

Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 540 August 2021



From the President's Desk

Unfortunately our lunch at the Marist Brothers Heritage restaurant has again been postponed. A tentative date of 16 September has been reserved but of course will be subject to the COVID-19 restrictions applicable at that time. The way we are travelling it could end up a Christmas lunch.

At the Wingecarribee Shire Council meeting on 28 July the Administrator Mr. Viv May approved the drafting of a new lease for our Society confirming the floor area swap from the ground floor to the first floor. This is step one in a significant upgrade to the Mittagong Memorial Hall complex where we will occupy the old first floor supper room in exchange for giving up an equivalent area of our ground floor archives. It is proposed that our first-floor premises will be serviced by a commercial lift and will be fully air-conditioned.

On page 3 Linda Emery features biographical notes provided by Professor Davide Csermely, from the University of Parma in Italy, that outline the life story of his great-uncle Raimondo who was interned in Berrima during World War I.

The article beginning on page 4 delves into the history of the Harrisons, one of Bowral's earliest families,

together with a history of the property known as the Harrison Estate. At various stages the main home, originally called Holme Hale in the 1870s, went through six name changes and seven owners up to 1982 when demolished to make way for a townhouse complex. The final name change in 1939 was to Tor Lodge, which would be more familiar to local residents.

Over the years considerable research has been carried out to unravel the mysteries surrounding this property including by the late Elaine Dayball, a past member of our Society, and historian/author Anne Pollitt of Brisbane, both descendants of the Harrison family. This article compiled by Philip Morton draws upon their research. Anne Pollitt has generously donated her recently published history book on Bowral's Harrison family plus another on the Gardiner family of Burrawang, both to be added to our library.

The BDHS Archives has the knowledgeable people and resources able to carry out research into individual local property names and Land Title searches. This is becoming a regular request and an added source of revenue. Our BDHS Archives are featured in the current issue of *Highlife* magazine, now on sale at newsagents.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS 2021

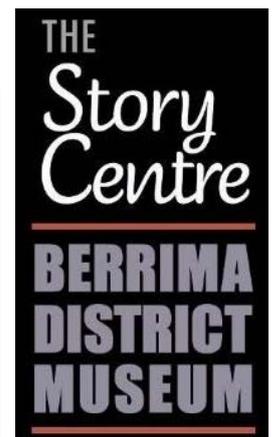
AUGUST

Thursday 26 August – meeting suspended

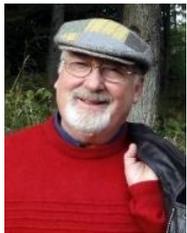
SEPTEMBER

Our **MID YEAR LUNCH** at Marist Brothers Hermitage, Mittagong has been rescheduled for **Thursday 16 September at 12:30pm** (provided restrictions have eased)

NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm
the **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives



Moore Memorable Musings



UNBELIEVABLE POLICE REPORTS

A wig truck overturned at a roundabout. Police are combing the area for any clues.

A man shaking vigorously was seen pouring an egg and milk mixture over himself. Finally he was taken into custody.

A farmer was seen covering his house with straw. His wife is out on bale.

The Sydney Harbour pyrotechnician was seen illegally lighting fireworks on New Year's Eve.

Police said that charges will be laid against him.

An Edgecliff man just reported that his wife had gone missing about 18 months ago.

Thieves broke into the Moss Vale Police Station and stole their toilets.

A spokesman said they have nothing to go on.

A burglar says after being caught for the fifth time, that police have ruined his reputation.

Two students of unknown gender are thought to have assaulted an unidentified man outside their

unnamed school and demanded an unspecified amount of money. Police said this case was unknown to them.

A person reported that there was a suspicious character in the neighbourhood peering into everyone's mailboxes. After police were called, it was found to be the postman.

A woman living near a firing range reported that she has been hearing gunshots.

A cement truck accidentally overturned on a roundabout. No concrete evidence was given.

A woman reported someone climbed in her window about 2am and stole two dresses and a baby's playpen. She suspected it was her sister, who owns them.

A man reported that he saw the telephone pole approaching. He attempted to swerve to avoid a collision when out of the blue it struck his front end.

Another classical attempt to summarise an accident: 'I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment'.

On one NRMA insurance claim form was: 'Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have'.

Bruce Moore

Letter from a Member

Dear Society,

I read with great interest the subject of Moss Vale Hospitals in your latest newsletter (the July issue).

