## **MORAN, George Benjamin**

George Moran was born on 1st July 1844, at Parramatta, the son of George (Moran, AKA Moore, AKA Smith; 1822-1870) and Elizabeth Marie (nee Curran; 1820-1908) Moran.

On 4th March 1873 he married Mary Bowerman (1847-1933), at Bathurst.

Mary was born 1847, the daughter of Richard and Amelia Bowerman.

Children of the marriage were;

Elizabeth Amelia (1873-1924), Stony Creek, Bathurst

George Richard (1875-1924), Bathurst

Unnamed (18777-1877), Bathurst

Emily Mary (1878-1955), Sydney

Annie Mary (1879-1881), Parramatta

Charles Frederick (1880-1945), N.S.W.

Alfred James (1882-1965), Central Cumberland, N.S.W.

Ethel Ada (1884-1930), Sydney**1**

In March 1886 George Moran, at the Fruit and Flower Show in Granville, won first prize with a selection of ferns, and was considered a most professional nurseryman, His small nursery, called Waratah Nursery, at Pennant Hills, was considered most excellent and extensive. Previously he was gardener to a Major Dunn, nearby.**2**

In January 1889 he had management of 12 acres of orchard laid out for mixed summer fruit and 2 vines. This would be the property of Leslie Herring who began a plant nursery and orchard on his land on Malton and Hannah streets, Beecroft, and as early as 1889 had twelve acres of flourishing fruit trees.**3**

In August 1889 George Moran was advertising, for sale, at the Waratah Nursery, Pennant Hills, a variety of fruit trees, as well as ornamental and flowering trees, shrubs and plants.

The last advertisement for the Waratah Nursery was in October 1890.

The first advertisement for the Beecroft Nursery Company was in April 1891, with G. B. Moran, of Pennant Hills, as the contact. By June 1892 he was referred to as G. B. Moran, Manager.**4**

By early 1893 Leslie Herring’s Beecroft Nursery, managed by his partner George Moran, was flourishing. George Moran had a half-share in the business, the other half held by Leslie Herring.

The nursery was situated in Malton-road, Beecroft, with Mr. Herring’s homestead on the opposite side of the road, planted with ornamental trees and shrubs, and with magnificent flowers. George Moran, still operating the Waratah Nursery, was situated in Pennant Hills with his own orchard, flower garden, bush, palm, and glass frame houses.

The nursery’s area of 34 acres included apples, peaches, persimmons, cherries, grapes and citrus. In 1894 the orchard was producing fine specimens of apples of the Prince Bismarck, Acres’ Seedling, Schoolmaster, Gloria Maude, Golden Spine and other varieties.

Messrs. Herring and Moran had planted poplars and other trees in the streets. In 1895 their Japanese plums were being delivered to the Sydney markets.**5**

In July 1893 Mr. Herring, through his manager Mr. Moran, sent ten cases of lemons to San Francisco as a trial shipment. They were cut in June, cured in a loft, and wrapped in tissue paper. In August Mr. Moran, as manager of the Beecroft Nursery, had five hands engaged in picking fruit.**6**

During 1893 and 1894 Mr. Moran was vice-president of the H., T., P.H., B., and C. [Hornsby, Thornleigh, Pennant Hills, Beecroft and Carlingford] Horticultural Association. At times, their monthly meeting would be held at his residence at Pennant Hills. He resigned his office in the Association in May 1894, on the grounds that far too much apathy was displayed by many of the officials. Asking Mr. Moran to consider, he agreed to continue until the after the next show. In September 1894, he distinctly confirmed that he was unable to continue.**7**

In July 1893 some very handsome specimens of the Plymouth Rock fowl were seen at Mr. Moran’s nursery, Pennant Hills. Arrangements were then being made to raise this breed very extensively, the necessary pens, etc., being erected.

