## **JONES, Esther Lillian**

Esther was born Esther Lillian Weakley in 1874, daughter of Robert & Elizabeth Weakley, in the district of Grafton. Her parents were residents of Wallsend for many years.

In 1895 she married Evan John Jones, B.A., who died in 1905 at Toronto, in the district of Wallsend, where he was the schoolmaster, his wife assisting as sewing mistress.

When in Wallsend she had identified herself with the work of the Metcalfe street Methodist Church, being the organist for a number of years prior to her marriage.**1**

The young widow was left with five children, all boys. ‘In the earlier part of these more difficult times, Mrs. Jones lived with her father, the revered Robert Weakley, of Wallsend. At first, the magnitude of the responsibility thrust upon her nearly overcame her courage. Soon, however, she recovered, and heroically faced the task of maintaining her family. She entered the educational work of the State, and, though handicapped by frailty of health, succeeded in a remarkable manner in rearing and educating her five sons.’**2**

Subsequent to the death of her husband, Mrs. Jones was engaged in a similar capacity at various schools of this district, and upon her retirement, removed to Beecroft with members of her family, where she lived for a period of 10 years.**3**

In the Beecroft Methodist Church, she was an active worker, particularly in the Ladies' Church Aid. Her strong, Christian principle and pleasant personality made her a marked influence for good, and, as a consequence, she made many firm friends.**4**

Esther died on 15th April 1928.

‘Towards the end she became very weak, yet, with characteristic fortitude, never quailed for a moment. Her smile and humour were pleasant to her visitors to the very end. Her end was perfect peace.’

Her death took place at her home in Beecroft, following a long illness, her interment being in the Methodist cemetery, Wallsend, in the plot of ground where her husband also lies. Rev. W. Deane, M.A., B.D, of the Beecroft Methodist Church, officiated.

She was survived by five sons, as well as a brother and a sister, all of the metropolis.**5**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages; Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, Wed 18 Apr 1928; Methodist, Sat 26 May 1928

2 Methodist, Sat 26 May 1928

3 Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, Wed 18 Apr 1928

4 Methodist, Sat 26 May 1928

5 Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, Wed 18 Apr 1928