## **CRUMP, William Charles**

William Charles Crump was born 11th May 1842 at Hobart, Tasmania, the son of William & Martha Crump.

In 1871 William Charles Crump married Sarah Ellen Hall, daughter of James Hall, in Sydney.

Children of the marriage were:

1872 – Emily S., district of Gulgong [died 1873, Gulgong]

1874 – Emily Sarah, district of Gulgong [died 1878, Paddington]

1876 – Esther, district of Gulgong [(married 1902 George B. Rowe, Woollahra]

1882 – Ruth, district of Sydney [married 1908 Henry W. Richardson, Ryde; married 1922 David B. Lawrence, Chatswood]

1888 – Alice M., district of Sydney [married 1913 Berthram H. F. Collier, Orange; married 1921 Archibald C. Gain, Sydney] **1**

In 1887 he described himself as a medical herbalist and electrician, using the letters M.B., meaning “Medical Botanist,” as he did not have any medical training.**2**

In 1888, at the Patents Office, John Clark Lascelles and William Charles Crump, both of Sydney, N.S.W. registered a patent regarding ‘improvements in rinks or floors for exercise and amusement.’**3**

In 1890 Charles John Browning, of Bondi, accountant, and William Charles Crump, of No. 7, Victoria Chambers, Elizabeth-street, two of the Directors and contributories of the company named the ‘Fire and Marine Insurance Company of Australasia (Limited)’ presented a petition to wind up the Company.**4**

In 1894 he was involved in the Universal Land and Deposit Bank, which seems to have been dissolved during the depression of the 1890’s. That year he was elected in the Masonic Lodge as First Assistant Grand Sojourner.**5**

In early 1896 he headed off to New Zealand but was back later that year for a bazaar in aid of the Children’s Home, Liverpool, held at his home, “Rubino,” Grafton-street, Woollahra.**6**

In 1900 he was in England but peddling in Sydney his ‘electric belt’ and book, both designed to improve health, through his agent, John Buckridge, for the AMERICAN BOTANIC DISPENSARY AND ELECTROPATHIC INSTITUTE, Victoria Chambers, 63 Elizabeth-street, Sydney.

The newspaper “Truth,” in its emotional style, during late 1900 and early 1901, regarding this enterprise used headlines such as “Electric Belt Swindle,” “Electric Belt Fraud,” “Quacks and Quackery,” “Crapulous Charlatan Crump,” “A Foul-minded, Mendacious Quack,” “A Liar and a Scoundrel,” “Distasteful Book,” “Crump’s Cretism,” “A Nasty Rascal’s Tricks,” and “Filthy Quack Literature.”**7**

On 1st October 1902, at "Rubino," Woollahra, George Bridal, fourth son of the late James Rowe, Esq., of Devonshire, England, was married to Esther, eldest daughter of William Charles Crump, Esq., of Kent, England.**8**

In 1903, at the Patents Office, W. C. Crump of Elizabeth-street, Sydney, registered a patent for ‘improvements in electro-medical belts, and for other like purposes.’**9**

In 1906 it was reported that a fine new residence was being erected at the corner of Beecroft-road and Hannah-street, for Mr. Crump, of Sydney, who intends taking up his abode at Beecroft.**10**

In 1907 the Ratepayers List records Mr. Crump as living in Welham street, Beecroft, the property consisting of 3a 0r 8p.

On 13th March 1907 Mr. Crump occupied his new residence in the vicinity of the railway station. It was generally regarded as being one of the most up-to-date residences in Beecroft.**11**

On 9th July 1908, Ruth, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Crump, "Eltham," Beecroft, married, at her parent’s house, William Henry, only son of Mrs. H. Richardson, of Punch-street, Mosman.**12**

THE WATER FAMINE [1911].

‘Residents of Beecroft awaiting their turn to fill their cans from the rain tank at Beecroft Railway Station. Mr. W. Crump, of "Eltham," Beecroft, keeping the crowd from rushing the tank.’



Photo by Miss A Boutcher, Beecroft.**13**

In 1911 Mr. Crump was having erected a fine cottage at Beecroft, the plans for which were prepared by Messrs. Nixon and Son, architects. In early 1913 it was reported that a Mr. Hoskins, of ironworks fame, had purchased Mr. Crump's late residence.**14**

On 22nd March 1913, at the Methodist Church, Orange, Miss Alice Crump; youngest daughter of Mr. W. Crump of 'Te Whare,' Beecroft, (and popular member of the Beecroft Musical Society) was married to Mr. Bertram Collier, youngest son of Rev. J. W. Collier, of Orange. In 1916 Lieut. Bertram Henry Collier, son of the Rev. Mr. Collier, of Bathurst, and son-in-law of Mr. W. C. Crump, of Beecroft, was killed in action in France. He and another lieutenant had volunteered for special duty at Pozieres. He leaves a widow and one child. In 1921 Alice married Archibald C. Gain in the district of Sydney.**15**

On 12th May 1924, at her late residence 60 Muston Street, Mosman, Sarah Ellen Crump died in her 78th year. The funeral took place at Waverley Cemetery.**16**

On 18th June 1925 at “Te Whare,” Beecroft-road, Beecroft, William Charles Crump died in his 83rd year. The funeral took place at Carlingford Cemetery, in which brethren of the Masonic Lodge No. 194 attended.

His estate was valued at £21,430. Mr. The testator bequeathed £1000 each to his grandchildren, George Charles Rowe and Ruth Winifred Rowe, children of his deceased daughter, Esther Rowe, and subject to certain directions to his trustees, in connection with his home, furniture, and household effects, he left his estate in equal shares to his daughters, Ruth Lawrence and Alice May Gain.

By the will, H. J. Aspinall, solicitors; Harry Young, jeweller; and William Mark Nixon, architect, were appointed the executors and trustees.**17**

**Bibliography**

1 Tasmania Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

2 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Mon 8 Aug 1887

3 New South Wales Government Gazette, Mon 6 Aug 1888

4 New South Wales Government Gazette, Tue 26 Aug 1890

5 Evening News (Sydney, NSW), Fri 3 Aug1894; Evening News (Sydney, NSW), Wed 22 Aug 1894

6 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Fri 10 Jan 1896; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Mon 5 Oct 1896

7 Truth (Sydney, NSW), Sunday 2 September 1900; Truth (Sydney, NSW), Sun 16 Dec 1900; Truth (Sydney, NSW), Sun 3 Feb 1901

8 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 1 Nov 1902

9 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales, Tue 9 Jun 1903

10 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 1 Sep 1906

11 Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 16 Mar 1907

12 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Thu 30 Jul 1908

13 Sun (Sydney, NSW), Tue 21 Nov 1911

14 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Dec 1911; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Jan 1913

15 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 29 Mar 1913; Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW), Sun 27 Apr 1913; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Aug 1916; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

16 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Tue 13 May 1924

17 Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 19 Jun 1925; Evening News (Sydney, NSW), Wed 29 Jul 1925; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Thu 30 Jul 1925

**NOTE**: Additional information contained within Beecroft Cheltenham History Group book ‘Beecroft and Cheltenham, the Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914’ p.137.