

## *Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.*

'Dumaresq Chambers', Corner Faulkner St and Cinders Lane, Armidale  
PO Box 692, Armidale, NSW, 2350

website: [adhs.org.au](http://adhs.org.au)

e-mail: [contact@adhs.org.au](mailto:contact@adhs.org.au)

President Judith Grieve 6775 1205

Newsletter Editors \*Judith Grieve

Secretary Sue Tanner 0439240348

Ruth Thomas

Treasurer John Burrell 0438187848

### **Newsletter for March 2022**

The next meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 5.30pm at the Imperial Hotel**. Archivist **Bill Oates** will be the speaker and, having unearthed collections of lantern slides relating to the district, he will show a number of these in a presentation titled - **Having fun with Lantern Slides**

The images provide interesting new information, the slides having been out-dated in their technology but fortunately kept safely in storage and their value recognised.

**Dumaresq Chambers:** Work is being undertaken by volunteers to complete the indexing and organisation of the ever-growing library and the large collection of maps. Willing workers have catalogued our Special Collection and are doing work on identifying Armidale people in the photographs from the Rotary North Collection and discovering the treasures in a box of tapes, CDs and DVDs.

**New Books:** Recently two local authors have published books which have been added to the Society library. **Wayne Zikan**, who has been associated with the Armidale Fire Station Service for 36 years and Local and Regional Commander, has published *A Call to Fire - A History of the Armidale Fire Brigade and the Instigation of the fireman's 'Victoria Cross'*.

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Society assisted in the launch of **Terry Brockhall's** autobiography *Tea, War and Crocodiles*, which includes his early life on a tea plantation in Java, his internment by the Japanese as a Prisoner of War as a teenager and his post war achievements including encounters with some of the hazards of life in New Guinea.

**Exhibitions at Dumaresq Chambers:** An extensive collection of memorabilia and artefacts relating to the **Armidale Pipe Band** provides a colourful and interesting display in the front room and a well-researched story in photographs of many of the buildings in Australia designed by the eccentric and radical Canadian-born **John Horbury Hunt** has been assembled in the meeting room. Come and visit and let your friends and neighbours know.

**Snippets of History:** Recent interest in the old house at **263 Dumaresq Street** has resulted in pieces of information coming to light with regard to some of its history and there may be members able to add to the facts that have been established to date. In the mid 1880s **William James and Charlotte Serina (nee Olvers) Dale**, together with their two young children came to Armidale from the Canterbury district in Sydney. William was to manage **B.A. Moses and Co's Tannery** in West Armidale and early electoral rolls have the Dales living at 249 Dumaresq Street. In the 1963 telephone book, the address for the remaining unmarried daughters is 263 Dumaresq Street, which local people refer to as 'the Dale's House'. The Moses tannery was in Tancredi Street near or adjoining the rear of Dumaresq Street homes. The family expanded and when William died in 1925 there were four boys and six girls listed as surviving. The eldest, **Frederick**, (not mentioned in the obituary), was in Mudgee in 1902 when he was blinded and severely hurt in a lightning strike, which killed his young son. **Harry** and **William** served in the Boer War. Three sisters did not marry lived out their lives in the Dumaresq Street home, supporting St Mary's West Armidale Anglican Church and other West Armidale activities. **Ivy**, the oldest girl, married in 1918 and the youngest, **Lottie**, born 1889, married **George Grimson** in 1915, son of a property developer and Singer Sewing Machine agent in Armidale. George enlisted in 1916 and Lottie gave birth to twins, only one of whom survived. George had left for the Western front, where he was killed in 1917 and little **Marjorie Grimson** died when twenty months of age, her funeral progressing from Mr Dale's home. Lottie re-married John Hopkins in Sydney in 1920.

Moses' tannery with a boot-making shop at the rear, commenced in 1866 in Kirkwood Street (by 1871 this western portion became Tancredi street) on land leased from James Tysoe for seven years (Section 56 lots 3 to 8). Its ultimate growth was limited by the supply of wattle bark for the production of tannic acid and the supply of water. Over the years the Council Inspector of Nuisances had to deal with complaints of smell and pollution and in 1879 there was a fire. In 1870, with **Henry Mallam** as a short-term partner, **B.A. Moses & Co** was producing 100 sides of leather and 400 pairs of boots per week. By 1868 the boot-making shop had moved to Beardy Street next to the Commercial Bank and in 1876 moved near Richardsons building, opposite the Joint Stock Bank .

At the end of 1874 **Barnett Aaron Moses** purchased '**Laurel Cottage**' at 139 Faulkner Street. The house has recently undergone extensive renovations and additions, but still retains its unique charm and for many years has been known as '**Solomon's Cottage**'. Moses sold 'Laurel Cottage' in May 1879, continuing to live there while building '**Beaconsfield**' on the north side of the creek in Kirkwood Street near his new upgraded tannery. He had imported modern machinery to create a 'State of the Art' tannery to which **William Dale** arrived as manager in the 1880s. William became a partner in the business with **W. Bliss and G. Howarth** and later (1897) the partnership was **Crossman and Dale**. In 1905 the boot factory employed 40 hands and was capable of an output of 2500 pairs of shoes per week.

**Barnett Aaron Moses** had married **Rachel Hart** in Sydney in 1864 and they gradually retired from their many civic positions in Armidale and moved to Manly in 1899, where they also called their home '**Beaconsfield**'. With subdivision, Kirkwood Street 'Beaconsfield' is now situated in Millie Street and known as '**Kiola**', serving as a nursing home and a student residence over the years until again a private home. Barnett died in 1926 and Rachel in 1929.

