## **NIXON, William Mark**

William Mark Nixon was born on 31st May 1859, Glebe, the son of William and Jane Nixon.**1**

He commenced his career In the Colonial Architect's Office, and later was transferred to the Railway Department, under the Engineer for Existing Lines.**2**

On 18th May 1886, at St. James's Croydon, by the father of the bride, William, youngest son of William Nixon, of Lynnwood, Ashfield, was married to Ada Emmeline, only daughter of the Rev. Samuel [and Elizabeth Jane] Fox, Croydon.**3**

Children of the marriage (in district of Ashfield) were:

Charles Ashwin, born 1889

Edwin George, born 1891

Allen Dalrymple, born 18934

William Mark Nixon was an alderman of Ashfield Council for five years.**5**

In November 1891, W. M. Nixon’s father, William Nixon, died at “Lynnwood,” Bland-street, Ashfield, aged 63 years. He was interred at Necropolis [Rookwood].

Probate of his last will was granted to William Hezlett, one of the executors named in the said will, the other executor therein named having renounced probate thereof.**6**

Following the bank crisis in 1893, when he was re-trenched, he started in business for himself as an architect.**7**

By 1904 Mr. W. M. Nixon was a partner in the firm of Nixon and Adam, architects.

In April plans were being prepared for the following works: - Residence at Beecroft, shop and offices at Ashfield, residence at Bellevue, cottage at Concord, two cottages and a public hall at Gundagai.

In May the firm invited tenders for a villa residence at Bellevue-Hill. A contract had been let to A. Slingsby, of Redfern, for the erection of a residence at Beecroft.

In June plans were being prepared for a residence at Bellevue-hill, another at Normanhurst, and a third at Beecroft.

In July working drawings for the Singleton Presbyterian Church were being prepared, as well as plans for a residence at Beecroft, and shop and dwelling at Botany.**8**

In January 1905 Mr. Nixon, (of Nixon and Adam, architects,) entered into occupation of a magnificent villa residence that has just been erected to his order in Malton-road, Beecroft. ‘It is generally acknowledged to be one of the finest residences in Beecroft.’**9**

In February 1905 he was elected to the committee of the Beecroft Progress Association, and in the following year was elected President of the Association.**10**

In July 1906 ‘Messrs. Nixon and Adams, have in hand the erection of four buildings, for which plans have been prepared. Five others are in contemplation. At the present time there are about fifteen buildings either in course of erection or about to be put up. It is also rumoured that a gentleman connected with a large city business is about to have erected in the vicinity of the reservoir at Pennant Hills a dwelling house to cost considerably over £2000.’

In August ‘Messrs. Nixon and Adam are preparing plans for several cottages at Beecroft, for extensive additions to a house at Warrawee, for a new residence in the same suburb, and for a residence at Moss Vale.’**11**

In November 1906 W. M. Nixon, Beecroft, architect, was nominated to represent ‘C’ Riding for the Shire of Hornsby and became a Councillor.**12**

In 1907 ratepayers of the district included:

William Mark Nixon, architect, Beecroft Road, Beecroft, 18 x 75 (feet)

William Mark Nixon, architect, Beecroft Road, Beecroft, 66 x 400 (feet)

Ada Emmeline Nixon, domestic duties, Malton Road, Beecroft, 3 roods 17 perches

Ada Emmeline Nixon, domestic duties, Copeland Road, Beecroft, 192 x 287 (feet) **13**

In November 1907, at a special meeting of the trustees and committee of the local School of Arts, it was decided to accept plans submitted by Mr. Nixon, architect, for additions to the building.**14**

In 1908 he was president of the trustees of the Beecroft recreation ground and also president of the local cricket club.

