**Beecroft Wesleyan Old Church 1895**

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30 Jun 1894**

Beecroft.

**Wesleyan**. – For some considerable time past the Wesleyan folk here have held their services at the residence of Mr. Mason, where they have always had his large room placed at their disposal, but the attendance has so increased lately that it has been found desirable to take steps for the purpose of having a Wesleyan Chapel, and to bring the matter to a head Mr. Mason has been appointed treasurer, Mr. F. J. Allard secretary, and Mesdames Martin and Mason, and Misses Mason collectors.

**Band of Hope**. – The usual meeting of the Band of Hope took place on Tuesday night in the large room kindly lent for such occasions by Mr. Mason.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 29 September 1894, page 8**

Beecroft.

Picnic. — The Wesleyan Sunday School picnic will be held at Hornsby shortly.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 23 November 1894, page 3**

WESLEYAN DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Permission to build a church at Beecroft was granted on the ordinary conditions.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 25 May 1895, page 8**

Beecroft.

Wesleyan — Some time ago the Wesleyan folk of this district commenced collecting for the purpose of raising funds towards erecting a Wesleyan church here, but funds apparently did not come as was anticipated, for the matter has been very quiet of late. It is pleasing to note it has not altogether been forgotten, as during the last few weeks the site obtained for such a building has been fenced in.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 October 1895, page 7**

The Beecroft Wesleyan Church.

Laying the Corner Stones.

Tea Meeting.

To celebrate the laying of the foundation stone of the first Wesleyan Church here a public tea meeting was held on Tuesday.

The proceedings were not favoured with good weather. This to a great extent interfered with the attendance, as, just about the time for the important event of setting the two corner stones, the rain came down pretty freely, so much so that at the conclusion of prayer by the Rev. J. E. Carruthers, President of the Wesleyan Conference, and a short address by the Rev. W. Moore, a general scatter took place for shelter. After a delay of about half an hour the proceedings wore resumed, Mrs. Taylor, of Burwood, being the first to declare the first stone, that on the eastern end fronting the road, to be truly laid, whilst Mrs, F. Mason performed a similar ceremony regarding the second corner stone, on the northern corner. Placed under the stones was a pickle bottle containing the morning paers of the 1st inst. together with the names of the trustees as follows: - Revd. W. Moore, Rev. J. G. M. Taylor, A. Sinfield, H. Bullard, F. Mason, J. T. Way, and F. T. Mason.

The setting of the stones having been completed, the Rev. J. E. Carruthers addressed the meeting, showing the progress Wesleyanism was making throughout the world. Referring to Beecroft, he said he felt in a very proud position to be presiding over the present event, as it was himself that conducted the first Wesleyan service in the district some five years ago. He trusted that the Beecroft Wesleyans would use every endeavour to get their chapel about to be erected, free from debt. He implored God's blessing on the workers and hoped the erection of the new chapel would result in much beneficial work being accomplished to the glory of God.

The Rev. W. Moore said that it was some five years ago that the first Wesleyan service was held at Beecroft, since which time the congregations had grown considerably. A meeting had consequently been held on June 6, 1894, for the purpose of considering the advisability of erecting a church, when a building committee was formed as well as several ladies appointed to collect the necessary funds. The result of the energy and perseverance of those appointed had been the collection of £46 16s 4d, as well as of a further promised sum of about £5, so that they could say they had in hand something like £50. Tenders had been called for the erection of the building, and that of Whitehead and Adamson, of Ermington, accepted at £88 10s. This amount, however, would probably be increased to a total of about £95 as there were incidental expenses to be considered. It would therefore be seen that they yet required some £50 to clear the building expenses. He appealed to all present to do everything possible to obtain this amount, as he would much like to see their church erected free of debt. The land had yet to be paid for, as it would be remembered that a certain gentleman had very generously advanced them the money some time ago to secure the site. The clearing of the land debt, however, he did not look upon as a serious matter, as, as soon as their church was free, the land liability would soon be overcome

