



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER NO: 51

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DATE: 22 March 1999.

SIR JAMES ANDERSON MURDOCH, KBE, CMG, MLC. (1867-1939)

When I was a boy at Gladesville Primary School, I was allowed, as a treat, to miss school on my birthday.

I remember the postman bringing a letter marked 'Master G Cumming' which contained a greeting card.

I recall asking my mother 'How did Mr Murdoch know it was my birthday?' I don't remember her reply.

I had turned seven and when other cards arrived in subsequent years, I was still none the wiser.

This Mr Murdoch, who, I was told, was a kind man and who sent me birthday cards, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 10 March 1867. 1.



James A Murdoch

He received a basic education at Adair's and Herriot's schools and, at age 13, he joined a firm of wholesale woollen merchants. 2.

In 1884, he migrated to Melbourne and then to Sydney where, whilst employed by Hordern Brothers, he became the founding Secretary of the Shop Employees' Union.

After a brief period in Brisbane, he returned to Sydney to work for F J Palmer and Co, the firm of hatters and mercers.

On 26 August 1891, James Murdoch married Isabella Binning at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Sydney.

They established their home *Midhope* and a wonderful, widely recognised garden at 60 Burns Road, Wahroonga.

He became Secretary of the Wahroonga Progress Association and, as an indication of things to come, wrote to the Postmaster-General asking that 'the post-boy be provided with a horse or a bicycle, so that mail can be delivered more quickly!' 3.

In 1893, Murdoch opened his own men's mercery store

