## **BYRNE, Thomas**

Thomas Byrne, according to his death details, was born in 1855, son of Patrick and Bridget Byrne.

Further details cannot be found. Probably born in Ireland.

In 1893 he married Margaret Luby, in the district of Burwood.

Children of the marriage were:

1894 - Patrick J., district of Ryde

1895 – Thomas J., district of Ryde

1897 – John, district of Ryde

1907 – Katie, district of Parramatta**1**

In February 1896 he was in attendance at the fourth annual meeting of the Beecroft Progress Association.**2**

In February 1896 someone had killed one of Thomas Byrne’s cows at Beecroft. There had been a previous court case over the cow [no details found].**3**

In September 1897 his brother-in-law, Patrick Murphy, of Woolloomooloo, died.**4**

In March 1898 ‘Mr. Thomas Byrne, the well-known milkman of Beecroft, always celebrates the anniversary of St. Patrick's Day and last Thursday proved no exception to the rule. He invited a party of about 30 to eat, drink and be merry at his hospitable home on the evening of that day, but was somewhat taken aback to find, when the time arrived, that as many more (mostly from Hornsby) had invited themselves. Provision had been made for 30, and when this came to be shared all round, the result was unsatisfactory.’**5**

In November 1903 ‘Mr. T. Byrnes, the well-known Beecroft milkman, was knocked down during a recent storm by a flash of lightning striking near him. He was walking along with his milk cans when he received the shock, and was momentarily stupified. Mr. Byrnes is now completely recovered but he undoubtedly had a narrow escape.’**6**

In March 1905 ‘Mr. Thos. Byrne, of Beecroft, whilst loading some goods at the local railway station, met with a very painful accident, his leg getting caught by the hook of the crane. The result was a very extensive and rather serious gash all along the flesh of the lower part of the leg.’**7**

In December 1908 ‘T. Byrne, Beecroft, pleaded guilty to a charge of allowing one horse to stray in Marsden Road, Dundas, and was fined 5s, and 6s costs of court, also 2s 6d witness's expenses.’**8**

In November 1910 ‘A Beecroft dairyman, named T. Byrne, was charged at Hornsby Police Court, before Messrs. H. E. Jordan and T.R.U. Colls. J's.P., with having at Pennant Hills, on the 8th September, sold milk which was not of the substance and quality demanded by the purchaser. Defendant pleaded guilty. Inspector Kench, who prosecuted on behalf of the Board of Health, stated that the Government Analyst's report showed that the milk contained 8.2 per cent of added water. The defendant had been three times previously convicted, and he (the inspector) asked the Bench to inflict an exemplary penalty, as apparently defendant was making a systematic business of watering the milk. With the number of cows defendant had, and the business he was doing, he was evidently making 10s per day profit out of water. The Bench inflicted a fine of £20, with 13s witnesses’ expenses, and 6s costs; in default, four months' hard labour. The fine was paid.’**9**

On 14th January 1924, at his residence, Cardinal-avenue, Beecroft, occurred the death of Thomas, [dairyman], beloved husband of Margaret Byrne, aged 68 years.**10**

In July 1938 Thomas’ widow, Margaret, of Cardinal Avenue, Beecroft, died. She was buried at North Rocks Catholic Cemetery.**11**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

2 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 1 February 1896, page 6

3 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 8 February 1896, page 6

4 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 18 September 1897, page 16

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 26 March 1898

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 7 November 1903, page 4

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 4 March 1905, page 4

8 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 December 1908, page 10

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 November 1910, page 8

10 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 15 January 1924, page 8

11 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW 1842 - 1954), Saturday 23 July 1938, page 15