## **GILBERT, Charles Ebenezer**

Charles Ebenezer Gilbert was born in 1860, at Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England, the son of Ebenezer & Rachel Gilbert.

On 3rd December 1884, Charles E. Gilbert, of Macdonaldtown, Sydney, married Marian Semple, daughter of William [and Frances] Semple of Young, at the residence of the bride’s parents.**1**

Children of the marriage were:

1. Alfred C. 1885 Glebe district
2. Harold S. 1887 Petersham district
3. Olive Marian, 1890 Petersham district
4. Florence L. 1892 Petersham district
5. Edith M. 1894 Petersham district
6. Arthur Frederick, 1896 Ryde district
7. Constance M. 1898 Ryde district
8. Muriel A. 1900 Ryde district
9. Walter H. 1901 Ryde district
10. Elsie M. 1903 Ryde district**2**

By 1896 the family had moved to Beecroft. That year the family were involved with the Band of Hope, a young people’s group of the Methodist Church, Beecroft.**3**

Between 1898 and 1902 three of the children died – Constance Mary, 1898; Walter Humphrey, 1901; and Harold Semple, 1902.**4**

Their daughter, Olive Marian Gilbert, proved to be an outstanding scholar at the Beecroft Public School, between the years 1902 and 1906.

In 1903 she won a gold medal for general proficiency, and won the race for girls under 15 at a sporting event.**5**

In 1904, as a pupil of the Beecroft Presbyterian church, she attained a first-class certificate for scripture, one mark off a prize. In 1905 she received a certificate for catechism, and at the public school a gold medal for English.**6**

In 1906 she was successful in passing the Junior Examination (also referred to as a Junior University Pass), being the first pupil of the Beecroft public school to do so.**7**

The Ratepayers List for 1907 gives the following information: Charles E. Gilbert, clerk, Beecroft Road, Beecroft, property size: 3 roods 3 perches, 400 x 300 (feet).**8**

In 1909 Charles, then secretary of the Presbyterian Church, Beecroft, was seriously ill, but would recover.**9**

In April 1916 Olive Gilbert, of “*Torrington*,” Beecroft-road, Beecroft, married Francis Charles McKern, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. McKern, of “*Clifton*,” Hannah-street, Beecroft.**10**

By 1926 Charles and Marian Gilbert had moved to Roseville.

On 3rd October 1926, Charles Ebenezer Gilbert died at his residence “Torrington,” Gerald-avenue, Roseville, late of Beecroft, aged 66 years. He was buried in the Presbyterian portion of the Northern Suburbs Cemetery. He was survived by a widow, two sons, and four daughters.

He was, for many years, an officer of the Australian Bank of Commerce, and for 30 years associated with the Presbyterian Church at Beecroft, being one of the founders of the Church, and later a prominent member of the Roseville Church.

He was a noted book collector and possessed a valuable library of rare volumes.**11**

On 19th March 1949, his widow, Marian, of Roseville, died at a private hospital, and was privately cremated. She was survived by her children Charles, Olive (Mrs. McKern), Edith, Arthur, Muriel, and Elsie.**12**

**Bibliography**

1 Burrangong Argus, Sat 6 Dec 1884; Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 5 Dec 1884

2 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

3 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 29 Aug 1896; Cumberland Free Press, Sat 3 Oct 1896

4 The Daily Telegraph, Tue 3 May 1898; The Daily Telegraph, Wed 30 Oct 1901; The Daily Telegraph, Wed 24 Sep 1902

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 Aug 1903; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 10 Oct 1903

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Saturday 22 Oct 1904; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Oct 1905; Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 18 Dec 1905; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 Dec 1905

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Jul 1906

8 Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 May 1909

10 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Saturday 22 April 1916

11 Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 4 Oct 1926; Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 6 Oct 1926

12 The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 22 Mar 1949

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