## **TUCKER, Charles Churchill**

Charles C. Tucker was born on 19th August 1857, at Neutral Bay, Sydney, the son of Captain James Cawley (1816-1906) and Elizabeth Ann Algar (nee Reep; 1823-1902) Tucker. His father was a Wine and Spirit Merchant in George-street, city.**1**

After being educated at Mr. Steven’s school at Darlinghurst, he entered his father’s firm of Messrs. Tucker and Co. in 1880, then situated in George-street, and founded in 1838 by his uncle, the late Mr. William Tucker. After eight years of service he was taken into partnership.

In his younger days he was a keen sailing enthusiast.

In 1884, on a trip to Europe, he and a few companions reached the summit of Mont Blanc. He was reputedly the first [actually the 5th] Australian to do so.**2**

In 1887 Charles Tucker married Mary Paige in the district of Petersham.

‘TUCKER—PAIGE—October 5, at All Saints' Church, Petersham, by the Rev. Charles Baber, Charles Churchill, third son of J. C. Tucker, of *Holchester*, Burwood, to Mary, eldest daughter of J. F. Paige, of *Annanleigh*, Johnston-street, North Annandale.’

Children of the marriage were:

1st September 1888 Doris Mary, at Beecroft (died 1977)

17th January 1890 Florence May, at Ryde (died 1938)

1892 Rupert Churchill, at Ryde (died 1973)**3**

**Charles and Mary Tucker with their 3 children**



On 31st December 1887 the partnership of James Cawley Tucker and Edmund Biddulp Henning, as wine and spirit merchants, under the name of “Tucker and Co.,” was dissolved, with the business to be carried on as usual by James Cawley Tucker, George Denton Hirst, and Charles Churchill Tucker.**4**

On 1st September 1888 at “Plympton,” Beecroft, a daughter of C. C. Tucker was born. Another daughter was born there on 17th January 1890.**5**

In May 1891 Charles sent out a tender for forming about 10 chains of roadway and cutting down hill, in Murray-road, Beecroft.**6**

In 1892 Charles was appointed a magistrate.**7**

On 27th June 1893 the Recreation ground at Beecroft, area 22 acres and 20 perches, was gazetted. Mr. Tucker was one of the trustees.**8**

In January 1894 he was elected vice-president of the Beecroft Progress Association, after a ballot between him and Mr. A. Cox. In May Mr. Tucker wrote to the newspaper, Cumberland Argus, complaining of the mode of electing members to the Beecroft Progress Association. It appears that members are only elected by ballot, and he urges that all residents should be qualified to join by a simple payment of the subscription. In December, upon the death of the president, Mr. W. G. Coward, Charles Tucker was elected president unopposed, and the following year was re-elected President. In 1896 the position of president was given to Mr. W. S. Perdriau. Mr. Tucker would appear to have moved to Manly, leaving William Way, labourer, to manage his orchard and reside on the premises.**9**

In February 1897 Charles Tucker was elected as an alderman and auditor for the municipality of Manly, Fairlight Ward. In December three young men were charged with stealing a quantity of apricots, from Mr. Tucker’s orchard in Murray Road, Beecroft. Two half-cases, were situated about 150 yards from the Murray Road in the orchard, which were branded “C. T. Beecroft” were gone.**10**

By September 1898 Mr. Tucker had come back from Manly to live at his residence, “Rockleigh,” Murray Road, and in that month fresh elections for Fairlight Ward, Manly, were called, caused by the resignation of Mr. Tucker.**11**

In January 1899 he was elected as a committee member of the Beecroft Progress Association.**12**

On 14th February 1900 he was appointed as an additional trustee of the Village Green, Beecroft, area 4 acres and 34 perches, notified 31st December 1897, for public recreation. In April Mrs. Tucker was advertising for lady help, all duties except washing and shirts and collars. In May Mr. Tucker attended the monthly meeting of the Beecroft Progress Association so seemingly maintained his interest in the suburb.**13**

In February 1901 he was an office bearer of the Ryde Electorate Horticultural Society. In December he was appointed a trustee of the Beecroft Village Green reserve.**14**

In 1904 he was gazetted as a trustee of the reserve at Beecroft for the School of Arts site. The foundation stone of the Beecroft School of Arts was laid on 17th September. He was appointed a trustee of the Mechanics’ Institute site at Beecroft, area 30 ½ perches, being lot 1 of section 12, dedicated 9th November 1904.**15**

