## **BLACKWOOD, Ludovic**

Ludovic Blackwood was born 27th May 1862, at Eastwood, Refrew, Scotland, the son of James & Elizabeth Gatherer Blackwood.

The family came to Australia in the 1860’s.

Ludovic married presumably in the 1890s (details unknown). His wife, Mary Wilson Blackwood was born c1868, the daughter of George McCredie who died in 1903.

Children of the marriage were:

* James, born 1896, district of Glebe [died 1916]
* Peter G., born 19th February 1900, at the Mains, Glebe Point [died 20th February 1901, at the Mains, Glebe Point]
* George McCredie, born 11th February 1903, at Boyce-street, Glebe Point [died 1966]
* Mary Galloway, born 11th March 1905, at the Mains, Boyce-street, Glebe Point [died 1958]
* Elizabeth Gatherer, born 1907, district of Glebe [died 1968]**1**

On 4th July 1895, at “Ellangowan,” Glebe Point, Elizabeth Gatherer, wife of James Blackwood, late of Pyrmont, died aged 65 years.**2**

In March 1904 the future home of Ludovic Blackwood at Pennant Hills/Beecroft was advertised, thus:

‘PROPERTIES to be submitted by PUBLIC AUCTION THIS DAY, at 11 30 a-m. by HUGH DUFF and CO., at their SALE ROOMS, George-street.

PENNANT HILLS Altitude 610ft - 7 minutes’ walk from PENNANT HILLS and BEECROFT STATIONS, Maraba, ideal site for Gentleman s Residence, grand elevation, with unrivalled views opp. residence of Judge Fitzhardinge. The land has area of 11 acres, 2 being orchard, 3-acre paddock, and balance timbered land. Carriage drive has been laid out bordered with full grown ornamental trees, park rail fencing, Man’s Cottage of brick, 3 rooms, brick stables, coach-house, harness room, etc., city water laid on, gas within a few yards. Title Torrens. Very easy terms.’

Several days later the following details of the sale were published, thus:

‘Pennant Hills.

Progress. — Mr. B. O. Orme's property, opposite Judge Fitzhardinge's place, was sold on Thursday by Messr. Hugh Duff and Co., for the sum of £1300, to Mr. Blackwood, who intends erecting a very nice residence thereon.’**3**

In November 1907 it was reported that ‘The fine residence of Mr. Blackwood's is nearing completion. When finished it will be one of the most imposing residences on the northern line.’

The property “Maraba” consisted of 10 acres 0 roods and 18 perches.

In February 1908 it was reported, thus:

An imposing two-storey residence, built of brick and stone, has just been completed in Beecroft-road for Mr. Blackwood. It is opposite the residence of Judge Fitzhardinge and is in splendid addition to the many fine houses in Beecroft. It was built by Mr. G. Dalton, of Beecroft.**4**

In 1912 Ludovic was heavily involved in a business enterprise. Co-operative Proprietary, Ltd., which had a capital of £500,000 In 200,000 preference shares, 250,000 deferred shares, and 80,000 employees' shares, of £1 each. It proposes to carry out the business of co-operative store and general supply company. The directors are Messrs. Ludovic Blackwood and Albert H. Thompson.**5**

On 6th November 1916, Ludovic Blackwood’s father, James, died at “Ellangowan,” Glebe Point.

James Blackwood devised his house and grounds, “Ellangowan,” Glebe Point, to his son, Ludovic Blackwood, but directed that his unmarried daughter, Agnes Blackwood, shall have a home there as long as she remains unmarried.

‘The estate of the late Mr. James Blackwood, engineer, who lived at Glebe Point, has, for probate purposes, been valued at £56,762. Testator appointed as executors and, trustees Messrs. Ludovic Blackwood, of Glebe Point, and Andrew McCredie, of Ultimo, contractor. He directed in respect of his interest in the firm of James Blackwood and Son, Ltd., that his brother, Ludovic Blackwood, of Auckland, New Zealand; who has the option of purchasing £2500 worth of his (testator's) shares at par might become a director instead of testator. In the event of testator's brother declining this offer the trustees were directed that all testator's shares in the firm and business be divided equally between his daughters, Agnes Blackwood and Susan McCredie, and his son, James Blackwood. All testator's other real and personal estate is to be equally divided between his sons, Ludovic Blackwood, and James Blackwood, and his daughters, Agnes Blackwood and Susan McCredie.’**6**

[Susan Faulds, second daughter of James Blackwood, married George McCredie in 1880.]