The addresses being completed, an adjournment was made to the booth erected for the tea meeting. By this time the attendance despite the wet had considerably increased, and the seats around the tables, most artistically set out with abundance of very choice and palatable goods, were soon occupied. Then a raid was made on the good things, and the ladies who presided over the plentiful supply were kept busy for some time. There were five tables altogether, including a bachelors’ and maids’ table, and the ladies who served at these were Mesdames F. Mason, H. Ballard, Chorley, E. Smith, Warren and Wilkinson, whilst the following ladies flitted about in quite a business-like manner: — The Misses J. Murray, Sis. Ballard, Bella Ballard, Lucy Jordan, G. Mason and Chorley. The Rev. W. Moore, as the saying is, made hay while the sun shone, for, whilst those present were busy digesting their tea, he had them investing on a subscription list towards the building. His efforts were so well rewarded that, together with the probable receipts of the tea, he reported before the break-up of the proceedings that upwards of £ … had been totalled; thus leaving a deficiency on the probable cost of the building of about £25, which certainly is a very satisfactory state of affairs, considering the present state of the times and finances.

The proceedings terminated at about 9.30 p.m., when it was announced that a picnic would be held in Mr. Chorley's paddock the following day for the enjoyment principally of the juveniles of the district, who would be treated to a real good spread.

Though the wet weather interferred with any outdoor games as in usual at such gatherings everything passed off most enjoyably and to the satisfaction of all present.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 7 December 1895, page 8**

Beecroft.

Wesleyan Church — Special services in connection with the opening of the new Wesleyan Church will be conducted by the Rev. J. W. Moore in the new church to-morrow (Sunday)

at il a.m., 3 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. The afternoon service will be a floral one and principally for children. Special music will also be rendered under the conduct of Mr. E. N. Shilling of Summer Hill.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 14 December 1895, page 6**

Beecroft.

Opening of the Wesleyan Church. – Large congregations attended special services conducted by the Rev. J. W. Moore morning, afternoon and evening in connection with the opening of the new Wesleyan Church. The afternoon service was a floral one, especially for the young. Some thirty children carried nice bouquets of flowers, which, together with the decorations of the church made a pleasing and attractive sight. The Rev. J. W. Moore preached a very instructive and entertaining sermon, taking for his text “Consider the lilies, how they grow.” Special singing was rendered by the children under the conductorship of Mr. E. N. Shilling, of Summer Hill. Miss Mason acted as organist throughout the services. The new building is very conveniently situated, close to the station and in the centre of the population. It is constructed of kauri with galvanized iron roof, the inside measurement being 30 x 20 feet. Eighteen good seats, capable of seating 108 persons, are provided, and altogether the work is very creditably finished, Messrs. Whitehead and Adamson, of Ermington, being the contractors. The cost, about £90, will, it is expected, be very shortly cleared, £73 of the amount being subscribed and collected up to Sunday last.

Postponed. — The social announced to take place in the Wesleyan Church on Tuesday night had to be postponed on account of the wet weather, which prevented the residents from turning out. It was rather unfortunate for the rain to come on at the last moment, as Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Martin, and other good ladies of the district had all the required refreshments ready. Altogether, about 20 persons were present, including the Revs. J. W. Moore and Woolnough, and the following members of the Ryde choir, Mr. W. C. Barton, the Misses A. M. and E. Barton, and Miss Forsyth. It was decided to have the event on Thursday night.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 28 December 1895, page 7**

Beecroft.

Social. — The social evening in connection with the opening of the Wesleyan Church, came off on December 19, when the attendance was only fair. A very enjoyable time, however, was spent, Mr. W. C. Barton presiding. The Rev. J. Woolnough gave a very interesting address, and the Rev. J. W. Moore read a financial statement of affairs, together with a brief history of the establishment of the Wesleyan Church at Beecroft. The statement showed that the sum of £75 was in hand to-wards the building fund. Mr. W. Midson moved a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Mason for the very great assistance they had been to the Church, and for the use of their house for the services prior to the erection of the church. Mr. G. Trevitt seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The Ryde choir rendered valuable assistance by singing in good voice several solos, anthems, &c.

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 1 Feb 1896**

NOTES ON DISTRICT ITEMS.

A Wesleyan School Church of considerable dimensions had been erected in Beecroft, and a

commodious unsectarian schoolroom is now in course of erection by the Misses Ogden.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 6 June 1896, page 10**

Along the Line.

