

TOWN CLERKS.

The administrative position in the Armidale City Council was variously known as council clerk, town clerk and now general manager. One of the first actions of the newly created Borough Council in 1864 was to appoint a town clerk. In January 1864 council advertised for a town clerk and collector for the electoral roll for that year. Some aldermen felt that his salary should be determined by the assessment roll prepared and fixed by vote of council with the commission on rates to be assessed. In February his salary was fixed at £50 per year and 5% allowed for collecting rates and £5 for collecting names for the electoral roll.

The Municipalities Act 1867 determined duties for the town clerk, duties which included: all summonses to aldermen, attendance at all meetings of council and its committee, keep books, custody of all books, collect all rates and any other duty required by council. W. Ewens was elected with a salary of £50 to be paid monthly. The salary was raised to £75 in August 1882.

The assistant town clerk was called upon to perform the duties of rate collector and reading gas meters in February 1902. Consequently his salary was raised from £75 to £120.

Town Clerks

List in the council chambers.

1864-1870 Thomas Lamb
1870 (six months) Michael G. Cunningham
1870-1874 William Ewins
1874-1890 Charles G. Wilson
1890-1901 John Moore Jnr.
1901-1914 Thomas Jones
1914-1917 Thomas N. Ayling
1917-1950 Frederick W. Milner
1951-1955 William H. Quin.
1955-1979 Robert A.G. Browne
1979-1993 Brian C. Martin

In the above list there is no reference to George Claverie.

T.N. Ayling.

Aged 28 years and the former town clerk of Tenterfield, he was appointed in January 1913. Prior to that appointment, he was assistant clerk at Goulburn Municipal Council for nine years. In December 1911 after having acquired by examination his certificate as clerk, he was appointed town clerk at Tenterfield. Following twelve months service at Tenterfield, he was appointed to Armidale. After a period of four years, he resigned in February 1917 after being offered the position of town clerk at Wollongong Council and a farewell was held for him

early in March. He resigned as the town clerk at Wollongong in July 1929 following an adverse report.¹

Robert A.G. Browne.

A married man with three children, he was appointed on 15 February 1955 to succeed W.H. Quin and commenced duties on 28 March. Formerly of the Sutherland Shire Council, he was appointed deputy clerk of Cootamundra and then town clerk at Manilla. He served in the Army and Air Force during World War Two. In 1979 he retired from council and died on 27 January 1999 in Coffs Harbour. He was recognised by the Institute of Municipal Management who awarded him a Life Membership of the Institute.

George A. Claverie.

George Claverie was born in Armidale, the son of Henry Claverie. The brother of Ald. David Claverie, he took up the position of acting town clerk in February 1911. As the result of a critical auditor's report in December 1912, there was a call for the resignation of Claverie and a special meeting of council was held in January 1913 to appoint a replacement for him.

George Claverie died in February 1918 at Dungog but was buried in the Armidale Catholic cemetery. He was recently married to Miss Kelly of Armidale and two surviving brothers were J. and F. Claverie. The *Armidale Express*, 19 February 1918 reported for many years he was a member of the clerical staff of council and afterwards town clerk.

Michael G. Cunningham.

Michael G. Cunningham was elected town clerk in February 1870 but he tendered his resignation on August.

W. Ewens.

He was elected town clerk in August 1870 and in October 1871 he was also appointed inspector of nuisances at £12 per annum. W. Ewens was elected with a salary of £50 to be paid monthly. On 2 December 1873, he was suspended as town clerk pending a further investigation of the account books.

Thomas Jones.

Thomas Jones was appointed from about sixty applicants in June 1899. He resigned in October 1910 when he was appointed executor of his father's estate. His father, Ald. James Jones a former mayor, was killed in October whilst attending a Local Government Conference in Sydney. The *Armidale Chronicle*, 3 December 1910 noted his last day of service was Tuesday 8 November 1910 after twelve years of duty. In September 1918 it was revealed that he was now principal of the firm Thomas Jones and Company, estate agents of Armidale and Lismore and by January 1943, was living in retirement in Lidcombe, Sydney.

¹ *The Official Souvenir of the Municipal Jubilee of Armidale 1863-1913*, Armidale Chronicle, 1913. *Armidale Chronicle*, 20 July 1929, p.4.

