

## *Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.*

'Dumaresq Chambers', 114 Faulkner Street, Armidale, corner of Cinders Lane

PO Box 692 Armidale 2350

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

email: [contact@adhs.org.au](mailto:contact@adhs.org.au)

President Judith Grieve OAM 67751205, 0431223701

Secretary Sue Tanner 0439240348

Newsletter Judith Grieve OAM

Treasurer John Burrell 0438187848

### **Newsletter for September 2025**

The next Society meeting will be held at **The Royal Hotel, cnr Beardy and Marsh Streets on Tuesday, 16th September at 5.30pm.**

The speaker will be **Shirley Dawson**, Archivist for St Peter's Cathedral speaking on **Women in the Cathedral**

If staying for dinner, please make your order before the start of the meeting.

**Dumaresq Chambers News:** The Society has been donated a microfiche reader and microfilm of *The Armidale Express* covering the years not in digitised form in Trove. The digitised papers cover 1856 to 1953 and we can now overcome the frustration of information running out with an incomplete collection of actual papers and copies on microfilm (yet to be sorted).

A book of records from 1909 made by an Armidale doctor (likely to be a Dr Clune) has been donated to the Society and makes interesting reading. We have also received a transcript of the diary of a miner who went to Melrose mine in 1890 in the hopes of making his fortune. This adds to Jennie Waters' Melrose and Postman's Creek records from the *Uralla and Walcha Times*, 1899 to 1891 and her talk to the Society published in Journal 49.

**Exhibition - At Home and Abroad:** The exhibition commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII was launched by **Ron Vickress** (now 100) at a gathering on 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Ron told of the tiny vessel HMAS *Pirie* on which he served and its role as escort for ships in the massive fleet that gathered in Tokyo Bay for the signing ceremony. He has since provided further photographs and memorabilia from his experience in HMAS *Pirie*. Well worth a visit.

**A Trip Down Memory Lane:** Topics for September meetings each decade –

**1965:** Professor C.M. Williams – Oliver Cromwell and the Fall of the English Republic.

**1975:** I.M. Johnstone – Wills and History.

**1985:** Associate Professor Grahame Connah – Bagot's Mistake.

**1995:** Sally Collier – Sir Earle Page: Politician and Powerbroker.

**2005:** Samantha Morley – Memorialising Armidale.

**2015:** Judith Grieve – The Autograph Book.

**Snippets of History: East Armidale Mall.** In the late 1840s, a **Mrs Quinlin** arrived in Armidale with her adult sons, **Michael** and **Timothy**, aged in their thirties. Michael soon married **Margaret Mclean**, sister of Armidale businessman **James McLean**, who after running a business at the Rocky River goldfields, purchased land for a house and store on the corner of Marsh and Dumaresq Streets. Around 1849 the Quinlin brothers went on a spending spree (perhaps with an inheritance from their father?) importantly buying lots on both sides of the Beardy/Marsh block and adjoining land on eastern Faulkner St. They set up a store ('New Stores'), a hotel and other buildings in Beardy Street which they rented out.

Mrs Quinlin died in 1851 (aged 60), as did Timothy (aged 30). Timothy had no Will and his considerable estate passed by the system of primogeniture, to Michael. However Michael died in 1855 (aged 42) again with no Will, and his even more considerable estate, by the same law, passed to his eldest son. He had three children, the eldest son being **George**, then four years old. Margaret unsuccessfully applied to manage the estate and use a salary and rental payments to support her family and the Court only allowed her a small annual allowance. She ran a shop in Beardy Street making and stocking 'fancy goods', and by the end of 1855 advertised that **John R. Miller** would be running the store. He was a carpenter and builder he and married Margaret in February 1859. The spacious Quinlin store was advertised for rental. Meanwhile young George attended **Mr and Mrs Robinson's** Church of England School and minimal development occurred in the eastern block of what would become the East Mall many years later.

In 1872 George turned 21 and was able to claim his inheritance. In the interim progress had been made in that a Courthouse and an early single storied Post Office had been built, the Literary institute was on the corner of Rusden and Faulkner and served as an early Town Hall and the economy was steadily improving from the depression of the 1840s. The 1856 gold strike at Rocky River reinvigorated the district, banks were needed, the town had a newspaper, the Robertson Land Act changed land ownership and surveyed land became more plentiful. But progress had left the 'East Mall' behind. George set about to finally benefit from his inheritance and was able to develop and sell his much sought-after properties such as the NE corner of Beardy Street which was purchased for building a grand Bank of New South Wales in 1874 and he sold the Court House Hotel on the SE corner. George had a job in the local Council, he married **Elizabeth Kirkwood** in 1876 and they had 6 sons and one daughter. The daughter married an Anglican clergyman and one of the sons became an Anglican clergyman and went to Western Australia. another son was a popular teacher in Bendemeer, Arding and Saumarez schools and retired as principal of Martins Gully School in 1938 after 11 years. **Marcus** started as a Public Servant in the Armidale Lands Department, became private Secretary to the NSW Premier (**J.T. Lang**) and in 1942 became Director of State Lotteries (started in the Depression years of 1931 to finance hospitals). George moved to Sydney and after Elizabeth died in 1908, he lived there with his two unmarried sisters, but on his death in 1918, his remains were returned to Armidale for burial.