By an omission in the English Act of 1842 which set up the “Charters” establishing the Councils the property to be taxed and the method therefor was not detailed and the Legislative Council would not pass enabling legislation, especially to provide police and goals!

The Government quietly abandoned the District Councils and by 1853 they were in existence in name only and it was not until 1858 that a more suitable basis of local government ensued.

Whilst the “life” of the Council was in general negative Mr. Fleming has shed light on a little-known segment of the past.

The story is illustrated with a sketch map contrasting the area of the Council with the present Illawarra, the Council area extending well beyond the Shoalhaven River which is nowadays accepted as the southern boundary of Illawarra. He has also constructed a table of the Councilors and their lectures which is practically a roll-call of the gentry of the District.

Available at 50 cents plus 10 cents posted at the Illawarra Historical Museum and our meetings.

**RE PROPERTY “THE TOWERS” 9 KEMBLA STREET, WOLLONGONG:**

The land was originally part of Charles Throsby Smith’s grant and was included in the land conveyed by Smith in his lifetime to trustees for the benefit of his second wife Isabella Campbell Smith and the children of his first and second marriages and ultimately (after his death) conveyed to Vincent Wanostrocht Giblin and Timothy O’Sullivan Green on trust for sale. In 1880 Giblin and Green sold Lot 12 of Section 8 of the subdivision comprising an area of 1 acre 2 roods 8 perches to Andrew Lysaght for £65. Lysaght was a local publican who at one time had Lysaght’s Inn, Fairy Meadow, near the present Wollongong High School site, and at one time had the Freemasons’ Arms, later the Flinders Inn, at the corner of Crown and Keira Streets, Wollongong. There is a slide in the Society’s collection showing this hotel with Freemasons Arms and Lysaght’s name on it, but presumably it did not remain the Freemasons Arms long after Lysaght took over. He was the member of Parliament for Illawarra from 1885 to 1887 and 1891 to 1894. His son was “Ironbark Andy” Lysaght, well known local solicitor and later J. T. Lang’s Attorney-General.

In 1880 Andrew Lysaght sold the land to James Anderson of Fairy Meadow, freeholder, who on 7th July, 1889 sold part of the land (Allotment No. 1 of the re-subdivision) to Sigfrid Andreas Flodin of Wollongong, photographer, for £200. It was subject to a mortgage dated the following day from Flodin to Anderson for £500 which suggests that Flodin was about to build on the land. Mr. Mintorn, I believe, once said that the camera obscura building was built by Florin, and in an abstract of title dated 1890 the land is referred to as being “at Camera Hill Wollongong” (This abstract of title is of some interest as being type-written, probably one of the earliest type-written documents in this area).
In December 1889 Anderson executed a sub-mortgage to Charles Coffey Russell (founder of firm of Russell, McLelland and Brown) in which according to the abstract the land was assigned "unto the said mortgnee his exs and asses". The mortgage was reconveyed by Russell to Anderson the following year. In 1890 Anderson sold the property to John Richardson of Unanderra, Public School Teacher. The conveyance recites that Flodin had defaulted under his mortgage and the land had been sold by public auction on 8th April, 1890, at which Richardson had bid £545 for the property.

Anderson also appears to have had his troubles. The deed included an acknowledgement of receipt of £86.9.0 in satisfaction of a District Court Writ of execution issued by Charles Frederick Smith and Andrew Lysaght, trustees for Rose Annah (sic) Anderson named in a Deed of Separation dated 15th December, 1884, and the said Rose Annah Anderson. In 1896 there is a statutory declaration by James Anderson of Wollongong, Labourer stating that he had only been bankrupt once, in 1894, subsequent to the conveyance to Richardson, and that a writ of fieri facias for £82.14.0 issued against him by the Castlemaine Brewing Company in 1890 had been satisfied.

The documents suggest that Richardson lived in the property until his death on 1st July, 1912. Under his Will it was left to Trustees for his six daughters "so long as any remain unmarried and wish to reside in the home where I now live". This was followed by a trust for sale and equal division. In a Deed of 1924 William James Reed Richardson of Bulli Shire Clerk and Mary Elisa Richardson of Wollongong, Spinster are named as the executors of John Richardson deceased and the parties of the second part are Mary Eliza Richardson, Letitia Heron Richardson, Rachel Kilpatrick Richardson and Margaret Wright Richardson all of Wollongong, Spinsters Matilda Eugene (sic) Wilson of Wollongong, Widow, and Muriel Wilton, wife of Roy Wilton of Wollongong, Plasterer, presumably the six daughters referred to in the Will.

By 1938, when the property was sold to William John Williams for £1275 William James Reed Richardson, Mary Eliza Richardson, and Rachael Kilpatrick Richardson had died, and the Public Trustee had been appointed as Trustee of the Will. In 1953 the property was conveyed by William John Williams to himself and Marsden John Williams as joint tenants and they in 1960 sold to Allied Constructions (Contractors) Pty. Limited.

(Various other mortgages and discharges of no special interest).