



## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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**Wor. Bro. John Horatio Clayton**  
1855 - 1925

Solicitor, Alderman, Mayor and founder of Clayton Utz and Company.

In Forest Road the principal Arncliffe family was that of John H. Clayton, a Sydney solicitor. Born in Sydney, John Clayton came from an old colonial family and became an alderman of Rockdale Council from 1891 to 1903 and Mayor from 1895 to 1898. He laid one of the foundation stones of St. John's Anglican Church, Rockdale. He was a strong supporter of the amalgamation of the four St. George Municipalities and he put the council's finances on a sound footing. He lived in "Wilga", Forest Road Arncliffe.

"Wilga", was built in 1893 at 220 Forest Road. This imposing brick and stucco home was built by John Horatio Clayton, founder of the legal firm, Clayton Utz and Company. It reflects the transition in Victorian architecture in rendered brickwork a decade earlier to the face brick which came into universal use a few years later. It also reflects a more restrained use of cast iron decoration. Although now short of its once spacious grounds it still represents a most impressive picture. The home was originally called "Myee" in honour of Lady Carrington's youngest son and was acquired many years ago by the Department of Child Welfare who used it as a hostel for unmarried mothers. It is now under the control of the Department of Youth and Community Services.

By the 1890s the two most fashionable streets in Arncliffe were Wollongong Road and Forest Road. Forest Road with sweeping views over Botany Bay was much sought after. Thus we have "Mintaville", "Rosslyn", "The Towers" and the two massive two storey semi-detached buildings, "Newstead" and "Myee".

The Sydney Morning Herald of Wednesday, May 25 1925 reported as follows:

"The death took place at his residence, Myee, Forest Road, Arncliffe on Monday of Mr John Horatio Clayton. Born in 1855, a son of the late Joseph Richard Clayton (an old Pyrmont resident and one-time treasurer of the city of Sydney). Mr. Clayton was educated at Fort Street School and the Sydney Grammar School. He took early to law, succeeding to the practice of the Hon. Richard Driver and practicing for about 45 years. Mr. Clayton was a president of the Sydney Cricket Ground for many years and Vice-president of the Metropolitan Rugby Union until that body ceased to exist, president of the New South Wales Junior Cricket Association and honorary secretary of the Sydney Grammar School Old Boys' Union. He was a member of the old Osborne Cricket Team and the McQuade Cup, won by the team, is still in the possession of the family. Mr. Clayton was also Mayor and an Alderman of Rockdale for many years, He is survived by two sons and four daughters namely Mr. H. J. R. Clayton, later to be Sir Hector J. R. Clayton, solicitor, Dr. H. J. Clayton, of Macquarie and formerly superintendent of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Mrs. J. L. Hudson of Hobart, Mrs. T. V. Nicholls of Emerald Vale, Yetman, and two unmarried daughters."



John Horatio Clayton was initiated into Lodge Illawarra St. George No 219 (at one time the only lodge between Sydney and Wollongong) on September 10, 1896 passed on October 1896 and raised on December 12, 1896. He served as Junior and Senior Warden and was installed as WM on April 9, 1900. He called off on July 13, 1913. After many consolidations this lodge is now part of Lodge Rudyard Kipling No. 143.



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