



No 8, William Street Lismore c1980. JRO_0203

Tribute to No. 8. Alma J. Charles

1979 – Old former Oman family home at Lismore. Read at Garden Party when Mr & Mrs H. Smith were the owners.

Today the Lismore district folk will help to celebrate
One hundred years of living here, in well-known No 8,
Brown's Waterholes was Lismore's name before the township grew
The staging came from bullock teams which every driver knew.

It was 1865 north west of Lismore town
That William Oman bought a farm and quickly settled down.
The farm was on Skipton Road, John Austin lives there now
Along the banks grazed Oman's sheep, he walked behind the plow.

With seven children they were blessed in 1878
John Wilson planned a land exchange, he owned 'Gala' estate.
Oman's 400 acre farm, the idea seemed quite sound
Would be swapped for 'Highton' Lismore, 1000 acres of ground.

The land exchange then went ahead and everything was fine
And Oman built this five-roomed house in 1879,
Then Jane and William shifted in, a new life soon began
A little baby girl was born, Elizabeth Mary Ann.

A detached kitchen then was built at rear it would stand
The bluestone came from shepherds' huts once used on 'Highton'
land,
It was in 1878 the school was built of wood
To south of High Street at that time we find three buildings stood.

The third was the 'Gala' stables the Post Office site today
The beaten tracks wound through the town made by the bullock
drays
One track came from the first hotel. 'The White Swan' by the bridge
The other from Charles Taylor's store which stood on High St ridge.

This later was the Bustard's store, the track wound through the
town
Between the school and Oman's home which led to Camperdown,
The telephone was then installed, their number would be 8,
Henceforth by this the house was known, folk spoke of No 8.

William Oman built a woolshed, he built it sound and true
Behind his home in William Street where great tall blue gums grew,
Used also a depot shed it yearly went ahead
And 30,000 sheep were shorn in Oman's shearing shed.

The shed has vanished with the years, but when you look around
You see the grinding block is there where shearer's tools were
ground,

The sturdy sheep yards posts are bleached by sun and wind and rain
We see where bluestone stables stood the past comes back again.

We see the great old bluegums stumps the pear and apple tree,
The butcher's shop the chopping block time took the bakery,
It was a hive of industry and those were busy years
When Lismore town and district grew with toiling pioneers.

So Omans lived at No 8 for almost 90 years
William and Jane, eleven bairns Australian pioneers,
Oman and William Streets were named in memory of this man
William Oman, No 8, head of the local clan.

The descendants of the Omans in Lismore still we meet
Phil Hetherington, Tom Seymour, Kate Oman, William Street,
JR Oman lives at 'Rockbank' an historian renowned,
David and Sandy at 'Highton' still farming Oman land.

Miss Oman wears the grapevine brooch, craftsman made from gold
Which William found near Ballarat, Jane's present we were told.
When Elizabeth Mary Ann, passed on in 68
The Carrs came in and bought the house to live at No 8.

Change came again in '70, the house was sold forthwith
New owners came to No 8, Harry and Eily Smith.
They love this grand old Oman home with all its history
They carefully clip the box-thorn hedge, retain the pepper tree.

The Country Women, Catholic Guild, well known for its warmth and
cheer
For members meet at No 8 in winter every year,
So Eily stokes the fire up and we are feeling fine
The kitchen in the eastern wing is filled with warm sunshine.

One hundred years a dwelling place the decades passed away,
This charming home's centenary we celebrate today,
A mother makes a dwelling home your history is great
I pray that God may bless this house and all at No 8.

Alma Janet CHARLES 1915-2007. Alma was born in
Ballarat, the 2nd child of John & Cecelia Kirkpatrick of
'Glenayr' Stockyard Hill via Beaufort. She had 3 brothers
Jack, George and Jim. They rode their ponies to Lake
Goldsmith School, then attended Beaufort Higher
Elementary school then Alma attended Ballarat CEGGS
as a boarder. In 1948 Alma married farmer Gordon
Charles of 'Rowanlea' Foxhow. Son Bill still farms at
Foxhow. Alma wrote many poems about the Western
District and her travels.

Taken from "Western District and Other Verses" by
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