**Beecroft St John’s old church,1891**

**Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Tuesday 10 February 1891, page 4**

GENERAL NEWS.

Last Saturday in the presence of an overflowing congregation St. John's Church of England, Beecroft, was formally opened for public worship. The church, which was consecrated by Archdeacon Gunther, is built of hardwood weatherboard and tiled roof, and its design is in perfect harmony with the picturesque surroundings. Due attention has been given to thorough ventilation and the furniture and other appurtenances are in keeping with the building itself. Messrs. Coward and Bell, of 29 Bligh-street, were the architects and Messrs. Hart and Sons, of Parramatta, the contractors.

At the close of the consecration service a tea and social meeting was held in a spacious bower built especially for the purpose. About 250 adults and children partook of the refreshments provided. Addresses were given by the Rev. George McIntosh, Messrs. William Coward and Charles Tucker.

**Cumberland Mercury (Parramatta, NSW: 1875 - 1895), Saturday 14 February 1891, page 6**

Beecroft.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Last week was rather an eventful one for Beecroft — that, flourishing suburb on the Northern line - between Ryde and Hornsby. Besides forming a progress association on Wednesday, the little school-church recently erected was formally opened last Saturday for public worship. Three or four years ago, Beecroft, was only a wilderness of bush, but it is now fast springing into an important suburb. The undulating country, the pretty valleys and the high hills form a pleasing contrast to the many flat and uninteresting suburban localities nearer Sydney, and which are already overcrowded. It is not to be wondered that people are driven away from such a state of things to such refuges in the hills as around Beecroft, where they can enjoy the beauties of the surrounding country and breathe in the pure atmosphere free from dust and smoke and other impurities. On Saturday afternoon about 200 people assembled to witness. the opening of St. John's School-Church, Beecroft. The opening ceremony was conducted by Archdeacon Gunther, assisted by the Rev. George Macintosh. The pretty little building was crowded to overflowing, and a number gathered around the entrance. At the close of the service an adjournment was made to large booth, where refreshments, bountiful as appetising, had been provided. After the tea-meeting the Rev. George Macintosh and Messrs. Coward and Tucker gave short addresses, and the hon. treasurer delivered his statement as to the financial position in which the church stood. The Church is built of weather-board, with a tiled roof. Proper attention has been given to ventilation, and the furniture and other appurtenances are in keeping with the building. Messrs. Coward and Bell, of 29 Bligh-street, were the architects, and Messrs. Hart and Sons, Parramatta, the contractors.

**The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 1 Sep 1894**

Beecroft.

**St. John’s Church.**

This quaint-looking, pretty building is not large enough to accommodate the increasing congregation. Consequently, funds are to be raised for enlarging it through the medium of a sale of work, flowers, refreshments, and so forth. Miss Ogden has granted the use of her school-house, in which to hold the affair, and the following ladies have undertaken its management, viz: Mrs. And Miss Harrison, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Nicholle, Mrs. Perdriau, Mrs. Allard, and Mrs. Tucker. It is expected to turn out very successfully: but regret is expressed because Mrs. Nicholle has contracted an attack of influenza, and is not yet out of the doctor’s care.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 27 Apr 1895**

Beecroft.

**Religious**. – At the Easter meeting held in connection with St John’s Church of England, on Wednesday Messrs. C. C. Tucker and Turner were elected Churchwardens. The Treasurer Mr. C. C. Tucker read his annual report, which showed £17 to the credit of the Church’s funds.

**World's News (Sydney, NSW), Sat 10 Mar 1906**

Having a Church.

HOW ST. JOHN’S, BEECROFT (N.S.W.) WAS TRANSPLANTED.

In the United States they often move buildings without disturbing either their external or internal arrangements. Some of the stories told about these feats border on the marvellous. But we have in Australia plenty of proof that this sort of thing can be done, and done quite as well, and expeditiously as elsewhere.

Recently there was chronicled in "The World's News" the story of the removal of the Presbyterian Mission Church at Abbotsford, and now we have a similar feat performed with St. John's Church (Anglican), Beecroft (N.S.W.).

The churchwardens of St. John's, haying purchased a larger and more suitable site, decided on the transplanting of the present building thereto. Being desirous of avoiding damage and expense, they decided that the building, a wooden one weighing 25 tons, should be moved

bodily from one site to the other, a distance of over half a mile. The building was about 50ft. long, 21ft. wide, and 24ft. high, and the only portion that it was found necessary to interfere with was the tiled roof. The tiles were taken off to prevent breakage.

To effect the removal, the building was raised, and a specially-constructed frame placed underneath it. The wheels supporting this frame were strong, with broad tyres, and the total weight of the whole thing when ready for the road was 31 tons.

To haul this, a traction engine was used, and the spectacle of so extraordinary a load moving along the public road attracted a crowd of interested sightseers. The road was only ballasted for a width of 18ft., and this made the work of transit all the more difficult, because the main axle supporting the frame was 22ft. wide. The contractors for the removal, however (Mr. Arthur Slingsby, builder, of Redfern, and Mr. A. Cook, carrier, of Ultimo), were in no wise dismayed by this, and promptly built up the road with bushes, and thus kept the wheels from sinking.

The building was transported without the slightest mishap, and placed in position on the new site, the whole job taking only four hours, the contents of the church being absolutely uninjured. This only serves to show, as before stated, that Australia can keep well up to date

in these matters.