

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4048

Harrod, Clara Ellen

(- 1918)

Died 31 December, 1918, Mitchell Queensland Australia

Occupation Pioneer

Summary

Clara Harrod and her sister Emma were among the first white women to settle in the Barrier Ranges district of New South Wales.

Details

Clara and Emma Harrod, along with their brothers William and Charles Stayte Junior, were the children of Charles Harrod and Elizabeth Stayte. Charles Senior was the eldest son of Sir William Harrod of Gloucestershire and Lady Ambage. The family migrated from England to Australia in 1852, arriving in Melbourne on the *Marco Polo* in September of that year.

By 1859, the Harrods were living in Swan Hill. Despite his aristocratic heritage, Charles was consistently in financial strife. According to Clara's personal memoir, Charles offered Emma's hand in marriage to local publican Henry Raines in exchange for land. Raines, a partner in Cobb & Co. who owned several tracts of land around the colony of Port Phillip, adopted Clara and paid for her education at Kyneton.

In 1867, Clara and Emma set out on a 400 mile journey by horse to the Barrier Ranges in New South Wales, where Raines had settled on land at Mt Gipps Station. The inhospitable climate was made worse by an even less hospitable welcome from Raines when they did finally arrive, parched and exhausted. Already a heavy drinker, he became violent and abusive. Nonetheless, it was Clara Harrod who laid the foundation stone that year for Raines' hotel, the Small Thorns Hotel (later the Mt Gipps Hotel).

Henry Raines died in 1873. In 1877, Emma fell pregnant to Duncan McIntyre. She gave birth to a son, Montaglie Stewart McIntyre, in April 1878, but the child lived less than a year. Emma was later remarried to T.G. Alcock and moved to Mitchell, Queensland, in 1884.

Clara Harrod married James Stewart Campbell at the Small Thorns Hotel, Mt Gipps, on 11 May 1871 and lived with him at Langawirra Station. Her first daughter, Clara Victoria Elizabeth Campbell, was born in March 1873. A son, Eion, followed some years later. The family lived at several different stations before settling at their property, Claravale, in Queensland. James Campbell died in 1908. As widows, Clara and Emma lived together at Mitchell.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book

Some Outstanding Women of Broken Hill and District, Camilleri, Jenny, 2002

The Memoirs of Clara Ellen Campbell, Campbell, Clara Ellen, 1919

Site Exhibition

Unbroken Spirit: Women in Broken Hill, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/bh/bh-home.html>

Archival resources

State Library of Victoria

Family history and papers, 1871-1975. [manuscript].

Author Details

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