

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE1184

Pepper-Connolly, Louise

(1841 - 1934)

Born 1 January, 1841, Port Albert Victoria Australia

Died 31 December, 1934

Occupation Childcare worker, Health worker

Summary

Louise Pepper-Conolly was of Kurnai descent. Her mother was killed by squatters and she, in her grandsons' words, 'was overtaken and wounded by gun pellets'. Later, in search of her own people, she settled on the Ramahyuck mission. There she married Nathaniel Pepper, and the couple were given charge of children in the mission orphanage house.

Upon her husband's death in 1877, Louise remained in charge of the orphanage which, at times, housed 20 children as consumption took its toll on the Kurnai. In 1886, government assimilation policy forced Louise and her family from Ramahyuck to Stratford. She was on call to many of the people who had been residents at Ramahyuck.

A stone monument commemorating Louise Pepper-Conolly has been placed in the main street of Bairnsdale, Victoria.

Published resources

Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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