## **BIRKENHEAD, William**

William Birkenhead was born about 1863, son of Isaac Drummond & Mary Anne Birkenhead.1

Around 1896 William Birkenhead married. His wife Louise was the daughter of an American father and an Australian mother.2

In June 1897 William Birkenhead was having a brick residence erected in Beecroft.3

A daughter, Olive, was born in 1898. Olive was to become a well-regarded landscape painter. She died in 1995.4

In January 1899 he was on the committee of the Beecroft Progress Association.5 He and his wife would continue their interests in community activities.

In January 1902, William Birkenhead, among others, was gazetted as one of the trustees of the Park Trust, which was the amalgamation of the two Beecroft reserves - ‘The Park’ and ‘The Village Green’.6

In March 1903 he was having a new villa residence built in Welham-street, the contract having been let and the ground pegged out. The house, a Federation style cottage, ‘Warialda’, on the corner of Beecroft Road and Welham Street, was a colourful house with red brickwork and gabled roof.7

A son, George Clifford, was born that year.8

Also, in 1903 he was elected Treasurer of the Beecroft Cricket Club. In 1906 he was elected Hon. Secretary of the Cricket Club.9

A daughter, Kathleen, was born in 1907.10

In May 1908 William Birkenhead and six others were gazetted trustees of an additional nine perches to the Village Green at Beecroft.11

On September 16, 1909, at Newcastle, occurred the death of his son, George Clifford Birkenhead, of Beecroft, age 6 years and 5 months.12

In 1912 the Cheltenham Recreation Club was formed, providing a bowling green, a croquet lawn and tennis courts. One of the foundation members was William Birkenhead.13

A daughter, Audrey, was born in 1914.14

In 1917 William Birkenhead was still residing at “Warialda”, Beecroft.15 By 1923 the family had moved to Manly.

On 31st October 1923, Louise, wife of William Birkenhead, died at her residence, 48 Osborne-road, Manly.16

On 22nd June 1937, at his residence ‘Rathly’, Addison-road, Manly, occurred the death of William Birkenhead, beloved father of Olive, Kathleen, and Audrey, aged 74 years. Privately interred, Manly Cemetery.17

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths (Death)

2 Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 189

3 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Jun 1897

4 Google + numerous newspaper articles.

5 The Daily Telegraph, Tue 31 Jan 1899

6 Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 239

7 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Mar 1903; Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 137

8 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

9 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Sep 1903; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 1 Sep 1906

10 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

11 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 May 1908

12 The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 20 Sep 1909

13 Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 247

14 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

15 New South Wales Police Gazette and Weekly Record of Crime, Wed 17 Jan 1917

16 The Daily Telegraph, Thu 1 Nov 1923

17 The Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 24 Jun 1937

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