## **BONSALL, Samuel**

Samuel Bonsall was born 23rd October 1862 at Tansley, Matlock, Derbyshire, England, the son of George & Ann Bonsall.

Samuel came to Sydney in 1884, on board the “Belgravia.”1

In 1887 Samuel Bonsall was a district officer in the Independent Order of Rechabites (General Gordon Tent No. 20). In 1889 he was Temple Deputy in the Pride of Balmain Degree Temple, No. 8. In 1902 he was Secretary of the Independent Order of Rechabites (Crystal Spring Tent, No. 2).1a

On the 10th September 1890, at the residence of the bride's mother, Rock Ferry, Balmain, Samuel, eldest son of George [and Annie] Bonsall, Derby, England, was married to Euphemia Laurel, eldest daughter of the late Captain Henry Fairfax [and Isabella] Swan, Balmain, and formerly of Burntisland, Scotland.2

Children of the marriage were:

Euphemia Laurel (Effie), born 19th October 1891, at Laurel Cottage, Balmain

Isabella Annie (Isa), born 15th July 1893, at Laurel Cottage, Balmain

Helen Frances (Nell), born 11th April 1895, Laurel Cottage, Abbatoir-road, Balmain

George William, born 8th July 1897, at Laurel Cottage, Abattoir-rd., Balmain3

In 1898 Samuel Bonsall, Collector, Isabella-street, Balmain, was nominated as an auditor for Balmain Council.4

In 1900, at the annual meeting of the Australian Gaslight Company's Collectors' Guarantee Fund, Samuel Bonsall was presented with a handsome silver-mounted malacca walking stick, suitably inscribed, in recognition of the services rendered by him as hon. secretary and treasurer to the fund for the previous two years. Later that year he was elected an auditor of the Starr-Bowkett Building Society. In 1902 he still remained an auditor of that building society.5

In 1906 Samuel Bonsall, as secretary of the Balmain Co-operative Society, temporarily took over the books of the Nepean Co-operative Society, and for doing so was presented with an inscribed inkstand and a purse of sovereigns.

That year Mr. Bonsall, of the Gas Company, and family moved from Balmain to Beecroft, having secured Mrs. Egan's cottage in Railway Crescent.

In 1907 Mr. Bonsall was building a home in Albert-road, Beecroft, the property consisting of 3 acres.

That year his daughter Isabella (Isa), at the local Presbyterian Sunday School, secured a prize for Scripture, a prize for essay, and a first-class certificate for catechism; at the local Public School, she received Mr. G. Sargent’s gold medal for general proficiency. The following year Isa was successful in obtaining a scholarship at the High School examinations. In 1909 she was attending the Sydney Girls’ High School, Castlereagh-street, receiving certificates for Latin, French and Botany that year. In 1916 she graduated from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Arts degree.6

On 4th September 1908 Samuel Bonsall died suddenly of heart failure at his residence, “The Laurels,” Beecroft.

It was said of him that he was a general favourite with all who knew him, and took a keen interest in all public matters of benefit to the district, especially in the public school.

He had remained a prominent supporter of the Independent Order of Rechabites, and an officer of Crystal Spring Tent, No. 2.

The funeral took place at the Presbyterian Cemetery, Field of Mars.

Probate was granted to his wife Effie.7

In June 1918 George William Bonsall, son of Samuel, enlisted for military service.8

He was then living in Beecroft, occupation clerk, height 45’ 4 ½” and weight 120lbs. He was sent overseas with the N.S.W. Reinforcements 12, as a private.

On 19th April 1919, at “The Laurels,” Beecroft, the wedding took place between Nellie [Helen F.], the daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Samuel Bonsall, and Harry, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. McKay, of "Pittscurrie," Beecroft. The ceremony, which took place on the lawn, was performed by Rev. A. M. Ogilvie, of the Beecroft Presbyterian Church.9

In 1930 was announced the engagement of Ethel D. [Dorothy], only child of Mr. and Mrs. J. Leonard Marshall, of *Tenandra*, Gundagai, to George, only son of Mrs. and the late Mr. S. Bonsall of *The Laurels*, Beecroft.10

On 27th February 1933 Euphemia [Effie] Laurel Bonsall, widow of Samuel Bonsall, died at her residence Albert-street, Beecroft. The funeral took place at the Presbyterian Cemetery, Field of Mars.

Probate was granted to her children, George William & Euphemia Laurel Bonsall.11

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com

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2 Australian Star (Sydney, NSW), Sat 13 Sep 1890; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

3 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 2 Nov 1891; Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, Sat 29 Jul 1893; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 4 May 1895; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 10 Jul 1897

4 Australian Star (Sydney, NSW), Wed 2 Feb 1898

5 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Tue 6 Feb 1900; Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW), Sun 24 Aug 1902

6 Nepean Times (Penrith, NSW), Sat 28 Apr 1906; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Apr 1906; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 May 1907; Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Sep 1907; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Dec 1907; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Jul 1908; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Fri 17 Dec 1909; Sun (Sydney, NSW), Sun 9 Apr 1916

7 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 5 Sep 1908; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Sep 1908; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 26 Sep 1908

8 War Memorial records

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Apr 1919

10 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 4 Jan 1930; NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

11 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 28 Feb 1933; Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 8 Mar 1933

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