Thanks to your article I have been able to narrow down that my great great grandmother most likely died at what was known as Ayrshire Private Hospital, in a semi-detached building that adjoined the Council Chambers at 1 Throsby Street.

She was Mary Ann Waters, born in 1856 at Moruya and died 18 Oct 1923 Moss Vale, being the wife of John Garbutt born 1854 England and died 1896 at Grassy Mountain near Kangaroo Valley.

Mary Ann's death certificate stated she died at Throsby Street Moss Vale and that the death was certified by J M Alcorn, about whom I have since read that the Mossy Clock is a memorial to him. (Having seen the clock a zillion times I guess it's never too late to learn.)

Anyway, I just wanted to say thank you and I appreciate all the work that goes into producing the newsletter.

Cheryl Stokes, Ulladulla NSW

15 July 2021



Two cartoons by Henry Reinecke. Depicted are Henry Reinecke (with moustache) and Raymond Stuparich and Mollie and Nola Hagon, daughters of a camp guard Sergeant Major Hagon, with whom Reinecke was friendly.

See article on next page.

Shedding light on a Berrima Internee

We were recently contacted by Professor Davide Csermely from the University of Parma in Italy with a request for information about his great-uncle Raimondo who was interned in Berrima during World War I. We were able to give him some details from Dr John Simons book, *Prisoners in Arcady*, along with some photographs and two cartoons (see previous page) drawn by a fellow internee Henry Reinecke which featured his friend Raimondo.

We asked Professor Csermely what happened to Raimondo after he left Australia in 1919 and he kindly sent us the biographical notes he has written. It is such an interesting story.

Davide wrote: *Please consider that I am not English mother language, therefore likely the text suffers from Italian-English construction.*

RAIMONDO / RAYMOND STUPARICH

(Fiume, 16-03-1888 – Karachi, 30-06-1956)

Raimondo was the sixth child of Giovanni Maria (John-Mary) Stuparich. The latter, born on a Dalmatian island in 1849, emigrated to Glasgow when about 20-25 years of age to reach his uncle already there and joining him in his sea trade activity.

In 1878 Giovanni Maria married a girl of Glasgow, Mary Eleanor McMurray. On subsequent years they have 4 children. About in 1886, however, the whole family moves to the original land of Giovanni Maria, settling in Fiume, presently Rijeka (Croatia) but that time belonging to the Kingdom of Hungary, where he continues his sea trade activity. In that city the couple has three other children, the second of them being Raimondo / Raymond.

That land has always been a boundary land, therefore the population is a mixture of peoples. Raimondo (pictured), similarly to his siblings, then perfectly speaks Italian, English, Hungarian, German and also Croatian.



After completing his studies about sea navigation, in 1911 he gets the diploma of Commercial Sea Captain. Soon after Raimondo leaves the parental house, starting to navigate on Hungarian commercial vessels around the world.

At WWI outbreak, in 1914, Raimondo is in Australia on board of one Hungarian ship. Although of Scottish origin, he formally is on an enemy territory and is considered a potential enemy by the Australian Government, then becomes a civil internee, together with the entire crew. He is confined in a camp next to Berrima, for the whole war duration.

The life of internees is not particularly hard, in fact Raimondo later reported himself as a half-internee, because of the relative liberty of movement in the area around the camp. Later he will speak of that period as something like a holiday!



Berrima General Store where Raimondo rented a room during his time as an internee

Once the war is over, his brother Edwin, the first-born and been living in Karachi, India, for years as agent of the Lloyd Triestino (Lloyd of Trieste) insurance company, contacts him asking to join in Karachi. Raimondo accepts and in Karachi he too becomes agent of the Lloyd Triestino. The brothers also become partners in a company named “Stuparich Bros., Agents of Lloyd Triestino”.

In the meantime, Fiume, their origin city, has become an Italian city and they have to decide which citizenship to choose. They discuss about and finally decide that Edwin remains a British citizen, being born in Glasgow, whereas Raimondo opts for the Italian citizenship, being born in a presently Italian city. Moreover, on the 20th December 1933 both them move their formal residency from Fiume to Karachi, then becoming “emigrated” for the Italian government.