He was one of the founders of and president of the Armidale Bowling Club and honorary treasurer of the Armidale Ambulance committee from its inception. He was also a member of the Band Committee; president of the Parents and Citizen's Association, the Armidale High School and the Demonstration School and a committeeman of the Boy's Hostel. He was a trustee of the racecourse, captain of the Rifle Club and Armidale Bowling Club where he reached state representative level.

Aged 83 years, he died on Wednesday 8 November 1950 at the home of his daughter Mrs J.A. Mackenzie, Merewether. Born at Tenterfield, he was the only son of James Jones and spent a greater part of his life in Armidale and Uralla, where he took a leading part in civic, business and sporting life of the city. He was survived by his widow, two daughters and one son. The private funeral took place at the Beresfield crematorium.²

Thomas Lamb.

Thomas Lamb was appointed as town clerk and collector in February 1864. In March the mayor informed council he had suspended Lamb for misconduct and neglect of duty. Lamb was reinstated at the following April meeting after discussion and endorsement of the mayor's action. At the 7 January 1867 meeting council was adjourned because there was no quorum and the town clerk was 'in a state of drunkenness'. Three days later he was suspended for a second time for 'repeated habits of intemperance' and not being able to account for cheques. On 14 January he was reinstated in view of Ald. Trim being admonished for saying 'you are all unjust men'. A meeting on 27 January 1870 was adjourned because of the unfitness of the town clerk and on 31 January he was again dismissed by an unanimous vote. By April he was secretary of the Armidale Building society. The *Armidale Express*, 16 March 1888 announced the death of Thomas Lamb on 15 March.

Brian Martin.

Brian Martin received his secondary education at Dubbo High and started as a junior clerk at the Dubbo Municipal Council in 1955. In 1961 he joined the Wollongong City Council and while there received his qualification as a local government clerk. He was senior clerk to the Wollongong Council for six years. He moved to Armidale with his wife and two children to take up the position of deputy town clerk in 1967 and was appointed town clerk in 1979.

Frederick William Milner.

Aged 31 years, he was appointed as a married man in February 1917. For the last five months he had been shire clerk at Nepean and prior to that he was clerk to the Hasting's Shire for three years and to Sutherland for two years. He was involved in twelve years of commercial life before entering local government.

² *Armidale Express*, 23 June 1899, p.5 and 13 November 1950, p.5.

During his time in Armidale, he was closely identified with musical organisations and with St. Paul's Presbyterian Church where he served as an elder. He earned distinction in many fields of sport including golf, cricket and soccer.

On 22 January 1951 he retired from the position when he reached the retirement age of 65 years. A testimonial fund was launched to recognise his thirty four year's service and citizens honoured the role of Mr and Mrs Milner at a public function at the Literary Institute hall on 10 April 1951. But in April, the Walcha Council secured the services of F.W. Milner as town clerk. When Walcha Council council amalgamated with Apsley Shire, he left Walcha with his wife and after a trip to England, they retired to Nambucca Heads.

He died at Nambucca on Saturday 14 December 1957 and was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. The funeral took place at Nambucca Heads after a service in the local Presbyterian Church.³

John Moore Junior.

John Moore Junr. was appointed as clerk pro tem. on 28 January 1890 and elected to the position on 8 April from sixteen applicants. His resignation was accepted in June 1899 and Ald. Wigan 'eulogised the Council Clerk for the very efficient manner in which he had at all times performed the duties connected with his office'.⁴

A. Proctor

In February 1868 A. Proctor advertised his services as a draper, grocer and ironmonger and was appointed by council in January 1870 as a temporary clerk. In February he was replaced by Michael G. Cunningham.

W.H. Quin.

He was appointed as the Armidale deputy town clerk in 1941 and was promoted to town clerk to replace F.W. Milner in January 1951. The *Armidale Express*, 12 January 1955 announced Quin was to resign shortly. He was farewelled in the council chambers on Monday 28 March.

Charles Graham Wilson

He was elected as town clerk on 9 January 1874 but resigned the position from 3 February 1890 after seventeen years of service. He was elected mayor to council on 7 February.

³ *Armidale Express*, 26 January 1951, p.8, 11 April 1951, p.3 and 16 December 1957, p.6.

⁴ *Armidale Express*, 6 June 1899, p.4.