The Ryde Choir, in aid of the Circuit Fund, will give a service of song entitled, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," in the Wesleyan Church at Beecroft on the 16th instant.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 25 July 1896, page 10**

Beecroft.

Welcome Home. — The Wesleyan Church was the scene of a very pleasant gathering on Monday night, when a large number of the friends of Mr. F. Mason assembled to take part

in welcoming that gentleman home after an absence of some months in England. The principal movers in arranging the proceedings wore Messrs. W. Short, A. Sinfield, J. T. Way, Mrs. Gilbert, and the Misses Semple. Mr. A. Sinfield presided and made a very neat speech in which he welcomed Mr. Mason back to the new home after his visit to the old one. The evening was most enjoyably spent in harmony, the Misses Semple, G. Mason, Mrs. Chorley, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Short contributing songs and recitations and the Misses Hatch singing a very pretty duet. Abundance of refreshments were provided, and speeches welcoming Mr. Mason back to the district wero made by Messrs Way, Short, Sinfield, and W. Midson, to which Mr. Mason briefly responded, giving a few interesting points concerning his trip. He said that, had he known anything about the present proceedings, he would have been ready with a good descriptive account of his trip, but, as it was, he was taken so much by surprise he could scarcely find words to express his thanks, let alone anything else, for the kind reception given him.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 31 October 1896, page 5**

Beecroft.

Wesleyan. - The Wesleyan Church authorities have decided to celebrate their anniversary shortly on a date to be fixed. Mr. Walter Short bus been appointed to the position of Sunday School superintendent, which has been rendered vacant through the departure of Mr. F. Mason for West Australia. It is pretty certain that Mr. Short will accept.

**Cumberland Free Press (Parramatta, NSW: 1895 - 1897), Saturday 19 December 1896, page 13**

BEECROFT.

WESLEYAN ANNIVERSARY.

The first Anniversary was celebrated at the Beecroft Wesleyan Church on the 9th instant, when a grand tea and public meeting was held in the building.

The church was very prettily decorated, and the tea was laid out on two long tables, placed down the sides of the interior. Beautiful bouquets of flowers, in handsome vases, rendered the display of good things especially attractive and the greatest credit is due to the ladies and gentlemen who had charge of the arrangements. The tables were thronged from 6 to 7.30 p.m., and so ample was the provision that when all were satisfied a quantity of eatables were left over.

The public meeting was opened at 7.45, Mr. A. Sinfield taking the chair.

A particularly good programme was gone through, prominent features of which were the items rendered by the Castle Hill choir— under the leadership of Mr. Pognon (who had most kindly given their services). During the evening, addresses were delivered by the Bev. F. Hibberd, H. W. T. Pincombe, W. H. Williams, and J. W. Moore. Votes of thanks to the lady helpers, the chairman, the speakers, and the Castle Hill choir, and another friendly cup of tea, brought the proceedings to a harmonious dose.

Mrs. Taylor, of Burwood, the kindly lady who gave a handsome donation when the foundation stone of the church was laid, and also gave the harmonium, put £5 into the collection on the present occasion, a most timely and thoughtful gift,

The Sunday School children had a picnic on Thursday afternoon.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 December 1896, page 11**

Beecroft.

Wesleyan Sunday School Picnic. — The children’s picnic on Thursday of last week was a great success. At 10.15 the children met at the Church, and marched lo the picnic ground. Hero the usual games were indulged in. Lunch was served liberally and well. Prizes were competed for in sports for the children. Tea was served again in the evening, and after the singing of a hymn, the picnic broke up. Foremost among the ladies assisting were: Mrs Mason, sen., Mrs. Mason, jun., Mrs. Short, Mrs. Flack, Mrs. Healey, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Sinfield, Miss Chorley, and Miss G. Mason.

The Anniversary. — The Wesleyan anniversary services on Sunday were attended by large congregations, and were conducted by the Rev. F. Hibberd. In the afternoon the children rendered a programme of vocal music. Two nice books were presented to Miss Gerty Mason for her services as organist for the last six years. The result financially of the anniversary celebrations was £12 13s.

**Cumberland Free Press (Parramatta, NSW: 1895 - 1897), Saturday 19 December 1896, page 9**

BEECROFT.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL PICNIC.

