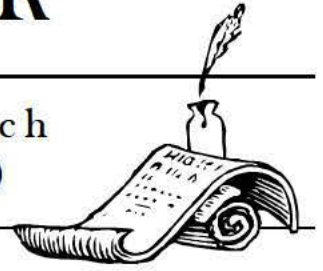


THE RECORDER



Newsletter of The Uniting Church
Historical Society (NSW/ACT)



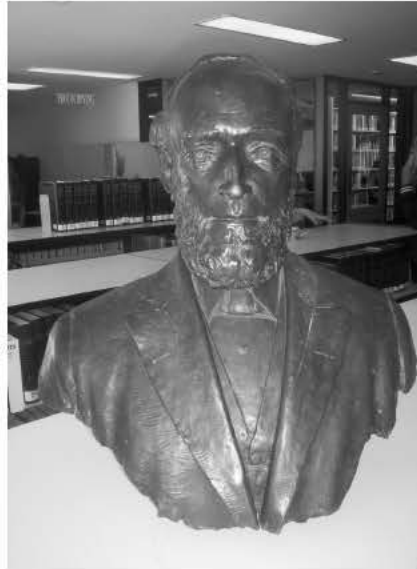
UNCOVERED IN THE ARCHIVES : Rescued From Oblivion

At 'Eskdale', the top level was given over to the storage of a wide range of memorabilia. In one of these rooms, a life size bust was spotted, residing on a plinth. The bust was covered in dust and a worn, broken label simply identified the personage to be 'Rev. W. H. Beale'.

This piqued my interest and I set out to try to discover the identity of the gentleman in question. He seemed to me to have a 'benevolent countenance'.

Our research revealed that William Henry Beale was born in Sydney in 1848, his youth being spent in the Kiama district. Under the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Angwin, he was 'led to the Saviour' and a few years later he was accepted as a candidate for the Methodist ministry. After sixteen years in country circuits, he was appointed to Sydney where he spent the greater part of his remaining ministry. He was active in the negotiations to unite the various branches of Methodism and in 1900 he was elected to the Chair of the Conference. In 1909 he became Book Steward of the Methodist Book Depot, a position he held until his death in 1923.

What was the Book Depot? John Wesley placed a great emphasis upon the publishing and reading of Christian literature.



William Beale at home in the Camden Library

He himself published over two hundred works including dictionaries, compendiums, sermons and notes, a monthly magazine and many tracts. In 1739 the first Book Room was opened at the Foundery Chapel in London. Initially this was managed directly by John Wesley but in 1753 he appointed the first Book Steward to manage the Book Room. The Steward was responsible for managing the general business and finances of the Book Room.

The first edition of *The Christian Advocate and Wesleyan Record* (published in Sydney on June 21st 1858) reported, "It is with no small gratification to us that we are able, in the first number of this journal, to chronicle the opening of a public Depot for the sale of Wesleyan and other religious literature in this city.

..... We regard this as an important event in the history of Methodism in this colony". "Its operations, however, will not be confined to Methodist books, but will extend to many other religious and moral works. It has not been established for the purpose of gain, but of usefulness, and, therefore, the prices are fixed as low as the working expenses will admit".

Our research into William Henry Beale confirmed that his distinguished, but genial face was the face of a man who really loved books. How appropriate that Rev. Beale now resides in a prominent position atop the reference shelving in Camden Theological Library. Harvard University may have its statue of John Harvard, but Camden Theological Library now also has its own 'patron'!

*Moirra Bryant
Library Manager*



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TINGHA - A Multicultural History

While sorting photographs of Methodist Churches and entering them on to the Archives data base, Reinette Black and I came across a fascinating picture of a church "on the skew". It was inscribed, "Tingha, 1941". Ex Archives volunteer, John Lewis, has family roots in Tingha, and he provided this potted history of the town. Ed.



In her excellent history of Tingha, Helen Brown records the first Methodist service in Tingha as being held in 1872 by the Rev. Henry Wiles who had been appointed to the newly subdivided Moree-Inverell circuit. "A vast congregation assembled to hear his first sermon at Tingha which he delivered from the elevation of a large, round, wooden wash tub upturned in the shade of a gum tree."