By December 1894 his wife, Mary, was managing the Pennant Hills Poultry Farm, with her Plymouth Rock fowls, and was exhibiting them at various shows, winning many honours. This side-business would continue until 1900.**8**

In late October 1893 a benefit concert was given for the purpose of benefitting Mr. Willis and family of Beecroft, who were in straightened circumstances due to sickness. Mr. Moran, committee secretary, is said to have ‘worked like a tiger’ in connection with the affair.**9**

In March 1894 most of the Moran household was stricken with measles, with little Emily seriously ill, but all recovered.**10**

During 1895 Mr. Moran attended meetings for both the Beecroft and the Thornleigh Progress Association, but whether he became a member is unknown.**11**

In December 1896 it was reported that Mrs. Moran, of Pennant Hills, was ill, and that an operation was necessary. The following February she was a patient of the Cottage Hospital at North Sydney.**12**

By 1897 the Waratah Nursery, was referred to as being located at Thornleigh, although in later years it was referred to as either Pennant Hills or Thornleigh. There is no evidence that the nursery had been relocated.

In January 1897, George Moran, of Thornleigh, was advertising choice building blocks, with main road frontages, close to station, at Hornsby Heights.**13**

In May 1898 George Moran advertised the breeding services of his Berkshire stud boar. In June the first mail bag from the Pennant Hills Railway Post-Office was despatched, with Mr. G. B. Moran, of the Waratah Nursery, held responsible for the whole of the mail matter. In August, opposite the nursery, a shop and produce store was due to be commenced.**14**

In December 1900 his daughter, Emily Moran, won a medal as a violinist before the Sydney Musical Society and received a medal.**15**

In June 1901 Mrs. Moran was suffering an illness which was greatly aggravated after being kicked by a horse in September 1899, eldest daughter Lizzie was ill, and the youngest daughter had a heart complaint. The following month all showed signs of improvement.**16**

In 1902 the floral display at Waratah Nursery was said to be the best in the district, with begonias, chrysanthemums, and roses of rare varieties.**17**

In September 1907 the Waratah Nursery was relocated to Blackacre, Pennant Hills. The new establishment was said to be a great improvement on the old. The Thornleigh site at “The Corner” was noticeable for the empty house and stables. It was said to have to have been occupied by the Waratah Nursery for many years.**18**

On 28th August 1920, George Benjamin Moran, aged 76 years, late nurseryman, of Britannia-street, Pennant Hills, passed away at Pennant Hills, leaving a wife and family.**19**

A daughter, Elizabeth Wilson, was accidentally killed on 5th July 1924.**20**

On 24th August 1933, Mary Moran, widow of G. B. Moran, aged 86 years, died at her daughter’s residence, 13 Myrtle-street, City.**21**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Ancestry.com

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3 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 5 Jan 1889; Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914

4 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Aug 1889; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 Oct 1890; Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Sat 18 Apr 1891; The Cumberland Mercury, Wed 22 Apr 1891; The Cumberland Mercury, Wed 1 Jun 1892

5 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Jan 1893; Beecroft and Cheltenham The Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914, page 171; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 Aug 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Sep 1894; The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 19 Jan 1895

6 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Jul 1893; The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 9 Sep 1893; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Aug 1893; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Aug 1893

7 The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 9 Sep 1893; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Feb 1894; The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 12 May 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Sep 1894

8 The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 8 Jul 1893; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Jul 1894; The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 15 Dec 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Mar 1898; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 Jul 1899; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Apr 1900

9 The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 28 Oct 1893; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Nov 1893

10 The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 10 Mar 1894

11 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Jul 1895; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Sep 1895

12 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 5 Dec 1896; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Dec 1896; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 6 Feb 1897

13 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 16 Jan 1897

14 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 Apr 1898; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 May 1898; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 May 1898; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Jun 1898

15 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 6 Dec 1900

16 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 16 Sep 1899; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 7 Oct 1899; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 8 Jun 1901; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 20 Jul 1901

17 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 10 May 1902

18 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Sep 1907

19 The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 31 Aug 1920

20 The Daily Telegraph, Sat 27 Aug 1927

21 The Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 2 Aug 1933

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