Raimondo, aided by his skill in business and by the appreciated position of his brother, has contacts even with the diplomatic world and finally is appointed Consul of Italy in Karachi, on the 1st January 1926. His business continues without difficulty in the eventual years, but on June 10, 1940 Italy enters WWII and Raimondo suddenly represents an enemy nation (again!). Next morning he receives

a police escort and notice that he has to leave India, instead of being arrested, because of belonging to the diplomatic staff. After saying goodbye to his brother, Raimondo embarks on a Japanese ship in Bombay in August that year and, after a six months journey across the Indian Ocean and passing Good Hope Cape, he finally reaches Fiume again.

Raimondo now is jobless and his economic resources reduce progressively. He then repeatedly asks the Italian Government to award him another diplomatic position and finally he is awarded the consul position in Dortmund, Germany, in 1942. He remains there until the end of the war, fortunately unaffected by the war violence.

In 1945, when the war is over, Raimondo comes back to Italy, applying immediately for a passport. His plan is to return to India again to join his brother Edwin, who remained in Karachi during the war. He obtains the passport in early 1946 and reaches India, where he starts again his trade activity with his brother. That time, however, is the dawn of India independence, then soon after they have to assist the split of the country between India and the newborn Pakistan, realizing they are within Pakistan. Anyway, they continue their commercial activity in Karachi, although with some economic sufferance, because of the greater poverty of Pakistan in comparison of earlier India.

In 1955 Edwin and Raimondo, both around 70 years-old, decide it is time to wind-up their activity. While Edwin returns to Trieste, Italy, looking for a house where they can live during their last years, Raimondo remains in Karachi to arrange the winding-up of their company. Raimondo, however, cannot complete his task, because he suddenly dies on June 30, 1956, due to a heart-attack.

It is sadly interesting to consider that his younger brother, one year younger only, had a similar, even worse from some points of view, experience, although he never left the city of Fiume. At WWI outbreak, in fact, he was interned by Hungarians, ie. his own Government, because of his Scottish origin and his hope that Fiume would be joined to Italy.

Later, at WWII outbreak he was interned by Italians, again his own Government, because of his Scottish origin and his opposition to fascism. On the other hand, the third brother, Edwin, the first-born, left his home when young and had a successful life in India.

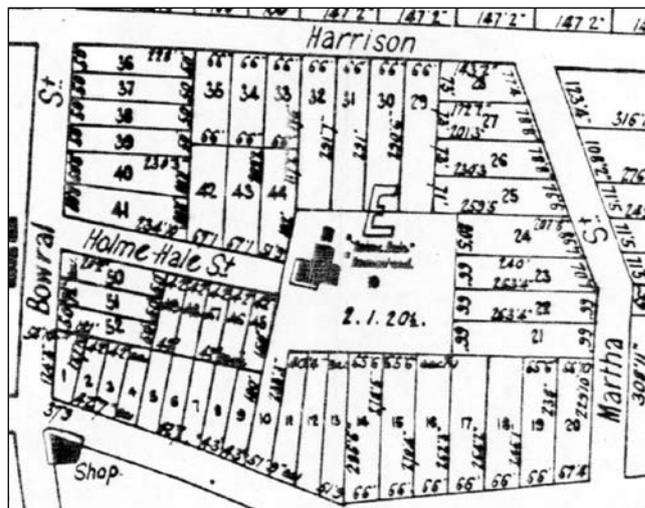
Three brothers, two with negative effects from two consecutive wars and the third almost untouched; personal fate is strange . . .

Professor Davide Csermely

The Harrisons and Holme Hale, Bowral

In 1901 a central Bowral location, known then as the Harrison Estate, was offered for sale. It was owned by the Harrison family who had moved to Bowral in 1863, being one of its earliest families, and who built a residence, Holme Hale, on the estate in the 1870s.

Following here is a history of their life and of Holme Hale, their house that stood until 1982 with several name changes through its seven ownerships.



The Harrison Estate in 1901 consisted of 107 acres subdivided into allotments that surrounded the Harrison's residence on a large block, with a front entrance to Bong Bong St and a side entrance via the short Holme Hale St. The Estate was bounded by Bong Bong St (Moss Vale Rd), Kangaloon Rd, and Bowral, Harrison and Martha Sts. Until recently, part of the old estate behind Maynard Park at the corner of Bong Bong and Bowral Sts was the premises of the Bowral Garden Centre, now currently a development site. Further up, in from Bong Bong St and Kangaloon Rd, a complex of 17 strata townhouses was built in 1982, requiring demolition of the Holme Hale house, which had been renamed Tor Lodge in 1938.

