## **BUNCE, Harriet**

Harriet was born Harriet Woodland, about 1846, at St. Marys, in the district of Penrith.

She was the youngest daughter of William Woodland, who settled in that district about 1827. In 1925 there were two grandsons of William Woodland living there.

She was baptised and married ‘at the church on the hill’.

Her father, with his wife and three children (one having died on the voyage out) arrived in N.S.W. on 1st September 1820, by the emigrant ship "Cornwall," which was eight months on the voyage. He was engaged from the ship by Merchant Jones, as a carpenter, and went to Fleurs Park [location unknown]. He opened the first post office in The Terrace at St. Marys on 30th September, 1851.

Her mother kept school in her own house teaching both boys and girls in their teens the alphabet. There were no school books, alphabet or figures; in fact, all lessons were on cards.1

In 1876 she married John Bunce, who was in the tannery industry. She left St. Marys after her marriage and settled at Park Hill (Riverstone).2

A son, Henry Walter Bunce, was born in 1883 at Newtown. In 1915 he enlisted in the Army, served overseas, and returned to Australia in December 1916. At the time of his enlistment his father was a master tanner, living in Botany.3

In 1917, the family were living in Beecroft.

John Bunce died on 16th February 1920, from heart failure, aged 70 years, at his residence, "Wandeen," Beecroft, and was buried at the Church of England Cemetery, Botany.

Mr. Bunce had retired from active participation in the tanning business in which he was connected several years previous.

He was universally liked and respected, and was a member of the Beecroft bowling club.

He left a grown-up family, including a son, Clifford Bunce, of "Burrawang," Hastings-road, Botany.4

In 1925 Harriet provided a detailed description to the Nepean Times newspaper of the St. Marys of the 1850’s, with its people, housing and landscape.5

Harriet Bunce died on 3rd October 1933, at her residence, "Wandeen," Beecroft, aged (about) 87 years. A funeral was conducted at Botany Cemetery.

A grown-up family of sons and daughters remained. Two of the sons were prominent in the tannery industry at Botany for many years.6

**Bibliography**

1 Nepean Times, Sat 17 Jan 1925; Sun, Fri 20 Oct 1933

2 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages; Nepean Times, Sat 17 Jan 1925

3 Australian War Memorial records

4 Sun, Mon 16 Feb 1920; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Feb 1920

5 Nepean Times, Sat 17 Jan 1925

6 Daily Telegraph, Wed 4 Oct 1933; Sun, Fri 20 Oct 1933