**Mr.Moran’s Orchard 1893**

**Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Sat 18 Apr 1891**

BEECROFT NURSERY COMPANY.

Fruit Trees.

Clean, Healthy, and Well-Grown. ORANGE, LEMON and SUMMER FRUIT. All Apples worked on blight-proof stocks. ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS, and Flowering Plants. Also, a choice lot of Vegetable and Flower Seeds.

G. B. MORAN,

PENNANT HILLS.

**The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 14 Jan 1893**

A Flourishing Nursery Orchard.

On alighting from the train at Beecroft, your representative directed his steps towards the Beecroft Nursery Orchard, “the fame of whose name” has been long bruited abroad. A little difficulty was experienced at first, after leaving to the left a modestly-constructed but prettily-designed little church, but under the guidance of the “fairest of fair Zurich’s daughters,” in the shape of a typical Australian lass, the goal was at length reached, and Beecroft Nursery bore in sight. At first sight the visitor would appear to be plunging into the depths of a primeval forest of stately gum and stringy bark weathered with climbing plants and interspersed with scrub stretching away to the mountainous horizon. A second glance, however, shows him a clearing n the very centre of this dense timber, comprising some 34 acres of orchard land, all under cultivation, and the rich foliage of the young trees, as well as their tempting fruits, show that the venture has not been without good result. The Beecroft Nursery Company is managed by Mr. Moran, who holds a half-share, and appears, in more senses than one, the right man in the right place. He was engaged in giving instructions to some men on our arrival, but in compliance with a request, took your representative through the orchard and pointed out the system observed. Good corduroy roads, admitting the use of vehicles, traverse the orchard, and a well-filled creek flows through it, the waters of which will shortly be utilised for purposes of irrigation. Storehouses and tool sheds are snugly built, as is an office for the manager. The soil, though not too rich in some places, is of a friable and light nature, and appears to be well adapted for fruit growing.

All the beds in this nursery are methodically marked out in sections, with sub-sections of their own, thus avoiding increasingly high numbers of figures and subsequent confusion.

Thus, in bed known as No. 1, with its subsections, numbered, there are large numbers of varieties of quince trees, medlars, persimmons, or Japanese plum, with rhubarb cultivated especially for market. In this lot also are some remarkably healthy young peach trees, comprising the varieties known as Haile’s early, Brigg’s red May, early Crawford, George’s late clean, Royal George, Slipstones, etc., etc.

In No. 2 bed there are thousands of the citrus tribe comprising Lisbon lemons, Bengal Knights, etc., all looking remarkably clean, and well cared for.

No. 3 bed is remarkable for the large quantity and fine growth of persimmons, while here large beds of roses have been cultivated with success, comprising well-known and choice varieties, such as teas, hybrids, noisettes, Bourbons, etc. A few richly-coloured flowers remaining show what a blaze of beauty must have greeted the eye of the traveller a few months ago, from the Malton-road, which separates the Nursery from the homestead block, of which more anon. Here and there rows of fruit trees were grown closely together, principally for the wood to graft and bud.

In No. 4 bed, cherries, grapes, and lemons had been worked successfully on orange stock; and among the orange tribe, the Mandarins, comprising Emperor’s, Thorney’s, and Canton’s, were very fine and strong specimens.

A large bed of Norfolk Island pines presented a very pleasing appearance.

There are large numbers of well-selected and carefully imported stock trees, from San Francisco, Japan, and other countries, while consignments are being continually received from the sister colonies. No mistake has been made in the grafting process with such trees, and they have proved their worth by their fruiting. On a miniature orange tree, known as the Mediterranean Sweet, there were several perfectly formed oranges. And some healthy stocks were found in the Jaffa, Parson Brown, St. Michael, American Paper Rind, Washington Navel and a host of others. New and well-grown varieties in lemon stocks were visible in the Eureka and Genoa. The Japanese plums were all sturdy and finely grown trees.

The General Sargo plum which your representative tasted is a luscious flavoured, finely formed, and richly coloured fruit. Another gentleman known as the Blood of Satzuma or Red Heart was remarkable for the density and rich beet-coloured appearance of the fruit from the inner skin to the centre, the flavour being full and rich.

Passing thence to what is called No. 7 bed the visitor views most promising young stocks of the imported trees, with (among the citrus tribe) Parramatta oranges, Siletta, Queen, Rio, etc. Along each side of the broad walks bordering the beds dwarfed apple trees have been trained to climb on wires most successfully. Fruit was seen upon three or four-year old trees almost ready for the market, the trees almost ready for the market, the trees almost bearing down though propped in all directions. Carts were just then arriving for fruit and we saw some splendid samples of peaches (Royal George, Early Newington, Crawford, etc.), with fine plums packed in a very careful and attractive manner, and sent away.