The story of Martha and David Harrison

In the early 1860s several families at Camden, having suffered floods and rust in wheat, moved to Bowral. John Joseph and Mary Ann Campbell led the exodus and, being staunch Methodists, aimed to make Bowral a Wesleyan town. He was a builder who later served for a time as mayor of Bowral. Along with them came the Ward, Duprez and Beer families, and David and Martha Harrison. By the time Bowral railway station opened at the end of 1867, most of the town's main business people were connected to the church and had done well in supplying the needs of railway contractors and fitters building the line who had camped nearby.

Regarding the Harrisons, a book "The Village Smithy: our Harrison family from Norfolk" has recently been published by a descendant, Anne Pollitt of Brisbane, documenting the life of Martha and David and their children and descendants. Anne has kindly provided a copy for the BDHS library. Those wishing to buy the book may contact us for the author's details. Some information from the book is included in this article.

David was born at Cockley Cley, Norfolk, England in 1817 to John Harrison and Maria Shinfield, and Martha at Holme Hale, Norfolk, in 1824, her parents being James Brooks, farmer, and Charlotte Fielding. David and Martha married in 1842, the first of their twelve children being born in 1843. They lived at Holme Hale, where he worked as a blacksmith and she as operator of the local post office.

In 1852 David and Martha Harrison, with their four children, set sail from England as Assisted Migrants on the *Parsee*, arriving at Moreton Bay in January 1853. They stayed at Brisbane a short while before sailing to Sydney, from where they settled at Camden for 10 years, then moved to Bowral in 1863, with five more children added to the family.

At Bowral they bought two town allotments from the Oxley family, one at the corner of Bong Bong and Wingecarribee Sts. John Campbell erected a building of weatherboard, with shingle roof and brick chimney which they opened as a grocery, drapery and general store (see photo below). They are said to have lived in a slab and bark cottage attached to the back.



David and Martha Harrison's general store in Bong Bong St, Bowral, established in 1863. Standing in front are David in leather apron, Martha and a child, c1870.

When innkeeper John Robinson, who held the town's postal agency, left town in 1866, David applied for the agency and was successful. It was then run by Martha and young son Jonathan in their store from July 1866 until 31 December 1869, and worth 12 pounds a year in income.

David, being a blacksmith, also established a smithy fronting Bong Bong St with shoeing forge and ran a wheelwright shop. Some of the buckets, axes and

shovels displayed on the front verandah of the shop may have been made by him.

The Harrison family also established a livery stable, letting out saddle horses and buggies and horses up until 1885. With financial success, they bought several other town properties and purchased an 110-acre estate that extended from Bowral St to the other side of Kangaloon Rd. They had a large cottage residence built on the acreage, which they named Holme Hale, most likely erected before 1873, but exactly when is not known.



Martha Harrison and husband David with son Jonathan

David died of cancer in September 1873, leaving Martha with children as young as three years and various businesses to run. Several of her unmarried children, however, were in their early to mid-twenties, so she had help to hand. She must have been an astute business woman, as she acquired more land and shops after David died and expanded what he had established, including the livery stable, but most likely leased out the blacksmithy or hired a blacksmith.

Martha retired from business in 1881 and her rental income, including from two cottages and the shop, provided support. Two of her sons became real estate agents and one served as Bowral Mayor.

Martha is described as a strong member of Bowral's Wesleyan Methodist Church and was known as the district's 'Florence Nightingale' for attending to people who became ill. An obituary notes that "in the early days she was often the first to be sent for in case of sudden illness or accident. She was so skilful and kind that she earned the name of 'doctor'".

Martha Harrison passed away in late January 1900, aged 75 years. The obituary in the *Bowral Free Press* described her as a most highly esteemed resident, whose death took place at her residence, Holme

Hale, Bowral, the cause being natural failure of the heart's action. She was buried with her husband in the Wesleyan Cemetery at Burradoo after a funeral service at Holme Hale. The cortege was described as being of considerable length, comprising about 20 vehicles, besides horsemen and a number on foot.