On 24th November 1916 Private James Blackwood, son of Ludovic and Mary Blackwood, of “Maraba,” Pennant Hills, died of wounds on one of the battlefields of France, aged 20 years. He had enlisted on 19th August 1915 and embarked on 30th December 1915 with the 30th Battalion. He stood 5’ 10’’ in height and weighed 135lbs. He was wounded in the arm during the “push.” Recovering from this injury, he went back to the front, and was there for only a short time when he was again wounded, and this time fatally. He was a student at the Sydney University, where he was training for law, when he enlisted and was regarded as a fine, popular young fellow.

His place of burial is Heilly Station Cemetery (Plot VI, Row D, Grave No. 9), Mericourt-L’Abbe, France

In October 1917, ‘in the Estate of JAMES BLACKWOOD, late of Sydney, in the State of New South Wales, a member of the Australian Imperial Forces, deceased, Intestate. - Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that Administration of the Estate of the above-named deceased may be granted to LUDOVIC BLACKWOOD, of Sydney, Merchant, the father of the said deceased.’

In April 1918, in the Supreme Court, McCredie and Another v Commissioner for Stamp Duty, there ‘was an issue directed by the State Full Court by a rule dated August 16 of last year to be tried by his Honour, the parties being Andrew McCredie and Ludovic Blackwood (executors of the will of James Blackwood, deceased) who had appealed against the assessment by the Commissioner of Stamp Duty of the duty payable In respect of the estate of the testator. The question for his Honour's determination was what was the value of 17,326 shares in J. Blackwood and Son, Ltd., for the purposes of stamp duty, the value to be estimated at the price which the shares would fetch if sold In the open market on terms that the purchaser would be entitled to be registered, and would be registered as the holder of the said shares, and would take and hold them, subject to the Articles of Association, Including the articles relating to the alienation and transfer of the shares of the company. The business in question, which dealt in imported hardware and ironmongery, chiefly for shipping purposes, was originally established some years before 1898 by Ludovic Blackwood. His father, James Blackwood, then joined the business, and from 1899 onwards the concern was carried on as J. Blackwood and Son, Ltd., practically the whole of the shares, with the exception of some 1302, being held by the family. The Memorandum of Association conferred extremely wide powers on the directors, and the Articles of Association were unusually drastic in their provisions to preserve the business as a family concern.’**7**

In July 1930, in the Equity Court, in the affairs of the Property Insurance Co., Ltd., his Honour, by consent of the parties, ordered the removal of the names of certain holders of shares from the register of the company. These were: George McCredie Blackwood, theatrical artist; Ludovic Blackwood, hardwood merchant; and Elizabeth Gatherer Blackwood, spinster, all of Beecroft-road, Pennant Hills, in respect of 1000 shares each; and Albert Sydney Rothwell Andrews, 1000 shares; and his wife, Sarah Ann Andrews, 200 shares, both of Dulwich Hill.**8**

On 2nd July 1939, Ludovic Blackwood, of “Maraba,” Pennant Hills, died aged 77 years. The funeral left St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Street. Sydney, for the Presbyterian Cemetery, Rookwood.**9**

In 1946, Agnes Storie Blackwood, sister of Ludovic (deceased), Susan McCredie (deceased) and James, died in her 89th year.**10**

On 21st May 1954, Mary Wilson Blackwood, widow of Ludovic, died at her residence, "Maraba," Pennant Hills.**11**

On 21st April 1968 occurred the death of Ludovic Blackwood’s sister, Elizabeth Gatherer Blackwood, spinster, late of Beecroft.**12**

**Bibliography**

1NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Saturday 6 Jul 1895; Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 21 Feb 1901; Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, Wed 18 Feb 1903; Australian Star (Sydney, NSW), Thu 16 Mar 1905

2 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Saturday 6 Jul 1895

3 Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 17 Mar 1904; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate), Sat 19 Mar 1904

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate), Sat 9 Nov 1907; Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate), Sat 15 Feb 1908

5 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 4 Sep 1912

6 Sun (Sydney, NSW), Tue 16 Jan 1917; Farmer and Settler (Sydney, NSW), Tue 6 Mar 1917

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30 Dec 1916; Australian War Memorial records; Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 6 Oct 1917; Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 5 Apr 1918

8 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 1 Jul 1930

9 Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 3 Jul 1939; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 4 Jul 1939

10 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 17 Sep 1946

11 Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 24 May 1954

12 Government Gazette of the State of NSW, Fri 25 Oct 1968

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

**Further References:**

‘Houses of Hornsby Shire Vol. 1 The Large Houses 1886-1926’ by Helen Barker and May Elven