In January ‘the new Anglican church (St. John's) was opened and dedicated. The structure, which is of brick with the exception of the end, which consists of galvanised iron, and so constructed to allow of extensions being effected at a future period, has been faithfully built to plans and specifications prepared by Messrs. Nixon and Adam, architects, Sydney.’**15**

In November 1908 William Nixon accepted the tender of Mr. W. Browne, Ashfield, for the erection of a cottage residence at Beecroft.**16**

In January 1909 ‘Mr. Nixon was erecting a new brick residence on Beecroft-road. Mr. W. Browne is building it to Mr. Nixon's own plans.’

In February the Brotchie Memorial Church was opened at Beecroft. The late Rev. J. Brotchie died while in charge of the Presbyterian Church there and left a sum of £250 towards the erection of a new church, plans for which he had initiated. Mr. W. M. Nixon was the architect, and Mr. Browne, of Ashfield, the contractor.

In June ‘In the office of Mr. W. M. Nixon, architect, closing dates have been fixed as follows: Cottage, Wentworth Falls, July 1; Cottage, Beecroft, July 8; and cottages at Randwick and Coogee July 12. In the same office plans are in course of preparation for a residence at Fig Tree, Lane Cove River.’

In October ‘Mr. W. M. Nixon has a house in Malton-street nearing completion, and tenders have been invited for the erection of two more villa residences in Beecroft.’

In November Councillor W. Nixon was president of the Beecroft Musical and Dramatic Society.**17**

In January 1910 he was building a cottage in Malton-street. By March the fine villa residence in Malton-road was completed. ‘It is a very pretty dwelling, built in the quaint Old English style, with an oak shingled roof. The house is to be occupied by Mr. Stanton Cook. Another cottage is being started in Malton-road.’

By May Councillor Nixon was president of the Beecroft Parents' and Residents' Association.

In June Messrs. Wm. Nixon and Son, architects, were preparing plans for five cottages to be erected in Copeland-street, Beecroft, Mr. Browne being the contractor. Also, that month, he was involved in the formation of a civilian rifle club in Beecroft.**18**

In May 1911 W. M. Nixon and Son, architects, were preparing plans for a large residence at Darling Point, and for cottages at Beecroft and Hornsby.

In December Councillor Nixon sold his handsome and commodious residence at Beecroft, to Mr. North. Mr. Crump was erecting a fine cottage at Beecroft, the plans for which were prepared by Messrs. Nixon and Son, architects. Mr. Nixon also let a contract to Mr. Boyne for the erection of a large cottage residence at Cheltenham for Mr. J. H. Lyon.**19**

In May 1912 ‘Messrs. W. M. Nixon and Son, architects, have plans in hand for a cottage at Beecroft, and a residence at Strathfield.’**20**

In August 1913 he was gazetted as a trustee of Cheltenham Park, Beecroft.**21**

His three sons enlisted in the First World War.

Allen Dalrymple Nixon, farmer, of Malton Road, Beecroft, enlisted on 26th May 1915, with the rank of Driver, 8th Field Ambulance. He returned to Australia on 10th Apr 1919.

Charles Ashwin Nixon, architect, of “Lynnwood”, [11] Malton Road, Beecroft, enlisted on 9th March 1916, with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, Light Trench Mortar Battery, Reinforcement 1. He was in action from the beginning of Passchendaele to after Mont St Quentin. He was wounded standing to his gun at Templo and died on 24th September 1918.

Edwin George Nixon, Station overseer, of Malton Road, Beecroft, enlisted on 20th Sep 1915, with the rank of Driver, Field Artillery Brigade 5, Battery 13. He returned to Australia on 23rd June 1919.**22**

In June 1915 ‘In the office of Messrs. W. M. Nixon and Son, architects, plans have been completed for renovations to four cottages at Sydenham and for a large residence at Beecroft.’**23**

In August 1918, Gunner Edwin G. Nixon, son of Mr. Wm. M. Nixon, of Beecroft, who was awarded the Croix de Guerre for good work at Passchendaele, received his commission.**24**

In 1925, William Charles Crump, widower, of Beecroft, died at the age of 82 years, leaving an estate of the value of £21,430. William Mark Nixon, architect, was one of the executors.**25**

In January 1927 the engagement was announced of Miss Hilda C. Laird, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Laird, of Willandra Station, Booligal, to Mr. Allen D. Nixon, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Mark Nixon, of Malton-road, Beecroft.**26**

On 6th June 1931, Mr. William Mark Nixon, died at his residence, “Lynnwood,” Malton-road, Beecroft, aged 72 years.

