## **PASSMORE, Arthur Augustine**

Arthur Passmore was born in 1873, the son of John and Elizabeth Passmore, in the district of Yass.

His mother died in 1898, at Goulburn, aged 57 years. His father, a saddler, formerly of Goulburn, died at Burrenjuck in 1914, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Brooks, aged about 77 years, leaving behind three daughters and three sons.

Arthur’s paternal grandparents were John and Elizabeth Passmore – John died at Goulburn in 1876, aged 71 years, where he was pound keeper for many years.**1**

On 3rd January 1900 Arthur Passmore, teacher, was married at St Peter and Paul's Cathedral, Goulburn, to Miss [Johanna] Matilda Maud Wallace of Carrick, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Wallace.**2**

In 1928 Arthur Passmore was transferred from Riverstone to Beecroft Public School as Headmaster.**3**

In late December 1935 he collapsed just after school broke up for the Xmas vacation. On 30th December 1935, Arthur Augustine Passmore died at his residence, Beecroft-road, Beecroft, aged 62 years. He was apparently in excellent health until his sudden seizure, which was due to an abscess on the brain. He was due to be transferred as headmaster to Concord West.

He had been teaching for 44 years, beginning in Goulburn then moving on to Queanbeyan, Mudgee, Dunedoo, Stuart Town, Norfolk Island [4 years], Kelso, Dora Creek, Riverstone and finally Beecroft.

A keen student of psychology of the child mind, he evolved a number system for the teaching of arithmetic. His services as lecturer were in great request by teachers' associations in country districts.

He was a foundation member of the Goulburn Liedertafel. He was a capable musician and an accomplished vocalist, his pupils reaching a high standard of musical education. At Norfolk Island he trained a company of island children in Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

In the country he was very successful with physical training squads in inter-school contests. In recent years he represented his department in charge of schoolboy tourists on train cruises to various parts of the State.

He was an active member of the Beecroft Bowling Club, having held office as vice-president, and acted as secretary for three years. He also held the club championship for a period. Its members acted as pallbearers.

His kindly and genial disposition endeared him to a wide circle of friends.

He was survived by his wife, three sons and five daughters.

He was buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Northern Suburbs Cemetery.**4**

Arthur’s widow, Johanna Matilda Passmore, of Beecroft, died on 8th December 1937, at a private hospital, Lewisham. Her warm friendship and kindliness endeared her to a wide circle of friends. She was buried at the Northern Suburbs Cemetery.**5**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages; Australian Town and Country Journal, Sat 6 May 1876; Goulburn Evening Penny Post, Sat 21 May 1898; Goulburn Evening Penny Post, Sat 24 Oct 1914; Goulburn Evening Penny Post, Sat 30 Oct 1920

2 Goulburn Herald, Wed 3 Jan 1900; Catholic Press, Thu 23 Dec 1937

3 Northern Star (Lismore, NSW), Sat 11 Feb 1928

4 Goulburn Evening Penny Post, Fri 3 Jan 1936; Uralla Times, Thu 9 Jan 1936; Catholic Press, Thu 9 Jan 1936; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Thu 9 Jan 1936

5 Catholic Press, Thu 23 Dec 1937

Note: Further information contained within the book “The History of Beecroft Public School 1897-1997” written and edited by Patricia Dewey BEd