## **HIGGINS, Samuel**

Samuel Higgins was born in Scotland in 1876. He arrived in Australia with his parents, Thomas (a labourer) & Jane (sometimes referred to as Jean), on board the ship *Lanark* which arrived in Sydney on 9th October 1879.**1**

His father Thomas died on 14th October 1915. His obituary reads in part:

‘Mr. Thomas Higgins, sen., of Goulburn, died at half-past eight this morning from cerebral haemorrhage. A week ago he sustained a paralytic stroke. Mr. Higgins was 80 years of age, having been born in Glasgow on January 18, 1835. He came to Australia 35 years ago and had resided in Goulburn 27 years. When he arrived here, he joined the clerical staff of the Government Railways, retiring at the age of 60. Twenty years ago he purchased the bakery business of the late Mr. William Wilkie, and this has been successfully carried on over since under the management of his son Thomas. Mr. Higgins' wife predeceased him by eight years. He leaves two sons (Messrs. Samuel, of Beecroft, and Thomas, of Goulburn) and three daughters (Mrs. Thomson, wife of the Hon. J. A. Thomson, of Perth, W.A.; Mrs. Norman Rogers, Goulburn; and Miss Higgins, also of this city. There are eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The late Mr. Higgins had a stirring military career. When the Crimean War broke out he, then a young man of 18, volunteered. He served with the 2nd Royal Dragoons and the 6th Dragoon Guards through the whole of the war. He also saw service throughout the Indian Mutiny. He remained in the army for ten years in India, and was recommended for a commission, but for family reasons claimed his discharge after 15 years' service. Mr. Higgins belonged to Masonic Lodge Australia, and was one of the oldest members of the Sons of Temperance.’**2**

On 29th April 1903 Samuel Higgins, of Goulburn, married Grace Annie Brasnett, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brasnett, of *Carbrooke*, Pymble.**3**

In December 1903 Samuel would leave Goulburn and prior to his departure was presented with a gold sovereign-case in appreciation of him having been secretary of the Master Bakers’ Association in Goulburn.**4**

Children of the marriage were:

Birth 23rd February 1905 – Alan G., at Beecroft

Birth 1907 – Jean M., at Beecroft

Birth 3rd September 1910 - Marjorie A., at Beecroft

Birth 11th August 1916 - Ian L., at Beecroft (died 1995)**5**

After leaving Goulburn Samuel Higgins would run a store in Beecroft.

In April 1906 reference is given to its existence – ‘The store and dwelling on the main road owned by Mr. J. Bellamy, and for some time past occupied by Mr. S. Higgins under the style of the 'Universal Stores' has changed hands — the property but not the business.’**6**

In August 1908 Samuel was having built new premises.

‘Mr. S. Higgins, of Beecroft, is erecting a new shop, dwelling house and produce store at the corner of Mary-street and Beecroft-road. The building will be, when completed, one of the finest and most up to date premises of its kind in the northern suburbs. It will be of two floors and fitted in the very latest style. An awning faces both Beecroft-road and Mary-street, and close to the main building, on the Mary-street side, a commodious produce store will be erected.’ W. M. Nixon was the architect. The store was considered at the time ‘a building worthy of note.’**7**

In January 1909 Samuel advertised for an assistant – ‘Wanted, a smart girl, knowledge drapery, and assist books. S. Higgins, Beecroft.’**8**

In November 1914 Samuel wrote a letter to Hornsby Council stating ‘that he contemplated improving the footpath in the front and on the side of his shop premises, by laying down bricks or asphalt, and kerbing same. He asked the council 's permission to carry out the work, and further requested them to contribute something towards the cost. He was led to understand it was the practice of the shire and municipal councils to pay half the cost incurred in such a case. Councillor Ramsay moved that a reply be sent pointing out that the council could not contribute towards the cost of the work in the way he suggested, but that next year they might be able to do the work and charge him half the cost.’**9**

Samuel was still running the store when in May 1925 and again in June 1929 his premises on the Beecroft-road Beecroft were broken into and robbed.**10**

There is little news about Samuel after this time.

In 1944 his son Ian married in 1944 Marjorie Wentworth Towns. Ian was then a solicitor of Lithgow. His father’s occupation is stated as an insurance broker.**11**

Samuel died in 1957, in the district of Chatswood.

His wife Grace Annie died in 1964, in the district of North Sydney.**12**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com

2 Goulburn Evening Penny Post (NSW: 1881 - 1940), Thursday 14 October 1915, page 2

3 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 9 May 1903, page 8

4 Goulburn Herald (NSW: 1881 - 1907), Wednesday 2 December 1903, page 2

5 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages; various newspapers

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 14 April 1906, page 10

7 Weekly Supplement to Building (Sydney, NSW: 1908 - 1909), Monday 6 July 1908, page 5; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Sat 29 Aug 1908; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 14 April 1909, page 4

8 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Wednesday 13 January 1909, page 5

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 7 November 1914, page 8

10 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 5 May 1925, page 5; New South Wales Police Gazette and Weekly Record of Crime (Sydney: 1860 - 1930), Wednesday 5 June 1929 (No.23), page 404

11 Ancestry.com

12 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages