## **McCALL, David Robert**

David Robert McCall was born on 25th October 1861, son of David (and Agnes) McCall, (saddler), at Hunter-street, Sydney.

On 26th July 1880 David, the father of David Robert McCall, died at his residence, 14 Hunter-street, Sydney, aged 61 years.1

On 5th January 1886 at the residence of the bride's parents, David Robert, eldest surviving son of the late David McCall, was married to Catherine (Katie) Porter, third daughter of Thomas (and Julia) Webster.2

Children of the marriage were:

David, born 1886, district of Leichhardt

Colina C., born 1889, district of Petersham

Flora M., born 1891, district of Granville

Agnes J., born 1895, district of Burwood3

In 1902 the McCall family moved to Beecroft.

‘Almost next door to Mr. Skellett's property is the fine residence recently erected by Mr. D. R. McCall. This, also, is in brick, with an ornate exterior, and admirably finished throughout. Here the rooms have been provided with steel ceilings, of tasteful and ornamental design. Mr. McCall has added a lawn tennis court to the attractions of his home, and the house has been connected with the water supply, and provision has been made to lay on the gas when the company extends its operations to Beecroft. Here, too, there is proximity to the station, and privacy, and natural drainage, if it be availed of. Residences of this description add to the prestige of the district.’

The property was in Copeland Road, on 1 acre.

In late 1903 Mr. McMein bought a piece of land adjoining Mr. McCall's property and it was also his intention to build.4

A long association with the School of Arts began when in 1904 David Robert McCall was appointed one of the trustees of the reserve at Beecroft for the School of Arts site.5

In 1905 he was on the committee of the Beecroft Public School. His business address, that year, was 111 Phillip-street, Sydney.6

In May 1907 it was announced that Mr. McCall had returned to Beecroft and taken up his abode in Copeland-road again, after an absence of between two and three years.7

In February 1921 Mr. D. R. McCall, formerly secretary of the Police Department, retired from the public service after 45 years employment.

He was presented with an illuminated address and a wallet containing over £100 in notes from the officers and men connected with the force, and civil servants.

All spoke of Mr. McCall in terms of eulogy. "If ever any difficulty arose it was always left to Mr. McCall to find the safest and surest way out," said one. "My first Impression of Mr. McCall," remarked another, "was that of an officer who worked 8 hours during the day and 15 at night." "He always showed singular common sense, with a rapid and correct perception of the right thing to do," summed up a third.8

On 28th December 1933 David Robert McCall, husband of Kathleen, and father of David, Colina (Mrs. W. Milne), Flora (Mrs. W. Rogers), and Agnes (Mrs. A. Kirby), died at his residence, “Lindisfarne,” Copeland-road, Beecroft, aged 73 years.9

On 20th April 1936 Mrs. Kathleen McCall, 73, of [25] Copeland street, Beecroft, suffered a fracture of the skull and a fractured thigh when a wardrobe fell on her. She was taken by the ambulance to Ryde Hospital, where she died.

The funeral left the Presbyterian Church, Beecroft, for the Presbyterian Cemetery, Northern Suburbs.

Probate was granted on 26th June 1936.10

**Bibliography**

1 Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 21 Nov 1861; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 27 Jul 1880; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

2 Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, Sat 13 Feb 1886; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

3 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Apr 1902; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Nov 1903; Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Mar 1904; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 31 Dec 1904

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Apr 1905; Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, Wed 25 Oct 1905

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 May 1907

8 Sun (Sydney, NSW), Fri 4 Feb 1921

9 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 30 Dec 1933

10 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 21 Apr 1936; Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 29 May 1936; Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 3 Jul 1936

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