## **MERRIFIELD, Sydney Sargent (Dr.)**

Sydney Sargent Merrifield was born in September 1861, at Mary Tavy, Tavistock, Devon, England, the son of John (1834-1891) and Mary Anne (nee Venner; 1829-1873) Merrifield.

In the 1871 English Census he was living with his parents and siblings at Plymouth. His father, John Merrifield, L.L.D., P.H.D., was a teacher of mathematics.

In the 1881 England Census he was a medical student, living at King’s College, St. Mary Le Strand, London, along with other medical students, where he completed his medical training in 1883, thereafter practising at Plymouth.

His London student records are as follows:



The UK Medical Register states the following:



He arrived in Australia on 9th January 1885 as a cabin passenger aboard the ship *Cuzoo*.

He lived at Casterton, Victoria from 10th December 1885 to 19th January 1886.**1**

In 1887 he married Sarah Elizabeth Crouch, in Victoria.

Children of the marriage were:

Born 2nd October 1887 – Bessie, Bombala [died 1913 Sydney]

Born December 1890 – Annie Venner, Bombala [died 1920 Inverell]

Born 1895 – Minnie Minhinnick, Bombala [died 1959]

Born 1901 – John, Bombala [died 1962]

Born August 1904 – Brenda Mary, Bombala [died 1976]**2**

He would practise for about 25 years at Bundarra (on the banks of the Bombala River), and subsequently moved in October 1911 to Sydney.

In January 1912 he sailed for London aboard the ship *Suevic*. He returned in March 1913 aboard the ship *Aeneas*; his daughter Bessie died that year in Sydney.

In 1914 he was living at Findlay-avenue, Chatswood, but by 1915 was living at Bellinger, N.S.W.

In 1920 he moved to Delungra, near Inverell, his residence in 1927 being “*Shaugh*,” Inverell-street, Delunga. His daughter Annie died at Inverell in October 1920.

He left Delungra on 26th January 1929 by train for Beecroft after seven years practice, leaving the town without a resident doctor.

In 1930 Sydney Sargent Merrifield (med. pract.), Sarah Elizabeth Merrifield (home duties) & Brenda Mary (stenographer) were living at Cheltenham-road, Cheltenham.**3**

On 4th January 1935 Dr. Sydney S. Merrifield, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., A.K.C., died at his residence “Shaugh,” 73 Cheltenham-road, Cheltenham, aged 73 years, from heart disease.

He was survived by Mrs. Merrifield, two daughters and one son.

Probate of the will, valued at about £4000, was granted to the Public Trustee on 4th March, 1935.**4**

In February 1945 his property, “Shaugh,” on the corner of Boronia-avenue and Cheltenham-road, was put up for sale, described thus:

‘D.F. BRICK COTTAGE, with tiled roof and front verandah, containing 4 rooms, kit., and laundry combined, bathroom with gas heater, ver. room encl., rear ver., pantry, tool-shed, workshop, fibro garage. Land 60 x 198. Let at 30/ per wk. Torrens Title. Terms cash. Situate abt. 7 min. from stn. and 2 min. bus.’**5**

On April 11th 1951, his widow, Sarah Elizabeth Merrifield, died at a private hospital in Chatswood, aged 83 years. Privately cremated.**6**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com

2 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages; Victoria Births deaths & Marriages; Ancestry.com

3 Warialda Standard and Northern Districts' Advertiser (NSW: 1900 - 1954), Monday 14 January 1935, page 2; Ancestry.com

4 Warialda Standard and Northern Districts' Advertiser (NSW: 1900 - 1954), Monday 14 January 1935, page 2; Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 15 March 1935 (No.57), page 1192; Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 5 January 1935, page 14

5 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 17 February 1945, page 20

6 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 16 April 1951, page 14