## **CARLOS, Joseph**

Joseph Carlos was born in Ireland, about 1867, the son of James & Bridget Carlos. Prior to coming to Australia, he passed several high examinations for admission to the East India Civil Service.

Mr. Carlos had a brilliant University career. He headed the list for all Ireland when he won his Intermediate, and he gained his M.A. with high honours.

During the Intermediate his health was very indifferent, and he had to be carried into the examination room day by day on a stretcher. Later he graduated at the Royal University of Ireland, having obtained first-class honours in every examination.1

He left Ireland for Australia in 1890.

In 1893 his distinction as a fine classical and mathematical scholar procured him the high honour of being appointed lecturer in Greek and Latin at St. John's College, Sydney University, a post he held with advantage to his pupils and credit to himself for ten or twelve years.

In 1895, in his examination for the Bar in New South Wales, he averaged over 90 per cent of full marks in the intermediate and final examinations, his Irish degree obviating the necessity of sitting for the preliminary.

Like many another ambitious man who has had to make his own way, he did, at the commencement of his career, a great deal of legal “coaching.” He coached many, among them Mr. Justice Street, Mr: W. A. Holman, Mr. G. Beeby and others to be foremost in the profession. His mastery of legal principles and knowledge of practice, which in later years marked his conduct of cases, made him a very successful coach, and many of his pupils, as practising solicitors, became his staunchest supporters. He surely if slowly, built up for himself an honourable position in the community, and a lucrative practice at the Bar.2

In September 1899 Mr. Joseph Carlos, B.A., B.L., was married at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, to Miss Winifred Jennings, daughter of the late Mr. Tobias [and Sarah] Jennings, of Maitland. The ceremony was performed by the Right. Rev. Monsignor O'Brien. Mr. C. E. Byrnes, solicitor of Parramatta, was best man, and the bride was given away by Dr James Kearney.

‘The bride, who is a charming, accomplished and popular girl, was educated at the Maitland Convent. His bachelor friends at Parramatta presented Mr. Carlos with a handsome cheque, and he also received a handsome cheque from his past and present pupils and immediate friends., Mr. and Mrs. Carlos will live in Parramatta, in a house in Fitzwilliam street, recently purchased by Mr. L. W. Pye.’

He was a popular figure at Parramatta’s social functions, and particularly known to Parramatta because of his long and intimate friendship with Dr Kearney. They left the old country in the same year, 1890, but although they had mutual friends they did not meet until they reached Sydney.3

By 1906 Joseph Carlos was living in Beecroft. In 1907 he is listed as living on Beecroft Road, on a lot with a 77ft frontage.4

In 1908, when the new Industrial Board system was inaugurated, he was one of the first to be appointed chairman. His courtesy to those appearing before him and his sound common sense made him an ideal chairman, and the following long list of wages boards of which he was appointed chairman speaks volumes for the appreciation his fine work earned: August, 1908, clothing trades; December, 1909, wicker workers; October, 1910, milling condiments; June, 1911, milling condiments; (wheat and flour); November, 1911, quarries and gravel pits; December, 1911, sail, tent and tarpaulins; February, 1912, milling grain (starch and condiments); July, 1912, clothing trades group.

He proved to be so worthy of confidence that he was often chosen voluntarily by parties in dispute as chairman of conferences. He had possessed sympathy with the wage-earners and also a strong desire to be fair to both sides.

