Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3989

Von Puttkamer, Margarethe Hermine

(1856 - 1933)

Born	18560512, Oven Goldfields, near Beechworth Victoria Australia
Died	19330929, Adelaide South Australia
Occupation	Nurse

Summary

Margarethe Von Puttkamer was the first nurse at Broken Hill, New South Wales.

Details

Margarethe Von Puttkamer (or Peg, as she was known to friends) was of German descent. Her father, George Christian Hermann (Baron) Von Puttkamer, was born on the 18th December 1820 in Pomerania, Germany. He was a member of Infantry Regiment No. 9 in Stargard, Pomerania, before serving as a lieutenant in the Schleswig-Holstein Army from 1848 to 1850. Georg migrated to South Australia in 1850 and worked as a labourer and shepherd, and as a gold prospector in Victoria. On 22 July 1851 in Adelaide he married Amalie Catarine Hirdes, who hailed from Kassal, Hessen in Germany and who, like Georg, had travelled to South Australia on the barque *Sophie*.

Margarethe trained as a nurse in Melbourne before moving to Adelaide, where she was a trainee in 1884. Around 1885, she moved to Broken Hill and became matron of the Broken Hill and District Hospital, working with Emma Burkhill. On 16 May 1889 she married John David Robertson (b.28 May 1854, d.19 April 1926), a compositor for the local paper, the *Silver Age*. She resigned from the Broken Hill Hospital, but opened her own private hospital in Chloride Street.

John and Margarethe had two children, Amelia Hermine Ethel Robertson (born 15 January 1890) and John ‘Jock’ David Robertson Junior (born 6 August 1895). Georg Von Puttkamer had died some years earlier – 21 October 1859 – near Blanchetown, South Australia. His wife Amalie lived until 24 October 1910, when she died at Angaston, South Australia.

Published resources

Booklet
The Silver Mirror, Wichert, E.B., 1933

Book
Nursing in South Australia: First Hundred Years, 1837-1937, 1939

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

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

Archival resources

Outback Archives, Broken Hill City Library
Von Puttkamer, Margarethe Hermine (Peg) Baroness

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