## **BIDEN, Alfred George**

Alfred Biden was born in 1865, son of William Downing and Mary Eliza Biden, in the district of Morpeth, NSW.**1**

On 3rd June 1876, at Singleton, N.S.W. occurred the death of Alfred’s father, William Downing Biden, licensed surveyor, A.S.A., F.G.S., F.C.P. Mem. Bot. Soc., London, son of James Biden, Twickenham, England, aged 57.**2**

In 1888 Alfred’s brother, Frederick William Biden, of Hurstville, purchased a four-acre property on the south-eastern corner of Kirkham Street and Boronia Avenue. The property was transferred to his brother, Alfred George Biden, fruit-grower, of Beecroft in 1890 which he sold to C. C. Tucker in 1893. By then Alfred had improved the site with additions of a weatherboard cottage, an orchard, and fences. The orchard had been planted with lemon, orange, quince, and loquat trees.**3**

In December 1890 he was present at the residence of James & Jemima Hull, in regard to the selection of a site for the building of an Anglican church.

In 1891 he was appointed an auditor of the accounts of the new church (St. John’s), along with William Chorley.**4**

In January 1892 Alfred G. Biden was elected to the committee of the Beecroft Progress Association, however in September he resigned, and Mr. Charles Tucker was unanimously elected in his place.**5**

No further connection with the association can be found.

In 1892 he married Drusilla E. Edwards in the district of Central Cumberland.**6**

In November 1899 his son Keith Alfred Biden was born in Beecroft.**7**

In 1912 Alfred George Biden and James McEwen, trading as Biden and McEwen, Murray-road, Beecroft, was the successful tenderer for the erection of fencing and gates at the Wireless Telegraph Station, Pennant Hills, Carlingford.**8**

In January 1914 Alfred Biden was the successful tenderer for the construction of greens for the Beecroft Bowling Club.**9**

In 1918 his son Keith enlisted for war service but was rejected. His father, Alfred, was well-known in the district as the postman for many years.**10**

In March 1918 he wrote to Hornsby Council to complain about the state of Fiona-street, Beecroft. In April he requested Hornsby Council to allow him to clear the part of Castle Howard-road and York-road, adjoining his property, to avoid danger from bushfires.

His address was York-road, Beecroft.**11**

In 1929, Alfred’s brother, Captain F. W. Biden, died at Woollahra.**12**

Alfred was still living in Beecroft at the time.

On 17th February 1948 Alfred George Biden died in hospital, aged 82 years, leaving behind a widow, Drusilla, children being Roy (deceased), Lillian, Vera, Ruby, Keith, May and Marge. His last residence was 19 Fourth Avenue, Berala.**13**

**Bibliography**

1 Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

2 The Sydney Morning Herald, Fri Jun 1876

3 Land Titles Office 989/54-5; *Cumberland Argus*, 17 August 1895; Beecroft and Cheltenham, The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 172

4 Beecroft and Cheltenham, The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 214-5

5 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30Jan 1892; The Daily Telegraph, Sat 17 Sep 1892

6 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

7NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

8 Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, Sat 14 Sep 1912

9 Beecroft and Cheltenham, The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 172

10 “Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (page 75)

11 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 Mar 1918; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 20 Apr 1918

12 The Daily Telegraph, Wed 2 Oct 1929

13 The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 18 Feb 1948

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