**Beecroft sawmills and timber trade**

**Australian Town and Country Journal, Sat 3 Mar 1888**

On the Pennant Hills.

If you alight at Beecroft, where the country puts on a better appearance, the preliminary work of clearance, the opening of green alleys labelled as streets through the bush, and the piles of cordwood heaped by the roadside, tell of the concurrent arrival of inhabitants, and the departure of the timber. The land is described as poorish, "but good enough for fruit" - a sufficiently aggravating remark. Because fruit grows where much else is commercially a failure, that is no reason why fruit culture should be relegated to the worst situations. Good fruit is best obtained on good lands. Around Beecroft, which is on the verge of the Pennant Hills district, there is much good soil of more than one kind, and some especially suited to the growth of varieties of fruit not successfully raised elsewhere. The elevation of the district is considerable. Pennant Hills station, which lies low, has an altitude, of 528ft. The adjacent ridges are much higher, and are crowned with orange, lemon, peach, and apple trees, but more especially the apricot, which grows here with a success noted for miles around. The orchards, like the inhabitants, look very healthy. Many of the trees encountered have celebrated their jubilee; and the same is true of many of the inhabitants.

On the high ridge along which the Parramatta road runs, and at the junction of the road going to the Pennant Hills station is a little hamlet rejoicing in the style and title of Thompson's Corner. Around this petty focus are gathered many fine orchards. One of them, Mountain View, the property of Mr. George Bellamy, will serve as a specimen of the rest. Some fifteen acres of good land, hillside, but not over steep, are covered with fruit trees, chiefly of two generations.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Sep 1893**

Beecroft.

Improvements. - No district for some miles around is making the headway that Beecroft is. Houses are being erected all over the district and large tracts of land are being cleared, whilst the splendid fences which are being erected reminds one of the old style of split fencing when timber was plentiful and the sight of wire fence was not known.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 8 Sep 1894**

Beecroft.

Saw-Mill. - A saw-mill, which has arrived here in charge of a Mr. Hodgson, will be in full working order by next week for the cutting of billet wood for Sydney. Already several bushes have been rented, and it is expected a great trade will be done for a few months, after which the wood trade is sure to become very slack.

**The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 15 Sep 1894**

Beecroft.

Progress.

Additional signs of progress are visible here every week. New buildings, of a more or less substantial nature, are in course of erection. Mr. Hooligan's steam sawmill is busily engaged cutting firewood; and the bush is steadily disappearing. Since the bridge across the railway line was opened for traffic, clearing operations, preparatory to building, have been started, and it is affirmed that several handsome residences will be erected here. Altogether, Beecroft bide fair to become one of the most populous towns on this line.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Oct 1894**

Beecroft.

Saw Mill. - The saw mill still continues cutting operations at the station, though no great quantity of wood is put through. Among the men several have already struck.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 27 Oct 1894**

Beecroft.

Saw Mill. - The saw mill has ceased work at the station; the men engaged at the work have ceased getting their wages; the hundreds of tons of wood cut in the bush by various persons has also ceased being carted; in fact, everything is at a standstill until the mill moves, which probably will be very shortly. A good many wish the concern had never started at all.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 10 Nov 1894**

Ryde.

Police Court. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6.

BEECROFT SAPLINGS. Thomas Kiely proceeded against Henry Cox for alleged theft of a number of saplings, cut on his lease at Beecroft between the 23rd and 28th October last. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Jan 1895**

Beecroft.

Saw Mill. - The saw mill is again in full working order, but the supply of wood is very limited, probably owing to the long distance it has in many cases to be carted.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Feb 1895**

Beecroft.

Saw Mill. - Mr. Tudehope now has his mill in full working order at the station, and is working up a good connection, he giving the highest prices possible for good wood. Residents also have a benefit, as they can have wood cut for their own use at 1s 6d per ton.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 16 Feb 1895**

Advertisement.

TO THE RESIDENTS OF BEECROFT AND DISTRICT.

A. TUDEHOPE HAS ESTABLISHED A FIREWOOD SAWMILL AT BEECROFT STATION, and is prepared to purchase Firewood at highest price for best wood, at the Mill or in the bush.

FIREWOOD CUT for residents' own use at 1s 6d per Ton.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 Jun 1895**

Beecroft.

Saw Mill. - The saw mill recently at work at the station has ceased operations and the plant has been removed owing to an insufficient supply of wood being brought forward.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Jun 1896**

Beecroft.

Bark Strippers. - The general saying is to “make hay while the sun shines,” but the reverse has proved beneficial to some this week, who have been making bark whilst the rain poured. On Tuesday a couple of men were hard at it most of the day stripping the pick of the trees on the Crown lands close by the roadside, and by night they left with as much as their horse could draw away. Such individuals do a great deal of harm to the timber in the district, and it is a pity come one does not take action to prevent them so doing. Tuesday's performance was open enough for anything, and even the carting of the bark away was open enough, as the road through Ryde was the route taken in the direction of Sydney.

