## **SARGENT, Foster Henry Hartley**

Foster Henry Hartley Sargent was born ‘Henry H. Foster’ on 31st January 1878, at Woolloomooloo, the only child of George Sargent [name not recorded] and Charlotte Foster, who were not married until 5th September 1883 at St. Peter’s Anglican Church.**1**

He was educated at the Sydney Grammar School, and in his young days cut a figure in the sporting world as a professional and amateur cyclist, and, under the auspices of the N.S.W. Cyclists' Union, won a number of good races.

In 1896, at the Cyclists’ Union Champion Meeting, ‘brilliant’ riding was performed by Cameron and [Forster] Sargent.**2**

About 1900 George and Charlotte Sargent sold their business to W. E. Dance and travelled overseas. That year, their son, Hartley, who had also learned the trade, brought a bakery at Manly, and in 1901 opened two bakeries in Pitt Street and refreshment rooms in George Street.

When his parents tried to restart their business, they were sued by W. E. Dance. Regaining their right to trade in the city, they joined Hartley in partnership.

In December 1906 a private company, Sargent’s Ltd., was formed and when in 1909, it was re-registered as a public company the three were general managers and George and Hartley directors.**3**

On 14th March 1900, at Manly Presbyterian Church, Foster Henry Hartley, only son of George Sargent of “Waratah,” Beecroft, was married to Elaine Violet, youngest daughter of the late James D. Starkey, of Goulburn.**4**

In September 1900, an advertisement reads: ‘H. SARGENT, of 163 PITT-STREET, near G.P.O., HIGH-CLASS PASTRYCOOK, HAS OPENED A BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT in George-street, 3 doors from Park-street.’**5**

Children of the marriage were:

Frank H., born 1901, district of Sydney

Ivor G., born 1904, district of Sydney

Nancy Adeline, born 27th June 1908, “Clutha,” Beecroft

Geoffrey Edward, born 1910, Adale, Victoria

Elizabeth E., born 1912, district of Sydney**6**

In February 1905 F. H. Sargent was elected to the committee of the Beecroft Progress Association.**7**

In May 1906 he was associated with the building fund of St. John’s Church of England, Beecroft.

That month an advertisement appeared in the local newspaper: ‘REWARD. – LOST, last Friday, from my house, Beecroft, Sheepdog PUPPY (bitch), pricked ears, 4 months, fawn, grey, black, smooth coated, like a dingo.

F. H. SARGENT, Clutha, Beecroft.’**8**

In 1907 F. H. Sargent, caterer, owned and occupied a property in Hannah street, Beecroft, with an area of 1r 24p. He owned another property in Cheltenham road, Beecroft, occupied by Mr. L. J. Osborne, which had an area of 2a 0r 21p.**9**

On 27th June 1908, at “Clutha,” Beecroft, a daughter, Nancy Adeline, was born.**10**

In April 1909 it was announced that Mr. F. H. Sargent would be leaving Beecroft, as his company had opened a branch in Melbourne, and Mr. Sargent would take up the management. An auction of the whole of his valuable furniture was held by Messrs. James R. Lawson and Little, at his residence, Hannah-street, Beecroft.

Mr. Osborne moved into the vacated residence. In 1915 Mrs. K. H. Rogers was living at “Clutha,” Beecroft.**11**

In November 1913, it was announced that Mrs. Hartley Sargent, of Castle Hill, was very seriously ill.

On 13th November 1914, at her late residence, “Homedale,” Springwood, Violet Elaine, wife of F. Hartley Sargent, General Manager Sargent’s, Ltd., died aged 35 years, after a long illness, which she bore with Christian fortitude, leaving a loving husband and five children (3 sons and two daughters) to mourn their loss.

In May 1915 Probate was granted to the executors, Foster Hartley Sargent, of 262 Pitt-street, Sydney, and James Dickinson Starkey, of No. 10 Pemell-street, Enmore.**12**

On 25th June 1915 Mr. Foster Hartley Sargent, general manager for Sargents Ltd., of 252 Pitt Street, Sydney, N.S.W., enlisted as a private in the A.I.F. In recent years he had become a motor enthusiast and had practically toured every known part of N.S. W. and had just returned from a motor tour of New Zealand. He was currently an alderman of Vaucluse and took a keen interest in municipal progress. He would attend the Officers' School of Instruction at Liverpool.’



He would leave his five children in the care of his mother while away.

In August 1916 it was reported that Corporal Hartley Sargent, had been wounded in France, however soon after it was reported that he had not been wounded and was doing well, but was a prisoner of war in Germany, having been captured by the Germans at Pozieres. In June 1918 word was received to the effect that he had been released and was in Holland, preparatory to being sent across to England, and thenceforth to Australia, where he returned to on 3rd January 1919. He would become became general manager and chairman of directors of the firm.**13**

In December 1920, in St. Michael’s Church of England, Rose Bay, Mr. Hartley Sargent, only son of Mr. and Mrs. George Sargent, of “Hartleyhope,” Rose Bay, was married to Miss Mary Evelyn Proud, eldest daughter of Mrs. Proud, of Centennial Park.**14**

On 13th August 1921, Mr. George Sargent, aged 64 years, died at his home, “Hartley Hope,” Vaucluse-road, Rose Bay, leaving a widow and one son, Mr. F. H. Sargent, who became the managing director of the firm.

Probate was granted of the will of the late Mr. George Sargent, of Vaucluse, company director, leaving an estate of the net value of £21,214, of which £10,555 represented realty. The testator appointed his wife, Charlotte Sargent, sole executrix, and devised and bequeathed to her the whole of his estate for her absolute use and benefit.**1**5

In February 1924 the company faced its first loss amid allegations of mismanagement.**16**

On 15th May 1924, Charlotte Sargent, widow of George Sargent, and one of the founders of Sargent’s, Ltd., caterers and restaurant keepers, died.

