

OBITUARY

Mr. C. A. Barham

LISMORE'S EX-TOWN CLERK

Mr. C. A. Barham, aged 82 years, one of Lismore's best known identities, was found dead in bed on Sunday. His wife took him in a cup of tea in the early morning and, getting no answer, became alarmed and called assistance. A doctor said that Mr. Barham had been dead a few hours. With the exception of an attack of influenza Mr. Barham enjoyed his usual health recently.

Mr. Barham is survived by a widow and six children, the latter being Charles (Sydney), Henry (Lismore), Esther (Mrs. McKenzie, Sydney), Linda (Mrs. New, Sydney), Auburn (Mrs. Bowmaker, Sydney), and Mrs. Anderson (Sydney). Mrs. McKenzie and Mr. Charles Barham have left Sydney for Lismore.

The late Mr. Barham was appointed Lismore town clerk and clerk of works in 1888. After the appointment of an engineer he became town clerk and this position he retained until October 1, 1924, the last year of his service being 12 months' leave of absence after 37 years in his position. His first visit to Lismore was in 1873 when he came as a passenger on the Susannah Cuthbert when what is now the principal business section of the town contained about 12 buildings. At this time, the only district industry of any importance was timber getting. On his first visit, Mr. Barham stayed six months and left to take part in the

months and left to take part in the Palmer goldfields rush. On a pony he made alone the overland trip through Kyogle to Ipswich, and thence to Brisbane. This was a feat worthy of an experienced bushman. For long stretches there was no track of any kind. In Brisbane Mr. Barham contracted rheumatism and returned to Sydney. Regaining his health he left for Cooktown and there set up in business, but did not stay long.

RETURNED IN 1879.

The late Mr. Barham next entered the service of a firm of merchants in Sydney and returned to Lismore in 1879, about the time the municipality was incorporated. His mission was to manage a sawmilling business owned by the late Mr. J. E. Glasgow. After the sale of the sawmilling business Mr. Barham was one of a large number of applicants for the position of town clerk in January, 1888, and was appointed in the following month. In the first year of his service, Lismore gas works commenced operations and then followed a succession of developmental projects with all of which the town clerk was prominently associated, until, in 1890, the town water supply was started in the face of much opposition. In each successive improvement, Mr. Barham bore his part until his retirement and he still continued to take an active interest in everything connected with the town where he spent so large a portion of his life.

He will always be remembered for the interest he took in the establishment of paspalum. This was introduced by Mr. E. Seecombe and Mr. Barham planted one of the first roots in the enclosure around the old council chambers. In this work, Messrs. Seecombe and Barham were assisted by the late Mr. James Barrie, then Mayor of Lismore, and the late Mr. T. G. Hewitt. In the year following planting, the grass had spread sufficiently

ing, the grass had spread sufficiently to cover the whole of the enclosure and the four men were satisfied that they had made a discovery of great importance to the North Coast. Time proved the correctness of the assumption. After returning from his long service leave Mr. Barham was appointed municipal valuator and this position he held to the time of his death.