In May 1905, real estate in Mosman, 4 acres 3 roods 36 ¾ perches, situated in Cowles’ Road, Mosman, was gazetted under the names of Bessie Therese Herring (South Australia) and Charles Churchill Tucker (Sydney).**16**

In April 1906, upon an addition to Recreation Ground (“The Park”) at Beecroft, area 2 aces 2 roods 15 perches, dedicated 1st November, 1900, Mr. Tucker was appointed as a trustee.**17**

In June 1906 his father, James Cawley Tucker, aged 90 years, died. Born at Exeter, Devon, in the year 1816, he was the younger son of William Tucker, assistant manager of the City Bank, Exeter. He received his captain’s certificate in 1842 and visited Australia that year. He married in 1847. In 1852 he retired from the sea, and joined his brother in business in Sydney, and was also part owner in Marlborough and Woodstock Stations, Queensland.

He was one of the founding members of the Union Club in Sydney. For the last 20 years of his life he took no active interest in business, leaving his son Charles and nephew G. D. Hirst to manage the affairs of the firm.**18**

In 1906 “Oaklands House,” Beecroft, on the corner of Kirkham Street and Boronia Avenue, Beecroft, was built for Charles Churchill Tucker. The house was demolished in 1962.

In March 1907 he was appointed a trustee of Meadowbank Park.**19**

In June 1907 he resigned from the Beecroft Progress Association. That month he contributed 50 cases to an export shipment of citrus fruits. That month Mrs. Tucker of “Oaklands,” Beecroft, advertised for an assistant girl, to do laundry and kitchen work.**20**

In 1908 he was elected as a councillor of the Shire of Hornsby, “C” Riding, as from 1st February. In May he was gazetted as a trustee of an additional nine perches to the Village Green at Beecroft.**21**

In May 1909 he sent away two small trial shipments of persimmons to the London market, and one small shipment to the East. During that month he donated to the local public school a new rain gauge to replace the old one. In August he gave a lantern lecture in the Epping School of Arts on Wednesday, in aid of the building fund.**22**

In June 1910 he placed about 50 cases of oranges in the Glaciarium cold storage chambers. When the fruit was taken out in September it was found to be in perfect order, with the exception of a few cases of windfalls.**23**

In 1912 Mrs. Tucker was requiring the services of a general servant (one child no objection), and Mr. Tucker wanted a lad for general duties, preferably living elsewhere. By this time “Oaklands” was connected to the telephone. In November he was appointed as trustee to an addition to Meadowbank Park.**24**

In June 1913 Mrs. Tucker advertised for a general servant at “Oaklands”; four in the family. In August he was appointed as trustee of Cheltenham Park, Beecroft.

On 19th November, at St. John’s Church, Arnold Churchill Hirst, second son of the Rev. Canon Hirst, Paterson, N.S.W., was married to Doris Mary, eldest daughter of C. Churchill Tucker, ”Oaklands”, Beecroft.**25**

In April 1915, Mr. Tucker, along with other NSW fruit-growers, sent 500 cases of fruit to the British fleet in the North Sea. He contributed 50 cases of Granny Smith apples. In July his son, Rupert Tucker, of Narrabri, announced his intention of going to the war. He was apparently unsuccessful in obtaining a suitable manager for his property and so did not participate in the war. In early 1916 Rupert Tucker was married to a Miss Blair, both of Narrabri.**26**

In August 1915 Charles Tucker was elected as president of the Fruitgrowers’ Association of N.S.W.

A persistent advocate of co-operation among the fruitgrowers of the State, he wrote many letters to the press in the interests of orchardists, and during the struggling days of the industry endeavoured to induce the Government to protect the products of local growers by the imposition of a reasonable duty on imported fruit, particularly lemons, to enable the State’s orchardists to compete with outsiders in the local market.**27**

In April 1916 he was appointed as a trustee of a reserve at Cheltenham, area 3 roods 24 perches, notified 18th February, 1916, for public recreation.**28**

On his death in 1917 there were numerous obituaries to fill in the gaps in his life.

‘On 19th April 1917 Charles Churchill Tucker, president of the New South Wales Fruit Growers’ Association, who was visiting Bathurst as one of the New South Wales delegates to the Fruit Conference, died at Strathmore private hospital.

