**Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.**

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**Newsletter for June 2021**

The June meeting of the Society will be held at **7.30pm on Tuesday, 15th June at Dumaresq Chambers** The guest speaker will be **Wayne Hoppe**, President of the Armidale Family History Group Inc. and he will speak about an in-depth study he has carried out on the development of a small village, entitled -

**A Typical Rural Community circa 1900, Georges Creek, Bundarra**

**The Centenary of the Church of All Saints, Gostwyck:** This event celebrated the erection of the picturesque Chapel in 1921 as a memorial to Major Clive Collingwood Dangar MC by his wife Nora, family and friends. In the brochure compiled for the event, it was noted that, in 1832 Edward Gostwyck Corey and William Dangar jointly selected a large area of land and in 1834 when their partnership dissolved, William sold his portion to his brother, Henry. This became known as 'Gostwyck' and passed to Henry's fourth son, Augustus Albert Dangar, then to A.A.'s fourth son, Clive Collingwood Dangar. Clive (1882-1918) attended TAS, went to England, joined the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment and served in the Boer War. He was transferred to the 13th Hussars and served in India before returning to 'Gostwyck' in 1909, then married and had two daughters. The family sailed to England in 1915, Clive re-joined his regiment and was then transferred to Egypt as Assistant Brigade Major with the Third Australian Light Horse. Wounded in Gaza in April 1917, he was sent home to Australia to recuperate, but died in hospital a day after arrival with his family in Melbourne.

**Centenary of the Empire Day Unveiling of the Dangarsleigh Monument:** On 24th May 2021, this celebration attracted over 300 people to pay tribute to Mr Alfred Haroldston Perrott's vision and creativity and to the builder, Mark Roberts who constructed this unique and spectacular monument dedicated to ' the men who went west' in the First World War. Two photos record the 1921 event, a galaxy from 2021!

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

1961 Mr L.A.J. Gilbert - Old Sydney

1971 Mr J. Wicks - The Colonial Career of Dr Robert Wardell

1981 Mrs Anne Harris - The History of 'Abington'

1991 Mr V. Evans - Ships, Cedar, and Settlers and the North Coast

2001 Rev. B. Flood - Armidale Catholic Primary Schools until the late 1880s

2011 Mr G. Wilson - Armidale City Public School -Brief History 1862 -1912

**Snippets of History**:

**Roseneath/Flora Cottage** Thomas Lamb,(1828-1888) from Cumberland met Gertrude Louisa Harris (183 – 1903)with her parents, on board the *Benjamin Elkins* on their voyage to Australia. After arrival on 15th March 1852, Thomas went prospecting in the Goulburn district and Gertrude’s family set up in business in Sydney. By 1857 Thomas had returned and he married Gertrude. They settled in Armidale where Thomas worked as book clerk for storekeeper John Trim. He received a grant of 24 acres on the south-east outskirts of the town, adjoining the northern boundary of Henry Dangar’s ‘Gostwyck Station where he built a two-storey brick house on basalt foundations, said to have been designed by Newcastle architect H.G. Castledene. They named it ‘Flora Cottage’, took up farming, built stables, pig sties, fowlhouses and commenced to develop the garden area with fruit trees, vegetable gardens, large trees and ornamental shrubs and plants. Their family of 3 boys and 6 girls were all born in Armidale.

In January 1864 Thomas took up the position of Town Clerk for the newly formed Armidale Borough Council, Armidale having been gazetted as a Municipality in 1863. He faithfully carried out his duties and was well-liked and respected. During 1866 he was reported to be ill, absent from work and obviously under the influence of alcohol at Council meetings, being unable to record minutes, which resulted in his suspension. His apology was accepted, along with his pledge to abstain for six months and he was re- instated and re-appointed in March 1868/69. However, in May 1869 he was again suspended and in an ‘unfit state for duty’. In response to a letter of apology and excuse of ‘family problems’ which included ‘a houseful of sick children without anyone to look after them, and a wife sick and away from home whom I am requested by doctors in Sydney to send for, without the means of doing so’, Aldermen Trim and Salmon each visited ‘Flora Cottage’. They found ‘many small children in a very bad state indeed’, and Mr Lamb lying with a couple of sacks over him in a state which made it doubtful if he would live till next morning’. With considerable regret, Council voted against re-instating Mr Lamb. In a letter to his mother dated 10/2/1870, Thomas told of his being taken ill with rheumatic fever and losing the use of his legs, Gertrude needing to spend 7 months in Sydney after her last confinement and seven children needing care. He added that he had since been duped by his Uncle Dick and having mortgaged ‘Flora Cottage’ to help him, lost the farm.

On 23 September 1865 the sale was advertised and Thomas’ cousin (Mr Lamb) came up from Sydney and as the only bidder, purchased it for 250 pounds. In 1866 it was sold to John McNeil Simpson, surveyor, became known as ‘Roseneath’ and was increased to a holding of 144 acres. Thomas, who continued to be valued for his bookkeeping and valuation skills, lived with his family at ‘Willow Cottage’, ‘Haroldston’, Kelly’s Plains, where he died in 1888, having been paralysed for 8 years. In *AE* 3/5/1873, the stables and coachhouse are noted as ‘unique for their substantiality, being built of basalt obtained from a quarry just outside the premises’ and that “Roseneath’ is one of the most desirable country residences in the vicinity of Armidale’. In 1877 Mrs Agnes Scott from Walcha purchased the property and following her death in 1885, ‘Roseneath’ was purchased by her grand-daughter, Marion, wife of solicitor John Adam McDonald. McDonald family members lived there until 1966 when the house on four acres was sold to Charles Henderson, who undertook extensive renovations.