

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0577

Sutherland, Selina Murray Macdonald

(1839 - 1909)

Born 18391226, Parish of Kildonnel Sutherland Scotland

Died 19091008, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Occupation Nurse, Philanthropist, Welfare worker

Summary

Selina (also spelt Sulina) Sutherland was the first person in the State of Victoria to be licensed under the 1887 Neglected Children's Act. The Act sanctioned private licensed individuals to remove children from unfit homes and take them under their own guardianship. The daughter of Baigrie and Janet (née MacDonald) Sutherland, Selina Sutherland was born in Scotland, spent some time in New Zealand before settling in Melbourne, Australia, in 1881. Initially she worked as a nurse and, along with Mrs Maria Armour, founded the Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society in 1881. For the next 28 years Sutherland was involved with helping Melbourne's poor. Following her death on 8 October 1909 a public appeal was held to erected a granite memorial for her grave.

Events

1886 -

Appointed by the Presbytery of Melbourne the first Lady Missionary to the Presbyterian Churches in Victoria

1864 -

Emigrated to New Zealand on the *Eastern Empire*

1894 - 1894

Established the Presbyterian Neglected Children's Aid Society

1883 -

Established the Society in Aid of Maternity Hospital Patients

1895 - 1895

Established the Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society

1885 - 1885

Founded the Melbourne District Nursing Society

2010 - 2010

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

1892 - 1892

Interrupted a meeting of the Melbourne Ladies' Benevolent Society, with a group of poor people whose needs she felt the Society was failing to meet.

1879 -

Matron of Wellington Hospital

1879 - 1879

Principal founder of Masterton Hospital

1881 - 1881

Settled in Melbourne, Victoria

1888 - 1888

The first person to be appointed in Victoria to receive children under the Neglected Children's Act, part 8

1897 - 1897

Visited the United Kingdom during the Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and presented to Queen Victoria

1891 - 1891

Wrote a paper on slum life in Melbourne for the second Australasian Conference on Charity

Published resources

Book

John's Notable Australians, 1906, Johns, Fred, 1905

Selina's legacy: from VCAS to Oz Child, Hilton, Della, 1931-, 1993

Selina M. Sutherland : her life story and work, Jessop, J. C., 1967

Not Just Ordinary Blokes, Holms, JGM, 2020

Book Section

Selina Sutherland: Child Rescuer, Swain, Shurlee, 1985

Thesis

The Victorian Charity Network in the 1890s, Swain, Shurlee, 1977

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Biography

Biography: Sutherland, Selina Murray McDonald, Simpson, KA , 1993,

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2s54/sutherland-selina-murray-mcdonald>

Archival resources

State Library of Victoria

[Records, 1893-1993 \[manuscript\].](#)

Author Details

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