this stage, will open up our much-needed understanding and appreciation, especially that of the first ten years of European colonisation of the tablelands.

Patrick Ketterick was one of one hundred and ninety-eight male prisoners who arrived in Sydney on the convict ship *Eliza* on Thursday evening 6 September 1832. It is interesting to note Francis MacNamara or Frank the Poet, was another. In 1839 Frank the Poet composed at Stroud *A Convicts Tour of Hell*, which features amongst its cast of characters Henry Dumaresq as "a petitioner. It was the Company's Commissioner Satan said he my days are ended For many years I've superintended the AA Company's affairs and I punctually paid all arrears Sir should you doubt the hopping Colonel At Carrington you'll find my journal...". Henry Dumaresq, it should be noted, died in his sleep at 'Tahlee House', Port Stephens on the night of 5 March 1838.

Many of these *Eliza* convicts were assigned to Stroud and the Australian Agricultural Company, of which Dumaresq was Commissioner 1834-1838, and to Hunter Valley settlers. Ketterick was assigned to 'St Helier' whence he was sent to be part of the work force on 'Saumarez'. He was, in 1839, one of nineteen men working on the station, most of whom were assigned. He remained at least until 1 November when he was granted his certificate of freedom. Ketterick then undertook employment but, for some reason, shortly thereafter breached the agreement and was admitted to Newcastle gaol where he served three months in the cells.

It can be assumed that Ketterick was a shepherd in and about the ridge which bears his name. This ridge, in turn, was part of the eastern boundary of 'Saumarez' Station. Ketterick's hut and sheep-folds would have been a sub-station of one of the two out-stations of 'Saumarez' along the Saumarez Creek below the headquarters and above the 'Gostwyck' out-station further along the creek towards the confluence with Salisbury Waters.

The most noteworthy aspect of current interest in Kettericks Ridge and Craigie is the fact that the Editor of the *Armidale Express* took out on 7 January 1862 the very first conditional purchase under the Crown Lands Alienation Act (known usually as the Robertson land or free selection legislation) of the previous year. Moreover, conditional purchase 62/2 was taken out alongside Craigie by one William Ewin. These are portions 407 (171 acres) and 408 (121 acres) taken out under section 13 of the 1861 Act. Walter and Elizabeth vacated their town house of six years and took up residence on their selection on 3 February 1862. At the time of Craigie's death in 1879 both portions 407 and 408 were held by him, along with other adjacent portions purchased over the years.

I would suggest a most significant project on the role of Armidale and land policy and administration awaits research looking at the roles under this legislation of both Craigie and Hipgrave and others. Given what we already know about the amazingly detailed and almost "insider knowledge" of the administration of the two 1861 Acts utilised by both Henry Arding Thomas of 'Saumarez' and Grace Dangar of 'Gostwyck' one does have to speculate about local hopes and visions for the future of the emerging capital of New England as grasped by these individuals.

Born in Hamilton, Scotland, Walter Craigie came to Australia with his parents Robert Craigie, painter, and Elizabeth, nee Logan in the late 1830s. He served an apprenticeship on the *Empire* (first published 28 December 1850) with Henry Parkes and then worked on the *Maitland Mercury*. With this experience under his belt, Walter Craigie combined with printer William Hipgrave to establish the *Armidale Express*, first issued on 5 April 1856. Two shrewd and able businessmen, Craigie and Hipgrave were regarded by the *Armidale Chronicle*, 5 May 1915 as making the *Express* into "a little gold-mine for their families".

On the evening of Tuesday 24 June 1879 Walter Craigie was working at the *Express* office, corner of Beardy and Dangar streets in the building "of barn-like architecture" which the *Chronicle* judged the "ugliest building in the town". After checking the proof-sheets for the next day's issue Craigie set off for 'Box Hill' up Dangar Street.

He did not return that day nor the following day. His wife and daughter Lucy found his body about 80 yards off the path leading to 'Box Hill'. A coronial inquest determined Walter Craigie died from exposure to wet and cold on the night of the 24th or the morning of 25th.

(Grateful thanks to Judith Grieve, Bill Oates and Philip Ward for assistance and discussion of subjects which still require more work. As ever, none of this would have been possible without the valuable resources and facilities of the Heritage Centre/UNE Archives - that still undervalued local, regional and national treasure).

ARMIDALE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Financial Statement 1/7/2019 to 30/06/2020

RECEIPTS

<i>Annual Subscriptions</i>		
- 2019 -20	\$ 2,115.00	
- 2020 -21	<u>\$ 2,965.00</u>	\$ 5,080.00
<i>Journal / Index Sales</i>		\$ 630.00
<i>Journal Postage</i>		\$ 315.00
<i>Book Sales</i>		\$ 233.00
<i>Donations</i>		\$ 353.00
<i>Grant / Meat Tasting</i>		\$ 1,500.00
<i>Copyright Agency Credit</i>		\$ 225.71
<i>Interest</i>		\$ 74.23
<i>Excursions</i>		
<i>Members Contribution</i>	\$ 1,880.00	
- Less Expenses	<u>\$ 1,580.00</u>	\$ 300.00
<i>Photocopying</i>		\$ 51.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$ 8,761.94</u>

EXPENDITURE

<i>Administration</i>		\$ 791.62
<i>Dumaresq Chambers</i>		
Lease Payment	\$ 547.80	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	\$ 597.80
<i>Computer , Internet, Software etc</i>		\$ 1,278.62
<i>Newsletter - Printing & Postage</i>		\$ 385.24
<i>Journal Postage</i>		\$ 89.10
<i>Library & Miscellaneous Purchases</i>		\$ 65.36
<i>Miscellaneous</i>		\$ 105.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>\$ 3,312.74</u>

Excess Receipts / Expenditure \$ 5,449.20

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<i>Excess Receipts / Expenditure</i>	\$ 5,449.20
<i>Balance - 30/6/2019</i>	\$ 11,556.73
<i>Balance - 30/06/2020</i>	<u>\$ 17,005.93</u>

Regional Australia Bank

- On Call Savings - S1	\$ 9,357.46
- Less Unpresented Chqs	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
	\$ 9,307.46
- Term Savings - I6	\$ 2,160.09
- Term Savings - I6.1	\$ 5,488.38
	<u>\$ 16,955.93</u>