He had continued to practise as an architect in Pitt-street until about 12 months previous, when ill-health compelled him to relinquish work.

He was for some years a councillor of Hornsby Shire, and occupied the presidential chair.

The interment took place in the Church of England portion of Rookwood Cemetery.**27**

On 11th July 1945 occurred the death of Ada Emmeline, of 63 Seaview Street, Balgowlah, widow of the late Wm. Mark Nixon, of Beecroft.**28**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 2 Jun 1859

2 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 9 Jun 1931

3 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 22 May 1886; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

4 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

5 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 9 Jun 1931

6 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 10 Nov 1891; Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 11 Nov 1891; New South Wales Government Gazette, Fri 20 Nov 1891

7 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 9 Jun 1931

8 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 26 Apr 1904; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 28 May 1904; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 21 Jun 1904; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 9 Jul 1904

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Jan 1905

10 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 4 Feb 1905

11 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Jul 1906; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 14 Aug 1906

12 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 7 Nov 1906

13 Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907

14 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30 Nov 1907

15 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Jan 1908; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 25 Jan 1908; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Mar 1908

16 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 7 Nov 1908

17 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30 Jan 1909; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 20 Feb 1909; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 27 Feb 1909; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 29 Jun 1909; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Nov 1909

18 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 1 Jan 1910; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Mar 1910; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 May 1910; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Jun 1910; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 25 Jun 1910; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Aug 1910

19 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 9 May 1911; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Dec 1911

20 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 7 May 1912

21 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 16 Aug 1913

22 Australian War Memorial records

23 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 15 Jun 1915

24 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Aug 1918

25 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Thu 30 Jul 1925

26 Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW), Sun 23 Jan 1927

27 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 9 Jun 1931

28 Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 12 Jul 1945

**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

**NIXON, Allen Dalrymple**

**Reference: Beecroft Church of England Roll of Honour, Beecroft Roll of Honour, Beecroft Public School, Tony Cunneen book**

**Resident of “Lynnwood,” [11] Malton road, Beecroft, NSW**

**Brother of Charles Ashwin Nixon & Edwin George Nixon**

[Born 1893, Ashfield district, son of William M. and Ada E. Nixon]

**AIF Project details:**

Regimental Number: 6649

Place of Birth: Ashfield, Sydney, NSW

Religion: Church of England

Occupation: Farmer

Address: Malton Road, Beecroft, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 22

Height/weight: 5’ 9” 138lbs

Next of Kin: Father, William Nixon, Malton Road, Beecroft, Sydney, NSW [architect]

Enlistment Date: 26 May 1915

Rank on enlistment: Driver

Unit Name: 8th Field Ambulance, Section A

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A11 *Ascanius* on 10 Nov 1915

Roll title: 8 Field Ambulance

Rank from Nominal Roll: Private

Unit from Nominal Roll: 8th Field Ambulance

Fate: Returned to Australia 10 Apr 1919

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 17, 31)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 May 1916 (Beecroft Public school ex-student)

**NIXON, Charles Ashwin**

**Reference: Beecroft Church of England Roll of Honour, Beecroft Roll of Honour, Beecroft War Memorial, Tony Cunneen book**

**Resident of “Lynnwood,” [11] Malton road, Beecroft, NSW**

**Brother of Allen Dalrymple Nixon & Edwin George Nixon**

[Born 1889, Ashfield district, son of William M. and Ada E. Nixon]

