## **DOBBIE, Charles Archibald**

Charles Archibald Dobbie was born in 1861, son of John & Isabella Dobbie, in the district of Sydney.

John Dobbie was the son of David & Ann; Isabella was the daughter of Archibald & Margaret.

John Dobbie, builder and contractor, died in 1902 at Balmain, aged 72 years, of heart disease. Isabella Dobbie died in 1914 at her residence in Longueville, age 82 years.**1**

In 1890 Charles Dobbie, of Alexandra-street, Hunter’s Hill, was elected an auditor for the Borough of Hunter’s Hill for one year.**2**

In 1891 he was First Scribe E, of the Companions of the Zetland Royal Arch Chapter of Australia.**3**

On 29th March 1892 at Redfern, Sydney, Charles A. Dobbie, of Hunter's Hill, was married to Alice Mary, eldest daughter of Charles Read, Lochinvar.

Alice Mary Read was born in 1862, daughter of Charles and Annie, in the district of Balmain.**4**

Children of the marriage were:

Jean E., born 1893, in the district of Glebe

John Alister Maitland (Jack), born 1896, in the district of Petersham

Lisbeth, born 1902, in the district of Ryde [died 1902, district of Ryde].**5**

In 1897, 1898 and 1902 he was auditor for the Sydney School of Arts.**6**

By 1898 the Dobbie family were residing in Beecroft.

In November of that year it was reported: ‘For some time past, Mr. Dobbie, who is very popular in the district, has been giving boys in the neighbourhood gratuitous tuition in singing, and providing general recreation for them at his house. The result of these efforts has been so gratifying and successful that the “subjects” of them determined to mark their appreciation of his good offices. Accordingly, Mr. Dobbie found himself a guest at Mr. Melbourne Green's residence on Saturday night, and was made the recipient of a case of pipes, an expression of regard which he suitably acknowledged. A very pleasant evening was afterwards spent.’**7**

In March 1899 the Beecroft Wesleyan Church anniversary took the form of a reunion and concert.  Mrs. Dobbie presided at the piano, and the following ladies and gentlemen rendered songs: - Mrs. Dobbie, "the Lament of the Irish Emigrant"' and 'The Better Land."**8**

In September 1900 Mrs. Dobbie advertised for a respectable girl for light general duties.**9**

In May 1903 Mr. Dobbie was elected editor, manuscript journal, at the first annual meeting of the Beecroft Literary and Debating Society, held in Ravenhurst Hall.**10**

In December 1907 Mr. Dobbie was President of the local School of Arts. He had just returned after being away for a few weeks on business in Queensland. In April 1908 he underwent an operation for appendicitis.**11**

His address in 1913 was in Hannah-street, Beecroft; occupation: accountant.

His son Jack enlisted on 2nd Feb 1916 and went into the machine-gun section of the Rutherford camp, near Maitland. He served on the Western Front, and on 7th March 1918 he was with the 1st Machine Gun Company when he was gassed in a German barrage. He returned to Australia on 12th June 1919.**12**

In 1918 Mr. Dobbie was elected honorary secretary of the Beecroft School of Arts. In 1923 he still remained secretary.**13**

In October 1928 Miss Olive Holt was married to Mr. J. A. Dobbie, at St. James' Church, King Street, Sydney; the bride being the third daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Holt, of Beecroft, and the bridegroom the only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dobbie, also of Beecroft.**14**

In November 1932 Mrs. Dobbie, of Beecroft, with her daughter, Mrs. Campbell, of Wahroonga, left for Orange. Mrs. Dobbie received an early Christmas gift of a set of the Cambridge History of Literature from her husband. The gift much appreciated, as Mrs. Dobbie was a keen student of literature. For many years she was president of the Turramurra Literary Society.’**15**

On 7th December 1941, at his home, “Blue Hills,” [Hannah-street], Beecroft, Charles A. Dobbie, died aged 80 years. Privately cremated.**16**

On 10th December 1948, Alice Mary Dobbie, widow of Charles A. Dobbie, died at her home, “Blue Hills, Beecroft. Privately cremated.**17**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births Deaths Marriages; Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW, Sat 26 Apr 1902; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 28 Jul 1914

2 New South Wales Government Gazette, Tue 11 Feb 1890

3 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 3 Oct 1891

4 Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW), Sat 23 Apr 1892; NSW Registry of Births Deaths Marriages

5 NSW Registry of Births Deaths Marriages

6 Australian Star (Sydney, NSW), Wed 24 Feb 1897; Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, Wed 16 Feb 1898; Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, Sat 15 Feb 1902

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Nov 1898

8 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Mar 1899

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 19 Sep 1900

10 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 2 May 1903

11 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Dec 1907; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Apr 1908

12 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 8 Apr 1916; “Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen

13 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Aug 1918; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 29 Sep 1923

14 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Thu 18 Oct 1928

15 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Tue 8 Nov 1932

16 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 9 Dec 1941

17 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 15 Dec 1948

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