More nursery beds were passed with young stocks by hundreds and thousands, ready for planting out with young citrus, and others ready for autumn budding, and all looking most healthy.

Thousands of young stocks from fruit stones, to work on, were above ground. Trees of dwarfed apples and pears all looked well, especially where a French paradise dwarf apple had been grafted on a Northern Spy, the latter being blight proof and keeping the roots clean, while the paradise, upon which another graft is made, dwarfs the whole tree.

Dwarfed pears on quinces were growing and bearing well, and a dwarfed apple (Horne Beauty) was literally borne down with its weight of fruit. The Japanese Persimmons, worked on their own roots, looked well; while among a fine lot of nectarines, the favourite Elruge held pride of place, and was a prolific bearer.

All the trees right through this trimly-kept orchard (despite the late abnormal growth of weeds and grass) look remarkably free from any disease of any kind, clean in root, stem and leaf, and there is no appearance of the dreaded codlin moth. The trees are well sprayed with Paris Green, worked with a force pump and cyclone nozzle, but Mr. Moran thinks the solution of 1lb. to 160 gallons of water too strong, as the leaves are occasionally burned by this arsenical preparation. He prefers, and has proved, and there is excellent [reason] for doing so, that 1lb to 200 gallons is a sufficiently powerful mixture.

Before closing the account of this most promising orchard I must not admit to notice some grand examples of trees in the following lines: - Peaches – American Canning, Wilkin’s Cling, Akinard’s Supreme, Lemon Cling, Early Crawford, Robert Stewart, Lord and Lady Palmerstone; Apples – Golden Russets, Lord Nelson, Lord Wolseley, Herefordshire Beefing, Rokewood, Rome Beauty, Stone Pippin, Schoolmaster, Lane’s Pippin, Prince Albert, Prince Bismarck, etc.; Pears – Bergemot, Beuries, William’s Bronchritien, Windsor, Winter Cola, etc.

On the opposite side of the Malton-road, is the homestead block, owned by Mr. Leslie Herring, of Goldsborough, Mort and Co., planted with every variety of ornamental trees and shrubs, magnificent flowers, including daphnes, bouvardias, Philadelphias, hibisci, hydrangeas, etc., and last, but by no means least, a fine avenue of our own Christmas bush (cryptopetalum gummiferum) in full flower.

Here, there are fine ornamental grounds, tennis courts and everything that should tend to the attractiveness of a gentleman’s peaceful rural retreat. Here, also some very choice fruit trees look tempting in the orchard, and the appearance of the block from the road is very pleasing.

Not satisfied with their efforts in their nursery, the Beecroft Company, including Messrs. Herring and Moran, have planted poplars and other trees in the streets, which when grown, will add to the general effect of this picturesque part of the country.

After a pleasing ramble through the forest, your representative accompanied Mr. Moran to his flower-embowered home at Pennant Hills, where, after enjoying the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Moran and their amiable family he departed much pleased with his visit and the hearty reception accorded the proverbial “weary reporter.”

Of Mr. Moran’s own orchard, flower garden, bush, palm and grass frame houses, with its pretty surroundings, I hope to say yet a word in season.

**The Cumberland Mercury, Wed 12 Jul 1893**

Lemons for San Francisco.

Mr. Moran, the energetic manager of the Beecroft Nursery Company, is forwarding to San Francisco, a small consignment of Lisbon lemons. The fruit has been carefully cut from the trees, and was stored on the upper floor of the Company’s premises, at Beecroft, to prepare for the trip. It was of various sizes and qualities when gathered; but Mr. Moran has been able to select ten cases of smooth-skinned, evenly grown, medium-sized fruit. The largest and smallest fruits were rejected because it is understood that the San Francisco market favours only a medium size lemon, and for it alone is willing to pay a high price. In view of the fact that 3s a case is considered a good price for lemons here at present, Mr. Moran considers that his experiment cannot, however it turns out, involve much loss, while it may prove highly profitable, and lead to an extensive trade. The fruit was wrapped in tissue paper and carefully packed, and the experiment, will, no doubt, be watched with interest by fruitgrowers and others interested in the industry.

**The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 9 Dec 1893**

Beecroft.

Lemons.

In the packing shed on Beecroft Nursery, just now, the manager, Mr. G. B. Moran, has on view a case of lemons which were cut in June last. They were cured in a loft, and subsequently wrapped in tissue paper (a particularly good variety, I believe, obtained at the MERCURY Office) and packed in cases. The bulk of the crop was exported, and if it turned out only fairly well as compared with the portion kept sat home, it must have gone a long way towards settling the question of Central Cumberland catering for foreign markets. The lemons now under notice are all that could be desired by that important trade which calls for cool lemon drinks in hot weather. They are just the right size for “one,” velvet-like to the touch, and full of juice.

What more could be desired?