Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3988

Burkhill, Emma

(1864 - 1936)

Born	18641228, Cooling, Kent England
Died	19360820, Broken Hill New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Matron

Summary

Emma Burkhill was the first Matron at Broken Hill, New South Wales.

Details

Emma Burkhill trained as a nurse in England before marrying Joseph Orman and migrating to Australia in 1866. The pair had two sons, only one of whom – Alfred Orman – survived infancy. After Joseph's death, around 1870, Emma married John Burkhill, a pharmacist at Mount Gambier, South Australia. In 1871, Emma Burkhill became Matron at the Mount Gambier Hospital. She later moved to Menindee, New South Wales, where her daughter Emma Ethel was born in 1878. She had a second daughter, Alice. Following the establishment of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company in the 1880s, Emma Burkhill moved to Broken Hill to offer medical assistance to the growing population of miners and their families. The hospital at Broken Hill consisted of a wood and iron room alongside a large tent that was built to house the many patients suffering from typhoid. When a new hospital was built in 1889, Emma Burkhill was appointed as its first Matron.

Published resources

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

Broken Hill, Kearns, Richard Hugh Bell, 1974

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

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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