Roads. — The work of forming and clearing Copeland-road has been completed, and thus another big improvement has been made in the district. Nichol's Hill and other newly formed places, where much clay has been used in the road making, have all been cut up very badly through the recent wet weather.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Jul 1896**

There in good competition is the wood carting line at Beecroft at the present time, the public of course reaping the benefit.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Dec 1896**

Public School. - Good progress is being made with the erection of the new public school by the contractor Mr. Causey. Lutherborough Brothers are busy at clearing and felling timber ready for the fencing. Other locals, Messrs. Herb. Bellamy and Drake, are also hard at work wood-cutting. The site is very heavily timbered and the contractor is having every inch of the wood saved for sale. This week carters from Botany wore up carting the wood to the station for transit to Sydney.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 1 Oct 1898**

Beecroft.

The Tennis Courts. — Good progress is being made by Mr. G. Willis, the contractor, with the preparation of the new tennis courts on the village green for the Kennedya Tennis Club. The whole of the required space has been entirely cleared of the heavy timber with which it was studded and the excavations have been commenced.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Jun 1899**

BREACH OF THE TIMBER REGULATIONS. — At the Ryde Police Court on Thursday, before Mr. G. M. Pope and Mr. H. E. Jordan, J's.P., David Willis appeared in answer to a summons issued at the instance of the police, charging him with occupying Crown lands, to wit, reserve No. 544, at Beecroft, for the purpose of cutting and removing timber. He pleaded guilty, and the police asked for the imposition of a nominal penalty only, as the defendant held a timber license, and was not aware that he was committing an offence by going

to this reserve for timber. He was fined 2s 6d, with 4s 10d costs of court, to be re-covered by a levy and distress.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30 Jun 1900**

Beecroft Park.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, — I must take exception to your paragraph in last Saturday's Argus re the above Park. Many of your readers would draw conclusions from it that this reserve is absolutely useless. This is not the case. Nearly every resident of that portion of Beecroft known as Murray Farm use the Park as a short cut to the station. To alienate this land would mean fully half a mile extra walk for many of them. Part of the reserve is fenced. A few pounds spent in dealing the scrub and planting this portion with ornamental trees, would provide in time a very pretty and useful avenue. The little folks of Beecroft do not call the reserve useless as many a picnic have they enjoyed down by the creek where maiden-hair fern, Christmas bush and wild flowers abound. In time to come, when all the alienated land is fenced in, the residents of Beecroft will then learn to appreciate this reserve. Anyhow a public park is preferable to having a noxious trade established on the land, which might be the case if the reserve were cut up and sold. Mr. Moran, one of our best landscape gardeners, says that at no great expense this park could be made exceedingly pretty and attractive. I regret that a mistake was made by the Lands Department in placing the recent small grant to the credit of the wrong trust. There should be an amalgamation of the two trusts, and so put an end to the possibility of similar mistakes in the future. - Yours, etc.,

C. CHURCHILL TUCKER.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 21 Mar 1900**

Epping Progress Association.

From the Under Secretary for Lands, to the effect that the Council could not see its way to cancel existing district timber licenses, and decline to issue fresh ones, as it had to study the interests of those who obtained their living in the timber business as well as of those represented by the Association.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 29 Nov 1902**

A Serious Accident.

David Slade, aged 40, residing in Wigram street, Harris Park, was admitted into the P.D. Hospital on Friday morning. It appears that he is employed as a carter at Messrs. Hart, Hitchcock and Co's., and, on Friday, was delivering a load of timber to Beecroft, when part of the harness broke and the cart capsized. Slade was pinned to the ground by the timber, and remained so for about ten minutes, when he was released and brought in to the hospital in a collapsed condition. He was suffering from shock and injury to his leg, but at the time of going to press the exact nature of the injuries could not be determined. Dr. Bowman has the case in band.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 May 1909**

Beecroft.

TELEGRAPH POLES. - During the past few weeks several hundreds of long stout poles have been drawn by bullock waggon to Beecroft railway station, from Shepherd 's bush, for use as telegraph poles. A sawmill is shortly to be started in the bush mentioned. Some of the residents are becoming concerned at the manner in which the heavy bullock team is cutting up the roads.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Jul 1909**

Beecroft.