A picnic to the scholars of the Wesleyan Sunday-school was held in connection with church anniversary, in Mr. Wilson’s paddock, on Thursday 10th December. Mr. Short, the superintendent, was most energetic in promoting the happiness of the numerous youngsters, and was ably attended by Mrs. and Miss Mason, Miss Chorley, Mrs. E. Smith, Mrs. A, Sinfield, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Flack, Mrs. J. Mason, Mrs. Martin, Messrs. W. and A. Carr, Mr. Sinfield, Mr. H. Healy and others.

Sports and games of all descriptions ware enjoyed, and a bountiful repast was partaken of. After the singing of an appropriate hymn the children returned to their respective homes at about 6 p.m.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 4 March 1899, page 10**

Beecroft.

Church Anniversary. — The Beecroft Wesleyan Church anniversary took the form of a reunion and concert and was celebrated in the church on Friday. The chair was taken by the Rev. W. H. Beale. Mr. Allard read the financial statement for the year ending 30th September, 1898, as follows: — By payments for church site £56 3s; lining and painting the church and erecting picket fence, £42 15s; overdraft at Bank of N S. Wales, H.O., £6 2s 4d; lighting, cleaning, insurance, printing, etc., £4 4s 2d; making a total of £109 4s 6d; receipts, subscriptions, proceeds, of last anniversary, £108 7s 5d; leaving a balance due to the bank of 17s 1d. The report stated that the liabilities at last anniversary were £61, which were generously paid for by a friend who had always taken a deep interest, in the church work at Beecroft. Since then, considerable improvements had been made in lining and painting the church, clearing and trenching a portion of the ground, planting shade trees and erecting a picket fence. These improvements could not have been done but for the exceptional liberality of the friend already referred to, who paid nearly the whole of the cost. The church grounds were still capable of improvement and it is anticipated by degrees the whole of it will eventually be cleared and planted all round with trees which will not only provide grateful shade, but will greatly add to the appearance of the church grounds. Satisfaction was expressed at the fact that the Trust was practically free of debt. Addresses were given by the Rev. W. H. Beale, Rev. W. W. Rutledge, and Mr. W. H. McClelland. The latter gentleman came in place of the Rev. G. D. Cocks who was unable to attend through illness. Mrs. Dobbie presided at the piano, and the following ladies and gentlemen rendered songs: — Mrs. Dobbie, "the Lament of the Irish Emigrant"' and “The Better Land;" Miss Ogden, "In the Chimney Corner;" Mr. W. H. McClelland, "Galilee;" Mr. Skellett, "The Deathless Army;" the Rev. W. Rutledge, "Absolom" and "The Resurrection Morn," and; Mr. Downs recited "The old Man's Advice to his Children" — 'The Bundle of Sticks."

**Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1870 - 1919), Wednesday 30 April 1913, page 57**

News of the Churches.

A new Methodist Church is to be built at Beecroft,

**Methodist (Sydney, NSW), Sat 9 Aug 1913**

A PREACHER'S REMINISCENCES.

By A. N. X. P.

THIRD SERIES

XVII. - THE HILLS AND ORANGERIES OF CENTRAL CUMBERLAND

A quarter of a century ago the Ryde Circuit covered a wider area than it does at present, but embraced fewer preaching places. The railway which runs through the district was only newly opened, and had not developed the line of suburbs extending from Meadowbank to Hornsby. Not many years had elapsed since the separation of Ryde from the Parramatta Circuit, and the former had simply taken over and was working the old Methodist centres of Ryde, Dundas, Castle Hill, and Dural. A fortnightly service had also been established at Galston, and an effort was being made to get a footing in Ermington. During my time services were held at Beecroft, but the opening of an Anglican Church crowded us out, as the lady at whose place we met no longer felt free to give us the room. She was an Anglican, and her minister objected to her helping the Methodists any longer, now that they had a church on the spot. Church union is a nice thing to talk about, but somehow it does not work out in practice as per its theory. Two or three forward movements, however, did come off with a fair measure of success. A new church was built and nearly paid for at Castle Hill (now Pennant Hills West), at a cost of £1,200. It stands alongside the old stone church, which dates from 1845, and in which, some, of the stalwarts of early Methodism had preached from time to time.