[The Industrial Court, established by the Industrial Disputes Act 1908, was constituted by a Supreme Court or District Court Judge appointed for a period of seven years. The Court did not require the existence of a dispute to ground its jurisdiction and had power to arbitrate on conditions of employment and could hear prosecutions. Together with its registry, known during 1911 as the Industrial Registrar's Office, the Court remained under the administration of the Department of Attorney-General and of Justice.  
The Act also established a system of Industrial Boards that consisted of representatives of employers and employees sitting under a chairman. The Industrial Court heard appeals from the Industrial Boards.]5

In 1910, at a Beecroft smoke concert [smoko], as a valedictory to Dr. Lidwill, who was moving to Strathfield, Mr. Carlos acted as chairman. By December 1910 a new cottage home for Mr. Carlos was being erected.6

In January 1913 Mr. Carlos, now a well-known barrister, of Malton-road, Beecroft, and enthusiastic golfer, had gone with his family to Leura for their usual three months' holiday.7

In 1914 he successfully pursued the Railway Commissioners through court after court in an action on behalf of three Beecroft ladies whose mother, Mary Boylson, was run down at the level crossing In Beecroft at the time, and for his services on that occasion he declined to take any fee from his clients.8

In July 1915, on the Hornsby Route March seeking volunteers to serve in the armed forces Mr. Carlos made a stirring appeal for recruits. How would the young men like it to be said of them, 'When our country was in danger, when our Empire was in jeopardy, he was one who refused to take his part in the fight for freedom, liberty and justice.' Mr. Carlos said they were fighting for truth, justice, and humanity, and every man in the district who could go to the war, should go, and without delay.9

In 1916, Mr. Carlos, barrister-at-law, was appointed to act on behalf of the Crown at the Armidale Supreme Court.10

On 31st March 1917 Joseph Carlos, aged 50 years, passed peacefully away at his residence, “Hawthorn,” Strathfield, where he had resided recently, after leaving Beecroft. He had been in failing health for some months.

He was regarded as a very able lawyer - one of the soundest, for opinion, practising In Sydney. Of recent years, owing to an extending practice, his time was taken up with court work, in which he was singularly successful. In his last circuit tour, he won 19 cases out of 20.

He was one of Sydney's best-known barristers, and a prominent figure in many of the Catholic functions in the city.

It was while on circuit in the western district about six months ago that the rigors of the Orange climate attacked a constitution that was never robust and caused the Illness which was to end his days.

Mr. Carlos will be affectionately remembered by a wide circle of friends as a man who was staunch and true, upright and honourable always. He was a cheerful optimist, notwithstanding that, from the day when he was carried into the Dublin University on a stretcher to, as it turned out, brilliantly head the list in the Intermediate examination, up to the last, he was always a sufferer, he never cried about his aches and pains to others. He was always cheerful and bright and great company.

‘Mr. Carlos took an active interest in public life and was a public speaker with a clear and convincing style. He was a sterling Irishman. He will be long missed by a large circle of friends to whom his clear brain, his kind heart, his shrewd wit and his sturdy independence of character endeared him. And if one were to ask oneself, what was his outstanding trait, the reply would be independence of thought and action.’

‘Tribute by Mr. Justice Heydon. His Honour Mr. Justice Heydon, head of the judicial system administering the industrial legislation, writes as follows:

I have heard with surprise and very great regret of the sudden death of Mr. Joseph Carlos. Since I first asked him, seven or eight years ago, to assist in the work of my jurisdiction, by taking the chairmanship of some wage boards, my respect for him has steadily increased. He showed himself as almost an ideal man for such work: full of sympathy for the worker, but firm and impartial, and with a high standard of rectitude. On one occasion I learnt that both silks wished for him as chairman, a strong proof of the confidence which he inspired. I regret very much indeed his untimely death. It was a pleasure to work with him, and I had hoped that the industrial world would have the benefit of his experience for many years to come. ‘

The funeral took place at Waverley and was largely attended. He left a widow, but there were no children.11

On 3rd December 1933, at a private hospital, Darlinghurst, Winifred, widow of the late Joseph Carlos, barrister-at-law, died in her 57th year.12

**Bibliography**

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6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 30 Apr 1910; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 3 Dec 1910

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Jan 1913

8 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 1 Jul 1914; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 7 Apr 1917

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10 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Apr 1916

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12 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Mon 4 Dec 1933

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