"To serve the Christian Section of the Chinese community, the Chinese Methodist Mission appointed a Chinese assistant preacher, Joseph Tear Tack, to Tingha between 1885 and 1893. ... By 1888 the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Church of England all had church buildings at Tingha and, in 1889 the Salvation Army Hall was built."

My family history research led me to Tingha where my

mother's first cousin, the Reverend Arthur Crapp, was the Methodist Minister in 1912-13. But the family connection with Tingha dates back to 1877 when Arthur Crapp's Aunt "Polly" (Mary Ann Sullings nee Crapp) and Uncle Sam Sullings settled there. Their last six children were baptised in the Methodist Church. In the Tingha Cemetery there are graves of two of those children, both of whom died in infancy.

The Tiengah Run was established in 1840. Tiengah is an aboriginal word of the Kamilaroi tribe meaning flat or level. (Surveyor General Mitchell's 1830 instruction to settlers and surveyors was, "... you will be particular in noting the native names of as many places as you can".) The town of Tingha was on the Tiengah Run and was a major centre for tin mining, starting in 1870 and continuing for more than 100 years. Many other things were found in the area, as can be judged from Tingha's street names: Jasper, Garnet, Onyx, Topaz, Opal, Gem, Diamond, Agate, Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald and Amethyst streets.

*Since John wrote this article, a photo of Rev Joseph Tear Tack, and some historical clippings from **The Methodist**, have surfaced in the Archives. These throw some light on the life of the Tingha community and the Chinese Mission.*

Sept. 21st 1889. "Report on Chinese Mission, Tingha.The Rev F Morrish of the Church of England, in his address, dwelt upon the importance of

conveying the truths of Christianity to the Chinese in the colony. The Rev J Tear Tack also addressed the meeting, both in English and Chinese."

Feb 11th 1893. Tingha. "A concert towards the debt on the Chinese Mission Church, 28th Jan. Music by the Methodist Church Choir at Tingha."

Feb 10th 1894. "The Anniversary of the Chinese Mission Church, Tingha, was celebrated on Anniversary Day. The Rev J Tear Tack, who is popular with his countrymen was, of course, to the front in carrying out the Anniversary."

July 18th 1896. Tingha.

"Rev J Tear Tack preached his farewell sermon here on 14th June. He will be sadly missed. Three disciples have been baptised and several more are "on trial". The services will be continued by Rev J Lock King and several other brethren. A night school has been formed for instructing Chinese in the English language, also a singing class, which several kind European friends are willingly helping."



The Rev Joseph Tear Tack entered the Methodist ministry in 1881

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

A group of some 40 people gathered in the Green Room at Wesley Central Mission, on the 17th September, to hear of the early days of the Methodist Trust Association (MTA), from **Mr Bert Hely**, the principal architect for the Association

Rev Roy Glover, in introducing Bert Hely, pointed out that the MTA was the forerunner of Uniting Financial Services, which is currently a major source of funding for the continuing work of the Uniting Church. He gave credit to Bert for the architectural and financial success of many of the early property development projects.



Mr Bert Hely and Rev Roy Glover

Bert commenced by giving an outline of his decision to study architecture. "How lucky I was that the timing of my starting was just after the war, providing me with an opportunity for thinking as part of a growing future in Australia", he explained, "On reflection, I had the wonderful opportunity of starting at the beginning of a new era, and being part of such major changes".

All was not smooth sailing, however. Bert told of one of his

early designs for Civil & Civic/ Lend Lease: a 20 storey residential building in Darlinghurst. "Though Lend Lease and I were both enthusiastic, the project came to a halt, when the three senior firms of Real Estate met and reported that people of Sydney would not live in a high rise building, and they did not believe that more than four apartments would be sold".

It was in the early 1960's that Bert became Secretary for Rev Bill Hobbin's Department of Christian Citizenship. "As I settled in, I became aware of the financial problems of Wesley Mission after the fire", Bert said. "I explained to Bill my thoughts, that by consolidating the Church properties to Pitt and Castlereagh Streets, it could be possible to create a major retail/commercial development with the Church's need reinstated on site, and as well, with an upfront ground lease (providing) major funds for the ongoing needs of the Church".

It was to be, however, nearly 25 years before the Church proceeded with those plans. In the intervening years, Bert worked on three major developments for the Church: Bondi Junction Plaza, Crown Central Wollongong, and 100 Walker Street North Sydney.

