## **GRANT, James A.**

James Grant was born about 1833.1

He married Bessie, probably in the 1850’s, but not in N.S.W.

In the early 1900’s he would appear to be a partner in the firm of Grant and Mathieson, North Sydney, involved in the construction of large buildings such as St. John’s Church at Beecroft and the School of Arts at Hornsby.2

He was present at the February 1894 meeting of the Beecroft Progress Association. In May he was a member of the committee, and, in the company of W. G. Coward and William Abram, they met Mr. Frank Farnell, M.P., and Mr. J. Hope, Resident Engineer for Roads, to point out the various local road matters brought before the Association.3

In December 1894 James Grant was unanimously elected secretary of the Progress Association, replacing Mr. W. E. H. Nicholle who assumed the position of President upon the death of Mr. W. G. Coward. Mr. Grant’s position was only held until the January meeting of the following year when fresh elections took place.4

In June 1896 he was elected as an additional trustee of St. John’s Anglican Church, Beecroft.5

In October 1896 he was building a handsome brick dwelling next to his own residence in Hannah-street.6

In June 1899, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, who for the past twelve months or so were living in

Sydney, returned to their old home in Beecroft.7

In May 1900, Wilson’s Estate, on the Beecroft Road, just opposite St. John’s Church, and containing an area of about four acres, was auctioned, and sold in eight allotments. One of the purchasers was James Grant.8

In January 1901 his new villa residence, containing 12 rooms, was almost complete, commanding a conspicuous position on the main thoroughfare. In May his newly erected residence, of four bedrooms, 3 minutes from Beecroft station, was advertised to let.9

In 1903 he advertised for let a cottage residence of 6 rooms.10

In 1904 James advertised for sale a large brick cottage, on 10 ¾ acres with tennis court, stables, and other facilities, a 12-minute drive from the station, was for sale for £900 cash. His address was “Roslyn,” Beecroft.11

In 1905 he advertised for let, a new cottage of 6 rooms, 3 minutes from station.12

In May 1907 the first portion of the Church of England (St. John’s) was successfully tendered by Messrs. Grant and Mathieson, of North Sydney, the price being roughly £1300.13

In January 1910, his residence “Roslyn,” fronting Murray-road, Beecroft, was put up for sale by auction. The description of the property is very similar to the one advertised for sale in 1904.14

On 8th November 1911 Mrs. Grant, wife of James A, Grant, died at her Beecroft resident, after a lengthy illness. Deceased left no family.15

A window was placed in St. John’s Church, to the memory of Bessie Grant, who had been a regular worshipper since the first services began at Beecroft.16

Mrs. Bessie Grant’s residence was “Abydos,” situated in Malton-road, Beecroft.

In February 1912 there were auction sales on the premises of “Abydos,” presumably to sell furniture, etc. Mr. Grant was about to leave Beecroft and left the house to be occupied by Mrs. Paton.17

In October 1913 Mr. Grant, still living elsewhere, paid a visit to Beecroft. He expressed the opinion that ‘there’s no place like Beecroft.’18

On 16th May 1916, at a private hospital, Darlinghurst, he died in his 83rd year, and was interred at Waverly Cemetery.19

In July 1916 his properties in Beecroft were auctioned by order of the executors, namely:

(1) A Detached Cottage Residence, known as *Roslyn*, fronting Malton-road (north side). Land 72ft. x 200ft. Rental £72 per annum.

(2) a Detached Cottage Residence, known as *Abydos*, fronting Malton-road (north side); Land 60ft. x 200 ft; Rental £63 per annum. Attractive Cottage Property, surrounded by many high-class homes, and only 5 min. walk from the railway station.20

**Bibliography**

1 The Daily Telegraph, Wed 17 May 1916 (age at death)

2 Australian Town and Country Journal, Sat 5 Apr 1902; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 May 1907

3 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 3 Feb 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 May 1894

4 The Daily Telegraph, Thu 6 Dec 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Feb 1895

5 Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 219

6 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 31 Oct 1896

7 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 3 Jun 1899

8 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 5 May 1900

9 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Jan 1901; The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 4 May 1901

10 The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 14 Jan 1903

11 The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 14 Mar 1904

12 The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 19 Apr 1905

13 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 May 1907

14 The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 22 Jan 1910

15 The Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 10 Nov 1911; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 Nov 1911

16 Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 222

17 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 21 Feb 1912; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Feb 1912

18 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Oct 1913

19 The Daily Telegraph, Wed 17 May 1916

20 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Jul 1916

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