## **MAHER, Arthur Patrick**

Arthur Patrick Maher was born on 17th January 1871, at Pennant Hills, N.S.W., the son of Edward James & Bridget Ellen (nee Porter) Maher.**1**

In February 1892, at the Summer Fruit and Flower Show of the Horticultural Society of New South Wales in the Centennial Hall, ‘The general display of fruits staged by Mr. A. P. Maher does that successful orchardist great credit. The collection consists of more than 100 varieties of apples, pears peaches, etc., and amongst them are a number of handsome specimens. The society's special certificate was bestowed upon this exhibit.’**2**

In May 1893, at the Thornleigh, Carlingford, Hornsby, Pennant Hills and Beecroft Horticultural Association inaugural show at the Thornleigh School of Arts, the best collection fruit was awarded to A. P. Maher for cooking pears.**3**

In June 1895 he enrolled in the newly-established Beecroft branch of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows Lodge.**4**

In July 1895 the Maher brothers were finishing up their roadworks contract.**5**

In January 1896 repairs were made to the culvert in Copeland-street, near Maher’s Hill.**6**

In February 1896 the Beecroft branch lodge of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows continued to do well. Arthur P. Maher was elected to the committee for that year. It was proposed to hold the meetings in the “Willabah” schoolroom as soon as the New Lodge building was completed.**7**

In May 1897, In the Equity Court, a suit (McCulloch v. Maher) was commenced as to the interpretation of the will of [Edward] James Maher, late of Pennant Hills.

‘The plaintiffs were Percy Vernon McCulloch, Charles Byrnes, and Richard Porter, and the defendants Bridget Maher, Richard James Maher and other persons interested in the will of Edward James Maher of Pennant Hills. The facts of the case are that Edward James Maher in 1869, in view of an action at law in which he was interested, made a settlement of his property. Subsequently he made a will which ignored the deed of settlement, and the Court was asked to decide whether the will or the deed should hold good.

His Honour after hearing arguments decided to set the deed of settlement aside, and allow the will to stand.**8**

On 21st December 1898, at Chatswood, Arthur Patrick Maher married Alice Edith Porter.

Children of the marriage were:

Harold Maurice (1899-1968), at Ryde

Dorothy Irene (1901-1971), at Ryde

Thomas Ronald (1903-1974), at Ryde

Hilda Lillian (1906-1992), at Ryde**9**

In 1913 He was living at Pennant Hills, and working as an orchardist.**10**

In December 1917 Arthur P. Maher, an orchardist and greengrocer at Beecroft, was assaulted. Alice Edith Maher, wife of complainant, stated that she lived on the shop premises in Beecroft-road, Beecroft.**11**

In February 1918 ‘Mr. A. P. Maher, Beecroft, wrote to the last meeting of Hornsby Council drawing attention to the bad state of Copeland-road (western end). He stated that the recent rain had caused gutters in which a horse and cart could be buried, and the road was not fit for traffic to venture either up or down. Mr. Maher is to be informed that the road will be attended to as soon as possible.’**12**

In June 1919, at the annual meeting of Pennant Hills and District Fox Club, A. P. Maher was elected President. Foxes were getting plentiful in the district and several of the poultry-farmers were feeling their presence very much.**13**

By 1930 he was living at 8 Hull-road, Beecroft, working as a gardener. From 1934 to 1937 he was living at Cardinal-avenue, Beecroft, still working as a gardener.**14**

On 13th August 1939, Arthur Patrick Maher died at his residence, Copeland Road, Beecroft, aged 68 years; father of Joe, Dorie (Mrs. Anlezark), Tom, Hilda (Mrs. Blenheim).**15**

On 30th September 1940, at Hornsby District Hospital, Alice Edith Maher, late of Copeland Road, Beecroft, died, aged 66 years; mother of Joe, Dorothy, Thomas, and Hilda. She was buried at the Methodist Cemetery, Northern Suburbs.**16**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages, Ancestry.com

2 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 4 February 1892, page 6

3 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Wednesday 24 May 1893, page 8

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 15 June 1895

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 20 July 1895, page 3

6 Cumberland Free Press (Parramatta, NSW: 1895 - 1897), Saturday 18 January 1896, page 2

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 29 February 1896, page 7

8 Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW: 1888 - 1954), Wednesday 12 May 1897, page 4; Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 13 May 1897, page 4

9 Ancestry.com; NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

10 Electoral Roll 1913

11 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 22 December 1917

12 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 9 February 1918, page 8

13 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 June 1919, page 6

14 Electoral Roll 1930, 1932-1937

15 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 14 August 1939, page 10

16 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 1 October 1940, page 8