A NEW SAWMILL. - Mr. James Dunne, who is well known as a successful exhibitor and rider at agricultural shows, has opened an up-to-date timber sawmill at Pennant Hills, not far from Beecroft, where he resides. He has secured about 100 acres of bush, containing exceedingly good timber, principally blackbutt and blue gum, but with a fair amount of ironbark and other woods. The mill is worked by two engines, one a 12 h.p. Tangye colonial, and the other a Robey 2-cylinder engine of about 30 h.p. This large engine works the breaking-down saw, the smaller one being used for sawing the broken-down logs into building timber. The steam is generated in a 25 h.p. boiler, and the plant is capable of turning out 2000ft. of hardwood building timber, or 20 tons of block wood, per day. The mill is being managed for Mr. Dunne by Mr. F. White, a veteran at the game. The mills are stocking all the regular sizes used by builders, but special sizes are cut to order promptly. As will be soon by advertisement in another column, Mr. Dunne is stocking hardwood palings in all sizes, fencing posts, garden stakes and hardwood weatherboards, and is selling his output at wholesale rates.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 Jan 1910**

PENNANT HILLS SAWMILLS.

JAMES DUNNE, Proprietor.

Best Hardwood. All ordinary sizes stocked. Special sizes cut to order. Orders promptly delivered by rail or road. Palings and other Fencing Timber stocked.

Address letters to J. DUNNE, “Springfield,” Beecroft. TIMBER AT WHOLESALE RATES.

**Farmer and Settler, Fri 27 Oct 1911**

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND BEEFARMING.

A Visit to Beecroft.

The agricultural students of the Sydney and Granvllle Technical Colleges' visited Mr, Abram's old-established bee-farm at Beecroft, on Saturday, accompanied by their instructor, Mr, Henry Lord, for a practical lesson in the management of bees, and were afforded a good opportunity of learning something as to the possibilities of the industry.

There are over 200 hives of the Berlepach pattern in operation, at Mr. Abram's establishment, the output being 100lb. and over per hive, according to the season. The farm is well situated for securing a good flow of honey, as the bees are able to obtain nectar from the surrounding bush, which contains blue and other gums, blackbutt, Ironbark, and other native timbers, as well as flowering shrubs suitable for honey production; in addition to which It is in the citrus district.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 Jul 1914**

Mr. Fitzroy is putting down a sawmilling plant at Darcey Hey, Castle Hill, where there is some fine blackbutt and other good timber worth at least £2000.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 5 Dec 1914**

PENNANT HILLS.

Accident. - Mr. Laban Thompson, of Bellamy-street, Pennant Hills, and who is benchman at White's saw mills, Pennant Hills West, met with a painful accident whilst working at the bench on Wednesday. Owing to some derangement, his right hand was badly cut and crushed. With blood streaming from the wound, he walked all the way to the surgery of Dr. Rygate, at Beecroft, and had the injured member attended to. The forefinger was so badly injured that it had to be amputated at the second joint. The second finger and thumb were also badly injured.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 8 Mar 1919**

 A Beecroft District Court Action.

At the Parramatta District Court, before Judge Armstrong, one of the cases was listed: — W. H. Barlow (represented by. Mr. E. K. Bowden) v. John Lutherburrow (for whom Mr. Kemp appeared). Overpayment on contract. £38/19/7. The, defence, was that the defendant did not receive the money under the circumstances that made it an overpayment, at all; and that timber was left in the bush to cover the alleged “over-payment.”

Wm. Henry Barlow, timber merchant, of Beecroft, deposed that the defendant was employed under contract to cut certain timber. The defendant knocked off work on a certain date, then there were 61 tons of cut wood left in the bush. There were ironbark Iogs there, but witness had to get other labour to supply them.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 7 Feb 1920**

BEECROFT. Following upon a lamentable accident which occurred on Friday, 30th ult., at Messrs. Adamson and McGee's sawmill, Pennant Hill-rd., Carlingford, an employee named Victor Walker died on 2nd inst. from the serious injuries sustained. The unfortunate victim, who leaves a widow and two children, was with others engaged in placing a heavy log, 18ft in length, upon a truck, when he by some means lost his footing and fell upon a large "dog hook" which penetrated his body to a depth of 2 ½ inches. The poor fellow was removed with all speed to the private hospital, Beecroft, where he received prompt attention, being afterwards operated on without avail, for death ensued on Monday morning last.

**Sydney Mail (NSW), Wed 21 Apr 1920**

DEAR CINDERELLA, — Beecroft.

I have often read the letters sent you in the Sydney Mail, and I would like to become one of your correspondents ever so much. We live in a suburb called Beecroft, 17 miles from Sydney. It is a very nice place. There are two sawmills, two- grocery stores, a bakery, a post-office, and a chemist's shop. It is very interesting to watch the sawmill at work. First, they roll the logs down to the trolleys to the place where the saw is fixed. Then the log is pushed on rollers to the saw, and then it goes gradually through, which results in a grinding, ear-splitting sound.

Your sincere correspondent,

ISABELLE ELLIS (aged 10).