**AIF Project details:**

Place of Birth: Petersham, NSW

School: Newington College, Sydney, NSW

Religion: Church of England

Occupation: Architect

Address: ‘Lynnwood’, Malton Road, Beecroft, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 27

Height/weight: 5’ 4” 126lbs

Next of Kin: Father, W. M. Nixon, ‘Lynnwood’, Malton Road, Beecroft, NSW [architect]

Previous military service: Member of Rifle Club

Enlistment Date: 9 Mar 1916

Rank on enlistment: 2nd Lieutenant

Unit Name: Light Trench Mortar Battery, Reinforcement 1

AWM embarkation Roll number: 13/130/2

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A14 *Euripides* on 9 Sep 1916

Roll title: Light Trench Mortar Battalion – 1 to 5 Reinforcements (Sep-Dec 1916)

Other details from Honour Circular: Enlisted Dec 1915. Obtained his commission in the Engineers. Embarked in charge of the 1st Light Trench Mortar Battery; was transferred in England to the artillery. Was in action from the beginning of Passchendaele to after Mont St Quentin. Was wounded standing to his gun at Templo. (details from father)

Miscellaneous details (Nominal Roll): Name does not appear on Nominal Roll

Place of death or wounding: Templo

Age at death: 29

Age at death from cemetery records: 29

Place of burial: Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension (Plot I, Row B, Grave No. 39), France

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial: 13

Misc. information from cemetery records: Parents: William Mark and Ada E. Nixon, Malton Road, Beecroft, NSW. Native of Ashfield, NSW.

**AWM (Australian War Memorial): Roll of Honour**

**Charles Ashwin Nixon**

Battalion: not stated

Service No. not available

Rank: Lieutenant

Unit: 5th TMB

Enlistment Date: 26 February 1916

Fate: Died of wounds

Fate Date: 24 September 1918

Date of Death: 24 September 1918

Place of Death: France

Cause of Death: Died of wounds

Age at Death: 29 [born 1889 Ashfield district; parents: William M. & Ada E.]

Place of Association: Beecroft, N.S.W.

Cemetery or Memorial Details: Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension, Doigt, Peronne, Picardie, France

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 31, 80-81)

The Daily Telegraph, Tue 8 Oct 1918 (died of wounds)

The Sun, Thu 14 Nov 1918 (died of wounds)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 24 Dec 1918 (died of wounds)

**NIXON, Edwin George**

**Reference: Beecroft Church of England Roll of Honour, Beecroft Roll of Honour, Tony Cunneen book**

**Resident of “Lynnwood,” [11] Malton road, Beecroft, NSW**

**Brother of Allen Dalrymple Nixon & Charles Ashwin Nixon**

[Born 1891, Ashfield district, son of William M. and Ada E. Nixon}

**AIF Project details:**

Regimental Number: 7218

Place of Birth: Ashfield, Sydney, NSW

Religion: Church of England

Occupation: Station overseer

Address: Malton Road, Beecroft, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 24

Height/weight: 5’ 7” 141lbs

Next of Kin: Father, William Mark Nixon, Malton Road, Beecroft, NSW

Enlistment Date: 20 Sep 1915

Rank on enlistment: Driver

Unit Name: Field Artillery Brigade 5, Battery 13

AWM embarkation Roll number: 13/33/1

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A34 *Persic* on 18 Nov 1915

Roll title: 5 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (Nov 1915)

Regimental number from Nominal Roll: NIG

Rank from Nominal Roll: Lieutenant

Unit from Nominal Roll: 2nd Division Artillery

Fate: Returned to Australia 23 Jun 1919

Medals: Croix de Guerre (Belgium)

Source: ‘Commonwealth Gazette’ No. 18 Date: 27 Nov 1918

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 23, 26, 31, 60, 72, 81)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Apr 1918 (award of Croix de Guerre)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Aug 1918 (receipt of commission)