## **COX, Alfred**

[

Also named Cock & Cocks]

Alfred Cox was born on 7th September 1840, Westminster, London, England, the son of James & Maria Cock.1

He arrived in Melbourne, Australia on board the ship *Wellington* in April 1859. His occupation was agricultural labourer.

On 7th September 1865 at Christchurch, South Yarra, Melbourne, Victoria, he married Rachel Rouvray (born 1840).

Children of the marriage (all born Sydney) were:

1866 – Fanny A. S. Cox

1868 – Clara M. Cock

1870 – Alfred Cock (Alfred G. Cock died 1872)

1873 – Edith Emily Cock

1874 – William James Cock

1877 – Leslie R. Cock

1879 – Henry Wilfred Cock1

Early in 1889 Alfred Cox, moved from Sydney to Beecroft, having had a two-storey, eight-roomed brick house erected, and an orchard laid out. This house is at 45 Beecroft-road (on the corner of Albert-road) and is two-storied at the rear owing to the sloping land.2

In November 1890 he was one of a small gathering at Mrs. Jemima Hull’s residence, Beecroft-road, Beecroft, to discuss the purchase of land for an Anglican church at Beecroft.

At the beginning of the 1890s the public school nearest to Beecroft was at West Pennant Hills, and four families (Hudson, Mason, Cox and McKnight) sent their nine children there, but the road was steep and rough, and impassable in wet weather.

In January 1893 there was a meeting at Thornleigh, despite the inclement weather and a small attendance, the object of the meeting being to form a horticultural association for the following districts: - Hornsby, Pennant Hills, Beecroft and Carlingford. At this meeting Alfred Cox put down his name to become a member.3

In February 1893 Alfred Cox was elected Vice-President of the Beecroft Progress Association, however at the January 1894 annual general meeting he narrowly missed out on becoming the elected vice-president, losing to Mr. C. C. Tucker. He was, however, elected to the Committee. He remained a member unto his death.4

In August & September 1894 Alfred Cox, advertised for sale 10 acres, elevated building sites, close to station, fronting line.5

In October 1894 Mrs. A. Cox of Beecroft advertised to let, for six months, a furnished house, garden, with or without orchard.6

In November 1894 he appeared in court on a charge of stealing timber (saplings) from the lease of William Kiely, however, based upon evidence elicited from a previous case on the 6th November, he was cleared and the case was dismissed.7

In January 1895, Alfred Cox again advertised for sale 10 acres, fronting railway, close to station. Also that month two more houses were being built by Alfred Cox, fronting his residence.8

On 3rd February 1895 Alfred Cox died from Bright’s Disease at his Beecroft residence.

His obituary reads: ‘He was one of Beecroft’s first residents and he always did his best to further its interests. He had erected a very nice residence and its grounds were made a very picture by his constant attention. He was a great admirer of a good garden and cultivated some of the choicest varieties of flowers. He had always proved himself an active member of the Progress Association and was one of its committee. Mr. Cox was one of the principal improvers of the district. Opposite his residence two new houses are now about half completed, they being built by him.’9

He left a widow and six children.

Alfred Cox also had a residence at 61 William-street, Woolloomooloo, where he had lately been carrying on business, under the name of Alfred Cock [sic], Dyer.10

In April 1895 Mrs. Cox advertised for let a furnished house, with grounds, facing railway, close station; also 2 new brick villas, containing seven rooms, every convenience, close station.11

In July 1895 Mr. H. A. Holcombe was appointed a trustee of the Beecroft Road in lieu of the late Mr. A. Cox.12

In October 1896 Mrs. Cox of 61 William-street, [Woolloomooloo] and Beecroft advertised for let a brick villa of 6 rooms. In June 1898, in the Ryde Petty Debts Court, Mrs. Alfred Cox claimed £9 against H. M. Ullett for rent of a furnished house at Beecroft. Verdict for the plaintiff for amount claimed with costs.13

In September 1900 a cottage owned by Mrs. Cox, until recently occupied by Mr. Colquhoun, was occupied by Mr. Bills and family.14

On 12th March 1901 Rachel, widow of Alfred Cox died at her residence, 61 William-street, Woolloomooloo.15

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages (death recorded as Alfred Cocks); Ancestry.com; NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

2 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 5 Jan 1889

3 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Jan 1893

4 The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 3 Feb 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 3 Feb 1894

5 The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 4 Aug 1894; The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 22 Sep 1894

6 The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 6 Oct 1894

7 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Nov 1894

8 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Jan 1895; The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 19 Jan 1895; The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 23 Jan 1895

9 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Feb 1895

10 The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 4 Feb 1895; The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 9 Feb 1895; The Daily Telegraph, Sat 16 Feb 1895

11 The Daily Telegraph, Sat 27 Apr 1895

12 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Jul 1895

13 The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 3 Oct 1896; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Jun 1898

14 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 8 Sep 1900

15 Northern Star (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1954), Saturday 16 March 1901, page 1; Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 14 March 1901, page 10

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