The obituary listed her surviving five sons and five daughters: Mrs Thomas Viles, Mittagong; Mrs Joseph Mitchell, Bellambi; Mrs W Sibson, Goulburn; Mr D B Harrison, Summer Hill; Mr Jonathan Harrison, JP, Stanmore; Mr A J Harrison, JP, Bowral; Mrs Frank Raward, Richmond River; Mr W A Harrison, Bowral; Miss Alice Harrison, Bowral; Mr Samuel Harrison, South Africa. Her grandchildren numbered 28.

The Harrisons and Holme Hale – a puzzle solved

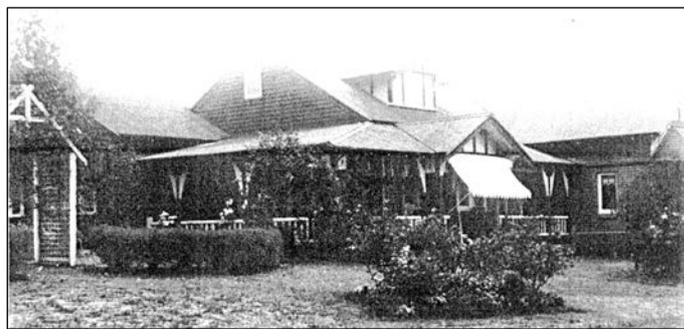
Mrs Elaine Dayball, one of the many descendants of Martha and David Harrison, was a member of our Society from 1986, serving as Membership Secretary until her death in 2007. As well, she compiled an extensive history file about David and Martha Harrison, their life in Bowral, their 12 children and the many descendants.



Elaine supplied an article to the *Southern Highland News*, published on 14 May 2003, in which she requested information about the Harrison's Bowral residence, Holme Hale, particularly of the period after Martha's death in 1900. All Elaine knew was that it became Tor Lodge guesthouse in 1939, was purchased by Bowral RSL All Services Club in 1967, and demolished in 1982 to make way for a group of luxury strata units. Elaine was puzzled why she could not find more detailed information about it.

Elaine tried to find Holme Hale's location around 1986. She went to where it was shown on the 1901 map and spoke to a man nearby who had discovered an old well in his garden. She also spoke to an elderly lady living in a flat at the back of a nearby house. This lady showed Elaine a photo of a lovely house named *Gwydyr* built in 1915 on an adjacent block to Holme Hale, but which was destroyed by fire in 1954. It was rebuilt, being where the lady was now living.

It seems locals had become confused about these two houses as *Gwydyr* was described in reports of the 1954 fire as being one of Bowral's oldest houses. As will be explained, the confusion is understandable because the names *Gwydir* and *Gwydyr* had also for a period been given to Holme Hale.



Gwydyr as it was before destroyed by fire in 1954

By the time Elaine passed away in 2007, no further information had surfaced and the matter rested. Then, in 2015, Anne Pollitt contacted the BDHS. She was also a Harrison descendant, as noted above, and had been in correspondence with Elaine in the 1990s.

Anne, a family historian, solved the puzzle about Holme Hale by astutely searching various sources including digitised newspapers on Trove. In 2015 she provided us with a first run of her results that now, further refined, form part of her book *The Village Smithy*, mentioned above, which also features some photographs she sourced from our BDHS collection.

A TALE OF TWO HOUSES:

Holme Hale/Tor Lodge and Gwydyr (built 1915)

The earliest newspaper mention of Holme Hale that Anne found is from October 1880, when "a Mrs G H Sheaffe gave birth at her residence, Holme Hale Lodge, Bowral". This would have been in one of the periods when Martha leased the place for summer or long-term lettings, she doing so several times in the 1880s and 1890s, including when she took an extended trip to England.

Different numbers of rooms, from 8 to 14, are listed in the advertisements with kitchen, bathroom, pantry, staffroom/s and storerooms counted in some years but not in others. Also sometimes mentioned were stables, coach house, man's bedroom, and outhouses.

Following Martha's death, the Estate was offered for sale in February 1901. Holme Hale is described as a brick and weatherboard cottage, with verandahs front and side, hall, 10 rooms, kitchen, detached stable and buggy shed. Several of the streets shown on the 1901 sale map – David, Martha and Holmhale Streets – bore names of the family, and the south end of Bendooley St was then known as Harrison St.

Passing through seven ownerships up to the 1980s, the Harrison's cottage had several name changes: Holme Hale to Gwydir in 1901; to Gwydyr in 1907; to Holmhale in 1915; to Irriwilbin in 1918; to Tor Lodge in 1939, bought by Bowral RSL Sub-branch in 1967.