She appointed her son, Foster Hartley Sargent and her grandson, Frank Sargent, executors and trustees of her estate, and among bequests were shares to the value of £500 and certain property in Copeland-street, Beecroft, to her adopted daughter, Dorothy May Roffie; shares to the value of £100 to her chauffeur Harold Charles Worth; and £200 to Mrs. Isabella Warton, of Liverpool-street, Darlinghurst.

Mrs. Sargent left the residue of her estate, in equal shares, to her son, Foster Hartley Sargent, and her five grandchildren.

Her estate was sworn for probate at £38,669.**17**

On 25th September 1924, Foster H. H. Sargent lost his life at Medlow, near Katoomba. Deceased, who was until recently managing-director of Sargent’s, Ltd., and lived at Vaucluse, had been staying at Medlow. He went for a walk along the cliff frontage to the westward of the Hydro Majestic, falling to his death from a high cliff. His body, found at the bottom of some cliffs on the Megalong Valley side of Medlow, smashed almost beyond recognition, was carried to Mr. Mark Foy’s farm adjoining Megalong racecourse, and thence conveyed five miles up the track to Blackheath, and later to his home at Medlow.

For many months Mr. Sargent had been extremely ill and about three months previous, with his wife, he went to the Blue Mountains to recuperate.

His health on the previous day was good. He was looking forward to returning to Sydney. He had no worries beyond the Sydney business, as everything had lately been straightened out there.

He was a member of Vaucluse Municipal Council (1900-1924), and treasurer of the Master Pastrycooks’ Association of New South Wales.

He was a man of temperate habits and was very fond of scenery and witness {Mrs. Evelyn Sargent] had known him to become venturesome in endeavouring to get the best view possible.

Constable Coleman made a search of the home to discover if there was any letter to indicate deceased’s intentions to do away with himself. There was nothing of this nature. An examination of the spot from where deceased undoubtedly fell, showed that it would be dangerous to a venturesome person desirous of seeing scenery below. That morning was particularly windy and boisterous.

The coroner found that Foster Henry Hartley Sargent died from a fracture of the skull and other injuries caused by accidentally falling from a cliff while sight-seeing.

At the funeral, the principal mourners were: - Mrs. F. H. Sargent (widow), Messrs. Frank, Ivor, and Geoff Sargent (sons), Misses Nancy and Betty Sargent (daughters), Mr. R. W. Winning (brother-in-law).

He was buried beside his parents in the Anglican section of Waverley cemetery.

Probate was granted of the will of the late Mr. Foster Hartley Sargent, of Sydney, company director, who left an estate of the net value of £54,654, the whole of which the testator devised and bequeathed to his widow and children in equal shares.**18**

**Bibliography**

1 Wikipedia; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

2 Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW), Sun 20 Dec 1896; Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW), Sun 22 Aug 1915; Arrow (Sydney, NSW), Fri 28 Jun 1918

3 Wikipedia

4 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 14 April 1900

5 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 22 Sep 1900

6 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Victoria Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 4 Feb 1905

8 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 May 1906; The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 16 May 1906

9 Hornsby Council Ratepayers 1907

10 The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 29 Jul 1908

11 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Apr 1909; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 24 Apr 1909; The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 18 Dec 1915

12 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Nov 1913; The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 14 Nov 1914; Government Gazette of the State of NSW), Wed 28 Jul 1915

13 Australian War Memorial records; Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW), Sun 22 Aug 1915; The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 15 Sep 1915; The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 8 Aug 1916; Sydney Sportsman (Surry Hills, Sydney), Wed 16 Aug 1916; Arrow (Sydney, NSW), Fri 28 Jun 1918; Sun (Sydney, NSW), Sun 14 Aug 1921; Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 15 Aug 1921

14 Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga), Fri 17 Dec 1920

15 Sun (Sydney, NSW), Sun 14 Aug 1921; Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 21 Oct 1921

16 Wikipedia

17 The Sun, Wed 25 Jun 1924

18 The Sun, Fri 26 Sep 1924; Lithgow Mercury, Fri 26 Sep 1924; The Katoomba Daily, Sat 27 Sep 1924; The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 29 Sep 1924; The Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 6 Nov 1924; Wikipedia

**Further References:**

‘Beecroft and Cheltenham, the Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914’ by Beecroft Cheltenham History Group

**SARGENT, Foster Hartley**

**Reference: Tony Cunneen book**

**Family built “Uralla,” Copeland Road, Beecroft, NSW for holiday purposes and had other Beecroft properties**

**AIF Project details:**

Regimental Number: 4587

Place of Birth: Sydney, NSW

Religion: Church of England

Occupation: General Manager, Sargents Ltd

Address: 252 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW

Marital Status: Widower

Age at embarkation: 36

Height/weight: 5’ 7 ¼” 166lbs

Next of Kin: Mother, Mrs. Charlotte Sargent, 252 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW

Previous military service: 6 months 3rd Infantry NSW

Enlistment Date: 25 Jun 1915

Rank on enlistment: Private

Unit Name: 13th Battalion, 14th Reinforcement

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A70 Ballarat on 16 Dec 1916

Roll title: 13th Infantry Battalion – 13 to 18 Reinforcement (Dec 1915-May 1916)

Rank from Nominal Roll: Corporal

Unit from Nominal Roll: 54th Battalion

Fate: Returned to Australia 3 Jan 1919

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 12, 38-39)

The Daily Telegraph, Sat 25 Sep 1915 (farewell)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 8 Aug 1916 (reported wounded)

Sydney Sportsman (Surry Hills), Wed 16 Aug 1916 (POW in Germany, not wounded)