Whilst taking part in the proceedings of the conference, Mr. Tucker was suddenly stricken with illness, from which he never rallied, the cause of death being syncope (heart failure). He was 60 years of age.’

‘He was principal of Messrs. Tucker and Co., Clarence-street, which firm was founded many years ago by his uncle, Mr. William Tucker, and is reputed to be the oldest wine and spirit house in Australia. The late Mr. Tucker was the son of Captain James Tucker, and was born in Sydney over 59 years ago. He was a member of the Royal Agricultural Society, and acted as a judge in the wine section at the recent Sydney show. A keen follower of politics, Mr. Tucker announced his intention of standing as an independent candidate in the last State election, but private reasons caused him to reconsider his decision. He was one of the trustees of the Church of England at Beecroft, and gave freely to charitable institutions.’

‘He was one of the first councillors in Hornsby Shire, and only retired from the council a few years ago when he removed from the district for a time. Mr. Tucker was very enthusiastic on the subject of the beautification of the district, and the ornamental trees planted in the streets and the railway station garden was the outcome of some of his efforts. Mr. Tucker took a pride in his collection of Jonathan and Granny Smith apples, and frequently carried off the first prize at the various shows for his Jonathans.’

‘He was a very persistent letter-writer to the newspapers, on all and every topic. His opinion was never the same as anyone else’s, but he did good in advocating the claims of the fruit-grower. He was best known, not as a merchant, but as a chronic writer of letters to the daily press. Whenever Tucker saw, or fancied he saw, or smelt, or sensed, or heard of a grievance he wrote to the papers about it. His letters never did any detectable good; but that didn’t matter – the writing of them was enough.’

‘There was a large family, but many of them have joined the majority [died]. At the funeral, seven brothers, also some nephews, were present. Mr. Tucker claimed to have pioneered Beecroft, where he lived when it was principally bush land.’

‘He leaves a widow, a son, and two daughters. His son, Mr. Rupert Tucker, is engaged in grazing pursuits at Narrabri. The eldest daughter is Mrs. Arnold Hirst.’

The remains were taken by the mail train. A service was held at St. James Church prior to the departure for Waverley cemetery.**29**

The value of the estate of the late Mr. Charles Churchill Tucker, wine and spirit merchant, of Sydney, has, for probate purposes, been sworn at £17,241, of which £11,257 consists of an interest in a partnership. The testator bequeathed the income of one-half of his estate to his widow, Mary Tucker, for her life. The other half – capital and income – subject to the widow’s life interest, was left in trust to testator’s children on their obtaining the age of 21 years.**30**

In April 1918 Notice was given of the intention of the Registrar-General to register a transmission of the estate of Charles Churchill Tucker, the said Mortgagee, to George Edward Mortimer Armytage and Arnold Churchill Hirst, and a discharge of the Mortgage dated 15th September, 1908, No.506,417, Alfred William Tucker to Charles Churchill Tucker, over the whole of the land comprised in Certificates of Title, Vol. 438, Folio 226, and Vol. 1438, Folio 150, being respectively 2 roods 33 ½ perches, Lot 1, and part of Lot 2, deposited plan 2450, and 2 roods 39 ¼ perches, lots 21, 22 and 23, deposited plan 2873, all situated Great Western road, Medlow, parish of Kanimbula, county Cook.**31**

On 30th November, 1947, at her residence, Torrington Road, Strathfield, Mary, widow of Charles Churchill Tucker, died in her 89th year.**32**

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8 New South Wales Government Gazette, Wed 4 Oct 1893

9 The Cumberland Mercury, Sat 3 Feb 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 May 1894; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Feb 1895; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 1 Feb 1896

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14 The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 6 Feb 1901; Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales, Sat 21 Dec 1901

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27 The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate, Fri 13 Aug 1915

28 Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales, Fri 14 Apr 1916

29 The Sun, Fri 20 Apr 1917; The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 21 Apr 1917; The Leader (Orange, NSW), Mon 23 Apr 1917; The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People, Sat 28 Apr 1917; The Australian Worker, Thu 10 May 1917; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 May 1917

30 The Sun, Wed 20 Jun 1917; The Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 21 Jun 1917; The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 23 Jun 1917

31 The Blue Mountains Echo, Fri 5 Apr 1918

32 The Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 1 Dec 1947

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