In 1901 Mr and Mrs George Cruickshank bought Holme Hale along with another five acres of land. He had been parliamentary representative for the Gwydir Electorate and was apparently a reasonably wealthy man. He re-named the house *Gwydir*. Within three years he died, aged 49, and his widow became the owner. Mrs Cruickshank married Professor Carlaw in February 1907, but died four months later.

Gwydir was advertised for sale two months after Mrs Carlaw's death and was bought in October 1907 by Justin Joseph O'Neill Brenan, a Sydney accountant. The Brenans retained the name Gwydir, though changed the spelling to *Gwydyr*.

Then, in 1915, the Brenans built a new house on the property, fronting Harrison St, and transferred the name *Gwydyr* to this new house. The first house became Holme Hale again, but spelt *Holmhale*.

Mrs Brenan died in 1922 and her husband Justin in December 1934. Their unmarried daughter Gabrielle continued to live at the newer Gwydyr house and there are a few mentions of Red Cross events held there in the late 1940s.

Several other members of the Brenan family lived in Bowral: Justin Brenan's sister Miss Nellie Brenan owned the guesthouse *Arrankamp* and another sister Mrs Mary Lamb owned *The Glayde*.

The fire that broke out at Gwydyr in 1954 destroyed the house except for its brick-walled living room.

Meanwhile, in regard to the Harrison family's original Holme Hale residence, in May 1918 and known as *Holmhale*, it was sold by the Brenan family to Mr and Mrs Robert Lethbridge, who renamed it *Irriwilbin*.

Robert, of the pioneering Lethbridge family, was Managing Director of the Perpetual Trustee Company in Sydney and made use of the Bowral property as a country house until his death in December 1936. His widow then put it up for sale.

Captain George Leslie Smith, RANR, purchased the Lethbridge's *Irriwilbin* (aka Holme Hale) in 1939. He had the house renovated and enlarged, opening it as an exclusive guest house named *Tor Lodge*, later being described as accommodating 23 guests in single or double rooms, with dining-room, spacious lounges and sun verandahs.

His wife mostly ran the Lodge, as he spent most weekends at Mosman on his yacht, aboard which he was very seriously burnt in 1950 when the stove caught fire. He barely survived but pulled through with great courage. He offered *Tor Lodge* for sale in 1951, but it did not sell. His wife continued to run it, he passing away in 1957 and she remarrying in 1964.



Tor Lodge (the former Holme Hale residence) in the 1960s, with a two-storey building alongside, erected by the Smiths to extend accommodation capacity.

OBITUARY *The Four Mails* 4 November 1957

The late Capt G L Smith

"A very well-known resident, Captain George Leslie Smith, who had a most interesting career, died on Sunday morning at a Mosman private hospital, at the age of 75 years. Captain Smith was born at Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, England, and came to Australia as a cadet in a sailing ship when 15. He was in sail for about 7 years and travelled around the Horn several times.

Later, he became a master in steam at the early age of 27 and was with the Eastern Australian Line trading between Australia, Hong Kong and Japan. Two ships he commanded were the *Empire* and the *St Albans*. He was captain of the *St Albans* when he retired at the age of 48.

During World War I Captain Smith was loaned to the French Government and transported 'coolie' troops to France. In World War II he did a great deal of piloting through the Torres Strait and took up the largest convoy ever to leave Sydney for the North.

On retirement, he returned to England, but came back to Australia and settled in Bowral, where he established *Tor Lodge*, a widely known guesthouse, in 1939.

Captain Smith was devoted to the sea. He was born to it and was never happy when he was away from it. He used to spend practically every weekend on his 30ft yacht *Myanid* at Mosman. He is survived by his widow who will continue to conduct *Tor Lodge*."

NEXT MONTH: the history of Holme Hale/*Tor Lodge* will be continued with a summary of Bowral RSL Sub-branch, owners of *Tor Lodge* between 1967 and 1973, a turbulent period when they attempted to join with local sporting clubs to establish a successful enterprise. We follow their path from 1919.

compiled by Philp Morton

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- ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.
OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and a general collection.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays throughout the year. This includes during school and public holiday periods.
- MEMBERSHIP:** Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 – Single \$25.00 – Family \$35.00.
- AFFILIATIONS:** Royal Australian Historical Society, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

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