Bondi Junction Plaza.

Bert said, "Based on my experience on other projects, I recognised the value of the location. The church site ... could become the church in the

marketplace, within the development". He continued, "I personally recognised, with concern, ... there would need to be the demolition of the church, which had meant so much in the lives of those in the present, as well as in the past". However, Bert was greatly impressed by the attitude of Rev Ron Coleman, and the local congregation.

Crown Central Wollongong.

This consisted of the development of a retail centre, where there was a series of shops, church owned property, in the heart of Wollongong. "Here was an opportunity to bring a strong element as part of revitalising the City centre", Bert reflected, "the location could not have been better, in the heart of the existing retail centre and opposite David Jones department store. This view we took to meetings with the Council". The public spaces, too, were an important part of all the Church's developments, Bert considered.

100 Walker Street, North Sydney. This was the development of the site previously occupied by the local Methodist Church and an adjacent property. "My role was to commercially maximise the benefits of the site", Bert summarised. He went on to outline design principles, and the inclusion of an underground parking station, which added to the value of the project. Again, dealing with Council and its demands, required great patience and tactful handling.

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SOCIETY AND ARCHIVE JOTTINGS

Piccadilly of Sydney. *Continued*

The concept was to bring together all the Church properties in Castlereagh and Pitt Streets. This was more easily said, than done! It took over 25 years. As Bert explained, "a long time, with a considerable number of schemes, meetings for changing reasons, different land components, change due to different marketability", changes in authorities' codes, parking, Council as well as State Planning Authority requirements. "Car parking at one time," Bert said, "we had approval for 400 cars. Another time the code was 0 cars!".

Contracts were finally signed in August 1988. "Of importance to me, since the 1960's, was the relocation of Wesley Central Mission, with its original Pitt Street connection. We were very pleased with the result". "I thank Roy Glover for his vision and his quite extraordinary contribution to the Uniting Church", Bert concluded.

Dr Malcolm Prentis warmly thanked Bert Hely for his presentation and Uniting Financial Services for sponsoring the lecture.



Mr Bert Hely with Dr Malcolm Prentis

Annual General Meeting

Monday 13th September saw the AGM of the Historical Society held at the Centre for Ministry. After formally opening the meeting with prayer, the President, Rev Robert Evans, presented a concise report on the Society's activities and focus.

In part, he said, "The thirteen months since the last A.G.M. have seen a progressively changed emphasis in the interests of the Society, and in the concerns of your Executive. Caring for the archives is no longer the responsibility of the Historical Society. However, several of our members are still working as volunteers, and most of the Executive members did much good work in helping to move the archives across to the Centre for Ministry. **Edmund Perrin** has been particularly active in this work, and continues as a central worker in the archives.

The whole project of moving the archives has been overseen by a temporary committee set up by the Board of Education, and substantially led by **Mrs. Moira Bryant**, who is the Camden Librarian. She has got through an enormous amount of work in doing this. The Board of Education has spent over \$600,000 in paying for the move, and in extending the Library building, which included changing substantially the arrangements and facilities underneath the Library. The work area for the volunteers is in that lower part of the new building, with a good range of the reference materials available

there to answer queries and to support research".

The President went on to advise, "Researchers who wish to use these materials should go to the Library, and their needs will be attended to by volunteers or by Library staff. When you come to the Centre for Ministry, however, the archives office is just on the right side of the entrance way as you step off the street. Deanna Moore, the Office Manager, works there on Mondays and Tuesdays".

The meeting went on to discuss upcoming historical lectures that have been arranged, the first being on **17th September**, when the guest speaker will be Bert Hely, senior architect for many of the Methodist and UC property developments. The following lecture will be presented by Professor Robert Linder, of Kansas State University and held on Saturday **27th November** at 2pm at the Centre for Ministry. It is planned to hold another lecture early in 2011.

The election of officers was held and the following officers were elected:

President: Rev Robert Evans,
Vice President: Malcolm Prentis,
Secretary: Bill Clague, and
Treasurer: Bruce Tredinnick.

The President concluded the meeting with, "Finally, let me thank everyone. The Executive office-bearers, all executive members, and all our volunteers. All deserve our thanks for their enthusiasm, effort, thought, work, and care through the past year".