## **BARNBY, Alfred**

Alfred Barnby was born 5th November 1849 in Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, the son of John Eager Barnby, wine and spirit merchant, and his wife Hannah.

In 1880 Alfred Barnby married a widow, Angelina Charlotte (‘Angey’) Wachsmann, in the district of Sydney.

Angelina Charlotte Sarah was born on 2nd July 1846, in 1 London Tce., Hackney Rd., Middlesex, London, England, the daughter of Thomas & Denise Berry. She married Captain Albert Frederick Wachsmann in 1866, who died in 1875. A son, Albert Ernest Wright De Berri Wachsmann, was born in New Zealand in 1874. There was also a daughter, Ada Angelina Wachsmann.**1**

In January 1881 Alfred Barnby was working as a ship architect, living at 349 Liverpool-street, Sydney. That month he wrote to the editor of the SMH regarding the Navigation Bill.**2**

He was appointed in the Department of Public Works on the July 27th, 1881, as an engineering draftsman.

Children of the marriage of Alfred and Angelina Barnby were:

Sydney Norfolk, born Sydney 1881

Clyde Gourlay, born Sydney 18843

Thus, Sydney Norfolk Barnby, of Beecroft, was stepbrother of Albert Wright De Berri Wachsmann, also of Beecroft.

In December 1898 Alfred purchased 4 acres of land at The Field of Mars, Cumberland (presumably Beecroft).4

In 1901 the family was living at Murray-road, Beecroft, a household of 3 males and 3 females. Albert Wachsmann was also living at Murray-road, a household of 1 male and 3 females.**5**

In 1901 Sydney Norfolk Barnby enlisted for the Boer War in South Africa (regimental no. 643), and left Australia in March as one of C Squadron, 2nd Regiment NSW Mounted Rifles, under the command of Colonel Lasseter. A farewell gathering at Beecroft numbered nearly 200. He embarked Sydney 15th March 1901, disembarked Port Elizabeth 17th April 1901, embarked Cape Town 4th March 1902 and disembarked Sydney 4th June 1902.

Upon his return to Sydney there was a return celebration, with singing and dancing, held in Miss Ogden's schoolroom by Mrs. Barnby.**6**

In August 1903 Alfred Barnby, of Beecroft, was advertising for let a new cottage, 5 rooms, kitchen, laundry, bathroom, water, gas.**7**

In 1907 Alfred Barnby was occupying a property in Castle Howard Road, Beecroft, comprising 6 acres.

In September of that year Alfred’s son, Sydney Norfolk (Sid), of Boronia Avenue, Beecroft, was made the recipient of a valuable present, in the shape of a handsome marble clock. He had been a resident of Beecroft for some years, and was about to leave the district to engage in dairying and farming pursuits at Dunhible [?], on one of the Northern rivers of N.S.W. The presentation was made in the presence of a large gathering of friends and well-wishers, by Mr. Birkenhead, on behalf of the members of the Kennedya Lawn Tennis Club, of which Mr. Barnby has been an active member from its inception. He was also a good footballer and had been a member of the Western Suburbs Football Club (first grade senior).

On 13th December 1911, at All Saints' Church, Murwillumbah, Sydney Norfolk Barnby was married to Dorothy Frances, daughter of Joshua Bray, of Kynnumboon [Tweed Shire].8

At the time his father, Alfred, was still working as an engineering draftsman in the Department of Public Works.

On 13th February 1923 at “Kia-Ora,” Murray-road, Beecroft, Alfred Barnby, died aged 73 years. He is buried in Gore Hill cemetery.

Probate was granted to the executors, sons Sydney Norfolk & Clyde Gourlay Barnby. Alfred Barnby’s occupation then was described as a public servant.

In December an advertisement was placed by Barnby, Murray Road, Beecroft – ‘GEESE, Toulouse, four enormous birds, two pairs, £2/10/- lot’.**9**

On 20th August 1931, at San Francisco, U.S.A., Clyde Gourlay Barnby (late of Beecroft), died aged 47 years.**10**

On 19th January 1932, at her residence, “Kia-ora,” Beecroft, ‘Angey’ Charlotte, relict of the late Alfred Barnby, and beloved mother of Ada (Mrs. T. B. Meldrum), Albert E. W. de B. Wachsmann, and Sydney Norfolk Barnby, died aged 86 years.**11**

She is buried alongside her husband.

On 8th November 1939, Albert Ernest Wachsmann, son of Angelina (‘Angey’) Barnby, died at his residence, 31 Murray Road, Beecroft. He was the husband of Ethel and father of Dorothea (Mrs. E. Booth), Ashton, and Hilda.**12**

On 22nd June 1943, Ada Angelina Meldrum (nee Wachsmann), wife of the late Thomas Beale Meldrum, died at a private hospital, Rose Bay. Ada had married Mr. Meldrum in 1886, in Sydney.**13**

In 1963 Sydney Norfolk Barnby, died, in the district of Chatswood.**14**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com

2 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 29 Jan 1881

3 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

4 NSW Government Gazette

5 Census 1901

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 Feb 1901; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Mar 1901; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Jul 1902. Also AWM.

7 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 1 Aug 1903

8 Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 3 Apr 1885; Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Sep 1907; Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 23 Dec 1911; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 10 Feb 1912

9 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 14 Feb 1923; Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 15 Jun 1923; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 8 Dec 1923

10 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 1 Sep 1931

11 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 20 Jan 1932

12 Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 9 Nov 1939

13 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 23 Jun 1943

14 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

**NOTE**: Additional information contained within Beecroft Cheltenham History Group website and book ‘Beecroft and Cheltenham, the Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914’.