

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2899

Grover, Jessie

(1843 - 1906)

Born 9 June, 1843, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Died 17 March, 1906, St Kilda Victoria Australia

Occupation Journalist, Print journalist, Sericulturist

Summary

The daughter of inn-keepers, Jessie Grover dabbled in sericulture before turning to journalism. In 1873 Jessie and her friend Mrs Sara Florentia Bladen-Neill thought that the silk production industry would be a fit one for women, and so formed the Victorian Ladies' Sericultural Co. Ltd, with Jessie as managing director. The company articles specified that 'No person but a woman shall be eligible as a Director'. Prominent Melbourne women took up most of the £4 shares. The government made a grant of 600 acres (242.8 ha) of hilly land at Harcourt, near the Mount Alexander diggings, where bluestone buildings were erected and thousands of mulberry trees planted. The surveyor had fixed on the wrong location, however, and the enterprise collapsed after several years of intensive effort.

When her mother died in 1879 she left the bulk of her estate to her daughters. This meant that Jessie and her husband, Harry, were now able to buy a large house at St Kilda and live mainly from their investments. Harry contributed humorous items to Melbourne *Punch*. Jessie was social editor of the Melbourne *Bulletin* in 1880-86, and Australian correspondent for the *Queen* (London). She covered events at Government House, garden parties, charity bazaars and a few scandals in a human and personal style. She wrote under various pseudonyms such as 'Gladys', 'Iris', 'Humming Bee' and 'Queen Bee'. Her son, Montague continued the journalist tradition she established.

Events

1970 - 1900

Published resources

Resource Section

Grover, Jessie (1843-1916), Cannon, Michael, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10198b.htm>

Site Exhibition

The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
[Papers of Montague Grover circa 1810-1980 \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

Nikki Henningham

Created 4 December 2007

Last modified 5 September 2012