in the stimulation of one of his thermo-chemical baths. Clearly, Adam was a literary myth.

Therefore as a contribution to local Illawarra history, even as a curiosity, the Dawson/Black effusion is useless. But that is not to say that it is otherwise without value. For a student of politico-economic thought it may well stand as an interesting but general example of radical tendency, the interest being enhanced by the growth and change evident in the three editions over nearly three decades. Yet for Illawarra itself it remains a lost opportunity. Pity!

E.B.

OBITUARY - MR. CARL WILLIAMS

The Society records with regret the death on 7th July of one of our oldest members, Carl Wallace Williams, at the age of 87 years. For many years Mr. Williams was a strong supporter of the Society’s meetings and excursions, from which he will be sadly missed. Sympathy is extended to his family and friends, in particular to our members Beth and Doug Troth and their children.

ENQUIRY RE WILLIAM J. HAMMIL


David Heller is seeking more information about William J. Hammil, the American oil expert who designed the plant for the kerosene works at American Creek and managed its operation for two years, 1865-1867. Heller is trying to establish if this was the same William J. Hammil, an oil refiner, who left his (first?) wife Sylvia in Baltimore in 1864, and was divorced in 1865.

So far my enquiries have located only a brief article in the Illawarra Mercury of 29.6.1934, contributed by Old Pioneer after the 90th birthday of Hammil’s widow, Isabella Hammil. This article indicates that Hammil was in Sydney in 1856 and at American Creek as early as 1857. If this is accurate, he cannot be the same man as Heller’s subject from Baltimore, who did not leave there until 1864. Can anyone help with information about Hammil or his descendants, so we can assist our American friend? If so, please phone me on 84-3550.

Frank Osborne